



# UKRAINE OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Biweekly news digest

18 September 2018

## IKEA plans to expand business in Kyiv and Ukraine

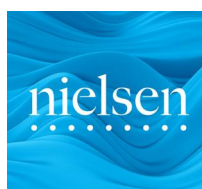


Sweden's IKEA, the largest furniture and household goods retailer in the world, plans to expand its network in Kyiv and other cities of Ukraine after testing the first store in Kyiv-based Ocean Mall, which will be opened in summer 2019. "We want to study and understand the market with the first store, and then we will open other stores in Kyiv and other cities. One year is ideal for studying to get a full cycle... Also we are working to ensure the introduction of online sales as fast as possible," IKEA Southeast Europe CEO Stefan Vanoverbeke said in an interview with Interfax-Ukraine.

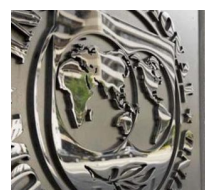
According to him, the area of the first IKEA store in Kyiv will be about 6,000 square meters, the range of goods will include furniture and accessories.

"The store will be divided into locations. We call them room sets. It is a kind of room where we show solutions for home. In addition, there will be a concept for small household solutions. We will collect the maximum number of products to provide the full and best experience for buyers," Vanoverbeke said.

## HEADLINES



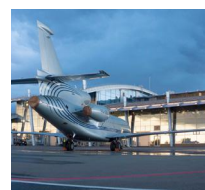
NIELSEN RECORDS  
CONSUMER CONFIDENCE  
REVIVAL IN UKRAINE IN Q2



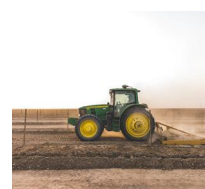
IMF MISSION STARTS  
WORKING IN KYIV



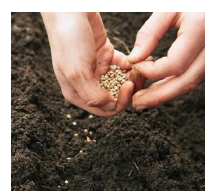
UKRAINE'S PROFITS  
FROM FERROUS METALS  
EXPORTS EXCEEDS \$7 BLN  
IN JAN-AUG



KYIV AIRPORT SEES 55%  
RISE IN TRAFFIC IN AUG



PIF OF SAUDI ARABIA WANTS  
TO INVEST UP TO \$150 MLN  
INTO UKRAINIAN FARMING  
COMPANY



BAYER LAUNCHES SEED  
PLANT IN UKRAINE FOR  
\$200 MLN



## Revenue of Ukrainian banks in Jan-July 2018 7% up



Revenue of Ukrainian banks, not taking into account insolvent banks, in January-July 2018 totaled UAH 108.913 billion, which is 7.17% more than a year ago, according to a posting on the website of the National Bank of Ukraine (NBU).

The number of banks for the period from August 1, 2017 to August 1, 2018, was reduced to 82 from 89. At the same time, the assets of banks during this period increased by 4.05%, to UAH 1.315 trillion, and total assets (not adjusted to reserves for covering possible losses from active operations) grew by 7.77%, to UAH 1.876 trillion.

The National Bank said the interest income of banks over the period increased by 9.37%, to UAH 78.045 billion, while the loan portfolio from August 1, 2017 to August 1, 2018 increased by 10.92%, to UAH 1.078 trillion.

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## Nielsen records consumer confidence revival in Ukraine in Q2



Consumer sentiment in Ukraine has improved after falling at the beginning of the year: the consumer confidence index after a decrease of 3 points in the first quarter grew by 4 points in the second quarter, to 62 (on a scale of 0 to 200), according to a study by The Conference Board, prepared jointly with Nielsen. "The growing trend encourages, while consumers remain very cautious due to the unstable economic situation in the country," Nielsen's press release quotes Nielsen Managing Director for Ukraine and Belarus Vaivos Dimoragas as saying.

He noted that the record low level of consumer confidence in Ukraine was recorded in 2015 at 41 points.

The company states the improvement of the index is due to the improvement by consumers of estimates of prospects in the labor market and their financial well-being. At the same time, the indicator of readiness to spend money is relatively stable for the fourth consecutive quarter.

