

# Euroscope

## Digest 4/2023: Monitoring and Assessment of the EU-Ukraine AA implementation and EU *acquis* alignment progress, May-June

### Executive Summary

On 9 May 2022, Ukraine [submitted](#) the second part of the completed questionnaire in its pursuit of the candidate status for EU membership. Several volumes totaling almost 4 000 pages were compiled by over 300 Ukrainian NGO experts and government officials in an accelerated application one-month period and provided an assessment of compliance of the Ukrainian legislation with the European *acquis communautaire* after 8 years of implementation of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement.

The joint efforts of the Ukrainian independent experts, Ukrainian government and the European Commission were [confirmed](#) on 17 June 2022 in a positive opinion by the Commission while the seven recommendations (7 steps) to Ukraine's EU candidate status were [provided](#). Consequently, on 23 June 2022, the European Council [granted](#) candidate status to Ukraine.

One year later, as of May and June 2023, the pace of collaboration between the Ukrainian state authorities and the Civil Society in aligning with the EU *acquis* is not as dynamic as last year. The opinions of the NGO's and independent experts often get unattended in the processes of legislation drafting and implementation facilitation. Many legislative initiatives by the Ukrainian Parliament and the Government lose the EU *acquis* approximation focus, distracted by domestic and global business groups' lobbying. Enforcement of the anti-corruption legislation and the best practices implementation in state public and corporate governance get hampered. Some areas of the Ukrainian legislation remain practically untouched despite immediate urgency. Judicial reform requires a total revision after a major corruption case, resulting in the arrest of the Supreme Court's President and allegedly involving 13 more judges of the Grand Chamber of the Supreme Court of Ukraine, the ultimate top-tier judicial institution which had been reformed during 2017-19.

However, some progress has been achieved in the implementation of the 7 steps as [suggested](#) by Olivér Várhelyi, the European Commissioner for enlargement, on 22 June in Stockholm.

Completed: media legislation alignment and judicial governance bodies reform;

Good progress: Constitutional Court reform;

Some progress: anti-corruption, anti-money laundering (based on entire law enforcement reform), de-oligarchisation, and national minorities.

A broader assessment is expected to be reviewed in late October. Thus, it would be critical for Ukraine to adhere to the interim analysis of the recommendations implementation and strive to show a more dynamic commitment, as well as practical collaboration with the European counterparts and local CSO's.

## Introduction

“Ukraine must end 30 years of nepotism and corruption in order to join the EU,” [stated](#) Annalena Baerbock, German Foreign Minister, at the Ukraine Recovery Conference in London on 21-22 June 2023. The event confirmed strong EU support by [announcing](#) a €50 billion Ukraine Facility. The German minister also stressed the need to link Ukraine’s recovery from the war to the accession process for Kyiv to join the EU.

The support and concerns expressed in London, as well as the absence of key civil society representatives at the conference, require a deeper and balanced assessment of the challenged transformation steps.

Aligning Ukrainian legislation with the European *acquis communautaire* and integrating into the Single Market will lead to mutual benefits: enhanced democratic governance, sustainable economic development, and strengthened competitive advantages. However, check-listing legislative changes may only mask outdated institutional facades. Genuine transparency and accountability are essential for meaningful institutional reform to accelerate Ukraine's recovery and EU accession.

The central government, parliament, and local authorities must fully commit to good governance and democratic principles for successful transformation. Limitations on accessing public information resulting from the Russian aggression pose additional obstacles.

Strengthening Ukraine's military defense and civil resilience requires protecting civil and economic freedoms. New challenges call for agile institutions and modern digital tools to achieve sustainable development goals, inclusivity, and the European Green Deal in post-war Ukraine.

## Free movement of goods

### Chapter 1 of the EU *acquis*

On 5 June, EU [announced](#) the extension of trade benefits for Ukraine, aka Autonomous Trade Measures (ATMs) but limited the access of four agricultural products – wheat, maize, rapeseed and sunflower seed – originating in Ukraine and excluding sowing seeds to the markets of Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia by 15 September 2023 under the exceptional safeguard of the Autonomous Trade Measures Regulation. Regrettably, this updated information is missing at the [website](#) of the Ukrainian Ministry of Agriculture which can add to speculations and misinformation of the Ukrainian farmers regarding the limitations of agricultural trade with other EU member states and via Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia.

