



UKRAINE
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EU PLANS TO DISBURSE EUR 4.5 BLN TO UKRAINE BY END OF THIS YEAR



In 2023, the European Union became the largest donor to Ukraine, having already disbursed EUR13.5 billion under the macro-financial assistance instrument and expecting to disburse another EUR4.5 billion by the end of the year, European Commissioner for Economic Affairs Paolo Gentiloni said.

“Overall, the progress is very good, and I am optimistic about the prospects that Ukraine will fulfill all the conditions by the end of 2024 and beyond,” he said on Wednesday at the 4th Ministerial Roundtable on Support to Ukraine at the IMF-World Bank (WB) meeting in Marrakech.

According to him, the EU and other international partners should be proud of the fact that they contributed to covering Ukraine’s financing gap both last year and this year, and thanks to this solidarity, Ukraine’s economy is in better shape today than many expected.

“We count on the support of all international partners. We also need to harmonize the conditions of support between international donors and international financial institutions to ensure their consistency,” the European Commissioner added, emphasizing that funding remains a key factor.

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UKRAINIAN AGRARIANS HARVESTED 52.5 MLN TONS OF CROPS IN 2023

UKRAINE AND CROATIA AGREE TO COOPERATE IN DEMINING

An intergovernmental agreement on cooperation in the field of demining was signed on Tuesday in Zagreb by First Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Economy of Ukraine Yulia Svyrydenko and Vice Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior of Croatia Davor Božinović in the presence of Croatian Prime Minister Andrej Plenković, the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine reports.

“Ukraine is very grateful to the Croatian people and the Croatian government for the political, military, financial and humanitarian support that our country and Ukrainians have received since the beginning of the large-scale invasion... And today, Ukraine needs Croatia’s experience in demining and reconstruction and rehabilitation,” Svyrydenko said during a conversation with Plenkovic.

She also thanked Croatia for the programs aimed at rehabilitation of Ukrainian defenders and children of Ukrainian soldiers.

Speaking during the signing of the agreement on cooperation in the field of demining, Svyrydenko noted that Croatian-made demining machines are already operating in Ukrainian fields, and in the summer, Ukrainian and Croatian manufacturers agreed to localize the production of such machines in Ukraine.

“*Today we are strengthening our cooperation. The intergovernmental agreement on cooperation in demining launches a new stage of cooperation between governments, experts, demining specialists, and manufacturers of both countries,*” said the First Deputy Prime Minister.

The agreement envisages cooperation in the following areas: non-technical and technical survey, demining, and territory clearance; public education on the risks associated with explosive ordnance; assistance to mine victims; and development of a regulatory framework and standard procedures in the field of mine action.

In addition, it provides for trainings for specialists, exchange of experience among experts and teachers in training demining specialists, transfer of expert knowledge and best practices; exchange of knowledge on the production of protective equipment, mine detection and demining equipment, and training and certification of mine-sniffing dogs.



UKRAINE'S ECONOMY TO GROW BY 4.7% – FINANCE MINISTER

Ukraine's economy is demonstrating resilience this year, with GDP growth projected to reach 4.7% after falling by 29.1% last year, Finance Minister Sergii Marchenko said at a meeting with the G7 financial bloc on the sidelines of the IMF and World Bank meetings in Marrakech on Thursday in Marrakech.

"Inflation is falling faster than expected: to 7.1% in September 2023 from 26.6% in 2022. Domestic borrowings have exceeded the plan and have already reached more than \$11 billion since the beginning of the year. Thanks to our partners, international financial support is rhythmic and predictable, totaling \$33.8 billion in 2023," Marchenko was quoted as saying in a press release from the Ministry of Finance on Thursday evening.

The discussion, which was attended by finance ministers and central bank governors of the G7 member states, the IMF, the World Bank and the European Commission, focused on Ukraine's financial system, the state of implementation of structural reforms and cooperation with international financial organizations and the EU in the context of meeting budgetary needs in 2024.

The Minister emphasized that the Government of Ukraine is committed to implementing the reforms identified in cooperation with international partners.