# International Monetary Fund mission starts working in Kyiv

The mission of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) led by Ron van Rooden started working in Kyiv, the IMF representative office in Ukraine has told Interfax-Ukraine. The IMF representative office said that the mission arrived in Kyiv the day before. As IMF Resident Representative in Ukraine Goesta Ljungman reported in the middle of August, the IMF mission will visit Kyiv during September 6-19, 2018, to discuss recent economic developments and policies.

Ljungman also said that the mission will also discuss next steps, including financial assistance from the IMF in support of policies to maintain macroeconomic stability and keep the economy on a path toward sustainable and inclusive growth.

Ukraine's Acting Finance Minister Oksana Markarova said that Ukraine plans to discuss all current issues with the IMF and continuation of cooperation after the completion of the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) in March 2019. According to her, the successful fourth review of the IMF EFF and the receipt of the fifth tranche of \$2 billion will open the way to attract financing to the national budget on preferential terms, using the World Bank's guarantee for \$800 million, as well as receiving macro-financial assistance from the EU for EUR 1 billion.

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## Ukrainian Insurance Group and Globus Insurer to merge

Ukrainian Insurance Group and Globus Insurance Company (both based in Kyiv), that are members of Vienna Insurance Group, plan to complete the merger and become a single legal entity at the end of 2021, Head of Ukrainian Insurance Group Pavlo Nelha has said at a press conference.



***"Our plan is to have one legal entity and unite the balance sheets of the insurance companies by the end of 2021," he said.***

He said that one of the reasons for such a long period of consolidation is different organizational forms of the companies as Ukrainian Insurance Group is a joint-stock company, while Globus is an additional liability company.

"To date, the stage of combining the networks and offices has already been completed. We approached the second stage – a legal merger of the two companies, in fact, the merger of the balance sheets," Nelha noted.

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## Parliament passes Ukrainian forest preservation bill with president's remarks

Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada has passed bill No. 5495 about preserving Ukrainian forests and preventing illegal imports of rough timber with remarks of the Ukrainian president. The bill introduces severe punishment for smuggling of round timber and restricting domestic consumption of rough timber to 25 million cubic meters a year. A total of 246 lawmakers backed the bill with the president's remarks, removing the clause about firewood export ban.

Head of the parliamentary committee for industrial policy and entrepreneurship Viktor Halasiuk said that the parliament must return to the issue and find a possibility of retaining the ban on exports of firewood, under the disguise of which round timber is exported from Ukraine.

According to amendments taken into account in the second reading of the document, administrative and criminal liability for illegal logging and its timber exports outside customs control (smuggling) has been significantly strengthened.

In case of a repeated offense within a year, the amount of the fine is from 30 to 60 nontaxable minimums for citizens and from 300 to 600 for officials.

## Vienna Insurance Group wants to acquire new company in Ukraine

Vienna Insurance Group (VIG) intends to enter the top three leaders of the Ukrainian insurance market, and is mulling the possibility of acquiring another risk insurance company. "We came here to stay. Our goal is to be a leader in the insurance market, to enter the top three," member of the



***We came here to stay. Our goal is to be a leader in the insurance market, to enter the top three," member of the board of Vienna Insurance Group Franz Fuchs said at the first joint press conference of Ukrainian insurance companies that are part of VIG.***

board of Vienna Insurance Group Franz Fuchs said at the first joint press conference of Ukrainian insurance companies that are part of VIG. At the same time, he noted to date, according to the group, VIG ranks fourth in the insurance market of Ukraine.

He stated the insurance market of Ukraine is very complicated, with confusing legislation and unsettled communications.

"More than 100 insurance companies work in the market, but if you look at how they really work, then this figure will be reduced to 23-27. There are 45 million people in Ukraine, and if everyone pays EUR9-10 for insurance, then we have something to work on," he stressed.

