



United States Embassy  
Kyiv, Ukraine

**BRIEFING CHECKLIST (BCL)**  
**Ambassador Yovanovitch's Meeting with**  
**Karen Tramontano, Blue Star Strategies**

Thursday, December 8, 2016  
10:30-11:00  
Ambassador's Office

Interpretation: N/A  
Notetaker: Chip Laitinen  
EXT: 5365

**CONTEXT**

An Atlantic Council member and Washington veteran, Tramontano informally represents Mykola Zlochevskiy, the Burisma CEO who has long been the target of law enforcement proceedings in Ukraine.

**WHAT DO WE WANT?**

- (b)(5)

**WHAT DO(ES) THEY/HE/SHE WANT?**

- (b)(5)

**KEY OBJECTIVES**

1. **Zlochevskiy:** the former Minister of Ecology fled Ukraine in early 2014 and was charged with corruption and sanctioned by the European Union. In 2014, British officials unfroze \$23 million in his British bank accounts. Zlochevskiy owns Burisma, one of Ukraine's largest gas producers. His official U.S. representatives sent a letter in September (attached) asking that the Embassy reconsider its position on him.

(b)(5)

**WATCH OUT FOR**

**Burisma and USAID:** In September, USAID withdrew its Municipal Energy Reform Program's (MERP's) cooperation with Burisma on a joint program to award journalists for outstanding coverage of energy efficiency issues in Ukraine citing concerns about the appearance of a conflict of interest rewarding journalists with prizes paid by an energy company. Burisma provided approximately \$7,500 in prizes for last year's contest. Subsequently, USAID spoke to Blue Star Strategies representative Sally Painter by phone and indicated that we would be open to discussing other forms of cooperation between USAID and Burisma, and agreed to meet with Burisma Government and Public Affairs representative, Vadym Pozharskyi. In the November meeting, Pozharskyi briefed USAID on Burisma and the gas sector more broadly, but did not propose specific ideas for cooperation.

[Redacted] (b)(5)

(b)(5)

**PARTICIPANTS**

(b)(6)

United States  
Ambassador Yovanovitch

[Redacted]

Other Country/Organization  
Karen Tramontano, Blue Star CEO

Attachment:

- Biographic Information
- Letter from Zlochevskiy's representatives

(b)(6)

Approved: DCM: Kent

(b)(6)

Drafted:

[Redacted]

Cleared:

[Redacted]

AID/Fritz ok

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)