In their turn, finance ministers of a number of countries and leaders of the EU, IMF and World Bank assured to maintain their support for Ukraine as long as necessary, the release said.

Although the joint efforts of the Ukrainian government and international partners have ensured the full provision of all public services to the population for nine months in a row, avoiding monetary financing, Marchenko emphasized that the uncertainty provoked by the war remains.

According to him, the 2024 budget envisages the accumulation of maximum resources for the security and defense sector, with expenditures at the level of the current year, as well as the creation of conditions for the development of the domestic defense industry. At the same time, it provides for an increase in spending on social protection and humanitarian aid, as supporting Ukrainians is an important priority of the Ukrainian government, and therefore the state budget deficit is projected at \$42.9 billion.

"I am very grateful to our partners for their assurances of continued support for the next year. We already have agreements with such countries as Japan and the UK. Also, Ukraine and the EU are actively working on the creation of the Ukraine Facility for 2024-2027 with a total volume of EUR 50 billion," the Minister of Finance said.

He added that Ukraine's fulfillment of the conditions set in cooperation with the IMF will allow it to receive \$5.4 billion under the EFF program next year.



IMPORTS TO UKRAINE INCREASED BY 18.9% IN 9 MONTHS

The volume of imports to Ukraine in January-September 2023 amounted to \$46.6 billion, up 18.9% or \$7.4 billion compared to the same period a year earlier, the State Customs Service reported on its website on Friday.

“*At the same time, the volume of Ukrainian exports decreased by 18.1% or \$6 billion to \$27.1 billion, according to the published information.*”

The negative balance for the first 9 months of this year amounted to \$19.5 billion, which is 3.2 times more than in the same period last year.

According to the State Customs Service, exports of goods fell by 15% to \$24.5 billion over the first eight months, while imports grew by 19% to \$41.1 billion, and the negative balance of trade in goods almost tripled to \$16.6 billion. “At the same time, taxable imports amounted to \$38.3 billion, which is 82% of the total volume of imported goods. The tax burden per 1 kg of taxable imports in January-September 2023 amounted to \$0.48 per kg, which is 47% more than in the same period in 2022,” the agency said on Friday.

It is specified that most of the imported goods during the reporting period came to Ukraine from China – \$7.4 billion (\$5.8 billion for 9 months of 2022), Poland – \$4.9 billion (\$3.8 billion) and Turkey – \$3.7 billion (last year the top three included Germany with \$3.3 billion).

Most of Ukraine’s goods were exported to Poland – \$3.7 billion (\$5.1 billion), Romania – \$3 billion (\$2.6 billion), and Turkey – \$1.9 billion (\$2.2 billion).

According to the State Customs Service, in January-September 2023, 65% of total imports of goods were machinery, equipment and transport – \$14.1 billion (UAH 100.6 billion, or 31% of customs revenues, was paid to the budget during customs clearance), chemical products – \$8.4 billion (UAH 57.2 billion, or 17% of customs revenues) and fuel and energy products – \$7.9 billion (UAH 68.0 billion, or 21% of customs revenues).

The top three most exported goods from Ukraine are food products – \$16.1 billion, metals and metal products – \$3 billion, and machinery, equipment and transport – \$2.3 billion.

ELECTRIC VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS IN UKRAINE ALMOST TRIPLED IN 9 MONTHS OF 2023

Initial registrations of electric vehicles in Ukraine in January-September 2023 increased 2.7 times compared to the same period in 2022, amounting to approximately 24.2 thousand units, while the share of new cars increased to 20% from 15%, Ukravtoprom reported on its Telegram channel on Tuesday.

At the same time, in September, according to the association, registrations increased by 12% compared to August this year and 2.7 times compared to September last year – up to 4,298 thousand units, including 775 new and 3,523 used cars.

“*The lion’s share of registrations, as before, is occupied by passenger cars – 4.215 thousand units (new – 769 units, used – 3,446 units), and only six of 83 commercial electric vehicles were new.*”

The TOP-5 new electric vehicles on the market in July included Volkswagen ID.4 – 350 units; Volkswagen ID.6 – 66 units; Toyota BZ4X – 51 units, Honda E – 49 units, BYD Yuan Plus – 19 units.