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## Kyivstar increases number of M2M cards in network by 23% in one year



The Kyivstar mobile communications operator increased the number of M2M Sim cards (machine-to-machine) by 23% in July 2018 compared with July 2017, to 1.4 million. The operator reported on its website that among leaders that used M2M Sim cards are security, finance, retail, energy spheres and agriculture, and one of the growth factors is development of the Internet of Things (IoT).

In a year, the number of M2M Sim cards among individuals grew by 78%.

"Our customers more often use smart devices with M2M SIM cards installed in them. Kyivstar has joined the projects with a large network player who not only works with a variety of different sensors, but can also ensure their reliable operation by creating an ecosystem for associations of M2M-cards and sensors," Kyivstar director for business development in the corporate market Yevhen Krazhan said.



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### State-owned Ukrzaliznytsia invests UAH 8.5 bln in fixed assets development in Jan-Aug 2018

Ukrzaliznytsia has repaired and reconstructed 351 km of track from the planned 1,935 km this year, the company's press service has reported. In January-August 2018, the company reconstructed almost 184 km of track and overhauled more than 167 km, replaced 106 railroad switches for new sets. In September it is planned to reconstruct 36.1 km of track, overhaul 34 km of track, repair 118.6 km, and renew 55.4 km of track on various directions.

In general, it is planned in 2018 to repair 1,935 km of track and 1,317 sets of railroad switches. "Without an economically fair tariff, there will remain a maximum of 5,000 km out of 20,000 km of track in Ukrzaliznytsia in 10-15 years," director for economics and finance at Ukrzaliznytsia Andriy Riazantsev said.

In the eight months of 2018, Ukrzaliznytsia invested almost UAH 8.5 billion in the development of its fixed assets, in particular, in modernization of infrastructure, the acquisition and repair of rolling stock.

### Ukraine proposes land parcel for iron ore processing plant to Canadian Black Iron

Canada's Black Iron with assets in Ukraine has received a formal proposal from Ukraine's government to lease to the company a plot of land connected to the Shymanivske iron ore project, the company has said in a press release. "The company has received a formal proposal from Ukraine's government to lease to the company a plot of land connected to the company's Shymanivske iron ore body for the location of the project's processing plant, tailings and waste rock," the company said.

The parcel of land being proposed is owned by Ukraine's central government and is currently being used by the Ministry of Defense (MOD) for training purposes.

"Black Iron management is currently analyzing the suitability of this land from a social and technical standpoint. To secure rights to this land, Black Iron needs to agree on a compensation package with the MOD and Ukraine's central government that is sensible for all parties. Discussions of this nature have already started with senior government officials including Deputy Prime Minister Kubiv with support from Canada's Embassy to Ukraine," the company said.



## Ukraine boosts output of rolled steel products by 4%



Ukrainian metallurgical enterprises boosted total rolled steel production by 4% in January-August 2018 year-over-year, to 12.265 million tonnes. Steel output increased by 2%, to 14 million tonnes, that of pig iron by 7%, to 13.645 million tonnes, the Ukrmetprom Association said.

At the same time, relative indicators of output in January-August 2018 compared to January-August 2017 excluding two months' work of enterprises in uncontrolled territories in eastern Ukraine were higher: the output of rolled steel increased by 8%, that of steel by 5%, and pig iron by 11%. In August 2018, Ukraine's metallurgy produced 1.733 million tonnes of pig iron (98% as compared to July 2018), 1.806 million tonnes of steel (99.5%), 1.515 million tonnes of rolled steel (101%). In 2017, Ukraine reduced steel production by 12% from 2016, to 21.284 million tonnes, while production of rolled steel was 18.439 million tonnes (a 14% decline) and that of pig iron was 20.035 million tonnes (a 15% decline).

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## Ferrexpo still the biggest FSU iron ore pellet exporter

Ferrexpo plc, whose main assets are Ukrainian iron ore producers Poltava and Yeristovo mining and processing plants, exported 5.77 million tonnes of iron ore pellets in January-July 2018, retaining its leadership among FSU pellet exporters. Ferrexpo, which exported pellets to Europe, Japan, South Korea and China in the seven months of 2018, said in a press release that the state UkrPromZovnishEkspertyza enterprise had published the data.

