

# KYIV ROUNDTABLE MEMO

Moderated by: Paulius Kuncinas, Director, CPI

Panel: Owen Mathews, Remigijus Simasius, Peter Dickinson,  
Roman Sulzhyk

# **ROUNDTABLE CONCLUSIONS**

- 1. EU accession a powerful instrument for domestic reforms in the hands of Ukrainian government to deliver rule of law and confidence for investors.**
- 2. EU Acquis is non-negotiable and cannot be selected, cherry-picked from or diluted at whim. Ukraine either chooses to accept the benefits and costs of becoming a full EU member or stay out.**
- 3. Transition periods will likely need to be negotiated in the areas of agriculture, ETS, CBAM and movement of labour.**
- 4. EU has to reform itself to embrace Ukraine, especially in delivering on common European defence policy with genuinely aligned and integrated defence procurement sector.**
- 5. Enormous FDI opportunity for European corporates to enter early into last large market, source of critical hard (metals) and soft (agriculture) raw materials.**
- 6. Friend shoring in critical raw materials is going to be a dominant theme going for manufacturing firms wishing to locate their production in Ukraine.**
- 7. Ukraine might enter the EU despite frozen conflict (see Cyprus), though EU has to step up in promoting common security goal.**

# ROUNDTABLE SUMMARY

*Paulius Kuncinas, Founding Director of Centenary Policy Institute and Moderator - opening remarks*



1. The decision to give Ukraine EU candidate status was a watershed moment. We remember the positive impact of transformation in Lithuania, Romania, Bulgaria, Poland, and Turkey.
2. To be sure, opinion is divided on how long it will take for Ukraine to actually become a full member of European Union. The most optimistic scenario that we came across is seven years.
3. It would mean that by 2030, if everything goes smoothly, Ukraine will be a full member of European Union (EU). To be clear, the EU still has a lot of work to do internally.
4. Our joint purpose is to prove sceptics wrong that EU accession is somehow a distant prospect for Ukraine.
5. We believe that profound transformation is possible. They mean is really building national champions - which are, by definition, state-run and state-owned enterprises. They're not talking about a decentralised industry with hundreds of private players, or big private players.'



*Owen Mathews, British journalist & historian*

1. The purpose of Centenary Policy Institute (CPI) is to ensure that in 100 years' time we have a Europe that is secure, prosperous, free, stable. Our mission statement is to find paths towards that.
2. I want to start with a question: what went wrong with EU accession in Turkey and the UK?
3. At the outset, Turkey's experience shows that actually the EU works as an extraordinarily potent, multi-purpose tool to break domestic political deadlock.
4. The state mandated Turkish secularism, removed institutional discrimination against national minorities, the ban on Kurdish radio broadcasting, the ban on furnish language education.
5. What Erdogan did not realise was that joining the EU is actually not about horse trading. EU accession is not that kind of quid pro quo. You have to conform to it. You're in or you're out. The carrot is big, but the carrot comes at the end.
6. What really went wrong for Erdogan and Turkey was not just the horse trading, but EU accession was something that actually limited Erdogan's power.

7. Let's not make the same mistakes that Erdogan made. Ukraine certainly can and should avoid them.

*Roman Sulzhyk, Ukraine Breakthrough Fund (UBF), co-founder and member of the Board*

1. I haven't heard this concept of framing the victory as actually prosperous Ukraine. In the European Union next to decline in Russia. It is a powerful one. This is a victory I personally would be extremely proud of.
2. Yes. Having all the territory would be nice. But this and Peter, I would actually argue with you that this is what I'm going to talk about, that we do have a consensus inside Ukraine that everybody you know, we will 100% of people will vote because you're as there are a lot of fault lines right now in the country.
3. Russians are exploiting all of these fault lines. And one of the biggest fault lines, which is the cause of the revolution 10 years ago, is this joining of EU and that never stopped.
4. We need to focus on getting at least 100 billion USD of real Western money in here over the next 10 years, or even the first 10 years after the victory.
5. The only way to really make sure that happens is to stay 100% on Europe. Once we do it, we get them and we get inside, and then fix whatever problems we have later.





Marcus Lippold - advisory board member, EU Commission, DG Near

1. Supervisory boards of state-owned companies need to be more independent from government interference. Regarding FDI, it is necessary to point out that the best jobs are not necessarily provided by local companies or national companies, so we need to be careful when 'local content' is put forward too aggressively.
2. A lot of the jobs, if I look at Poland and Hungary e.g., have been created by FDI from foreign companies actually coming in. So, this narrative of local content also needs to be dissected a bit.
3. In terms of the key community there, and the Polish gentleman said it very succinctly, EU accession is absolutely not a negotiation, which is not understood everywhere in the UA government. But there will be transition periods to adapt. But again, it is not a negotiation.

*Remigijus Simasius - former Mayor of Vilnius. CPI Advisory Board Member*

1. King David of Jews was a great king, not just because he beat his enemies, but because he was a successful King afterwards. You have to win the war in order to be successful afterwards.
2. There are two tasks. One to defeat the beast. And another one is to rule wisely to have prosperity.
3. Important for Ukraine to understand that even though European Union is not perfect, there are no perfect unions and this is the only solution.
4. For European Union the main thing is to understand, even if your Ukrainian integration brings many challenges, this is not the main thing.
5. Border issues with Poland are a good sign of things to come. Polish plumber is turning into Ukrainian farmer.
6. We have to reform European Union with or without Ukraine, this is very important. But Ukraine accession makes this more urgent.
7. We'll have a debate that first you have to have a peace agreement to enter the EU. You can take a look at Cyprus, which is a factual war situation, that frozen conflict. It is possible to enter EU with a frozen conflict.
8. I hear too often in Ukraine that we have to have at least half of a banking system in government hands, because it's so important, which means actually protecting it from foreign competition
9. My main message is to focus on main things. And again, major ones already mentioned, you know, just for illustration, European Union sometimes may require some strange things, yet it is worth it because 80% of it is necessary.
10. Many central and East European states now enjoy GDP per capita above that of Italy. GDP of Vilnius region around the capital, not just capital is 125% of the EU average.

*Peter Dickinson - Editor and Publisher of Business Ukraine and Atlantic Council contributor*

1. Addressing the issue of Ukrainian minorities might be an area of fairly painless reform.
2. If we look at the reform agenda very broadly the absolute priority remains the judicial reform, without that a lot of reforms are easily easy to roll back.
3. Other reforms can be quite cosmetic until you get the rule of law reform, which has always been the big issue.
4. In Ukraine, it's always been the main obstacle, the main stumbling block, and successive regimes.
5. There are all sorts of different vested interests, you'd be able to block that. So, I think the real test of how serious the current government is and how serious the political classes are, is going to be how much progress is made, in terms specifically of judicial reform.
6. Even if we take the whole issue of the war with Russia off the table, just the general session of Ukraine is such a major shift for European history. That is a huge moment.





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