The top five used cars, as in August, were Nissan Leaf – 590 units; Volkswagen e-Golf – 433 units; Tesla Model 3 – 405 units; Tesla Model Y – 247 units and Renault Zoe – 194 units.

As reported, according to Ukravtoprom, Ukrainians purchased 13.6 thousand electric vehicles (new and used) in 2022, 1.5 times more than a year earlier, while the share of new vehicles increased to 17% from 14%.

INTERNATIONAL HOLDING VEON, WHICH OWNS KYIVSTAR, HAS FINALLY EXITED RUSSIAN MARKET

Global digital communications operator VEON (office in the Netherlands) announced the completion of its exit from Russia and the sale of its Russian asset to Vimpelcom. The terms of the deal do not provide for the possibility of repurchase, i.e. the completion of operations in the Russian market is complete and final for VEON

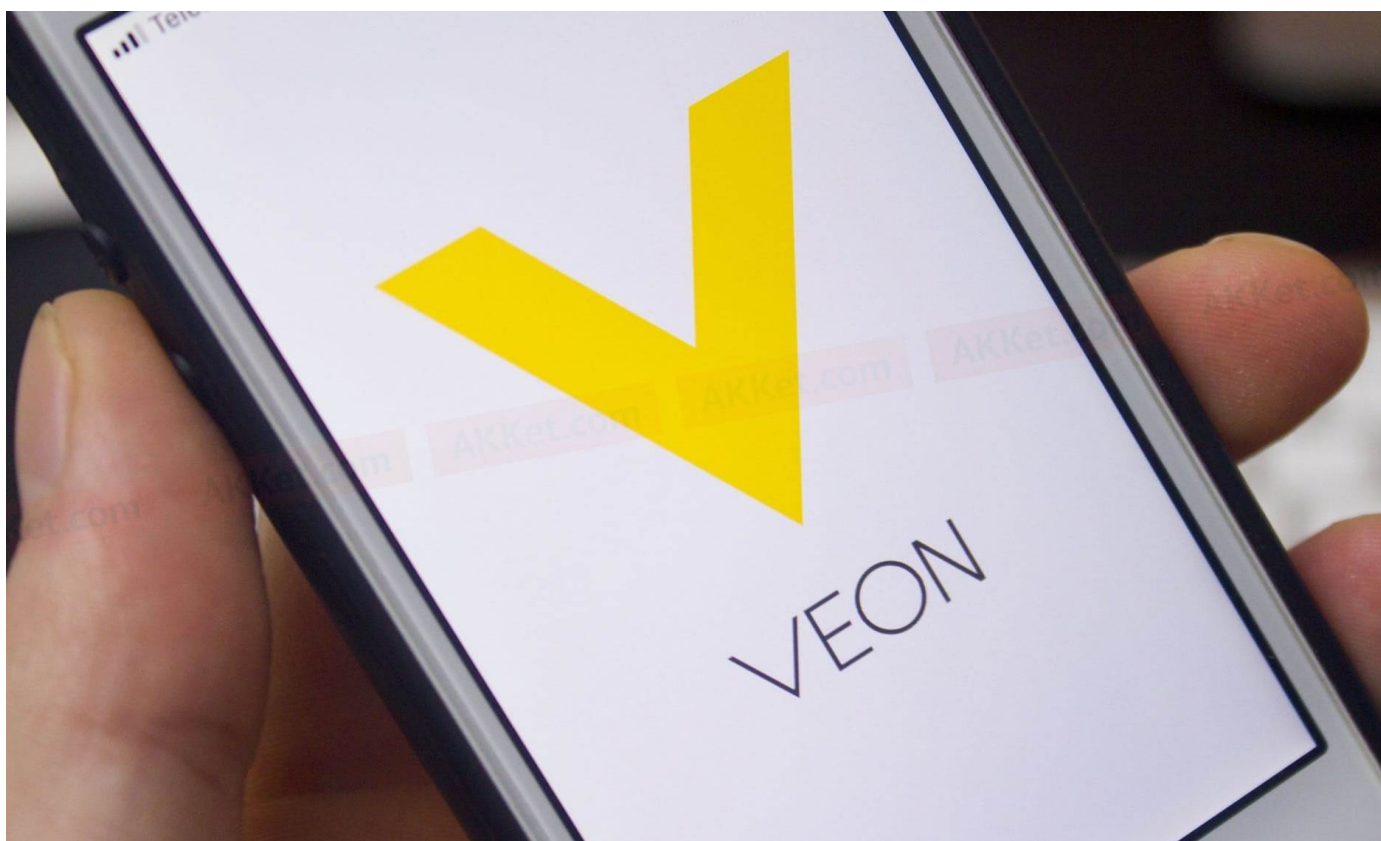
As Kyivstar President Alexander Komarov comments, “after a long series of legal procedures, our 100% shareholder VEON puts an end to its relationship with the Russian telecom market. This will mean strengthening the company’s development strategy in six other markets, including Ukraine”. In particular, in the next three years, VEON plans to invest 600 million dollars in Ukraine, which will be used to restore the telecom network and develop digital services and new mobile technologies.

