

<b>From:</b>	"Kent, George P" <(b)(6)>
<b>To:</b>	(b)(6)
<b>CC:</b>	(b)(6) Pyatt, Geoffrey R <(b)(6)>
<b>Subject:</b>	Blue star - DC lobbyists
<b>Date:</b>	Thu, 21 Jul 2016 15:13:09 +0300

+ Amb in case he has engaged

I have had no contact. They are DC based. Desk should have more visibility than we...save ambassador maybe

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 21, 2016 3:07 PM  
**To:** Kent, George P; (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** FW: Couple questions from Amb Yovanovitch

I googled Blue Star Strategies and their website talks about their work for an Eastern European country's opposition party. Who is coordinating the response to this request?

(b)(6)  
 Staff Aide to the Ambassador  
 U.S. Embassy Kyiv

(b)(6)

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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**From:** Croft, Catherine M  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 21, 2016 12:55 AM  
**To:** Kyiv, POL Core; Kent, George P; (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
 (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Couple questions from Amb Yovanovitch

Colleagues,

We're working fast to put together Amb Yovanovitch's schedule before her departure, and there were two things we wanted to run by you:

1. Ukr Embassy Event: The idea would be to do Amb Chaly and the diaspora groups all at once, which would be great because we essentially only have one week to schedule all consultations. Would be closed press. Would emphasize no Rada members, Kyiv officials etc. We would send you the guest list once we have it. Is Post comfortable with this approach?
2. Blue Star Strategies: They have reached out quite a bit. Do not intend to take a meeting, but wondering what kind of relationship and communication, if any, Post has with them.

As was the case prior to the hearings, we will update you on her schedule as it takes shape in order to facilitate a smooth passing of the briefing baton.

Thank you!

Catherine Croft  
Ukraine Desk

(b)(6)  
HST 4427

<b>Sender:</b>	"Kent, George P" (b)(6) >
<b>Recipient:</b>	(b)(6) Pyatt, Geoffrey R <(b)(6) >

<b>From:</b>	(b)(6)
<b>To:</b>	Kent, George P <(b)(6)>
<b>CC:</b>	Kyiv, Staff Assistant <KyivStaffAssistant@state.gov>; (b)(6)
<b>Subject:</b>	Fw: For DCM Clearance: 20161208 BCL Tramontano
<b>Date:</b>	Tue, 6 Dec 2016 00:18:23 -0500

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

**From:** Kyiv, Staff Assistant <KyivStaffAssistant@state.gov>

**Sent:** Monday, December 5, 2016 5:42 PM

**To:** (b)(6)

**Subject:** For DCM Clearance: 20161208 BCL Tramontano

Best,

(b)(6)

**Official - SBU**  
**UNCLASSIFIED**

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**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Monday, December 05, 2016 2:15 PM  
**To:** Kyiv, Staff Assistant  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** 20161208 BCL Tramontano

(b)(6) - attached for George's clearance.

Best,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)  
Deputy Economic Counselor  
U.S. Embassy Kyiv  
4, I. Sikorsky Street  
04112 Kyiv, Ukraine  
(b)(6)

**Official - SBU**  
**UNCLASSIFIED**

<b>Sender:</b>	(b)(6)	
<b>Recipient:</b>	Kent, George P (b)(6) Kyiv, Staff Assistant <KyivStaffAssistant@state.gov>; (b)(6)	



United States Embassy  
Kyiv, Ukraine

**BRIEFING CHECKLIST (BCL)**  
**Ambassador Yovanovitch's Meeting with**  
**Karen Tramontano, Blue Star Strategies**

Thursday, December 8, 2016  
10:30-11:00  
Ambassador's Office

Interpretation: N/A

Notetaker: (b)(6)

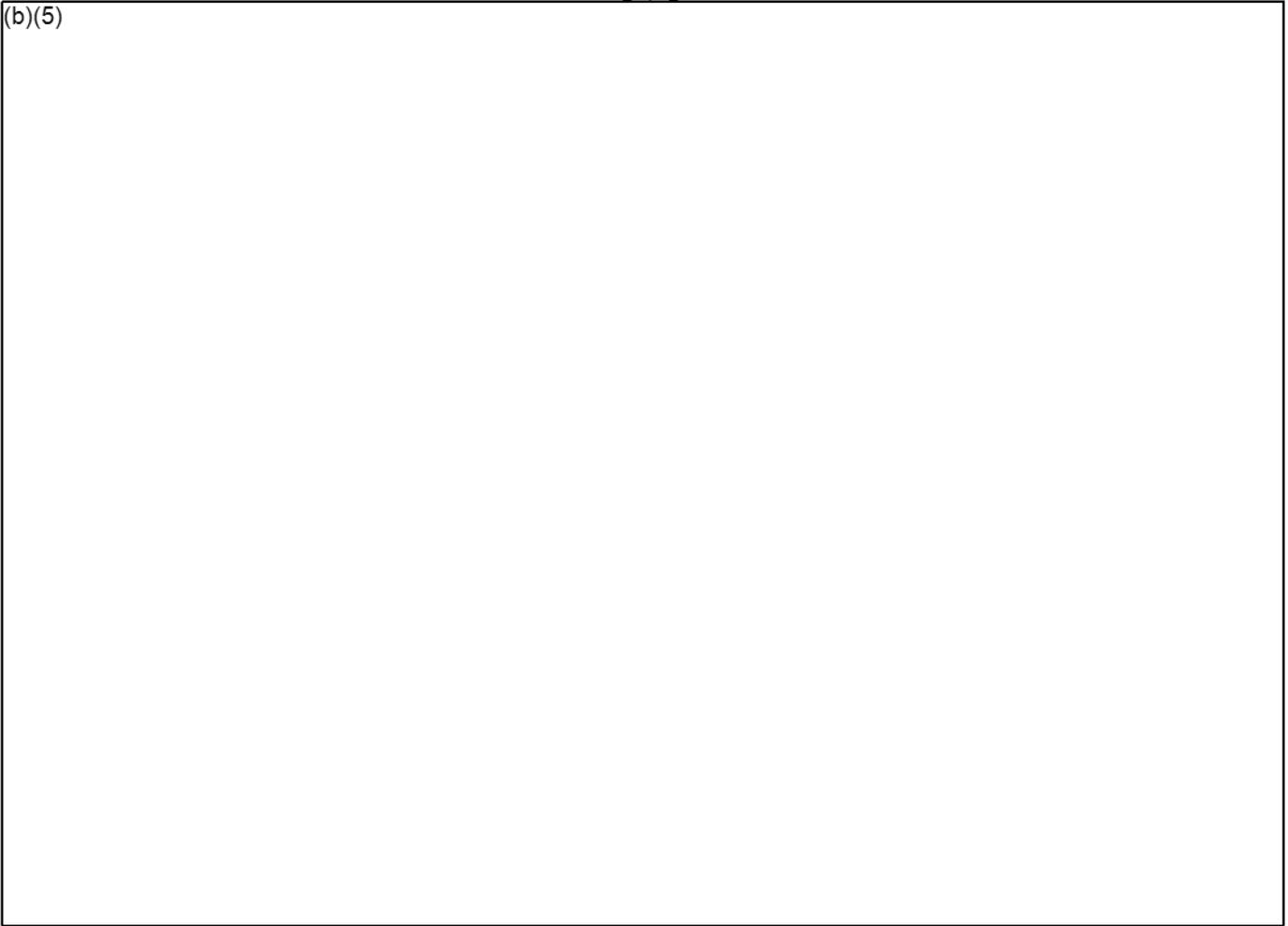
EXT: (b)(6)

**CONTEXT**

An Atlantic Council member and Washington veteran, Tramontano informally represents Mykola Zlochevskiy, the Burisma CEO who has long been the target of law enforcement proceedings in Ukraine.

(b)(5)

(b)(5)



**PARTICIPANTS**

United States

Ambassador Yovanovitch

(b)(6)

Other Country/Organization

Karen Tramontano, Blue Star CEO

Attachment:

Biographic Information

Letter from Zlochevskiy's representatives

Approved: DCM: Kent

Drafted: (b)(6)

Cleared: (b)(6)

<b>From:</b>	"Kent, George P" <(b)(6)>
<b>To:</b>	Yovanovitch, Marie L <(b)(6)>
<b>CC:</b>	(b)(6)
<b>Subject:</b>	Leshchenko claims Blue Star's SP went after him, spreading "black PR" ahead of his Washington meetings
<b>Date:</b>	Tue, 4 Oct 2016 17:15:14 -0400

Right Bank-Inside the Beltway relations are starting to heat up, with proxy elbows being thrown from afar (and not the first time – Greg Craig/Skaden’s infamous “report” on Tymoshenko from 2012 commissioned by Yanu’s Justice Minister, being advised by Paul Manafort).

