

# Inauguration, what's next?

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The long-awaited inauguration of the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky took place. It's time to start governing the country. And for this you need your own party, a powerful apparatus. Which is not yet. The team presented by Volodymyr Zelensky on the eve of the second round of elections consisted of 20 people.

But Petro Poroshenko did not lose time in vain. Over the past month, he made almost 200 appointments. Of the long list, 94% were judges. In this case, the first decree took place the day after the defeat in the second round of elections.

The structure of government bodies is such that it is impossible to change everything all at once. Many appointments are outside the competence of the president. Ukraine is a parliamentary-presidential republic, which means that in order to make the most of the appointments, the team of President Zelensky will have to reach compromises, negotiate with the fractions and seek loyalty of the majority of the parliament.

In fact, independently, Volodymyr Zelensky will be able to appoint representatives to the Presidential Administration, the structure of the Security Council and Defense, the Security Service of Ukraine and the Ministry of Defense. In this case, the heads of the SSU and the Ministry of Defense must approve the Parliament. He will also independently appoint personnel in the field of foreign policy. However, the Foreign Minister on the proposal of the president must also approve the parliament. And the president cannot even appoint the country's ambassador to any country without obtaining the prior consent of that country. Also, the consent of the Parliament is required for the appointment or dismissal of the Attorney General. In addition, the Constitution enshrines the right of the president to appoint half of the composition of

the NBU Council and the National Council on Television and Radio Broadcasting, as well as a third of the composition of the Constitutional Court – after a competitive selection. It is worth noting a number of important, but little visible posts, the appointment of which is also included in the competence of the president. So, he has the right to appoint two of the 21 members of the High Council of Justice, part of the members of the competition commission, approving candidates for state bodies.

Petro Poroshenko during the five years of the presidency appointed members of his team and supporters to the majority of state bodies. Having transferred the presidential mace to Volodymyr Zelensky, he declared his intention to remain in politics and return to the post of president of the country in 2024. From this we can assume that he does not intend at all to give up the government of the country.

The team of Volodymyr Zelensky has already appealed to recruitment agencies to search for candidates for various posts at the lower levels. However, this step will not allow to completely solve the personnel issue. And the leadership in the field will remain (at least in the near future) officials appointed Poroshenko. Some of them will want to change the „owner”, but some will keep Poroshenko's loyalty.

Part of the appointments Volodymyr Zelensky will not be able to change. For example, the president cannot dismiss without justification the judge appointed by the former president of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine (appointed for a term of seven years). There are laws and specially prescribed provisions in case of a change of heads of state. Thus, the Law „On Telecommunications” determines that „there can be no grounds for the release of the head or member of the National Commission implementing state regulation in the field of communications and information, the acquisition of powers by the newly elected President of Ukraine” (they are elected for a term of six years).

To advance its policy, the president first of all needs to bring his large fraction to the Verkhovna Rada. However, it is possible that the majority will receive the „Opposition bloc” and Poroshenko’s party.

Another problematic issue is likely to be the influence of oligarchs, as well as regional elites and officials. Bypass these factors from the newly elected president will not work. You can not discount the interests of, first of all, the alleged „owner” of the president – Igor Kolomoisky. Analysts are confident that he will try to personally control the most „profitable” Ukrainian regions. In any case, the president’s team will have to either crush resistance or negotiate. And to agree... Well, I do not know. He is not like those who are able to negotiate.

Looking closely at the last appointments of Petro Poroshenko, it can be said unequivocally that he will retain the ability to control many political processes even after his resignation. And the fact that he did not leave the country only confirms this confidence.

The question arises: „From what should we start, Mr. President?” And how the team of the newly elected president decides him in many respects depends on how his presidency will pass. I would like to wish them good luck in the implementation of the intentions announced during the election campaign.

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