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## ZELENSKY PROPOSES TO HOLD UKRAINE-AFRICAN UNION SUMMIT

During a conversation with African journalists, President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy proposed holding a Ukraine-African Union summit and said he was ready to come to any African country for this purpose.

According to the head of state, Ukraine is interested in strategic partnership with the states of the African continent, but such a partnership should be based on mutual respect for territorial integrity, sovereignty, language and traditions.

“This should be in the cultural plane, in the economic plane, and in respect between people. Without violating your and our rights, without affecting your and our freedom. We respect any state that respects us,” he said.

As the next step in the development of strategic cooperation, Zelenskyy announced his readiness to visit any state on the African continent.

“I do not have any priorities here (regarding a particular African state – IF-U). I think that if we can organize ourselves where we can meet, so that I have maximum contact with as many leaders, as many communities as possible, I think that would be better. And I would like to have the opportunity to organize such a meeting “African Union – Ukraine” or “Ukraine – countries of the African continent,” the president said.

“To be honest, I don’t care what the format is called. The main goal is for us all to do our best to achieve stability in the world and to achieve peace on the territory of our country. And to put the question not only in Russia, but with this war and the end of this war to put in place any aggressor with any colonial ambitions for the future,” he added.

As he emphasized, this is also very important for the future, because such things, such outbreaks and such wars can happen anywhere in the world.

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21 November 2023



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# PRESIDENT OF UKRAINE ACCEPTED CREDENTIALS FROM NEW AMBASSADORS OF FOREIGN STATES

President of Ukraine Vladimir Zelensky received letters of credence from the new Ambassador of Turkey Mustafa Levent Bilgen, Ambassador of the Czech Republic Radek Pech, Ambassador of Luxembourg Ronald Dofing, who began their work in Ukraine.

As reported on the website of the head of the Ukrainian state on Friday, the ceremony took place on the territory of the Sofia of Kiev national reserve.

During the conversation with Mustafa Levent Bilgen, Turkey's active participation in the Peace Formula meetings at the level of national security advisers and its willingness to lead the implementation of the food security clause of the Formula were highly appreciated.

“*The upcoming joint steps to ensure the operation of the “grain corridors”, the implementation of the global humanitarian initiative “Grain from Ukraine” and the priority areas of Ukrainian-Turkish security cooperation were discussed separately. The head of state noted Turkey’s important position regarding the further promotion of Ukraine’s Euro-Atlantic aspirations,” the statement says. message.*

During a conversation with the Ambassador of the Czech Republic, an exchange of views took place on interaction between states in the defense sector and strengthening cooperation in the military-industrial complex

“The President thanked the Czech Republic for its support of the Ukrainian peace formula and expressed hope for the further active involvement of Prague in its practical implementation and preparation of the Global Peace Summit. Special attention was paid to the issues of European and Euro-Atlantic integration of Ukraine and the importance of the Czech Republic’s support for the development of our country on the path to the EU and NATO “, reports the press service of the head of state.

During a conversation with Ronald Dauphing, the President thanked Luxembourg for participating in a meeting at the level of national security advisers on the implementation of the Ukrainian peace formula.

“The importance of Luxembourg’s support for the decision to begin negotiations on Ukraine’s accession to the EU during the December meeting of the European Council was noted. The head of state noted the need to develop a mechanism that would allow the use of Russian assets frozen by Luxembourg to restore Ukraine,” the message says.



# FILATOV INSTITUTE OF EYE DISEASES AND TISSUE THERAPY IN ODESA HAS PUT INTO OPERATION NEW MEDICAL BUILDING

In May of this year, the Filatov Institute of Eye Diseases and Tissue Therapy commissioned a new medical building. In May this year, the Filatov Institute of Eye Diseases and Tissue Therapy put into operation a new medical building built within the framework of the state investment project “Creation of a modern clinical base for surgical treatment of eye pathology”.

