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# UKRAINIAN PRESIDENT PROPOSES TO EQUATE CORRUPTION TO HIGH TREASON

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky will propose to the Verkhovna Rada to equate wartime corruption with high treason, the relevant bill will be sent in the coming week. "For me personally, the war is No. 1. Should I find more time to fight corruption? Are we going to do it? Absolutely. But I don't have, how can I tell you, a lot of time to deal with the details, because there are really little things," Zelensky said in an interview with Natalia Moseychuk, made public on her YouTube channel.



According to him, "if you want to fight the local paving stones, there is no way to fight the paving stones of every city."

"There are fundamental solutions, I pay attention to them. For example, corruption. I put the task to the legislation. The legislator of Ukraine will be offered my proposals to equate corruption with high treason in wartime. And I realize that such a weapon cannot operate permanently in society. But for wartime, I think it will help," he said.

## HEADLINES



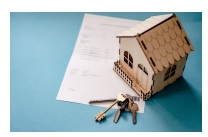
**TURKISH ONUR GROUP BUYS UKRAINIAN GRANITE MINING COMPANY**



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**UKRAINIAN WHEAT FOR EXPORT THIS SEASON WILL BE NO LESS THAN LAST SEASON**



**UKRAINE'S RAPESEED PRODUCTION IN 2023 WILL REACH HISTORICAL MAXIMUM**

# MORE THAN 70 DIPLOMATS JOIN MEETING ON PEACE FORMULA IN UKRAINIAN CAPITAL

Head of the Office of the President of Ukraine Andriy Yermak discussed with diplomats the implementation of Ukraine's Peace Formula, the press service of the Office of the President has said.

More than 70 representatives of foreign states took part on the seventh meeting on the issue dedicated to the Food Security item of the formula that took place in the territory of a bread company in Kyiv region. The enterprise was hit by one of Russia's missile attacks last year.

Yermak said that in Africa alone 32 countries depend on Ukrainian grain export. He thanked the partners for ensuring the operation of the grain corridor in the Black Sea and for their support for the Grain from Ukraine humanitarian initiative proposed by President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy, which is aimed at delivering grain to the most vulnerable African countries.

"We understand how important it is to help people on other countries that also suffer from the war and the same aggressor as the citizens of Ukraine," Yermak said.

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## WORLD BANK TO PROVIDE UKRAINE WITH \$1.7 BLN FOR NEW PROJECTS IN EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SECTOR

Preparation of new framework projects "Lifting up Education And Results in Times of Need" (LEARN) and "Investing in Social Protection for Inclusion, Sustainability and Efficiency" (INSPIRE) was discussed by the Ministry of Finance of Ukraine and representatives of the World Bank on August 29.

According to the Ministry of Finance on its website on Wednesday, the estimated cost of these projects is \$500 million and \$1.2 billion, respectively.



# WORLD BANK GROUP

It is specified that also in the center of attention was a new project "Strengthening the health care system and preservation of life" (Heal Ukraine), announced earlier this year in the amount of EUR 368 million.

The Ministry of Finance reminded that the projects "Improvement of Higher Education in Ukraine for Results" in the amount of \$200 million and "Modernization of the System of Social Support of the Population of Ukraine" in the amount of \$750 million are currently being implemented.

It is indicated that at the meeting Deputy Minister of Finance Roman Yermolichiev noted the importance for Ukraine to implement measures aimed at the formation of human capital, in particular the development of health care, education and social protection..

# TURKISH ONUR GROUP BUYS UKRAINIAN GRANITE MINING COMPANY

Turkey's Onur Group has acquired Rokytnivsky Spetskarier LLC, which produces granite, granodiorite and gabbro-diorite at the Rokytnivsky deposit in Rivne region. According to Nadra.info, in May 2023, Onur Construction International LLC became the sole participant of Rokytnivsky Special Quarry LLC, and on June 1, Turkish citizens Iskhan and Onur Cetinjeeviz were named as the ultimate beneficiaries of the quarry. The former co-owners of the company were Inna Samoilik and Ihor Vivchar, the latter being the director of Rokytnivsky Special Quarry.

According to the protocol of the State Commission of Ukraine for Mineral Resources dated June 15, 2017, the reserves of Rokytnivsky deposit amount to 9.6 million cubic meters. The special permit for subsoil use issued to Rokytnivsky Special Quarry is valid until 2038.

According to the publication, as of August 2023, Onur Group controls eight mining assets in Ukraine.