## Information Society and Media

### Chapter 10 of the EU *acquis*

The approximation of Ukraine's audiovisual legislation with the EU *acquis* was one of the seven recommendations Ukraine received in June 2022 for the status of a candidate for EU membership.

In one of the previous editions of Euroscope digest we have reviewed Ukraine's progress in the implementation of the media recommendations. Let's remind, most of EU's requirements was implemented by new fundamental media law, which was mostly [positively received](#) by the European Commission and [most of the experts](#) in Ukraine

In the end of May, the Parliament of Ukraine adopted the Law on advertising No. [9206](#), which completed the implementation of the EU's recommendation in the media sphere (one of the 7 steps). It aims to implement certain provisions of the EU *acquis* in the field of audiovisual advertising, namely, aligning with the [European Convention](#) on Transfrontier Television, Directive [2010/13/EU](#) (March 10, 2010) and the [Directive 2018/1808/EU](#) (November 14, 2018) of the European Parliament.

Ukrainian legislation in the field of advertising was quite outdated and did not take into account many present-day challenges. The new law updated the regulation of advertising in Ukraine. Among other provisions, the new law defines such terms as "product placement" and "user content", introduces self-regulation and co-regulation of advertising, regulation of advertising on video sharing platforms and messengers, improves the regulation of social advertising, establishes criteria of Ukraine's jurisdiction of advertising, simplifies the rules for interrupting movie broadcasts with advertising, increases quotas for advertising in audiovisual media.

The majority of Ukrainian experts and advertisers [supported](#) the novations of the law. At the same time, some Ukrainian stakeholders criticized certain provisions of the law. For instance, there was a [discussion](#) between some Ukrainian MEPs and [business organisations](#) considering the prohibitions on the display of tobacco products in stores. In the end, the relevant amendment was removed from the draft law, so from now on the display of tobacco products will be legal in Ukraine for some time. According to Ukrainian [journalists](#), after the adoption of law on media and law on advertisement, restrictions on the advertising of tobacco products in Ukraine were relaxed. Since some of the provisions of these laws weakened or repealed the provisions of the anti-tobacco law adopted in 2021

IMI, an influential Ukrainian media NGO, [noted](#) that the new regulation of hidden advertising introduced by this law is noticeably weaker than European regulation since the law requires proof of the payment for the punishment of violators. Also IMI [proposed to change](#) the provision on regulation of advertisements placement in the media. Since the current regulations will complicate the work of regional media some of which operate as individual entrepreneurs.

As of now, there is no official reaction from the European Commission or EU Delegation in Ukraine on implementation of this law. But, according to the Ukrainian journalists, the European Commission earlier [noted](#) about general compliance of the draft law with the EU audiovisual directive.

Despite some problems and contradictions, reforms in the audiovisual sphere significantly modernised regulation of media in Ukraine. After the adoption of new laws, independent Ukrainian

experts [rated](#) the level of implementation of the media recommendations at 9 points out of 10 (the highest rate among all 7 recommendations). Ukrainian journalists even defined the implementation of media reform as a [“success story”](#).

## Fisheries

### Chapter 13 of the EU *acquis*

A new Fisheries Development Strategy by 2030 was [approved](#) by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on 2 May aiming to meet the goals of the European Green Deal and implement the new Law on fisheries and aquaculture No. [7616](#) that came into force just a few days earlier, on 28 April.

The Strategy provides for the expansion of regional cooperation within the framework of the Common Maritime Agenda ([CMA](#)) for the Black Sea and the development of cooperation with other international regional fisheries organisations. Creation of a new E-Fish digital platform was [announced](#) by the Ministry of Agriculture of Ukraine in early April. However, no deadlines or specifications were provided. The new Law and the Strategy are meant to align Ukraine’s legislation with the EU *acquis* and provide the basis for the future EU accession negotiations in the scope of the Chapter 13.

