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# PREVENTING AND COMBATING CORRUPTION IN UKRAINE

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## STATE ANTI-CORRUPTION POLICY

**On September 1, 2025, Ukraine's Law "On Lobbying" will enter into force.** The National Agency on Corruption Prevention (NACP) [explains](#) that the law establishes transparent rules for interaction between businesses, the public, and the government, granting lobbyists official status and the right to openly influence the legislative processes by participating in working groups and co-authoring draft laws. The Transparency Register, administered by the NACP, will be the key tool in implementing the new law. It will provide a public listing of lobbyists and open reporting on the results of their activities. The Register is expected to launch simultaneously with the Law entering into force on September 1. The NACP will monitor and verify individuals engaged in lobbying activities without proper registration. On September 1, the NACP will hold a briefing on the topic: "Launch of the lobbying institution: what will change for business and government". Among other things, speakers will discuss the basic principles of the Transparency Register's operation, who is required to register and how to do it, as well as the main provisions of the Law "On Lobbying". Details and registration for the event are available at the [link](#).

**The Parliament has registered draft law #13697, which proposes to remove the decisive role of foreign experts in forming Ukraine's judicial and law enforcement agencies, as well as managing state-owned properties.** Its initiators (primarily MPs representing the "Batkivshchyna" faction) propose to eliminate the decisive influence of international representatives in the competitive procedures of such bodies as the High Council of Justice, the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine (NABU), the Specialized Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office (SAPO), and others. The bill also envisages amendments to several laws to ensure exclusively Ukrainian representation on supervisory boards of state-owned entities. The document proposes to create a National Assembly of Heroes of Ukraine as an advisory body that will participate in the formation of state bodies and control over their activities. The Assembly is proposed to comprise citizens of Ukraine who have been awarded the title of Hero of Ukraine for their participation in combat operations defending the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

## UKRAINE'S INTEGRATION INTO THE EU AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

**The fight against corruption is crucial for Ukraine's EU accession, European Commissioner Marta Kos** stated in her [publication](#) on the social network X after a meeting with the head of SAPO Oleksandr Klymenko, and the director of NABU Semen Kryvonosov,

which took place on August 26 in Brussels. “Met NABU & SAPO leadership: their fight against corruption is crucial for Ukraine’s EU accession & reconstruction. I reiterate my full support to their work: independent anti-corruption bodies are the backbone of the rule of law & a sound business climate”, Kos noted.

## DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

**Ukraine’s Ministry of Economy and Ministry of Digital Transformation have launched the first state service using artificial intelligence (AI).** The service allows users to obtain a veterinary license on the state platform through the “ePermit” system integrated into the “Diia” portal. The AI module analyzes submitted documents for completeness, absence of errors, and compliance with requirements, which allows for faster application processing, reduces the workload of state experts, and minimizes opportunities for corruption. It is noted that the launch of the AI module for veterinary licensing is just the first step. Its effectiveness will serve as a foundation for further expansion of digital licensing and digitalization of permitting procedures in Ukraine."

## WORK OF THE ANTI-CORRUPTION SYSTEM

**The Asset Recovery and Management Agency (ARMA) ensured enforcement of the court verdict on special confiscation of funds from the Russian online casino PIN-UP amounting to UAH 2.8B.** As part of this process, securities in the form of war bonds worth UAH 2B have been transferred to the Ministry of Finance of Ukraine for early redemption and reduction of state debt. Additionally, UAH 825M was transferred directly to the state budget. In total, in 2025, ARMA supported the transfer to the state budget of UAH 6.8B resulting from management of seized assets.

**Officials are increasingly declaring cryptocurrency as a way to hide illegally acquired assets.** The NACP [reports](#) that, according to the [Register of Declarations](#), cryptocurrency assets worth UAH 786M were declared in 2,200 declarations submitted for the past year. The NACP has recorded numerous violations in their declaration, the most common being the lack of documents confirming acquisition and operations with cryptocurrency, declaration of fictitious assets, and asset undervaluation. In a number of cases, the individuals involved could not explain the source of cryptocurrency or provide documents confirming the legality of transactions. This has led to pre-trial investigations, particularly under Article 366-2 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine regarding submission of false information in declarations.

## PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS AND COMPETITIONS

**205 candidates have submitted applications for vacant positions of judges at the High Anti-Corruption Court (HACC).** Candidates for these positions predominantly include

holders of legal degrees and attorneys. As a reminder, applications for 23 vacant positions of judges at the HACC were open from July 7 to August 6, 2025. These include 13 positions of judges at the first instance of the HACC and 10 positions of judges at the Appeals Chamber. On average, there are 9 candidates competing for each position. After reviewing their documents, the High Qualification Commission of Judges of Ukraine (HQCJ) will make a decision on admitting candidates to participate in the competition.

## MEDIA ABOUT CORRUPTION

**Civil society organizations urge President to veto draft law #11533**, reads the statement published on the CHESNO Movement's website. In it, activists note that the bill, which the Parliament approved on August 21 in the second reading, significantly restricts public access to electronic registers, particularly, to data on officials' real estate and other information "related to national security and defense". According to civil society organizations, the bill not only fails to address security issues but also creates threats to transparency, making it more difficult to expose corruption offenses. The statement also notes that the document had been adopted hastily, without discussion at the relevant committee before the second reading and under an expedited procedure, without taking into account proposals from central executive authorities

**"Ukrainians most often consider corruption as the reason for their doubts about Ukraine's future in the EU"**, according to the recent public opinion poll on Ukraine's prospects for EU membership conducted by the Kyiv International Institute of Sociology. 53% of Ukrainians believe it is likely that in 10 years Ukraine will be a prosperous EU member state, while 40% have pessimistic expectations. Optimism prevails among young people and those who trust the government and consider the EU a reliable ally. At the same time, respondents most often (25%) explained their pessimistic attitudes by the prevalence of corruption in Ukraine, inefficiency/dissatisfaction with the Ukrainian government, and the EU's unwillingness to accept Ukraine.

**"How the case against the head of NABU detectives who documented Zelenskyy's friend Mindich is being falsified"**. In a [column](#) for a reputable Ukrainian media outlet "Ukrainska Pravda", Olena Shcherban, the defense lawyer of the detained detective and deputy executive director of the Anti-Corruption Action Center, notes that the powers of anti-corruption bodies have been restored at the legislative level after a fatal attempt to destroy them, but pressure on people who investigated high-profile NABU cases remains. Two NABU detectives are still in pre-trial detention centers. Three other detectives have received notices of suspicion for older traffic accidents and are also in custody. Shcherban specifically writes about possible falsification of a criminal case against Ruslan Magamedrasulov, Head of NABU detectives who, according to [media reports](#), was involved in investigations concerning President Zelenskyy's inner circle. Magamedrasulov and his father were detained on charges of allegedly aiding the aggressor state by "preparing" to sell hemp seeds. However, key evidence, including an audio recording of a conversation and Telegram correspondence, raise suspicions about potential falsification. Olena

Shcherban emphasizes that the State Security Service is pressuring judges to keep the detectives in custody and gain time for new falsifications. According to her, this is an attempt to discredit further exposure of top corruption among the president's closest associates.

As a reminder, on August 25, nearly three hundred NABU employees [called](#) for the hearing on Magamedrasulov's case at the Kyiv Court of Appeal to be made public. Later, it was [reported](#) that the court had postponed its hearing until September 9.

**"Prevention is about effective anti-corruption efforts not flashy headlines".** In an [interview](#) for the Ukrainian news agency "Ukrinform", NACP Head Viktor Pavlushchuk emphasized the importance of maintaining the independence of anti-corruption bodies, especially in the context of European integration, and noted that effective corruption prevention should be no less relevant to the society than high-profile media exposures. According to him, the media widely covers corruption cases, which constantly keeps this topic relevant. But constant exposures, criminal cases, and verdicts do not necessarily point to a high level of corruption, but rather to active efforts to counteract it. He also noted that about 90% of citizens believe that the level of state corruption is high; however, only less than 20% of people had actual corruption experience. According to Pavlushchuk, the crucial function of international organizations such as OECD, GRECO, European Commission, IMF, World Bank is to constantly monitor the situation in Ukraine and communicate relevant conclusions to our society and the international community. Conclusions about corruption in Ukraine should be based on this data, not messages in anonymous Telegram channels. Pavlushchuk emphasized that international organizations recognize Ukraine's progress in fighting corruption, but there remains a need to increase the effectiveness of anti-corruption investigations, in particular, by adopting a bill counteracting abuse of procedural rights.