

# PREVENTING AND COMBATING CORRUPTION IN UKRAINE

DIGEST N°60  
JULY 23 – 30, 2025

## STATE ANTI-CORRUPTION POLICY

**The Parliament's Committee on Law Enforcement supported presidential bill No. 13533 at the first reading and as a whole. The bill aims to restore the institutional independence of the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine (NABU) and the Specialized Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office (SAPO).** The legislation would restore NABU's exclusive jurisdiction, limit the influence of the Prosecutor General's Office on the Bureau, guarantee the autonomy of SAPO, and the procedural powers of its Head. The bill is scheduled for consideration by the Parliament on July 31 during an extraordinary session.

As a reminder, on July 22, the Parliament passed bill No. [12414](#) in a rushed vote, which strips NABU and SAPO of their independence by granting the Prosecutor General broad powers, from transferring cases to closing them without SAPO's involvement. This, along with the President's signing of the document, caused a wave of protests across Ukraine and criticism from international partners.

**The President of Ukraine signed a key EU integration law concerning the reform of the National Agency for the Finding, Tracing and Management of Assets Derived from Corruption and Other Crimes (ARMA).** According to the explanatory note, the legislation aims to make the management of seized assets more efficient and resistant to corruption, correcting institutional flaws that have prevented the Agency from effectively carrying out its duties. Key provisions include a new, transparent process for appointing the ARMA's head and the launch of an independent external system to audit the Agency's performance. This reform is a critical requirement for Ukraine to receive its next tranche of EU funding in full under the Ukraine Facility program.

**The National Agency on Corruption Prevention (NACP), together with the Basel Institute on Governance, presented the study "Assessment of Corruption Risks in the Construction, Reconstruction, and Renovation of Civilian Infrastructure of Ukraine."** The recovery sector is critically vulnerable to corruption and requires special attention. The implementation of the recommendations formulated in the study by the government and local authorities will help eliminate key risks and increase transparency and efficiency of reconstruction projects. Experts identified ten key corruption risks that can facilitate wrongdoing at various stages: during the selection of sites for reconstruction, the development of project documentation, procurement, and the oversight of completed work. A number of these risks are linked to legislative imperfections that require amendment. The study is available at the following [link](#).

## DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

**"Less paper, less corruption": online portal for international routes simplifies procedures and reduces corruption risks.** This digital tool allows for faster decision-making on the opening, extension, and modification of routes. It was launched in March 2025 by the Ministry for Communities and Territories Development of Ukraine in cooperation with the State Service of Ukraine for Transport Safety (Ukrtransbezpeka). In its first three months, the platform has already processed over 200 decisions, including the opening of 109 new routes, primarily to Poland, Moldova, the Czech Republic, Germany, and Romania. The online platform demonstrates a significant acceleration in decision-making compared to the paper-based procedure, reduces corruption risks, and contributes funds to the state budget; a single route generates an average of around 10M UAH per year.

## WORK OF THE ANTI-CORRUPTION SYSTEM

**UAH 16.8B: the economic impact of NABU and SAPO's activities during 2021-2025. The Specialized Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office (SAPO) explains** that this sum includes not only damages reimbursed to the state by individuals in corruption cases, but also funds and property saved from embezzlement, confiscated assets and funds, and collected bail payments. Thanks to the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine (NABU) and SAPO, UAH 2.85B was transferred to support the Armed Forces of Ukraine (AFU). According to SAPO, this result became possible via the systematic work of detectives and prosecutors.

**NABU published its top 10 high-profile cases.** From 2023 to 2025, NABU and SAPO investigated a series of major corruption cases involving the Deputy Prime Minister, the Head of the Antimonopoly Committee of Ukraine, a former Deputy Head of the President's Office, and other high-ranking officials. They are also investigating large-scale embezzlement schemes in procurement for the AFU, illegal land deals in Kyiv, and cases of judicial bribery. Some of these proceedings resulted in imprisonment, and the total number of cases handled by NABU and SAPO during this period exceeds 1,300.

**The National Agency on Corruption Prevention (NACP) uncovered UAH 290M in conflict of interest violations in the first half of 2025.** The NACP conducted 102 measures to monitor and control compliance with anti-corruption legislation, resulting in 26 findings of corruption-related offenses amounting to UAH 290M. Specifically, these cases involve alleged abuses in the procurement of goods for the construction of fortifications by officials of the Kharkiv Regional Military Administration and the illegal transfer of state property to third-party commercial entities by officials of the State Fisheries Agency. NACP also filed administrative charges against seven officials, including judges, members of parliament, and other officials, and issued 35 official notices for violations of ethical conduct and conflict of interest.

