

Big, fascinating but scary changes

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Calendar of events

Ukraine has never experienced anything like this. Everything has started to shift from its traditional places. There's a new, clean Prosecutor General, and the intention to launch a land market seems absolutely serious. Most Ukrainians remain enthusiastic about everything that is happening. The public applauded the dropping of immunity for MPs, and the exchange of prisoners of war from Russia for war criminals from Ukraine. For many, the young face of the new premier is a refreshing change. Observers have also welcomed the majority of new appointments of reputable individuals. Consumer confidence is soaring. New MPs have piled tons of new bills to pass through the Verkhovna Rada. But these positive developments are accompanied by disturbing signs, such as the growing influence of oligarch Ihor Kolomoyskiy, and premature tax reforms. It's too early to determine the balance of good and bad, but big changes are clearly on the way.

The new business season is also off to a strong start. Within just a few weeks, the Rada passed many important bills. Oleksiy Honcharuk was appointed premier; ex-premier Volodymyr Groysman's Finance Minister Oksana Markarova has survived in her post; and Tymofiy Mylovanov, honorary president of the Kyiv School of Economics, has been appointed minister of Economic Development, Trade and Agriculture. All three officials espouse openly pro-Western, liberal values, and have never been implicated in rent-seeking schemes.

A fly in the ointment was the re-appointment of Arsen Avakov, the scandal-ridden and much-disliked interior minister. Rumors talked about a deal between Avakov and President Volodymyr Zelenskiy >>>