



**UKRAINE**  
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## ZELENSKY APPROVES CANDIDACY OF VALERIY ZALUZHNYI FOR POST OF UKRAINE'S AMBASSADOR TO UK



President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy has approved the candidacy of Valeriy Zaluzhnyi for the post of Ambassador of Ukraine to the United Kingdom, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine reports.

"On Thursday, March 7, 2024, the President of Ukraine approved the candidacy of Valeriy Zaluzhnyi for the post of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ukraine to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland," the Foreign Ministry said on its official website.

Reportedly, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine has sent the British side a request for the appointment.

As reported, on February 8, President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy signed decrees dismissing Valeriy Zaluzhnyi from the post of Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Ukraine and appointing Oleksandr Syrskyi to this position.

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# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT HAS SUPPORTED CREATION OF EUR 50 BLN UKRAINE FUND FOR PERIOD 2024-2027

The European Parliament has supported the creation of a EUR 50 billion Ukraine Fund for the period 2024-2027 to support Ukraine and implement reforms for the country's future accession to the European Union. The relevant resolution was adopted on Tuesday in Strasbourg as part of the European Parliament's plenary session. "536 deputies voted in favor of the resolution, 40 voted against, and 39 abstained. A total of 615 deputies took part in the voting.

“*The Fund should combine recovery, reconstruction and modernization with the requirements and process of accession to the Union, linking financial support to reforms and investments with a view to joining (the EU),” the document says.*

The document was authored by representatives of the Foreign Affairs Committee Michael Gahler (Germany) and the Budget Committee Eider Gardiasabal Rubial (Spain).

The resolution stipulates that the EU will support Ukraine in three areas. The first is financial support for the country to implement reforms and investments, as well as to maintain its macro-financial stability. The second is to mobilize investment and increase Ukraine's access to finance. The third is to help Ukraine on its path to European integration. The approved decision stipulates that 33% of the resources for Ukraine will be allocated in the form of grants, "with at least 20% earmarked for the restoration, reconstruction and modernization of Ukraine's subnational authorities, such as regions, cities and local communities." In addition, 20% of the fund's investments will be directed to green initiatives, and 15% to small and medium-sized enterprises.

The resolution calls for the Ukrainian government to develop a Plan for Ukraine. This plan, as noted in the document, will be "a coherent, comprehensive and adequately balanced recovery and modernization effort that supports Ukraine's economic, social and environmental recovery, sustainable development and progress towards accession to the Union", in line with the goals and requirements of the EUR 50 billion Ukraine Fund.

The Ukraine Plan is expected to provide a framework for other donors to identify priority areas for funding the country's recovery. The activities of the Ukraine Fund are to be evaluated annually by the European Commission.



## SWEDEN TO OPEN TRADE OFFICE IN KIEV

The Swedish Export Credit Agency (EKN) has started accepting applications for special credit guarantees for exports to Ukraine since March 1. The total limit of guarantees according to the country's budget for 2024 is SEK333m (\$32.1m at the current exchange rate).

According to EKN, this became possible after the Swedish government adopted a relevant decree on February 29.

In addition to the new export credit guarantees, the government also decided to open a trade secretary's office in Kiev and appoint a new trade secretary, the press release said.

"The export credit guarantees and the opening of a new trade office in Kiev will make it easier for Swedish companies to invest in Ukraine. It is also a concrete example of how the government is working to increase synergies between aid, trade and business promotion," the statement quotes the Minister for Development Cooperation and Foreign Trade Johan Forssell as saying.

It is indicated that guarantees will be provided for exports that can contribute to the development and welfare of Ukraine.



# MORE THAN 300 UKRAINIAN COMPANIES ENTERED ROMANIAN MARKET IN 2023

More than 775 Ukrainian companies have entered the Romanian market since the Russian invasion on February 24, 2022, and more than 300 Ukrainian companies have started working in Romania in 2023 alone, the president of The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Romania (CCIR), Mihai Daraban, told Interfax-Ukraine.

“From the very beginning of the aggression, CCIR supported the relocation of Ukrainian companies. Depending on the sectors of activity, we believe that the relocation will be a timely decision for Ukrainian business, as there are sectors in the Romanian economy that can accommodate new companies,” he said.

