



# Tweede Kamer

DER STATEN-GENERAAL

Den Haag, 29 maart 2016

Voortouwcommissie:  
Volgcommissie(s):

**vaste commissie voor Buitenlandse Zaken**  
vaste commissie voor Defensie  
vaste commissie voor Europese Zaken  
vaste commissie voor Financiën

Activiteit:  
Datum:  
Tijd:  
Openbaar/besloten:

**Gesprek**  
woensdag 30 maart 2016  
13.45 – 14.30 uur  
openbaar

Onderwerp:

Minister van Financiën van Oekraïne, mevrouw Jaresko

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Agendapunt:

**gesprek met mevrouw Jaresko, minister van Financiën van Oekraïne (zie bijgevoegd cv)**

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Griffier: T.J.E. van Toor  
Activiteitnummer: 2016A01360

# Natalie Jaresko

**Natalie Ann Jaresko** (Ukrainian: Наталя Єнн Яресько; born 24 April 1965) is an American-born Ukrainian investment banker who has served as Ukraine's Minister of Finance since 2014.

## Personal life

Jaresko was born on 24 April 1965 in Elmhurst, Illinois,<sup>[1]</sup> the daughter of Mary (Maria), nee Budziak, and John (Ivan) Jaresko, both Ukrainian immigrants to the United States.<sup>[2][3][4]</sup> Her father was born in Poltava Oblast during the Holodomor, during which her kulak great-grandparents, Feofan and Natalia Brazhnyk, starved to death.<sup>[3][5]</sup>

Jaresko was raised with two siblings, Katherine and John,<sup>[2]</sup> in Wood Dale, Illinois.<sup>[3]</sup> Although her family spoke mainly English, she attended Ukrainian school on Saturdays and the Ukrainian Orthodox church on Sundays.<sup>[4]</sup> She is bilingual in English and Ukrainian. Residing in Ukrainian Village, Chicago,<sup>[6]</sup> she studied accounting at DePaul University, earning a B.Sc. degree in 1987.<sup>[7]</sup> She received a master's degree in public policy from the John F. Kennedy School of Government in 1989.<sup>[3]</sup> Jaresko divorced in 2011 and has two daughters, born around 1998 and 2004, who live with her in Ukraine.<sup>[3][4]</sup>

## Citizenship

Jaresko lived in Ukraine from 1992 to 2000, and returned in 2004.<sup>[8][9]</sup> She received Ukrainian citizenship on 2 December 2014, the day of her appointment as Minister of Finance of Ukraine.<sup>[10][11]</sup> She remains a U.S. citizen.<sup>[12]</sup> Although the U.S. does not prohibit dual citizenship, Ukrainian law states that she must renounce her non-Ukrainian citizenship(s) within two years.<sup>[13]</sup>

## Career

Jaresko held several economics-related positions at the US Department of State in Washington, D.C., and eventually coordinated activities of the State Department, the Departments of Commerce, Treasury, the United States Trade Representative, and Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) in their economic relations with the Soviet Union and its successors. As part of her work she interacted with the International Monetary Fund, World Bank, and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Later from 1992 to 1995, she was the first Chief of the Economic Section of the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine, responsible for strengthening economic cooperation between the two countries.<sup>[8]</sup> In 2003 she was awarded the Ukrainian Order of Princess Olga for her contributions to the Ukrainian economy.<sup>[14][15]</sup>

Between 2005 and 2010 Jaresko was a member of President Viktor Yushchenko's Foreign Investors Advisory Council and the Advisory Board of the Ukrainian Center for Promotion of Foreign Investment under the auspices of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine.<sup>[14][15]</sup>

Jaresko also held several key positions in the private business sector. In February 2001 she became President and Chief Executive Officer of Western NIS Enterprise Fund (WNISEF). In 2006, she co-founded Horizon Capital, where she served as a Managing Partner and Chief Executive Officer. In those positions she established and strengthened economic ties with Ukraine and Moldova.<sup>[14][15]</sup>

## References

1. **Jump up ^** "Яресько Наталя Іванівна" [Nataliya Ivanivna Yaresko: Biography] (in Ukrainian). *Iustration.co.ua*.

2. ^ Jump up to: <sup>a b</sup> "John Jaresko: Obituary". *Chicago Tribune*. 30 July 2001.
3. ^ Jump up to: <sup>a b c d e</sup> Forrest, Brett (5 March 2015). "The American Woman Who Stands Between Putin and Ukraine". *Bloomberg*.
4. ^ Jump up to: <sup>a b c</sup> Bergen, Kathy (10 April 2015). "Chicago child of immigrants takes on 'near-impossible' task in Ukraine". *Chicago Tribune*.
5. **Jump up** ^ Jaresko, John (18 September 2005). "See No Evil: The End of Ukrainian Famine Denial". *ukrainiangenocide.org*.
6. **Jump up** ^ Ellingsworth, James (8 July 2015). "Ukraine's finance chief Jaresko". Associated Press (Yahoo News). Archived from the original on 8 July 2015.
7. **Jump up** ^ Hayda, Julian (25 January 2015). "DePaul alumna Natalie Jaresko serves as Ukraine finance minister". *The DePaulia*. Archived from the original on 20 March 2015.
8. ^ Jump up to: <sup>a b</sup> "Foreign-born ministers in Ukraine's new cabinet". *BBC News*. 5 December 2014.
9. **Jump up** ^ Bigg, Claire (3 December 2014). "Who Are Ukraine's New Foreign-Born Ministers?". *RFERL*.
10. **Jump up** ^ "Poroshenko orders to grant citizenship to Jaresko, Kvitashvili and Abromavicius". *Interfax-Ukraine*. 2 December 2014.
11. **Jump up** ^ "Foreign technocrats given Ukrainian citizenship before cabinet vote". *Reuters*. 2 December 2014.
12. **Jump up** ^ Willershausen, Florian (2015.09.24) "Minister: Ukraine Making Comeback," *Chicago Tribune*, p. 16.
13. **Jump up** ^ Saakashvili Slams Georgian Decision To Revoke His Citizenship, *Radio Free Europe* (4 December 2015)
14. ^ Jump up to: <sup>a b c</sup> Executive Profile Natalie A. Jaresko CPA
15. ^ Jump up to: <sup>a b c</sup> Natalie A. Jaresko. *wnisefk.com*

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## Political offices

Preceded by  
**Oleksandr Shlapak**

**Minister of Finance**  
2014–present