Arzinger 🔀

75, Zhylyanska St., 5th Floor, 01032, Kyiv, Ukraine Tel.: +38 044 390 55 33; Fax: +38 044 390 55 40 mail@arzinger.ua; www.arzinger.ua

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Newsletter



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LEGISLATION NEWS

Real estate and construction

- Registration of Rights to Real Estate in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea

Corporate Law

- National Commission on Securities and Stock Market Determined Procedures to Ensure the Existence of Registered Securities in Book-entry Form
- Law of Ukraine "On Amendments to Some Legislative Acts of Ukraine on Improving the Legal Regulation of Activities of Legal Entities and Individual Entrepreneurs" Came into Effect

Tax Law

- Resolution "On the reorganization of the Ministry of Revenues and Duties»
- The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine promulgated its Action Program
- The Ministry of Revenues and Duties of Ukraine has clarified the size of state duty payable for the notarization of additional agreements to land leases





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- The Ministry of Revenues and Duties of Ukraine implements a new mechanism for tax entities in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea
- The Law of Ukraine "On prevention of financial catastrophe and creating prerequisites for economic growth in Ukraine" was promulgated

Life Sciences and Healthcare

- Life Sciences & Healthcare Newsletter March- 2014

Energy

 Tariff for terrestrial solar power plants with capacity exceeding 10 MW may be reduced by half

Food and Drinks

- Food & Drinks Newsletter March- 2014

Agriculture

- Agribusiness Newsletter February 2014
- Agribusiness Newsletter March 2014

Success Stories

- Arzinger has published third edition of "Real Estate and Construction. Ukraine" Guide
- Who's Who Legal Recognized Lana Sinichkina as One of the Best Lawyers for Life Sciences & Healthcare
- Who's Who Legal recognized Timur Bondaryev as one of the best lawyers for M&A
- Chambers Global 2014 highly recommends Arzinger and its partners
- ILO Client Choice Awards recognized Timur Bondaryev as the best Ukrainian lawyer for real estate and construction
- The Legal 500 EMEA: Arzinger's expertise one of the strongest in Ukraine



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REAL ESTATE AND CONSTRUCTION

REGISTRATION OF RIGHTS TO REAL ESTATE IN THE AUTONOMOUS REPUBLIC OF CRIMEA

 By Order No.524/5 dated 14.03.2014 the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine set the state registration procedure for rights in rem over real estate located in Crimea.

Thus, the applicant or its authorized representative, at their own discretion, may apply (in person or by mail) to registration services in the AR of Crimea, Kherson and Zaporizhzhya regions. At this point:

- if documents are filed with registration services of Zaporizhzhya or Kherson regions, the state registrars shall register rights in rem over real estate and their encumbrances independently;
- if documents are filed through the registration service of the AR of Crimea or the City of Sevastopol, applications shall be passed to the state registration authorities in Dnipropetrovs'k, Odesa, Khmelnytsky or Chernigiv regions, where registrars register rights in accordance with the law.

According from the explanatory note, Bill No.4558 registered with the Parliament of Ukraine on 25.03.2014 is also intended to resolve the problem of state registration of rights to real estate in Crimea. In particular, according to the Bill rights in rem and encumbrances shall be registered by a state registration authority regardless of the location of the property the registration actions are aimed at. At the same time, the Bill contains no restrictions regarding the territory of actions, i.e. its rules will apply not only to real estate located in Crimea, but to any property on the territory of Ukraine. In our opinion, such changes could potentially open the way to numerous registration abuses in the regions. Therefore, the adoption of the Bill in such wording will be both unjustified and unreasonable.

ARZINGER'S RELATED PUBLICATIONS:

- "PURPLE BOOK" WILL HELP THE CONSULTING ENGINEERS (in Russian)

Svitlana Teush, Senior Associate, **Natalia Klochun**, Associate / Yurliga Online Portal, 05.02.2014/



Newsletter

CORPORATE LAW

NATIONAL COMMISSION ON SECURITIES AND STOCK MARKET DETERMINED PROCEDURES TO ENSURE THE EXISTENCE OF REGISTERED SECURITIES IN BOOK-ENTRY FORM

 On March 11, 2014 Decision by the National Commission on Securities and Stock Market (hereinafter the NCSSM) "On approval of Procedures to ensure the existence of registered securities in book-entry form" dated 22.01.2014 No.47 came into effect.