## Energy

### Chapter 15 of the EU *acquis*

Energy approximation remained one of the most challenging during May 2023 in terms of pending legislative decisions. Finally, Ukraine has adopted one of the key prerequisites for its effective integration into the energy markets of the EU - REMIT. Some progress has been made in legislative support of industrial decarbonization and green electricity generation with the reforming of the state-owned Energoatom and the preparations of resources for the next heating period. At the same time, contradictory draft laws on optimisation of the ownership structure of the Gas Transmission System Operator of Ukraine were submitted to the Parliament. Ukraine also continued expanding electricity transmission capacities with the neighbouring countries and aligning with the EU auctioning requirements.

The Parliament of Ukraine adopted a special [Appeal](#) to foreign parliaments, the European Parliament, the International Atomic Energy Agency and its member states calling to minimise cooperation with Russian atomic institutions and companies.

The Parliament’s Resolution No. [3086-IX](#) of 02.05.2023 ratifies the Letter of Amendments No. 4 to the Financial [agreement](#) between Ukraine and the European Investment Bank of 2008 on the construction of a high-voltage line 750 kV Rivne NPP – Kyivska substation. The project aims to support the reconstruction of a high-voltage electricity grids and secure supply to the Kyiv region.

Decarbonisation as a potential source of corruption, redundant institutions and obscure policies. The draft law No. [8433](#) with a complicated title referring to the Budget Code of Ukraine amendments was signed by the President into the effective Law [3035-IX](#) in May 2023 allegedly making changes to

the [Budget Code of Ukraine](#), yet, the changes are not included in the official text of the Code despite the presence of the amendment reference. Identified by the Anti-Corruption Committee of the Parliament as [not aligning](#) with the anti-corruption provisions, the draft law does not match the actual final signed version which, among other tasks, establishes a Special State Fund for decarbonisation and energy-efficiency transformation starting effectively on 1 January 2024 as [suggested](#) by Minister Kubrakov. The Fund is described as “complying with the European principles, including those of decarbonisation and energy efficiency financing”.

The suggested purpose of the new Special Fund creates a redundant and potentially corruption-prone Budget amendment while duplicating the existing functions of the [Energy Efficiency Fund](#) (EEF) which was [established](#) in Ukraine in 2017 with the support of the EU, German government, IFC and the UN. The decarbonisation Budget amendment and the new fund establishment were not publically discussed nor properly [described](#) by the manager of the fund, the State Agency on Energy Efficiency of Ukraine. The management role of the Agency is not stipulated in the new Law. No amendments or references to the main [Law](#) of Ukraine on Energy Efficiency [adopted](#) in 2021 have been made. The European Commission Recommendation [\(EU\) 2021/1749](#) on Energy Efficiency First has not been considered.

An effective state policy in decarbonisation and energy efficiency has long been needed. While the implementation of climate-smart and energy efficient projects requires joint efforts by the central and regional authorities, businesses and public institutions based on the principles of good governance and transparency, Civil Society experts [raised](#) valid concerns regarding the obscure practices of the use of the dedicated funds.

The European Integration [Committee](#) of the Parliament of Ukraine has reviewed the draft law No. [5322](#) on REMIT in compliance with the EU *acquis* and the international obligations of Ukraine and insisted on further amendments to align with the Regulation (EU) [1227/2011](#) on wholesale energy market integrity and transparency. The law shall prohibit market abuse practices such as insider trading and market manipulations; provide a legal basis for the improvement of market transparency, monitoring and near-real-time monitoring of the energy markets, prompt investigation of violations; and set effective regulatory measures against market abusers.