“*Today, both patients and doctors have fully settled into the new building and have been able to appreciate its benefits,” the clinic told Interfax-Ukraine.*

The new six-story building has 230 beds. In accordance with the new requirements for clinical facilities, each of the spacious wards has a bathroom, and all the requirements for ensuring the stay of patients with disabilities have been met. The building is equipped with the latest diagnostic, medical, laboratory, anesthesiology and operating equipment.

Currently, the new building houses four out of nine clinical departments, as well as two reception departments – separately for children and adults. In addition, the new building houses a complex of clinical laboratories, physiotherapy and ultrasound departments, and an operating room with 12 operating rooms.

“The commissioning of the new medical building will allow us to provide the most modern equipment and facilities for operating rooms, given the high surgical activity (more than 15,000 operations per year), and to achieve high standards of patient care in the clinical facility,” the institute emphasized.

Filatov Institute of Eye Diseases and Tissue Therapy. Filatov Institute of Eye Diseases and Tissue Therapy of NAMSU was founded in 1936. It is a leading scientific and medical institution and a national center for scientific research in the field of ophthalmology. The Institute has four national centers covering the most common ophthalmic pathologies: Ukrainian Ophthalmic Trauma Center, Center for Pediatric Ophthalmopathology, Center for Ophthalmic Oncology, and Eye Burn Center.

The Institute’s clinic is an ophthalmology center where all types of diagnostics and treatment of eye diseases are performed using innovative technologies.



# BANKING SECTOR INCREASED ITS NET PROFIT ALMOST 15 TIMES

The net profit of solvent banks in January-September 2023 reached UAH 109.9 billion, while in the same period of 2022 this figure was only UAH 7.4 billion, the press service of the National Bank of Ukraine (NBU) reports.

“The main factor in the sector’s profitability remains the growth of interest income, primarily from highly liquid assets,” the regulator emphasized.

According to the NBU, operating income of financial institutions increased by 17.9% over the first nine months of the year, while net interest income increased by 38.7%. “Despite the increase in interest expenses due to higher interest rates on deposits, interest income grew more significantly,” the central bank said.

It is indicated that net fee and commission income in January-September increased by 5.4% year-on-year, but at the same time, its growth rate gradually slowed down due to a weak increase in payment card transactions.

The share of interest income in 9M2023 increased to 67.9% from 59.2% last year, while commission income decreased to 21.6% from 23.4%, and income from foreign exchange operations decreased to 7.3% from 14.5% due to the stability of the hryvnia exchange rate.

Overall, net operating profit before provisions increased by 23.9% to UAH 139 billion.

Another factor behind the sharp increase in profit was a 17-fold reduction in provisioning to UAH 5.7 billion. At the same time, the regulator reminded that since the beginning of the full-scale invasion of the Russian Federation, banks have formed UAH 104 billion of additional loan provisions.

In general, the sector’s return on equity as of October 1, 2023 amounted to 56.9% compared to 4.3% in 2022.

“The income tax accrued for the first nine months exceeded the corresponding annual figure for the historically most profitable year of 2021,” the NBU said. According to it, it amounted to UAH 19 billion against UAH 4.3 billion in the first nine months of last year.

It is reported that as of October 1 this year, only six banks out of 63 solvent banks made a loss, which in total amounted to UAH 155 million.

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## UKRAINE INCREASED EXPORTS OF FERROALLOYS BY 15%

In January-October this year, Ukraine increased exports of ferroalloys in physical terms by 15.1% year-on-year to 334,008 thousand tons.

According to statistics released by the State Customs Service, exports of ferroalloys decreased by 42% to \$288.958 million in monetary terms.

“*The main exports were to Poland (53.65% of supplies in monetary terms), Turkey (13.47%) and the Netherlands (8.67%).*”

In addition, in the period under review, Ukraine imported 6.790 thousand tons of these products, which is 61.2% less than in January-October 2022. In monetary terms, imports decreased by 58.5% to \$27.192 million.

Imports were carried out mainly from India (22.13%), Armenia (18.14%) and China (16.52%).

As reported, in 2022, Ukraine reduced exports of ferroalloys in physical terms by 47.7% compared to the previous year – to 349,560 thousand tons, in monetary terms by 46% – to \$ 564,136 million. At the same time, the main deliveries were made to Poland (53.25% of exports in monetary terms), the Netherlands (13.13%) and Romania (5.66%).

