

Original video in Russian: *Бизнес Платона за деньги Энергоатома*

n-vestigate.

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[<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RrSVf-QM7Qs&feature=youtu.be>]

Transcript: Scheme creation business of Platon at expense of Energoatom

by Inna Civirjik (Moldova) and Tatyana Rihtun (Ukraine)

Unique schemes invented to steal from Energoatom threaten security of the country until today. But it seems that the specialists on money movement from state pocket to personal one lost the key player when on July 25 in the centre of Kiev during special operation by Security Service of Ukraine Viacheslav Platon was detained.

It is hardly possible that pedestrians who were actively shooting detention knew that they are facing a man, who is called «Raider #1 in CIS». Journalists proved his participation in several criminal schemes.

Thus in 2014 journalists of OCCRP (project on investigation of corruption and organized crime) revealed transborder financial pyramid that helped to remove huge funds from Russia, the so-called "Landromat". This concerned multiple resolutions of Moldovan courts, producing one decision after another that some Russian company had to pay huge amount of money to offshore company. Only during four years of existence of such financial laundry they removed about 20 billion dollars from Russia.

In Moldova his name also appeared linked to the so-called "[Theft of the Century](#)", when during 2011-2014 the whole billion dollars was withdrawn from three Moldovan banks and transferred abroad.

And although officially nobody laid charges against Viacheslav Platon, three years ago he preferred to leave Moldova. During all that time he lived in Ukraine comfortably and it is worth to say he lived grand style – in one of upmarket settlements close to Kiev. Come to know – it is village Lesniki. Viacheslav Platon rented a private residence here for his family on Podlesnaya Street. There are monograms «B» and «П» on his gate.

In addition, there is the residence of former deputy minister of internal affairs of Ukraine Sergey Chebotar nearby and a close relative of the former head of Security Service of Ukraine, Alexandr Turchinov.

But in summer last year quiet life at the outskirts of Kiev started reverse record. When on June 22 prosecutor of prosecution office on fight against corruption of Moldova issued order on laying charges against Viacheslav Platon as a defendant in the case of money laundering and fraud in banking sphere. The very next day the court issued a writ against him, Interpol put him on international wanted list. In less than two days Platon was lying face on asphalt close to the office of his lawyer.

The same day a notification of Prosecutor-General's Office of Ukraine appeared stating that «a suspect is detained according to procedure envisaged by Criminal Procedure Code with the goal of his further extradition to Moldova».

Reference to notification of Prosecutor General's Office in facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/gp.gov.ua/posts/707426439395621>

For Ukrainians the most important fact in that notification was the phrase about the fact that the «Prosecutor General's Office will examine whether the prisoner was involved into crime on the territory of Ukraine». Here everybody was holding breath in the hope that the role of Platon in wealth accumulation at expense of the state company Energoatom would be duly appreciated.

To understand what we are talking about, let us leave Viacheslav Platon in the arms of Ukrainian justice and go back to far away 90th. This is settlement Shelkovo at the east of Crimean peninsula. Here are the ruins of not finished Crimean Nuclear power plant. (*The footage of Crimean NPP is available in the archive of Chernomorka*).

After explosion at Chernobyl NPP in 1986, the plans to enrich Crimea with peaceful atom were sharply backed off and the equipment of almost finished NPP they decided to sell as scrap metal. But everything remained to rot in Crimea until in 1996 National nuclear energy Production Company Energoatom was created. In a year Platon appeared there.

Oleg Polishiuk, director of the center on prevention and counteraction to corruption of Energoatom company (00:03:59 - 00:04:58):

The start of this story is 1997. 97th is a huge problem of money at electricity market. Energoatom received about 5% of hard cash for produced electricity. In 1997 Yuzhnoukrainska NPP had a need to buy a turbo generator rotor, and Moldova had great debts for electricity to Yuzhnoukrainska NPP. Oleg Belopolsky, who has come to visit director of the power plant and suggested to pay the debt of Moldova with the help of the rotors of turbogenerators, which the power plant needed at that moment. For the first time the name Viacheslav Platon appeared there. Viacheslav Platon together with Belopolsky has come to director of Yuzhnoukrainska power plant and suggested to implement this scheme.