The draft law No. [9311](#) on optimisation of ownership structure in the Transmission System Operator of Ukraine was registered in the Parliament. It [aims](#) to meet Ukraine's commitments under the EU-Ukraine [Memorandum](#) of Understanding and the [Memorandum](#) of Economic and Financial Policies with IMF and remove the current complexity of the dual structure in corporate governance by merger of the Joint Stock Company (JSC) Magistralni Gazoprovody Ukrainy (MGU), the main gas pipelines of Ukraine, into the Transmission System Operator of Ukraine (TSOU) incorporated as a Limited Liability Company. The analysis of the draft law [provided](#) by the Parliament's Scientific and Expert Department suggests no need for a separate law for the implementation of the Constitutional obligations of the Cabinet of Ministers in corporate restructuring of a company which is owned by another 100% state-owned company. Thus, the draft law adds additional risks of Ukraine not complying with its international obligations, as well as adds to the workload of the Parliament when it has to focus on more urgent tasks of EU *acquis* legislative approximation and immediate challenges of the war period.

On 10 June the Cabinet's draft was discarded and an alternative draft law No. [9311-1](#), enhancing the reform of the Operator's corporate governance, was reviewed. More alternative versions might be expected due to the sensitive issue and big business interests lobbying, including by former gas market private monopolists. Ukrainian SOE Weekly [provided](#) a detailed assessment of the legislative risks associated with the law drafts and their influence on Ukraine's fulfillment of the commitments made before the IMF and the EU.

The Parliament of Ukraine has adopted in the first reading the draft law No. [9011-d](#) On Amendments to Certain Laws of Ukraine Regarding the Restoration and Green Transformation of the Energy System of Ukraine. The draft law is expected to be introduced for the second reading in June 2023. If adopted, it will enable green electricity exports through the state-owned enterprise Guaranteed Buyer, net billing for household renewable energy installations instead of green tariff, selling of green electricity at market prices on day-ahead and intraday auctions as well as direct contracts between producers of green electricity and commercial consumers.

The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine has considered [14 billion cubic meters of gas](#) as the necessary amount of reserves for the next heating period. This obligation is imposed on state-owned enterprise Naftogaz of Ukraine as the main supplier for domestic, budgetary and heating consumers. The sources of gas include primarily domestic production of state-owned and private enterprises, purchased on Ukrainian Energy Exchange. Moreover, [Naftogaz of Ukraine](#) is permitted to buy up to 2 bcm of gas through European platform AggregateEU. NAFTOGAZ - 200 mln USD to accumulate in gas storage.

The government of Ukraine has [approved the draft law](#) on development of territories, contaminated after Chernobyl catastrophe. It includes provisions to establish scientific centres on the territory of Chernobyl zone, simplification of tourism and development of radiation-ecological biosphere zone.

The Regulator and the TSO Ukrenergo held [several meetings](#), including with Slovak partners, to find a solution for reopening electricity export from Ukraine. The Regulator insists on a temporary solution, namely bilateral TSO agreement on sharing payments for transborder capacities auctioning. However, the European approach provides for the adoption of a procedure for holding joint auctions with respective payment splitting. The procedure should be adopted by the Regulator as a part of electricity market regulation. However, the Regulator waits reportedly until adoption of amendments to the law on electricity market to accept joint auctions and income splitting, before continuing its own work.

The Ukrainian [Regulator](#) and the Ministry of energy of Ukraine are considering a gradual increase in regulated prices for households. This measure should help [enterprises](#) on the Ukrainian electricity market to minimise [building up debts](#) due to regulated prices for certain groups of consumers, huge needs to finance reconstruction of damaged infrastructure and public service obligations. The above hinders international electricity trade and contradicts expectations of European institutions on promoting free market-based pricing with targeted support to vulnerable consumers in Ukraine.

JSC [Ukrenergo and its Polish partner PSE](#) have officially launched into operation a new transborder electricity line with the capacity of 400 kV and started commercial auctions for export and import operations. It will make it possible to call for emergency support, as well as to expand bilateral electricity trading with European partners.