Among the more than 300 Ukrainian companies that started operating in Romania in 2023, a significant part of them are from the IT sector (121 companies), the second most popular are services (47), and the third is construction of residential and non-residential buildings (33). There are also companies engaged in trade, road transportation of goods, and business and management consulting.

Overall, according to the State Customs Service of Ukraine, cooperation between our countries has more than doubled since 2022. In 2023, imports from Romania to Ukraine increased to \$1.6 billion (from \$0.8 billion in 2021 and \$1.5 billion in 2022), and in commodity terms, to 1.1 million tons (0.5 million tons in 2021 and 1.1 million tons in 2022). Exports from Ukraine to Romania in 2023 will amount to \$3.8 billion (\$1.5 billion in 2021 and \$3.9 billion in 2022), 11.7 million tons (3.4 million tons in 2021 and 11 million tons in 2022).

According to Daraban, Romanian companies are interested in developing such industries as green energy, information technology, defense and transportation, construction materials, value-added technologies, and aeronautics in Ukraine.

Last year, a memorandum was signed between the CCI of Ukraine and the CCI of Romania, which, among other things, provided for the creation and joint management of a platform for utilizing economic opportunities related to the future recovery of Ukraine. However, according to CCIR, the platform is still under development.

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## PRIME MINISTER OF UKRAINE SAYS IT IS PLANNED TO REDUCE NUMBER OF MINISTRIES BY ONE THIRD

Prime Minister of Ukraine Denys Shmyhal said that as part of the government reform, it is planned to reduce the number of ministries by one third.

“*We are working on changing the format of the government. In particular, we are reducing the number of ministries. We want to cut the number of ministries by one third, reduce the number of civil servants,” Shmyhal said at a press conference in Kyiv.*



The prime minister also noted that the government is working to create a strong government center, where auxiliary and administrative functions will be concentrated.

“The ministries should have a small number of very good specialists who will formulate public policy, and the Government Center will provide legal support in the personnel, accounting and financial spheres, and the Government Center should quickly prepare documents for a particular ministry,” he added.

As reported, Cabinet of Ministers Minister Oleh Nemchinov has suggested that the Government Center could be launched by 2025.

# ZARA, PULL&BEAR, MASSIMO DUTTI, BERSHKA, STRADIVARIUS, OYSHO, ZARA HOME RETURN TO UKRAINE

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine officially confirms that the brands of Inditex, one of the world's largest fashion distribution groups, such as Zara, Pull&Bear, Massimo Dutti, Bershka, Stradivarius, Oysho, and Zara Home, are returning to Ukraine.

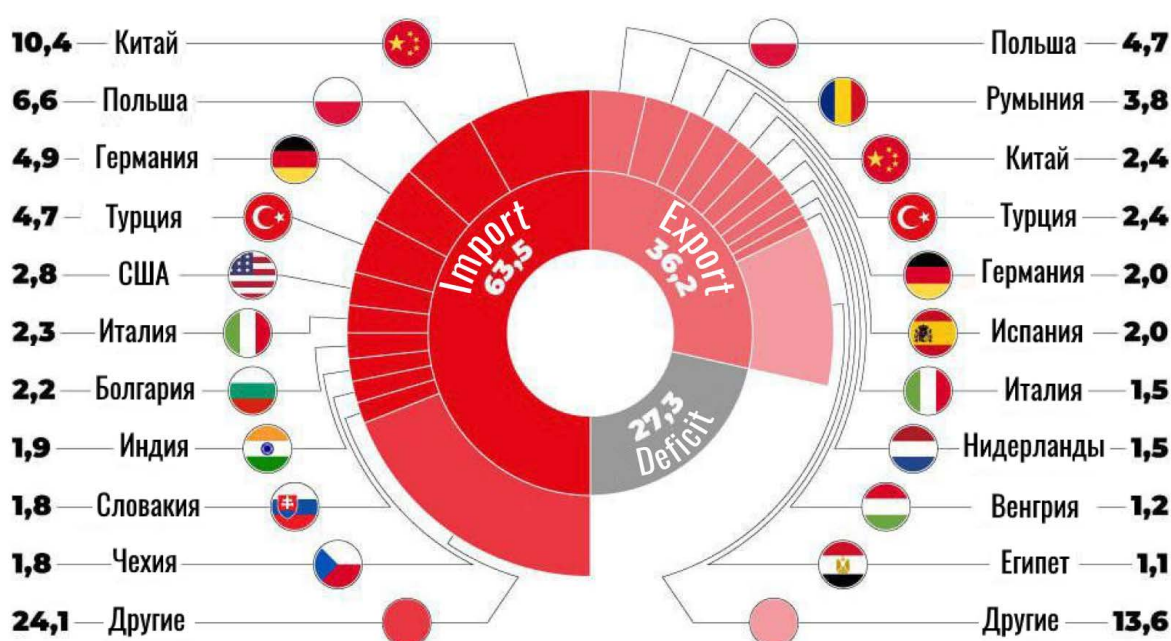
“On the instructions of the President of Ukraine, since 2022, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been systematically working with all the leading international brands that left the Ukrainian market due to the outbreak of a full-scale war by the Russian Federation to resume their work in Ukraine. The return of Inditex is the next step after the resumption of the work of McDonald's, H&M and others,” the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.



