

Ukraine / Politics

Conference Call

BYT's Pynzenyk On Future Government

October 26, 2007

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Sept. 30 Poll results

34.37%
30.71%
14.15%
5.39%
3.96%

Seats in parliamentof 450*Party of Regions175Tymoshenko Bloc156Our Ukraine72Communists27

20

Stocks to watch

Lytvyn Bloc

Ukrtelecom	Privatization
Luhanskteplovoz	Reprivatization
Stirol	Gas Price Risk
Kyivenergo	Gas Price Risk
Dniproenergo	Corp Conflict
Turboatom	Holding Creation
Nikopol Ferroalloy	Corp Conflict

In a live conference call with representatives from over 60 western funds, former Finance Minister and one of the leaders of the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, Viktor Pynzenyk, spoke at length on topics including privatization, the future of the Ukrainian currency, land and property rights and future initiatives the government plans to implement in or boost investment.

Politics: Coalition Formed

Speaking on the make-up of the future government, Pynzenyk went out of his way to assure his audience that only legal delays concerning the final vote count were slowing the announcement of a new orange coalition. According to the former Finance Minster, despite any media speculation about possible roadblocks to forming an orange coalition, the reinstatement of an orange government led by Yulia Tymoshenko is only a matter of time. He went on to add that he saw no risk to the future government's stability. Pynzenyk also added that his party welcomed the inclusion of the Lytvyn Bloc to the new government, but that the ball was in Lytvyn's court.

Privatizations: Public auctions to return

On the topic of privatization, Pynzenyk's goal was clear: the only criteria for those wishing to take part in public tenders was price, with assets going to the highest bidder. One of the main goals of the new government will be providing greater access to all who wish to take part in privatization tenders.

Pynzenyk said that the party saw no need for any reprivatizations. The government is going to use the courts to examine some cases of privatization (where tender conditions were not inline with the law), some of which are already under appeal. According to Pynzenyk, the passage of a law sent to the Rada in 2005 allowing the government to sell assets along with the land underneath them will be one of the first to be passed by the new government.

In the energy sector, Pynzenyk said that privatization was the only way to keep energy assets from being stolen – a thinly veiled reference to Dniproenergo, which was recently acquired by SCM's energy wing, DTEK. Pynzenyk added that he knew of no cases when a state-owned company has run an effective business.

The Purchasing of Land to be Simplified

As with privatization, Pynzenyk said that land will be privatized through open tenders with the price as the only criteria. The process of purchasing land will be radically simplified - land will be sold only after predefining its purpose (a positive for greenfield construction projects).

In discussing Ukraine's moratorium on the sale of agricultural land, Pynzenyk stressed that this was originally intended to be imposed for a short time while the government made a number of amendments to agricultural property legislation. Among the regulations that must be adopted, he mentioned the creation of a unified land registry and rules for altering the use of land.

^{*226} seats required to form coalition



UAH to Strengthen?

When fielding a question on the exchange rate, Pynzenyk said he sees a significant appreciation potential for Ukraine's currency, the hryvna (UAH), which according to Pynzenyk should no longer be pegged to the dollar if the country wants to avoid inflation. According to Pynzenyk, the government needs to switch to a policy of inflation targeting, which envisages a more liberal exchange rate. Pynzenyk also said he felt that the Central Bank needed to halt external borrowing and focus on the domestic market where bank liquidity is extremely high and has put heavy upward pressure on inflation.

Gas: Time to Pay

In response to a question about Ukraine's state-owned gas company Naftogaz Ukraine, Pynzenyk went out of his way to criticize the company's management which he said has always been poor. Pynzenyk also stressed that Ukrainian citizens were going to have to pay more for gas than they used to.



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