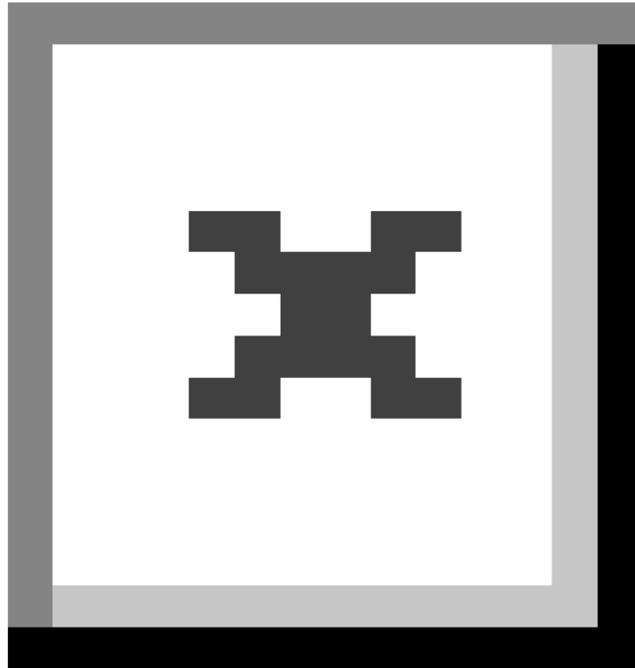
Sergiy Leshchenko FB messaged me to say Blue Star’s Sally Painter distributed a “Black PR” report during his DC visit designed to discredit him among “stakeholders” – several people who received the report, attached, from her, then alerted him/forwarded it. The “research” report was prepared by someone named Jeremiah Baronberg, working for a PR/Lobbying firm called Fontheim. Below was the screen shot, with some info blurred of a note circulating among Washington opinionators ahead of his NDI talk. Focus is Leshchenko’s purported relationship with Grigorhyshyn (which does seem to exist and is to my mind a weak spot for Sergiy), and how that allegedly drove his anti-corruption reporting over recent years, focusing on purported foes of Grigorhyshyn. Sergiy claims the photo in this report purportedly showing him with Grigorhyshyn is fake, that the situation is one of manipulation + disinformation.

When I raised whether his known willingness to associate with Grigorhyshyn was a potential vulnerability that could then be exploited by manipulation+disinformation, he replied: of course I know and meet Grigorishin, but also Pinchuk, Fiala, Zhevago, Utkin etc. And it is not the point to say that I was ordered by any of these persons

He continued by adding that SP worked on behalf of Lyovochkin when the latter was Yanu’s chief of staff, pre-EuroMaidan.

Since it is after midnight, I wished him good night. Don’t want to go down that rabbit hole too far.





SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**From:** lbi@ [redacted] (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 4, 2016 8:34 PM  
**To:** Kyiv, Media Alerts  
**Subject:** FB:Leshchenko: The notorious "gag orders" of the Presidential Administration are now in the

United States.

**Facebook: Serhiy Leshchenko**

04.10.2016

The notorious "gag orders" of the Presidential Administration are now in the United States. On the eve of my arrival to Washington a PR agency was hired that has sent "gag orders" against me in regard of the organizations we cooperate with. Truth was mixed with lies and they did not bother checking the authenticity of the sources. The guys were doing a careless work so frankly, when spending money of their Ukrainian clients, that they even used falsified photos.

The author of the "gag order" was Jeremiah Baronberg from the company Fontheim International, LLC. The leaders of the lobbying company Blue Star Strategies LLC, which helped Borys Lozhkyn when he was working as the Head of the Presidential Administration of Poroshenko, also took part in sending this "gag order."

What can I say? Write more "gag orders," send them to all addresses not only in America, but also in Europe. Because normal people understand - if someone is willing to spend time and money on work against me, then there is truth in my words. I think that the "gag order" against me being spread is a kind of recognition. I'm waiting for new "masterpieces."

<https://www.facebook.com/leshchenko.ukraine/posts/1189313351139331?pnref=story>

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*With best regards,  
LBI Team*

[www.lbicompany.com.ua](http://www.lbicompany.com.ua)

(b)(6)	
<b>Sender:</b>	"Kent, George P" <(b)(6)>
<b>Recipient:</b>	Yovanovitch, Marie L <(b)(6)>; (b)(6) >

## **RE: Research on Serhiy Leshchenko**

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**The following is for background reporting purposes only, and not to be quoted, published or shared.**

### **Executive Summary:**

Over the past two years, the parliamentarian Serhiy (Sergii) Leshchenko has become one of the most prominent voices in Ukraine. With his background in journalism, his participation in Western democracy programs, and his campaigns against corruption, Mr. Leshchenko has often been portrayed as a leader of new young reformers. On several occasions, his accusations about allegedly corrupt officials have been echoed by former U.S. Ambassador Geoffrey Pyatt, and he gained attention in the U.S. for helping to expose the story about illegal off-the-book payments made to U.S. political consultant and until recently Donald Trump campaign chairman, Paul Manafort. Leshchenko has developed a reputation as an independent crusader against corruption, unafraid to challenge members of his own party, including President Petro Poroshenko.

However, recent revelations have cast doubts on Leshchenko's independence and credibility. New Ukrainian media reports reveal that Leshchenko has acquired a luxurious apartment in Kyiv far beyond his declared means, and that he has a bank account at the sanctioned Sberbank of Russia. This controversy has fueled suspicions that Leshchenko is being funded by oligarchs, and that his articles may be written in service of oligarchic political interests.<sup>1</sup>

This report looks at Leshchenko's articles and activity since November 2014 in relation to the prominent oligarch Konstantin Grigorishin. A preliminary examination of Leshchenko's writings reveals that he has frequently slandered Grigorishin's rivals in the press, while ignoring allegations against him. Although he denies any suspicious links, Leshchenko has been clearly documented meeting with Grigorishin and has reacted defensively when asked about the relationship.

See below for a preliminary background on Leshchenko's career and his connections with Grigorishin. This report also includes an appendix summarizing the many articles Leshchenko has written attacking their rivals. Given the recent questions raised about Leshchenko's finances and independence, his connection with Grigorishin deserves further investigation.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://rian.com.ua/view/20160909/1015985163.html>

## **Background and Public Profile of Serhiy Leshchenko**

Serhiy Leshchenko is a Ukrainian journalist, MP and activist. Born in Kyiv in 1980, Leshchenko graduated from the Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv. He began working as a reporter for the Novyi Kanal in 2000, before switching to a role as deputy editor for the internet newspaper *Ukrayinska Pravda*. He is known for investigative journalism, often conducted jointly with Mustafa Nayyem.

Leshchenko was a supporter of the Euromaidan demonstrations and has been an active participant in U.S.-sponsored democracy-building programs. When the protests began in fall 2013, Leshchenko was in Washington D.C. on a fellowship with the National Endowment for Democracy. (The previous summer, he also participated in a seminar on democracy building led by Francis Fukuyama at Stanford University.) He returned to Ukraine in late February 2014, after President Yanukovich fled the country.<sup>2</sup>

When Petro Poroshenko emerged as the leading candidate for President, Leshchenko endorsed him in June 2014.<sup>3</sup> Leshchenko later decided to run for Parliament himself and was elected to the Verkhovna Rada in the October 2014 parliamentary election. Although formally belonging to the party that supports Poroshenko, Leshchenko became one of the biggest critics of Poroshenko's presidency.

Leshchenko has maintained an active media presence in both Ukraine and the West. Although he officially gave up his editor position at *Ukrainska Pravda* before joining Parliament, he maintains a blog on the *Pravda* website where he frequently posts incriminating documents and accusations against allegedly corrupt officials. His blog and Facebook posts are often reposted by other news sources across Ukraine. Leshchenko has also written in a variety of English-language publications including OpenDemocracy.net, the Atlantic Council website, and the *Kyiv Post*.

In September 2016, the New Yorker published a flattering portrait of Leshchenko and Mustafa Nayyem that depicted them as idealistic, “muckraking journalists” intent on reforming the country.<sup>4</sup> The same month, however, news broke that Leshchenko had bought a luxury apartment in Kyiv for \$300,000, far above his declared means.<sup>5</sup> This news, along with his sightings at the Russian Sberbank, have fueled speculation that Leshchenko’s stories are being funded by a prominent oligarch. One oligarch that has repeatedly been associated with Leshchenko is Konstantin Grigorishin.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2016/09/05/reforming-ukraine-after-maidan>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.opendemocracy.net/od-russia/sergii-leshchenko/sweet-talking-in-ukraine>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2016/09/05/reforming-ukraine-after-maidan>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.unian.info/politics/1509099-scandal-around-anti-graft-mp-leshchenko-media-reports-about-his-property.html>

### **Investigative Lead: Konstantin Grigorishin**

Konstantin Grigorishin is a Russian-born billionaire who gained his fortune in the late 1980s as a middleman and seller of metallurgic products.<sup>6</sup> Since the 2014 revolution, he has lost control of several companies and seen his standing in the country slip.<sup>7</sup> Several independent reports have suggested that Grigorishin is now trying to ally with “reformers” in Ukraine to attack and weaken his business competitors.