To secure the rights of investors in registered securities of issues not converted into book-entry form before the entry into force of the Law of Ukraine "On the Depository System of Ukraine" (hereinafter the Law), the NCSSM approved the Regulation on procedures to ensure the existence of registered securities in bookentry form.

The approved Regulation establishes procedures for issuers and professional participants of the Ukrainian depository to ensure the existence of registered securities in book-entry form, if their issues were not converted into that form as prescribed by law before the entry into force of the Law, as well as the procedure for servicing their holders' securities accounts opened in the process of dematerialization in the depository system.

LAW OF UKRAINE "ON AMENDMENTS TO SOME LEGISLATIVE ACTS OF UKRAINE ON IMPROVING THE LEGAL REGULATION OF ACTIVITIES OF LEGAL ENTITIES AND INDIVIDUAL ENTREPRENEURS" CAME INTO EFFECT

 On March 29, 2014 the Law of Ukraine "On amendments to some legislative acts of Ukraine on improving the legal regulation of activities of legal entities and individual entrepreneurs" dated 10.10.2013 No.642-VII (hereinafter the Law) came into effect.

The main purpose of the Law is to prevent the use of schemes and methods of illegal acquisitions or takeovers that pose a real threat to national and economic interests of the State and requires the formation of an effective system to counteract such negative manifestations.

The Law amends the Code of Administrative Offences, the Commercial Procedural Code of Ukraine, the Ukrainian Penal Code, Commercial Code of Ukraine, the Civil Code of Ukraine, the Laws of Ukraine "On Companies," "On state registration of legal entities and individual entrepreneurs," and "On Advertising."

The main changes are as follows:

- 1) The Law amends Article 16 of the Commercial Procedural Code of Ukraine, which defines the exclusive jurisdiction of commercial courts. It is proposed to reword Part six to submit disputes between legal entities and their members (founders, shareholders, stakeholders), including former ones, to commercial courts at the location of the relevant legal entities according to records of the Unified State Register of Legal Entities and Individual Entrepreneurs. Also, Paragraph 4 of Section 12 of the Commercial Procedural Code of Ukraine, which defines commercial courts' jurisdiction in cases arising from corporate relations, has been amended appropriately.
- 2) The Law amends Article 27 of the Commercial Procedural Code by a provision stating that in cases relating to property of commercial organizations with the State having corporate rights in their charter capital, the court shall involve the state authority governing the corporate rights in the case as a third person without independent claims concerning the subject in dispute. Since the law makes the court responsible for involving state authorities in the relevant proceedings, a judge's deliberate evasion from these requirements with certain consequences (legalization of raiding by the court) should be construed as complicity in the crime, or an obviously illegal judgment.
- 3) To avoid frivolous lawsuits and garnishment of business entities' accounts as well as suspension of decisions of general meetings of companies, the Law amends Article 67 of the Commercial Procedural Code of Ukraine in terms of provisional injunctions. Thus, the new wording of Article 67 of the Commercial Code of Ukraine stipulates that claims arising out of corporate relations may not be secured by prohibiting:
 - To conduct general meetings of shareholders or members of a company and to make decisions;
 - Issuers, registrars, custodians or depositories to provide information about registered security holders, shareholders or members of companies for conducting a general shareholders' meeting;
 - Shareholders or members to participate (register for participation) or not to participate in a company's general meeting, to determine the legal competence of a general meeting of shareholders or members of a company;
 - State authorities and/or local governments from exercising their powers in accordance with the law.

Also, the new wording of the article no longer contains such interim injunction as "suspending the sale of attached property, if a claim is filed for recognition of ownership of that property and for its release from attachment."

Thus, the courts will need to consider that the prohibition to hold a general meeting violates the right to participate in the company and its management of those members who did not appeal that decision. Furthermore, it contradicts the content of interim injunctions and their purpose, which is to protect the interests of parties to proceedings without depriving others of their rights (violating them). The court should not apply interim injunctions that involve interference in the internal activities of companies. Thus, any court ruling prohibiting public authorities and/or local governments from exercising the functions assigned to them in accordance with the laws is obviously illegal. Such a ban is essentially imperative and directly contradicts the provisions of laws and regulations that determine the functionality of a state or local authority and that the court should be guided by in making the relevant judgment.