In addition, last year Ukraine imported 20.546 thousand tons of these products, which is 65.5% less than in 2021. In monetary terms, imports decreased by 59.1% to \$72.705 million. Imports were carried out mainly from Norway (22.67%), China (15.60%) and Kazakhstan (14.10%).

The business of the Stakhanov and Zaporizhzhia Ferroalloy Plants (SZF and ZZF) was organized by PrivatBank (Kyiv) before the nationalization of the financial institution. Nikopol Ferroalloy Plant is controlled by EastOne Group, established in the fall of 2007 as a result of the restructuring of Interpipe Group, and Privat Group.

# IMPORTS TO UKRAINE INCREASED BY 18.2%, WHILE EXPORTS FELL BY 19.1%

The volume of imports to Ukraine in January-October 2023 amounted to \$52.17 billion, which is 18.2%, or \$8.03 billion, more than in the same period a year earlier.

At the same time, the volume of Ukrainian exports decreased by 19.1%, or \$7.03 billion, to \$29.83 billion, according to the website of the State Customs Service.

The negative balance for the first 10 months of this year amounted to \$22.34 billion, which is 3.1 times more than in the same period last year.

According to the State Customs Service, exports of goods fell by 18.1% to \$27.1 billion in the first nine months of the year, while imports increased by 18.9% to \$46.6 billion, and the negative balance of trade in goods increased by 3.2 times to \$19.5 billion.

It is specified that over the first 10 months of this year, imports from the EU increased by 23.5% to \$26.71 billion, while exports decreased by 15.8% to \$19.45 billion.

At the same time, imports from the CIS countries fell 4.2 times to \$1.03 billion in January-October this year compared to the same period last year, while exports from Ukraine to these countries fell 36.4% to \$1.33 billion, making trade with these countries surplus, whereas before the war it was traditionally deficit.

Finally, imports from other countries increased by 34% to \$24.42 billion over 10 months of this year, while imports decreased by 22.4% to \$9.04 billion.

“At the same time, taxable imports amounted to \$43.4 billion, which is 83% of the total volume of imported goods. The tax burden per 1 kg of taxable imports in January-October 2023 amounted to \$0.49 per kg, which is 44% more than in the same period in 2022,” the release said.

According to the State Customs Service, the countries from which Ukraine imported the most goods were: China – \$8.4 billion (\$6.6 billion in 10 months of 2022), Poland – \$5.5 billion (\$4.4 billion) and Germany – \$4.1 billion (\$3.7 billion).

Most of Ukraine’s goods were exported to Poland – \$4.1 billion (\$5.7 billion), Romania – \$3.3 billion (\$3.0 billion), and Turkey – \$2.0 billion (\$2.4 billion).

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## NEW SHOPPING CENTER WITH AREA OF MORE THAN 20 THOUSAND SQUARE METERS WILL OPEN IN UZHGOROD IN YEAR

A four-level shopping center “Ukraina” with a total area of more than 20 thousand square meters will be opened in Uzhgorod at the end of 2024, the Retail & Development Advisor (RDA) consulting company, which is the exclusive broker of the future facility, told Interfax-Ukraine.

“We are finalizing the architectural concept of the Ukraina shopping center, but we can already say for sure that its content will be the largest in Transcarpathia. Many national and international chains are interested in opening their stores here. The increased interest in the facility from retail operators is quite understandable, because this is the first shopping center of this scale and class in the region, which has no analogues in Transcarpathia today either in terms of architecture or location,” comments Andriy Lototskyi, CEO of RDA.

The new shopping center will be located on Svobody Avenue, not far from the historic city center. The developer of the facility expects that a good location on the main avenue of the city, proximity to the center and densely populated residential areas nearby will provide the mall with consistently high traffic. According to preliminary estimates, the shopping center’s footfall will reach 20 thousand shoppers per day.

