



UKRAINE
OPEN FOR BUSINESS

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT TO OPEN OFFICE IN KYIV



The European Parliament has agreed to open an office in Kyiv at the request of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. According to the European publication Euractiv, this is stated in a document of the European Parliament's bureau.

The decision, approved on Monday evening, is intended to facilitate relations with the Ukrainian parliament, in particular, to establish its contacts with the "relevant committees" of the European Parliament, as well as to facilitate administrative work.

The Bureau is the body of the European Parliament responsible for making administrative decisions on the internal functioning of the institution.

Reportedly, the European Parliament has a liaison office for each member state, which helps the parliament to establish links with them, for example, by communicating with stakeholders, organizing events and maintaining links with local media.

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INCREASED BY 27%



UKRAINIAN AGRARIANS
HARVESTED OVER 75
MLN TONS OF CROPS IN
2023

ZELENSKY ANNOUNCES INTENSIFICATION OF COOPERATION WITH ROMANIA AND BULGARIA

Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal has informed President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy about talks with representatives of Bulgaria and Romania. “This area of cross-border cooperation is obviously growing now. I thank our partners. This is the work of the sea corridor, the Danube export cluster, and the trade turnover between our countries in general,” Zelensky said in a video message.

“With Romania alone, we see the potential for growth to 4 million tons of trade by the end of this year. This is very powerful and supports not only our state, not only jobs in Ukraine, but also in partner countries,” the president said. Zelenskyy is confident that “we will add Romania, Bulgaria, Moldova, and the entire European Union to our cooperation.”



GROUP DF WILL COOPERATE WITH HYUNDAI ENGINEERING TO RECONSTRUCT CHEMICAL PLANTS IN UKRAINE AND ABROAD

Group DF, which consolidates the assets of Ukrainian businessman Dmitry Firtash, including nitrogen chemicals companies of Ostchem holding, has signed a memorandum with Korean construction company Hyundai Engineering Co., Ltd on cooperation in Ukrainian projects in the construction and reconstruction of chemical plants for the production of fertilizers.

According to the holding's release, cited by Interfax-Ukraine, the document provides for the creation of joint investment projects in the fertilizer industry both in Ukraine and in other jurisdictions. It is about the construction of new and reconstruction of existing chemical plants of Group DF. It is emphasized that the parties will cooperate in good faith and make all necessary efforts to achieve the common goal of rebuilding Ukraine.

“Group DF is developing a strategy to restore the chemical industry in post-war Ukraine and plans to meet the pent-up demand from the Ukrainian agricultural sector. With the support and cooperation of Hyundai Engineering Co, we will contribute to the revival of Ukraine's economy and strengthen the chemical industry. The Group is also considering all kinds of cooperation with Hyundai Engineering Co. in projects to restore and expand its logistics infrastructure,” said Robert Shetler-Jones, CEO of Group DF International GmbH.

Group DF consolidates Dmitry Firtash's assets in the gas distribution, chemical, titanium and port industries, as well as in agriculture and media.

KEY MACROECONOMIC INDICATORS OF UKRAINE FROM EXPERTS CLUB IN AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2023

The article summarizes and analyzes the main macroeconomic indicators of Ukraine. In connection with the entry into force of the Law of Ukraine “On Protection of the Interests of Business Entities during Martial Law or a State of War”, the State Statistics Service of Ukraine suspends the publication of statistical information for the period of martial law and for three months after its termination. The exception is the publication of information on the consumer price index, separate information on statistical indicators for 2021 and for the period January-February 2022. The article analyzes open data from the State Statistics Service, the National Bank, and think tanks.

Demographic indicators of Ukraine

According to Ella Libanova, Director of the Ptukha Institute for Demography and Social Studies. Ella Libanova, depopulation is an inevitable scenario for Ukraine. A labor shortage is absolutely inevitable.

