



Event	Interview
Interviewee	<u>Mr. Grigoriy Surkis</u> Football Federation of Ukraine, President
Date	23 April 2010

During your speech in UEFA Headquarters in Nyon this month you've said that you resigned from an unofficial position of the advocate for Ukrainian government. Does it mean that you are so confident in it? Or did you decide to wash your hands of it?

There is no intrigue in my words. I gained our right to host the EURO 2012 through a certain suffering, I did all possible in order it to come to Ukraine. I kept it when there were real threats to lose it. And today I don't have any complaints or antipathy against those people that are responsible for supporting the EURO 2012 project within their administrative functions.

Ukraine finally got an opportunity to develop the proper level EURO 2012 infrastructure. After five years of break, a conflict-free government principal line was restored. For the first time, a position of Vice Premier Minister responsible for the EURO 2012 was introduced. Financial ratings of Ukraine are being revived, and thanks to that we already received first signals of interest from foreign investors. Our business talks with IMF were renewed on the fourth tranche of their loan, as well as our cooperation plan for 2011 was outlined.

A decree on establishing the National Agency was adopted. And I consider it reasonable, as this Agency is empowered with a general contractor functions and has its separate treasury account. Now there is no necessity to run in between of different ministries to receive endless visas. We saved a huge amount of time, in which we are really short today.

Previous president could not reach the same language with the Prime Minister, and UEFA quite often addressed me as an advocate of our government. And I played this role in a fitting manner. Vasyunnyk was in between two fires, but Kollesnikov has a strong advantage – he is on trusting relations with all participants of EURO 2012 preparation process.

I am fully ready to support the new Vice Prime Minister and to help him to understand all nuances that will face him in this project. Football Federation of Ukraine together with Local Organizing Committee EURO 2012 are ready to support him in all possible ways.

In Nyon, Mr. Kolesnikov has outlined his action plan for the next several months, as well as for a long time prospective. Mr. Kolesnikov stated that the State has found financial funds required for the EURO 2012 preparations. These funds were included in the EURO State Program approved on April 14. The State plan also provides with a strategy how to lead the Lviv stadium and airport construction projects out of their current stagnation phase. Next to that Government has presented further steps on Kiev and Donetsk airports development. In other words, the Government Manager of the EURO 2012 has demonstrated a full confidence that all infrastructure developments would be successfully accomplished in time.



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All stated above gives me a strong belief that the EURO 2012 preparation is in safe hands. That is why I have stated that I resigned from the role of being the advocate for Ukrainian government. Finally, I have a moral right to shift myself to performing those duties that are within the direct competence of the FFU President in the light of the EURO 2012 project. But in case of necessity I am always ready to assist the Government, if it requires my certain knowledge and authority.