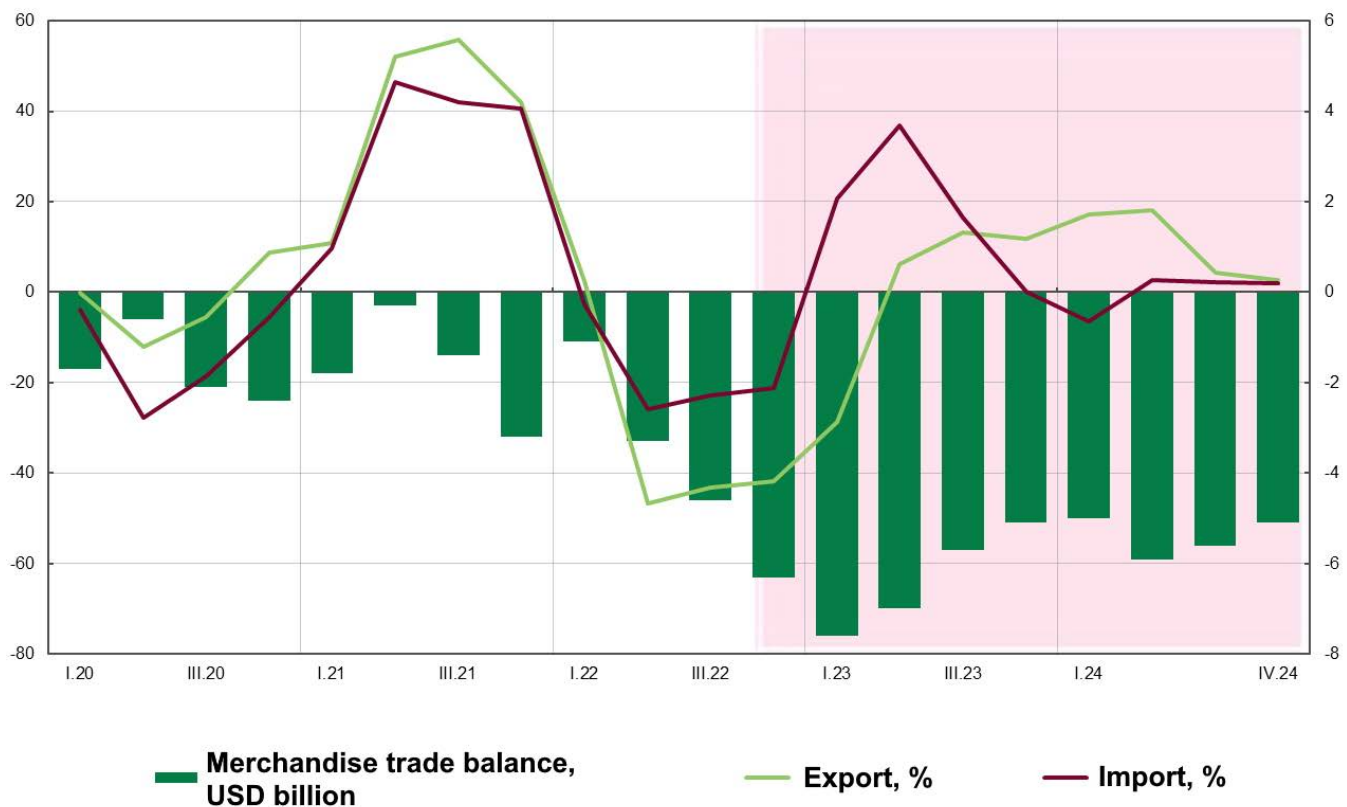
It is noted that the return of large international companies to the Ukrainian market creates new jobs, provides access to quality goods and services, supports Ukraine's economy during the war and deepens its integration into the world economy, strengthens the confidence of international business and investors in our country and its victory.

