

 МІНІСТЕРСТВО АГРАРНОЇ ПОЛІТИКИ УКРАЇНИ	 Проект фінансується Європейським Союзом	 Проект впроваджується консорціумом на чолі з WYG International
<i>Implementation of Ukrainian's Commitments under WTO and ENP Frameworks in the Rural sector EuropeAid/126205/C/SER/UA</i>		

Overview of Latest Rural Developments

29 July – 4 August 2010

▪ WTO and Neighbourhood Policy

Ukraine's President Viktor Yanukovich signed the instruction to unblock negotiations with the European Union on FTA, the presidential press service said. According to the report, Viktor Yanukovich instructed Prime Minister Mykola Azarov, Economic Minister Vasyl Tsushko and Foreign Minister Konstantin Gryshchenko to prepare consolidated position of the Ukrainian side which should be aimed at unblocking negotiations with the EU on creation of the free trade zone and submit it to the President of Ukraine.

AIC-Inform, 02/08/2010

▪ Food Safety

State Veterinary Medicine Committee of Ukraine has sent letters to some embassies, where concerns are expressed about the quality of fish imported to Ukraine from their countries, reported Committee chairman Ivan Bisyuk at the press conference.

Bisyuk refused to name the countries that are importing poor quality fish, since the samples of these poor quality products are still to be examined in the independent laboratories involving the representatives of the veterinary services from the respective countries. Depending on the results obtained the import of large batches of fish might be suspended. "Strontium remains, listeria, Escherichia coli, parasitic diseases, etc. all can be found in frozen fish that is being imported", said Bisyuk.

"Since Ukraine joined the WTO, we can not diminish import quota, but nonetheless we will not allow products which are harmful to human health to be imported to Ukraine", said the chairman.

According to him, frozen blocks of fish that are imported to Ukraine are not considered to be suitable for consumption in more developed countries.

<http://economics.unian.net/>, 03.08.2010

Experts from the U.N. Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) have arrived to Luhansk oblast to provide technical assistance in preventing the spread of African swine fever. They have met with deputy head of Luhansk Oblast Administration Olexander Olshanskij. During a three-day visit the FAO experts will examine the measures being taken to prevent the spread of African swine fever in the region.

After checking local farms they will report their findings to Luhansk experts and provide all necessary technical assistance to prevent the spread of this disease.

PigUA.info, 02.08.2010

Sweets are being supplied to Kharkiv from manufacturers located 300 km from the city, although 30 km is the maximum distance allowed. The distributors exceed by 10 times the distance the food products are allowed to be transported during the hot season. According to the Chief Kharkiv Sanitary Officer Iryna Zubkova, sweets that are being sold in Kharkiv can be dangerous to health. "Sweets are being brought to Kharkiv from Kryvij Rih (300 km.), Zaporizhja (250 km.) and Kyiv (300 km). Kharkiv Sanitary Service has sent letters to confectionery producers asking them to stop the supply of sweets to Kharkiv. The Chief Sanitary Officer advises not to buy confectionery products, even if they are stored in the refrigerator, since one can not see thermometer. Temperature violations substantially increase the risk of spoilage of perishable products during the hot season. One should check the label, manufacture

and expiry dates, but even these indicators are not sufficiently reliable during hot weather. Zubkova recommends that consumers refrain from buying confectionery products during the hot season altogether.

<http://www.mediaport.ua>, 03.08.2010

State Consumer Standard Committee started checking production specifications in food to bring them into compliance with the legislation, said the Committee's Chairman Oleg Polovytskij. Manufacturers of baby food products, dairy products and drinking water have already been checked. "More than half of specifications were found to be in violation of current laws", stated Polovytskij, adding that most of the violations are insignificant. Inconsistencies are to be eliminated in a month. In case of delay in the fulfilling of the aforementioned requirement the registration of such specifications will be suspended or cancelled, said the official.

Ukrainian Radio, 08/04/2010

▪ **Market Infrastructure**

Agri enterprises in Lviv oblast have attracted 97.3 million UAH of investment in 2010, a four-fold growth compared to the previous year, said Acting Deputy Head of Lviv Oblast Administration Gennadij Dmytrenko. Interest rates of most loans received are 19-29% per annum.

RBC-Ukraine, 29.07.2010

The government should strictly control the profitability of bread production depending on the variety of breads and restrain local authorities from tinkering with bread prices, said the agricultural expert of the Strong Ukraine Party Vladislav Atroshenko. "One should amend the governmental regulation dating from 1996, which gives local authorities the unrestrained power to interfere in bread pricing, and make the profitability of bakeries subject to governmental control", said Atroshenko.

The expert also noted that the government should take a more active position to resolve issues raised. In particular, Agrarian Fund and State Reserve should purchase grain while prices are at their lowest and wait for more favourable selling conditions.

He also said that the rise in prices of grain can entail higher prices of bread. In this situation the government must protect vulnerable citizens. "The government should take into consideration the interests of socially vulnerable people. Targeted food subsidies for the poor should be introduced to address this issue", said the expert.

<http://www.unian.net/>, 04.08.2010

▪ **Rural Development**

Ukrainian MPs developed draft law which provides for approval of the State Program to Support Agricultural Service Cooperatives. The draft N 7018 has been registered July 29, 2010. According to the authors of the document, today agricultural service cooperatives are not fulfilling their main task, namely they are not taking any steps in helping to prevent an uncontrolled proliferation of unproductive intermediary businesses who are "exhausting" agricultural production by contributing to the outflow of financial resources and deepening the price disparity by setting excessively high prices for agricultural supplies and arbitrarily low prices for agricultural products.

LIGABiznesInform, 29/07/2010

Special signposts will be put at the entrances to Poltava oblast during the five days of the Fair in Sorochyntsi indicating the routes to the event, said the first deputy head of Industrial and Infrastructure Development Department of Poltava Oblast State Administration Ilyya Cherednichenko.

According to him, regular transportation from Poltava to Mirgorod and Velyki Sorochyntsi will be provided for those wishing to visit the Fair.

This year the Fair will be held from 17 to 22 August. Official opening of the Fair is scheduled for 18 August at 11.00.

<http://www.unian.net/>, 03.08.2010