



DEMOCRATIC CHOICE NEWSLETTER

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Debunking fake news about “Democratic Choice” Party

Recently, we have been asked questions with regard to fake news being spread about “changes” in the “Democratic Choice” Political Party, including claims that:

- Party's founder Vladimir Milov has “left” the party;
- Party held a “congress” in December 2016 where party's leadership was re-elected.

These claims are totally false and are being spread by people who, for the most part, have no affiliation with our party.

Party continues to work normally. Vladimir Milov, the founder of “Democratic Choice”, continues to serve his term as member of the Party's Federal Political Board, and is obviously the most renowned member and outspoken figure of the Party. Mr. Milov did step down from the Party's Chairmanship 5 months in advance of expiry of his 4-year term in December 2015¹, but other than that, Party's work continues much as it has before.

Party currently has no Chairman and is governed by the Federal Political Board, a collective body. Elections of the Chairman are to take place at the regular statutory Congress that is to take place in 2017.

Vladimir Milov also continues to execute the Federal Political Board's mandate given to him to lead the negotiations with other parties and movements to coordinate activities between different democratic opposition groups. Aleksandr Shedov, member of the Federal Political Board, continues to serve as Party's International Secretary.

The rumors about Party's “congress” held in the past months are false. Last legitimate Party's Congress took place in November 2013, and the next one is planned for 2017 but is not yet specifically scheduled.

The circulation of all these false rumors is related to the efforts of the group of raiders led by Mr. Zhavoronkov, who had made several unsuccessful attempts in the past years to take control over the party and turn it into direction more comfortable to the Kremlin. These efforts did not yield any result, Mr. Zhavoronkov and his narrow group of supporters have lost all credibility within the party as a result.

- More details on this raider attack on the party can be found in Russian here: <http://demchoice.ru/news/comments/razoblachenie-popytok-rejderskogo-zahvata-partii>
- Russian Ministry of Justice has never recognized and even received any proposals to appoint Mr. Zhavoronkov as Party's Executive Director; a position he falsely claims for himself since last Summer. Ministry of Justice continues to recognize Petr Milovanov as Party's legitimate Executive Director: <http://minjust.ru/taxonomy/term/209?theme=minjust>

Party has survived the Kremlin-backed raider attack, continues to work normally, and is committed to actively engage in planned opposition activities, primarily Alexey Navalny's Presidential elections campaign.

¹ Vladimir Milov had resigned early from Party's Chairmanship in protest against fellow Party members' unwillingness to expel certain individuals involved in raider attack on the Party, remaining the Member of the Party's Federal Political Board