- 4) The Law stipulates criminal liability for individuals:
 - for forgery of documents submitted for the state registration of a legal entity. Such actions entail a fine of 500 to 1000 non-taxable minimum incomes of individuals (UAH 8,500 17,000), or arrest for a term of 3 to 6 months, or restraint of liberty for up to two years;

- actions committed repeatedly by prior conspiracy by a group of persons or an official using his official position; the penalty shall be a fine of 1000 to 2000 non-taxable minimum incomes of individuals (UAH 17,000 34,000) or restriction of liberty for a term of three to five years with deprivation of the right to occupy certain positions or engage in certain activities for a term up to three years or without it;
- for the wrongful taking of property of enterprises, institutions and organizations, including stakes, stocks, shares of their founders, members, shareholders, by carrying out transactions with forged or stolen documents, stamps or seals. Such actions are punishable by correctional labor for up to two years, or restraint of liberty for up to 3 years, or deprivation of liberty for the same term, without the right to occupy certain positions or engage in certain activities for a term up to two years. The same actions committed repeatedly or by prior conspiracy by group of persons or with the other aggravating circumstances listed in the Law are punishable by imprisonment for a term of three to five years without the right to occupy certain positions or engage in certain activities for up to two years. The same actions committed by an official using his official position (or with other aggravating circumstances) are punishable by deprivation of liberty for a term of three years without the right to occupy certain positions or engage in certain activities for a term years. The same actions committed by an official using his official position (or with other aggravating circumstances) are punishable by deprivation of liberty for a term of five to ten years without the right to occupy certain positions or engage in certain activities for a term up to three years without the right to occupy certain position of liberty for a term of five to ten years without the right to occupy certain positions or engage in certain activities for a term up to three years with confiscation of property .
- 5) Article 31 of the Law of Ukraine "On State Registration of Legal Entities and Individual Entrepreneurs" is substantially amended. Thus, if a decision of a legal entity's members to amend the constituent documents or invalidate them wholly or partially is cancelled, the court shall send the relevant judgment to the legal entity (the defendant) and to the state registrar on the day of its entry into force. The defendant shall take measures to bring the constituent documents into compliance with the relevant judgment, and the State Registrar shall make an entry of the court decision on the cancelled state registration of amendments to the legal entity's constituent documents. If state registrar making an entry of the judgment on the cancelled state registration of amendments to the legal entity's constituent about the registration of actions undertaken after the registration act the judgment relates to, the state registrar shall notify the court appropriately. Based on the notice of the state registrar the court that has made the judgment cancelling the state registration of amendments to the legal entity's constituent documents shall decide additionally to cancel the subsequent registration acts as well. Thereafter, the state registrar shall cancel all amendments recorded in the Unified State Register within 2 working days.

It should be noted that the law is quite progressive and is aimed at regulating important aspects of combating illegal acquisitions and takeovers. However, only time will tell is the law is effective in practice.

ARZINGER'S RELATED PUBLICATIONS:

 ANTI-RAIDER CHANGES IN LEGISLATION: OUTCOMES AND IMPACTS (in Russian) Anna Zorya, Partner, Kateryna Zviagina, Associate / Online portal «Yurliga», 01.04.2014 /



Newsletter

TAX LAW

RESOLUTION "ON THE REORGANIZATION OF THE MINISTRY OF REVENUES AND DUTIES"

— The Cabinet of Ministers adopted Resolution "On the reorganization of the Ministry of Revenues and Duties» dated 01.03.2014 No.67. Under the Resolution it was decided to liquidate the Ministry of Revenues and Duties of Ukraine and to resume the activities of the State Tax Service and of the State Customs Service.

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The Resolution states that the State Tax Service and the State Customs Service are the legal successor of the rights and responsibilities of the liquidated Ministry of Revenues and Duties of Ukraine in their respective areas of activities.

