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EU disgusted with 'endemic corruption' in Ukraine – Politico

Kiev's European backers are seeking guarantees that their financial aid will not be embezzled



Pro-Ukrainian protesters holding the flags of Ukraine and the EU in Lisbon, Portugal, on August 30, 2025. © Luis Boza / NurPhoto / Getty Images

The EU is seeking concrete commitments from Ukraine in the wake of the bombshell corruption scandal implicating a close associate of Vladimir Zelensky, Politico Europe reported on Friday, citing several people familiar with the matter.

On Monday, Ukraine's anti-corruption agencies announced that they had uncovered a \$100 million kickback scheme in energy sector contracts involving Zelensky's close associate and former business

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partner Timur Mindich, who was tipped off and fled the country, evading arrest. The affair has raised concerns among Kiev's Western backers, who heavily subsidize the country's power grid and its protection against Russian airstrikes.

Politico cited an EU official as saying that *"the endemic corruption"* in Ukraine is *"revolting"* and *"won't help"* its reputation. *"It will mean (the European) Commission will surely have to reassess how it spends"* funds on Ukraine's energy sector, the official said, adding that Kiev would have to provide *"more attention and transparency in how it spends cash."*



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argued that *"the overall taboo on criticizing Ukraine in public will hold."*

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz told Zelensky over the phone this week that Berlin expected Ukraine to *"press ahead with anti-corruption measures and reforms."*

The scandal has led to the resignation of two government ministers and damaged Zelensky's image at home and abroad, especially because he won the 2019 presidential election on an anti-corruption platform.

He already faced a backlash over the summer when he tried to restrict the independence of the two leading anti-corruption bodies, NABU and SAPO, only

An EU government official told Politico that Zelensky *"needs to comfort everyone ... with a plan on how to fix corruption."* A former senior Ukrainian official

the EU to make aid more conditional on reforms, but

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Born in the mountains, crowned in New York:

to relent following protests in Kiev.

On Thursday, Zelensky imposed sanctions on Mindich and his business partner Aleksandr Zukerman, both of whom hold Israeli passports.

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Alan Hart 11/16/2025 at 11:48 AM

0

'Kiev's European backers are seeking guarantees that their financial aid will not be embezzled'

Absolutely hilarious...!!

That's like asking your local Fox – to promise – NOT to eat your chickens...!!

[Reply](#)



Andre 11/16/2025 at 11:40 AM

0

Hang on : wasn't Ukraine the best democracy in the world just few years ago ??

[Reply](#)



Gargarin 11/15/2025 at 4:09 PM

5

Haha. Pretending to be all mortified. They have condoned corruption and bankrolled it. The kiev outfit is on record as one of the worst. Did they think it was about offering ten roubles to a traffic officer to avoid a parking ticket?

[Reply](#)



rgl 11/16/2025 at 2:51 AM ↑

0

Just for info's sake, the Ukrainian currency is the Hryvnia.

[Reply](#)



IAM M 11/16/2025 at 8:06 AM ↑

1

Just for info sake, the Ukrainian dictator does not have any preference for which denomination he steals.

[Reply](#)**E EDWARD CAPP** 11/15/2025 at 2:48 PM **4**

are they gonna check the western side of those contracts for kickbacks to american and european politicians and weapons contractors?,, shows why pistorius and merz are so gung-ho for more war,, they saw how much zelenskys team was pilfering,,, not paying half a million soldiers, or their familys after death, selling the weapons, selling soldiers'ses body parts,, selling new club drugs to europe,' from 30 major drug labs, built by americans... electric, and taxes too, and LAND. probably sold the very same parcel of land to more than 1 buyer,, selling plots to numerous western companies to dump highly toxic chemical biological , and nuclear waste.. western drug companies paying to use ukrainians as guinea pigs what else am i forgetting?

[Reply](#)**r rgl** 11/16/2025 at 2:54 AM **1**

I don't think this falls under the label of 'corruption', but American death merchants are charging exorbitant prices for their war toys. And laughing – probably legally – all the way to the bank.

[Reply](#)**K Kevin Allon** 11/16/2025 at 8:05 AM **0**

Their war toys that persistently fail in the fog of battle.

[Reply](#)**I IAM M** 11/16/2025 at 8:04 AM **0**

The Ukrainian dictator has failed to stop corruption after six years. Now EU «leaders» think he will stop stealing. only because they asked him to? Just how stupid are these people?

