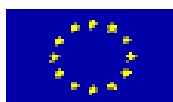




Ministry of Agrarian Policy of Ukraine



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**Implementation of Ukraine's Commitments under WTO and ENP Frameworks in the Rural Sector (Sector Wide Approach), Ukraine  
(Europeaid/126205/C/SER/UA)**

## **Overview of Latest Rural Developments between June 24, 2010 and June 30, 2010**

### ▪ **WTO and ENP Frameworks**

While being on a working visit to Island, Ukraine's Foreign Minister Mr. Kostiantyn Hryshchenko took part in the Ministerial Conference of the European Free Trade Association on June 24, 2010. Mr. Hryshchenko signed the Free Trade Agreement between EFTA and Ukraine. In his welcome speech, Mr. Hryshchenko emphasized the historical importance of the Free Trade Agreement in the context of the long history of relations between Ukraine and EFTA member countries. "Despite relationships between Ukraine and EFTA did not develop until the last decade officially, we have formalized our relationships which have been in existence for a thousand years. I mean the Trade route from the Varangians to the Greeks which linked Northern European countries with the Byzantine Empire. The route went through Kyiv Rus which played an important transit role", pointed out Mr. Hryshchenko.

Mr. Hryshchenko expressed his conviction that the Free Trade Agreement signed by Ukraine and EFTA is one of the greatest achievements of Ukraine as a WTO member which reflects European integration aspirations of Ukraine. "We deem this Agreement as one of the greatest achievements of Ukraine's membership in the World Trade Association. Signing this document is particularly important from the perspective of Ukraine's aspiration for European integration. I am pretty sure that effective implementation of the Agreement will promote Ukraine's integration with the European economic and, subsequently, political environment", underlined Ukraine's Foreign Minister.

Source: [www.mfa.gov.ua](http://www.mfa.gov.ua); June 24, 2010

### ▪ **Food Safety**

At a meeting in Moscow, directors of veterinary supervisory authorities from Russia, Ukraine and Belarus supported an idea of taking more stringent measures to control animal products in cross-border regions. According to a representative of the Russian supervisory authority, "parties recognized a need to take urgent measures to stop illegal cross-border carriage of products of animal origin." Participants to the meeting mentioned that such products were carried in small lots on public passenger transport or by private cars. "In addition, illegal circulation of products which are subject to official controls, drastically increases the risk of further proliferation of African swine fever", says the communication.

Besides, the directors discussed outcomes of mutual inspections of Ukrainian enterprises and monitoring of Belarusian products safety and made a proposal on toughening control of production processes at Belarusian and Ukrainian enterprises exporting products to the Russian market.

Source: Interfax-West; June 24, 2010

The Federal Veterinary and PhytoSanitary Supervisory Service of the Russian Federation put a temporary limit on importing animal products from six Ukrainian enterprises following the May inspection, says Service's communication.

The Russian Federation limited import of products of *Vinnytsyam'so*, Ivano-Frankivsk; *Kam'yanets-Podilsky meat-cutting plant*, Kam'yanets-Podilsky; *Sarnym'yasprom*, Sarny; *Bakmach-meat*, Bakmach; *Svitlovodsky meat and cheese factory*, Svitlovodsk; *Shostka city milk factory*, Shostka, effective June 22, 2010.

Source: <http://www.unian.net>, June 25, 2010

Specialists of the Research Centre for Independent Consumer Tests checked ten brands of strawberry yogurt. The tests showed that most producers did their best to ensure high quality of their products despite not all products received good marks. According to the Centre specialists, all checked yogurts contained the proper number of micro organisms and did not contain hazardous bacilli. Only two yogurt brands received unsatisfactory marks – *Zlagoda* ("Bad") and *Shchodnya* ("Very bad"). Besides, excessive quantity of preservatives was found in *Shchodnya* yogurt. Four yogurt brands – *Bio Balance*, *Halychyna*, *Dobryna* and *Fanni* got "Excellent", and four yogurt brands – *Activ*, *Dlya Vsiei Sim'i (For the Whole Family)*, *Laktoniya* and *Prostokvashyno* got "Good".

Source: Khreshchatyk, June 25, 2010

According to the Press Service of the State Veterinary Medicine Committee, Ukraine put a temporary ban on importing raw meat produced by several European companies following detection of agents of hazardous infections.

Laboratory tests found excessive quantities of colon bacillus, mesophilic aerobic and facultatively anaerobic micro organisms in deboned frozen chicken and frozen pork supplied by German, Belgium and Polish companies. Specifically, the ban was put on importing raw meat produced by *Kipco-Damaco* (Belgium), *Zaklady Miesne Konkowola* (Poland) and *Trinity GmbH* (Germany).