Poltava Mining exported 4.465 million tonnes of pellets and Yeristovo exported 1.303 million tonnes.

Russia's Severstal, in particular its Karelsky Okatysh mining unit, exported 3.239 million tonnes of pellets in the seven months; Ukraine's Metinvest holding exported 2.979 million tonnes, with Pivnichny (Northern) Mining exporting 1.631 million tonnes and Central Mining – 1.348 million tonnes; Russia's Metalloinvest exported 2.326 million tonnes, of which Mikhailovsky Mining 1.753 million tonnes and Lebedinsky Mining – 600,400 tonnes; and Evraz Group, notably Kachkanarsky Mining, exported 339,000 tonnes of pellets.

Ferrexpo exported 10.407 million tonnes of pellets in 2017.

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## Ukraine's profits from ferrous metals exports exceeds \$7 bln in Jan-Aug 2018

Ukrainian metal companies saw a growth of 27.7% in foreign currency revenues from exports of ferrous metals in January-August 2018 year-over-year, to \$7.001 billion. According to customs statistics published by the State Fiscal Service, the share of ferrous metals of total income from exports was 22.65% compared to 19.93% from a year ago.

In August 2018 alone, receipts from ferrous metal exports amounted to \$803.263 million.

In January-August 2018, Ukraine increased imports of similar products by 25.7%, to \$896.765 million including imports reaching \$144.565 million in August. In January-August 2018, Ukraine increased metal products exports by 32%, to \$729.444 million including August deliveries being \$91.404 million. During this period, imports of metal products grew by 19.9%, to \$598.239 million, including August imports worth \$94.603 million.

As reported, in 2017 Ukraine saw its forex earnings from ferrous metal exports rise by 20%, to \$8.666 billion. Ukraine saw imports of these products increase by 42%, to \$1.135 billion. Ukraine experienced a 30% rise in metal products exports, up to \$896.7 million. Metal imports grew by 25% last year, to \$806.8 million.

## Kyiv airport sees 55% rise in traffic in Aug



Kyiv Sikorsky International Airport in August 2018 handled 358,300 passengers, which was 54.9% up on August 2017, the airport has said on its website. The number of passengers serviced on international flights totaled 350,200 people and there were 8,100 people handled on domestic flights. The number of flights in August 2018 increased by 33.2% year-over-year, 3,258 (arrivals and departures), including 2,825 international flights and 433 domestic flights, it said.

***The most popular international destinations in August 2018 were Sharm El Sheikh (Egypt), Warsaw (Poland), Minsk (Belarus), Antalya (Turkey), Ankara (Turkey), Tivat (Montenegro), Batumi (Georgia); popular domestic routes were Odesa, Zaporizhia, and Lviv.***

From January to August 2018, Kyiv Sikorsky International Airport increased passenger traffic by 68.9% compared to the same period of 2017, to 1.857 million passengers, including 1.8 million passengers on international flights and 57,600 passengers on the domestic routes. The number of flights in January-August 2018 increased by 37.2%, to 20,092 (arrivals and departures), according to the airport. They included 17,007 international flights and 3,085 domestic flights.

The most popular international destinations in the eight months of 2018 were Minsk (Belarus), Dubai (the UAE), Ankara (Turkey), Sharm El Sheikh (Egypt), Rome (Italy), and such domestic routes as Odesa, Zaporizhia, and Lviv.

Kyiv Sikorsky International Airport is located in the business center of the capital, seven km from the city center. It is the second largest airport in Ukraine in terms of the number of flights and passenger traffic. The airport has three terminals with a total area is 21,000 square meters. Terminal B is separate facility for business-class service, it is part of the Fixed Base Operator (FBO) system. The airport's runway is able to handle B-737 and A-320 aircraft. In Q1 2018, the airport serviced 442,000 passengers, which is 50.4% more than in Q1 2017. Some 423,900 passengers were handled on international routes and 18,100 people on domestic ones.