Grigorishin, a former business partner of Poroshenko, has been described as a member of his inner circle; however, he has also come into conflict with others vying for the president’s ear.<sup>8</sup> In particular, Grigorishin has been in conflict with Poroshenko’s former chief of staff Boris Lozhkin and former Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk. Both Lozhkin and Yatsenyuk have been fiercely attacked by Leshchenko in the press.

According to an investigative report, Grigorishin and Lozhkin clashed over appointments in the energy sector, specifically the National Commission on the Regulation of Energy and Public Services. Both tried to appoint their designated allies, and Lozhkin reportedly intervened to block Grigorishin’s company from participating in a state tender process for transformers. Grigorishin publicly retaliated in an interview to *Pravda*, calling Lozhkin uneducated, incompetent and corrupt.<sup>9</sup> Leshchenko also published a number of stories in *Pravda* alleging that Lozhkin was corrupt and drawing attention to a criminal case against him in Austria.

In the battle with Grigorishin, Lozhkin was backed up by Yatsenyuk, who echoed Lozhkin’s concerns about the tender process. One of Yatsenyuk’s main allies in the energy sector was Nikolay Martynenko—who soon also came under attack from Leshchenko in a series of *Pravda* blog posts.

Leshchenko has also written many critical articles about Viktor Medvedchuk and Arsen Avakov. Both men are former business partners of Grigorishin who had a falling out. Grigorishin’s hostility toward both is well-documented. For instance, in 2004 Grigorishin accused Medvedchuk of threatening to kill him over a business dispute,<sup>10</sup> and he has accused Avakov of stiffing him of \$12 million.<sup>11</sup>

Leshchenko has written repeatedly about corruption involving Martynenko, Lozhkin, Avakov, Yatsenyuk, and Medvedchuk. His allegations have consistently worked to discredit Grigorishin’s enemies without raising any suspicions about Grigorishin.

Moreover, Leshchenko has been spotted meeting with Grigorishin several times. In November 2015, the MP Maksim Polyakov was one of several witnesses claiming that

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<sup>6</sup> <http://www.forbes.com/profile/konstantin-grigorishin/>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.fort-russ.com/2015/03/oleg-tsarev-last-battle-of-ukrainian.html>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.pravda.com.ua/cdn/graphics/2016/06/two-years-of-poroshenko/eng.html>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.rbc.ua/rus/analytics/lozhkin-vs-grigorishin-pervaya-voyna-okruzheniya-1444288477.html>

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.usubc.org/AUR/aur4-008.php>

<sup>11</sup> <http://en.reporter-ua.ru/avakov-still-owe-me-12-million-grigorishin.html>

Leshchenko had met with Grigorishin at his resort in Courchevel, France and that Grigorishin was funding *Pravda*.<sup>12</sup> It has also been reported that Grigorishin owns the office complex where *Pravda*'s online headquarters are housed, as well as the building housing the TV channel *Hromadske*, where Leshchenko makes frequent appearances.<sup>13</sup> In July 2016, Leshchenko and Grigorishin were photographed meeting together at a restaurant in Kyiv. Although Leshchenko denies any collusion, their meeting fueled further speculation that Grigorishin was funding both Leshchenko's stories and his new political party, Democratic Alliance.<sup>14</sup>

See the Appendix A (p. 5-10) for a timeline of articles in which Leshchenko attacks Grigorishin's rivals, including Boris Lozhkin, Nikolai Martynenko, and Arsen Avakov.



*Grigorishin and Leshchenko meet at a restaurant in Kyiv, July 2016. (Source: Gazeta.ua)*

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<sup>12</sup> <http://gazeta.ua/ru/articles/politics/leshchenko-skryvaet-dohody-i-pokryvaet-oligarha-grigorishina-deputatskij-kontrol/661595>

<sup>13</sup> <http://en.reporter-ua.ru/grigorishin-has-received-ukrainian-citizenship.html>

<sup>14</sup> <http://strana.ua/articles/interview/23434-sergej-leshchenko-shumiha-s-grigorishinym-vygodna-moim-krovnikam.html>

## Appendix – Stories by Leshchenko that Benefit Grigorishin

*This appendix presents a chronological list of articles by Leshchenko that serve the interests of Grigorishin by attacking his rivals including Boris Lozhkin, Nikolai Martynenko, Viktor Medvedchuk and Arsen Avakov.*

March 22, 2015

**“Yatsenyuk’s ally – under investigation in Switzerland for bribery. New evidence”<sup>15</sup>**

Leshchenko produces an email from the Swiss Attorney General’s office confirming that Nikolai Martynenko, a close ally of Yatsenyuk’s, was being investigated for bribery since 2013.

March 27, 2015

**“Martynenko will become a problem for Yatsenyuk. Full article from Switzerland”<sup>16</sup>**

Leshchenko explains that he appealed in the Rada for Martynenko’s dismissal, as new open-source information and articles have appeared about his case in Switzerland. He then posts the full text of the Swiss article on Martynenko from *SonntagsZeitung*.

April 16, 2015

**“Nalyvaichenko against Surkov – a scenario for Medvedchuk?”<sup>17</sup>**

Leshchenko suggests that Medvedchuk, a pro-Russian politician and one of Grigorishin’s rivals, may have been responsible for the killings of protesters on the Maidan. Leshchenko says the former head of Ukraine’s security service is blaming the Russian Vladislav Surkov to let Medvedchuk off the hook.

May 29, 2015

**“Klyuyev’s conspiracy and the vertical of People’s Front”<sup>18</sup>**

Leshchenko claims that Martynenko was involved in a conspiracy to shield Yatsenyuk’s ally Sergiy Klyuyev from prosecution. Allegedly Klyuyev paid Martynenko to pass through a favorable tariff reduction bill and block his case.

July 1, 2015

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<sup>15</sup> <http://blogs.pravda.com.ua/authors/leschenko/550e046a1183c/>

<sup>16</sup> <http://blogs.pravda.com.ua/authors/leschenko/551493e27d60c/>

<sup>17</sup> <http://blogs.pravda.com.ua/authors/leschenko/552ee534b5a10/>

<sup>18</sup> <http://blogs.pravda.com.ua/authors/leschenko/5567910952d6e/>

**“Avakov’s police - a ‘roof’ for Berkut commanders who dispersed the Maidan”<sup>19</sup>**

Leshchenko notes that Interior Minister Arsen Avakov has retained several police officials responsible for the violent dispersal of protestors from the Maidan. He produces documents that show how these police were reinstated and protected.

July 21, 2015

**“How Interpol is saving Yanukovich”<sup>20</sup>**

Leshchenko claims that Ukrainian authorities were responsible for Yanukovich being removed from Interpol’s wanted list. Among those cited are Akhmetov and Avakov.

July 24, 2015

**“Avakov’s speculator: work in London for a corrupt official while serving as an official in Ukraine”<sup>21</sup>**

Leshchenko attacks Olena Tyshchenko, who worked for Avakov in an asset recovery position, for her involvement representing a Kazakh oligarch in London while on Ukraine’s payroll.

August 20, 2015

**“The ‘cut’ of Ukrainian politics. The ex-head of the presidential administration bought a yacht for 200 million Euros”<sup>22</sup>**

Expose on Viktor Medvedchuk’s purchase of a 180 million EUR yacht.

August 27, 2015

**“Avakov’s speculator. Continued”<sup>23</sup>**

Continuation of July 24 story about Tyshchenko, questioning her public record and violations of Interior Ministry laws.

September 11, 2015

**“Avakov’s speculator. Mansion in Surrey, hidden on the Isle of Man”<sup>24</sup>**

Part Three of the story on Tyshchenko, whom Leshchenko reveals has property well beyond her declared means.

September 22, 2015

**“Shadow government”<sup>25</sup>**

<sup>19</sup> <http://blogs.pravda.com.ua/authors/leschenko/5593c898e1f4e/>

<sup>20</sup> <http://euromaidanpress.com/2015/07/22/how-interpol-is-saving-yanukovich/#arvlbdata>

<sup>21</sup> <http://blogs.pravda.com.ua/authors/leschenko/55b22ff5b85dc/>

<sup>22</sup> <http://blogs.pravda.com.ua/authors/leschenko/55d5ff7d6857a/>

<sup>23</sup> <http://blogs.pravda.com.ua/authors/leschenko/55df4140646cf/>

<sup>24</sup> <http://blogs.pravda.com.ua/authors/leschenko/55f2b5756c684/>

<sup>25</sup> <http://blogs.pravda.com.ua/authors/leschenko/56013162cdf89/>

Expose on shadow government and grey cardinals in Ukraine. Among those cited by Leshchenko are Boris Lozhkin, accused of recruiting dubious figures to the administration; Martynenko, said to be “Yatsenyuk’s purse,” and Avakov.

September 24, 2015

**“Lozhkin being investigated for money laundering in Austria”<sup>26</sup>**

Notes that Lozhkin is being investigated for money laundering in Austria for suspicious multi-million transfers. Leshchenko’s undisclosed sources say this has to do with the sale of his media holdings to the oligarch Sergiy Kurchenko.

