

A Corruption Deadlock

A political scandal, in which Minister of Economy Aivaras Abromavicius blamed cronies of President Poroshenko for corruption, is seizing public attention. The scandal made public an issue already disturbing Western donors: the “undercover” reforms the friends of the president and prime minister have been making. This was tolerated while people like Natalie Jaresko and Abromavicius, who had been pushing forward real reforms, were in the Cabinet. But Abromavicius’ resignation effectively exploded this shaky balance, triggering a chain of reactions. The G-7 ambassadors and IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde made it clear that there would be no support unless the corruption issues were resolved. Donors demanded technocrats be appointed to the Cabinet, but without early parliamentary elections. This has pushed Ukraine into a real political crisis >>>

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