Source: <https://nadra.info/2023/08/onur-acquired-another-mining-company-in-ukraine>

# UKRAINE'S VELTA ENGAGES CANADA'S HATCH TO DESIGN PLANT IN US

Velta group of companies with titanium ore mining assets in Novomyrhorod (Kirovograd region) has signed an agreement with international consulting company Hatch to design a titanium powder plant in the United States. According to a press release on Tuesday, the agreement was signed between Velta Holding US Inc and Hatch. It is noted that the new plant will be one of the first in the U.S. to operate based on Ukrainian low carbon footprint technology developed at Velta's research center.

“*This partnership agreement brings the Velta team closer to presenting the solution of Ukrainian scientists to the US titanium market, which is dangerously dependent on external supply chains,*” the press service quotes Velta CEO Andriy Brodsky as saying.

At the same time, he expressed confidence that thanks to Hatch's design expertise, the plant will be able to quickly and efficiently meet the demand for titanium for the countries that are Ukraine's allies in the war.

The capacity of the first plant is designed for 1,000 tons per year of titanium powder with the potential to scale up in the future.

The company also emphasizes its intentions to build a similar plant in Ukraine.



# JAPAN TO PROVIDE UKRAINE WITH UP TO \$7 BLN IN AID – KISHIDA

Japan will provide up to \$7 billion in aid to Ukraine, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said, speaking online at the 3rd Summit of the International Crimean Platform in Kyiv.



*“Japan will continuously provide (Ukraine) with a variety of assistance in the amount of up to \$7 billion, depending on the needs,” he said.*

In addition, Japan will use its experience and expertise in post-war reconstruction and disaster recovery to provide assistance, he said.

Kishida reiterated that Japan has consistently supported the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, including Crimea, and will continue to work closely with the international community, particularly the G-7 countries, and join sanctions against Russia to provide continued support to Ukraine.

“I visited Kyiv and Bucha in March of this year and witnessed the tragedy with my own eyes. This confirmed my belief that Russia’s aggression against Ukraine is an extraordinary act that violates the foundations of the international order,” he said.

## ODESSA FILATOV INSTITUTE RECEIVED NEW CARS FROM CHARITABLE FOUNDATION “KOLO”

Charitable Foundation “Kolo” provided transportation for two social projects implemented by the Institute of Eye Diseases and Tissue Therapy named after V.P.Filatov of the National Academy of Medical Sciences of Ukraine (Odessa). V.P. Filatov Institute of Eye Diseases and Tissue Therapy of the National Academy of Medical Sciences of Ukraine (Odessa).

As Interfax-Ukraine was informed in the Institute, the Foundation provided transportation for the project “Let’s Save Sight”, within the framework of which a team of ophthalmologists from the Institute travels weekly to the settlements of the region to examine patients directly in their places of residence. This helps to detect eye diseases in time, which without timely ophthalmologic care can lead to disability and even blindness.

The second project, the further implementation of which became possible thanks to the provided transportation – “I want to see”. The project has been running for about 15 years, and within its framework the Institute’s specialists regularly visit the departments for nursing premature babies in maternity hospitals and examine premature newborns to detect retinopathy of prematurity. This is a severe eye disease based on immaturity of eye structures, in particular the retina, at the time of premature birth. Timely diagnosis and highly skilled care can save children from irreversible blindness. “A huge challenge for both teams was the lack of appropriate transportation.

The team of the project “Let’s Save Sight” left on a twenty-year-old car “Gazelle” with absolutely unacceptable conditions of transportation of ophthalmologic equipment. Doctors of the project “I want to see” used their own transport, and cars rented by the benefactors, and even public transport of Odessa. Today the problems of traveling teams are solved thanks to the charity fund “Kolo”, – emphasize in the Institute.

“Doctors and patients of Filatov Institute sincerely thank the Charitable Foundation “Kolo”, its director Elena Krivenko, volunteer of the Foundation Maria Kotvitskaya and General Producer of Ukrainian Fashion Week, volunteer Vladimir Nechiporuk for their help”, – emphasized in the Institute.



## NBU INCREASED ITS NET PROFIT BY 22.2%

The National Bank of Ukraine's net profit in the second quarter of this year amounted to UAH 17.59 billion, up 22.2% year-on-year, according to the NBU's report on its website. According to the report, net interest income almost halved to UAH 10.53 billion from UAH 20.70 billion, but UAH 7.69 billion of profit from transactions with financial instruments at fair value, compared to UAH 4.26 billion of loss in the second quarter of last year, improved the financial result overall.

In the first half of the year, the NBU's net profit amounted to UAH 43.28 billion, down 37.9% compared to the first half of last year, when this result was largely due to UAH 48.82 billion of profit from operations with financial assets and liabilities in foreign currency and gold, compared to UAH 7.74 billion in the first half of this year.

