

Victor Makushin: "I want the power in Russia be honest and competent"

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<http://cjn.com.cy/viktor-makushin-ya-xochu-chtoby-vlast-v-rossii-by-la-chestnoj-i-kompetentnoj>



The 6th of April Order by the Supreme Court of Cyprus suspended the Limassol District Court decision dated by the 30th of March, 2012 on international arrest warrant issuance and extradition the President of Industrial Group MAIR Mr. Victor Makushin to Russia.

Mr. Makushin has lived in Cyprus since 2009. The local police declared the businessman as WANTED to arrest and expel him to Russia right immediately after the Limassol court verdict without waiting for

appealing this decision in the Supreme Court.

We remind that the Russian authorities request on the MAIR President extradition was not the first one. The Limassol Court decision dated by September the 7th, 2011 rejected the Russian Federation claim on the businessman extradition considering preferred accusations towards him as groundless.

The MAIR Industrial Group was founded in 1992. During the period from 1998 to 2002 the Group acquired over 20 industrial enterprises in metal manufacture, mechanical and chemical engineering, timber and miscellaneous industries. In 2008 the volume of sales of products manufactured by the Group enterprises exceeded 100mln dollars per month. About 7 thousand people in Russia, Ukraine and Poland worked at the plants and factories, and the MAIR Group was at the most favourable and beneficial peak of its development. In 2009 this industrial group MAIR was jeopardised by the raids from the RF state structures. As a result the IG MAIR was deprived of the most part of its assets.

In full – http://moscow-post.com/economics/gosudarevy_rejdery_vzjali_mair8398/

According to the rating of the Russian billionaires made by the magazine "Finance" in 2008 Mr. Victor Makushin was at No. 208 position with the property evaluated in 3,5 billion rubles. But by the middle of 2010 the businessman actually was deprived of almost all of his assets and had to leave Russia. The President of the MAIR Industrial Group is known as a consistent opponent and critic of the current power in Russia.

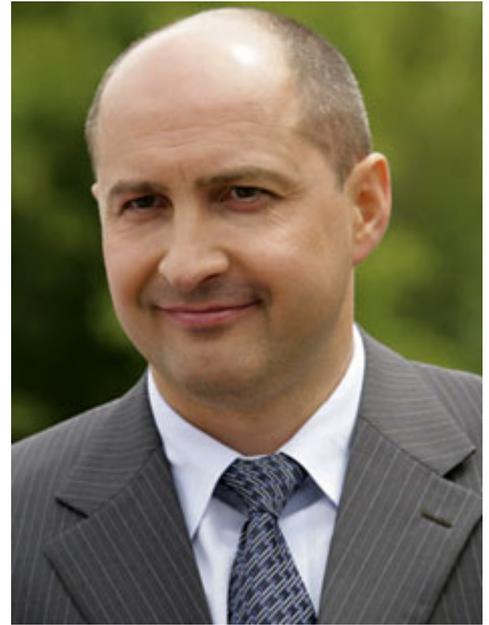
We came into contact with Mr. **Victor Makushin** and asked him to clarify some circumstances of this case.

- What fact, in your opinion, served as a catalyst for the new court examination in March the 30th, because the decision on rejection in extraditing was approved several months ago? Why is it now when the Russian authorities requested the arrest warrant issuance and extradition in the Cyprus court?

- The economics of Cyprus faces growing problems. The Government of Cyprus needs money. Recently Russia has granted Cyprus a financial loan in amount of 2, 5 billion Euros. One can easily suppose that in connection with granted financial assistance many leaders of Cyprus feel obliged to execute any wishes of Russia's authority. I even assume that execution of these requests is fraught with and leads to trampling democratic freedoms and violation of human rights. It is acceptable to be considered as a democratic and rightful state. But the money is in acute need...

- What is the statement of the Supreme Court decision? Is it a final decision?

- I don't grasp the particulars of the Cyprus legislation. My advocate said that the arrest warrant had been suspended. And by means of which documents, I don't know.



- Why was everything executed in such a hurry, (the police hastened to announce a person as wanted without his first appealing to the Supreme Court)? Is there any explanation for such promptness? What is your supposition?

- As far as I know the quickness became the consequence of Mrs. Luizidu, the public prosecutor, activity regarding my case. This lady is a very unusual woman. Having got an opportunity to watch this lady during the trial I came to a persuasion that she becomes happy while the defendant feels unwell and suffers. Even, if it is evident for her that the defendant is not guilty. I believe that such behaviour of an official person is not a positive feature of the Office of Public Prosecutor of Cyprus. I think that after changing power in Russia an opportunity can arise for the persons of Russia previously persecuted by Mrs. Luizidu to institute criminal proceedings against her. For instance, I was compelled to sign the papers on my assets assigning in amount of 500-600 million dollars to the representatives of the Russian state structures ("Sberbank-Kapital") who visited me in prison. I had to sign just because owing to Mrs. Luizidu's diligence I found myself in the jail. I hope that further investigation will reveal the degree of so called disinterested wish of Mrs. Luizidu to keep me imprisoned and issue arrest warrants one after another in a row.

- What was the announcement on your search necessary for, on the whole? Is your home address not known by the police? Or is it such a mandatory procedure?

- I am not an expert in procedural criminal law of Cyprus. But I have noticed one coincidence: hardly had an information on my problems appeared, I immediately get an offer from some of close to the Russian authorities structures to sell cheap something of my assets still remaining from raider capture.

- And this time did they also bid anything?

- The other day they offered me to sell them a part of assets in Russia.

- Did you think of leaving for Great Britain, for example, the country which is considered more loyal with respect to the issues of extradition?

- First of all, I haven't got such an opportunity. Secondly, I don't lose my hope for proving my right for freedom in Cyprus. Cyprus positions itself as a democratic and European country, doesn't it?

- What are your plans regarding business? Are there any plans to take up political activity?

- If I am able to be free, I will rebuild my business for 2-3 years to the same level as it was before the attacks from the state structures of Russia.

And what about the politics? I can say that I've been in politics for 12 years. For instance, I was a sponsor for some of the current oppositionists 10 years ago! But, of course, after all those things I had to survive through I will do my best to come into politics seriously. I do want the power in Russia be honest and competent! And I will fight.