Both services are instructed and coordinated by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine through the Minister of Finance of Ukraine.

THE CABINET OF MINISTERS OF UKRAINE PROMULGATED ITS ACTION PROGRAM

 On March 1, 2014 the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine promulgated its Action Program. The list of regulations necessary to implement the Program includes the Code of Economic Growth (new wording of the Tax Code) to be adopted.

The Code is intended to provide for a broader tax base, while the number of taxes has been reduced to eight.

THE MINISTRY OF REVENUES AND DUTIES OF UKRAINE HAS CLARIFIED THE SIZE OF STATE DUTY PAYABLE FOR THE NOTARIZATION OF ADDITIONAL AGREEMENTS TO LAND LEASES

 Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers "On State Duty" dated 21.01.1993 No.7-93 does not establish a separate state duty rate for the notarization of additional agreements to land leases.

Under the above Guidelines, the amount for calculation and payment of state duty for notarizing the agreements payments under which are made from time to time (e.g. leases of property) shall be calculated based on the total amount of payments under the relevant agreement throughout the period of its effect. If agreements are concluded for an indefinite period, the state duty shall be calculated and paid based on the total amount of payments thereunder for no more than three years. Notaries certifying such agreements should remember that an additional agreement to a land lease agreement is of property nature and shall be subject to evaluation.

Thus, the state duty for the notarization of additional agreements to land lease agreements shall be 1 percent of the agreement price, but not less than one non-taxable minimum income of individuals, taking into account the provisions of Clause 8.1, Section V of the Guidelines on the procedure for calculating and collecting state duties.

THE MINISTRY OF REVENUES AND DUTIES OF UKRAINE IMPLEMENTS A NEW MECHANISM FOR TAX ENTITIES IN THE AUTONOMOUS REPUBLIC OF CRIMEA

 As reported on the official website of the Ministry of Revenues and Duties of Ukraine, Crimea business entities can re-register their business in any region on the territory of Ukraine or in Kyiv.

To do that, business entities of ARC should contact a state registrar at a registration service in the regions of Ukraine or Kyiv.

Such taxpayers are registered with the revenues and duties authorities after receiving statements of the made amendments from the Unified State Register.

Those taxpayers who carry out the re-registration but are not included in the Unified State Register must submit an application for registration to the revenues and duties authorities in the chosen region.

THE LAW OF UKRAINE "ON PREVENTION OF FINANCIAL CATASTROPHE AND CREATING PREREQUISITES FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH IN UKRAINE" WAS PROMULGATED

— On March 31, 2014 the Law of Ukraine "On prevention of financial catastrophe and creating prerequisites for economic growth in Ukraine" passed by the Parliament of Ukraine dated 27.03.2014 was promulgated.

CORPORATE INCOME TAX - REDUCED RATE CANCELLED

The corporate tax rate was allowed to be set at the level of 18 percent. Therefore, the gradual reduction of the tax rate to 16 percent by 2016 is cancelled.

VALUE ADDED TAX - REDUCED RATE AND NEW TAXATION OBJECT CANCELLED

The Law established that the VAT rate will further constitute 20 percent. Reduction of the VAT rate to 17 percent is cancelled.

In addition, the Parliament of Ukraine has fundamentally changed the VAT procedure regarding transactions for the supply of medicinal products and medical devices.

The Act imposes VAT on the supply of all medicinal products and medical devices that are included in the list approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine. Such a list, according to Par. 4, Section IV of the "Transitional Provisions" must be passed by CMU within three months upon the enactment of the Law.

Therefore, all supplies of medicinal products and medical devices, except for those included in the above list, shall be subject to VAT.

The VAT provisions for supplies of medicinal products and medical devices are in effect as of April 1, 2014.

In addition, the Law establishes that VAT has to be paid on delivery of international mailings worth EUR 150, while the effective threshold is EUR 300.

PERSONAL INCOME TAX – INCREASED TAX ON INTEREST, DIVIDENDS, ROYALTIES AND INVESTMENT INCOME

The Act provides for increased personal income tax revenue on such income as interest, dividends, royalties, and investment income. In addition, the tax calculation and payment procedure for such types of income undergo fundamental changes.

