

# Ukraine in Brief

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## Ukraine: For or Against New Pension Plan?

The hot debate in Ukraine's Parliament is whether or not to adopt a new pension plan. Ukraine is attempting pension reform as many of the western European states have recently. Ukraine does have an added incentive to go ahead with the pension reform since the IMF is set to release a tranche to Ukraine, and pension reform is one of the stipulations. But, Deputy Prime Minister, and Social Policy Minister Serhiy Tyhytko mentioned that, "The IMF has nothing to do with this: The time has come for Ukraine to take respective decisions, and let's not use something as a cover and look for clever arguments. It's our decision, and it has to be taken." He says that this is something that needs to be done for the pensioners; it is not something being done to them. He says that through the reforms, the pensions will be greater, and more stable.

the pensioners are being robbed because the reforms make the retirement age later. The Communist Party has organized protests as well.

## Euro Reform in Ukraine

Stefan Fule, European Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighborhood Policy, stated that Ukraine's Parliament has reach an agreement with the European Union and will continue to reform to European standards. Mr. Fule says that these reforms are important for Ukraine's development as a democratic nation, and will one day be very important for Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic integration aspirations.

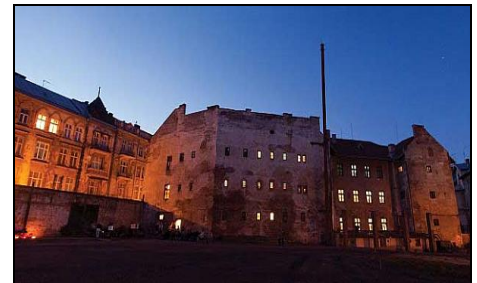


(Photo: un.ua)

## Investigation of National Museum

The Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) is investigating the former prison (now turned national museum) where people were killed by the KGB and the Gestapo. The case is said to be labeled "top secret" so the workers and scientists who are being interrogated feel as if they are being investigated on some sort of criminal

charges, instead of being surveyed as to the activities of the National Museum.



Lontsky National Museum  
(Photo: Pravda.com.ua)

The SBU has already confiscated and searched the computers and disks after the arrest of the museum's director Mr. Ruslan Zabily in Kyiv on September 2010. Nothing turned up in the investigation.

## Soccer Cup in Ukraine

Ukraine's soccer club "Kyiv Dynamo" has claimed the Ukraine Super Cup for the fifth time. They beat Shakhtar Donetsk 3-1. This is Dynamo's fifth Super Cup win.



Ms. Tymoshenko speaking at protest (Photo kyivpost.com)

There are many in Ukraine's Parliament that are opposed to these reforms. The Batkivshchyna Party of Yuliya Tymoshenko has called for a protest/demonstration. Their stance is that