RDA has already started the process of filling the facility. It is assumed that ALMA grocery supermarket with an area of 2 thousand square meters, large stores of national and international operators, a modern premium cinema, restaurants and a food court area will open in the shopping center “Ukraina”.

It is emphasized that the project takes into account all relevant DNB norms, in particular, the inclusiveness of the mall and the arrangement of a safe and comfortable shelter for visitors. It is also planned to equip the area in front of the mall.

# HELP FOR UKRAINE REPORTED ON ITS WORK AND PRESENTED NEW PROJECTS

Charitable Foundation “Help for Ukraine” plans to open a center for psychological and physiotherapeutic rehabilitation of military Step By Step on the basis of sanatorium “Morshynsky” in Lviv region in early 2024, said the president of the Foundation Stepan Aslanyan. At a press conference in Interfax-Ukraine on Wednesday he specified that the project will be implemented on the basis of leased premises of the central building of the sanatorium.

It was noted that the center for psychological and physiotherapeutic rehabilitation of the military will be equipped with comfortable wards with functional medical beds, equipped with ultrasound diagnostic equipment and laboratory tests.

“We are currently negotiating with specialized certified laboratories for the treatment of the consequences of acubarotraumias in cooperation with professional psychologists,” he said.

In turn, the Vice-President of the organization Vilen Fatalov noted that for a year and a half of work the fund has already implemented a number of projects, including a project to provide equipment to JSC “Nikolaevoblenergo”, which suffered from the Russian aggressor strikes on energy infrastructure facilities in 2022. As part of this project, with the support of German partners, the Foundation delivered 169.7 tons of much-needed equipment, including transformers and generators, to Mykolaivoblenergo.

In addition, the Foundation delivered humanitarian and medical supplies to Mykolaiv and the de-occupied territory of Kherson Oblast.

As part of the project, a mobile water purification unit was delivered and launched for the frontline settlement of Kazatskoye in Kherson Oblast.

At present, the project continues to implement the project “Save Kherson Water”, which provides for the purchase and installation of mobile water purification systems in settlements of Kherson and Mykolaiv regions.

The Foundation is also implementing the project “Beds for IDPs and orphanages”, under which IDPs and orphanages will be provided with 140 beds.

“Unfortunately, the needs for humanitarian aid are not decreasing, they are only growing, and we need to intensify our efforts to support the military and the population,” Aslanyan said.

In turn, the fund’s ambassador Yevgeny Koshevoi stressed that the organization continues to work towards providing the front with cars. “Unfortunately, cars have become expendable at the front, so we will concentrate our efforts in this direction,” he said.

For his part, Fatalov noted that in realizing its projects, the fund does not seek help from the population, but attracts business and international partners.

“We did not open fees from our citizens, we emphasized Ukrainian business and foreign partners. We must continue to consolidate our efforts and remain united as we were in February 2022. The needs are not getting smaller,” he said.



# INDIA HAS SIMPLIFIED ACCESS OF UKRAINIAN GRAIN TO ITS MARKET

The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare of India has included Ukraine in the list of countries that do not treat grain crops with fumigants containing methyl bromide (CH<sub>3</sub>Br), the State Service of Ukraine for Food Safety and Consumer Protection reported, citing the Embassy of Ukraine in the Republic of India.

“*This will make it possible to exempt domestic exporters from paying additional payments (penalties) stipulated by local legislation and export grain cargoes during disinfection with aluminum phosphide-based preparations,*” the State Service of Ukraine for Food Safety and Consumer Protection said.

The agency clarified that Ukrainian grain for export to India should be disinfected with aluminum phosphide-based products only. It is recalled that work to resume exports of Ukrainian grain to India has been underway since 2016.

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## KORMOTECH INVESTS EUR60 MLN TO EXPAND ITS PRODUCTION IN LITHUANIA

Kormotech, a leading Ukrainian manufacturer of cat and dog food, will expand its production in Kėdainiai, Lithuania, investing more than EUR60 million in four production stages to be commissioned in 2025-2028, the company's press service told Interfax-Ukraine.

