

NEWS ALERT – 17 February 2012



Dr. Irina Paliashvili was the featured guest of the 14 February 2012 issue of *Yurydychna Gazeta* (Legal Newspaper), a leading legal publication in Ukraine. Dr. Paliashvili's interview was devoted to three topics:

- the CIS Local Counsel Forum as the main platform for legal community in the CIS economic region;
- recent trends of Ukraine's legal market and developments in our law practice; and
- dynamic developments and new investment projects in the oil & gas sector.

The original interview in Ukrainian with Russian and English versions is available at www.rulg.com/publications_resources.asp

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On the first topic, Irina spoke about CIS Local Counsel Forum, which over the years has evolved into an informal network of managing and senior partners of national law firms from the CIS economic region, bringing them together with partners from international law firms from around the world. She shared the results of the 6-th Forum, which was successfully held last summer in Almaty and invited law firms with international ambitions from all regions of our country to participate in the 7th Forum to be held 6 - 8 June 2012 in Yerevan, hosted by the leading Armenian law firm Ameria, and in the additional separate event in Tbilisi on 11 June organized by our firm jointly with a prominent Georgian law firm BLC Law Office www.rulg.com/cisforum

Speaking of legal market trends, Irina shared her concerns about the challenges facing Ukraine's economy and legal market and expressed an opinion that middle-size, dynamic and flexible law firms (15 - 25 experienced lawyers of universal range with additional specializations) are best suited for fast changing business and legal environment.

Finally, a large part of the interview is devoted to one of our principal and strongest practices – oil and gas and production sharing agreements. Analyzing the latest development in the oil & gas sector Irina observed that it was the most dynamic in the past 20 years in terms of changes in legal regime for oil and gas sector: a new, less attractive, regime with expressed preferences for national companies will be offered, but compared to previous years it will carry real investment opportunities. Irina's comprehensive new article with the annual overview of the legal regime for Ukraine's upstream sector, which will be published in February 2012 in Russian Petroleum Investor, OGEL and other professional publications, is available in English at: www.rulg.com/publications_resources.asp