## Ryanair could establish company to create IT products in Ukraine

Ryanair, the largest European low cost air carrier, is considering the possibility of establishing a company in Ukraine to create IT products, Yulia Kovaliv, the head of the National Investment Council's office, said on the air of Radio NV. "One of the ideas we discussed with the Ryanair leadership is to establish an internal company in Ukraine, which develops all IT products for the low cost carrier," she said. Kovaliv also noted that in the near future the company plans to start domestic flights in Ukraine.

"If we are talking about the launch of domestic flights by the carrier in the country, then, again, the level of airport charges is important, but all companies understand that the cheaper the ticket is, the faster the airline will become competitive," she said.

As reported, Ryanair began flights to Ukraine on the route Berlin-Kyiv-Berlin from September 3.

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# Primary registrations of new passenger cars in Ukraine 11% up in Aug

Primary registrations of new passenger cars in August 2018 grew by 11% year-over-year and by 10% on July 2018, to 7,300 units, the Ukrautoprom association has reported.



***The leader of the market in August was France's with a rise of 39% in sales year-over-year, to 986 cars. Toyota was second again with 983 cars (13% up).***

Nissan climbed from fourth to third position in Aug (Skoda was third in July) with 498 cars (32% up). KIA cars sales grew by 10%, to 477 cars. Hyundai, as in July, was fifth with 452 cars registered (45% more). The top ten in August also included Skoda with 404 cars (1% up), Mazda with 315 cars (30% more), Volkswagen with 313 cars (40% down), Ford with 294 cars (20% up) and Suzuki with 277 cars (54% up).

## Kyivspetstrans to build EUR 60 mln waste processing plant in Kyiv



PrJSC Kyivspetstrans plans to build a waste treatment plant with a capacity of 450,000 tonnes of garbage a year worth EUR60 million, board chairman of the company Andriy Hruschynsky has said at a press conference. "Kyivspetstrans plans to construct a waste processing plant, which should replace the capacity of solid waste landfill No. 5 to finally close it, reclaim it and put it in order. We focus on a mechanical-biological technology: it's more modern and environmentally friendly technology than garbage incineration," he said.

According to the expert, the company plans to attract international companies with experience of similar projects as designers and contractors of construction. Companies from Germany and Poland have already expressed interest.

"We believe that such a project can be realized in two years – the time it takes to develop a project, to order and manufacture equipment," he said.

## Energy efficiency certification of buildings begins in Ukraine

Ukraine has started issuing energy efficiency certificates for building with defining the class of energy efficiency after an audit, the press service of the Regional Development, Construction, Housing and Utilities Economy Ministry of Ukraine has reported. "The certificate is a necessary tool for the operation of homeowner associations and the Energy Efficiency Fund," Regional Development, Construction, Housing and Utilities Economy Minister Hennadiy Zubko said. According to the press service, the energy efficiency certificate allows assessing the energy efficiency of a building and the effect of the implemented measures, and also contains recommendations on the next steps.

"Today on September 11 we launch the energy auditors market. We have already signed a memorandum with 21 universities to create commissions for the certification of energy auditors. The second important area for us is to launch jointly with the Ministry of Education the "energy auditor" program of study in higher educational institutions. There is an agreement with Germany's GIZ on conducting additional trainings for certified energy auditors not only in Ukraine, but also abroad," Zubko added.





## Farmak wants to boost exports share to 33%

PJSC Farmak (Kyiv), among top three leaders of the pharmaceutical sector of Ukraine, in 2018 plans to increase the exports share to 33%. The company told Interfax-Ukraine that in H1 2018 Farmak's exports grew by 13% year-over-year, in particular, thanks to supplies to Uzbekistan (a rise by 20%), Belarus (by 124%), Kazakhstan (by 13%) and Kyrgyzstan (by 16%). Sales of products to Russia remained at the level of 2017.



