

 <b>МІНІСТЕРСТВО АГРАРНОЇ ПОЛІТИКИ ТА ПРОДОВОЛЬСТВА УКРАЇНИ</b>	 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 15 - 21 March 2012

### ▪ **WTO and ENP Frameworks**

Minister of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine Mykola Prisyazhnyuk is visiting Washington DC, USA, on March 15-16, 2012.

This working visit is intended to present the concept of a new Ukrainian agrarian policy and discuss prospective mechanisms for cooperative with American government authorities and business community and the World Bank. Special attention is paid to attracting investments in the Ukrainian agro-industrial sector and cooperation in ethanol production.

Press Service of the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine; 15.03.2012

Andiy Honcharuk, the advisor to the President of Ukraine and the Head of International Relations Department of the Presidential Administration, met with the Director General of the Finnish Foreign Ministry, Nina Vaskunlahden, and the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Finland to Ukraine, Arja Makkonen, to discuss the status and prospects for developing Ukrainian-Finnish relations. A. Goncharuk and N. Vaskunlahden also touched upon most important aspects of Ukraine European integration, namely, conclusion of the Association Agreement and dialogue on visa-free regime for Ukrainian citizens..

Press Service of President Yanukovich; 15.03.2012

Pavlo Klimkin, the Deputy Foreign Minister of Ukraine and the Head of Staff, pay a working visit to Spain during which he led political consultations with Gonsalo de Benito, the State Secretary for Foreign Affairs, the Spanish Foreign Ministry. The parties discussed a wide range of issues associated with bilateral cooperation, specifically, cooperation in the political and economic spheres, interaction under international organizations' activities and preparation for signing international treaties which are currently being considered by both countries. A special focus was made on Ukraine's European integration including collaboration between Ukraine and Spain.

Source: Ukraine Foreign Ministry; 15.03.2012

### ▪ **Food Safety**

"Today, Ukraine and Russia have established a dialogue to address the situation with a ban on importing Ukrainian cheese in the Russian Federation. At the moment, both countries' working groups are carrying out checks at the completion of which the Ukrainian export will be resumed," stated Volodymyr Gorzheyev, the First Deputy Head of the State Veterinary and Phytosanitary Service of Ukraine, at the round table "Cheese war: analysis of the situation and ways to address it". Mr. Gorzheyev pointed out that the relations between Ukraine and Russia have become constructive. At the moment, the parties are in the process of exchanging

documents and preparing for inspections of Ukrainian enterprises by Russian inspectors. Mr. Gorzheyev also mentioned that not only the Russian party is making analyses. Ukrainian authorized services check cheese samples, and some checks are made in other countries. "So far, we have checked vegetable fat content in over 280 cheese samples for the purpose and all results are negative", Mr. Gorzheyev informed.

<http://www.vet.gov.ua/>; 15.03.2012

The Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine makes all efforts possible to prevent bringing the African swine fever agent in Ukraine, specifically from the Russian Federation. According to the Press Service of the State Veterinary and Phytosanitary Service of Ukraine, this was reported at the meeting of the State Extraordinary Anti-Epizootic Commission under umbrella of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine.

Today, all relevant Ukrainian services take numerous measures to prevent bringing the African swine fever agent in Ukraine. "We control the epizootic situation," stressed Ivan Bisjuk, the Chief State Inspector of Veterinary Medicine.

APK-INFORM; 15.03.2012

The Veterinary and Food Safety Supervisory Department of the Belarusian Agriculture Ministry sent an official invitation to the State Veterinary and Phytosanitary Service of Ukraine to visit Belarusian milk processing factories.

In the process of documentary audit of the current Belarusian official food safety control system, the Ukrainian party raised additional issues and sent the list of these issues to Minsk on March 15<sup>th</sup>. The Ukrainian party may consider inspecting Belarusian food establishments no sooner than it has received and considered answers to the above questions.

<http://www.vet.gov.ua/>; 16.03.2012

President Victor Yanukovich signed into law Bill #4441-VI "On amending the Law of Ukraine "On the State System of Bio Safety in the Processes of Developing, Testing, Transporting and Using Genetically Modified Organisms". This communication is posted on the official web site of the President of Ukraine.

The Law will come into force the next day after its publication.

APK-INFORM; 16.03.2012

The task force on the grain market operation in Ukraine opened its meeting in FAO headquarters in Rome on March 19<sup>th</sup>. The Ukrainian delegation consists of representatives from the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food, Parliamentary Agrarian Committee, State Statistic Service, agrarian sector companies and sectoral NGOs. As part of this event, meetings will be held with leading specialists from FAO Investment Centre, AMIS Secretariat, GIEWS and EBRR representatives.