According to the NBU, its consolidated assets increased by 17.1% to UAH 2.293 trillion in January-June this year. "The change in the volume of assets is primarily the result of a 37% increase in international reserves – to \$39.0 billion at the end of the first half of 2023 from \$28.5 billion at the end of 2022," the central bank explained.

He specified that the volume of non-resident securities in its portfolio in the first half of 2023 increased by 23% to UAH 858.5 billion, and the volume of funds and deposits in foreign currency and precious metals almost doubled to UAH 464.4 billion.

At the same time, the lion's share – almost 98% – of non-resident securities is denominated in US dollars, including 92.8% of US issuers, while at the beginning of the year these figures were 95.3% and 84.0%, respectively.

During the reporting period, the NBU, in particular, got rid of securities denominated in euros, which amounted to 1.5% of the portfolio at the beginning of the year.

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## SWEDISH FASHION-RETAILER H&M TO RETURN TO UKRAINE AFTER 3 MONTHS

Swedish fashion-retailer H&M plans to start a gradual reopening in Ukraine from November 2023.

"Earlier it was reported that H&M Group temporarily closed its stores in Ukraine from February 24, 2022. The company has been in close dialog with partners and authorities and now plans to gradually reopen most of its stores in the country from November 2023," the company's website pointed out on Thursday.

The statement emphasizes that preparations are underway to reopen most stores where possible, with employee safety remaining a top priority.

H&M also plans to participate in relief and recovery programs, cooperate with local organizations and support Ukraine in the reconstruction process.

Swedish company Hennes&Mauritz AB (H&M), owner of Europe's second largest clothing chain, opened its first store in Ukraine in 2018.

H&M Hennes&Mauritz LLC was established in 2013. According to the data of the Unified state register of legal entities and physical persons-entrepreneurs, the ultimate beneficiary is Stefan Persson (Sweden).

At the beginning of the full-scale invasion, the H&M chain in Ukraine had eight outlets: five in Kiev, one each in Odessa, Kharkiv and Lviv.



# MACROECONOMIC INDICATORS OF UKRAINE AND WORLD IN FIRST HALF OF 2023

The YouTube channel “Experts Club” has published a new video in which the founder of this think tank, Maksim Urakin, provides his analysis of Ukraine’s macroeconomic indicators and the state of the global economy in the first half of 2023.

## Demographic indicators of Ukraine

Speaking about the demographic factor in the development of the Ukrainian economy, the expert cited data from the Opendatobot portal, which shows that the birth rate in the country continues to decline. According to these data, about 97 thousand children were born in the first half of 2023, which is 28% less than in the same period of 2021. “The birth rate has been declining by about 7% annually since 2013. However, the full-scale war has aggravated the situation, causing the largest crisis in natural population growth. The demography of our country continues to be under pressure due to the current circumstances,” said Maksim Urakin. According to him, in the first half of 2023, the number of marriages fell by 17% compared to the same period last year, while the number of divorces increased by a third, especially in Kyiv.

## Economic recovery

Turning to the macroeconomic sphere, the economist emphasized that the Ukrainian economy has started to show signs of recovery.

“According to the NBU, Ukraine’s economy grew by 18.3% in the second quarter relative to the same period last year. This growth is relative to the period of the greatest decline at the beginning of the war.”, – said the founder of the club of experts.

Nevertheless, Maksim Urakin expressed concerns about the long-term outlook.

“Despite the current positive trend, the main risk for the Ukrainian economy continues to be related to the duration and intensity of the war. This may complicate the recovery, as well as cause problems with inflation and currency exchange rate,” Urakin noted.

According to him, the main negative factors affecting economic activity are a decrease or instability of international aid, as well as possible further destruction of energy infrastructure and problems with electricity supply in the fall and winter period.

## Analysis of Ukraine’s foreign trade

Maksim Urakin also drew attention to the factor of growth of the negative balance of foreign trade, which has been noted since the beginning of the war.

“The country’s negative foreign trade balance continues to grow, reaching \$9 billion in the first five months of this year, according to Gosstat estimates. This suggests that Ukraine is spending more currency on importing goods than it earns from exporting them. We see a sharp drop in exports of mineral products by 39.3%, ferrous and non-ferrous metals by 21.4%, wood and wood products by 17.7%, machinery products by 18.2%, chemical industry by 21.4% and other industrial goods by 4.1%,” – said the candidate of economic sciences.

However, not all the news in this sphere was pessimistic. Urakin emphasized the growth of food exports by 9.9%, which indicates the potential of the Ukrainian agro-industrial complex, which will probably become one of the main drivers of the country’s economic recovery in the coming years.

