

April 29, 2007

### Ukraine



#### **Poultry livestock decreased in March**

Poultry livestock constituted 155 million heads on April 1, 2007 that is 1.9% less than one month ago. At the same time the livestock increased in comparison with April 2006 by 2.6% (+3.9 million heads). - *Source: APK-  
Inform; Translated by: usapeec.kz*

#### **Negative foreign trade balance in goods totals USD 1.38 billion in January-February 2007**

Imports of goods exceeded exports by \$1.38 billion in January-February.

In January-February, balance of goods trading worsened by \$404.9 million compared to January-February 2006 (negative balance of \$975.1 million).

In January-February, exports of goods totaled \$6,618.2 million, having increased by 34.5% compared to January-February 2006.

Imports of goods totaled \$7,998.2 million, an increase by 35.7%.

Negative foreign trade balance in goods totaled \$492.2 million in January.

Imports of goods exceeded exports by \$6,666.8 million in 2006. - *Source: Ukrainian News Agency*

#### **Yatseniuk hopes Ukraine to become WTO member this year**

Foreign Minister of Ukraine Arseniy Yatseniuk hopes that Ukraine will become a member of the World Trade Organization till the end of the

current year.

A.Yatseniuk recalled that the process of Ukraine's entering WTO has been lasting for 14 years already. "It is already a paradox, a laughingstock. During this period I have managed to finish my education and become a Minister for two or three times", he added.

He pointed out that Ukraine has completed talks on signing market access protocols with all the WTO member countries, except Kyrgyzstan. - *Source: Unian Agency*

#### **Ukraine searching for new markets for its livestock products**

According to the Minister of Agriculture Yurii Melnyk Ukraine is actively searching for new markets for export of products of its livestock industry, particularly dairy products. This search is connected with the current problems involving export of Ukrainian milk and dairy products to Russia.

Ukraine has recently increased export of dairy products to countries in Asia and North Africa. Ukraine exported dairy products worth \$37.7 million in the January-February period of this year, including \$22.6 million to Russia and \$15 million to markets that were uncovered in 2006 on in early 2007. - *Source: ForUm News Agency*

#### **Ukraine crisis deepens with new election date**

A stand-off paralysing government in Ukraine deepened as opponents of President Viktor Yushchenko condemned his new order for early parliamentary elections. Anti-Yushchenko deputies in parliament also took the first formal step toward impeaching the president.

Yushchenko appeared to be playing for time

with his order to hold early elections on June 24, a month later than the May 27 date he had initially decreed in a move that sparked a political crisis.

Yushchenko accuses Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich's ruling coalition of illegally padding its ranks in parliament by luring deputies into changing sides with a view to ousting him.

Yanukovich, who defied the president's first decree to dissolve parliament and hold early elections, led the attack on the new election date.

"The order amazed me – it violated all the agreements that had been worked out since the first order. Such steps do not inspire trust, and don't create hope for the future," Yanukovich said during a visit to Uzbekistan.

Legislators from the ruling coalition issued fiery condemnations of the president and began impeachment proceedings against him.

The proceedings were likely to be largely symbolic, though, as an impeachment vote requires 338 deputies in favour, and only about 260 deputies continue to meet in defiance of the president's order.

Parliamentary opponents of the president also voted overwhelmingly to reject the new decree as illegal, with Communist Party deputy Nikolai Kravchenko attacking Yushchenko's actions as "a government coup" during a televised session.

The Justice Ministry followed suit, saying in a statement that the president had "exceeded the powers granted him by the Ukrainian constitution".

The power struggle between the Western-leaning Yushchenko and pro-Russian Yanukovich dates back to 2004, when a flawed presidential vote was initially granted to Yanukovich.

Hundreds of thousands took to the streets to overturn the vote in protests known as the "Orange Revolution". Yushchenko won a re-vote, but has struggled to live up to high

expectations that followed.

Yanukovich gave little indication of how he would respond before leaving Tashkent to return to Kiev, telling journalists only that "we will work within the framework of the constitution".

Council of Europe head Terry Davis emphasised in talks with Yushchenko that a political compromise was the only way out of the crisis.

- *Source: AFP*

## Moldova



### **Industry finished first quarter going 11.5% down and negative trend stays**

Moldovan industry stays with the negative trend, even if in March the downfall was less noticeable than in the previous months of this year.

According to the National Statistics Bureau (BNS) in the first quarter, the industrial companies of all types of ownership manufactured products worth 5,291.92 million lei (\$410 million) in current prices, i.e. 11.4% down compared to the similar period of 2006.

In March, the decline accounted for 7.6%, compared to 17.1% in the previous month, which does not inspire a lot of optimism; experts and company managers say that they are not expecting to overcome the crises in the near future.

Ministry of Economy and Commerce forecasts for 2007 a 9% industrial growth. Moldovan industrial companies produced in 2006 products worth 22 billion 243 million lei (US\$1.7 billion), 6.9% down compared to the previous year. It was for the first time in the past six years when industry reported a decline.

According to the consensus forecast developed by the Business Intelligence based on the forecasts of eight experts, the Moldovan industry will report a 3% growth in 2007. Experts' opinions are divided: some anticipate a 5% decrease, while others expect a 5% increase in industry. - *Source: Basa Agency*

## **USA and Moldova plead for immediate resumption of 5+2 talks**

The USA and the Republic of Moldova plead for the immediate resumption of 5+2 talks. The statements were made during the meeting between Reintegration Minister Vasile Sova and David Kramer, U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, 5+2 negotiator, and Michael D. Kirby, U.S. Ambassador to Moldova.

Vasile Sova and David Kramer exchanged views on the possibilities to resume the talks over Transdniestrian settling and putting an impetus on the process of definitive conflict resolution. The parties supported the necessity to immediately re-launch 5+2 talks.

In another context, the American diplomats

announced their intention to support Moldovan Government's initiative to develop joint economic projects with Transdniestr within the assistance provided to Moldova by the Millennium Challenge Corporation.

The talks over the Transdniestrian conflict were stopped in February 2006, and the attempts to resume it failed. The last attempt, this January, to bring the parties together at the negotiation table were unsuccessful because of Tiraspol's refusal to return to discussions. According to the recent statements of Transdniestrian leaders, made during this week's meeting with Russian Ambassador Valerii Nesterushkin, the authorities of the breakaway republic refuse to resume talks with Chisinau. - *Source: Basa Agency*