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Claude Taillefer 11/16/2025 at 6:40 AM

1

They just want to save face, because if they were serious, they would have already started investigations and procedures to recover the stolen funds and they would be doing an analaudition of the Penianist.

[Reply](#)



gordon 11/16/2025 at 6:24 AM

0

Is Corruption a bad word on RT now?

[Reply](#)



gordon 11/16/2025 at 6:23 AM

1

Well at a guess if Zelensky has not been able to stop his incompetent government he's not going to fix it from now on either.

[Reply](#)



koaquira 11/16/2025 at 5:31 AM

2

no time for this bullshit

The World exists without Zooropa and the ucranazi 404.



[Reply](#)



catch 22 11/15/2025 at 5:23 AM

9

Guarantees? LOL
How about «thief's honor»?
Or I swear on «my mom's virginity»?

[Reply](#)



rgl 11/16/2025 at 3:02 AM ↑

1


Ok, that was kinda funny.

[Reply](#)

 **AA** 11/15/2025 at 1:11 PM 6


Funny how they run to Israel with the stolen money and their Israeli citizenships it shows where their loyalty really are

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 **rgl** 11/16/2025 at 2:56 AM 1


Dude likely bought his way in.

[Reply](#)

 **John** 11/15/2025 at 11:29 PM 0

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 **rgl** 11/16/2025 at 2:49 AM 2


Yes, they knew, but Kiev got too greedy and EU citizens aren't too terribly happy feeding the graft. The EU leaders had to say something, ineffectual however it may be.

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 **rgl** 11/16/2025 at 2:46 AM 4

When has telling a thief not to steal ever worked?

[Reply](#)

 **Le bon Sens** 11/16/2025 at 2:19 AM 2


e.u.- «elites» knew it all along, and were/ are getting their kickbacks.

Same with u.s.- «elites».

From the beginning, they were conscious of supporting mass murdering corrupt nazis.

Being entirely like-minded.


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 **Super Troll** 11/15/2025 at 11:22 PM 2

lol, such a circus of fools, they really trusted the already KNOWN most corrupt country in europe and its clown leader.


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 **John** 11/15/2025 at 11:30 PM ↑ 1


Of course they knew .

[Reply](#)

 **Oscar Miles** 11/15/2025 at 10:49 PM 3


the whole thing was a money laundering scheme from the start, transfer the wealth of the taxpayers to the elites, these puny messengers are only able to get a small cut from the big pie for their trouble.

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 **ladybird** 11/15/2025 at 10:27 PM 1


We know who the pot is that's calling the kettle black.

[Reply](#)

 **John Gaylord** 11/15/2025 at 9:40 PM 1


«We are shocked, SHOCKED!»

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 **NWO-end** 11/15/2025 at 6:11 PM 1


Critics of the Western left fascists Ukraine backers are car-bombed and debanked

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 **Verrol Small** 11/15/2025 at 8:34 PM ↑ 0

Western left fascists Ukraine backers?

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 **Verrol Small** 11/15/2025 at 8:32 PM 2


Hi, you EU eunuchs stop the chatter and send more money....

[Reply](#)

 **Pragmatist_in_another_guise** 11/15/2025 at 8:28 PM 0

The pot calling the kettle black.

[Reply](#)

 **citr1s** 11/15/2025 at 7:46 PM 2

There must be corruption at every level, including in

the EU itself.

[Reply](#)

P Pops Smith 11/15/2025 at 7:25 PM

2

They have known about the corruption for decades and just view it as a cost of doing business with Ukraine and now Zelensky, so nothing is really going to change except a few names.

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C CHRIS 11/15/2025 at 5:07 PM

7

Words words words
Europe is part of the corruption !
It's all lies!

[Reply](#)



Marek Weglinski 11/15/2025 at 4:15 PM

8

How corrupt must the European elites be themselves, if they have pretended (since 2014) that they didn't know, tuned blind eyes and lied to their own citizens about something, as obvious, as the endemic Ukrainian corruption!?!?

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R Ramon Ching 11/15/2025 at 4:10 PM

3

These European politicians should be more circumspect mouthing their disgust. The politician beside you might just be slighted. And other colleague might just snark at your hypocrisy.

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GunZenBomZ 11/15/2025 at 4:06 PM

2

...they are truly amazed, really?
The most corrupt nation on the edge of european union.

