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## UKRAINE REALITY CHECK

*Policy Review Exercise*

*18 June 2013, Kyiv, Embassy of Lithuania in Ukraine (21 Buslivska Str.)*

*The informal "Reality Check" process is designed to regularly convene a "Review Group" of analysts, diplomats, policy and decision makers to assess the EU's foreign policy towards the Eastern Neighborhood countries by providing a realistic context analysis and an impartial examination of key issues based on evidence and data. A particular emphasis is placed on the independent character of the group in order to lead to a more evidence-based and balanced type of policy discussion and policy advice.*

*The first such meeting on Belarus was enacted in Vilnius, Lithuania in October 2012 under the aegis of the upcoming Lithuanian Presidency of the Council of European Union. The event is held in a closed format in order to encourage honest exchange (i.e. the reality check) and under the Chatham House rules. All participants are expected to share their views.*

09.30 – 10.00 Registration & Welcome Coffee

10.00 – 10.15 **Opening and Welcome remarks**

*Petras Vaitiekunas, Ambassador, Embassy of Lithuania in Ukraine  
Kristina Vaiciunaite, Director, Eastern Europe Studies Centre  
Rolands Kovats, Country Director in Ukraine, PACT*

10.15 – 11.45 **INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION IN UKRAINE – DEVELOPMENT TRENDS**

**Moderator:** *Mikhail Minakov, Director, Foundation for Good Politics*

*Key questions: What was the ultimate goal of the power centralisation initiated by President V. Yanukovich? How will Ukraine's oligarchic system be transformed? Thinking the unthinkable: Ukraine towards Belarusian type political system? Division of Ukraine into East and West: what is the reason behind? Who are the main players truly influencing Ukraine's political agenda? Is there a status quo or any sign of development for Ukrainian political opposition? Are there any new tendencies in the development of the Ukrainian polity?*

**Panellists:**

*Volodymyr Fesenko, Director, Center for Political Studies „Penta“  
Konstantin Bondarenko, Director, Institute of Ukrainian Policy  
Oleh Rybachuk, Director, United Actions Centre  
Natalia Izosimova, Managing Director, Foundation for Effective Governance (TBC)*

11.45 – 12.00 Coffee Break

- 12.00 – 13.30 **ECONOMIC TRENDS AND ENERGY FACTOR**  
**Moderator:** *Yevhen Hlibovytskyi*, Founder, Expert Company “Pro.mova”
- Key questions:* What is the present assessment of Ukraine’s ability to finance its debt from the world market or from international financial institutions? A merger of Ukrainian business and political elites: any new trends? Who is who: which interest groups align them with the West, which with the East? What is economic division among different pressure groups in Ukraine? How the EU should deal with the EU oriented interest groups? How much energy dependence on Russia is a key factor deciding the future of Ukraine? What deeper role the energy sector and industry play in Ukraine’s political agenda? Food security our everyday energy resource: can Ukraine truly become Europe’s breadbasket?
- Panellists:**  
*Jerome Vacher*, Resident Representative International Monetary Fund  
*Anna Derevyanko*, Director, European Business Association  
*Jakub Paruskiński*, KyivPost
- 13.30 – 14.30 Lunch at the Embassy
- 14.30 – 16.00 **UKRAINE AND INTERNATIONAL FACTORS**  
**Moderator:** *Rolands Kovats*, Country Director in Ukraine, PACT
- Key questions:* Why is Eastern Partnership Vilnius Summit a decisive moment for Ukraine? What are the prospects of signing Association agreement and DCFTA with Ukraine? What interest groups support Ukrainian accession into the EU economic space? Brussels expectations on changes in Ukraine: is Tymoshenko the main conditionality for signing DCFTA? Incompatibility of DCFTA and membership in Customs Union. What are Kremlin's strategies towards Ukraine? How attractive for Ukrainian authorities is Eurasian integration under leadership of Russia?
- Panellists:**  
*Matt Rojansky*, Deputy Director Russia and Eurasia program, Carnegie Endowment  
*Olga Shumylo-Tapiola*, Visiting scholar, Carnegie Endowment, Brussels  
*Laurynas Kasciunas*, Research Director, Eastern Europe Studies Centre  
*Alyona Getmanchuk*, Director, Institute of World Policy
- 16.00 – 17.00 **CLOSING REMARKS: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP VILNIUS SUMMIT**
- 17.30 – 19.30 Reception at the Embassy