In Shelkino JV «Crimea -ceramics» sells four rotors for NPP turbines as scrap metal for 17 000 hrn. The cargo is taken to Transnistria for several days and it comes to Ukraine as the property of the company Getwin Systems from Ireland. In Zaporozhie the equipment is rendered marketable. And OOO "БВД" resells it to Yuzhnoukrainska NPP as if repayment of debt of Moldova for consumed electricity for 18million dollars.

When Energoatom has paid almost half of the amount, the administrative court of Kiev ruled to pay 11 million dollars more and in the court of St. Petersburg the fake debt increased to 25 million dollars.

Such payment could not be unnoticed and in 2000 inspectors have come to Yuzhnoukrainska NPP.

Oleg Polishiuk (00:05:48 - 00:07:07):

Inspectors noted the incompatibility of the purchased rotor to technical requirements of Yuzhnoukrainska NPP. This concerned the drawings according to which the blades were produced. The length of the blades was different. Rotor delivered by the company БВД, and which as if was sold by Irish company, it was a rotor from not finished Crimean nuclear power plant of the town Shelkino.

Before bringing these rotors and selling to Yuzhnoukrainska NPP they were brought from Crimea to the city of Zaporozhie to Zaporozhie transformer plant and there a group of workers rendered them marketable.

Investigation determined that the documents accompanying these rotors were fake. It has been discovered that the plant producer, which is Leningrad ceramic plant, did not provide passports, neither it provided guarantee of quality, nor provided anything. On all these documents there were fake signatures.

During the investigation, the **lawyer Alexey Sviatogor** to whom Viacheslav Platon applied with proposal of cooperation confirmed this information (00:07:17 - 00:07:44):

Let's work because we have problems with energy companies. The main enemy was announced, procedural enemy for him, for Platon Viacheslav Nikolayevich, and affiliated to him enterprises БВД, Atomremont, it was Energoatom. It is debt collection. But very specific debts. Off the record. These are fake debts, phony, created according to fake documents.

Nevertheless for the phony debts in 2002 according to the decision of Administrative court of Kiev Energoatom was penalized in the amount of 60 million hrn. In favor of ООО «БВД». It is five thousand times more that primary price of scrap metal in the form of Crimean rotors. As strange as it may seem Kiev Administrative Court of Appeal supported this and then the Supreme Administrative Court of Ukraine confirmed this decision.

And only almost after ten years of perpetual legal proceedings with questionable offshore company from Ireland, the state company-monopolist has got proof of fraud.

Oleg Polishiuk (00:08:20 - 00:08:40):

When we received the answer we were dumbfounded because the answer was the following, that Getwin Systems in Ireland ceased its activity in 1997. When we paid them money the company did not exist

It is already later in the materials of criminal case that he will read, that 5 000 000 hrn. transferred to the account of ООО “БВД” were removed from the account by unidentified by investigation individuals and that they just bought US dollars cash.

In 2008 senior investigator on priority cases of the Chief investigation department of Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine initiated [criminal case](#) in response to taking possession of funds and title of ДП НАЕК «Energoatom».

In a month the [criminal case was initiated against director of «ООО БВД»](#), which went nowhere.

But nobody wanted to retreat, fixers continued going to courts and multiply multimillion debts of Energoatom with new judgments.

Alexey Sviatogor (00:09:20 - 00:09:36):

Everybody knows that this document is fake, but the mechanism is such that there is judgment and it is not cancelled. And until it is cancelled you can square off with it, go begging, contest, and break through. During that time they would grab something here, some asset.

And instead of exposed they introduce new companies with similar names and court proceedings are transferred to other countries.