Oleksandr Komarov emphasized that Kyivstar has been operating as usual, and since the beginning of Russia’s full-scale invasion has already invested UAH 8.2 billion in the development of the country’s telecom market, paid UAH 15.2 billion in taxes to the state, and provided support to state bodies, military, security and law enforcement agencies in the amount of more than UAH 1.4 billion, including bonuses and services without additional payment in the amount of UAH 577 million.

In addition, Kyivstar is now preparing the network to operate in conditions of possible power outages, for which it has invested UAH 988 mln. By the end of 2023, 110 thousand new batteries will be installed at Kyivstar’s base stations.

Background on Kyivstar

Kyivstar is Ukraine’s largest electronic communications operator, serving 24.1 million mobile subscribers and over 1.1 million Home Internet subscribers as of June 2023. The company provides services using a wide range of mobile and fixed technologies, including 4G, Big Data, Cloud solutions, services for cyber defense, digital TV, and others. Kyivstar helps subscribers, society and the country to overcome the difficulties of wartime. Since the beginning of the full-scale war, the company has allocated more than UAH 1.4 billion of assistance to the state, military, society and subscribers. The only shareholder of Kyivstar is the international VEON Group. The Group’s shares are freely traded on the NASDAQ (New York) and Euronext (Amsterdam) stock exchanges. Kyivstar has been operating in Ukraine for over 25 years and is recognized as the largest taxpayer in the telecom market, the best employer and a socially responsible company.



HAIR BEAUTY AND HEALTH THANKS TO NATURAL INGREDIENTS FROM GREENSOHO

Hair beauty and health are two parts of the same whole. Unfortunately, according to research, only 58% of women know how to properly care for their hair. Most often, they follow generally accepted recommendations and use care products that sometimes do more harm than good. Nowadays, many companies offer their own products. And sometimes it is very difficult to make the right choice. First of all, when choosing hair dye and hair care products, you should pay attention to the composition of the product. It is very important that such products consist mainly of natural ingredients.

Many women like to change their hair color from time to time. But after dyeing, they often face such problems as dry hair, hair loss, split ends, and short-lived color. Chemical dyes contain a large number of aggressive and harmful synthetic components – parabens, persulfates, resorcinol, hydrogen peroxide, ammonia, lead acetate, formaldehyde, ethanolamine, and others. All of these substances do not bring any benefit to either the hair or the body as a whole. So how can you protect your hair?

Not so long ago, hair care products from the Spanish brand Greensoho appeared in Ukraine. This is a new brand of hair cosmetics that combines advanced technologies and natural ingredients. It is safe because it is based on high-quality ingredients of plant origin. The products include various oils, extracts and vitamins.

Coloring with the Greensoho range provides a long-lasting result. You can be sure that after washing, your hair color will remain as bright as ever. But that's not all! The strands will become stronger and more voluminous, which is what we usually expect from care, not from dyes.

In addition, the Greensoho coloring procedure is safe, and the dyes themselves do not contain ammonia and animal products, parabens, silicones, sulfates, phthalates.

