

UKRAINE

Economy Strengthens, but Institutions are Weak

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The trial of former prime minister Yulia Tymoshenko was the loudest event of the past few weeks. Although she probably did abuse power and misuse public funds (as the prosecutor claims), the case is undoubtedly purely political, given that many other former officials notorious for abusing public funds remain immune from such charges. It's not yet obvious what the result of this case will be. However, even if Tymoshenko is sentenced, she will remain a powerful politician, even from jail.

A pension reform bill was passed at last, on July 7th. After stalling for many months, the authorities finally moved forward with the project. Despite expected mass protests, there was almost zero reaction from Ukrainians>>>