

# Taras Kuzio: 20 questions for Poroshenko, parliament and government

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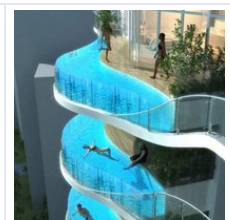

Ukraine's new President Petro Poroshenko looks on during a ceremony of his inauguration in Kiev on June 7, 2014. Petro Poroshenko was sworn in as Ukraine's fifth post-Soviet president today, vowing to maintain the unity of his country amid a continuing crisis with Russia. Poroshenko, a 48-year-old billionaire who won the presidential election on May 25 with 54.7 percent of the vote, took the oath in the Ukrainian parliament in Kiev. AFP PHOTO / SERGEI SUPINSKY

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Not everything changes in Ukraine, even after the EuroMaidan Revolution, and some politicians continue to believe it is "business as usual." But, Ukraine's leaders should understand that Ukraine's civil society will not permit "business as usual" and will attempt to introduce accountability so that the president will not become a second failed Viktor Yushchenko. In addition, they should understand that International Monetary Fund assistance and European integration is not a "free lunch" and that Ukraine needs to (for the first time since 1991) implement the reforms it has promised to undertake.

1. Why has the investigation into the murder of EuroMaidan protesters not led to arrests and criminal charges?
2. When can we read and hear the presidents and governments real program's and goals for the short and medium terms?
3. Can the president successfully fight corruption if one of his first decrees is to appoint a new head of DUS (Directorate for the Service of Affairs)? DUS is a corrupt black hole and "Ministry of the Nomenklatura Privileged" that should be closed down.
4. Why is [Valeriya Lutkovska](#), overthrown President Viktor Yanukovich's choice for parliamentary human rights ombudsman, still in place? How is she committed to European values when she supported the imprisonment of Yulia Tymoshenko and other abuses of human rights? Head of the Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group Yevhen Zakharov should replace her.
5. Why has the (Stalinist) Communist Party not been banned?
6. When will a date be set for pre-term parliamentary elections? Why do deputies (including those who supported the Euromaidan) continue to piano vote?
7. When will the president begin to devote attention to building his Solidarity Party into a European parliamentary force?
8. How can Mayor Vitali Klitschko fight corruption in Kyiv when he is cooperating with former Mayor Leonid Chernovetsky's people?
9. Why is Yuriy Prodan the current minister of energy and coal when in his prior position as minister of fuel and energy in 2007-2010 he signed the January 2009 gas contract?
10. Why did the Ukrainian government agree to pay the energy debts to Russia incurred by the two Nikolai Azarov governments? Ukraine should have advised Russia to seek payment for these debts from Yanukovich and Azarov who fled with billions of dollars into exile in Russia.
11. Why are Yuriy Boyko and Serhiy Levochkin not under criminal investigation for corruption and abuse of office?
12. Why is the Donetsk clan and Party of Regions leaders (other than Tsaryov) not under criminal investigation for abuse of office and treason?
13. When will the government begin to renationalize assets stolen during Yanukovich's presidency by Rinat Akhmetov and Dmytro Firtash – in the same manner as nationalisation has begun of assets stolen by The Family?
14. What plans do the government and president have to separate business and politics and not permit oligarchs to again influence political leaders? When will parliament remove immunity from its members?
15. If Ukraine wishes to build the rule of law it should close the prosecutor general's office, not appoint a new chief prosecutor (especially somebody with no experience other than in the corrupt Interior Ministry.) Ukraine has 18,000 militarized (that is, they wear uniforms) prosecutors while Britain with nearly 20 million more population has only eight in its three criminal prosecution services for England-Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

16. When will the Interior Ministry be led by a competent minister rather than by a political appointee? Ukraine has 300,000 Interior Ministry personnel compared to Britain's 120,000 police and prison officers.
17. Why is it proving to be so difficult to target separatist leaders with air strikes, spetsnaz assassination squads or car bombs? Ukraine should seek to hire US, British or French contractors who are specialists in training and advising counter-insurgency. Ukrainian oligarchs and the Ukrainian diaspora should be asked to pay the bills.
18. Why was Mykola Lytvyn (brother of the odious Volodymyr Lytvyn) maintained as head of the Border Guards until public protests forced him to recently resign? Why does Ukraine need 50,000 border guards (which is more than the US or Canada has) when they are corrupt and incompetent?
19. Why is the odious Viktor Medvedchuk permitted to participate in the negotiations with the Donbas separatists?
20. What strategies are being prepared to reach out to the silent majority in the Donbas who do not support either the terrorists or the Kyiv authorities? The roundtables held to date are not a serious attempt at dialogue that is a strategic part of any counter-insurgency strategy.
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