

**Ukraine's position on the alert No. 113/2021 « Independence of the Public Broadcaster's
Supervisory Board Challenged» of June 11, 2021**

On June 1, 2021 interview with Kyrylo Tymoshenko – Deputy Head of the Office of the President, given to the journalists of news agency “Interfax-Ukraine” was published on the website of this agency. Responding to one of journalists’ questions, Mr. Tymoshenko said: “I know a lot of examples in other countries when Government appoints the Head of the Supervisory Board of the Public Broadcasting Company or the Supervisory Board itself, or the quota...”. In regards to the abovementioned Ukraine states further:

1. Kyrylo Tymoshenko expressed his opinion in response to the journalists’ question asked in the course of the interview, but he did not make a separate statement. The right to freedom of expression is foreseen in the legislation of Ukraine (in particular, in the Constitution of Ukraine, in the Law of Ukraine “On Information” and in other legislative acts) as well as in the Article 10 of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. Thus, Kyrylo Tymoshenko only expressed his own opinion on examples of Public Broadcasters’ Supervisory Board’s formation in other countries as well as on editorial policy of the National Public Broadcasting Company of Ukraine while formulating his answer on journalists’ question.

2. The abovementioned expression was a value judgment of Mr. Tymoshenko. It did not contain any calls to any amending the legislation of Ukraine with the aim to change the order of the election of members of the Supervisory Board of the National Public Broadcasting Company of Ukraine or its Head.

3. When expressing his opinion, Mr. Tymoshenko said: “I know a lot of examples in other countries when Government appoints the Head of the Supervisory Board of the Public Broadcasting Company or the Supervisory Board itself, or the quota...”. Such examples of state’s representatives’ participation in appointing members of executive bodies, control and supervision bodies of Public Broadcasting Companies really exist (in particular, in Iceland, Norway, Sweden).

4. Any initiative regarding any amending legislation of Ukraine with the aim to change the order of the election of members of the Supervisory Board of the National Public Broadcasting Company of Ukraine or its Head is not in work in the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. Moreover, Ukraine does everything possible to ensure Public Broadcaster’s independence, including financial (for instance, funding, allocated by Ukraine on finance support of the National Public Broadcasting Company in 2021 is the biggest from the moment of Public Broadcaster’s setting up).

Thus, there are no threats to freedom of expression in Ukraine.