“I am grateful to our partners for supporting these efforts. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine continues to work to restore the work of international business in our country and attract new companies,” the ministry added.

## GEOGRAPHIC STRUCTURE OF UKRAINE'S FOREIGN TRADE IN 2023



## 2022-2024 GOODS TRADE BALANCE FORECAST (USD BILLION)



## DIM GROUP IS DEVELOPING FORMAT OF INCOME REAL ESTATE IN FORM OF APART-HOTELS

**DIM Group** is developing a format of income-producing real estate, apartments with hotel services as part of its projects, said Daria Bedia, Marketing Director of DIM Group, in response to an inquiry from Interfax-Ukraine.

“We are considering the option of income-producing real estate – an apartment format managed by a professional operator – as part of our projects. This is a separate product that we are actively developing. In two of our projects, we have designed apartments with hotel services as part of residential development,” Bedia said.

According to her, the added value for future investors includes better service for owners of well-known operators, the ability to comfortably accommodate relatives and friends in their homes without violating their privacy, and a well-developed internal infrastructure.

“Apart-hotels are becoming a center of attraction for additional services: spa, restaurant, coworking, children’s areas, etc.,” Bedia added.



# UKRAINE IS READY TO EXTEND RUSSIAN GAS TRANSIT AT INITIATIVE OF EUROPEAN UNION COUNTRIES

Ukraine is ready to extend the transit of Russian gas through its gas transportation system (GTS) at the initiative of the European Union countries, but will not extend the current contract or sign a new one with Gazprom, Prime Minister Denis Shmygal said at a press conference in Kiev.

“We are certainly not going to negotiate with the aggressor country to extend (the transit contract) and put our signatures under the agreement, but we have had repeated talks with European leaders on the basis of the European Commission. If European countries will act as a consortium or one of the European partners will act as a transit company for its own gas, we are ready to provide such a service. Here the initiative is on the side of the EU and our European partners,” he said.

“Group, association, consortium... It could be the EC, a group of European countries that are interested in preserving transit,” Shmygal specified.

At the same time, according to the Prime Minister, the GTS of Ukraine is ready to function without the transit of Russian natural gas.

As reported, the transit of Russian natural gas through the gas transportation system (GTS) of Ukraine in 2023 decreased by 28.4% (by 5 billion 812.6 million cubic meters) compared to 2022 – to 14 billion 646.6 million cubic meters.

The contract between Naftohaz Ukrainy and Gazprom for the organization of transportation, the transportation agreement between NAK and OGTSU, as well as the inter-operator agreement between OGTSU and Gazprom were signed on December 30, 2019. The contract provides for transit of 40 billion cubic meters of gas per year in 2021-2024.

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## IGOR LISKI PLANS TO BUILD WINDOW GLASS PLANT IN UKRAINE

Businessman Igor Liski has announced the construction of a \$240 million window glass plant in Kyiv region.

“I can now officially announce our new super-ambitious project, which we have been developing for over a year,” Liski wrote on Facebook.

Liski told The Wall Street Journal that he plans to invest about \$80 million in the project. According to him, raising project financing is the main challenge when launching a project.



Liski is the owner of the investment holding EFI Group (Effective Investments). His investment areas include healthcare and medtech, paper, food, and woodworking industries, and agricultural supplies. The company's businesses include Feednova, an animal fats and feed additives producer, Medical Star healthcare network, Zhytomyr Cardboard Mill, Sam Ecopack, a cardboard packaging manufacturer, Forest Technology, an agricultural products supplier, Efi Agro, and Doc.ua, an online medical hub.



