



U.S.-UKRAINE BUSINESS COUNCIL (USUBC)
WASHINGTON, D.C.



KYIV SCHOOL
OF ECONOMICS

"A strong international voice for business in Ukraine in 2014...a European country"

USUBC-KSE CONFERENCE ON LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE REFORM PRESENTATION OF THE USUBC WHITE PAPER ON LEGAL REFORM

Sponsoring law firms: Asters, Avellum Partners, Clifford Chance, CMS Cameron McKenna, Dentons, DLA Piper Ukraine, KM Partners, RULG-Ukrainian Legal Group, Squire Patton Boggs, Volkov & Partners

We are happy to report that the **USUBC-KSE CONFERENCE ON LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE REFORM** was successfully held on Wednesday, 15 October 2014 at the Kyiv School of Economics. The conference can be watched (starts with 30:30) at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MDerRFMCKeY> The final Program is at: http://www.rulg.com/documents/Program_USUBC-KSE_Cnfrnc_Legal%20Reform_2014_Oct15.pdf The media coverage by Yurydychna Gazeta is at: http://www.rulg.com/documents/YurGazeta_2014_Oct30_UkraineLegalReforms_ukr.pdf

The conference was devoted to the White Paper on Legal and Governance Reform, which was jointly developed by ten leading law firms on a pro-bono basis under the auspices of U.S.-Ukraine Business Council (USUBC). The English and Ukrainian versions of the White Paper are at <http://www.usubc.org/site/recent-news/legal-reform-in-ukraine-strategic-priorities>

Soon after the release of the White Paper on 20 September, Ukraine's President Petro Poroshenko in his first major press-conference on reforms called for total dismantling of the current "neo-feudalistic political and economic system" and replacing it with a new "open access" system existing in successful countries. This is exactly what the White Paper stands for: indeed it is high time to change both the mind-set and the rhetoric because the Ukraine story is no longer about the agony of fixing the unfixable, but about building a brand new modern and fair service-based system for Ukrainian citizens and businesses.

The conference benefited from excellent speakers. The Introductory Panel started with HE **Geoffrey R. Pyatt**, the United States Ambassador to Ukraine delivering keynote address, followed by a prominent economist, who recently served as Minister of Economy - **Pavlo Sheremeta**, HE Ambassador of Sweden **Andreas von Beckerath**, **Dmytro Shymkiv**, Deputy Head of the Presidential Administration of Ukraine, **George Logush**, President of Kyiv School of Economics, **Morgan Williams**, President of U.S.-Ukraine Business Council (USUBC) and **Irina Paliashvili**, Chair of USUBC Legal Committee and Managing Partner of RULG-Ukrainian Legal Group.

The law firms, which prepared the White Paper, presented their views on legal reform in two panels covering such key sectors as Anticorruption, Corporate Law Reform, Energy and Natural Resources, Land Reform, Judicial Reform, Commercial Disputes, Antitrust, Employment, Banking and Currency Control, Real Estate, Franchising and Public Procurement. The panel "Non-Lawyer Points of View" was represented by the prominent members of the Business, Diplomatic, Civic Society, International Institutions and Academic Communities.

We plan to prepare the 2nd edition of the White Paper in March 2105 in multi-disciplinary format, which would include law, economics, civic society and political science. We will work on the 2nd edition in cooperation with KSE, VoxUkraine and other experts and organizations.