As for the balance of foreign trade in services, although still negative, the pace of its reduction gave some grounds for optimism.

“We see that the deficit of foreign trade in services is shrinking, which may indicate a gradual recovery of some service sectors in Ukraine,” the expert concluded.



## Ukraine's financial situation in 2023

However, equally important aspects of the economy, according to the expert, are government debt, international reserves and inflation.

"The country's public debt continues to increase its volume. By the middle of 2023 the Ukraine approached the mark of 140 billion dollars. At the same time, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has adjusted its forecasts on the level of the country's public debt, reducing it from 98.3% of GDP to 88.1% of GDP. Despite this 'positive' realistic revision, this level of debt represents a significant burden for the national economy," Maxim Urakin said.

The main source of financing of Ukraine's budget, according to the expert, is still related to foreign aid.

"Half of the budget is financed by taxes and fees, while the rest comes from international grants and loans," he emphasized.

Nevertheless, the country's international reserves have shown positive dynamics.

"By August this year, Ukraine's international reserves reached a record \$41.72bn, which is 6.9% higher than the previous record. This increase is probably the result of active external financial support," the analyst said.

As for inflation, it showed a slowdown. "After a record 27% inflation in 2022, this indicator fell to close to 4% in July this year," Urakin noted.

Thus, the economic situation in Ukraine, according to the founder of the "Experts Club", continues to be complex and multifaceted, requiring careful monitoring and adaptation of strategies in response to changing conditions.

## World economy in 2023: analysis and forecasts

In the last presented studies of the "Experts Club" the economic situation in Ukraine was actively considered, however, according to Maxim Urakin, the dynamics of the world economy also has a significant impact on our country. According to the latest data, the world economy shows stable signs of growth, but there are also certain risks.

"The IMF has recently provided its forecasts for global economic growth. A growth of 3% is forecast for 2023 and the same is expected in 2024. The decisions taken by the US to resolve issues related to the level of public debt, as well as active actions in the US and Swiss banking sectors, have helped to reduce the immediate risks of a crisis in the global financial market. However, as the IMF emphasized, "the balance of risks remains tilted towards a possible deterioration of the economic situation at the global level," the economist explained.

Inflation continues to be in the center of experts' attention. Although the IMF lowered its inflation forecast for the current year to 6.8%, expectations for 2024 were adjusted upward.

Based on this information, Maxim Urakin concludes that the global economy is on the way to stabilization, but the situation remains ambiguous due to a number of uncertain factors. It is important for countries and their economies interacting in the global market to monitor changes and prepare for possible challenges.

## Economic development in individual countries

According to the founder of the "Experts Club", the global economy in 2023 is showing mixed results. While some countries are overcoming the effects of the pandemic and are on the path to stable growth, others are facing challenges from internal and external factors.

"The U.S. economy exceeded expectations, posting above-forecast growth. Meanwhile, consumer spending and government spending also showed solid growth, but residential investment continues to decline. China, which is on the road to recovery from the pandemic, showed strong economic growth, although the construction industry continues to experience a crisis. The Eurozone has shown moderate growth, with the region's largest economy, Germany, facing recession. At the same time, the UK and Japan have positive adjustments to their GDP forecasts. India continues to strengthen its economic position, showing dynamic growth. Meanwhile, Brazil, although showing growth in the current year, expects a decline by 2024," summarized the expert.

For more details on the situation in the Ukrainian and global economy, see the video on the YouTube channel "Club of Experts" at the link:

You can subscribe to the channel here:  
<https://www.youtube.com/@ExpertsClub>



# POLISH AND UKRAINIAN RAILWAYS AGREE TO COOPERATE

On Monday, Ukrzaliznytsia (UZ) and Polish operator Polskie Koleje Państwowe Spółka Akcyjna (PKP S.A.) signed an agreement on the development of railway communication, the first of its kind since 1994, said Yevhen Lyashchenko, chairman of the board of UZ.



*“Together we will continue to develop the border infrastructure and increase passenger and freight traffic between our countries, which will ultimately have a positive effect on our railways and the national economies of Ukraine and Poland,” Lyashchenko said in a press release.*



Under the agreement, PKP will work out measures to conclude separate agreements with UZ in the field of railway infrastructure management, freight and passenger rail transportation. The parties will also set up joint working groups to draft individual agreements. In addition, UZ and PKP have agreed that the transshipment of goods into wagons of a different gauge or the transfer of wagons to bogies of a different gauge will be carried out not only by the receiving carrier at a border station located in its state, but also by the delivering carrier at a border station located in its territory.



