

UKRAINIAN ELECTIONS: OUR EXPECTATIONS AND OUR FEARS

By Olga Pyshchulina
National Institute for Strategic Studies,
Kiev, Ukraine

Visiting Fulbright Scholar
To TraCCC

Promises of Victor Yanukovich

- ▶ Close Ukrainian – Russia relationship;
- ▶ Russian -- the second official language;
- ▶ Introduce dual Russia- Ukrainian citizenship

Post-Election Challenges in Ukraine

- ▶ The polarized electorate;
- ▶ Calls for regional autonomy;
- ▶ Decrepit rust-belt coal and steel industries in the East;
- ▶ The opposition of protectionist oligarchs, apparatchiks, and thugs

Key questions to Ukraine

- ▶ Who will get portfolios in the new government and what portfolios will they get?
- ▶ What is the difference between the new and the previous government?
- ▶ Why doesn't new government say anything specific about political and economic reforms?
- ▶ Why doesn't new government outline the schedule of their implementation?

What do Ukrainian people expect and fear of the new Ukrainian government

- ▶ New faces of real professionals in the government
- ▶ Freedom of speech
- ▶ Decisive political and economic reform
- ▶ Clear goals and objectives of reform
- ▶ Newly elected President might have certain commitments to the business circles that rose against Kuchma's system
- ▶ New government, exhilarated by the victory, will not listen to constructive criticism in the press
- ▶ Possibly destructive position regarding the Russian Federation
- ▶ Russia's influence in Ukraine will increase

Five priority blocks for reform

- ▶ Political, administrative, and judicial reform and relations between central and local governments
- ▶ Social reform
- ▶ Improvement in the taxation system and development of the financial sector
- ▶ Relations between state and private business
- ▶ International integration of Ukraine