September 25, 2015

**“Rainy Day. Avakov’s team channeled \$40 million to Panama”<sup>27</sup>**

Alleges that People’s Front MP Igor Kotvitsky withdrew \$40 million from Oschadbank to an offshore in Panama. Leshchenko suspects Kotvitsky is Avakov’s “purse” and Yatsenyuk may also be involved.

October 2, 2015

**“The story of yet another betrayal”<sup>28</sup>**

Leshchenko claims that former agrarian minister Mykola Prysyazhnyuk should be on Interpol’s wanted list for suspected embezzlement, but is not. He says that Avakov may have intervened to prevent him from going on the list.

October 14, 2015

**“Lozhkin’s criminal case in Austria. New details”<sup>29</sup>**

Leshchenko publishes more documents on the Austrian case against Boris Lozhkin, accusing Lozhkin of selling his media holdings to the sanctioned Sergiy Kurchenko through a series of offshore firms.

October 22, 2015

**“40 million dollars to Panama. Avakov’s team covers for Yatsenyuk”<sup>30</sup>**

Leshchenko claims that Avakov and Yatsenyuk helped cover up a \$40 million transfer to Panama by a member of their party.

October 28, 2015

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<sup>26</sup> <http://blogs.pravda.com.ua/authors/leschenko/5603fa5204236/>

<sup>27</sup> <http://blogs.pravda.com.ua/authors/leschenko/56052d1e0315d/>

<sup>28</sup> <http://blogs.pravda.com.ua/authors/leschenko/560e6b6d0b02a/>

<sup>29</sup> <http://blogs.pravda.com.ua/authors/leschenko/561e6dc0c209f/>

<sup>30</sup> <http://blogs.pravda.com.ua/authors/leschenko/56293cab9d98/>

**“Now it’s official. Yatsenyuk’s ally threatened with 5 years of prison in Switzerland”<sup>31</sup>**

Leshchenko provides an e-mail confirmation that Switzerland had conducted a criminal investigation into Martynenko. He calls for Martynenko to be dismissed from the energy committee and for a criminal case to be opened in Ukraine.

**“Under investigation. After Switzerland, a case against Martynenko is opened in Czech Republic”<sup>32</sup>**

Leshchenko writes that there is an open case in the Czech Republic against Martynenko, and that Czech prosecutors have requested legal assistance from Ukraine.

November 4, 2015

**“To save Yura Enakievsky”<sup>33</sup>**

Leshchenko claims that Boris Lozhkin and the president’s office are complicit in attempting to “save” the internationally wanted Yuriy Ivanyushchenko from being caught by Interpol.

November 20, 2015

**“The corrupt octopus ‘People’s Front’”<sup>34</sup>**

Another blog on allegations involving Martynenko and an Austrian company that was allegedly part of a scheme to sell uranium at inflated prices. Leshchenko produces documents connecting Martynenko with David Zhvania, and argues that Yatsenyuk was complicit in his corruption schemes.

November 26, 2015

**“Yatsenyuk’s Watergate. Documents from Switzerland on Martynenko’s bribes”<sup>35</sup>**

Another follow-up story on Martynenko, with new documents on the Swiss investigation.

December 4, 2015

**“Martynenko case. Secret agreement, seized during a search in the Czech Republic”<sup>36</sup>**

Leshchenko produces new documents on Martynenko, showing his legal involvement with the companies Steuermann, Skoda, and Bradcrest. Leshchenko also claims that Yatsenyuk will allow Martynenko to lose his status as an MP as a “sacrificial lamb” to U.S. Vice President Biden, who has specifically spoken to Yatsenyuk about weeding out corruption and mentioned Martynenko specifically.

<sup>31</sup> <http://blogs.pravda.com.ua/authors/leschenko/5629fcaeb512c/>

<sup>32</sup> <http://blogs.pravda.com.ua/authors/leschenko/5631116363806/>

<sup>33</sup> <http://blogs.pravda.com.ua/authors/leschenko/5639b868b23f2/>

<sup>34</sup> <http://blogs.pravda.com.ua/authors/leschenko/564efdaada1b8/>

<sup>35</sup> <http://blogs.pravda.com.ua/authors/leschenko/5656c903eb53e/>

<sup>36</sup> <http://blogs.pravda.com.ua/authors/leschenko/566178fb0aea6/>

December 10, 2015

**“Prague winter for Martynenko. Criminal case in Czech Republic”<sup>37</sup>**

New documents show details on the Czech case against Martynenko, alleging that his company took kickbacks. Leshchenko also says that Yatsenyuk is “dumping” Martynenko to get rid of a source of bad PR.

January 26, 2016

**“The Yatsenyuk-Martynenko scheme for uranium: Zhvania’s cousin owns a go-between company”<sup>38</sup>**

Another post on Martynenko. Leshchenko claims that the National Anti-Corruption Bureau (NABU) is investigating his involvement in a corrupt uranium supply scheme arranged by David Zhvania and his cousin. Leshchenko alleges that Martynenko and Yatsenyuk are pocketing the proceeds of this scheme.

January 28, 2016

**“Avakov: Minister or Italian businessman? Protocol of corruption for Avakov”<sup>39</sup>**

This post documents Avakov’s involvement as President of an Italian company while he was still in the Ukrainian government.

February 16, 2016

**“A Way Out of the Crisis”<sup>40</sup>**

In post for the Atlantic Council, Leshchenko repeats allegations against Yatsenyuk for alleged corruption involving Martynenko and Akhmetov. He advocates early elections and getting rid of Yatsenyuk and Avakov, among others.

March 4, 2016

**“Sergii Leshchenko: Dividing corruption between themselves”<sup>41</sup>**

Leshchenko repeats allegations (this time in the *Kyiv Post*) that Yatsenyuk is privy to corruption because of his association with Martynenko and the alleged uranium supply scheme. This is part of a broader screed against Yatsenyuk and Poroshenko.

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<sup>37</sup> <http://blogs.pravda.com.ua/authors/leschenko/56697d49c65b8/>

<sup>38</sup> <http://blogs.pravda.com.ua/authors/leschenko/56a75fab0520e/>

<sup>39</sup> <http://blogs.pravda.com.ua/authors/leschenko/56a9e54c1feb1/>

<sup>40</sup> [http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/new-atlanticist/a-way-out-of-the-crisis?utm\\_content=buffer0b824&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=twitter.com&utm\\_campaign=buffer](http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/new-atlanticist/a-way-out-of-the-crisis?utm_content=buffer0b824&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer)

<sup>41</sup> [http://www.kyivpost.com/article/opinion/op-ed/sergii-leschenko-dividing-corruption-between-themselves-409343.html?utm\\_content=buffer4c4ec&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=twitter.com&utm\\_campaign=buffer](http://www.kyivpost.com/article/opinion/op-ed/sergii-leschenko-dividing-corruption-between-themselves-409343.html?utm_content=buffer4c4ec&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer)

March 11, 2016

**“Boyko Towers 2: Yatsenyuk’s allies protect the London go-between”<sup>42</sup>**

Leshchenko argues that there was a clash within the energy company UkrGazVidobuvannya between the old guard and new, independent overseers. He accuses Martynenko’s team of corrupt schemes involving the purchase of coil tubing at inflated prices through an opaque London go-between. He also claims that Avakov’s ally Yevhen Deidei was involved.

June 2, 2016

**“Ukraine’s Verkhovna Rada: an oligarchs’ club or a real parliament?”<sup>43</sup>**

In English-language piece for *Open Democracy*, Leshchenko criticizes the influence of oligarchs over Parliament. He claims that Kolomoisky and Akhmetov have both reached an understanding with the government to have their interests protected, despite the announced policy of deoligarchization.

June 17, 2016

**“Sergii Leshchenko: My list of dirty deals”<sup>44</sup>**

In *Kyiv Post* article, Leshchenko lists top 10 officials he believe “got off the hook.” Lozhkin makes the list for the money laundering accusations in Austria.

June 25, 2016

**“Leshchenko: Avakov may use law enforcement agencies to come to power”<sup>45</sup>**

Leshchenko claims that Avakov is ambitious and could seize power using law enforcement agencies.

July 4, 2016

**“Agreement to arrest Onyshchenko: an umbrella from Tymoshenko and a test for all Parliament”<sup>46</sup>**

Leshchenko advocates arresting Oleksandr Onyshchenko, an MP close to Tymoshenko who is suspected of embezzlement. He rejects critics’ claims that there is no real evidence, and compares the case to Martynenko, whom he says also should have been punished.

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<sup>42</sup> <http://blogs.pravda.com.ua/authors/leschenko/56e27344b6179/>

<sup>43</sup> <https://www.opendemocracy.net/od-russia/sergii-leschenko/ukraine-s-verkhovna-rada-oligarchs-club-or-real-parliament>

<sup>44</sup> <http://www.kyivpost.com/article/opinion/op-ed/sergii-leschenko-my-list-of-dirty-deals-416510.html>

<sup>45</sup> <http://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2016/06/25/7112924/>

<sup>46</sup> <http://blogs.pravda.com.ua/authors/leschenko/577a9ddd26b13/>

<b>From:</b>	(b)(6)
<b>To:</b>	Kent, George P <(b)(6)> Croft, Catherine M (b)(6) (b)(6)
<b>CC:</b>	(b)(6)
<b>Subject:</b>	RE: (Blue Star Strategies) FW: Scheduling meeting with Amb. Yovanovitch - Aug. 8-10
<b>Date:</b>	Fri, 29 Jul 2016 19:38:40 -0400

I also offered to speak with them after they requested a D meeting, and they declined. So, they've had a number of chances...