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## **The "Ministry of Defense eggs at 17 UAH" case: the High Anti-Corruption Court (HACC) ordered the [arrest in absentia](#) of the owner of the supplier companies.**

According to NABU and SAPO, two companies that supplied food to the Armed Forces of Ukraine (AFU) received over UAH 733M in budget funds in 2022–2023 by manipulating prices in product catalogs: inflating the cost of high-demand goods while understating the price of secondary items. Once the suspect is detained and brought to the location of the pre-trial investigation, an investigating judge will decide on the application of this preventive measure. The investigation into other individuals involved in the large-scale corruption scheme is ongoing.

## **PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS AND COMPETITIONS**

**The Cabinet of Ministers did not appoint a Director for the Bureau of Economic Security (ESBU) at its meeting on Wednesday, [according](#) to Yaroslav Zhelezniak, a Member of Parliament from the Holos faction.** Meanwhile, at a press briefing, the selection committee reiterated that the winner of the competition, Oleksandr Tsyvinskyi, fully meets the requirements for the position of ESBU Director as stipulated by current legislation. Previously, the European Commission had [urged](#) the Ukrainian government to appoint the ESBU Director as soon as possible, in accordance with the law and established selection procedures. As a European Commission spokesperson emphasized in a comment to Ukrainian media outlet "Yevropeiska Pravda" (European Truth), the reform of the Bureau is part of Ukraine's broader commitments within the EU accession process. Furthermore, the appointment of the ESBU Director is one of the requirements of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for providing Ukraine with financial support.

**The Head of ARMA, Olena Duma, had submitted her resignation, and the Government supported her dismissal.** In her statement, Duma [highlighted](#) her achievements during her tenure, stating that the Agency, which had had a problematic reputation, was transformed into an effective tool in the fight against corruption and contributed billions to the state budget. Furthermore, she noted that today, July 30, the law on strengthening ARMA's institutional capacity officially came into force. "Therefore, it is important to do this on this very day," she wrote. At today's meeting, the Government [approved](#) the decision to dismiss Olena Duma. Prime Minister Yulia Svyrydenko immediately [ordered](#) the launch of a new competition for the position of ARMA Head. She noted that the selection committee will include representatives from the Government and international partners who support Ukraine in the anti-corruption sphere.

## **MEDIA ABOUT CORRUPTION**

**"Ukraine's anti-graft chief hopeful on restoring agencies' autonomy".** In an [interview](#) with the leading international publication Bloomberg News, SAPO Head Oleksandr Klymenko expressed hope that on July 31, the Parliament may pass a law to restore the

independence of NABU and SAPO. This follows attempts to subordinate them to the Prosecutor General's Office, a move that sparked mass protests in Ukrainian cities and concern from international partners. At the same time, Klymenko noted that the political turbulence has already negatively impacted the agencies' work and their cooperation with whistleblowers, but that SAPO staff and NABU detectives are trying to continue their work as usual.

**"\$60B at stake: European Union halts funding to Ukraine over law on NABU and SAPO's dependence".** Ukrainian media outlet Ekonomichna Pravda (Economic Truth) [analyzed](#) the consequences of the Ukrainian Parliament's adoption of the law that subordinates NABU and SAPO to the Prosecutor General, effectively destroying their independence. It is reported that this decision had prompted a sharply negative reaction from the European Union, which, according to the media outlet's sources, put all financial assistance to Ukraine on pause, over \$60B for 2025–2026. Receiving these funds is critical for the state to be able to perform its functions and finance everything from subsidy payments to debt servicing. Despite official restraint, the EU's position is firm: the resumption of funding is possible only on the condition that the independence of the anti-corruption bodies is restored.

**"How effective were Ukraine's anti-corruption agencies targeted by Zelensky, and who were they investigating?"** As [reported](#) by the English-language publication The Kyiv Independent, NABU and SAPO are conducting investigations into a number of high-ranking officials, including some from the President's circle. Among the subjects are former Deputy Prime Minister Oleksiy Chernyshov, former Deputy Heads of the President's Office Andriy Smyrnov and Kyrilo Tymoshenko, and others. Oleksandr Lemenov, head of the Ukrainian think-tank StateWatch, considers NABU and SAPO to be more independent and effective than law enforcement bodies. In contrast, Vitaliy Tytych, former Head of the Public Integrity Council, criticizes NABU's work, although he acknowledges that the judicial system remains one of the obstacles in the fight against corruption. The publication concludes: judicial reform is a key, yet still unimplemented, reform in Ukraine.

**"Disband NABU': how a pool of anonymous Telegram channels cohesively supported the President's initiative".** The publication Texty.org.ua [analyzed](#) a large-scale, coordinated campaign on anonymous Telegram channels that discredited NABU in June-July 2025 and prepared public opinion for the legislative restriction of its independence. The authors studied 246 posts from 24 popular channels that synchronously repeated messages about the Bureau's "ineffectiveness," "ties to Russia," and "treason." The channels actively promoted theses from political strategists with pro-Russian backgrounds and suppressed information about the mass protests. The campaign peaked just before the adoption of the law on July 22 that limits the autonomy of NABU and SAPO. Texty.org.ua suggests that the attack on the independent anti-corruption institutions was the result of centralized political planning.