

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

Overview of Latest Rural Developments

19 -25 May 2011

WTO and Neighbourhood Policy

Ukraine and the EU are nearing completion of negotiations on Free Trade Zone under the Association Agreement. "It is quite possible to complete the negotiations by the end of the year. I do not see any obstacles in the path", the Deputy Minister of Economy of Ukraine Valeriy Pyatnitsky told reporters in Brussels following a mini-round of negotiations. No written agreements were intended to be reached at this round. The parties intend to exchange positions on the remaining issues by June 4. High-level contacts are scheduled to take place before the next round of talks which will be held on June 20 in Kiev. The First Vice Premier, Minister of Economic Development and Trade Andriy Klyuyev is expected to visit Brussels by the end of May "to preclude any questions bearing upon whether or not to hold the round of talks in Kiev". "We are prepared to complete the negotiations ", Mr. Pyatnitsky assured. According to the delegation's head, during the mini-round the parties continued to discuss the remaining issues related to market access for agricultural and industrial products, export duties, geographic names and energy. "These are the issues that remain to be negotiated", the Deputy Minister said.

Interfax-Ukraine, 19.05.2011

Establishing a customs union can in the long term (15-20 years) be the next stage in the EU-Ukraine economic relations after the free trade area is set up, said the head of the Ukrainian delegation to negotiations on the FTA Valery Pyatnitsky. According to EuroActive (the official partner of the recently held Brussels Business Summit), similar position was expressed by the Russia's representative during a discussion of the perspectives of EU-Ukraine economic relations. The discussion participants agreed that Ukraine, Russia and the EU can in the long run form a common economic space. Mr. Pyatnitsky confirmed that relations with the EU are his country's key priority acknowledging that an Ukrainian-European customs union can be created in the next 15 years. "In 10 to 15 years it will not matter whether it be a customs union or any other form of integration", Ukrainian official said.

www.interfax.com.ua, 19.05.2011

Ukraine does not intend to reduce its rate of European integration, Foreign Minister Konstantin Gryshchenko said. "We have achieved so far the most significant progress in negotiating with the EU among the former Soviet Union countries neighbouring the EU. We are not going to lower these rates, we will do our best for the next Ukraine - EU summit to be held in December to be not only successful, but of historical significance", he said, speaking on May 20 at the international conference entitled "Ukraine's integration into the EU: current state and future prospects". The Minister noted that the upcoming summit should lay the foundation for further qualitative evolution of the Ukraine-EU partnership and cooperation through economic integration and association membership. "Our strategic goal is to become an EU-member", the Foreign Minister said.

Interfax-Ukraine, 20.05.2011

During the celebration of the Europe Day, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine Konstantin Grishchenko spoke at the opening of the International Conference entitled "Ukraine's integration into the EU: current state and future prospects", which was organized by the Institute of International Relations of the Taras Shevchenko National University. In his opening remarks the Minister noted Ukraine's recent progress towards European integration. It was emphasized that 2011 is the year of strategic opportunities for Ukraine. However, according to the Minister, the key to the European integration of Ukraine lies in the Europeanization of the country that is in conducting systematic reforms based on the EU experience.

www.mfa.gov.ua, 20.05.2011

The representatives of the "European Choice" parliamentary group led by the group's co-chairman Anatoly Kinakh intend to visit the European Parliament in early June this year to promote inter-parliamentary cooperation and establish closer communication with the EU. The decision was made at the meeting of the "European Choice". During their visit Ukrainian parliamentarians will meet with the leaders of the European Parliament and with those its MPs, who intend to create the group entitled "The Friends of Ukraine". The EP member Paul Zalevsky, who attended the "European choice" meeting, informed that the creation of "The Friends of Ukraine" is almost completed. "The Friends of Ukraine" will be the response of the EP members to the Ukrainian parliamentarians' initiative of creating "The European Choice". "We want our collaboration to contribute to reforms in Ukraine and influence the political decision-making process", Mr. Zalevsky said.

UMB, 20.05.2011

Food Safety

There took place a solemn conference on the completion of the EU twinning project. More than 240 representatives of national and regional establishments participated in 11 training workshops conducted by the EU experts during 2009-2011. Five basic reference books and textbooks were developed. The representatives of the Ukrainian party participated in nine study visits to Denmark, the Netherlands and Latvia. Ukrainian experts will transfer the experience gained during trainings and study trips to their colleagues.

At the press conference that followed, the head of the State Veterinary and Phytosanitary Service of Ukraine I. Bisyuk said that Ukraine has a chance to begin exporting poultry to the EU this year. He said that after the last inspection of the General Directorate for Health and Consumer Protection of the European Commission (SANCO) the Ukrainian veterinary service received positive preliminary findings and few recommendations which it has already implemented.

www.vet.gov.ua, 19.05.2011

Ukrainian delegation headed by the Minister of Agrarian Policy and Food Mykola Prysiazhniuk is participating in the 79th General Session of the World OIE (International Organization for Animal Health) Delegates' Assembly in Paris. At its opening, the Minister read out the greetings of Ukraine's President Viktor Yanukovich. During his speech at the opening ceremony of the veterinarians' forum Mykola Prisyajnyuk noted that today Ukrainian veterinary medicine is confidently approaching international sanitary, food safety and environmental protection standards.