According to the estimates she presented at the Regional Economic Forum, as of the beginning of this year, the population in the government-controlled areas was 31.6 million people, and now it has slightly increased.

Libanova pointed out that the population forecast for the beginning of 2033 within the borders of 1991 Ukraine ranges from 26-35 million people.

According to her, the potential for demographic growth has been exhausted, and this is compensated for by migration. According to her, the potential for demographic growth has been exhausted, and this can be compensated for by migration.

Economic recovery

Ukraine's gross domestic product (GDP), after declining by 10.5% in the first quarter of 2023 compared to the first quarter of 2022, started growing in the second and third quarters.

“At the same time, the World Bank forecasts Ukraine's GDP to grow by 3.5% in 2023 and 4.0% in 2024, which is 1.5 percentage points (p.p.) and 0.5 p.p. higher than the June estimates, respectively,” said Maksim Urakin.

The key risk for our economy remains a longer duration and intensity of the war, as well as a decrease in the volume or loss of rhythm of international assistance, the resumption of a significant electricity shortage due to further destruction of the energy infrastructure and other risks.

Analysis of Ukraine's foreign trade

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

“The negative balance of Ukraine's foreign trade in goods in January-September 2023 increased by 3.2 times compared to the same period in 2022 – to \$19.402 billion from \$6.026 billion. This means that the cost of purchasing the goods Ukraine needs is almost \$19 billion higher than the income from exporting Ukrainian goods to other countries.”, emphasized Urakin, PhD in Economics.

Ukraine's financial situation in 2023

According to the expert, the main factors that characterize the state of the Ukrainian economy are public debt, international reserves and inflation.

“According to the calculations made during the preparation of the draft state budget, the projected amount of public debt calculated in national currency will amount to UAH 8,183,862.1 million and will be 104.6% of GDP. The state-guaranteed debt will amount to UAH 476,671.9 million and will be 6.1% of GDP,” said Maksim Urakin. According to the expert, the main source of funding for Ukraine's budget is still related to foreign aid.

“Half of the budget is financed through taxes and fees, while the other half is financed through international grants and loans,” he emphasized.

“Ukraine's international reserves as of October 1, 2023, according to preliminary data, amounted to \$39 billion 708.2 million,” the analyst added. As for inflation, it continues to decline.

Thus, the economic situation in Ukraine, according to the founder of the **Club of Experts**, continues to require close monitoring and adaptation of strategies in response to changing conditions.

DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF CALLS ON CANADIAN BUSINESS TO INVEST AND REBUILD UKRAINE

Rostyslav Shurma, Deputy Head of the Office of the President of Ukraine, speaking at the Rebuild Ukraine conference in Toronto, Canada, spoke about the conditions for the recovery of the Ukrainian economy.

“*We believe that Ukraine’s economy should recover primarily at the expense of private business. However, due to military risks, any projects will be difficult for private investors to implement. That is why they should be built on the basis of public-private partnerships,” Shurma explained, the press service of the President’s Office told Interfax-Ukraine.*

According to him, today there is a positive example of Germany and France, which have provided state insurance for all their corporations that have invested in Ukraine.

“We believe that this type of partnership will allow us to achieve two key goals. On the one hand, you will be able to get a return on your investment because Ukraine has many natural advantages. On the other hand, your governments will mitigate the risks arising from the war,” he said.

According to Mr. Shurma, there are two opportunities for Canadian investors to make money in Ukraine right now. The first is related to the country’s and economy’s recovery. The second is that Ukraine has natural advantages.

As an example, Shurma cited the experience of Westinghouse, which supplies nuclear fuel to Ukrainian NPPs. “We are converting one reactor after another to Westinghouse fuel. And we are determined to purchase one hundred percent of the fuel only from them,” he said.

Another possible area for investment, he said, is the Ukrainian agricultural sector, which is a huge consumer of fertilizers, crop protection products, seeds and agricultural machinery, and therefore a market for Canadian producers.

