Flash Report

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Disclosure of ultimate beneficiaries



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Companies will be obliged to disclose their ultimate beneficiaries

On 14 October 2014, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine adopted the draft Law* on determining ultimate beneficiaries of Ukrainian legal entities.

Among the key points are the following:

- Companies (including existing) will be obliged to disclose their ultimate beneficiaries and inform the state registrar within six months of the Law coming into force. Companies are also obliged to inform the state registrar when there is a change of ultimate beneficiary.
- The ultimate beneficiary is recognised as the person who, regardless of formal ownership, has decisive influence over the management or business activities of a legal entity, or owns 25% or more of its charter capital.
- Failure to notify the registrar will result in administrative penalty for the Company's Head or the persons who are authorized to act on behalf of the Company.

It is unclear how the above will apply for publicly-traded companies.

In our view, the Law will have significant consequences for all Ukrainian companies.

We will keep you updated on further developments in this area.

*The draft Law on amendments to several legislative acts of Ukraine re determining ultimate beneficiaries of legal persons and public figures dated 14 October 2014 (Reg. No. 5114)

