



YOUR FULL NAME:

Maksym Barabash

YOUR JOB TITLE:

Managing Director

YOUR COMPANY:

Philip Morris Ukraine & Moldova

YOUR BRIEF BIOGRAPHY (250-300 words):

My professional career began in 2001 in the Engineering department at Philip Morris Ukraine and subsequently I held senior roles in finance, strategic planning, and business development across Ukraine and the Middle East. After nearly a decade in the Middle East Head Office, I returned to Ukraine in 2018 as Director of Finance & Administration, where I drove strategy, optimized resource allocation, and implemented a new finance operating model. Appointed Managing Director in February 2022, I have led Philip Morris Ukraine through a period of significant challenges, engaging directly with state officials to support fiscal policy and external affairs. I remain dedicated to fostering a stable investment climate in Ukraine and actively contribute to initiatives for rebuilding and advancing the Ukrainian economy.

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

Why do you think membership in the American Chamber of Commerce is important for businesses operating in Ukraine?

Membership in the American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) offers companies operating in Ukraine a unique platform to advocate for a stable and predictable business environment. AmCham serves as a credible business association, fostering a productive dialogue between the private sector and state authorities. This role has become even more significant during wartime, as businesses in Ukraine navigate unprecedented challenges. Through AmCham, companies can effectively collaborate to promote economic resilience, uphold a stable regulatory environment, and drive essential reforms, all while contributing to the nation's recovery and growth. Membership enables businesses to collectively push forward agendas that will not only stabilize the current economic climate but also set the foundation for a prosperous, post-war Ukraine.

What motivates you to be the Chamber Board Member?

As Managing Director of Philip Morris Ukraine, I am deeply committed to improving Ukraine's investment climate, advocating for harmonization of Ukraine's legislation and taxation with the EU, and promoting a transparent regulatory environment. I believe that AmCham, with its ability to amplify the voice of the private sector, is uniquely positioned to lead these efforts. Serving on the Board would allow me to leverage my 23 years of experience and bring a strategic focus to these goals, as well as to support initiatives that will build a more resilient and sustainable business climate. It would be an honor to work alongside other Members of the Board to further AmCham's mission in creating a conducive environment for growth and collaboration between business and government.

Why do you feel you are qualified to serve on the Chamber Board? What skills would you bring to the Board?

With over 23 years at Philip Morris in senior finance, strategy, and business development roles across Ukraine and the Middle East, I bring a deep understanding of complex regulatory landscapes and the skills to advocate for business interests effectively. My experience includes building effective dialogues with state officials, championing stable fiscal policies, and navigating high-stakes environments. This background, combined with strong, impactful communication, leadership, and strategic problem-solving abilities, positions me to contribute decisively to the Chamber's mission, especially as we work to strengthen Ukraine's business climate.

How have you been active in the Chamber over the course of the last two years?

Over the past two years, I have actively contributed to the AmCham's Solid Excisable Goods Taskforce, engaging in regular discussions with high-level state officials to represent the industry's position on important issues. I have also supported various AmCham's initiatives aimed at making the business community's voice heard, helping to shape policies that contribute to a stable operating environment in Ukraine. By participating in these efforts, I have worked closely with the AmCham to ensure that the interests of the business community are strongly represented.

What activity or Committee would you participate in and be responsible for?

Given my background, I am particularly well-suited to take a lead role in the Tax, Food & Beverage, or Sustainability Committees. My experience advocating for a predictable tax environment aligns with the goals of the Tax Committee, while my expertise in corporate responsibility and sustainable business practices would be invaluable to the Sustainability Committee. I am ready to take responsibility in these areas, contributing to the development of policies that will benefit both the private sector and Ukraine as a whole.

Are you a member of the Board of Directors of similar associations?

While I am not currently a member of the Board of similar associations, I have consistently engaged in leadership roles and collaborative initiatives within AmCham and Philip Morris. These experiences have equipped me with the insights and skills necessary to serve effectively on AmCham's Board and to help guide the Chamber's strategic direction in Ukraine.