**Transparency International Ukraine Urges to Stop Pressuring AMCU Top Officials**

*During the recent months, some representatives of the management of the Anti-Monopoly Committee of Ukraine have been facing pressure. The reason is their professional stance on the lottery market in Ukraine. In particular, the AMCU staff pay attention to the monopoly of one of this highly profitable market participants.*

The following facts made the Ukrainian chapter of the global anti-corruption network Transparency International concerned. On February 16, a government meeting on the problem of the Ukrainian lottery market was held. The meeting agenda included the presentation of the State Commissioner of the AMCU Ahiia Zahrebelna. However, for unknown reasons, First Vice Prime Minister of Ukraine and simultaneously Minister of Economic Development and TradeStepan Kubiv effectively deprived the representative of the Anti-Monopoly Committee of the right to speak and even forced her to leave the hall.

A week after the incident, the State Commissioner of the AMCU said that she had information about planned searches in her home and in the workplace. According to the official, such actions would have made it impossible for her to participate in the Committee meeting on February 22, which should have been devoted to the problems of the lottery market. It is worth noting that on the day of the meeting, unknown individuals organized a street action next to the premises of the Anti-Monopoly Committee, which seemed to be paid. The organizers of the meeting probably intended to discredit the announced efforts of the Anti-Monopoly Committee aimed at eliminating the monopoly in the lottery market.

We urge government officials, MPs and law enforcement agencies to stop pressure on the Anti-Monopoly Committee managment, and to adhere to the principles of business ethics while discussing various aspects of state economic policy. We propose to the Government representatives to study the arguments of the AMCU set forth in [the report concerning this issue](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1DieIXDEI1DcHi5U4UPKBGSjwvUi6AaCf/view), and, following a detailed review and expert discussion, to make the necessary decisions to enhance the competitiveness of the lottery business.

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