APK-INFORM; 19.03.2012

"Our specialists may travel to Ukraine to inspect producers of cheese temporary prohibited for importing to Russia on March 26," said Mr. Gennady Onishchenko, the Chairman of the Russian Consumer Protection Authority and Chief State Sanitary Doctor. "Most probably, (we will travel to Ukraine to inspect Ukrainian cheese producers) on Monday. The composition of our team has been approved. Currently, we are in the process of agreeing on who will be present from the Ukrainian party, on what conditions the inspection will be conducted, what guarantees will be given etc.", said Mr. Onishchenko when answering the question regarding when Russian inspectors would be ready to visit Ukraine.

[www.unian.net](http://www.unian.net), 20.03.2012

## ▪ **Market Infrastructure**

Ukraine filed a complaint with the World Trade Organization against Australia. Australia passed a law in November prohibiting use of companies' trademarks and logos on cigarette packs. This news was communicated by Comersant-Ukraine.

Ukraine believes that new Australian rules violate the WTO Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) because all cigarettes in Australia will be sold in the same dark brown packs effective the 1<sup>st</sup> of December. Producer and cigarette names will be written with standard white letters. The source, which is close to the Ministry of Trade and Economic Development, is surprised that Ukraine decided to address such trade problems in a situation where Ukrainian producers' interests are not affected. According to the State Statistic Service of Ukraine, Ukraine does not export tobacco products to Australia.

RBK-Ukraine; 15.03.2012

Analysts of APK-INFORM news agency forecast that area sown with oil-bearing crops will be increased by four percent – up to 7,400,000 ha. APK-INFORM analyst Julia Ivanytska presented the said projections at the round table "2012 harvest through the prism of the current situation with winter crops and prospects for spring sowing campaign" which was held in Dnipropetrovsk on March 16<sup>th</sup>.

The increase in land area sown with oil crops will be due to sunflower and soya beans. Specifically, the land area under sunflower and soya beans will grow by eight percent (up to 5,200,000 ha) and by 20 percent (up to 1,350,000 ha), respectively. According to Mrs. Ivanytska, 13,700,000 tons of oil crops will be harvested in 2012 (by five percent more than in 2011). More specifically, the sunflower, rape and soya beans yields will be 10,000,000 tons, 1,100,000 and 2,570,000 tons, respectively.

<http://economics.unian.net/>, 16.03.2012

"This year, Ukraine began exporting agriculture products to five more countries," said Minister of Agrarian Policy and Food Mykola Prysyazhnyuk at the press conference in Kyiv. According to Mr. Prysyazhnyuk, Ukraine now exports agriculture produce to the USA. Gradually, Ukrainian agriculture producers access European wholesale markets. In so doing, both selection of export products and export geography are expanded. Ukraine has already become the leader of the European apple export market. The 2011 export of Ukrainian agriculture produce had been increased by 38 percent as compared to 2010 and reached UAH 13 billion.

<http://www.golosua.com>, 20.03.2012

"Today, Ukrainian agriculture producers need to prepare themselves for exporting their products to European markets," said Alex Lisitsa, the President of the Ukrainian Agrarian Business Club Association at the press conference in Kyiv. According to Mr. Lisitsa, Ukrainian agrarian producers, together with the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food, should organize agriculture produce exhibitions and promote Ukrainian agriculture produce across Europe. The Free Trade Area Agreement will be signed "tomorrow if not today". The Agreements sets "rather favorable conditions" for Ukrainian agrarian products.

<http://www.golosua.com>, 20.03.2012

## ▪ **Rural Development**

The Parliament of Ukraine passed the Law "On Amending the Land and Forest Codes of Ukraine with Regard to Preservation of Forests" as revised by the President of Ukraine. The Law expands power of executive authorities of various orders in the sphere of forests disposal and narrow powers of local governments, accordingly.

The President of Ukraine did not support clauses on depriving villages, town and city councils of

powers to dispose land (woods) in populated areas until state- and communal-owned land is delineated (changes in Item 12 of Section X of the Transitional Provisions of the Land Code of Ukraine) and transferring these powers to the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine.

RBK-Ukraine; 15.03.2012

The Government of Ukraine allocated UAH 300,000,000 to reimburse agriculture producers for costs associated with re-sowing winter grain crops which perished because of harsh weather conditions the last winter. According to the Public Relations Department of the Secretariat of the Cabinet of Ministers, the Government approved the above decision on Monday, March 19<sup>th</sup>.

<http://economics.unian.net/>, 19.03.2012