# UKRAINIAN TARYAN GROUP TO BUILD COMPLEX ON ISLAND OF BALI

Investment and development group of companies Taryan Group (Kyiv) has announced its entry into the international real estate market with the Taryan Dragon project on Bali, Indonesia.

“Taryan Group is becoming an international developer. We are pleased to announce a new dream project – Taryan Dragon in Bali, Indonesia,” said the group’s founder Artur Mkhitarian on Facebook.



According to him, the complex will be implemented in the format of resort&residence investment real estate. The return on investment is expected to be 17%. The architect of the project is the British John Dawes.

Taryan Group, founded in 2011, is implementing a project of a premium residential complex Taryan Towers for three buildings at 12 John Paul II Street in the capital (commissioning of the complex is scheduled for the end of 2023).





# HOUSING COMMISSIONING IN UKRAINE HAS SHARPLY INCREASED IN FIRST HALF OF YEAR

Commissioning of housing in Ukraine in January-June 2023 increased by 1.4 times compared to the same period of 2022 – up to 3 million 593.1 thousand square meters, the State Statistics Service reported.

According to the report, 2 million 25.6 thousand square meters of housing (56.3% of the total volume) have been commissioned in cities since the beginning of the year, which is a quarter more than last year's figure, while in rural areas – 1 million 567.5 thousand square meters, which is almost twice as much as in the first half of 2022.

“ Overall, 44.2 thousand apartments were commissioned during the reporting period, which is 61% more than in January-June 2022. At the same time, 26.4 thousand apartments were commissioned in cities, which is 25% more than last year, in villages – 17.7 thousand apartments, which is 2.5 times more than in the same period of 2022.



According to the State Statistics Committee, 9.9 thousand apartments were commissioned in single-family houses, 36.2 thousand – in apartment buildings. According to the results of the first half of the year, the most housing was commissioned in Kyiv region (594.3 thousand square meters, 16.5% of the total volume), Kyiv (544.1 thousand square meters), Vinnytsia region (459.2 thousand square meters), Lviv region (340 thousand square meters), Ivano-Frankivsk region (246.7 thousand square meters) and Zakarpattia region (176.3 thousand square meters).

According to statistical data, the growth of housing commissioning was recorded in all regions of Ukraine, except for three regions. Thus, in Poltava region commissioned 69.9 thousand square meters, which is 41.2% less than in January-June 2022, in Chernihiv region – 20.4 thousand square meters (-39%) and Zhytomyr region – 52.5 thousand square meters of housing (-11.2%).

## DEMAND FOR NEW PASSENGER CARS DOUBLED IN UKRAINE

Registrations of new passenger cars in Ukraine in August this year almost doubled compared to August last year – up to 5.8 thousand units, which is also 9% more than in July this year, reported “Ukravtoprom” on its website.

The first place is held by Toyota with an increase in registrations by 49% to August-2022 – up to 1118 units, and the second place, having pushed away Renault, was taken by Volkswagen, whose registrations increased almost fourfold – up to 611 units.

Renault registrations increased 2.4 times by August-2023, up to 501 units.

BMW with a 2.2-fold increase in registrations to 433 units and Skoda with 394 cars (almost 2.5 times more) also made it to the top 5 of the month.

The bestseller of the Ukrainian market of new passenger cars is a compact crossover Renault Duster, which was chosen by 473 buyers in August.

According to “Ukravtoprom”, a total of 38.1 thousand new passenger cars were registered in Ukraine in January-August, which is 56% more than in the same period of 2022.

## PHARMACY SALES FOR 6 MONTHS INCREASED BY 19%

Pharmacy sales for January-June 2023 increased in monetary terms by 19% compared to the same period of 2022 – to UAH 84.126 billion, but in physical terms decreased by 10.4% – to 612.11 million packs.

Business Credit reported to Interfax-Ukraine that according to its research, the weighted average price of goods of the pharmacy basket in the first half of 2023 amounted to 137.44 UAH – 33% more than in the same period of 2022.

In addition, pharmacy sales of medicinal products in the first half of the year in monetary terms amounted to UAH 65.96 billion (by 16.9%).

At the same time, in physical terms, pharmacy sales of drugs decreased by 8.12% to 430.899 mln packs.

According to “Business Credit”, in monetary terms, the greatest sales dynamics in January-June 2023 were demonstrated by household chemicals (58.6% growth), mineral water (52.1%) and dietary supplements, sales of which increased by 51.2% – to UAH 8.452 billion.

At the same time, in physical terms, almost all products of the pharmacy basket showed negative dynamics, except for dietary supplements, sales of which increased by 22% – to 50.611 mln packs, household chemicals (17.64% growth), medical cosmetics (13.15% growth) and mineral water (9.62%).