“Lithuania is now our window to the world. Our plant in Kėdainiai has become a reliable support for us – it always operates at 100% capacity, while in Ukraine we have to take into account the risks of shutdowns due to the war. We aim to further expand our capacity in Lithuania by building four additional production lines by 2028,” said Rostyslav Vovk, CEO and co-owner of Kormotech.

Kormotech launched its first foreign plant in Kėdainiai, Lithuania, in 2020. Currently, more than 170 specialists from Ukraine and Lithuania work at the wet feed production facility with a capacity of more than 20 thousand tons per year.

“*Our successful experience of building and operating in Lithuania, favorable conditions in the free economic zone, support from Invest Lithuania and our well-established network of partners and suppliers led us to the decision to expand the enterprise,*” emphasized Vovk.

Kormotech plans to launch the first new production line by 2025, adding a line each year until the four production lines are fully operational in 2028. As the expansion project progresses, the company will be interested in finding qualified engineers, technologists, and other highly specialized professionals in both Ukraine and Lithuania. With the new expansion project, Kormotech will double its current workforce in Lithuania, adding 200 new jobs in five years.

According to Eilius Civilis, Director General of Invest Lithuania, the Lithuanian state agency, Kormotech's expansion shows that Lithuania is open to foreign investors and creates truly favorable conditions for them.

“In Kėdainiai, Kormotech has built a modern, highly automated plant employing local specialists of various competencies. The company's decision to expand its facilities and double the team size demonstrates the quality of both the local business infrastructure and talent,” emphasized Civilis.

In Ukraine, Kormotech is constantly expanding its production capacity. During 2022-2023, the company invested about \$14 million to modernize dry feed production and expand wet feed production by almost 70%.

“We plan to build new production facilities in Ukraine immediately after the war ends,” said Vovk.

Kormotech is a global family-owned company with Ukrainian roots that has been producing high-quality cat and dog food under the Optimeal, CLUB 4 PAWS, Woof, Meow! The company has production facilities in Ukraine and the EU. The product range includes more than 650 items.

The company is among the TOP-60 global pet food manufacturers and TOP-20 most dynamic pet food brands. Kormotech sells products of its own brands and those of its partners in 40 countries.

# UKRAINE INCREASED IMPORTS OF DAIRY PRODUCTS BY 27.8% IN OCTOBER

In October 2023, Ukraine imported 6.08 thousand tons of dairy products, which is 27.8% more than in September and 35% more than in October 2022, which is the highest figure since March 2022.

According to the Ukrainian Agribusiness Club (UCAB), growth is recorded in all categories of dairy products, but the largest imports are cheese – 3.2 thousand tons. In addition, in October, the volume of butter imports doubled, reaching 619 tons, which is the highest figure since November 2021.

“In total, 48.89 thousand tons of dairy products were imported in 10 months of 2023, which is 6.1% less than in the same period last year, but at the same time, the value is 11.3% higher (\$210.2 million),” the UCAB emphasized.

According to the association’s analysts, the volume of dairy exports remained stable for the second month in a row – 8.25 thousand tons, which corresponds to the same period last year. However, in monetary terms, the revenue decreased by 19% to \$226.94.

At the same time, UCAB experts noted the intensification of demand in the global dairy market after a nine-month decline in prices. This is confirmed by the FAO index for October and the increase in trading on the Global Dairy Trade: the average value of the FAO Dairy Price Index in October was 111.3 points, which is 2.4 points (2.2%) higher than in September, but still 28 points (20.1%) lower than in the same period last year.

“In October, world prices for milk powder increased the most, mainly due to a sharp increase in import demand under both short- and long-term contracts. An additional factor in the growth of prices for dairy products was the limited supply of milk in Western Europe and some uncertainty about the impact of weather conditions on production in Oceania,” explained UCAB analyst Maxim Hopka.

World butter prices rose under the influence of stronger retail prices before the start of the winter holidays in Western Europe and increased import demand from Northeast Asia. At the same time, cheese prices, on the contrary, slightly decreased due to the weakening of the euro against the US dollar and the growth of export supply from Oceania, UCAB summarized.