# “OBERBETON” WILL BUILD SECOND PLANT FOR PRODUCTION OF LARGE-SIZE REINFORCED CONCRETE STRUCTURES

Ukrainian manufacturer of individual reinforced concrete structures (RCS) company “Oberbeton”, which has a plant in Zhytomyr, will build a second plant for the production of large-size RCS on the territory of Mikulinetska municipality in Ternopil region, according to the municipality’s Facebook page. According to the report, at the end of last week, the first working meeting of the investor’s representatives with the local community was held, where the production capacity and products of the future plant were presented. In the near future it is planned to sign a memorandum and start preparatory and construction works at the site.

“For more than two years we, together with the investment office of the region, have been trying to attract both foreign and domestic investors to the community. The determining factor in the choice of our community by the investor was the availability of a land plot with developed infrastructure, capacity reserves, logistics, human resources,” – is noted in the message. It is specified that the company-investor for a long time was looking for options for the construction of the second plant, and considered, in particular, the possibility of placement in Ternopil, Lviv, Volyn, Rivne, Ivano-Frankivsk regions.

“Thanks to such powerful investors, the total amount of direct investment in the region will increase by more than UAH 1 billion and more than 150 new jobs will be created. This is one of the largest investments in the Ternopil region,” the community said in a statement.



## UKRAINE EXPORTED OVER 29.1 MLN TONS OF GRAIN AND FLOUR

As of the end of February of the 2023/2024 marketing year, which started on July 1, Ukraine has already exported more than 29.1 million tons of grain, legumes and flour, Danylo Hetmantsev, Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Finance, Taxation and Customs Policy, said on Telegram.

“ He clarified that in terms of major crops, 15.8 million tons of corn, 11.5 million tons of wheat, and 1.6 million tons of barley were supplied to foreign markets.



“Compared to the same date last year, there is a lag of almost 2.6 million tons (although, for example, wheat was shipped a quarter of a million tons more than last year),” the head of the parliamentary financial committee said.

Mr. Hetmantsev explained the slowdown in grain exports by the fact that for a month and a half, in July and the first half of August last year, when sea exports were forced to pause due to Russia’s withdrawal from the Istanbul grain initiative, Ukraine had to develop an “alternative grain corridor.” In August 2023, thanks to the Ukrainian Armed Forces, it became available, and in the first months, foreign shipowners were restrained and cautious, looking closely at whether the new route was really safe, he recalled.

“In November 2023, some ‘friends and neighbors’ began to create obstacles for us on the land border under artificial and far-fetched pretexts, and these processes are still ongoing,” Hetmantsev wrote.

The chairman of the parliamentary committee expressed confidence that Ukraine would soon completely close the current gap.

He emphasized that in recent months, Ukraine has returned to almost pre-war export volumes, 90% of Ukrainian grain is shipped to foreign customers by sea, and dependence on the land corridor on the western border is decreasing.

# EXPERTS CLUB THINK TANK HELD SEMINAR ON FIRST AID FOR JOURNALISTS AND BLOGGERS

Given the current challenges related to preserving life and health in wartime, it is of great importance to train journalists to act effectively in extreme situations. That is why the Experts Club think tank hosted a regular workshop on first aid for media representatives in Kyiv.

The organizers, including Experts Club, the ADONIS medical center network, and the Help For Ukraine and Pryirpinia Community Foundation charitable foundations, emphasized the importance of first aid skills for journalists, especially those working in risky environments.

The seminar included lectures and practical classes conducted by anesthesiologist Mariana Bolyuk. The participants learned the basics of basic life support, methods of stopping bleeding, and how to apply tourniquets. Such training is extremely important, given the statistics of casualties among journalists in military conflicts.

“*The war has significantly increased the risks for journalists, so the development of first aid skills should be part of their professional development. Our colleagues constantly face risks and bear great responsibility. That is why we strive to provide them not only with information, but also with the means to save their lives,*” emphasized Maksym Urakin, founder of Experts Club.

According to Urakin, such initiatives are planned to be expanded to include more representatives of the media community and other professions that are at increased risk during the war. This, in turn, will not only help to save the lives of journalists, but also help in providing first aid to the victims until the arrival of medical professionals.