## UKRAINIAN MILLERS REPORT POOR QUALITY OF NEW CROP WHEAT

Ukrainian flour millers are increasingly reporting low quality of the new harvest wheat, in some regions the total share of grade 2 and 3 wheat will not exceed 10% of total production, APK-Inform news agency reported.

According to the report, the majority of processors in communication with the agency's experts noted that they mainly receive offers of wheat with low protein content – up to 11%, a small share – at the level of 11-12% and only a few offers with protein content at the level of 13%.

“ *“Some processors predict that in some regions of the country the total share of wheat of 2nd and 3rd class this year will not exceed 10% of the total production,” the analysts said.* ”

According to them, the current situation with the quality of wheat provides significant support to prices. This week, most Ukrainian millers continued to gradually increase their purchase prices for milling wheat.

As of August 23, the demand prices for wheat of the 2nd and 3rd grades were mostly fixed in the range of 5700-6700 UAH/ton and 5500-6500 UAH/ton CPT, respectively, which is 100-200 UAH/ton higher than at the end of last week, but most buyers raised the minimum and close to them prices, experts explained.

## MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE OF POLAND: POLAND READY TO IMPOSE UNILATERAL BAN ON GRAIN IMPORTS FROM UKRAINE AFTER SEPTEMBER 15

If necessary, Poland will impose a unilateral ban on imports of Ukrainian grain after September 15, while the transit of goods will be maintained, Agriculture Minister Robert Telusz told Polsat News at a press conference on Tuesday.

He denied media reports that a split in the coalition of countries banning Ukrainian grain imports had occurred and that the number of EU member states opposing Poland's position on extending restrictive measures after September 15 had increased from 13 to 20.

"This is the first time I've heard that more countries are against it. I have talked to many ministers from the European Union about this. I see an understanding that we need to build a coalition. We have to build a mechanism. I am convinced that Romania is a member of the coalition," Telusz was quoted as saying by the Polish publication farmer.pl.

He also said that next week he will hold talks with representatives of Slovakia to determine together "in which direction we will move."

"At the moment, I have no doubt that there is a coalition," Telusz assured.

The Polish minister emphasized that keeping the ban on the import of Ukrainian grain only until September 15 is "a political argument to further destabilize the situation in Poland."

"We will not allow this," he assured.

The Polish government wants this issue to be resolved "amicably in the European Union, so that there is no need to break down the door."

"If it is necessary (...) to introduce unilateral bans, we will introduce them, because we are concerned about the interests of farmers (...), and there is no discussion on this topic," Telusz stated.

Answering a question about possible risks of penalties being imposed on Poland if it violates the rules of the single market, the Minister said that "I don't want to hear how we, the Poles, are being scared by fines (...)" and added that Poland "will pursue a tough policy in the interests of the Poles."

Telusz said that Poland is in dialogue with Ukraine, Lithuania, and Latvia to transit grain through Poland.

"We are in dialogue with Ukraine, as well as with Lithuania and Latvia, to use their ports," he said, and assured that the grain that leaves Poland does not return.

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## HUNGARY MAY EXPAND RESTRICTIVE LIST OF GOODS FROM UKRAINE FROM SEPTEMBER 16

The Hungarian government will protect farmers and, if necessary, close the border to some grain products coming from Ukraine from September 16, Hungarian Agriculture Minister Istvan Nagy told the Transit political festival in Tihany. "If the EU does not extend the import ban on some Ukrainian grain products, which expires on September 15, Hungary will impose an import ban not only on four products, but on all 24 previous products in order to protect the domestic market," the Hungarian publication agrarszektor.hu quoted the minister as saying.

According to him, Hungary's agriculture has experienced one shock after another in recent years. The coronavirus epidemic, drought, the war raging in the neighborhood and its consequences, the energy crisis, and the fact that cheap Ukrainian agricultural products have flooded the European market duty-free are all difficulties for producers, he said.

"Although the harvest is better – a near-record amount of corn is expected this year – sales are facing difficulties due to cheap competition," Nagy added.

As reported, Polish Agriculture Minister Robert Telusz said after a meeting of a coalition of five frontline countries in Poland on Friday that the position of Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Slovakia and Romania on the need to extend restrictive measures against Ukrainian wheat, rapeseed, corn and sunflower remains unchanged – a ban until the end of 2023.

