

 <p>МІНІСТЕРСТВО АГРАРНОЇ ПОЛІТИКИ ТА ПРОДОВОЛЬСТВА 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/UA</i></p>		

## Overview of Latest Rural Developments

15 - 22 December 2011

### WTO and Neighbourhood Policy

Despite pressure from other political actors, Ukraine consciously decided to join Europe, Ukraine's foreign minister Anatolij Gryshchenko said at a press-conference in Germany. "Ukraine is in a unique geopolitical position. Along with being a bridge between Europe and Russia, it also is a guarantor of peace and stability in the region. We attach great importance to friendly relations with all our neighbours. But we clearly and consciously decided to join Europe, despite the pressure from other political actors", Mr. Gryshchenko said. He also said that "Europe should not turn away from Ukraine in times of global economic distress" and that "Ukraine needs support from Germany which has traditionally been Ukraine's friend."

RBC-Ukraine, 15.12.2011

Ukraine and the EU reaffirmed their intention to accelerate the preparation of the Association Agreement for it to be initialled. "I want to confirm the intentions of both sides to accelerate Agreement's initialling", Ukraine's President Viktor Yanukovich said at a press conference after the Ukraine-EU summit. He added that the negotiating teams agreed on the full text of the Association Agreement, and drew attention to the significant role being played by Herman Van Rompuy and Jose Manuel Barroso in the success of this process. Viktor Yanukovich thanked the President of the European Council and the President of the Commission "for frank and constructive discussion".

Presidential Press Service, 19.12.2011

Ukrainian economy is expected to increase by 2% annually after FTA and Association Agreement between Ukraine and the EU is ratified, the First Deputy Prime Minister/ Minister of Economic Development and Trade Andriy Klyuyev said. "The Association Agreement has not been de facto initialed, but our major breakthrough is completion of political negotiations. We were approaching our goal for years and do know very well about the difficulties we had encountered. Instead of merely diplomatic there will also be some practical results including established free trade area and simplified visa regime. I agree that the draft Agreement is an ambitious one and establishes bold and long-term goals ", Mr. Klujev said.

He also added: "There is reason to believe that that the Agreement will be signed by the end of 2012. Ratification will take some time, but I do not think it will take a lot of time. Meanwhile, we are faced with the task of initialling the Agreement, which contains some 2,000 pages". Mr. Klyujev said the process of initialling will take about 1.5 months.

Press Service of the Ministry of Economic Development, 20.12.2011

December 12-19 the "European Week" was carried out in Ukraine which included a series of public events dedicated to the Ukraine-EU Summit ranging from expert discussions to street

performances. The "European Week" was organized by Ukrainian NGOs and international organizations.

[www.irf.kiev.ua](http://www.irf.kiev.ua), 20.12.2011

## **Food Safety**

The experts from the State Veterinary and Phytosanitary Service participated in study tour on food safety to the Netherlands in early December 2011. The study tour's main objective was to expose Ukrainian veterinary experts to the principles and procedures adopted in Netherlands to carry out state control over food safety. Ukrainian delegation participated in presentations on Dutch veterinary regulations and veterinary service's duties and visited a border inspection post in the port of Rotterdam.

<http://www.vet.gov.ua/>, 15.12.2011

There is an increased number of cases when western flower thrips (a dangerous quarantine pest) is detected in imported vegetables, flower and ornamental crops. The State Plant Quarantine Inspections registered three such cases last week. The infected shipments were from Israel and the Netherlands. The infected plants were now being disinfected.

If pests will be detected again, the State Plant Quarantine Inspection will apply emergency measures and return the infected shipments to the country of their origin.

<http://www.vet.gov.ua/>, 16.12.2011

The State Veterinary and Phytosanitary Service introduced quarantine measures against rabies in the Podol rayon of Kyiv city and those areas of Shevchenko, Svyatoshyn and Obolon rayons which are adjacent to Podol are assigned the status of "danger zones".

A case of rabies was registered in Kiev on December 15. "The last time we have registered rabies in Kyiv was 20 years ago. The State Veterinary Service vaccinated local animals against rabies".

<http://economics.unian.net/>, 19.12.2011

## **Market infrastructure**

The biggest fruit and vegetable storage complex in Europe was launched in the village of Martusivka, Boryspil rayon, Kyiv oblast. The opening ceremony was attended by the Minister of Agrarian Policy and Food Mykola Prysiazhniuk and the Head of Kyiv Oblast State Administration Anatoliy Prysiazhniuk. The officials checked complex's preparedness to operate, talked with local managers and employees. The Factor Konsalts Ltd. succeeded in constructing a vegetable storage complex thanks to Presidential economic reforms programme and attractive investment climate in Kiev oblast where five vegetable storages have already been launched in 2011. The refrigeration capacities (55 185 tons) of the new vegetable complex are the largest in Europe.

The complex comprises of one-storey building (200 x 200 meters) where vegetable storages, administrative office and auxiliary facilities are located. Food will be stored in 56 separate cells, each having individual storage conditions. Locally grown carrots are already being stored here.

<http://economics.unian.net/>, 15.12.2011

Ukraine and Tajikistan will implement joint agricultural projects, Ukraine's President Viktor Yanukovich said in Tajikistan.

"Ukraine and Tajikistan have huge agricultural potential and will implement joint agri projects, involve other countries and use Ukrainian agricultural equipment and machinery", Mr. Yanukovich said. According to the President, Ukraine will also participate in infrastructure

tenders in Central Asian countries.

RBC-Ukraine, 15.12.2011

December 20 - the State Consumer Protection Inspectorate, the Union of Ukrainian Dairy Enterprises and the National Association of Ukrainian Meat Producers signed a memorandum of cooperation.

The head of the Consumer Protection Inspectorate Sergij Orekhov said the memorandum was jointly prepared to solve problems in the field of consumer protection. The president of the Union of Ukrainian Dairy Enterprises Leonid Karpenko and the chairman of the National Association of Ukrainian Meat Producers Ukrainian Meat Producer Victor Popov said: "Unfortunately the State has not for a long time not paid much attention to problems which we have now started to solve. Therefore, the memorandum will enhance consumer protection and help establish transparent and non-discriminatory rules on consumer markets."

Portal, 21.12.2011

## **Rural Development**

The Parliament registered governmental draft law # 9590 from December 14, 2011 On Communities Merging establishing the merging procedure for rural and urban territorial communities and the mechanism to support merged communities. The draft amends Article 6 of the law On Local Government in Ukraine and adopts a special law establishing the procedure for communities to merge. It is estimated that new merged rural communities will include not less than 9000 inhabitants from, on average, 16 rural settlements. The total area of merged communities will be on average 400 square km.

Most new communities will be established within rayons set up in the USSR in 1954-1960.

RBC-Ukraine, 15.12.2011

Ukraine's parliament adopted the law № 9586 amending Chapter X of the Land Code's Transitional Provisions in what concerns land sales and purposes of agricultural land use. This Law provides that before January 1, 2013 it shall not be allowed to:

- purchase and sell state and municipal agricultural land, except for public needs;
  - purchase or sell agricultural land or change the purpose of its use (commercial agriculture).
- Citizens and legal bodies shall be entitled to only inherit or exchange agricultural land
- transfer land titles to cooperatives' statute funds

<http://economics.unian.net/>, 20.12.2011