“At a time when the information field is full of news from the frontline, professional training of journalists to act in emergency situations becomes an integral part of their responsibility to society,” said Tetiana Lagovska, Executive Director of the Pryirpin Community Foundation.

In his turn, volunteer Oleksandr Holizdra emphasized that the education and training of journalists will not only contribute to their own safety, but will also increase the efficiency of their work in difficult conditions, which is key to informing the public and maintaining overall security.

The Experts Club project plans to expand its program to include more journalists and bloggers. Training in this critical area should become a standard for media representatives, as the role of journalists in society becomes increasingly important and dangerous in times of conflict. The development and support of such initiatives is a step towards increasing the level of security in society.





# UNIVEST HAS INVESTED UAH 300 MLN IN CONSTRUCTION OF NEW WORKSHOP IN KYIV REGION

Univest, a manufacturer of paper and cardboard packaging for the food industry, has invested about UAH 300 million in the construction of a new eco-packaging workshop in the Fastindustri industrial park (Fastiv, Kyiv region), said Dmytro Kysylevskyi, deputy chairman of the parliamentary committee on economic development. According to his post on Facebook, the equipment that has already been installed is planned to be put into operation in a few months.



Kysylevsky said that the equipment for industrial production in the industrial park was first imported to Ukraine with the use of import duty and VAT incentives.

"Ukrainian entrepreneur Volodymyr Kudryashov, owner and CEO of Univest, pioneered the use of government incentives. He had to work with customs to figure out how to do everything, because it was the first time both the company and the state did it," he wrote.

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## 44% OF UKRAINIAN CHILDREN HAVE SIGNS OF POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER (PTSD)

Signs of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) are present in 44% of Ukrainian children. Such data of the study of children's well-being in Ukraine "Index of the Future" conducted by the Kyiv School of Economics on the initiative of the Olena Zelenska Foundation and with the support of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Ukraine are quoted by the Health Ministry on its website.

In addition, according to the study, the share of children vaccinated against diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis has decreased by 16% since the beginning of the full-scale invasion, the share of children vaccinated against polio has decreased by 22%.

In addition, according to the study, 13% of children aged 14-17 systematically (at least once a week) drink alcohol and 16% smoke cigarettes. Moreover, boys resort to such risky behavior more often than girls. In addition, 56% of children have consumed alcohol at least once, 53% have tried smoking, and 3% have used drugs.

At the same time, 44% of children in Ukraine have signs of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

The study was based on data from five sources: government and open sources, quantitative studies of children, interviews with experts and graduates and alumni of institutional care.

The study included a representative online survey with 1,313 respondents aged 0-17 across Ukraine, excluding temporarily occupied territories.

Earlier, the Kiev-based think tank Experts Club announced the launch of a project on psychological recovery of people with the help of art therapy. Read more about the project [here](#)

# “AVTO-REGION” PLANS TO TAKE 10% OF UKRAINIAN BUS MARKET THIS YEAR

Avto-Region, the exclusive distributor of Turkish buses Temsa in Ukraine, plans to sell about 100 buses of this brand in 2024, which will increase its market share to 10% compared to 2% in 2023, when 20 buses were sold, said Nikita Gaidamakha, head of the bus production direction. “Last year our share was 2%, but it was the beginning of joint production of buses in Ukraine with Temsa, and this year we plan to sell at least 100 buses primarily due to participation in the state program ‘School Bus’,” he told a press conference at Interfax-Ukraine on Wednesday.

“Gaidamakha specified that by now the company has managed to reach the level of localization of almost 20%, and now it is working on increasing this share this year up to 25%, taking into account the requirements of the law on localization.

According to him, two models are now localized in Ukraine: the Prestij SX intercity bus with 30 seats and a school bus based on this model.

As specified the head of the company’s sales department Alexander Butenko, among the Ukrainian components in the bus are seats, double-glazed windows, autonomous heating systems, elements of interior arrangement.

“Now there are negotiations with a Ukrainian company to install the Smart Bus system, which is also a warning system that can find the nearest shelters, and even allows parents to see the children in the bus,” Butenko specified.

The head of the company’s sales department Christina Bratchikova, in turn, noted that in January, Temsa buses have already taken 11% of the market (according to Ukravtoprom) with the registration of 13 buses.

