

 МІНІСТЕРСТВО АГРАРНОЇ ПОЛІТИКИ ТА ПРОДОВОЛЬСТВА 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 March – 4 April 2012

▪ **WTO and Neighborhood Policy**

During the negotiations of Ukraine and the EU heads of delegations initialed the Association Agreement, including deep and comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (Joint Press Release by Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine and the European External Action Service).

During the 15th EU-Ukraine Summit, held in December 2011, the leaders of Ukraine and the EU announced the completion of negotiations on an Association Agreement, which aims is the political association and economic integration between Ukraine and the European Union. This Agreement will replace the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement, signed in 1998, as a legal basis for their relations. During the Summit leaders also instructed the heads of delegations to initiale the agreement as soon as possible.

Today heads of Ukraine and the EU delegations initialed the text of the Association Agreement, an integral part of which will be establishment of the deep and comprehensive free trade area (FTA). The Head of the negotiating groups on the FTA reaffirmed the FTA agreement, signed December 22, 2011, and pledged to finish the legal examination of the text, including technical annexes and protocols.

Both sides expressed their commitment to undertake further technical actions to prepare for the signing of the Agreement.

<http://www.mfa.gov.ua/>, 30.03.2012

President of Ukraine Viktor Yanukovych held a telephone conversation with President of Poland Bronislaw Komorowski. The Presidents praised initialing an Association Agreement between Ukraine and the European Union as an important milestone of five years of preparation process of this unique and important document. "I praise, that we initialed this document together and that Poland has supported us along the way", Viktor Yanukovych said.

The conversation was initiated by the Polish side.

Presidential Press-Service, 30.03.2012

During his visit to the United Kingdom Ukraine's Foreign Minister Hryshchenko met with members of multiparty parliamentary friendship group with Ukraine, headed by British MP Vittingdale. During the meeting members of the British Parliament were informed about the successful initialing of an Association Agreement with EU and about measures taken for preparations for parliamentary elections in October

The sides have discussed the current state and prospects of bilateral political dialogue between Ukraine and Great Britain. British MPs have expressed their support of Ukraine on its way to European integration and readiness of official London to continue an active dialogue with Kyiv in this context, particularly regarding the signing and ratification of the Agreement.

Mr. Vittingdale emphasized that the United Kingdom is ready to support an ambitious European agenda for Ukraine, including its efforts to acquire full membership in the EU.

▪ Food Safety

On March, 29 the European Commission together with the State Veterinary and Phytosanitary Service of Ukraine organized seminar "European legislation on food safety".

The seminar was attended by leading experts of the EU in this area: a member of working group on health at the European Federation of veterinarians and a representative of Latvia in Brussels Gundega Mikule, an expert on health and inspection, a member of ECDC Luciano Giovanetti, legal adviser on food safety from EU project "Implementation of Ukraine's commitments under WTO and ENP frameworks in the rural sector" Yana Dobidovska and expert Yuri Ohlasheny, vice president of the European Union of Veterinary Experts of the Food Hygiene Bernhard Urzinich, a representative of Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and Rural Regions of France Robert Gerard, president of the Association of Veterinary Public Health of UK Kenneth Clarke.

Tony Wheel, the leader of "Food Security" component of the project "Implementation of Ukraine's commitments under WTO and ENP frameworks in the rural sector" moderated the seminar.

State Veterinary and Phytosanitary Service of Ukraine, 29.03.2012

Experts of Rospotrebnadzor inspected LLC "Hadyach syr" (Poltava region) and have found no traces of vegetable fat in Ukrainian cheese. "The audit showed that Ukrainian cheeses actually contain no palm oil. The factory produced real butter and cheese", the Chairman of the State Veterinary and Phytosanitary Service of Ukraine Ivan Bisjuk said. He noted that the main concerns of Rospotrebnadzor are related to differences in the cheese preparation technology that "do not apply to quality concerns, but apply to law inconsistencies" and that Ukrainian enterprises will develop an action plan to remove these differences.

Considering further inspection of Ukrainian enterprises Bisjuk noted that "we will continue the dialogue, we are opened for further cooperation".

<http://www.vet.gov.ua/>, 30.03.2012

Rospotrebnadzor experts have found some violations while checking Ukrainian plant "Hadyach syr", which is going to supply Russia with cheese products. "Production of cheese to supply Russian Federation is held with violations of cheese maturation and packaging and delivery of components for its production. In addition, the company violates significantly the sanitary condition and technology control", the agency informed.

On March 29, First Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Food Mykola Bezugly said that Rospotrebnadzor experts have not found any technical violations during the audit of "Hadyach syr".