KYIVSTAR INCREASED ITS REVENUE BY 12.1%

In January-September 2023, Kyivstar, the largest Ukrainian mobile operator, increased its total operating income by 12.1% compared to the same period in 2022 to UAH 25.6 billion. According to the mobile operator’s press service, the company’s EBITDA also increased by 12.5% to UAH 15.5 billion, while the EBITDA margin increased by 0.2 percentage points to 60.6%.

In addition, the company’s capital expenditures in the first nine months of 2023 increased by 8.1% to UAH 3.791 billion. Total revenue from mobile services amounted to UAH 24.033 billion, up 12.5% year-on-year. Revenue from data services amounted to UAH 13.963 billion (+12.3%). Operating income from fixed-line services increased by 2.6% to UAH 1.447 billion. Revenue from broadband access services increased by 17% to UAH 979 million.

“*Operating income in the third quarter increased by 13.8% to UAH 8.711 billion. EBITDA increased by 26.2% to UAH 5.54 billion. Capital expenditures decreased by 11% to UAH 1.61 billion.*

According to the report, in the first half of 2023, Kyivstar’s revenue in UAH increased by 11.2% to UAH 16.956 billion, EBITDA by 6.2% to UAH 10.006 billion, and capital investments by 28.6% to UAH 2.176 billion.

“Kyivstar is the largest Ukrainian telecommunications operator. The company provides communication and data transmission services based on a wide range of mobile and fixed technologies.



“SCYTHIAN GOLD” RETURNED TO UKRAINE AFTER 10-YEAR BREAK

The Allard Pearson Museum has transferred to Ukraine artifacts from four Crimean museums that were presented at an exhibition in Amsterdam, the National Museum of History of Ukraine reports.

“After almost 10 years of litigation, artifacts from four Crimean museums that were presented at the exhibition “Crimea: Gold and Secrets of the Black Sea” in Amsterdam have returned to Ukraine. The Allard Pearson Museum transferred them to the National Museum of History of Ukraine. It is there that they will be stored until the de-occupation of Crimea,” the museum’s website said.

The press service reminds that the exhibition of artifacts was held from February to August 2014 at the Allard Pearson Museum. It featured items from the collections of the National Museum of History of Ukraine and four museums in Crimea: National Reserve “Chersonesos Tavriya” (Sevastopol), Central Museum of Tavrida (Simferopol), Bakhchisaray Historical and Cultural Reserve and Kerch Historical and Archaeological Reserve.

“In February 2014, Russia began the occupation of Crimea. Objects from the collection of the National Museum of History of Ukraine returned to Kyiv after the exhibition. At the same time, it became impossible to return valuables from Crimean museums to the territory not controlled by the Ukrainian authorities. However, the Crimean museums, which are de facto controlled by the Russian authorities, insisted on doing just that. A trial has begun in the Netherlands,” the statement said.

In December 2016, a court in Amsterdam ruled to transfer the artifacts to Ukraine in accordance with the law on heritage. In addition, the Court of Appeal decided to satisfy the claim for the transfer of Crimean artifacts to Ukraine, but on the basis of the Law of Ukraine “On Museums” and the order of the Ministry of Culture of Ukraine of March 2014, according to which the Minister of Culture has the authority to decide on the transfer of artifacts for safe keeping if there is a risk of their loss/damage/destruction.

At the same time, the Crimean museums filed a cassation appeal with the Supreme Court of the Netherlands to overturn the decision of the Court of Appeal, but on June 9, 2023, the court dismissed the museums’ cassation appeal and upheld the appeal decision.

According to the decision of the Supreme Court of the Netherlands, Ukraine had to pay the Allard Pearson Museum EUR111,689 with interest for the entire period of storage of the Crimean museums’ collections.

Currently, experts are examining the condition of 565 artifacts, including ancient sculptures, Scythian and Sarmatian jewelry, and Chinese lacquer boxes that are 2,000 years old.