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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**From:** Kent, George P  
**Sent:** Friday, July 29, 2016 3:50 PM  
**To:** Croft, Catherine M; (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: (Blue Star Strategies) FW: Scheduling meeting with Amb. Yovanovitch - Aug. 8-10

Well, Sally Poynter never did call me, after Dan Fried tried to broker it. I think that means he gave her a taste about what I would have said re: Zlochevsky, Burizma, and Hunter Biden. ☺

---

**From:** Croft, Catherine M  
**Sent:** Friday, July 29, 2016 10:02 PM  
**To:** Kent, George P; (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: (Blue Star Strategies) FW: Scheduling meeting with Amb. Yovanovitch - Aug. 8-10

We had already offered our regrets to Blue Star. But they keep trying through every channel they can. I just wanted you to have a heads up in case they come to you again as well.

---

**From:** Kent, George P  
**Sent:** Friday, July 29, 2016 12:36 AM  
**To:** Croft, Catherine M; (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: (Blue Star Strategies) FW: Scheduling meeting with Amb. Yovanovitch - Aug. 8-10

There are numerous other meetings/conversations (b)(5) as the clock starts to run out. USUBC with Morgan Williams had a DC session before departure with Ambassadors Taylor, Tefft, and Pyatt. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

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**From:** Croft, Catherine M  
**Sent:** Friday, July 29, 2016 3:57 AM  
**To:** (b)(6) Kent, George P  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** (Blue Star Strategies) FW: Scheduling meeting with Amb. Yovanovitch - Aug. 8-10

(b)(6) George:

Blue Star has been consistent. With your advice and (b)(6) Masha has told us to be noncommittal. We are keeping a list of those meetings that she may want to follow up on when she gets to Kyiv, and this will be on there, but flagging in case you hear anything in the meantime.

Thank you!

Catherine

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**From:** Croft, Catherine M  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 28, 2016 8:55 PM  
**To:** 'Sean Keeley'  
**Cc:** Sally Painter; (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: Scheduling meeting with Amb. Yovanovitch - Aug. 8-10

Sean,

Thank you for asking. I will pass along the request, including to Embassy Kyiv, and we will let you know.

Thanks again,

Catherine

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**From:** Sean Keeley (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 28, 2016 4:04 PM  
**To:** Croft, Catherine M  
**Cc:** Sally Painter; (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: Scheduling meeting with Amb. Yovanovitch - Aug. 8-10

Catherine,

Thank you for the update, and we appreciate that the Ambassador has a very busy schedule. However, is there any chance a short phone call might be possible in the coming weeks, either before her departure or once she arrives in Ukraine? Thanks again for your help and let me know if a call might be possible, at the Ambassador's convenience.

Best,  
Sean

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**From:** Croft, Catherine M (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 27, 2016 7:02 PM  
**To:** Sean Keeley

**Cc:** Sally Painter; (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: Scheduling meeting with Amb. Yovanovitch - Aug. 8-10

Sean,

Unfortunately, as I said on the phone, Ambassador Yovanovitch's schedule is unexpectedly shortened, even more than it was, and she will not be able to take a meeting before she departs. I am sorry we could not make it work on this round, but please stay in touch if you are planning travel to Ukraine.

All the best,

Catherine

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**From:** Sean Keeley (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Friday, July 22, 2016 1:55 PM  
**To:** Croft, Catherine M  
**Cc:** Sally Painter; (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: Scheduling meeting with Amb. Yovanovitch - Aug. 8-10

Hi Catherine,

I wanted to follow up after speaking with you earlier this week. I understand the Ambassador is in training next week, but would she have any time for a short meeting between August 8 and 10? That would be a good window for Sally, if possible. We understand the time pressures on the Ambassador, so would certainly keep it short and follow your lead to schedule accordingly.

Thanks again for all your help.

Best,  
Sean Keeley

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**From:** Sean Keeley  
**Sent:** Friday, July 15, 2016 4:42 PM  
**To:** Croft, Catherine M  
**Cc:** Sally Painter; (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: Scheduling meeting with Amb. Yovanovitch

Catherine,

Thank you for your prompt response. We understand the Ambassador has a very busy schedule and appreciate any time she can give us. Look forward to being in touch.

Best,  
Sean

---

**From:** Croft, Catherine M  
(b)(6)

**Sent:** Friday, July 15, 2016 4:37 PM  
**To:** Sean Keeley  
**Cc:** Sally Painter; (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: Scheduling meeting with Amb. Yovanovitch

Sean,

Thank you for reaching out. Adding a couple of my colleagues for awareness. As you can imagine, we have a long list of meeting requests and very little time. We will take a look and get back to you. Those two dates you mentioned, I know Amb Yovanovitch is in training.

We will be in touch.

Best regards,

Catherine Croft  
Ukraine Desk

(b)(6)  
HST 4427

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**From:** Sean Keeley

(b)(6)

**Sent:** Friday, July 15, 2016 4:34 PM  
**To:** Croft, Catherine M  
**Cc:** Sally Painter  
**Subject:** Scheduling meeting with Amb. Yovanovitch

Dear Catherine,

I am reaching out on behalf of Sally Painter at Blue Star Strategies. Sally has worked with Ambassador Yovanovitch in the past and spoke with her at the nomination hearing about getting together before her departure for Ukraine.

I understand from (b)(6) that you are coordinating the Ambassador's schedule. Would she have any time to meet with Sally the week after next: perhaps on Tuesday July 26<sup>th</sup> or Wednesday July 27<sup>th</sup>? Sally would greatly appreciate the chance to brief the Ambassador on a few vital topics regarding Ukraine.

Thanks in advance for your consideration and we look forward to hearing from you.

Best,  
Sean Keeley  
Associate, Blue Star Strategies

**Sean Keeley**

Blue Star Strategies

888 17th Street NW, Suite 800

Washington, DC 20006

(b)(6)

[www.bluestarstrategies.com](http://www.bluestarstrategies.com)

<b>Sender:</b>	(b)(6)
<b>Recipient:</b>	Kent, George P <(b)(6)>; Croft, Catherine M <(b)(6)> (b)(6)

<b>From:</b>	(b)(6)
<b>To:</b>	Yovanovitch, Marie L (b)(6); (b)(6); Kent, George P <(b)(6)>
<b>CC:</b>	(b)(6)
<b>Subject:</b>	RE: Coming to Ukraine
<b>Date:</b>	Wed, 23 Nov 2016 20:12:31 +0000

I've offered her Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. (she asked me separately for the 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup>). You had said ½ hour, with (b)(6) sitting in. I'll let you know when/if confirmed.

Cheers!

(b)(6)

Assistant to Ambassador Masha Yovanovitch  
U.S. Embassy Kyiv

(b)(6)

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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**From:** Yovanovitch, Marie L  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 19, 2016 2:31 PM  
**To:** (b)(6) Kent, George P  
**Subject:** FW: Coming to Ukraine

Let's review how we want to handle this appointment on Tuesday morning.

**Marie L. Yovanovitch**  
Ambassador  
U.S. Embassy Kyiv

(b)(6)

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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**From:** Yovanovitch, Marie L  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 19, 2016 2:30 PM  
**To:** 'Karen Tramontano' (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: Coming to Ukraine

Karen—

Look forward to seeing you. My assistant (b) will be in touch to set up a time.

Best, M

**Marie L. Yovanovitch**  
Ambassador  
U.S. Embassy Kyiv

(b)(6)

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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**From:** Karen Tramontano (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 4:41 PM  
**To:** Yovanovitch, Marie L  
**Subject:** Coming to Ukraine

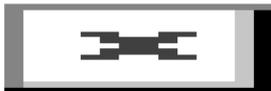
Dear Madame Ambassador

I hope you are well. As you know things are a bit in flux in Washington these days. I will be in Kiev sometime the week of December 5<sup>th</sup> and I have flexibility in planning my visit so I was wondering if there is any day that week where we could meet perhaps for a cup of coffee or lunch. I know your schedule is very busy so I will accommodate any date/time that works for you. Thank you very much and I look forward to meeting

My warmest regards

Karen

Karen A. Tramontano  
Blue Star Strategies



(b)(6)

