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*Implementation of Ukrainian's Commitments under WTO and ENP Frameworks in the Rural sector
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▪ **WTO and Neighbourhood Policy**

On 7 - 12 of February European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO) will conduct a workshop for representatives of Eastern European and CIS countries on international standards for phytosanitary measures and EPPO standards. The workshop will include a series of lectures covering issues of regulation of plants and products of plant origin in international trade, introduction of updated international standards for phytosanitary measures and exchange of experience in this area. Ukrainian and foreign quarantine experts will also discuss the process of international and regional phytosanitary standards implementation in EPPO countries, regulations and standards of international organizations, status of international and national phytosanitary standards etc. Deputy Minister of Agrarian Policy S. Mel'nyk will take part in the workshop.

MAP Press Service, 05/02/2010

The regular meeting of the Supervisory Board of the EU project "Implementation of Ukraine's commitments under WTO and ENP Frameworks in the rural sector" was held in the Ministry of Agricultural Policy under the chairmanship of Deputy Minister of Agrarian Policy Ministry Valentina Zavalevska. Experts and members of the Board summarized the results of the first year of project implementation. The participants reported on the purchase of equipment for 6 veterinary laboratories, located in the pilot areas, reviewed the results of the comparative analysis of compliance of Ukrainian legislation with Regulation № 178/2002 of the European Parliament and Council from January 28, 2002 laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety, discussed the findings made after the assessment of enterprises selected for HACCP implementation in the pilot regions and training needs for their employers and representatives of regulatory agencies that will directly inspect the enterprises. The Supervisory Board members and experts said that participation of project experts in elaboration of the package of draft regulations for implementation of the Law of Ukraine "On agricultural wholesale markets" and implementation of the state target program for agricultural wholesale markets development, elaboration of three agricultural wholesale market models, participation in the development of national program of sustainable development of rural areas in Ukraine till 2020 and a series of training workshops on basic principles of LEADER approach, rural development operational programs elaboration and business planning for agricultural service cooperatives that were held can be counted among main achievements of the project implementation in 2009.

MAP Press Service, 08/02/2010

▪ **Food Safety**

The State Veterinarian Committee intends to strengthen the requirements for the production of livestock products in 2010, told the deputy head of the committee Vitaliy Bashinsky. "According to our data, 85% of enterprises will not survive after all European requirements for the production of livestock products come into force," said V. Bashinsky. He also reminded that Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine has postponed the entry of the law according to which meat and milk producers are required to use adapted milking equipment. The committee plans to strengthen slaughtering and milking requirements to encourage producers to prepare for changes foreseen in legislation Verkhovna Rada adopted under commitments Ukraine took during its accession to the WTO.

V. Bashinsky also reminded that most of Ukrainian milk is produced in the private sector and does not

meet sanitary requirements. "We have almost no milk of extra class and an average farm produces only 12 litres of milk per day. One can not even think about exporting milk to Europe with such indicators", said V. Bashinsky. According to him, tough requirements should not only prepare producers to implement European quality standards, but also encourage them to export milk and meat products to Europe.

RBC-Ukraine, 04.02.2010

President Viktor Yushchenko signed the Law № 1804-VI «On Amendments to the Law of Ukraine "On the state biosafety system in creation, testing, transportation and use of genetically modified organisms". It had been stated before that this law provides for changes in current law regarding distribution of powers between central executive authorities on agricultural policy and veterinary medicine concerning regulation of GMO related activities and was adopted by Verkhovna Rada on 19 of January 2010. The law takes effect on the date of publication.

AIC-Inform, 04/02/2010

In 2009 inspectors of the State Consumer Standard Committee checked 57.581 tons of sausages valued at 2 million 224 thousand 239 UAH. The incompliance with requirements of 22.995 tons (40%) valued at 658 thousand 14 UAH was discovered. In total 301 inspections were held and 259 violations found. Sausage producers were fined a total of 274 thousand 381 UAH.

