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### Ukraine



#### Victor Yanukovich leads at electoral race

According to the Central Electoral Commission, the final results of the presidential elections of Ukraine are the following: Victor Yanukovich has secured 35.32 percent, Yulia Tymoshenko - 25.05 percent, Sergiy Tigipko has gained 13.06 percent, Arseniy Yatsenyuk - 6.96 percent, Victor Yushchenko - 5.45 percent, Peter Symonenko - 3.55 percent, Vladimir Litvin - 2.35 percent, Oleg Tyagnibok - 1.43 percent, Anatoliy Hrytsenko - 1.2 percent of votes. Other candidates have failed to reach even a 1 percent rating: Inna Bogoslovska has gained 0.41 percent of votes, Aleksandr Moroz - 0.38 percent, Aleksandr Pabat - 0.14 percent, Sergey Ratyushnyak - 0.12 percent, Mikhail Brodsky - 0.06 percent, Oleg Ryabokon - 0.03 percent and 2.21 percent of voters did not support any candidate.

None of the 18 presidential candidates has gained 50 percent-plus-one-vote minimum, which is necessary for winning in the first round. The second round of presidential elections with 2 candidates - Victor Yanukovich and Yulia Tymoshenko is scheduled for February 7, 2010. Ukrainian mass media predicts victory to Victor Yanukovich who is known as a pro-Russian politician.

*Source: Unian News Agency (www.unian.net)*  
*Edited by: usapeec.kz*

#### Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine cancelled decision requiring companies-importers to present a copy of invoice, certified by customs of the exporting country during customs clearance of goods

According to the State Committee on Entrepreneurship and Regulatory Policy, on January 13, 2010 the Cabinet of Ministers cancelled the decision requiring companies-importers to present a copy of invoice, certified by the customs of the exporting country during customs clearance of goods.

This decision was initiated by the Ministry of Finance and adopted by the Government on November 4, 2009.

On November 16, 2009 the State Committee on Entrepreneurship and Regulatory Policy sent a letter to the Government, in which it stated that this Decision "creates significant barriers to trade and will lead to artificial reduction in imports into Ukraine".

Additional requirements could have caused misunderstanding since foreign countries are not obliged to comply with the regulatory acts of Ukraine and instruct their customs authorities to act in accordance with Decisions of the Ukrainian Ministry of Finance.

*Source: MDOOffice News Service*  
*(www.mdoffice.com.ua)*  
*Translated by: usapeec.kz*

#### State Standards for food products will be lifted in Ukraine

The Ukrainian Government plans to abolish the state certification of food products that can worsen the quality of goods at shops and markets and lead to the appearance of substandard and dangerous for health imports.

This will be inconvenient also for Ukrainian exporters, since earlier Ukraine has signed the agreement with several countries on mutual recognition of certificates. Now it is a producer who will be responsible for the quality of his products, such as cheese or sausages. Fish, butter, margarine, pastries and juices, in total 17 kinds of food products, will not be inspected either. However, baby food and alcoholic drinks are still subject to obligatory certification.

At the same time "Gospotrebstandart" (State Committee of Ukraine for Technical Regulation and Consumer Policy. Specialists of this Committee inspect products) actively protests against the abolition of certification. According to "Gospotrebstandart" domestic market will be instantly overstocked with substandard products, which are not sold in the developed countries.

According to the Chairman of the “Union for the Protection of Entrepreneurs”, Vladimir Dobroskok, up to 70 percent of low-quality products will enter the market. “This production will be edible, but it will be of low quality, meaning it won’t meet international standards”, - he said.

Cancellation of State Standards is Ukraine’s commitment to the WTO.

*Source: Revisor News Service  
(www.revisor.od.ua)  
Translated by: usapec.kz*

### **Active imports of cheap meat destroy animal breeding industry of Ukraine**

Active imports of meat raw materials into Ukraine at dumping prices have led to the suspension of some investment projects in the animal breeding sector and several poultry and pork farms stopped operating.

