

From: [Kent George P](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Zlochevskiy Meeting Request - [REDACTED] Atlantic Council, and Blue Star
Date: Tuesday, November 22, 2016 8:28:34 AM

+ Ambassador, since there is a Blue Star angle, and Blue Star CEO [REDACTED] is coming to town in early December looking for a meeting

There's a back story to this, and it involves not just [REDACTED], but also [REDACTED] and the Blue Star Strategy Duo of [REDACTED] (CEO) and [REDACTED] (COO). Bottom line for the purposes of [REDACTED] meeting [REDACTED] is that I went thru the Zlochevsky saga exhaustively with [REDACTED] in September in Kyiv when he came for YES, including why the embassy felt so strongly, and how USG interests had gotten crosswise with Blue Star Strategies' apparent, but not entirely clear, relationship with Zlochevsky/Burisma.

When [REDACTED] came thru town in May, [REDACTED] mentioned to me that [REDACTED] whom [REDACTED] characterized as an old colleague who had worked in this area (Central and Eastern Europe), would like to talk to me about what the embassy knew about Zlochevsky. I gave [REDACTED] as background an earful about the whole Zlochevsky saga – the \$23 million in frozen assets from presumptive corrupt deals selling oil/gas licenses from MinEcology, the 6 months [REDACTED] put into the case in an asset recovery effort as the first possible recovery in the wake of the high profile US-UK-World Bank initiative, the PGO under Team Yarema closing the case, transferring it back to [REDACTED] as a case against the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] rather than the Minister (Zlochevsky), and issuing a letter to the lawyers on Christmas Day 2014 that there was no active case open on Zlochevsky so his lawyers could flip it to the UK judge and get the money unfrozen and transferred out of the UK before the [REDACTED] knew what was happening, my "entertaining" engagement of Yarema's top deputy Danylenko in February 2015 when I asked him how much was the bribe to shut the case and who took it (\$7 million, he claimed to me cheerfully, noting that P2 had asked the same two questions, before saying he knew Zlochevsky for 20 years, had him on speed dial, noted he was in Dubai, and asked if I wished to speak to him), and that the real issue to my mind was that someone in Washington needed to engage VP Biden quietly and say that his son Hunter's presence on the Burisma board undercut the anti-corruption message the VP and we were advancing in Ukraine, b/c Ukrainians heard one message from us and then saw another set of behavior, with the family association with a known corrupt figure whose company was known for not playing by the rules in the oil/gas sector. I told [REDACTED] I would be happy to share all of that with [REDACTED] were [REDACTED] to call me. [REDACTED] said that [REDACTED] understood [REDACTED] was doing due diligence on exactly this issue, to make the case to Hunter. I never heard from [REDACTED].

Until, that is, a much different discussion this fall, when [REDACTED] cold-called me regarding Lutsenko's proposed visit to Washington, which Lutsenko postponed, in which she mentioned [REDACTED] and Blue Star CEO [REDACTED] were Atlantic Council members, knew [REDACTED] well, were in the Ukraine game, and to complain about my engagement with Lutsenko (which [REDACTED] mischaracterized). [REDACTED] also referred to Zlochevsky by his first name, Russian version, making clear the relationship was more than a passing one. [REDACTED] then engaged the Ambassador.

When I heard days later (from ECON) that a USAID implementer had agreed to a public-private

sponsorship with Burisma of a contest for journalistic integrity in the energy sector, we pulled the plug immediately.

██████████, when █████ came for YES, came over to my house for dinner. After running thru all the substance, █████ asked about what had happened with █████, who was speaking very ill of me. I laid out what I had told █████ earlier re Zlochevsky/Burisma, as well as the "frank exchange of opinions" with █████ re: the Lutsenko trip, and the co-sponsored promo that had been pulled. For his part, █████ had told █████ that █████ description of me did not match █████ experience with me in Kyiv a decade ago and since. As I recall, █████ had not at the time known the full backstory of the Blue Star relationship with Zlochevsky. █████ had stated to me that █████ "did not represent Nikolai's interests in the U.S., since he had retained separate legal counsel, and knew when █████ would need to file a foreign agent report." The particular wording of her statement, and █████ follow up inquiry the next week to USAID pushing for an explanation of why the promo partnership with Burisma had been suspended suggested the interest representation may not have been in the US but did exist), or Burisma's reputation.

Enjoy the discussion.

Sensitivity: ██████████

Classification: ██████████

Classified By: Marie Yovanovitch, Ambassador, U.S. Embassy Kyiv

Derived From: Derived from previous message in thread.

Declassify On: 2026/11/22

From: ██████████
Sent: Tuesday, November 22, 2016 1:29 PM
To: ██████████
Cc: ██████████; Kent, George P
Subject: Zlochevskiy Meeting Request

All – replying here in a bit more detail. On second reading, we realized that █████ was asking to meet to talk about Zlochevskiy, rather than have █████ meet with him directly (which would be tough, as his U.S. visa has been revoked!) While we have a lot of caution about Zlochevskiy, detailed below, we think it is worth doing to essentially caution █████ about all of the sensitivity. I don't think Atlantic Council wants its name attached to this.

Zlochevskiy is wanted in Ukraine for crimes related to corruption, but the case against him has been marred by even more corruption: Ukrainian officials controversially unfroze \$23 million in a London bank account, and it disappears into the offshore system. Ambassador █████ spoke publicly about this as an example of corruption within the PGO.

Despite his ruined name in Ukraine, Zlochevskiy is actively campaigning for public rehabilitation, particularly with us. He has been sending letters to Ambassadors Yovanovitch and Pyatt for months asserting his innocence; we have declined to get involved. I should note that there were two American members of the Burisma board: Hunter Biden and █████ █████ was recently indicted in a federal fraud case.

USAID no longer has a partnership with Burisma, and we have not met with its officials in years. More than one U.S. firm in the energy sector has told us the Burisma is still doing business "the old way" and little has changed despite Zlochevskiy's departure from the scene.

Best,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

U.S. Embassy Kyiv

[REDACTED] [@state.sgov.gov](mailto:[REDACTED]@state.sgov.gov)

Sensitivity: [REDACTED]

Classification: [REDACTED]

Classified By: Marie Yovanovitch, Ambassador, U.S. Embassy Kyiv

Derived From: DSCG 11-01

Declassify On: 2026/11/22

Sensitivity: [REDACTED]

Classification: [REDACTED]

Classified By: Marie Yovanovitch, Ambassador, U.S. Embassy Kyiv

Derived From: Derived from previous message in thread.

Declassify On: 2026/11/22