## Enterprise and industrial policy

Chapter 20 of the EU *acquis*

Law on [Ratification of Single Market Agreement](#) (2021-2027) adopted by the Ukrainian Parliament on 29 June has provided valuable support to innovative Ukrainian SME's who can now integrate into the European Single Market with stronger intellectual right protection supported through the [2023 Ideas Powered for Business Fund](#). The implementation of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement through a practical instrument providing Ukrainian business with practical EU Single Market access support comes in line with the earlier developments of approximation in the Chapter 7 of the EU *acquis* on Intellectual property law. The support of innovative business is essential in the overall strategy of Ukraine's post-war economy recovery, as [suggested](#) by the Commissioner responsible for the Internal Market, Thierry Breton.

## Judiciary and fundamental rights

Chapter 23 of the EU *acquis*

On 1 June, the High Council of Justice of Ukraine [appointed](#) all [sixteen members](#) of the High Qualification Commission of Judges based on merit selection process. The finalisation of this appointment was one of the 7 steps and crucial to the continuation of Judiciary reform in Ukraine. The Commission will now be able to begin filling in over two thousand vacancies of judges and to complete the qualifying assessment of the judges.

## Justice, freedom and security

Chapter 24 of the EU *acquis*

The Strategic Plan of law enforcement reform 2023-2027 was [signed](#) on 11 May by the President as part of the efforts of implementing the 7 steps. The European counterparts have [welcomed](#) the Overarching Strategic Plan for the Reform of the Entire Law Enforcement Sector (OAS). Ukrainian Civil Society has been more critical of the Strategic Plan, [addressing](#) the general nature of the document and the lack of specific details of the intended reform.

## Environment (Climate Change)

Chapter 27 of the EU *acquis*

The russia's blew up of Kakhovka Dam has shaken the entire world, and this terrorist attack was recognised as [ecocide](#) by the European Parliament. It has contributed to the already drastic [environmental damage](#) caused by the war, namely that 20% of nature conservation areas of Ukraine are affected by the war; 35% of Europe's biodiversity, which Ukraine owns, is under threat; Russia occupied 740 Ukrainian mineral deposits; approximately 30% of our territory is contaminated with ammunition; russia contributes to and exacerbates the climate crisis by its actions. The damage caused by the war to climate is estimated at 33 million tons of additional greenhouse gas emissions.

Despite these tragic events, Ukraine continues its gradual legal approximation and strengthening international cooperation in the environmental sector.

#### Ukraine's joining the conventions and international cooperation

The Parliament of Ukraine has ratified the [Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety](#), which Ukraine signed in 2011. The Protocol's ratification allows Ukraine to act in accordance with international rules and procedures to seek compensation for damage to biodiversity and human health caused by the negative impact of GMOs.

Ukraine has joined the [Minamata Convention on Mercury](#), which envisages a phase-out of the use of mercury by prohibiting its further extraction and banning the production, export and import of many mercury-containing products. Ukraine has also submitted the draft law to ratify the [Chemicals Convention](#), allowing it to apply the best international chemical safety standards.

Ukraine was invited to join the [Seville process](#) under Article 13 of the [Directive](#) 2010/75/EC "On Industrial Emissions", and it has observer status now. The Seville process was initiated by the European Commission to update environmental standards and reduce industrial emissions into air, water and soil.

International partners will give more than [UAH 1 billion](#) in aid to support the restoration of Chernobyl zone that became a springboard for crimes and nuclear blackmail by the Russian occupiers.

#### The draft laws under consideration by the Parliament of Ukraine

Draft Law No. [8223](#) "On Amendments to Certain Laws of Ukraine Regarding the Protection of Humans from the Effects of Ionising Radiation" was adopted in the first reading. The draft law aims at implementing the [Council Directive 2013/59/Euratom](#) laying down basic safety standards for protection against the dangers arising from exposure to ionising radiation. The draft law does not fully comply with the Directive's provisions; for example, the definition of the "dose limit" and the limit of the effective dose of professional exposure and other draft law provisions should be revised before adoption.