## UKRAINIAN WHEAT FOR EXPORT THIS SEASON WILL BE NO LESS THAN LAST SEASON

Despite a 20% reduction in crop production areas due to the occupation of a number of regions, favorable weather conditions will allow farmers to harvest and export wheat in the 2023/24 marketing year (MY) no less than last season, Minister of Agrarian Policy and Food Mykola Solsky said on the air of the United News marathon.

“The carry-over stocks of crops in 2023 are about five times less than in the 2022 season, when there were 27 million tons of agricultural products in the country as of mid-summer. On average, agriculture has been bringing in about USD2 billion a month to the state budget since the grain corridor started working properly,” he said.

Assessing the prospects for the 2023 harvest, the Minister noted that this season, 20% less production area has been allocated for crops than in pre-war 2021, due to the areas in Donbas, Zaporizhzhia and the south of the country that are currently under occupation. He also clarified that during the fall 2022 sowing campaign, winter crops were sown 25% less than in 2021.



“Thanks to the weather, we got a significantly higher yield on these areas. It was not a harsh winter, there were no sharp temperature drops, and there was enough humidity, which led to the increase in yield. It was difficult for farmers to save on seeds, herbicides, and fertilizers. But one factor compensated for the other,” explained Solsky. Speaking about this season’s spring crop harvest, the Minister emphasized that a combination of natural and climatic factors, including a wet summer and average temperatures, affected the quality of grain, which will be worse than last season.

“We have less milling wheat and more feed wheat. But this is a standard situation for Ukraine, when the season depends primarily on weather conditions,” said the head of the agriculture ministry.

According to him, the tonnage of wheat for export to Ukraine in 2023/24 MY will be not less than last season.



## STATE ENTERPRISE “FORESTS OF UKRAINE” INCREASED BUDGET CONTRIBUTIONS BY A THIRD

The state-owned company Forests of Ukraine has transferred UAH 1.1bn more to the state budget for the first 8 months of 2023 than for the same period last year (up 35%). From the profit the company finances programs of assistance to the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

According to the report, another batch of equipment was handed over to the Armed Forces this week: five new L200 pickup trucks and four Ford trucks worth more than 24 million UAH, the company's press service said.



*“Since the beginning of the war, we have provided the AFU with more than 800 units of equipment, the total amount of assistance is more than 1.2 billion UAH. Additionally for tens of millions of hryvnias of aid for different units of the AFU collected by our employees. These are drones, thermal imagers, ammunition, generators, food. 43rd brigade, which has already become almost sponsored by us, this summer we have already transferred equipment worth more than 25 million hryvnias, and we will transfer it again”, – the press service quoted the head of the State Enterprise “Forests of Ukraine” Yuriy Bolokhovets at a meeting with the military in Kyiv Prigorodny forestry.*

Since its establishment in December 2022, the State Enterprise “Forests of Ukraine” has not purchased a single vehicle for the administrative staff. Only special equipment for firefighting and forest protection has been purchased. Almost two-thirds of the purchase amount was spent on vehicles then transferred to the military.

“With the profit that remains after taxes, we try to buy what the military needs,” Bolokhovets noted.

He added that the state forestries suffered a lot during the occupation. It is necessary to rebuild forestry premises, but the priority for the company is investment in the development of production and assistance to the AFU.

“Our brigade was established at the beginning of the year and is holding the front in the Kharkiv direction, where it is very hot today. There is a shortage of equipment, and the help of the State Enterprise “Lesov Ukrainy” is very important. We especially appreciate that it is new equipment – it means that it will serve longer and will not need repairs. There is no time for it in the war”, – said the deputy commander of the 43 brigade Andriy Petrov.

## UKRAINE’S RAPESEED PRODUCTION IN 2023 WILL REACH HISTORICAL MAXIMUM

The production of rapeseed in Ukraine in the season-2023 may reach the new historical maximum and amount to 4.2 mln tonnes, up 5% from the previous estimate and 17% from the previous year, APK-Inform news agency reported.



*“The increase in the potential of oilseed harvest was made possible due to the expansion of the planted area under this winter crop to about 1.5 mln ha (+3% by 2022), which, in turn, was due to the attractive price situation on the rapeseed market last fall, amid the general decline in prices for agricultural crops in Ukraine and, in particular, for grains,” the agency said in a statement.*

The analysts noted that weather conditions during the growing season and ripening had a positive impact on the rapeseed yield and estimated it at 28.8 centners per hectare, up 5% from the previous forecast and 3% higher than in the season-2022.

According to the updated forecast of APK-Inform, in 2023/24 MY the exports of rapeseed will amount to about 3.8 mln tonnes, up 4% from the previous forecast and 10% from the last year's figures.