# HIGH LEVELS OF STRESS CAUSED BY WAR CAN PROVOKE BOUTS OF OVEREATING AND ENDOCRINE DISORDERS - OPINION

High levels of stress caused by the war can provoke bouts of overeating and endocrine disorders, says Anastasia Sokolova, a dietitian and endocrinologist at the **Leleka Medical Center**

“*"The war in Ukraine prolongs and increases the level of stress and its negative impact on body weight. According to statistical forecasts, the number of people with diagnosed anxiety-depressive disorder and bouts of overeating against this background, and, consequently, possible endocrine disorders, is constantly growing. There are no exact figures yet, but stress levels are still high. Therefore, the issue of overweight or obesity on the background of prolonged stress is an extremely diverse and large problem in modern Ukraine, which cannot yet be fully resolved, because controlling hormone levels is not enough," she said.*

According to Sokolova, this problem requires a comprehensive approach.

“*"It is necessary to approach the problem in a comprehensive manner: to deal with the root cause of the condition - a prolonged feeling of stress - with a psychotherapist, to support the work of endocrine organs - with an endocrinologist, and to follow recommendations for establishing a healthy lifestyle - with a nutritionist," the expert noted.*

At the same time, she noted that stress is a normal and vital reaction of the body to negative environmental or internal factors.

"Evolutionarily, the reaction to stress was acute and short-lived: to escape from a predator and quickly run to a safe cave. Nowadays, our lives are full of chronic stress, which our body is not physiologically ready for. In contrast to the necessary beneficial effects of short-term stress, long-term and chronic stress can lead to hormonal dysfunction, which can affect health and lead to the development of various diseases, including obesity. "The 'stress response' or 'reactive stress response' is realized precisely through an increase in stress hormones in the adrenal glands, which force all body systems to work harder to save themselves," she explained.

In particular, adrenaline increases the heart rate, raises blood pressure, and increases the body's readiness for physical activity. This makes it possible to respond more quickly to a stressful stimulus. Norepinephrine increases attention, improves concentration and readiness for action, and plays an important role in preparing to fight or flee during stressful situations.

Cortisol is the main hormone that regulates the long-term stress response, increases blood glucose levels, increases fat metabolism, prepares muscles for action, and supports the function of the immune system. At the same time, elevated levels of cortisol in the body over a long period of time can have negative health consequences, including increased appetite and weight gain.

“*"During prolonged stress, it is important to monitor your health in order to respond in a timely manner and prevent chronic conditions. Controlling all of the above stress hormones is impractical because, unfortunately, it is extremely difficult to reduce their levels with medication," Sokolova emphasized*



