

# *Western NIS Enterprise Fund*

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## **Press Release**

### **President Leonid Kuchma Recognizes Western NIS Enterprise Fund President and CEO for Contribution to Ukraine's Investment Climate**

**Kyiv, Ukraine – June 11, 2003** – President of Ukraine Leonid Kuchma presented the Order of Princess Olha, III level to Western NIS Enterprise Fund President and Chief Executive Officer Natalie A. Jaresko in recognition of her distinguished contribution toward the development of Ukraine's investment climate. The Order was bestowed upon Ms. Jaresko at the All-Ukrainian Meeting on Improvement of Investment Climate in Ukraine held in Kyiv on June 6, 2003. President Kuchma presided over the meeting which was attended by the Prime Minister, all oblast Governors, many city Mayors, key members of the Parliament and the Cabinet of Ministers, select foreign investors, members of President Kuchma's Foreign Investment Advisory Council, as well as representatives of many diplomatic missions and international financial institutions operating in Ukraine.

Established in 1997, the Princess Olha Order is one the most prestigious national awards recognizing women who have made remarkable achievements and contributions to the national, industrial, social, scientific, educational, cultural, charitable, and other spheres of life in Ukraine.

Under Ms. Jaresko's leadership and guidance, WNISEF has become the region's leading private equity fund that has successfully built a nearly \$80 million investment portfolio that includes 24 companies in Ukraine and Moldova. The majority of these companies lead the market in consistently providing high-quality, innovative products and services as a result of their enduring commitment to excellence in all business areas. WNISEF's portfolio companies set standards for other businesses in the region and serve as strong examples of success that attract further potential investment into economies.

Ms. Jaresko has spent over 11 years actively working to attract and promote foreign investment in Ukraine. After serving three years as the First Chief of Economic Section of the U.S. Embassy to Ukraine, where she focused attention on encouraging private businesses to invest their capital in the Ukrainian fast-growing emerging market, she has embarked on an effort to get directly involved in the country's private sector development by joining Western NIS Enterprise Fund (WNISEF). WNISEF was established by the U.S. Government in 1994 to support small- and medium-sized private businesses of Ukraine and Moldova by providing them with capital and the necessary management tools to evolve from entrepreneurial ventures into professionally managed companies.

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