

The Honorable Faryar Shirzad,
Assistant Secretary of Import Administration,
U.S. Department of Commerce
14th and Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Assistant Secretary Faryar Shirzad,

We would like to raise our voice in support of revocation of non-market economy status for Ukraine by the U.S. Government.

ECdata, Inc. has been involved in IT business in Ukraine for over 10 years. We were also among the strongest supporters of recently established US-Ukraine Digital Alliance, a Washington, D.C.- based Trade and Marketing Association to promote cooperation between American and Ukrainian Hi-Tech companies.

As you can see, we're not an independent observer. It's very important for us to closely watch any in-country trends that might adversely affect our bottom line.

That is why we're so pleased to witness true economic growth in Ukraine over the last two years. This country is one of the largest emerging markets in Europe with a dramatic expansion of domestic demand. In our field alone, we see an annual increase of PC sales in Ukraine at 20% with amount of Internet users at 40% growth per year.

An unprecedented interest shown by major Fortune 500 companies for the first Annual US-Ukraine IT Conference is a great example of positive business climate changes in Ukraine.

These changes are directly related to an environment without state price regulation, dramatically reduced state interference into economy, much higher transparency in business transactions and bidding process, welcoming trends for foreign investment (ExIMBank has recently reintroduced its programs in Ukraine), easier access to the Ukrainian market for American Hi-Tech products with streamlined licensing and certification procedures, willingness of the legislator to tackle issues of intellectual property protection, copyright, etc.

These changes were very well received by the European Union and Canada, major U.S. competitors in Ukraine.

These changes are being closely monitored by some other Newly Independent States with recently removed non-market economy status by the U.S. Government. We're very excited about long-term outlook for the U.S. companies in Ukraine. The revocation of NME status for Ukraine will create new business opportunities for American corporations.

We would be willing to contribute to the public hearing, which the U.S. Department of Commerce plans to hold on this issue.

Sincerely,
Eric Candle
President