

 <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 22 - 28 March 2012

WTO and Neighbourhood Policy

Ukraine's Prime Minister Mykola Azarov is convinced that the association agreement will be initialed on March 30. He said that at a joint press conference with Prime Minister of Poland Donald Tusk in Warsaw.

"I am sure that on March 30th we will initiale this important agreement, and it will work for Ukraine in the EU", the Prime Minister said. He thanked the Polish side for supporting Ukraine's European integration aspirations. In turn Donald Tusk said that Poland will further support Ukraine's accession to the EU.

Department of Information and Communication of the Secretariat of the CMU, 22.03.2012

During his working visit to Sweden Head of the Department of International Relations of the Presidential Administration Andriy Goncharuk met with representatives of the Swedish government and business circles.

During the meeting with Swedish Foreign Minister Carl Bildt Andriy Goncharuk told him about the implementation of the system of internal reforms in Ukraine and the initiative of President of Ukraine to further rapprochement between Ukraine and the European Union. "Ukraine highly appreciates the Swedish support of the European integration aspirations, and hopes that Association Agreement with the EU will be initialed as soon as possible and will be signed by the end of this year", Advisor to the President said.

Presidential Press Service, 22.03.2012

Andriy Goncharuk discussed with Finnish officials the implementation of systemic reforms in Ukraine. Advisor to the President held talks with the Special Adviser to the Prime Minister of Finland on international issues Antti Vyanskya, during which he stressed that Ukraine is determined to continue the implementation of systemic reforms aimed at achieving European standards.

During the meeting with State Secretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland Pertti Torstiloju sides discussed further development of bilateral contacts at the highest level, and exchanged views on topical issues of international cooperation. Honcharuk called for intensification of Ukrainian-Finnish cooperation in matters of European integration of Ukraine.

Presidential Press Service, 23.03.2012

March 23, 2012 Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine visited Brussels to attend the Brussels Forum. During the Forum Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine Gryshchenko met Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland Radoslaw Sikorski and they discussed the prospects of concluding an Association Agreement EU-Ukraine, as well as strengthening cooperation in the further support of Ukraine's European aspirations by Poland.

MFA, 23.03.2012

Minister of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko met with the Chairman of Board of the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) Viktor Khristenko, during which the sides discussed ways of cooperation between EEC and the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine. "We need to develop an effective mechanism that would eliminate confusion and provide mutual opening of markets of our countries for our producers. This will be a true example of mutually beneficial cooperation", Poroshenko said. He also noted his readiness to respond to the request of EEC, and spoke against making any protectionist barriers for both Ukraine and Russia.

Press Service of the Ministry of Economical Development, 26.03.2012

During the Seoul summit on nuclear security Ukraine's President Viktor Yanukovich met with President of the European Council Herman van Rompuy and European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso.

During the meeting the sides discussed the state of relations between Ukraine and the European Union. When asked about the terms initialed an Association Agreement between Ukraine and the EU, the President said: "The initialling is the technical work, it will be done, and ratification is the next question."

Presidential Press Service, 27.03.2012

Food Safety

Ministry of Agriculture of Belarus addressed Rosselkhoznadzora to conduct joint inspections of Ukrainian dairy and beef facilities. Therefore the Department of Veterinary and Food surveillance requests Rosselkhoznadzor to include to the checking list such facilities as: "Danone", "Dnepr", "Lactalis", "Consulting", "Prometheus", "Galichina", "Zhytomyr dairy Factory", "Zolotonosha dairy plant", "Mirgorod Cheese Combinat", plant "Dnieper", "Belotserkovsky dairy plant", "Friendship of peoples", "Oniss" and "Atlantic" (animal products storage).

All these companies are included by the state veterinary Belarus to register of organizations and individuals engaged in production, processing and (or) storage of controlled goods and supplying products of animal origin on the territory of the Customs Union.

www.liga.net, 22.03.2012

On March 21, experts of the State Veterinary and Phytosanitary Service of Ukraine went to Belarus to audit the local safety control system of meat and dairy products.

"Today our inspectors went to Belarus to audit veterinary service and to inspect facilities, and we will see how Veterinary Service of Belarus affects these processes and how they are able to ensure product safety", Ivan Bisyuk said.

State Veterinary and Phytosanitary Service of Ukraine planned to visit Belarus this week to audit the safety control system of meat and dairy products.

Interfax-Ukraine, 22.03.2012

Today in Europe, a new still unknown disease of ruminants caused by a Shmallenberh virus has appeared. The disease is transmitted through insect bites and in utero (from mother to fetus). Significant spread of disease is acquired in Germany (800 cases), France (244), Great Britain (174), Netherlands (178), especially during the cold season. There is no effective treatment and prevention of the disease has been developed.