Draft Law No. [9338](#) "On Amendments to Certain Laws of Ukraine Regarding the Development of Territories Affected by Radioactive Contamination as a Result of the Chernobyl Disaster" [amends](#) six laws of Ukraine and introduces legal grounds for transforming the exclusion zone into a modern scientific site for conducting research, simplifying the rules for visiting the exclusion zone by tourists, introducing the transparent rules for carrying out business activities in the exclusion zone and creating the conditions for the development of the Chernobyl radiation and ecological biosphere reserve. The draft law also proposes to resolve the issue of financing measures for the development of the reserve, its fire protection and conducting scientific research there. The introduced reduction of the civil liability for nuclear damage of the nuclear installation operator from 150 million special borrowing rights to the minimum amount of 5 million is considered an improvement by the energy community but a deterioration by the environmentalists.



In May 2023, the Parliament of Ukraine has adopted in the first reading the draft law No. [6004-d](#) "On Ensuring the Constitutional Rights of Citizens to Environment that is Safe for Life and Health," which aims to introduce integrated approaches to controlling industrial pollution based on the best available technologies and management methods in accordance with the EU Directive on Industrial Emissions (2010/75/EU). The draft law was substantially improved in preparation for the second and final reading that is hoped to happen by the end of July 2023. For the full implementation of the provisions of the EU Directive on Industrial Emissions (2010/75/EU) not covered by the the draft law No. 6004 "On Ensuring the Constitutional Rights of Citizens to Environment that is Safe for Life and Health," (chapters 3-6) the Government is expected to develop industry specific technical regulations.

#### The legal acts adopted by the Government of Ukraine

The [Procedure](#) for creating protective zones for the preservation of biodiversity in forests and the [Procedure](#) for creating protective zones for the preservation of objects of the Red Book of Ukraine, aimed to preserve the species of the Red Book of Ukraine, regional rare species, typical and unique ecosystems, as well as outstanding and oldest trees.

The [Procedure](#) "On Household Waste Management Under Special Conditions," allows taking necessary actions to arrange the places for the temporary storage of waste in line with the environmental, fire safety and protection requirements in communities where hostilities were or are ongoing. However, the full implementation of this Procedure is still pending.

The [Procedure](#) for handling waste generated as a result of damage (destruction) to buildings and structures due to combat actions, terrorist acts, sabotage, or the cleanup of their aftermath, which determines the waste management mechanism for waste generated in connection with the damage (destruction) of buildings and structures, unfinished construction objects, and landscaping objects due to combat actions, terrorist acts, sabotage, or the cleanup of their aftermath (hereinafter referred to as objects), with the aim of preventing and reducing the negative impact of such waste on the natural environment and human health.

The [List](#) of Underground Facilities Not Related to the Extraction of Minerals, including Facilities for Underground Storage of Oil, Gas and Other Substances and Materials," aims to regulate relations in the sphere of rational and integrated use of subsoil areas provided for use for purposes not related to the extraction of minerals.

#### The draft regulatory act

The [Draft Resolution](#) "On Amendments to Certain Resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine Regarding the Cancellation of Outdated Instruments of State Regulation in the Environmental Sphere" [raised concerns](#) among civil society about exclusion from the "natural resources" category the minerals that are of significant public interest and are more valuable, and harmful in the course of extraction, enrichment and use. It means that permission for special use is not needed anymore. Also, the proposed changes create conditions for the mining business to gain access to previously inaccessible areas of minerals or their parts located within the territories of the nature reserve fund. Therefore, even though the draft resolution optimises some aspects of the state regulation, it still requires improvement.

### Digital solutions

[The permits for subsoil use](#) and [logging ticket and certificate of wood origin](#) can be issued online. The [contract on holding a public discussion](#) in implementing the environmental impact assessment can also be concluded online in the [EcoSystem](#).

The government has approved the Procedures “On Operation of the Unified State [Electronic Geoinformation System for Subsoil Use](#),” “On Maintaining the [State Register of Artesian Wells](#),” and “On Maintaining the [National Register of Emissions and Transfer of Pollutants](#).” Also, the Ministry of Environment has launched a test version of the [Unified Register of Strategic Environmental Assessment](#).

Even though the Government continues introducing digitalization, overall access to public information does not increase. [Most state registers](#), such as the Register of Geosoil or Register of the State Land Cadastre, are closed for public access because of martial law considerations. Also, on the one hand, the logging ticket can be issued online now, but on the other hand, access to this register for monitoring purposes is closed. Therefore, civil society requires the opening of public information so that real digitalisation reform was implemented, and it could monitor the reform's track record.

