

IMF's benchmarks and soft commitments**Another stage completed in selection process for Director of Ukraine's Economic Security Bureau**

On April 7 the second stage of the competition to appoint a new Director of the Bureau of Economic Security (BES), the knowledge of legislation test, took place. Sixteen candidates proceeded to the test.

It became possible after March 29, when the selection commission formally approved the elimination of candidates who failed the general skills test earlier in March. Meanwhile, four candidates have filed appeals contesting their initial test results. The commission had to review these complaints. In parallel, a special background screening of the remaining candidates has been launched to inform the next phases of the selection process.

Source: Selection Commission for the BES Director appointment

President signs law on Administrative Court reform, closing IMF benchmark

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy signed draft law #12368-1, completing a delayed IMF structural benchmark originally due by December 31, 2024.

The law restructures the administrative judiciary by establishing two specialized courts: a Specialized District Administrative Court and a Specialized Administrative Court of Appeal. The High Qualification Commission of Judges must announce a judicial selection competition within one month of the law taking effect. An Expert Council, composed of three Ukrainian judicial representatives and three representatives of international organizations, will oversee candidate evaluations for three years.

Source: the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

Formation of customs chief selection commission has been delayed

As of April 7, Ukraine's government has yet to form the selection commission tasked with appointing a new Head of the State Customs Service, despite a legal deadline of January 1, 2025.

Under Ukraine's IMF memorandum, a new customs chief must be selected and appointed by the end of June 2025. According to our sources, the formation of the commission has been delayed for political reasons.

Source: Temporary Investigative Commission on Economic Security of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

Obligations to the EU

Ukrainian Parliament to review draft laws next week under Ukraine Facility commitments

Next week, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine plans to review several legislative proposals tied to the country's obligations under the Ukraine Facility program.

Lawmakers are expected to hold a second reading on draft law **#12374-d**, aimed at reforming the Asset Recovery and Management Agency (ARMA), and a government-backed bill on the digitalization of enforcement proceedings.

In the first reading, Parliament is likely to consider: draft law **#13107** and alternative drafts on vocational education reform, draft law **#5838** strengthening liability for misconduct by state regulatory officials as well as draft law **#13150**, recently registered by David Arakhamia and others, which introduces new oversight mechanisms for local government decisions.

Source: the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

Other key economic issues

Experts review Ukraine's tax collection trends in early 2025

Experts of the Parliamentary Temporary Investigative Commission have analyzed Ukraine's State Tax Service (STS) data for January–February 2025, providing an early assessment of revenue collection dynamics.

Key findings include:

- The STS entered 2025 with 7 initiatives ongoing and 43 initiatives completed under the National Revenue Strategy through 2030.
- Tax revenues continue to exceed Ministry of Finance targets by UAH 22 billion in the first two months of the year.
- VAT collection efficiency was reported at 3.43% in January, though experts noted disproportionate declines in VAT accruals across 68 sectors.
- Excise tax revenues remained broadly consistent with previous trends. A moderate decline in electronic receipt turnover (RRO/PRRO) was observed, with final evaluations pending after March data is available.

Source: Temporary Investigative Commission on Economic Security of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

Our monthly digests



Key updates of the month

Members of Parliament adopted the Law "On Amendments to the Customs Code of Ukraine Regarding Certain Issues of Administrative Liability for Customs Rules Violations".

Specifically, the law provides for:

- The right of the customs authority to suspend the free trade regime until a response is received from the customs authority of the exporting country, if previous checks on this exporter did not confirm compliance with preferential origin rules.
- Upper and lower limits for fines, as well as the discretionary power of the court regarding the application or non-application of confiscation of goods in cases of customs violations under Articles 472 (non-declaration of goods), 473 (incorrect declaration of parcels), 482 (movement bypassing customs control), and 483 (movement with concealment from customs control) of the Customs Code of Ukraine (CCU).
- Administrative liability for shipments of goods in international postal and express consignments if the information provided in accompanying documents does not match reality (in terms of description, quantity, and/or value).
- Mandatory appointment of expert examination in cases of customs violations under CCU articles where fines are stipulated as percentages of the value of goods.
- Clarification of deadlines for imposing administrative penalties for customs violations, in cases where criminal proceedings regarding the same facts have been closed.

Issue #5 of the Customs Monthly Digest covers customs performance in February 2025.

In this issue you can find:

- key monthly indicators and trends of the State Customs Service performance with expert comments;
- insights into the customs EU integration;
- legislation updates and other general news.

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