CSD LAB MEDICAL LABORATORY OPENED NEW OFFICES IN CHERKASY AND MYKOLAIV

CSD LAB Medical Laboratory (Kyiv) has opened new laboratory offices in Cherkasy and Mykolaiv.

As the laboratory reports on its website, in particular, a new laboratory office was opened in Cherkasy in cooperation with the Avicenna Medical Center. The list of available services of this CSD LAB laboratory office includes more than 1500 tests, including general clinical, biochemical, immunochemical, microbiological, cytological and pathomorphological tests, as well as comprehensive tests for adults and children.

In addition, CSD LAB has expanded its network in Mykolaiv by opening two partner laboratory offices together with ZDRAVO, a modern medicine clinic in Mykolaiv.

CSD LAB is one of the leading laboratories in Ukraine that provides more than 1500 tests: from a complete blood count to the determination of genetic disorders in a tumor using the NGS method. For 13 years, CSD LAB has been one of the largest pathology laboratories in Eastern Europe.



UMCC PLANS TO EXPORT OVER 200 THOUSAND TONS OF TITANIUM ORE IN 2024

PrJSC United Mining and Chemical Company (UMCC), which manages Vilnohirsk Mining and Metallurgical Plant (VGMK, Dnipro region) and Irshansk Mining and Processing Plant (IGOK, Zhytomyr region), has discussed with potential customers the supply of over 200 thousand tons of titanium ore next year.

According to the company's press release, the discussion of possible supplies took place at the 17th annual TZMI Congress, the largest exhibition of the global titanium industry, which took place in Singapore.

Thanks to the event, which brought together the largest players in the titanium market, UMCC representatives held a number of meetings to expand international cooperation and plan supplies for 2024. In particular, preliminary negotiations were held with leading companies from America, Japan, the UK and the European Union.

"The total volume of supplies discussed for the next year is more than 200 thousand tons of UMCC products. We have now started working on the next stages of negotiations with counterparties and procedures preceding the signing of contracts. We hope that the expansion of cooperation, which we are now actively working on, will help increase the economic stability of the company," said Dimitri Kalandadze, Deputy Chairman of the Board of the company, as quoted by the press service.

UMCC used to sell its products to more than 30 countries and was one of the world's largest producers of titanium raw materials, accounting for 4% of the global market. The company mines titanium ore.

UKRNAFTA STARTS DRILLING NEW EXPLORATION WELL IN WESTERN UKRAINE

PJSC Ukrnafta is drilling a new exploration well in western Ukraine, the company's CEO Sergiy Koretskyy wrote on his Facebook page. According to him, the total depth of the new directional well is 2,213 meters, and more than 1,000 meters have already been drilled. The work is being carried out with the company's own rig, which was used to drill the previous well in the same region.

The facility should provide access to two productive horizons. According to the digital 3D geological and hydrodynamic model of the field, the deeper horizon contains 464 thousand tons of recoverable reserves. The shallower horizon has 1.121 million tons of reserves.

“*Thus, when we reach the resource at a deeper horizon and when production volumes decline, we can go back higher and give the well a second life with a workover. Such an approach will help the company to use the existing technological resource more efficiently,” Koretsky said.*

As reported, Ukrnafta intends to drill nine new wells in 2023 and 30 in 2024. The company's strategic goal is to double its oil and natural gas production to 3 million tons and 2 billion cubic meters by 2027, respectively. According to the latest forecast, oil production in 2023 is expected to increase by 4% to 1.405 mln tons.

"Ukrnafta is Ukraine's largest oil producer and operator of a national network of 537 filling stations, of which 456 are in operation.



CONCORDE CAPITAL INVESTMENT COMPANY INVESTED UAH 200 MLN IN COTTAGE TOWN NEAR KYIV

Investment company Concorde Capital has invested about UAH 200 million in the project of cottage town “O.Krasa” in Irpen and allows further investment, the head of Concorde Capital Igor Mazepa told Forbes Ukraine.