Oleg Polishiuk (00:09:45): *They quickly opened another company in USA and named it Getwin Systems LLC. In 2005 the company Getwin Systems only LLC, filed a suit in the city of St. Petersburg against БВД and quietly collected from them. Only it was not 10 million dollars, but 25 million dollars They themselves collected debt of Energoatom They managed to do that, to go directly to Energoatom and involve it into the courts of St. Petersburg, trying to collect from Energoatom 25 million dollars.*

Journalist: *How did they manage to find out that all these companies are connected to Platon?*

Polishiuk: *He did not hide that БВД – it is his topic, that Remington that appeared in 2004 is also his topic. He did not specially hide it. We paid 4,2 million to virtual Remington and to be exact to Platon. That is why Energoatom was several times at the brink of failure of our programs and on the brink of failure of supply for nuclear units, when all the deliveries from Russian Federation were blocked. (00:10:52)*

The above-mentioned company Remington Worldwide Limited LLC – it is already another story with a lot of courts in Moldova, Ukraine and Russian Federation organized according to the same but even more confusing scheme. Here they were beating out the debts from Zaporozhie NPP.

By the way Viacheslav Platon participation in the scheme was confirmed by the former director of НИИ «Electrokeramic» Geidar Imanov who was interrogated by law enforcement bodies in 2006. Platon came to him in person in the name of Remington to conclude a deal on buying the right to demand Energoatom 25 mln dollars. The real debt was 10 times less. As it follows from the minutes of interrogation Platon paid 600 thousand dollars for the right to demand the money from Energoatom.

And there was Khmel'nitska NPP also and several Ukrainian oblenergo. Even Stockholm Arbitration considered the case. Energoatom received the last judgment from Stockholm in Autumn 2016, and it was happy that partially managed to protect its rights.

Oleg Polishiuk (00:11:58 - 00:12:15):

It is craziness of the world legal system, when impostor creates virtual reality but surrounded by the documents, formal ones that have the force of legal consequences, he recreates this virtual reality.

By the time of review of the case about Viacheslav Platon detention in Ukraine his attorneys had the information that he did not commit any crimes on the territory of Ukraine. And then clarification of his guilt comes across dilemma: who is standing in the court, the citizen of Moldova Platon Viacheslav or the citizen of Ukraine Viacheslav Kobalev.

One attorney stated at press conference that his client refused from everything in favor of Ukraine.

Denis Shkiptan, attorney, Pravovest legal firm (00:12:45 - 00:13:04):

The fact was that he was the citizen of Moldova and the citizen of Russian Federation This fact really happened to be. But Kobalev Viacheslav Nikolayevich refused from citizenship of Russian Federation and citizenship of the Republic of Moldova.

Another well-known attorney claimed the opposite.

Ilya Novikov, attorney (00:13:08 - 00:13:11):

He has three passports. Yes, three passports: Moldovan, Ukrainian and Russian.

In the court the attorneys insisted, according to passport issued by Popilnyansky district unit of the Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in Zhitomir region, Platon is Ukrainian citizen. Platon himself was indignant.

Viacheslav Platon (00:13:25): *I don't understand what you are talking about, I don't understand what is the point of dispute. It is such malevolent abuse, such an obvious legal nihilism, that my hair stands on end. If today the court admits that I am not the citizen of Ukraine it is a crazy precedent. I have no criminal record; I even have information that I have no criminal record.*

Judge: *And where did you live all this time?*

Platon: *I lived in Ukraine for a very long time, and then I left.*

Judge: *When did you leave?*

Platon: *In 2009.*

Judge: *Which passport did you have?*

Platon: *I lived with this passport for 15 years. And today Mrs. Prosecutor, I am the citizen of Ukraine whether you like it or not, legally. (00:14:17)*

The prosecutor that filed suit insisted otherwise.

Prosecutor Romania Oruniak (00:14:22 - 00:14:58):

I ask to attach the copy of a letter of State Migration Service of Ukraine as for the fact, that it presents conclusions of the results of official investigation on the fact of issuance of passport of the citizen of Ukraine to the name of Kobalev V.M., 23 January 1973. The official investigation is considered concluded. Accordingly passport of the citizen of Ukraine should be eliminated according to established procedure.

We applied to Migration Service to get comments as for passport of Ukrainian citizen Platon-Kobalev to clarify circumstances of receiving this document by him, but press service of the office refused, making a reference to personal data protection.

Then our film crew went to Zhitomir region to look for the village Veliky Lisovtsy, where as Platon claimed at the court, he was registered. We go to village council with our questions. To our surprise everybody knows about Viacheslav Platon because Migration Service half a year before his detention started asking local authorities about him.