# RUSLAN SOROCHINSKY AND ANASTASIA KOSTYUKOVA WIN UKRAINIAN SQUASH CUP 2023

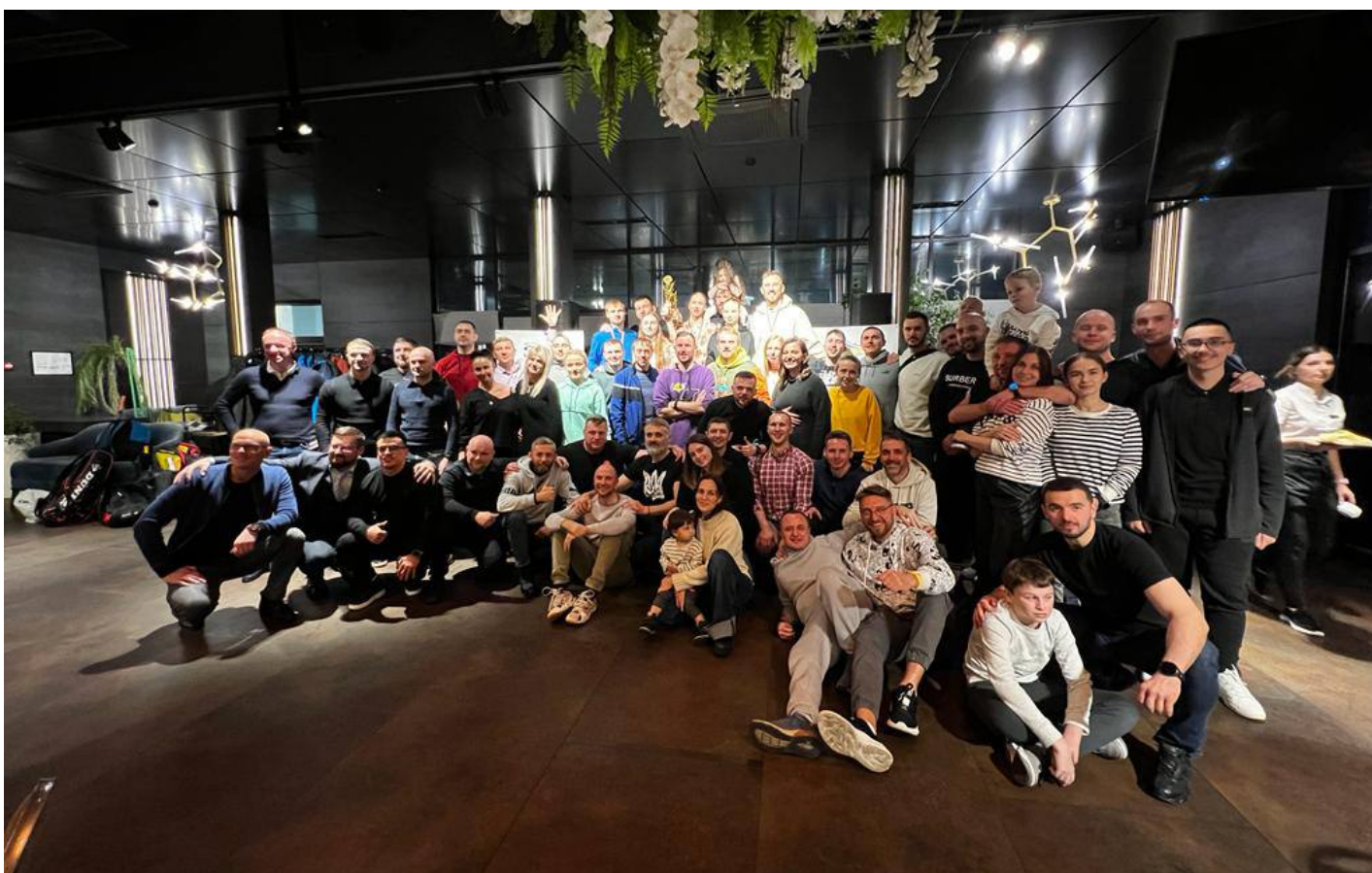
On November 18-19, the national squash competition "Ukrainian Squash Cup 2023" took place on the courts of the capital's Sport Life fitness club in Teremky.

Representatives from Kharkiv, Dnipro, Poltava, Odesa, Kherson, and Lviv came to Kyiv. In total, more than 130 athletes took part in the competition, which is an absolute record for the number of players among national squash tournaments held under the auspices of the Ukrainian Squash Federation. The tournament was attended by 16 women, 74 men and 42 juniors.

Anastasia Kostyukova and Ruslan Sorochinsky became the champions in the adult categories, defeating Anastasia Krykun and Nikita Panov in the final matches.

The honorary guests of the Ukrainian Squash Cup were acting Minister of Youth and Sports of Ukraine Matviy Bidnyi, world judo champion and chairman of the NOC of Ukraine's athletes commission Heorhiy Zantaraya, two-time Olympic champion in canoeing Yuriy Cheban, and two-time NBA champion with the Los Angeles Lakers Stanislav Medvedenko.

The main organizer of the tournament is the NGO Squash Federation of Ukraine, the main fitness partner of the event is the Sport Life fitness club network, the main media partner of the tournament is Interfax-Ukraine, Experts club analytical center, prize partners - REIMA, TECNIFIBRE and EYE, medical partner of the tournament - ADONIS clinic network, tournament water - KRAINA, tournament hotel - FAVOR, awarding partner - SHEF restaurant.



