

CONTENTS

A Charismatic Leader

Ideological Controversy

Conflict of Political Interest

Internal Roadblocks

How to Rule

Outlook and Risks

As Coalition Emerges, Tymoshenko Seems Likely Prime Minister

December 13, 2007
Volodymyr Dubrovsky

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Despite her coalition's razor-thin majority, Yulia Tymoshenko is likely to become prime minister, and to be allowed to form a cabinet. Whether she decides to be an autocratic or more consensual leader will drive some policy outcomes – such as whether she'll resist pressure to rescind a law that grants the PM powers beyond those permitted by the Constitution.

Relations and legislation will be complicated by the slim three-vote edge her party, the Bloc of Yulia Tymoshenko (BYuT), in unity with Our Ukraine, holds over the opposition, and by the backdrop of the 2009 presidential elections, for which both she and President Victor Yushchenko likely are positioning themselves as candidates.

In spite of a pre-election deal between BYuT and OU to split power equally in a coalition, regardless of the electoral outcome, coalition negotiations have kept the country in suspense for two months. Would such a deal really happen – and hold this time? Even after the pact was struck, and approved by leaders of both parties, seven members of the OU initially refused to sign it, until Yushchenko personally intervened. Progress from the disastrous aftermath of the 2006 election was evident: as Our Ukraine deputy Kseniya Lyapina pointed out: "The public process eventually defeated Byzantine methods."

Despite numerous ideological, personal and political differences, Yushchenko had to support this coalition, and to bring the OU dissidents into line. His success led to the coalition's first key appointment: the election on December 4th of OU deputy Arseniy Yatsenyuk as speaker.

GlobalSOURCE
641 Lexington Avenue
18th Floor
New York, NY 10022
Phone: 212-317-8015

info@globalsourcepartners.com
www.globalsourcepartners.com