Igor Anatolievich Korpan, chairman of village council (00:15:35 - 00:15:55):

From New Year they started sending us these letters. Whether he lives here? But we haven't got such. We probably have sent ten letters.

Surprised at such attention the chairman of village council started to ask, how comes that among his villagers there is one of the richest men of Moldova.

Igor Korpan (00:16:07): *I ask, where did you get such relative? He says that she was asked to provide residence for him at somebody's then she provided residence for him at her place. Pensioner, she used to work here as a secretary. She organized his residence permit for him and in 2002 she cancelled that permit and until now she did not see him any more*

Journalist: *Look here has he got residence permit as Platon?*

Korpan: *At once yes. Later he somehow changed his name. (00:16:37)*

As we found out during the four months while he had residence permit in the village of Velyky Lysovtsy Platon managed to change his soviet passport to Ukrainian one and to change his surname to his wife's. Sure it did not work without participation of a good man – Head of department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the town Popelnya, now the former one. He also got a term for “unlawful issuance of passports of the citizens of Ukraine”. Was there among them Viacheslav Platon?

Journalist (00:17:03): *Whether you know this person? Take it like it is more convenient. And according to our information you asked the head of village council to provide residence permit for him at his place.*

Former militiaman: *I don't remember him by his face. Said it is necessary to register him and to change passport. At that time he had residence permit in Kiev, but this head of passport department that worked, we were friends of Shevchenkosky, he already did not work, says I cannot go to my girls already, to change and so on. He had residence permit in Kiev, I don't remember exactly at what address. But I said to him when he arrived, you cancel your residence in Kiev and I'll change your passport for a new type then.*

Journalist: *Everything looks complicated but then the question comes, why was it necessary to find the way to be lost at the vast space of Ukraine and why not to make it in the capital?*

Former militiaman: *He could not get residence permit with that passport. I don't know how he has got residence permit in Kiev. May be he had some fake residence permit. If he had some fake residence permit he could not go with that passport to change it. And he also wanted to change his surname. (00:18:13)*

The former militiaman does not want to recognize that when changing name the bodies of Ministry of Internal Affairs organize check of personality by all means to find out whether there was misdemeanor. And in Popelne the check was conducted formally, in the case there is even characteristic from chairman of the village council, that Platon Kabalev really lives in the village and he is characterized in a very good way.

Let's hope Themis will sort everything out. The more so that Platon's attorneys are actively suing the State Migration Service of Ukraine. Only Platon does not participate in these meetings from long time ago.

On August 26, 2016 Ukraine immediately extradited Viacheslav Platon to the republic of Moldova, not giving him possibility to contest the decision of ГМЦУ on refusal to provide refugee status, with this not finishing the procedure of extradition check.

Interfax attorneys' press conference, Alexey Shevchuk, attorney (00:19:08 - 00:19:50):

We were not given the possibility to have the meeting to the end and sign all the procedural documents. To sign appeal to the decision of Pechersk court, that applied extradition decision to him. At 7pm in the evening two unknown vehicles left the territory, they were two Volkswagen, they left the territory of detention center of Security Service of Ukraine. Already late in the evening we found out that Mr. Kobalev is on the territory of Moldova.

According to the law the defendant had a right to appeal, but prosecution did not give him his right, and that allowed the attorneys to speak about political persecution and violation of human rights.

Alexey Shevchuk (00:20:01 - 00:20:50):

How much to establish the fact of political persecution. The fact of political persecution is that fact which will give us possibility in future to fight in European court on human rights. And I would like to assure you that those violations that exist today are enough to state the fact of illegal transfer of citizen Kobalev to another state. But we'll continue fighting because today Convention on human rights and Constitution of Ukraine and existing Code are violated.

And really until in Moldova they clarify the guilt of Viacheslav Platon in provided accusations, in Ukraine in parallel two processes are going on, in which he appears as a victim.

This investigation has been carried out with the support of n-vestigate, an investigative network by n-ost and four partners from Eastern Europe that implements cooperative, which more deeply anchors investigative journalism within each country's respective society.