“Today the bus market is concentrated around school buses, but in general the demand for buses is greater than the supply and we have requests for large tourist buses and even electric vehicles. Therefore, we believe that this year there will be an increase in the market,” she said.

In turn, Temsa’s vice president for sales and marketing Hakan Koralp noted that the company sees great prospects in the Ukrainian market and pays great attention to it.

“We started negotiations with Auto-Region in 2021 and signed a representation agreement in 2023. We are actively studying the requirements of the localization law, and we are pleased that Auto-Region has received Temsa’s permission to perform work on the completion of unfinished vehicles, such as Prestij SX, in Ukraine, and we are confident that this is just the beginning,” he said.

Vitaliy Pasichny, deputy director of the company, reminded that Auto-Region officially represents in Ukraine, in addition to Temsa bus equipment, the Korean brand of trucks and special vehicles Daewoo Trucks and Indian car manufacturer TATA.

“This year we plan to expand the model range of these brands, and if in 2023 in Ukraine was delivered 65 cargo pickup trucks Tata Xenon, in the current year plans about 350. In addition, we plan to sell about 300 Daewoo Trucks, and more if there are orders. We have already imported a medium-duty Daewoo with GVW of 10 tons, and by the end of the year something will appear in TATA as well,” he said.

Viktor Kovbyk, head of the technical department of Auto-Region, said in turn that the company has a service network in Ukraine and plans to sign up to 20 service contracts.

“We could do more, but the obstacle is martial law and a number of other factors,” Kovbyk said.

Auto-Region LLC with authorized capital of 230 thousand UAH was registered in 2004 in Kiev. It specializes in the supply of special vehicles, trucks, buses for urban, intercity and tourist transportation. It has 10 official service centers in Ukraine. The owner of 100% of the company is Dmytro Gaidamakha, who is currently serving in the AFU.

# KHMELNYTSKY NPP WILL START USING WESTINGHOUSE NUCLEAR FUEL

Fresh nuclear fuel from Westinghouse (USA) for two power units of Khmelnytsky NPP with VVER-1000 reactors has been delivered to the plant site, the press service of NNEGC Energoatom reported on Friday. According to the press service, fuel will be loaded into KhNPP reactors this year during scheduled preventive maintenance.

“Before that, two KhNPP units were operating on Russian fuel purchased before the full-scale invasion. After February 24, 2022, Energoatom completely ceased cooperation with the aggressor country. From now on, all domestic nuclear power plants will use American fuel assemblies,” the statement said.



The press service noted that the company has carried out a number of technical works and purchased the necessary equipment to ensure that all Ukrainian NPP units with VVER-1000 and VVER-440 reactors operate on Westinghouse fuel.

As reported, in 2000, in order to diversify the sources of nuclear fuel supply for Ukrainian NPPs, Energoatom and Westinghouse launched a project to qualify Westinghouse's nuclear fuel. The first nuclear fuel supply contract between the parties was signed in 2008.

In June 2022, Energoatom and Westinghouse signed an agreement on the supply of nuclear fuel for all Ukrainian NPPs.





# DOCTORS AND PHARMACISTS CALL FOR STRENGTHENING FIGHT AGAINST ILLEGITIMATE ADVERTISING OF FAKE DRUGS USING LEADING MEDICAL BRANDS

Doctors and pharmaceutical manufacturers demand to strengthen the fight against illegitimate advertising of fake medicines on the Internet using well-known brands and faces of leading experts in the medical industry. As Doctor of Medical Sciences, Director of the Heart Institute of the Ministry of Health Borys Todurov emphasized at a press conference at Interfax-Ukraine on Tuesday, fraudulent advertising on the Ukrainian pharmaceutical market can claim hundreds and thousands of lives. As an example of this, he cited the fact that, in particular, fake drugs are often advertised on the Internet in his name.

“On the Internet, on Facebook, drugs are offered in my name that we allegedly develop. Don’t believe that this is so – we do not take part in the development of new drugs. We perform operations, we only engage in surgery,” he said. Todurov noted that every day he responds to many messages regarding fake drugs that he is allegedly developing, and there are “dozens” of such drugs. One of the latest such fake drugs that is sold online in his name is Normocardis.