***"We want to increase the export potential of the company by retaining the leading positions in Ukraine. For Farmak, the markets of the European Union and Asia remain a priority," Farmak Executive Director Volodymyr Kostiuk said.***

In general, according to him, in 2017, Farmak exported products for \$70 million. In 2017, Poland, Uzbekistan and Russia dominated the structure of foreign sales. In particular, sales to Poland accounted for 28.3% of total exports, Uzbekistan – 20.9% and Russia – 16.7%. In 2017, the share of Farmak's sales in foreign markets was 31%.

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## Ukraine has exclusively developed medicines registered in Europe, U.S.

Ukraine has exclusively developed medicines, which will be registered by regulatory agencies of Europe and the United States, Director General of YURiA-PHARM pharmaceutical company Dmytro Derkach.

Commenting on the study of the data about the market of drugs with insufficient evidence base initiated by Anti Corruption Action Centre (AntAC), he told that "according to the logic of the authors of this study, only drugs originating from the countries with regulatory authorities FDA (the United States) or EMA (the European Union) have the "proven effectiveness," that is, Ukraine has no right to own inventions and developments."

"The authors reject the idea that Ukraine has its own scientific and industrial potential, which is also capable of giving the world original and effective medicines or methods of treatment, and with the assistance of the state, capable of registering its products with the FDA and EMA regulatory authorities. It takes time and resources. Ukraine chose the path of European integration only a few years ago," he said.

According to Derkach, "in fact, the authors of this study question the professional competence of the domestic scientific medical and pharmaceutical community."

YURiA-PHARM Corporation is a manufacturer of infusion solutions, medicines and medical products. It is among top ten leaders in pharmacy sales. YURiA-PHARM is a member of the Association Manufacturers of Medications of Ukraine (AMMU).

## 20 international companies interested in concession of ports

Some 20 large international companies are interested in the concession of Kherson Maritime Merchant Port and Olvia Stevedoring Company, Minister of Infrastructure Volodymyr Omelyan has said. "We expect that the tender on Kherson and Olvia seaports will start this year. We have more than 20 applications from powerful companies," the minister said at a press conference in Kyiv. According to him, large international companies expressed their interest.

As reported, with reference to the Infrastructure Ministry, previously Qatar expressed interest in the concession of Olvia and Kherson seaports.

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## Ukraine raises cheese import by 30%, cuts export by 4%



Ukraine exported 5,390 tonnes of cheese in January-August 2018, which is 4.1% less than in the same period in 2017. According to customs statistics released by the State Fiscal Service, in monetary terms exports amounted to \$20.04 million, and this is 2.6% more than a year ago.

At the same time, cheese imports in January-August 2018 amounted to 7,810 tonnes, which is 30% more than in the same period in 2017. In terms of money, this indicator increased by 41.2%, to \$38.31 million.

Exports of butter from Ukraine in January-August this year rose by 19.2%, to 21,410 tonnes. In monetary terms, this figure grew by 32.2% and amounted to \$92.43 million. According to the State Fiscal Service, imports of this product increased 2.4 times, to 710 tonnes (\$4.84 million).

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## Ukraine threshes 34.5 mln tonnes of grain

Ukraine as of August 31, 2018 threshed 34.5 million tonnes of grain and leguminous crops from 10 million ha (67% of the target) with the yield of 34.6 centners per ha. According to a report of the Agricultural Policy and Food Ministry last week, early grain and leguminous crops harvest was 34.3 million from 9.9 million ha with the yield of 34.8 centners per ha.

Some 26,000 tonnes of buckwheat was threshed from 20,000 ha (18% of the target) with the yield of 13.2 centners per ha, 29,000 tonnes of oats from 19,000 ha (37%) with the yield of 15.1 centners per ha.

In addition, some 489,000 tonnes of sunflower was harvested from 267,000 ha (4%) with the yield of 18.3 centners per ha and 75,000 tonnes of soybeans from 28,000 ha (2%) with the yield of 26.9 centners per ha.

Rapeseeds were harvested from 1 million ha (99%) with the yield of 26.1 centners per ha. Some 2.7 million tonnes were threshed. Winter rapeseeds are being sowed now. Some 685,000 ha had been sowed out of the 888,000 ha target (77%).