# FESTIVAL "WINEMAKER'S DAY OF UKRAINE" WAS HELD IN KIEV

This weekend, the first festival dedicated to the Ukrainian Winemaker's Day was held at the River Mall in Kyiv. This event became a vivid symbol of the revival and popularization of Ukrainian winemaking. Visitors had the opportunity to enjoy wine products from all over the country, as well as learn about traditional and modern winemaking methods.

**Maksim Urakin**, founder of Experts Club, a Kyiv-based think tank, noted that the production and sale of wine products in Ukraine today is complicated primarily by significant competition from foreign wines. **"Experts Club's information and analytical project systematically supports all producers in the country, and winemakers are no exception. According to Experts Club, imported wine already accounts for more than 70% of total sales on the Ukrainian market, while the share of Ukrainian wine is below 30%. Holding thematic festivals dedicated to winemaking could open up unique varieties of Ukrainian wine to consumers, which are in no way inferior to French or Italian wines. That is why we all need to show consumer patriotism and buy Ukrainian wine,"** added Maksim Urakin.

According to Volodymyr Pechko, CEO of **UKRSADVINPROM**, recent years have been difficult for Ukrainian winemaking, primarily due to the war. However, thanks to the efforts of craft producers, the industry continues to develop.



The festival took place on November 11-12 on the Dnipro embankment at the **RIVER MALL** shopping center. The organizers of the festival, the Public Union "Association of Gardeners, Winegrowers and Winemakers of Ukraine" (UKRSADVINPROM), the All-Ukrainian Association of Winemakers and Sommeliers, and the analytical center "**Club of Experts**".

One of the highlights of the festival was a charity auction that not only raised funds to support an important cause but also demonstrated the social responsibility of the organizers and participants. The auction was hosted by TV presenter and Help for Ukraine ambassador Yevhen Koshovoy. The unique Ukrainian-made wine lots on display were the subject of competition among collectors and wine lovers. All the proceeds from the auction were donated to the Reconstruction and Development Fund of Ukraine. These funds will be used to finance the purchase of a mobile hospital to rescue the wounded. In total, the auction raised about UAH 100,000.

**"I am pleased that today I had the opportunity to present these unique wines to true connoisseurs of winemaking. Also, each of those who received a collector's bottle today can be sure that the money spent will go to a really necessary and good cause - rescuing the wounded and war-affected,"** said Koshovoy.

Three wineries became the winners based on the choice of festival visitors: Zelenytsy winery, Gigineishvili Wine House and the Institute of Horticulture of the National Academy of Agrarian Sciences of Ukraine. All of them received the same number of votes.

Gastronomic wine pairings were provided by such producers as Tsar Khib, TM Zinka, TM Karapyshivski sausages, and others. Festival partner Voda.ua.

# KYIV FARMERS TO RECEIVE UAH 100 MLN FOR DEVELOPMENT OF HORTICULTURE AND GREENHOUSES

Financial assistance in the amount of UAH 100.858 million will be provided to 25 agricultural enterprises in Kyiv region as part of the government's e-Work program to support small and medium-sized businesses, Deputy Minister of Agrarian Policy and Food Denys Bashlyk said on Facebook.

According to him, the funds will be used to develop horticulture, berry growing, viticulture, and greenhouse farming. Thus, farmers will receive grants worth UAH 80.858 million for the development of horticulture and UAH 20 million for greenhouses. So far, UAH 74.401 million has been paid to them.



In addition, since the beginning of the year, 902 farmers in the Kyiv region have received UAH 10.402 billion in bank loans for farm development, the deputy minister stated.

As reported, since the beginning of the year, 12.3 thousand agricultural enterprises have received UAH 65.2 billion in bank loans for development. Of these, 9.6 thousand agricultural enterprises received UAH 37.5 billion in loans under the state program "Affordable Loans 5-7-9".

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Contact info: [info@open4business.com.ua](mailto:info@open4business.com.ua)

<https://www.facebook.com/Ukraineopen4business>,

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+38(044) 270 65 74      PhD in Economics, Maksim Urakin

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