888 17th Street NW, Suite 800

Washington, DC 20006

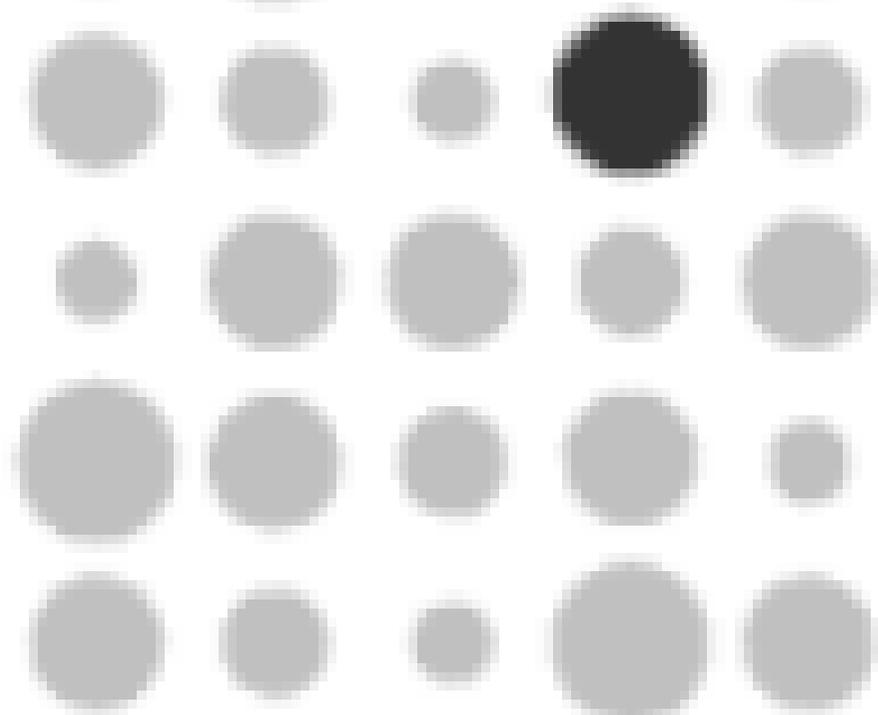
[www.bluestarstrategies.com](http://www.bluestarstrategies.com)

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(b)(6)

<b>Sender:</b>	(b)(6)
<b>Recipient:</b>	Yovanovitch, Marie L <(b)(6)>; (b)(6) >; Kent, George P <(b)(6)>; (b)(6)

FL-2019-05777 08/10/2020 31



# BlueStar

## Strategies

<b>From:</b>	"Yovanovitch, Marie L" (b)(6)
<b>To:</b>	Kent, George P (b)(6)
<b>Subject:</b>	RE: FB:Leshchenko:
<b>Date:</b>	Wed, 5 Oct 2016 00:14:07 -0400

Toria was pleased to see them, but noted it was an 8 minute drop by.

SBU

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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**From:** Kent, George P  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 04, 2016 10:28 PM  
**To:** Yovanovitch, Marie L  
**Subject:** RE: FB:Leshchenko:

Will reach out for more. His friend Svitlana FB messaged me last night thanking me for setting them up with (b)(6) since they then got the upgrade to (b)(6).

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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**From:** Yovanovitch, Marie L  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 04, 2016 8:54 PM  
**To:** Kent, George P  
**Subject:** Re: FB:Leshchenko: The notorious "gag orders" - Blue Star mentioned

Hmm is right

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

**From:** Kent, George P  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 4, 2016 8:47 PM  
**To:** Yovanovitch, Marie L  
**Subject:** FB:Leshchenko: The notorious "gag orders" - Blue Star mentioned

Hmm

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

**From:** lbi@ (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 4, 2016 8:34 PM  
**To:** Kyiv, Media Alerts  
**Subject:** FB:Leshchenko: The notorious "gag orders" of the Presidential Administration are now in the United States.

**Facebook:** Serhiy Leshchenko

04.10.2016

The notorious "gag orders" of the Presidential Administration are now in the United States. On the eve of my arrival to Washington a PR agency was hired that has sent "gag orders" against me in regard of the organizations we cooperate with. Truth was mixed with lies and they did not bother checking the authenticity of the sources. The guys were doing a careless work so frankly, when spending money of their Ukrainian clients, that they even used falsified photos.

The author of the "gag order" was Jeremiah Baronberg from the company Fontheim International, LLC. The leaders of the lobbying company Blue Star Strategies LLC, which helped Borys Lozhkyn when he was working as the Head of the Presidential Administration of Poroshenko, also took part in sending this "gag order."

What can I say? Write more "gag orders," send them to all addresses not only in America, but also in Europe. Because normal people understand - if someone is willing to spend time and money on work against me, then there is truth in my words. I think that the "gag order" against me being spread is a kind of recognition. I'm waiting for new "masterpieces."

<https://www.facebook.com/leshchenko.ukraine/posts/1189313351139331?pnref=story>

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*With best regards,  
LBI Team*

[www.lbicompany.com.ua](http://www.lbicompany.com.ua)

(b)(6)

<b>Sender:</b>	"Yovanovitch, Marie L" (b)(6)
<b>Recipient:</b>	Kent, George P (b)(6)

<b>From:</b>	"Kent, George P" <(b)(6)>
<b>To:</b>	(b)(6) Yovanovitch, Marie L <(b)(6)>; (b)(6)
<b>Subject:</b>	Re: Herbst heads up - Atlantic Council to take Burisma money. (SBU)
<b>Date:</b>	Fri, 13 Jan 2017 09:24:05 -0500

While the Interfax headline on Martynenko proved inaccurate, the Burisma tale of getting a court to shut down a PGO investigation noted below would amount to nearly the same mechanism - rich connected businessman politician seeks to use the court/judge of unknown reputation to close an investigation of a business with a dodgy reputation.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Friday, January 13, 2017 4:12 PM  
**To:** Kent, George P; Yovanovitch, Marie L  
**Subject:** RE: Herbst heads up - Atlantic Council to take Burisma money. (SBU)

In case you didn't see Burisma's extensive press release yesterday. Matches arguments Karen made when she visited in December. This and Atlantic Council support are part of a full court press by Zlochevskyi to clear his name.

### **PRESS RELEASE: THE BURISMA GROUP COOPERATED WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AND PAID IN FULL ALL OUTSTANDING FEES**

International Energy Group Burisma with assets in Ukraine announces that all legal proceedings and pending criminal allegations against its President Nikolay Zlochevskyi and operating companies of Burisma Group are fully closed.

The decision to fully close all pending legal proceedings and criminal allegations was the result of many months of full cooperation between the Office of the General Prosecutor and the legal team representing the Burisma Group. Further, the Burisma Group agreed that should an investigation determine that the Burisma Group owed outstanding taxes and/or fees that it would, without appeal, pay any and all outstanding taxes, fines and fees.

Following the Burisma Group's full cooperation and willingness to submit to a thorough investigation and its findings, the Pechersk District Court of Kiev obliged the Prosecutor General's Office of Ukraine to close the case against Mr. Zlochevskyi and remove him from the wanted list. As a result of the Court's decision the PGO fulfilled the relevant court order. The Ukrainian court decision is fully consistent with the decision taken by the U.K. court on January 21, 2015 and expert's opinion based on the results of forensic and economic expertise, dated February 6, 2015. After considering Nikolay Zlocheskyi's activities in Ukraine from 2002 to 2014, the British court ruled in favor of Nikolay Zlochevskyi and obliged the UK Serious Fraud Office (the SFO) to pay the defendant's costs. Moreover, as a result of the investigation, Burisma agreed to pay UAH180 millions of tax liabilities.

Over the last two years alone, operating companies of Burisma Group, paid more than UAH 5 bln. in tax liabilities to the budgets of all levels. Burisma is one of the top taxpayers of Ukraine

that demonstrates its commitment to social responsibility and compliance with the best international business practices.

Independent Director of Burisma Aleksander Kwasniewski believes that this decision shows how far Ukraine has come in advancing democratic ideals, proving that politics does not affect court decisions.

"It is reassuring that the independent Ukrainian court managed to take the decision that is fully consistent with the decision made by the British court. For Ukraine, the decision on Nikolay Zlochevskyi and Ukraine's largest gas producer Burisma will be also instrumental in making the country energy sufficient, since it will allow Burisma to increase domestic gas production as well as payments to the state budget. Especially today, Ukraine should be united over projects enhancing its defense capabilities and political independence. The country has already paid a high price with the revolution and its aftermath," noted Independent Director of Burisma Aleksander Kwasniewski.

"The actions of the PGO and those of the Ukrainian court are clear evidence of Ukraine's commitment to the rule of law and due process – twin pillars of democracy," stressed former U.S. Deputy Assistant Attorney General Mr. John Buretta.

The President of Burisma Group Nikolay Zlochevskyi pointed out extensive cooperation with law enforcement agencies and judicial authorities of different countries.

"Since all legal proceedings against Burisma Group are closed, it will allow us to increase production volumes and the flow of foreign investments in Ukraine, consider attracting international companies in the country, fulfill social and investment responsibilities, as well as duly pay in full all required tax liabilities to the budget. This is a big step forward for Ukraine in general and Burisma Group, in particular," admitted Nikolay Zlochevskyi.

## Official

UNCLASSIFIED

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**From:** Kent, George P

**Sent:** Friday, January 13, 2017 4:04 PM

**To:** Yovanovitch, Marie L; (b)(6)

**Subject:** Herbst heads up - Atlantic Council to take Burisma money. (SBU)

FYI.

The Blue Star duo, Karen and Sally, are on the Atlantic Council roster, and are the probable pushers of this.