“*Under UAH 200 million (already invested – IF-U). I hope that this is all. But in fact I would proceed from the fact that potentially we will have to invest the same amount more. This is our first investment in the project from scratch since the beginning of the war,” Mazepa said.*

According to him, the investment company is implementing the project together with the developer Svitlo Development of businessman Sergei Krikun and the construction group “Vidvazhnyh” ex-mayor of Irpen Vladimir Karplyuk and his business partner Vladimir Spivak.

“We came together on pure business interest. Karplyuk is a comfortable and understandable partner. The plot and the idea is his, from me – money and formation of working capital,” he explained.

Mazepa pointed out that currently 50 objects are under construction, 32 of which have already been sold. In total, the first phase includes 200 objects of various formats: townhouses, townhouses, duplexes, cottages.

“After the beginning of the war in Irpen registered 15 thousand migrants from the east of Ukraine. Now there may be more. 2 thousand houses or apartments were destroyed or damaged because of the hostilities. We proceeded from the assumption that with our offer we will be able to meet the demand of both native and new residents of Irpen. This assumption is still being realized”, – said the businessman, noting that about one third of the objects in the project are adapted for participation in the “eOsela” program.

The project was developed by the architectural bureau “Modus”. Completion of the first district of the town is scheduled for the summer of 2025.

UKRAINIAN CEMENT SHOULD BECOME KEY MATERIAL FOR RECONSTRUCTION – UKRCEMENT

Ukrainian-made cement should become a key material for reconstruction, and at the peak of reconstruction the market could reach 15 million tons of products, or more than \$1 billion a year, according to Ukrcement.

“*In the production of building materials, we can really compete with foreign producers by taking advantage of logistics. In addition, the average price of cement in Ukraine is more than 30% lower than in other Central and Eastern European countries. Tales of “cheap imports” are just private interest,” the association said.*

At the same time, the cost of cement has increased significantly over the past three years. According to Ukrcement, since 2020, the cost of energy has increased by more than 200%, coal by 280%, and transportation by 317%. At the same time, energy and logistics account for 72% of the cement production cost structure.

The association believes that the state has two main tasks in managing the recovery: maximum transparency in the selection of contractors and localization.

The potential of Ukraine’s cement industry is 13.6 million tons of cement annually, said Lyudmyla Krypka, executive director of the Ukrcement Association. At the same time, companies are preparing for consumption growth and are planning to expand their capacities.

“The cement industry is probably the only heavy industry in Ukraine where players have modernized their production facilities to meet the quality and ensure the required production volumes. We are preparing for a possible increase in cement consumption. At least two companies already have plans to build additional clinker kilns,” the expert told Interfax-Ukraine. Ukrcement Association was established in January 2004 through the reorganization of the Ukrainian Concern of Cement Industry Enterprises and Organizations Ukrcement.

HOUSING COMMISSIONING IN UKRAINE INCREASED BY 13% IN JAN-SEPT 2023

Commissioning of housing in Ukraine in January-September 2023 increased by 13% compared to the same period in 2022 – up to 5 million 451.7 thousand square meters, the State Statistics Service reported.

According to the report, since the beginning of the year, 3 million 258.4 thousand square meters of housing (59.8% of the total) have been put into operation in cities, and 2 million 193.3 thousand square meters in rural areas.

In total, 66.5 thousand apartments were commissioned during the reporting period, which is 9.2% more than in January-September 2022. At the same time, 16 thousand apartments were commissioned in single-family houses, 50.5 thousand – in apartment buildings.



In the first nine months of the year, most housing was commissioned in Kyiv region (over 1 million square meters, 18.5% of the total), Kyiv (837.9 thousand square meters, 15.4%), Lviv region (542.3 thousand square meters), Vinnytsia region (506.8 thousand square meters), Ivano-Frankivsk region (402.3 thousand square meters) and Zakarpattia region (263.1 thousand square meters).