Thus, interest in the amount exceeding 17 subsistence minimums per year, dividends from Ukrainian companies and foreign dividends, as well as royalties and investment income should be subject to personal income tax at the rate of 15 percent at the source. At the same time, income from interest, dividends, royalties and investment income are now a direct ground for filing an individual annual income tax return and the annual tax adjustment.

Such adjustment in respect of interest, dividends, royalties and investment income shall be subject to the following tax rates:

- if the tax base of the reporting year does not exceed 204 subsistence minimums, the personal income tax rate of 15 percent shall be applied;
- if the tax base of the reporting year exceeds 204 subsistence minimums, but does not exceed 396 subsistence minimums, the excess amount shall be subject to the personal income tax rate of 20 percent;
- if the tax base of the reporting year exceeds 396 subsistence minimums, the excess amount shall be subject to the personal income tax rate of 25 percent.

As for interest, it should be noted that the personal income tax base does not include interest income accrued in favour of individuals on current bank deposits, to which scholarships, pensions or social allowances are credited. In this case, the interest accrued on payroll accounts is tax-exempt. Therefore, the Law stipulates that such interest will be subject to personal income tax on general grounds. In addition, the Law provides that banking institutions shall not withholding tax on interest, while such obligation is imposed on individuals based on their annual tax returns.

Also, according to the Law the personal income tax base shall include pensions in the monthly amount exceeding UAH 10,000 (in the amount of such excess).

Changes in the taxation of personal income will come into effect on July 1, 2014.

TAX ON REAL ESTATE OTHER THAN LAND

Under the Law, the basis for calculating tax on real estate other than land shall be the total floor space rather than the living space, with the footage of "privileged" area remaining the same. Furthermore, the Law allows local councils to establish additional benefits for individuals (previously such additional benefits could be provided to religious organizations).

The changed calculation procedure for real estate tax is in effect as of April 1, 2014.

PAYMENT FOR LAND

The law reduces the tax rate on land within settlements without normative monetary value carried out. Furthermore, the minimum land lease fee is unified, which cannot be less than 3 percent of the normative monetary value.

The changed calculation procedure for land tax is in effect as of April 1, 2014.

FIXED AGRICULTURAL TAX

According to the Law, the base of the fixed agricultural tax will further be the normative monetary value of one hectare of agricultural land, but at a rate that will be set on January 1 of the base (reporting) year.

PENSION DUTY ON THE PURCHASE OF FOREIGN CURRENCY RETURNED

The Law returns pension duty at the rate of 0.5 percent on the purchase of foreign currency, while the list of subjects and transactions is extended considerably. Thus, the Law extends the same duty to individuals and to purchases of foreign currency in cash.

The pension duty on currency purchases should be collected as of April 1, 2014.

ARZINGER'S RELATED PUBLICATIONS:

 COMMENT: REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE OF A PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY IN UKRAINE VS. FULL-FLEDGED ENTITY: WHAT TO CHOOSE? (in Russian) Svitlana Malynovska, Senior Associate, Anna Demchenko, Associate / Pharma.net.ua, 08.04.2014 /

- TAX FRAUD: CAUSES AND CURES

Pavlo Khodakovsky, partner / Newsletter of the International Bar Association Legal Practice Division, Vol.20 №.1 February 2014 /



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LIFE SCIENCES AND HEALTHCARE

READ THE NEWS ON FOOD AND DRINKS IN OUR SPECIALIZED NEWSLETTERS:- LIFE SCIENCES & HEALTHCARE NEWSLETTER - MARCH- 2014

ARZINGER'S RELATED PUBLICATIONS:

 COMMENT: REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE OF A PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY IN UKRAINE VS. FULL-FLEDGED ENTITY: WHAT TO CHOOSE? (in Russian) Svitlana Malynovska, Senior Associate, Anna Demchenko, Associate / Pharma.net.ua, 08.04.2014 /



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ENERGY

TARIFF FOR TERRESTRIAL SOLAR POWER PLANTS WITH CAPACITY EXCEEDING 10 MW MAY BE REDUCED BY HALF

— On March 27, 2014 the Parliament of Ukraine registered the Bill "On Amendments to the Law of Ukraine "On Electric Power Industry" (to stimulate electricity production from alternative energy sources)" No.4596, which proposes to halve the "green tariff" for solar power plants (SPP) with a capacity exceeding 10 MW. According to the Bill, the tariffs for electricity generated by terrestrial solar power plants will be as provided in the table below.