## Foreign, security and defence policy

### Chapter 31 of the EU *acquis*

Chapter 31 remains in the focus of Ukrainian authorities and international allies because of a series of challenging events. Growing threat of a nuclear accident on Zaporizhzhya NPP was overshadowed by Russian armed forces attack against Khahovska HPP, namely the targeted explosion of the dam and machinery hall. The consequences include massive casualties among civilians, destroyed settlements, contaminated land, rivers and Black Sea, growing threat of nuclear accident on Zaporizhzhia NPP due to lack of water for cooling.

This attack has shown once against numerous threats, spreading from Russia towards Ukraine and the entire democratic world. It is ready to destroy each and any rules and orders, ignores damage and casualties among civilians and even its own troops.

### Strategic documents

The Parliament of Ukraine has adopted an [Appeal](#) to the NATO countries ahead of the Vilnius Summit calling for support of Ukraine's NATO aspirations, approval of clear membership perspectives and continuous support during the ongoing phase of Russian war of aggression.

Political invitation to NATO membership and security guarantees are the main goals of Ukraine at the summit. By providing both, Ukraine's allies will justify in the long run their expenses on military support and economic recovery, invest in long-term security and reduce threats of further interventions against NATO members.

The Parliament of Ukraine has adopted an Appeal to the international partners, including NATO, the EU, the UNO, and international organisations, to prevent nuclear catastrophe at the Zaporizhzhia NPP as the result of targeted actions, taken by Russian occupational forces, namely mining of critical

infrastructure at the site, deploying military vehicles with explosive materials in the proximity of nuclear reactors and spreading numerous public threats about nuclear attacks.

The Appeal addresses the growing threat of utilising nuclear facilities during the war as an enforcement instrument against Ukraine and its partners. It will lead to further escalation of hostilities, including the dangers of nuclear strikes against other types of infrastructure both in Ukraine and abroad. To reduce the threat, joint efforts are needed to speed up the liberation of occupied territories and make through stronger sanctions and restrictions too costly for Russia further aggression.

#### Adopted legislation

The Parliament of Ukraine has prolonged martial law and general mobilisation in Ukraine until 18 August 2023 upon requests of the President of Ukraine, submitted in Decrees No. [254/2023](#) and No. [255/2023](#).

#### Governmental decisions

The [Resolution on a single approach to demining activities](#) provides for the coordination of efforts between state institutions, security agencies and local authorities and is compliant with international standards of antimining activities. The above will underpin efforts of Ukrainian officials in ensuring support to demining from foreign partners of Ukraine.

#### International cooperation

Ukraine and Israel step up cooperation in civil protection. The Deputy-speaker of the Parliament of Ukraine visited Israel to learn from the [experience of shelter installations for the civilian population](#).

“Aviation coalition” is being further promoted through a series of meetings between Ukrainian officials and their partners from Europe and America.

The Head of the Parliament of Ukraine met the [Danish acting minister of defence](#) to discuss supply of modern weaponry, support in demining and rehabilitation of wounded soldiers.

The Head of the Parliament of Ukraine [visited Norway](#) to strengthen parliamentary cooperation in [supply of modern weaponry](#) and return of Ukrainian children, illegally deported by Russian forces from temporarily occupied territories.

Ukrainian parliamentarians [took part in the next NATO Parliamentary Assembly](#) to promote support of Ukraine’s aspirations of membership ahead of the NATO Vilnius Summit.

Ukrainian parliamentarians [visited one of military bases in Germany](#) to get acknowledged about progress in training of soldiers in mastering modern military techniques and weapons.

Ukraine and NATO have launched a [High-Level Innovation Dialog](#), aiming to expand the existing NATO-Ukraine partnership, by exchanging views on the development of innovation ecosystems for both commercial and defence needs, and by sharing lessons learned from Ukraine.