According to the statistics, the growth in housing starts was recorded in all regions of Ukraine, except for five regions. Kharkiv region showed the largest year-on-year increase, with 186.4 thousand square meters commissioned in January-September, up 385.8% year-on-year.

PHARMACY SALES IN UKRAINE INCREASED BY 27%

Pharmacy sales in Ukraine in January-October 2023 increased by 26.74% compared to the same period in 2022 to UAH 157.997 billion, in physical terms – by 4.12%, to 1044 million packages.

As Business Credit told Interfax-Ukraine, the weighted average price of pharmacy basket goods in the first ten months of 2023 amounted to UAH 151.23, which is 21.7% more than a year earlier.

Pharmacy sales of medicines in ten months increased by 26.17% to almost UAH 123.604 billion. In physical terms, the retail pharmaceutical market grew by 6.78% to 739.212 million packs. The weighted average retail price of medicines for 10 months of 2023 amounted to UAH 167.21, which is 18.16% more than a year earlier.



As reported, in January-June 2023, pharmacy sales increased by 19% in monetary terms compared to the same period in 2022 – up to UAH 84.126 billion, but in physical terms decreased by 10.4% to 612.11 million packs. The weighted average price of pharmacy basket products in the first half of 2023 amounted to UAH 137.44, which is 33% higher than in the same period of 2022.

Pharmacy sales of medicinal products in the first half of the year amounted to UAH 65.96 billion in monetary terms (up 16.9%), while in physical terms they decreased by 8.12% to 430.899 million packs.



EXPORT OF IMPORTANT GOODS FROM UKRAINE IN JAN-SEPT 2023



Cereal crops

▲ +4,7% (6425,3 million USD)



Fats and oils of animal or vegetable origin

▼ -2,9% (4165,9 million USD)



Electrical machinery

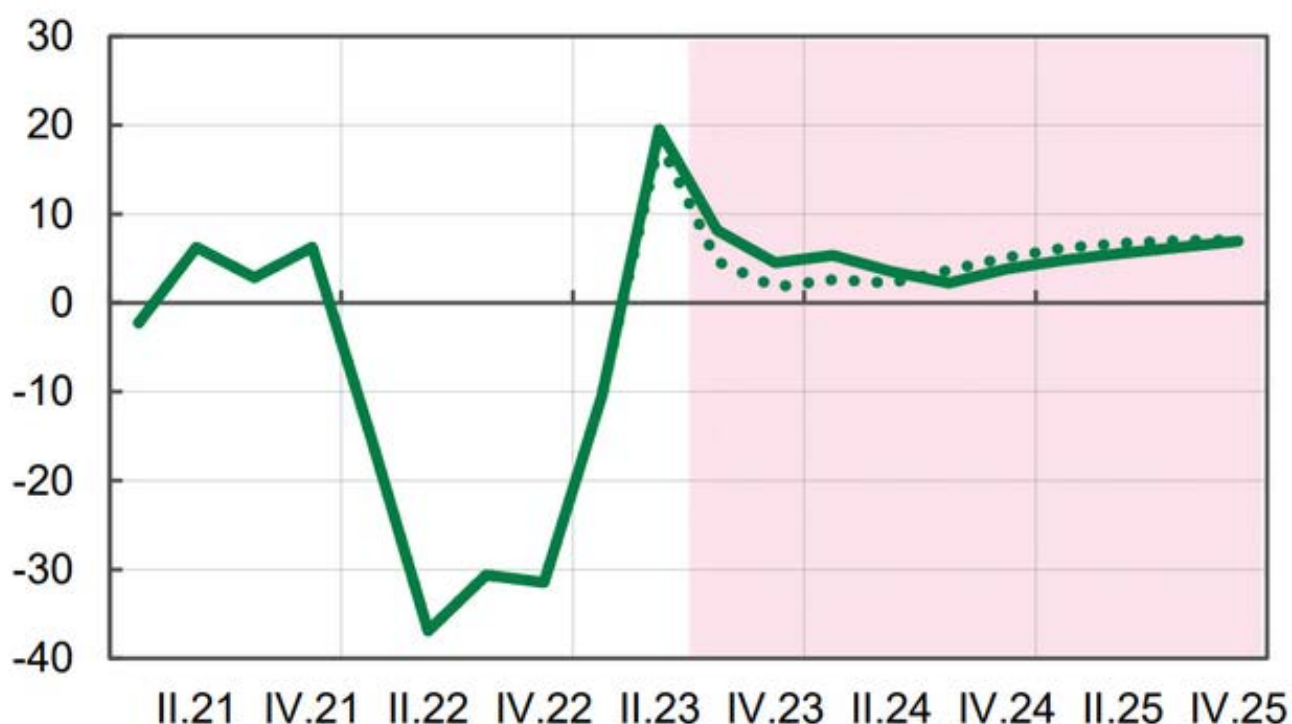
▼ -31,9% (1396,5 million USD)



