



**A new Ukraine free of corruption and ecological destruction
Destroying the Carpathian mountains for oligarchs' interests cannot be part of it**

*Press conference, 15.00, Tuesday 20th of June
Derbyshire House, St Chad's Street, London, WC1H 8AG*

As Ukraine struggles for its survival and attention shifts to the desperately needed reconstruction of villages, towns and the infrastructure of our country after the war, plans are being drawn up to destroy some of the richest biodiversity in Europe and one of the most intact and beautiful stretches of our mountain landscape. The Svydovets massif in the far west of Ukraine is the target of a madcap scheme by politically-connected oligarchs to build one of the biggest ski stations in Europe, capable of receiving 65,000 tourists at one time.

This oligarch-driven project is just the kind of development Ukraine does not need and would divert funds from other projects which could help build a healthy, sustainable, successful future for the people of the Carpathians.

The Free Svydovets Initiative Group is one of the most active ecological movements in Ukraine. For several years we have denounced the massive and often illegal deforestation in the Carpathian Mountains. Since 2018 we have exposed the role of certain oligarchs involved in some of Ukraine's worst corruption and financial fraud.

We welcome the Ukrainian and international decision-makers and donors who are gathering in London on 21-22 June 2023. The future of Ukraine must be based on green, ecological criteria and free of corruption. Funding a destructive ski station at Svydovets would be akin to war-profiteering, lining the pockets of businessmen who should know better.

The Free Svydovets Initiative Group has an alternative vision for the sustainable development of this mountain range: the protection of the region in a new nature reserve with low-impact tourist activities which would boost the local economy. A petition, « Protect the wildlife of Svydovets ! » was recently posted on the website of President Zelensky where it obtained over 25,000 signatures.

President Zelensky and the Ukrainian authorities must act to put a stop to this highly damaging project, which sends all the wrong signals. International donors and investors must prevent their financial support from being abused for questionable oligarchs' interests.

Speakers at this press conference before the opening of the donors' conference will provide information on the two key aspects of this affair: the environmental impacts of the planned project, and the tainted record of the oligarchs who are behind it.

Speakers:

Viola von Cramon, MEP, Vice-chair women of [Delegation to the EU-Ukraine Parliamentary Association Committee](#)

Apolline Gagnat, Partner at [Bourdon & Associés](#)

Martina Boguslavets, Executive Director at [Institute of Legislative Ideas](#)

Yulia Ovchynnykova, Member of Ukrainian Parliament (to be confirmed)

Iris Del Sol, [Free Svydovets Group](#)