<http://www.vet.gov.ua/>, 23.05.2011

ANNOUNCEMENT

June 3, 2011 a workshop entitled "Step by step organic production" will be held within the

XXIII International Agricultural Exhibition AGRO-2011. The event will be organized by Ukrainian Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food, the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL, Switzerland) and BIOLan Association (Ukraine) and financially supported by Switzerland.

During the workshop, participants will learn about basic principles of organic agriculture, opportunities of those setting up organic production, the situation on the national and world markets, about how to certify their production facilities and how the quality of organic raw materials affect the final product's price.

<http://biolan.org.ua>, 23.05.2011

Market Infrastructure

The Minister for Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine Mykola Prysiashniuk will visit Belarus, the press secretary of Prime Minister of Ukraine Vitaliy Lukyanenko told journalists in Minsk. He noted that issues related to the development of agricultural machinery production in Ukraine and for Ukraine's needs will be discussed during the visit. According to Mr. Lukyanenko, one will talk about cooperation and other forms of association in this field.

<http://economics.unian.net>, 19.05.2011

This year Ukrainian pork exports show a sharp increase, as compared to the previous. Since not all pork produced in Ukraine has been hitherto consumed, a need arose to supply it to foreign markets. This was reported by the Ukrainian Agrarian Confederation (UAC). According to the UAC Deputy Director General Mr. Olexandr Yaroslavsky, 2011 should be considered as the first year when Ukrainian pork reached foreign markets, although only those of the CIS countries. "It is obvious that one will not be able to export all the surplus domestic pork, but it is a very positive trend", the UAC expert says. However, in the same time, offal imports increased by 12%, which shows that there is an increasing demand for low-quality cheap raw materials among national processors. "Against the background of overall reduced meat imports, this fact demonstrates the buying power of Ukrainians", Mr. Yaroslavsky says.

LigaBusinessInform, 19.05.2011

May, 20 non-governmental agricultural professional associations sent Ukraine's President Viktor Yanukovych an open request to veto those provisions of the law # 8321 On amendments to the Tax Code and adoption of export tax rates for certain types of crops which concern the export taxes.

Farmers argue that that the introduction of export duties will cause over 6 billion losses to grain producers. The request was signed by the leaders of Agrarian Union of Ukraine, Ukrainian Agrarian Confederation, Ukrainian Farmers and Landowners Association and Ukrainian Grain Association.

IC UAC, 23.05.2011

The Cabinet of Ministers lifted quotas on grain exports. The decision was made at the today's Cabinet meeting. As the UNIAN reported earlier, the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food initiated the abolition of quotas on exports of wheat and barley.

www.unian.net, 25.05.2011

Rural Development

During the first reading of the draft law "On State Land Cadastre", which provides amendments to basic provisions on State Land Cadastre contained in the current Land Code, Ukrainian

Parliament adopted it as basic. According to the draft's authors, the land registration procedure, which is currently required to be carried out during each land transaction and which includes issuing state acts or registering lease agreements, will be reduced to only providing a cadastral number to the plot. The draft also provides for cancellation of state land titling acts in 2013.

RBC-Ukraine, 19.05.2011

Ukraine's President authorized the Vice Prime Minister and Minister for Regional Development, Construction, Housing and Communal Services of Ukraine Viktor Tikhonov to sign the #3 protocol to the European Outline Convention on Transfrontier Co-operation between Territorial Communities or Authorities (ECO).

RBC-Ukraine, 19.05.2011

The agricultural sector is currently one of the promising sectors to generate employment in Ukraine. In particular, modern vegetable warehouses which are to be constructed throughout the country will provide some 100 thousand new jobs, said the agricultural minister Mykola Prysiazhniuk. "The vegetable warehouse system which needs to be constructed in Ukraine to provide its citizens with fresh and quality products, will create, according to our estimations, some 100 thousand new jobs", he said.

MAPF Press Service, 20.05.2011

Over 25% of Crimean land is being illegally appropriated, said the head of the Crimean Council of Ministers Vasily Dzharty during a working meeting with the heads of Crimean rayon administrations in Krasnogvardeisk rayon. According to Dzharty, the inspection results showed that from 250 to 640 hectares of land in every rayon of Crimea are being used unlawfully. He noted that all this land and products that are cultivated thereon are not being taxed and do not provide revenues to local budgets. "I think such a situation does not only undermine the Crimean economy, but that of the whole of Ukraine", the Crimean Prime Ministers said. He intends to raise this issue at the Council of Regions: "I have reported on this issue to the President and it will be raised at the Council of Regions".

<http://news.finance.ua>, 20.05.2011