<http://obozrevatel.com>, 30.03.2012

State inspectors on plant quarantine in the Odessa region have found Mediterranean fetal fly, which is the dangerous pest, in the tangerine shipment from Egypt. Total cargo weight was 16.8 tons. Now all the necessary phytosanitary measures are taken – the cargo is detained and disinfected. In 2011 Ukraine imported over 300,000 tons of citrus fruits. Egypt is a major fruit supplier.

<http://www.vet.gov.ua/>, 03.04.2012

Ukraine's delegation of the Veterinary Medicine Specialists has ended their visit to Canada to conduct audit of inspection system of meat production in the country.

During the visit the delegation attended meetings in the headquarters of the Canadian food inspection (Canadian Food Inspection Agency - CFIA), where they received general information regarding the CFIA, learned about the system of control and supervision over the

production of meat and meat products, epizootic situation and activities of the inspection of meat at the regional level and identification and registration of animals.
Also, the delegation learned about the Canadian program of monitoring chemical residues in food, and learned about the work of veterinary labs, farms with pigs, cattle and small cattle, bison.

<http://agroua.net/>, 04.04.2012

Minister of Economic Development and Trade Petro Poroshenko met with head of Rospotrebnadzor Gennady Onishchenko.

"We agreed that the relations in the sphere of Ukraine's national control will be settled, and restrictions on supplies of Ukrainian hard and soft cheeses to the Russian Federation will be cleared after satisfaction of Rospotrebnadzor demands", Poroshenko said.

UNIAN, 04.04.2012

▪ **Market Infrastructure**

In 2011, results of operations of agricultural enterprises (except small ones) amounted to 19.8 billion UAH compared to 13 billion UAH in 2010.

The level of profitability (excluding subsidies and budgetary payments) is 25.8% against 20.7% in the previous year.

In 2011, agricultural enterprises, as in the previous year, received a positive result from activities in crop and livestock area.

LIGA Business Inform, 30.03.2012

Announcement

April, 18, in hotel "President" (Kyiv) a seminar on dairy farming, organized by the Embassy of Israel in Ukraine, will be held.

Representatives of farmers, agricultural holdings and companies engaged in dairy cattle are invited. The seminar is free; registration is opened till April, 12.

Federation of Employers of Ukraine, 30.03.2012

In the first nine months of the current marketing year (July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012) Ukraine exported 15.4 million tons of cereals. "Since the beginning of the year Ukraine has exported 15.4 million tons of grain, including 3.8 million tons of wheat, 2.1 million tons of barley and 9.3 million tons of maize", Deputy Head of the Department of Economic Development and Agricultural Market Ministry of Agriculture and Food of Ukraine Serhiy Petrenko said. In March exports totaled in 2.41 million tons.

<http://economics.unian.net/>, 02.04.2012

First Vice Prime Minister of Ukraine Valeriy Khoroshkovskiy believes that the current system of agriculture state support requires changes. "I think the money to support agriculture is used inefficiently. We are trying to find a reasonable economical position where we can seriously develop agriculture", he said at a briefing in Kyiv region.

According to him, at this moment the Government, Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences are testing the possible ways to improve state support of the village.

Interfax, 02.04.2012

▪ **Rural Development**

During a press conference the first deputy head of Luhansk regional state administration Eduard

Lozovsky said that within the project "Ahromisto" in Luhansk region Polish farmers will share their experience with Ukrainian farmers. Cooperation with Poland will take place in several directions: building agricultural facilities, exploitation and production. "We offer them a variety of cooperative options. With the help of investments in the project "Ahromisto" the administration of Luhansk region plans to restore and create new agricultural facilities and thus provide jobs for farmers. Today, the project "Ahromisto" received the status of wholesale market of agricultural products", Lozovsky said.

www.polemika.com.ua, 29.03.2012

In Horokhiv district of Volyn region a new production of milk processing plant "Uhryniv-milk" was presented. The idea of the plant establishment belongs to the Director of SSPE "Taras Shevchenko" Andriy Turak.

Dairy products will be produced exclusively from domestic raw materials as milk yield in the household reaches 15 tons per day. A closed production cycle is established: all the technologies are automated and computerized by company "TESA" (Israel) specialists. Equipment is designed to process three tons of milk per hour. Today seven specialists are working at the plant, and the number of personnel is planned to be increased. The plant has already started production of milk, kefir, sour cream and yogurt of different brands and fat content.

Government Portal, 29.03.2012

This spring, according to the Chernivtsi Regional Forestry and Hunting administration, the facilities plan to store up about 200 tons of birch sap. The biggest amount of juice is harvested in Kolinkivsk and Klishkivsk Forestries of State enterprise "Hotinsk Forestry" and in Yizhivsk forestry of enterprise "Storozhynets Forestry."

Government Portal, 04.04.2012