It is worth noting that Greensoho cosmetics do not mask problems, but solve them. Due to the intensity of the impact, the result lasts for a long time, and to maintain it, the company's specialists have created a special care.

Greensoho has a full line of hair care products: from professional colors to a special line of care for each type of hair. All of these products provide a highly professional level of hair health treatments. They give hair extraordinary softness, silkiness and elasticity.



FORESTS OF UKRAINE LAUNCHES PROJECT TO CREATE TALENT POOL SYSTEM

The state enterprise “Forests of Ukraine” is launching a project to create a system of personnel reserve, said the company’s CEO Yuriy Bolokhovets.

“*Forests of Ukraine employs more than 30 thousand people in all regions of the country. Thousands of management positions. Recently, we have been actively getting rid of managers who commit abuses or violations (...) But where and how to find the best personnel? (...) That’s why we are creating a system of personnel reserve,” he wrote on Facebook.*

According to Bolokhovets, the reserve should open up growth opportunities for the capable and hardworking. Every employee who wants to take part in the competition can apply, be tested and undergo a comprehensive assessment of knowledge and skills. Once a vacancy is opened, the HR committee will conduct a selection process, taking into account candidates from the reserve. Employees who are selected for the personnel reserve will be given the opportunity to improve their skills at training courses in law, management, psychology, IT, etc.

The Director General of the State Enterprise “Forests of Ukraine” expressed hope that the new system of candidate evaluation will be not only objective, but also transparent with the possibility of public control.

Currently, the talent pool system is being finalized, a list of positions is being formed, and tests covering all aspects of the company’s work are being developed. The reserve for three positions has already been launched in a pilot mode: a forester, a branch director, and a deputy director of a regional office.

The state enterprise expects that the reserve will start working next year. And all appointments to senior positions will be made exclusively on a competitive basis.

As reported, Ukraine launched a forestry reform in 2016. As part of it, the sale of raw wood at electronic auctions has already been introduced. Since 2021, an interactive map of wood processing facilities has been operating in a test mode in a number of regions.

The industry has implemented the Forest in a Smartphone project, which contains a list of logging tickets for timber harvesting and allows you to check the legality of logging on the agency’s online map.



UKRAINIAN AGRARIANS HARVESTED 52.5 MLN TONS OF CROPS IN 2023

Agrarians in all regions of Ukraine harvested 52.5 mln tons of grains and oilseeds, including 35.597 mln tons of grains and 16.883 mln tons of oilseeds, the press service of the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food reports. According to the report, grain and leguminous crops were harvested on an area of 7737.9 thousand hectares with a yield of 46.0 c/ha.

To date, Ukraine has harvested barley on 1505 thousand hectares (101% of the plan), from which 5.863 million tons were harvested; wheat – from 4695 thousand hectares (101%) 22.210 million tons were harvested; corn – from 884.4 thousand hectares (22%) 5.8 million tons; corn – from 884.4 thousand hectares (22%) 5.8 million tons. hectares (22%) 5.846 million tons; peas – from 154.4 thousand hectares (103%) 396.8 thousand tons were harvested; millet – from 72 thousand hectares (86%) 162.4 thousand tons were harvested; buckwheat – from 127.7 thousand hectares (90%) 188.8 thousand tons were harvested.

In addition, other grains and pulses were harvested in the amount of 929 thou tons from 300.5 thou hectares. Ukraine continues to harvest oilseeds, in particular, 4.005 mln tons of rapeseed (4.005 mln tons a week earlier) from the area of 1.396 mln hectares (98%), 9.042 mln tons of sunflower (7.308 mln tons a week earlier) from the area of 3.898 mln hectares (77%), and 3.776 mln tons of soybeans (2.205 mln tons) from 1.466 mln hectares (81%).

Sugar beet was harvested from 96.4 thou hectares (68.4 thou hectares a week earlier), which is 39% of the planned area. The harvest amounted to 4.602 mln tons. Vinnytsia region farmers are the leaders in sugar beet harvesting – 1 479.8 thsd tonnes.