Source: UKRINFORM; June 30, 2010

The Ministry of Agrarian Policy of Ukraine enacted its order approving forms of applications for conducting state tests of a genetically modified organism (GMO) of an agriculture plant variety and the form for technical description of a GMO variety of an agriculture plant.

According to the Regulation approved by Order # 252 dated May 19, 2010, in order to conduct a state test of GMO, one needs to file with MAP a proper application and a number of other documents including the technical description of GMO. MAP approved the said forms as part of implementing this Regulation.

Source: <http://biz.liga.net>; June 30, 2010

## ▪ **Market Infrastructure**

NIBULON, a leading Ukrainian agriculture enterprise, held an official ceremony of opening a new modern grain terminal in Hradizsk, Poltava oblast, on the bank of Dnipro on Friday. This is the third river terminal constructed by NIBULON under large-scale investment project in resuming navigation on Ukrainian rivers.

The Vice Prime Minister on the Agri-Industrial Sector of Ukraine, Victor Slauta, said at the ceremony that "What NIBULON is doing is unique in itself. The point is that water will help agriculture producers increase crop productivity and sell grain for better prices. That is why the government will always give a helping hand to such business and such investments".

On the eve of this event, the European Banks for Reconstruction and Development, together with

other Ukrainian and overseas financial institutions, supported NIBULON's investment project by signing a \$50 million loan agreement. Experts say this is an unprecedented case of extending a loan at the time of financial and economic crises.

Source: <http://ura-inform.com/>; June 29, 2010

#### ANNOUNCEMENT

The German Agrarian Centre and its member companies are hereby inviting everybody to take part in the Field Day 2010 which will be held in Potash village, Cherkasy oblast, on July 01, 2010.

The German Agrarian Centre in Ukraine has been conducting regular seminars and training in modern technologies and methods of agriculture production since early 2009. It was founded as a retraining facility for specialists and managers of Ukrainian agriculture enterprises.

At the Field Day 2010, the Centre will present its activities to the public, and demonstrate modern agriculture machineries and outcomes of latest crops studies.

Source: <http://www.agroua.net/>; June 24, 2010

### ▪ Rural Development

The Press Service of the Justice Ministry mentioned in its communication dated June 24, 2010 that Law of Ukraine # 2290-VI dated June 01, 2010 "On Amending Item 1 of Section II of the Final Provision of the Law of Ukraine 'On Amending Selected Acts of the Ukrainian Legislation with Regard to Protecting Soil Fertility'" was enacted.

According to Hryhory Kaletnyk, the Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Agrarian Policy and Land Relationships, this Law postpones introduction of penalties for a failure to prepare a land plot management plan until January 01, 2012. The earlier Law was supposed to come into force effective July 01, 2010. However, it was not possible to prepare 19,300 land plot development plans within eight months, and agriculture producers would be penalized unless enactment of the law was postponed.

Source: APK-Inform; June 24, 2010

The Ministry of Agrarian Policy conducted a meeting of the Social Council which was chaired by the Minister, Mykola Prysiazhnyuk. The meeting participants discussed essential provisions of the Concept of the Comprehensive National Programme for Reforming and Developing the Ukrainian Agriculture Sector, main priorities of reforming the agrarian sector and the role of Civil Society institutions in the reform processes.

Mr. Prysiazhnyuk emphasized that "the Ministry is open for cooperation with representatives of the public, ..... and the Social Council must link the Ministry and public associations".

The meeting participants approved the Draft Concept and appealed to civil society institutions to intensify cooperation with the Ministry of Agrarian Policy in reforming the sector and put forward proposals and comments on the Draft Concept.

Source: Press Service of the Ministry of Agrarian Policy of Ukraine; June 25, 2010

President Victor Yanukovich approved the Regulation on the National Local Government Support Fund by his Decree # 723/2010 dated June 24, 2010. The Fund is an auxiliary agency under President's auspice whose major tasks are (i) to provide advisory, information and analytical support to the President of Ukraine on self-government, local and regional development matters; (ii) to ensure smooth interaction between government authorities and local self-governments and their associations and other public organizations whose activities aims at local self-government development; (iii) to draft proposals on developing international cooperation in the area of local self-government; (iv) to support activities of Ukraine's delegation to the European Congress of Local and Regional Authorities; etc.

Source: RBK-Ukraine; June 25, 2010