According to the letter sent to the First Deputy Prime Minister, Oleksandr Turchynov, by All-Ukrainian Union of Agricultural Enterprises, Ukrainian Agrarian Confederation, “Tvarynprom” Corporation and Association “Union of Poultry Producers of Ukraine”, over the first 11 months of 2009, Ukraine imported 375,400 MT of meat, including 198,000 MT of pork, 15,800 MT of beef and 161,100 MT of poultry. “About 40 percent of the imported poultry and pork meat and 90 percent of the beef are low quality products”, the letter reads.

“Saturation of the domestic market with low quality meat raw materials at dumping prices together with increase of domestic production in the agricultural enterprises have led to a sharp decline in the competitiveness of the meat industry”, the letter reads.

As a result, according to public organizations, in November-December 2009 prices for pork and poultry decreased by 15-20 percent. The letter states that such prices are below cost of production for small and medium-sized pork and poultry farms.

According to the authors of the letter, JSC “Ptitsefabrika “Uzhgorod” (Transcarpathian region) has already suspended its production. Co Ltd “Ruby Rose Agricol” (Kyiv region) is also on the verge of stopping.

Other companies have significantly reduced volumes of production. The same is true for pork industry.

“In a financial crisis, growth of imports at dumping prices could lead both to a decrease in production and to a complete halt of livestock and poultry farms with all the negative economic and social consequences”, the letter reads.

According to the letter the worst harm to the industry and the State Budget is caused by illegal imports of meat and meat products (in particular, transit shipments of meat products from Transnistria region).

Agrarian public organizations ask the Government to resume the work of the Interagency Working Group under the Cabinet of Ministers on control over the compliance with legislation in the domestic meat market.

*Source: Apk-Inform News Service  
(www.apk-inform.com)  
Translated by: usapec.kz*

### **The Ministry of Economy plans to improve methods of Government regulation of prices for foodstuffs**

The Ministry of Economy of Ukraine plans to introduce amendments to several decisions of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine in order to improve methods of Government regulation of prices and identify specific food-items (conditions), to which Government regulation are applied, according to the Draft Government Decree.

The document implies setting of marginal markups at the rate of 15 percent excluding transportation costs for extra and first grade wheat flour, popular sorts of bread, pasta, buckwheat and semolina, rice, beef (breast, minced meat), pork (shoulder part, minced meat), poultry (carcasses or parts of carcasses, except fillet and breast), cooked sausages, frankfurters, sausages, except the extra grade, milk (pasteurized) with fat content of 2.5-3.2 percent inclusive, sour milk cheese with fat content up to 9 percent inclusive, sour cream with fat content up to 20 percent inclusive, butter with fat content up to 80 percent inclusive, eggs (category - C1), sugar, sunflower oil (bottled).

In addition the Ministry of Economy suggests to include the following foods in the list of foodstuffs price changes for which must be declared: beef (breast, minced meat), pork (shoulder part, minced meat), poultry (carcasses or parts of carcasses, except fillet and breast), cooked sausages, sausages, except the extra grade, milk (pasteurized) with fat content of 2.5-3.2 percent inclusive, sour milk cheese with fat content up to 9 percent inclusive, sour cream with fat content up to 20 percent inclusive, butter with fat content up to 80 percent inclusive, eggs (category - C1), sugar, sunflower oil (bottled).

*Source: RBC News Agency (www.rbc.ua)  
Translated by: usapeec.kz*

## Moldova



### **The Moldavian Government managed to cut prices for fish but not for meat products**

Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Economy Valeriy Lazar said the price for fish had been reduced by 30 percent as a result of measures taken by the Government to exclude illegal ways of fish import. “We hope to have the same result with meat but we have faced big resistance”, Valeriy Lazar said.

The Minister said the meat import problem wasn't the biggest problem. “We'll present results of the examination which will prove that the meat import schemes are the children games”, Valeriy Lazar said. “We can't change rules of the game during the game. Otherwise we will be piled up with suits, lost by the Government”. Prime Minister added that Moldova faces the problem of prices which for some products are higher than in the region. There are also problems with prices for medicines and other products. “We couldn't achieve the result that would break the system just for 100 days. Our current goal is to dismantle this system”, Prime Minister said. He also added that it is impossible for just 3 months to destroy something that has been built for 8 years.

*Source: Infomarket News Agency  
(www.infomarket.md)*

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