The Ministry of Agrarian Policy is monitoring information on the yields of all crops as it revises its forecast. Thus, the yields of wheat, barley, peas and millet are in line with last week's figures – 47.3 c/ha, 39 c/ha, 25.7 c/ha and 22.6 c/ha, while buckwheat yields increased to 14.8 c/ha, compared to 14.2 c/ha the previous week. Corn yields 66.1 c/ha compared to 62.5 c/ha last week. Rapeseed yields remained unchanged at 28.7 c/ha, soybean yields slightly increased to 25.8 c/ha, respectively, and sunflower yields 23.2 c/ha, compared to 23.0 c/ha a week earlier. The yield of sugar beet increased to 477.4 c/ha.

As reported, this season's winter wheat plantings amounted to 4166 thou hectares (-834 thou hectares compared to the previous season), winter barley – 536 thou hectares (-255 thou hectares), and rapeseed – 1374 thou hectares (+110 thou hectares).



UKRAINE INCREASED EXPORTS OF SUNFLOWER OIL BY 40.3%

In January-September of this year, Ukraine increased exports of sunflower oil by 40.3% in physical terms compared to the same period last year – up to 4 mln 94.4 thsd tonnes, but in monetary terms it decreased by 5.8% to \$3 bln 724.01 mln, which amounted to 13.72% of total Ukrainian exports.

According to the statistics released by the State Customs Service, the main exports were to Turkey (18.44% of shipments in monetary terms), Romania (16.59%) and China (12.15%).

In the first nine months of this year, the exports of soybean oil increased by 20.2% to 207.1 thsd tonnes, but the revenue from these exports also decreased by 21.7% to \$181.24 mln.

“ *The top 3 importing countries of Ukrainian soybean oil are Poland (69.1% of supplies in monetary terms), Germany (5.19%) and the United Arab Emirates (4.67%).* ”

Exports of rapeseed and mustard oil in January-September 2023 reached 244.71 thsd tonnes, up 9.3 times compared to January-September 2022. The sales of this type of oil brought Ukraine \$205.72 mln, which is 5.8 times more than last year.

The key export countries of rapeseed and mustard oil were China (28.61% of supplies in monetary terms), Poland (20.08%) and Romania (15.22%).

In the first nine months of this year, margarine exports from Ukraine decreased both in physical terms (by 36.2%) and in monetary terms (by 37.5%) to 11.57 thousand tons worth \$24.64 million.

At the same time, exports under article 1518 “fats, oils and vegetable oils subjected to chemical modification” increased by 70.4% in physical terms to 12.60 thousand tons, and by 16.2% in monetary terms to \$11.22 million.

As for imports, the largest item in this segment of foreign trade remained the import of palm oil, which in January-September this year decreased both in physical (by 21.6%) and monetary terms (by 32.5%): 64.41 thousand tons of this type of oil were supplied to Ukraine, worth \$82.46 million.

At the same time, imports of margarine to the country during the reporting period slightly decreased in physical terms by 0.3% to 9.07 thsd tonnes, but increased in monetary terms by 7.3% to \$32.43 mln.

Finally, code 1516 “fats, oils, vegetable oils, chemically transformed without processing” closes the top three imports in this category – 11.23 thousand tons of products were supplied for \$25.63 million, while in 9 months of last year there were 9.54 thousand tons for \$26.62 million.

According to the State Customs Service, in the 12 months of pre-war 2021, exports of sunflower oil brought Ukraine \$6.39 billion, soybean oil – \$295.22 million, rapeseed and mustard oil – \$222.56 million.

The main buyers of Ukrainian sunflower oil in 2021 were India (29.83% in monetary terms), China (14.36%), and the Netherlands (10.49%); soybean oil – Poland (66.42%), China (14.52%), and Germany (5.06%); rapeseed and mustard oil – the Netherlands (41.38%), Poland (30.42%), and China (12.49%).



POLAND TO BUILD GRAIN TERMINAL IN GDANSK FOR UKRAINE

The first grain port in Poland will be built in Gdansk, in particular for the export of Ukrainian agricultural products, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Robert Telus said at a meeting with voters in Przysus, [polskieradio24.pl](#) reports. According to the report, RSSI (Agri-Food Investment Company) has signed an agreement with the Port of Gdansk to implement this project.