Chief Inspector of Veterinary Medicine of Ukraine issued an order of 23.03.2012, № 41 "On the strengthening of veterinary-sanitary control and supervision in connection with registration of Shmallenberh disease in Europe".

<http://www.vet.gov.ua/>, 23.03.2012

Kyiv veterinary police workers exposed workshop of meat prepack, whose work was not coordinated with any control services, so that it wasn't monitored for quality. Sanitary condition is poor, there are no water and sewage, and there are no appropriate documents that certify the origin, quality and safety of raw material. The workshop activity is suspended, further examination is being conducted.

In the Luhansk region the Ministry of Internal Affairs continues to counteract illicit trafficking of animal origin and have withdrawn more than 13 tons of substandard products.

Ukraine continues to improve epizootic and food safety system. The checks documented 113 violations of Article 107 of the Administrative Law. Government agencies collected fines amounting to 52.1 thousand UAH in the state revenue, sentenced and supervised execution of 236 inspection prescriptions and discontinued operations of 18 entities. Agencies provided control over the disposal of 32 692 kg of low-quality animal products.

<http://www.vet.gov.ua/>, 26.03.2012

Market Infrastructure

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine and exporters of meat and dairy products signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation of the exporters under the MFA to promote Ukrainian products on foreign markets.

Memorandum signed by Foreign Minister Konstantin Grishchenko and managers of 17 enterprises of meat and dairy industry. Memorandum provides the coordination of efforts to create favorable conditions for Ukraine's export potential development. The Minister stressed that Ukraine needs to expand the geography of exports and enter new markets for its products. Chairman of the State Veterinary and Phytosanitary Service of Ukraine Ivan Bisyuk noted that competition in world markets is increasing and Ukrainian companies need MFA assistance in expanding the export geography.

<http://www.vet.gov.ua/>, 22.03.2012

Anti-Monopoly Committee (AMC) has achieved lower prices for eggs produced by leading manufacturers. The largest producer "Avangardco" from 23 February to 15 March reduced wholesale eggs prices by 12%.

Union of Poultry Farmers of Ukraine from 23 February to 15 March has reduced first category eggs prices by 6.3% to 0.89 USD.

AMC recommended 30 Poultry plants and 9 retailers to refrain from establishing economically unjustified prices of eggs on March, 1.

LIGA Business Inform, 22.03.2012

Mykola Prysyzhnyuk said that Ukraine is able to annually produce more than 5 million tons of biological fuels from agricultural products. According to the Minister, in case of the effective processing of sugar beets and corn agricultural industry of Ukraine could provide half the domestic demand for light petroleum products.

During his working visit to Washington Prysyzhnyuk achieved the signing of Memorandum between Ukraine and the United States, which will provide legal and technical assistance and financial investment for the development of biological fuels.

<http://economics.unian.net/>, 26.03.2012

Ukrainian company "Bread Investbud" and Japanese Agriculture & Livestock Industries Corporation (ALIC) discussed prospects of Ukrainian grain exports to Japan during their meeting on March, 22. The meeting was by initiated the Embassy of Japan in Ukraine.

Rural Development

The President of Ukraine said that sustainable development of Zaporizhzhya region requires an integrated approach to agricultural development, which has accumulated a number of serious problems. "We would like to see a real program of agrarian sector", he said, noting that in the Zaporizhzhya region pays little attention to the development of animal husbandry.

The President said that the way out of this situation may be the realization of investment projects on construction and reconstruction large commodity farms. Viktor Yanukovych also drew attention to problems in land reform, in particular, the inefficient process of separation of state and municipal property. "Less than 1% of land is distinguished. Last year, local authorities haven't made any decisions on these issues. Therefore we need to intensify our efforts", he said.

Presidential Press Service, 22.03.2012

During a meeting with NGOs and agriculture experts the Prime Minister of Ukraine Mykola Azarov said that in Ukraine 80% of meat and milk is produced by individuals.

"We have 80% of meat and milk produced by individuals and 20% by big commodity producers. What does it mean? Firstly, the impossibility of rapid development, secondly the low quality of products", Prime Minister said. Azarov instructed the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Ministry of Economic Development to improve the mechanisms of state support of agricultural sector. Prime Minister set a goal to eliminate the shortcomings of existing mechanisms of the budget funds use and to make their use transparent and free from bureaucracy and corruption.

Ukrainian Business Resource, 27.03.2012