Also in 2009 state inspectors checked 294.34 tons of fresh and frozen meat and frozen semi-prepared meat products valued at 5 million 108 thousand 92 UAH. 48.17 tons (16.3% of products checked) valued at 637 thousand 300 UAH did not meet legal requirements. According to the Committee, 188 inspections of fresh and frozen meat and frozen semi-prepared meat products were held in 2009. In the course of 162 inspections violations of legal requirements were found. According to the inspection results violators were fined a total of 192 thousand 400 UAH.

www.liga.net, 05.02.2010

February 5, 2010 Veterinary Service of Ukraine banned imports of ruminants from People's Democratic Republic of Algeria and the Kingdom of Morocco (letter № 15-2-23/1070 of 05.02.10). According to the official data of the International Office of Epizootics, cases of blue tong were registered among sheep in Morocco and among cattle - in Algeria.

The imports of other goods from these countries that fall under the control of the State veterinary service shall be carried out according to the veterinary requirements for imports into Ukraine.

AIC-Inform, 08/02/2010

State Standard Supervision experts from "Crimea-standard-metrology" checked 26.4 tons of meat valued at 494.8 thousands UAH during 2009. 2.5 tons (9.4%) valued at 64.3 thousand UAH were rejected for defects. State supervision experts also checked the quality of sausages from 27 Crimean meat production, storage and wholesale enterprises. Violations of the requirements of existing regulations were discovered on 24 of them. These enterprises were asked to address violations. 10 batches and 11 varieties of meat products were prohibited for sale. According to repeated checks that were held on 7 enterprises all violations were removed.

AIC-Inform, 08/02/2010

State Standard Supervision inspectors checked 257.25 thousand dl of wine products valued at 19 million 326 thousand 89 UAH during 2009. 79.3 thousand dl (30%) valued at 9 million 124 thousand UAH were rejected due to legal requirements violations. 99 enterprises were checked. Violations were found on 56 of them.

Products were rejected for deficiencies in pre-production phase and poor storage conditions, violations of technological discipline during production and unsatisfactory control.

www.dssu.gov.ua, 10.02.2010

▪ Market Infrastructure

The Cabinet of ministers approved the draft law on ratification of the Grains trade convention, said Minister of Agrarian Policy of Ukraine Yuriy Melnyk. "By this draft law, and I am sure that the bill will become a law, Ukraine will ratify its membership in the International Grains Council", Y. Mel'nyk said. He reminded that Ukraine is an associate member of the International Grains Council from 1998 and in 2009 its full membership was de facto recognized.

According to the minister, ratification of the International Grains trade convention is a legal procedure that will legitimize the full membership of Ukraine in the International Grains Council.

RBC-Ukraine, 04.02.2010

According to State Statistics Committee of Ukraine prices for food and soft drinks rose by 3.2% in January 2010. Prices for sugar and vegetables have risen most significantly, namely by 14.7% and 14.3%, respectively. Prices for cheese, milk, dairy products and butter have increased by 9,8 - 6,2%; for eggs, fruits, margarine and oil - by 3,6-2,0%. However, animal fats got cheaper by 1.1%. In January, production of foodstuffs, beverages and tobacco products went up by 2.9%, including: production of sugar increased by 7.8%, dairy products and ice cream - by 7.2%, vegetable oil and animal fats by 2.9%, flour and cereal products - by 2.2%, meat, meat products and beverages - by 0,9%.

www.proagro.com.ua, 10.02.2010

▪ Rural Development

The Government approved the Concept of State program for sustainable development of rural areas until 2020. The decision was taken at the Cabinet meeting on February 3, 2010.

The concept provides for the ways and means of solving the problems of rural areas. The implementation of the program will ensure increased employment and incomes of rural residents, engineering and social infrastructure development and ecological improvement in the countryside.

Program expenditures will be covered through state and local budgets, as well as by villages and rural communities themselves and by private investors. In addition, international technical and financial assistance will be used.

According to the decision taken by the Government, Ministry of Agricultural Policy, together with other central executive bodies, shall within three months submit the draft State program to the Cabinet.

www.myland.org.ua, 04.02.2010

Government programs to support livestock production in 2009 were financed by 65%, told Mykola Prisyazhnyuk, chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Agrarian Policy and Land Relations at the round table. He also said that this led to a decline in motivation to reduce production costs and invest in livestock production.

According to M. Prisyazhnyuka laws to support livestock production shall be revised since they had proved to be ineffective. "As a result of inefficient state policy, we have an annual import of meat in the amount of 400 thousand tons. Meat is imported not only from such countries as Brazil and Argentina, but also from Belarus and Russia", he said.

RBC-Ukraine, 04.02.2010