Ferrous metals

▼ -47,5% (2079,7 million USD)

REAL GDP IN 2021-2025 (FORECAST)



UKRAINIAN AGRARIANS HARVESTED OVER 75 MLN TONS OF CROPS IN 2023

Agrarians of all regions of Ukraine harvested 75.7 mln tons of grains and oilseeds – 55.53 mln tons and 20.703 mln tons respectively.

As reported by the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food, grain and legumes were harvested on the area of 10237 thou hectares with the yield of 53.8 c/ha.

“ It is also specified that by now, Ukraine has completed harvesting and threshing of barley from 1505 thousand hectares (101% of the plan), which yielded 5.909 million tons; wheat – 22.478 million tons from 4695 thousand hectares (101%); peas – 399.5 thousand tons from 154.4 thousand hectares (103%), as well as rapeseed – 4.005 million tons of seeds from 1396 thousand hectares (98%).

The harvest of millet is nearing completion, with 180 thou tons harvested from 79.5 thou hectares (95%), and buckwheat – 207.4 thou tons from 139.7 thou hectares (99%). At the same time, corn was harvested in the amount of 24.878 mln tons from 3325 thou hectares (82%).

In addition, other grains and pulses were harvested in the amount of 1002 thou tons from 339.9 thou hectares.

Ukraine continues harvesting oilseeds, which have been harvested from a total area of 8205.8 thou hectares. In particular, sunflower was harvested in the amount of 11.929 mln tonnes (11.586 mln tonnes a week earlier) from the area of 5,009.4 mln hectares (99%), soybeans – 4.769 mln tonnes (4.750 mln tonnes) from 1,800 mln hectares (99%).

Sugar beet was harvested from 236.3 thou hectares (227.1 thou hectares a week earlier), which is 95% of the planned area. The harvest amounted to 11.83 million tons.

The Ministry of Agrarian Policy also monitors information on crop yields, which amounted to 47.9 c/ha for wheat, 39.3 c/ha for barley, 25.9 c/ha for peas, 22.6 c/ha for millet, and 14.8 c/ha for buckwheat. The yield of corn is 74.8 c/ha, rapeseed – 28.7 c/ha, soybeans – 26.5 c/ha, sunflower – 23.8 c/ha. The yield of sugar beet is 469.1 c/ha.

According to the Ministry, farmers in Odesa, Zaporizhzhia and Mykolaiv regions have completed harvesting all crops. As reported, this season's winter wheat plantings amounted to 4166 thousand hectares (-834 thousand hectares compared to the previous season), winter barley – 536 thousand hectares (-255 thousand hectares), and rapeseed – 1374 thousand hectares (+110 thousand hectares).