Todurov noted that he had already contacted law enforcement agencies with statements about precedents, and that the cyber police had already opened a criminal case into the use of his name and the names of his colleagues.

“*It is very difficult to track such scammers, they are often located abroad. But I think that it is possible to find and catch at least those people who distribute fake drugs in Ukraine – they have telephone numbers, a specific address, they can be tracked,” the director of the Heart Institute said.*

Todurov noted that advertisements for fake drugs are often created using artificial intelligence (AI) technologies, which make it possible to create believable videos using the images and voices of specific famous doctors. In turn, Honored Doctor of Ukraine, director and founder of the medical center Clinic of Dr. Valikhnovsky Rostyslav Valikhnovsky said that on his behalf there were recorded cases of distribution of at least eight drugs and dietary supplements that supposedly treat joints, varicose veins, heart, and rheumatic diseases.

Valikhnovsky noted that the clinic also contacted the cyber police in Kyiv, and law enforcement agencies managed to block sites that posted such information in one day. However, he noted that it was not possible to solve this problem with Facebook.

“*With Facebook it is very difficult to solve this problem during the war, so with this press conference I would like to appeal to the Minister of the Interior, the Prosecutor General, so that they take this problem under personal control,” he said.*

Valikhnovsky noted that “if nothing is done now at the beginning of the development of AI, then later we will not be able to correct anything.”

At the same time, he emphasized that clinics and doctors without law enforcement agencies cannot independently identify fraudsters and fight them.

For his part, head of the Association of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers of Ukraine Petro Bahriy clarified that in war conditions it is quite difficult to estimate the volume of the market for such fake drugs, including due to the ban on inspections.

“We cannot accurately estimate the volume of such a market, especially during the war. But we are interested in the Ukrainian pharmaceutical market being transparent, so that the promotion of medicines is legal, because we know about the responsibility for people’s health,” he said.

Bahriy noted that the Association was one of the initiators of introducing criminal liability for false advertising and the production and distribution of fake drugs.

“*I support my colleagues and appeal to law enforcement agencies and everyone who can help overcome this shameful phenomenon and stop these scammers who today, using well-known brands of doctors, promote in their name fake drugs that harm health and even kill,” he said.*

# DEMAND FOR UKRAINIAN GRAIN IS GROWING IN INDONESIA

Export sales of Ukrainian wheat are steadily growing. Since the beginning of February, more than 2 million tons have been contracted, which could be a record volume of deliveries for the season. As of March, 1.4 million tons of wheat have already been sold. This issue was discussed on February 20 during the weekly briefing organized by the analytical center of the First Agricultural Ukrainian Cooperative (FUAC), created within the Ukrainian Agri Council.

"Traders say that Indonesia is very actively involved in purchases of Ukrainian feed wheat. This Asian country has sky-high prices on the domestic market and is interested in importing grain. The demand price from Indonesia is USD260-265/t CIF. It is very profitable to export Ukrainian wheat to Indonesia. The fly in the ointment for these plans is the conflict in the Red Sea, where there is a high risk of shelling of the merchant fleet. This is still a systemic problem that negatively affects trade in the Black and Mediterranean Seas. The risk is holding back Ukrainian traders from fixing their positions in this direction. The market expects that in the second half of March, the passage of ships through the Red Sea may stop completely. A logistical solution would be to detour ships by sea through Africa, but this will raise the cost of freight by USD10-12 per ton," was mentioned by the FUAC.

Ukrainian wheat continues to be the cheapest on most markets.

"Last week, Ukraine sold wheat with a protein content of 12.5% to Egypt at USD224 per ton for delivery to Egypt. For comparison, Russian wheat cost USD245 on an FOB basis. Ukrainian wheat is very cheap compared to other grains in the EU, Egypt and Turkey. The trade tries to keep prices low so that it makes sense to trade on many bases. Price gaps are large, which keeps the CPT market at low levels. Nevertheless, there are more and more sellers of wheat on FOB basis, many farmers are willing to sell for USD195 per ton at the Danube ports. At the same time, on CPT terms, wheat costs USD175-188 per ton, and by the end of the week, the price tags may lose another USD2 per ton," added the analytical department of the FUAC.

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