“The shipment of the oilseed in the current season remains complicated due to the suspension of the “grain corridor”, missile attacks on the Danube ports and a significant load on the western crossings, and is likely to be more extended in time compared to the traditional timing of oilseeds sales on foreign markets in previous seasons,” the analysts said.

Export of Ukrainian rapeseed remains banned to Poland, Romania, Bulgaria, Slovakia and Hungary, APK-Inform reminded and suggested that the ban will be extended after September 15.

# CHARITY SQUASH TOURNAMENT ZENIT UKRAINE OPEN 2023 IN KYIV: RESULTS OF COMPETITION

On August 19-20, the capital's SPORT LIFE fitness center became the main competition arena for squash fans from all over Ukraine and the world. The Zenit Ukraine Open 2023 charity tournament brought together more than 100 players who came from Kyiv, Lviv, Kharkiv, Dnipro, Khmelnytskyi, Poltava, Kherson and Odesa, as well as from France, the USA, Turkey and Moldova.

The participants competed in various categories ranging from Lady B to Men A. The winners in their categories were:

**Lady B category:**

Anetta Siganevich  
Veronika Levkivska  
Yulia Yakimova

**Lady A category:**

Daria Vlasenko  
Tatiana Stanko  
Veronika Usenko

**Category Men D:**

Roman Popov  
Anton Babushko  
Stepan Kobzev

**Category Men C:**

Anton Skaballanovich  
Kirill Leonov  
Araik Sargsyan

**Category Men B:**

Maxim Shumelda  
Rostyslav Zavinskyi  
Dmytro Baluta

**Category Men A:**

Nikita Panov  
Ruslan Petrovych  
Maxim Tokar



After the sports part, the winners were awarded at the Brugge restaurant, where a charity auction and a patriotic buffet were also held. The joint efforts of the participants and the host Andriy Dzhezdzhula raised over UAH 100,000. These funds will be used to support squash players and the army.

The event could not have become so bright and successful without the support of partners and sponsors:

The main fitness partner "SPORT LIFE";

The event was organized by the Ukrainian Squash Federation;

Information partner – Interfax Ukraine news agency, Open4Business;

Official sponsor – Experts Club;

Medical partner – Adonis chain of clinics;

Partner of the award ceremony – "VILLA TINTA";

Prizes and gifts were presented by Sport Life, Reima and Tecnifibre;

The official water of the tournament is KRAINA;

Beer for participants and guests was provided by TERMO-PAB;

All tournament guests were accommodated at FAVOR HOTEL;

The award ceremony and party were held in partnership with the BRUGGE restaurant.

The tournament confirmed that charity and sport can go hand in hand, bringing joy and helping people.

Source <https://interfax.com.ua/news/press-release/930405.html>

# ROMANIA TO DOUBLE CAPACITY OF CONSTANTA PORT TO BOOST AGRO EXPORTS FROM UKRAINE

Romania will double the capacity of its main Black Sea port of Constanta and the Danube sea lanes within two months to help Ukraine deliver grain beyond Russia's reach, Romanian Prime Minister Marcel Ciolacu told the Financial Times. The Romanian prime minister emphasized that the plan would be implemented regardless of Russian attacks on Ukrainian ports on the other side of the Danube, on the border with Romania.

“*In 2023, Ukraine will have about 40 million tons of grain for export. To (facilitate) this, we have increased capacity both in Constanta harbor and on the routes leading to Constanta harbor to make this happen. We mobilized as much as we could,” he said.*

Ciolacu recalled that Romania's promise to expand the shipping corridor by deepening the Danube and expanding port infrastructure came after Russia withdrew from the Black Sea Grain Initiative, which allowed Ukrainian grain to reach world markets via the Black Sea. Moscow also threatened commercial ships and prevented them from leaving Ukrainian ports, which led to exports being diverted through the Danube.

“We have learned well the lessons related to Russia. We have zero dependence on Russian energy and resources. Our support for Ukraine is unconditional,” the Romanian Prime Minister emphasized. According to him, increasing the capacity of the Black Sea port of Constanta and other routes will allow Ukrainian grain exports to reach 4 million tons per month.

This digest is a mutual project of the Interfax-Ukraine News Agency and the Open4business.com.ua. Maksim Urakin is a project director of the Biweekly news digest of Open4business.com.ua.  
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## Open4Business helps foreign businesses to search for opportunities and expand to Ukrainian market

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The platform and related organizations provide a holistic set of services needed to successfully penetrate the Ukrainian starting from establishing foreign trade relations with local companies and up to establishing a subsidiary or acquiring a company in Ukraine.



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The List of Main Services:

- Market information and market intelligence
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- PR campaigns
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- Production outsourcing project management
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