John had come to the old DCR on a trip last fall (before I moved) and talked thru the whole Burisma/Zlochevsky nexus. At the time, he made no mention of this as a possibility.

So: Atlantic council's robust Ukraine program, funded by...akhmetov, pinchuk, and Zlochevsky/Burisma.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

**From:** John Herbst <(b)(6)>

**Sent:** Friday, January 13, 2017 3:52 PM  
**To:** Kent, George P; George Kent  
**Subject:** Heads Up

George,

I wanted you to know before it becomes public that the Atlantic Council decided to accept support for its program from Burisma. We looked at the matter closely and weighed it for over a month. Information provided to us by a the Cravath lawyer for Burisma in the London case was an important factor, although some uneasiness remains. Happy to discuss when I am next your way.

Best,  
John



**John Herbst** | Director, Dinu Patriciu Eurasia Center  
Ambassador (Ret.)  
1030 15th Street, NW, 12th Floor | Washington, DC 20005

(b)(6)

[www.facebook.com/AtlanticCouncil](http://www.facebook.com/AtlanticCouncil) | [@JohnEdHerbst](https://twitter.com/JohnEdHerbst) | [www.AtlanticCouncil.org](http://www.AtlanticCouncil.org)

<b>Sender:</b>	"Kent, George P" <(b)(6)>
<b>Recipient:</b>	(b)(6) Yovanovitch, Marie L. (b)(6); (b)(6)

<b>From:</b>	(b)(6)
<b>To:</b>	Yovanovitch, Marie L <(b)(6)>; Kent, George P <(b)(6)>
<b>Subject:</b>	Re: Leshchenko claims Blue Star's SP went after him, spreading "black PR" ahead of his Washington meetings
<b>Date:</b>	Tue, 4 Oct 2016 22:22:18 +0000

Interesting, thanks.

---

**From:** Kent, George P <(b)(6)>  
**Date:** October 4, 2016 at 11:15:21 PM GMT+2  
**To:** Yovanovitch, Marie L <(b)(6)>  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Leshchenko claims Blue Star's SP went after him, spreading "black PR" ahead of his Washington meetings

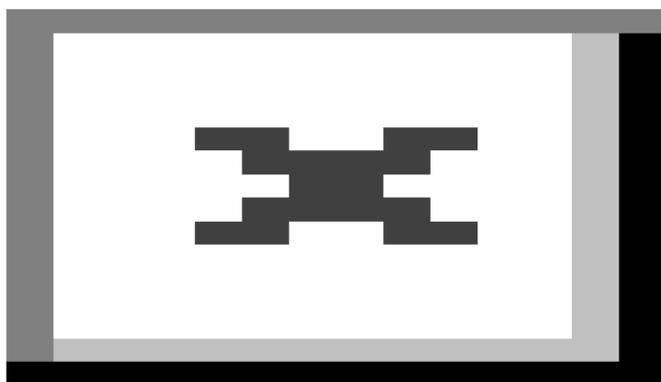
Right Bank-Inside the Beltway relations are starting to heat up, with proxy elbows being thrown from afar (and not the first time – Greg Craig/Skaden’s infamous “report” on Tymoshenko from 2012 commissioned by Yanu’s Justice Minister, being advised by Paul Manafort).

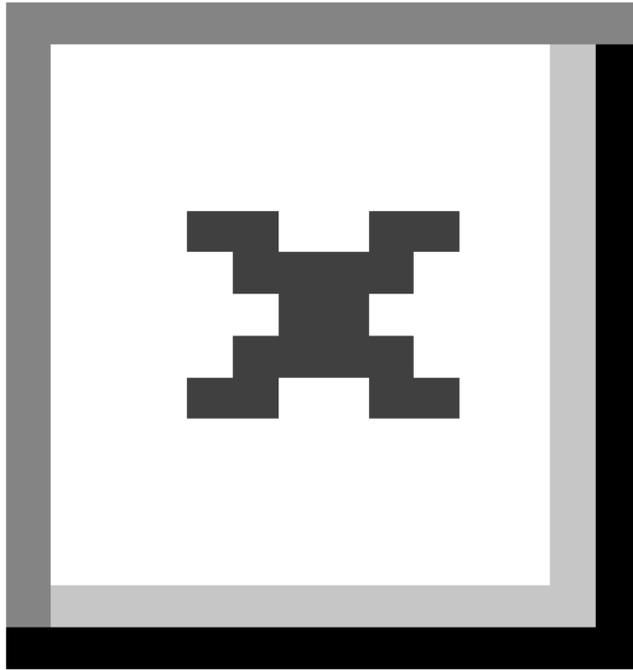
Sergiy Leshchenko FB messaged me to say Blue Star’s Sally Painter distributed a “Black PR” report during his DC visit designed to discredit him among “stakeholders” – several people who received the report, attached, from her, then alerted him/forwarded it. The “research” report was prepared by someone named Jeremiah Baronberg, working for a PR/Lobbying firm called Fontheim. Below was the screen shot, with some info blurred of a note circulating among Washington opinionators ahead of his NDI talk. Focus is Leshchenko’s purported relationship with Grigorhyshyn (which does seem to exist and is to my mind a weak spot for Sergiy), and how that allegedly drove his anti-corruption reporting over recent years, focusing on purported foes of Grigorhyshyn. Sergiy claims the photo in this report purportedly showing him with Grigorhyshyn is fake, that the situation is one of manipulation + disinformation.

When I raised whether his known willingness to associate with Grigorhyshyn was a potential vulnerability that could then be exploited by manipulation+disinformation, he replied: of course I know and meet Grigorishin, but also Pinchuk, Fiala, Zhevago, Utkin etc. And it is not the point to say that I was ordered by any of these persons

He continued by adding that SP worked on behalf of Lyovochkin when the latter was Yanu’s chief of staff, pre-EuroMaidan.

Since it is after midnight, I wished him good night. Don’t want to go down that rabbit hole too far.





SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**From:** lbi@ (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 4, 2016 8:34 PM  
**To:** Kyiv, Media Alerts  
**Subject:** FB:Leshchenko: The notorious "gag orders" of the Presidential Administration are

now in the United States.

**Facebook: Serhiy Leshchenko**

04.10.2016

The notorious "gag orders" of the Presidential Administration are now in the United States. On the eve of my arrival to Washington a PR agency was hired that has sent "gag orders" against me in regard of the organizations we cooperate with. Truth was mixed with lies and they did not bother checking the authenticity of the sources. The guys were doing a careless work so frankly, when spending money of their Ukrainian clients, that they even used falsified photos.

The author of the "gag order" was Jeremiah Baronberg from the company Fontheim International, LLC. The leaders of the lobbying company Blue Star Strategies LLC, which helped Borys Lozhkyn when he was working as the Head of the Presidential Administration of Poroshenko, also took part in sending this "gag order."

What can I say? Write more "gag orders," send them to all addresses not only in America, but also in Europe. Because normal people understand - if someone is willing to spend time and money on work against me, then there is truth in my words. I think that the "gag order" against me being spread is a kind of recognition. I'm waiting for new "masterpieces."

<https://www.facebook.com/leshchenko.ukraine/posts/1189313351139331?pnref=story>

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*With best regards,  
LBI Team*

[www.lbicompany.com.ua](http://www.lbicompany.com.ua)

(b)(6)	
<b>Sender:</b>	(b)(6)
<b>Recipient:</b>	Yovanovitch, Marie L. (b)(6); Kent, George P <(b)(6)>

<b>From:</b>	"Yovanovitch, Marie L" <(b)(6)>
<b>To:</b>	Kent, George P <(b)(6)>
<b>Subject:</b>	Re: Lutsenko now likely not to go to DC with Blue Star, other Ukr issue comments
<b>Date:</b>	Sun, 4 Sep 2016 05:39:41 -0400

Or frownie face!

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

**From:** Kent, George P  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 4, 2016 11:14 AM  
**To:** Yovanovitch, Marie L  
**Subject:** Re: Lutsenko now likely not to go to DC with Blue Star, other Ukr issue comments

Any time we can find for you to take a breath, I'll be ready :)

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

**From:** Yovanovitch, Marie L  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 4, 2016 8:39 AM  
**To:** Kent, George P  
**Subject:** Re: Lutsenko now likely not to go to DC with Blue Star, other Ukr issue comments

Thanks George. At some point, appreciate discussing in more detail some of the folks referenced.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

**From:** Kent, George P  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 3, 2016 8:14 PM  
**To:** (b)(6); Yovanovitch, Marie L; (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Lutsenko now likely not to go to DC with Blue Star, other UKR issue comments

Lutsenko's request to meet one on one after I'd SMSed him regarding stories that he was using a third party lobbyist to pull together a planned trip to DC turned into a chat over thai food at the DCR.

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

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(b)(5)

(b)(5)

He said to send his regards to "Madam Ambassador" and that he looked forward to paying respects in person when it would be possible. I mentioned that you had lived in

the same apartment 15 years ago as DCM. He said he had visited the apartment in the late 1990s when the previous owner/occupant was still there - a diminutive but noted political scientist, he said.