“On Tuesday, the state budget enterprise RSSI signed an agreement with the Port of Gdansk to create a grain port. We have a grain port,” the minister said, adding that this is an extremely important event.

He noted that the grain port will improve the transportation of grain, in particular from Ukraine.

The creation of further “solidarity corridors” that would allow the transportation of Ukrainian grain by sea is very important, he explained, while emphasizing that the lack of agricultural supplies to African countries is beneficial to Russian President Vladimir Putin.

As reported, on September 15, the European Commission announced that it would not extend restrictions on imports of agricultural products from Ukraine to five neighboring EU countries (Poland, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia) under certain conditions that will help avoid a new sharp increase in supplies.

The restrictions were introduced on May 2 and applied to imports of wheat, rapeseed, sunflower and corn. These five Eastern European EU member states argued that Ukrainian agricultural products, when imported duty-free into the EU, were being deposited in their countries and were harming their local agricultural sectors.

After the restrictions were lifted, Poland, Hungary, and Slovakia imposed unilateral bans. Poland expanded the list of banned products to include rapeseed cake and meal, as well as corn bran, wheat flour, and derivatives. Hungary extended the list to 24 commodity items.

Ukraine filed a lawsuit with the WTO, accusing Poland, Hungary, and Slovakia of discriminatory treatment of its agricultural products.

Ukraine is currently negotiating the introduction of a mechanism for licensing the export of Ukrainian agricultural products with mandatory verification in each of the five countries.

HUNGARY LIFTS BAN ON IMPORTS OF UKRAINIAN SUGAR

The Hungarian government has removed cane and beet sugar from the list of banned Ukrainian products for import after September 15, 2023, [Agroinform.hu](#) reported.

According to the report, the Hungarian government’s resolution on measures related to the transportation of certain agricultural products from Ukraine, which restricted the import of 24 Ukrainian agricultural products after September 15, removed the line referring to cane and beet sugar, as well as hard sucrose.

The decision came into force on October 10.

As reported, the European Commission announced on September 15 that it would not extend restrictions on imports of agricultural products from Ukraine to five neighboring EU countries (Poland, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia) with some conditions to avoid a new surge in supplies.

The restrictions were imposed on May 2, 2023 and concerned imports of wheat, rapeseed, sunflower and corn. These five Eastern European member states argued that Ukrainian agricultural products, when imported duty-free into the EU, were settling with them and harming the local agribusiness sector.

After the restrictions were lifted, Poland, Hungary and Slovakia introduced unilateral bans. Poland expanded the list of products banned for import with rapeseed cake and meal, as well as corn bran, wheat flour and derivatives. Hungary brought the list to 24 commodity items.

Ukraine has filed a lawsuit with the WTO, accusing Poland, Hungary and Slovakia of discriminating against its agro-products.

Ukraine is currently negotiating the introduction of a licensing mechanism for exports of Ukrainian agro-commodities with mandatory verification in each of the five countries.

“STODOLA” LAUNCHES ORGANIC TOMATO PROCESSING LINE

Stodola (Mykolaiv region) has launched an organic tomato processing line that will reach full capacity next year, Organic Standard LLC, which specializes in certifying organic producers, reported on Facebook.

“This year we launched a new line with a capacity of 2 tons per hour. We plan to reach this volume of processing next year. This year, it is still difficult to say how much tomatoes we will process,” Stodola owner Yan Ostrovsky was quoted as saying.

According to Ostrovsky, Stodola will produce organic juices, sauces, pickled and dried tomatoes, and purees. These products will be presented on the domestic market, and test batches for export are also planned.



Stodola LLC was registered in 2018 in Mykolaiv region, where it operates an agricultural and gastronomic business. It specializes in growing certified organic vegetables, berries, fruits and their preservation. He has a registered trademark and a restaurant of the same name – Stodola.

According to Opendatabot, the company’s revenue in 2022 amounted to UAH 1.487 million, of which UAH 612.8 thousand was net profit. The company’s assets amounted to UAH 1.687 million, and its debt obligations amounted to UAH 240 thousand.

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