# PIF of Saudi Arabia wants to invest up to \$150 mln into Ukrainian farming company



The Public Investment Fund (PIF), a sovereign wealth fund owned by Saudi Arabia and a global leader in the volume of investment in agriculture, with the acquisition of the Mriya farming company has made the largest investment in the Ukrainian agricultural sector over the entire period of Ukraine's independence and plans to additionally invest large funds in the company, Head of Office of the National Investment Council of Ukraine Yulia Kovaliv has said.



***“With acquiring Mriya's assets, the PIF plans additional investments in the technology park and assets of the holding over the next two years in the amount of up to \$150 million,” she told Interfax-Ukraine.***

“We assume that the next step will be investment in transport and port infrastructure,” Kovaliv said. In this regard, she pointed out the importance of adopting a new concession law, which is waiting for second reading in parliament. It can become a tool to attract this and other strategic investors to the transport sector.

“Potentially, the PIF is ready to consider projects in the energy and real estate sectors,” the head of Office of the National Investment Council also said.

As reported, Mriya Farming Plc (the U.K.) and SALIC UK Ltd. (Saudi Agricultural & Livestock Investment Company, the U.K.) entered into a share purchase agreement for the sale to SALIC of the Mriya group's Ukrainian farming assets, including infrastructure facilities, machinery, and companies owning land lease agreements.

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## Ukraine reviews grain harvest forecast to 63.1 mln tonnes, exports to 42 mln tonnes

The Agricultural Policy and Food Ministry of Ukraine has reviewed upwards the 2018 grain harvest forecast from over 60 million tonnes to 63.1 million tonnes, which is 1.1 million tonnes more than in the previous agricultural year, acting Agricultural Policy and Food Minister Maksym Martyniuk wrote on his Facebook page. “A group of late grain crops will contribute to the growth. Weather conditions were far from optimal, but losses were fragmentary, and as a result we have a decent ratio of bread wheat/coarse grains at 60/40,” he said.

The head of the agrarian ministry added that the export forecast was also increased, to 42 million tonnes.

“It is good news. The situation in the world (poor harvests in supplying countries, rising prices) raises its status to” magnificent,” Martyniuk said.

He also said that if the field works started late spring, the sowing campaign began almost a week earlier: as of September 10, 237,100 hectares were sown with grain, which is 3% of the forecast.



## Bayer launches seed plant in Ukraine for \$200 mln



Germany's Bayer chemical concern has launched a seed plant in the village of Pochuiky (Zhytomyr region) for \$200 million, Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has written on his Facebook page. "Today on September 5 in Zhytomyr region, a new modern plant for the production of seeds of agricultural products of Bayer company was opened. These are 85 permanent and 220 seasonal jobs for Ukrainians. It is important that Bayer helps to solve social issues of the local community – supports the school and library, financed the construction of a new road and an outpatient clinic," he wrote.

Poroshenko said that \$200 million of investment funds were attracted for the construction of the plant.

"This is more evidence that Ukraine is an attractive country for international investment," the president said.

Bayer is an international company specializing in life sciences, namely, health and agriculture. The company has been operating in Ukraine since 1992 in the form of Bayer LLC, is a major supplier of crop protection agents (pesticides, herbicides and fungicides) and seeds in Ukraine.

Kyiv International Economic Forum – KIEF – is a new major international conference focused on the future of economic development. Held annually in Kyiv, it is not just an event about or for Ukraine, but an innovative forum that covers the global agenda. KIEF has been envisioned to become a leading discussion platform at an intersection of civilizations based in the capital of the biggest country in Europe.

This year Kyiv International Economic Forum supported by the Prime Minister will take place on October 18 – 19, 2018.

Forum Organizing Committee:

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Maksim Urakin is a project director of the Biweekly news digest of KIEF.

Contact Info:

[urakin@interfax.kiev.ua](mailto:urakin@interfax.kiev.ua) or +38(044) 270 65 74

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