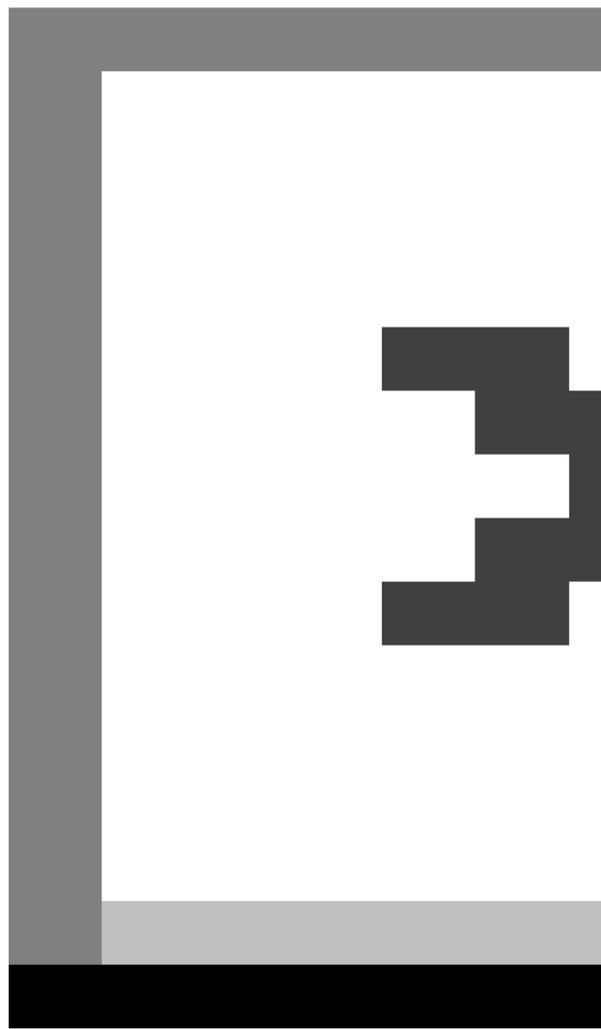
Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

<b>Sender:</b>	"Yovanovitch, Marie L" <(b)(6)>
<b>Recipient:</b>	Kent, George P <(b)(6)>

<b>From:</b>	"Pyatt, Geoffrey R" <(b)(6)>
<b>To:</b>	Kent, George P <(b)(6)>; (b)(6)
<b>Subject:</b>	usubc
<b>Date:</b>	Fri, 12 Aug 2016 12:57:21 -0400

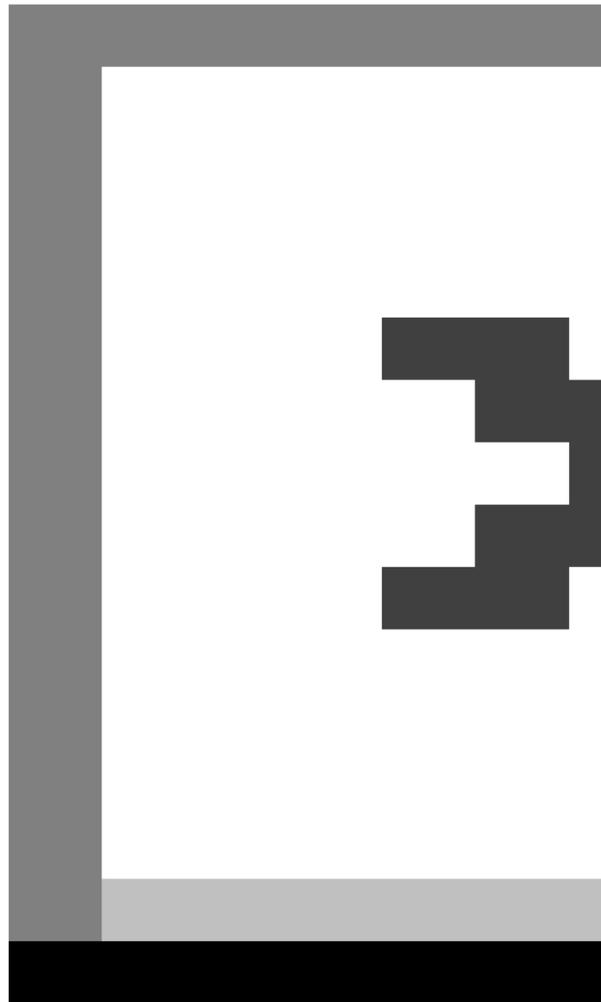
Glad to see this happened

## **USUBC members welcomed new Ambassador-Designate of USA to Ukraine, Marie Yovanovitch**



U.S.-Ukraine Business Council (USUBC),  
Wash, D.C., Thu, August 11, 2016

Over 50 business representatives attended the USUBC members meeting with Ambassador-Designate of the United States to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch, that took place in Washington, D.C . International Business Community welcomed and greeted Ms. Yovanovitch with her new assignment.

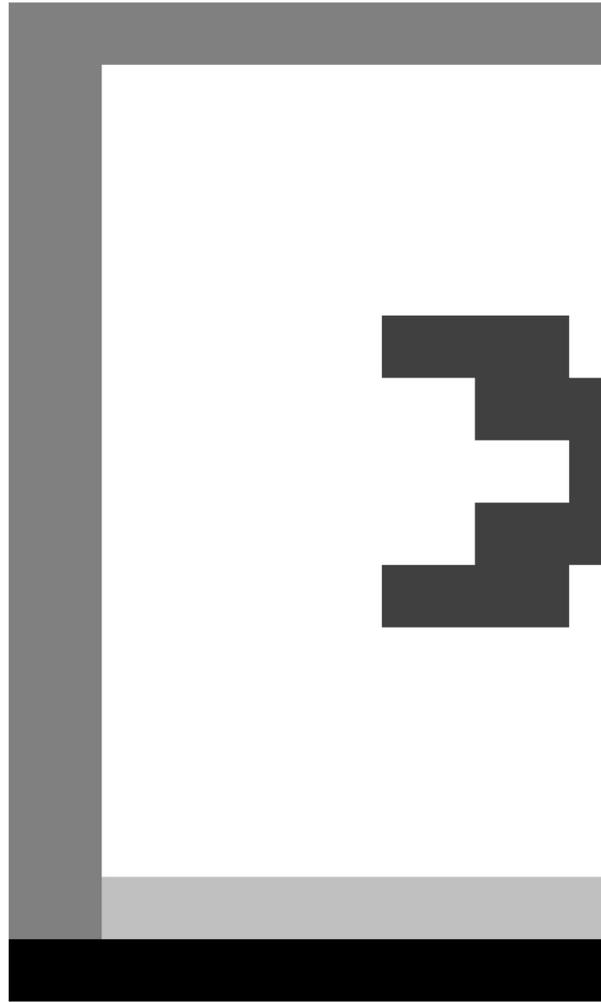


Short presentations were made to the Ambassador about business in Ukraine, business conditions and key issues that businesses are dealing with in Ukraine by 13 USUBC members: CNH Industrial; DuPont, Lilly/Elanco, Xerox, Philip Morris, AGCO, ArcelorMittal, Bunge, Boeing, MasterCard, Amsted Rail, Culmen International, and Cub Energy.



[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] *In the picture: Sahra English, Vice President, Global Public Policy, MasterCard; Marcia E. Miller, Vice President, Government Relations, ArcelorMittal USA Inc.; Marie Yovanovitch, Ambassador-Designate of the United States of America to Ukraine*

President of USUBC Morgan Williams, who moderated the roundtable discussion, said that U.S.-Ukraine Business Council (USUBC) is very pleased to have this unique opportunity for its members to meet with Ambassador Yovanovitch, and hope to continue dialog with the Embassy of the United States in Kyiv.



*In the picture: Bryan Lopp, Boeing Company, USUBC President, Morgan Williams*  
Ambassador Yovanovitch expressed her gratitude to USUBC members for their business in Ukraine, and her willingness wo work tight with international business community on the ground.

USUBC members who attended the meeting: Baker McKenzie; DuPont; Dentons; McLarty Associates'; MasterCard; AGCO; Culmen International; Structured Trade Finance Corporation (STFC); Robert Homans; Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE); Philip Morris International; Louis Dreyfus Company; Blue Star Strategies; CNH Industrial; Amsted Rail Russia-CIS; Boeing Company; Open World Leadership Center; Cub Energy; ArcelorMittal USA Inc.; CRDF Global; Xerox; Bunge; Elanco Animal Health; Center for European Policy Analysis (CEPA); The American-Uzbekistan Chamber of Commerce; Kennan Institute.

*Our special Thank You to Baker McKenzie for hosting this meeting!*  
*More photos: <http://www.usubc.org/site/gallery/USUBC-members-meeting--with-Ambassador-Designate-of-USA-to-Ukraine-Marie-Yovanovitch>*

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

<b>Sender:</b>	"Pyatt, Geoffrey R" <(b)(6)>
<b>Recipient:</b>	Kent, George P <(b)(6)>; (b)(6)