Categories of electric power facilities subject to Green Tariff	Objects commissioned				
	before 31.03.2013 inclusive	from 01.04.2013 through 31.12.2014	from 01.01.2015 through 31.12.2019	from 01.01.2020 through 31.12.2024	from 01.01.2025 through 31.12.2029
Solar energy, terrestrial stations, installed capacity ≤ 10 MW	46.53	33.93	30.53	27.14	23.75
Solar energy, terrestrial stations, installed capacity > 10 MW	23.26	16.96	15.22	13.57	11.83

Table.GREEN TARIFF FOR ELECTRICITY GENERATED BY TERRESTRIAL
SOLAR POWER PLANTS, euro cents per kW/h

Consequently, apart from provides for tariff reduction for subjects that have to be commissioned yet, the document stipulates that the reduction of tariffs will apply to existing objects, i.e. the legislation will have a retrospective effect. A separate study is required for economic justification of such tariffs and return on projects subject to such tariff, given the efficiency ratios as well as the capital and operational costs.

In addition, the Bill amends the wording of Part 16, Article 17-1 of the Law of Ukraine "On Electric Power Industry", which establishes state guarantees to stimulate production of electricity from alternative energy sources. Thus, the incentives for entities producing electricity from renewable energy sources at commis-

sioned electric power facilities will not apply to business entities that produce solar electricity at terrestrial power facilities with an installed capacity exceeding 10 MW. Consequently, the legislator no longer protects such producers from changes in legislation retrospectively.

Thus the legislator shows that neither the fact that Green Tariff was approved for investors until 2030, nor the separate rule on immutability guarantees for the tariff provide the stability of the same.

By doing so the legislator violates the interests of investors in the field of solar energy and of all alternative energy market participants as well as the reliability of the legal system as a whole. It is obvious that the intention to release the industry and consumers from excessively high prices for electricity should not be in violation of the law. The reputational damage and, as a result, the economic damage as a whole will exceed the savings by many times. In addition, no saving will be achieved where the persons aggrieved will file lawsuits due to the loss of their investments.

ARZINGER'S RELATED PUBLICATIONS:

— COMMENT: GAS FRONT (in Russian) Maryna Ilchyk, Associate / «Invest Gazeta», №10, 17.03-23.03.2014/



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FOOD AND DRINKS

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Newsletter

AGRICULTURE

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- AGRIBUSINESS NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY- 2014
- AGRIBUSINESS NEWSLETTER MARCH 2014



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SUCCESS STORIES

ARZINGER HAS PUBLISHED THIRD EDITION OF "REAL ESTATE AND CONSTRUCTION. UKRAINE" GUIDE

— In March 2014 Arzinger Law Office published the third revised edition of "Real Estate and Construction. Ukraine" Guide. This guide provides general understanding and useful information for private persons and companies interested in the Ukrainian real estate market. It is very useful not only in part of regulatory legal basis but also in part of practical advice which takes into account the current situation and modern trends.

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— The International Legal Directory recommended Lana Sinichkina, Partner and Head of Life Sciences & Healthcare at Arzinger as an expert on regulatory issues of healthcare and pharmaceuticals. This is another acknowledgement of Arzinger's leading position in the relevant industry.

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— Timur Bondaryev, Managing Partner and Head of Real Estate and Construction at Arzinger Law Office, has been declared the exclusive winner in the area of real estate and construction in Ukraine by the international rating ILO Client Choice Awards 2014. His professional expertise was evaluated based only on the excellent client feedback among 2000 nominees who received individual clients' evaluation. This recognition by the rating confirmed once again the key role of this practice at Arzinger Law Office.

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— The Legal 500 - Europe, Middle East & Africa has published the law firm rating 2013 according to which Arzinger Law Office is recommended in practices corporate law/M&A, banking and finance law, IP law, dispute resolution, real estate and construction, tax law. This year Arzinger has strengthened its positions in three practices

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