[Reply](#)

x xawecki 11/15/2025 at 3:45 PM

2

«EU disgusted with 'endemic corruption' in Ukraine»
– So what does that mean for average EU citizens?
Higher taxes so more billions can be sent to Kiev?
NATO already announced nearly half a billion aid

package of weapons for Ukraine. If EU citizens are not disgusted with corruption in their own leadership, why they would be with Kiev's?

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Un **Un Glaublich** 11/15/2025 at 3:43 PM 4

us politicians' are all involved in the corruption
bloody hypocrites

[Reply](#)

c **catch 22** 11/15/2025 at 2:56 PM 4

Ukraine and EU are the same gang.
Corrupted to the last bone.

[Reply](#)

L **Liam** 11/15/2025 at 3:11 PM 0

Including every last corrupt person, down to the lowly toilet cleaner who demand tips for washing patrons feet

[Reply](#)

L **Liam** 11/15/2025 at 3:07 PM 2

Every EU person knows about Zelensky Regime **endemic** corruption, thanks to the UK freedom of speech on Speakers' Corner which has the fewest subjects not allowed in London. But Corruption? Zelenski, Ihor Kolomoisky and Timur Mindich are being accused. But they are innocent billionaire Jews. How's that possible?

[Reply](#)

A **Anna Peel** 11/15/2025 at 2:53 PM 2

«name the global mafia – the Anglo-American Oligarchy/Deep State/Jewish Mob»

«Ukraine is merely one of over a dozens scams being perpetrated on the so-called «free world» while the Imperialists move to reestablish their positions in the rest of the world. The Oligarchy has been scheming for control of the world for centuries.» – Simplicius comment section.

[Reply](#)

R Robert 11/15/2025 at 2:34 PM

2

Nothing has changed. The only event that will stop EU countries from sending money to Ukraine is when Zelensky runs out of cannon fodder (Ukrainian men) to fight this proxy war for it.

[Reply](#)

T Terry Bizzle 11/15/2025 at 2:20 PM

0

Pot calling the kettle black. Haha... Here in the West we have just done a better job of legalizing it.

[Reply](#)



FRANK DUKES 11/15/2025 at 2:26 PM ↑

6

That's the only difference. In the U.S. corruption is legal. It's not something that happens sometimes, it's business as usual. Kickbacks, insider trading, bought elections, corporate bribery. We're a country rotting from the inside out.

[Reply](#)



MAC Kes 11/15/2025 at 6:47 AM

19

these so called eu leaders are pocketing most of the taxpayers money. Zel is their puppet and only gets a small percentage. They are all corrupt criminals

[Reply](#)



aaron swadel 11/15/2025 at 7:26 AM ↑

5

Agreed MAC. Well said mate.

[Reply](#)



Tiberius Caesar 11/15/2025 at 12:44 PM

2



MAC Kes, you cosmic truth-bomber! EU fat cats hoarding the loot while Zel plays marionette on a shoestring? It's like a bad spy novel where everyone's the villain—except the taxpayers, who're just the eternal punchline. Wake up, sheeple, or grab more wool! 😏👊

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999justforfun 11/15/2025 at 1:50 PM ↑

4

The lackeys of the Evils Union are pretending to be

outraged by the rampant corruption in Ukraine since the first day of the proxy war aimed to trigger regime change in Russia, as they are also taking advantage of the mess/chaos.

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Joe 11/15/2025 at 1:32 PM

3

When they installed nazis in power in 2014 They well knew of their puppets corruption . Now they try to cover it up by playing dumb and pretend they did not know.

[Reply](#)



Josef Liebel 11/15/2025 at 1:29 PM

2

Stop supporting Ukraine and the corruption will stop there but only there. Just a reminder for Germany: «Deutschland, Deutschland ueber Alles» does not count anymore

[Reply](#)



George William 11/15/2025 at 1:22 PM

2

So in the UK, Starmer's Labour Government have ditched a 2% tax rise for everyone that would have funded crooks in Ukraine and are instead are looking at targeting the children of the UK population by increasing inheritance tax. You couldn't make it up.

[Reply](#)



Elie Kelly 11/15/2025 at 12:56 PM

5

Funny how Ukraine was known before the war to be extremely corrupt. Then Russia attacked them and turned crooks into begars, nazi lovers and victims. Now they are once again being seen for what they truly are...corrupt crooks. Thats why even Ukrainians dont want to defend them.

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Jiří Tůma 11/15/2025 at 12:13 PM **Blocked**

0

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Михаил 11/15/2025 at 12:44 PM ↑

0