WINES, TASTES AND TRADITIONS: VIII INTERNATIONAL FORUM OF WINEMAKERS AND SOMMELIERS

On November 19, 2023, the VIII International Forum of Winemakers and Sommeliers was held in Kyiv, at the InterContinental Kyiv Hotel (2A Velyka Zhytomyrska St.), within the framework of which the following events took place:

- The jubilee XX All-Ukrainian Sommelier Competition “Master Sommelier – 2022-2023”,
- VII All-Ukrainian Cavist Competition “Best Cavist of Ukraine – 2022-2023”,
- Round table of winemakers and sommeliers as part of the Winemakers’ Dinner,
- Open tastings and presentations of wines, spirits, cheeses and other products for all guests of the events.

Organizers of professional events:

- Ukrainian Association of Winemakers and Sommeliers,
- Association of Cavists of Ukraine,
- The first in Ukraine Master Class Sommelier School.

General Partner – TM “Vinos dela Luz”

Partners: TM Big Wines, SV plus, Poli1898, Delamain, AELRED, Eyguebelle, ACHA, Purity, Zinka, Voda.ua, Cigar House Fortuna, Academy of Labor, Social Relations and Tourism, InterContinental Kyiv Hotel.

The professional jury was headed by Dr. Ricardo F. Nunez, owner of the international wine holding VINOS DELA LUZ. For the fourth year in a row, Dr. Nunez has been heading the jury and the Forum of Winemakers and Sommeliers of Ukraine.

Members of the professional jury:

- Natalia Blagopoluchna – President of the All-Ukrainian Association of Winemakers and Sommeliers, head of the First Sommelier School in Ukraine “Master Class”
- Oleksandr Sharay – sommelier, commercial director of SV+ company
- Yegor Bilov – sommelier of the InterContinental Kyiv Hotel, winner of the All-Ukrainian Sommelier Competition 2018
- Oleg Kravchenko – co-owner of Winbar, “Best Sommelier of Ukraine – 2011”
- Olga Girman – sommelier, winner of the All-Ukrainian Sommelier Competition 2021
- Dmytro Gurinchyk – national manager of the Cigar House “Fortuna”
- Irina Kovaleva, Director of the Tairov National Institute of Viticulture and Winemaking.

In the Final of the Contest, the participants competed in different rounds: “Presentation and decanting of wine”, “Enogastronomy” (real serving of dishes from the chef of the restaurant Ruslan Morozyuk), “Cheese and wine”, “Blind tasting”, “Mixology”, “Cigar Tour”, etc.

In some of the tours, the participants communicated exclusively in English.

After the end of the competitions and the final work of the professional jury, the places were determined as follows:

“XX Anniversary Sommelier Competition 2022-2023”:

1st place – Svyatoslav Klymchuk (Kyiv, Bigoli restaurant)

2nd place – Igor Postoyankin (Kyiv, Catch restaurant)

3rd place – Natalia Sokolovska (Kyiv, DDS company)

“VII All-Ukrainian Cavist Competition 2022-2023”:

1st place – Vasyl Chuchman (Ivano-Frankivsk, Winetime wine boutique)

2nd place – Yevhen Boyko (Kyiv, Winetime wine boutique)

3rd place – Yevhen Brodyuk (Kyiv, Winetime wine boutique)

All finalists received Diplomas and gifts from the Partners, and the Winners received personalized cups.

The General Information Partner is Interfax Ukraine News Agency.

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EU ALLOCATES EUR 50 MLN TO UKRAINE TO REBUILD PORTS

The European Union will allocate 50 million euros to Ukraine to restore port infrastructure damaged by Russian attacks, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said.

"Despite the war, Ukraine continues to feed the world. You can count on the European Union in these efforts."



"We are continuing to expand our Solidarity Lines and will provide €50 million to repair your port infrastructure," von der Leyen wrote on Twitter (X).

"Together we will send Ukrainian grain to the world," she added. Her post on the social network was accompanied by the text of a letter addressed to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

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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