## Consumer and health protection

### Chapter 28 of the EU *acquis*

The Law on Consumer Rights protection No. [6134](#) was adopted by the Ukrainian Parliament after the second reading on 10 June. While business lobbying groups including the EBA [welcomed](#) the new Law, some Ukrainian consumerism movement activists and experts have [raised](#) concerns regarding the lack of transparency and public discussion in the process of the draft law preparation and its limited functionality in many areas of EU regulated spheres of consumer rights protection such as financial services or energy, and, despite the articulation of e-commerce marketplaces but, yet, in its pre-social-network format. The implementation of the new Law is expected to occur in several stages which are not well-defined and unclear to Ukrainian consumerism experts. The Law was passed without the [recent considerations](#) of the European Commission on Circular Economy and ban on greenwashing.

## Institutions

### Chapter 34 of the EU *acquis*

Currently, Ukraine is at the stage of self-screening of legislation for compliance with the *acquis* of the European Union. According to Denys Shmyhal, the Prime Minister of Ukraine, ministries and other executive bodies [have to conduct](#) a self-screening by the end of June. The self-screening has to be completed and publicly presented by the end of 2023. Immediately after that, the government [plans](#) to develop a national program of approximation to EU legal acts.

Currently, it is difficult to determine whether the ministries are moving according to the announced plan. In early June, the Ministry of Health [reported](#) on the 80% of compliance of the self-screening in the health-care sphere. However, other ministries have not yet reported about their results.

The institutional system of governmental coordination of accession of Ukraine to the European Union includes the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration and the Government Office for the Coordination of European and Euro-Atlantic Integration (body of the Secretariat of Cabinet of Ministers). According to [Ukrainian experts](#), this system corresponds to effective approaches and international experience.

According to Olga Stefanishyna, the Deputy Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration, Ukraine has [to adapt](#) about 29,000 acts of law before joining the EU. To facilitate this process at the parliamentary level, a parliamentary office to support the adaptation of Ukrainian legislation to EU law [was opened](#) in April 2023. The office provides expert, analytical, informational and documentary support to the committees of the Ukrainian Parliament during the development of European approximation legislation.

The National Agency of Ukraine on Civil Service [determined](#) that the negotiating chapters on Ukraine's accession to the EU relate to 128 policy areas, and at least 76 central state bodies would be involved in the process of harmonisation. It includes not only ministries, but also other executive bodies, judicial bodies, independent regulators, etc.

Currently, Ukraine has some problems with the management of the harmonization of legislation to the EU *acquis*. A survey by the National Agency for Civil Service [demonstrated](#) that 12 out of 128 policy areas do not have a coordinating state body to be primarily responsible for the approximation implementation. At the same time, several bodies defined their role as leading in 27 policy areas thus overlapping their perceived roles.

Interaction between different governmental bodies needs improvement, if not a total reform. 51.5% of the officials [informed](#) they did not cooperate with other state authorities during the implementation of the relevant policies.

In addition, the [survey showed](#) the need to raise the professional level of officials, who working on the approximation of Ukraine's legislation with the EU *acquis*. A total of 3,259 officials (1,405 in full-time equivalents) would be involved in approximation implementation. Yet, 57% of them do not speak sufficient English. While 39% had no experience in aligning the Ukrainian legislation with the EU *acquis*.

In September 2022, Ukraine's government [adopted](#) a resolution on the professional training of civil servants at the expense of international financial aid. According to the resolution, state bodies submitted information on priority areas of professional training every year by February 1. Then, the NADS and the Secretariat of the Cabinet of Ministers coordinated the provision of training from international partners and agreed on the training candidates.

In November 2022, a free program of English learning for civil servants was launched. More than 3,500 officials have already [completed](#) training on the platform. Many professional development measures have been financed by various EU projects. For example, in May 2023, the Association4U EU project held a [training course](#) on communications in the field of European integration for civil servants. In 2022, the TAIEX project [organised](#) 10 expert missions and 9 seminars in Ukraine with the aim to develop the civil service and approximation of the Ukrainian legislation with the EU *acquis*.

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