

To Mr. P. Porosjenko, President of The Republic of Ukraine.

Hoorn, August 4th 2016,

Dear Mr. President Porosjenko,

In the night of January 9th to January 10th in 2005, 24 paintings and small silver items were stolen from The Westfries Museum in the town of Hoorn in The Netherlands,

A very important part of our collection was lost because of this theft. At the time of the robbery I was Council Member and therefore politically responsible. I have been active ever since to do everything possible to get the paintings back to the museum in Hoorn, where they belong.

Ten years after the theft of the paintings, a picture of one of the stolen paintings was placed on a Russian website. Up until that moment Interpol had not been successful in retrieving the paintings. Art detectives Arthur Brand and Alex Omhoff came close to finding them. Thanks to their thorough research, we now know the paintings are in the hands of organisations with strong ties to the Ukrainian Government. The Ukrainian Secret Service SBU, the Svoboda Party and the nationalistic OUN militia know where the paintings are and they may even be in possession of the paintings.

Of all of the 24 stolen paintings only 5 have been found. That makes the museum only partially happy as there are still 19 missing. It is an enormous disgrace that these 5 paintings still haven't been returned to the museum in Hoorn. Now the Ukrainian authorities ask for proof that the museum are the legitimate owners of these paintings. It seems like a 'game', which can't be for real!!

I therefore request you to end this unnecessary bureaucratic activity as soon as possible. Using your influence, you can make sure the 5 paintings will be sent back directly and the remaining 19 paintings will be tracked and returned to their rightful owners, The Westfries Museum of Hoorn.

As President of the Ukraine this is THE OPPORTUNITY to show the world you want to end corruption in your own country. So far you have not used this opportunity, unfortunately.

A referendum was held in The Netherlands on April 6th 2016 about the 'Association Treaty' of the EU with the Ukraine. Campaigns were held for and against the Treaty. No violence was used, as is possible in The Netherlands. Our party voted against The Treaty as long the paintings hadn't been returned. Our party placed an advertisement in the newspapers to vote against the treaty. A vast majority in The Netherlands (61.1%) and in Hoorn (65,9%) voted against. This result could have been prevented by dealing with the corruption and returning the stolen paintings in time.

By the way, you are welcome to come to Hoorn and return the paintings personally. Hoorn and its forgiving inhabitants will cordially welcome you and the 24 paintings. It is also a good opportunity to talk to our President and try and improve the relationship between The Netherlands and The Ukraine.

I call upon you to show us you're a man of honour. Please, return the paintings to our town.

If you take the requested action, there is no need to reply.

Kind regards, Roger Tonnaer, member of the city council of Hoorn