

March 30, 2007

Ukraine



Ukraine plans to join WTO later this year

Igor Mityukov, Adviser to the Ukrainian Prime Minister, said accession to the WTO was this year's priority for the Ukrainian government, and that negotiations with WTO member-countries had almost been completed.

"We can see no insurmountable obstacles in this direction". According to Mityukov, Ukraine's parliament would soon have to adopt several draft laws, which have already been approved in the first and second readings, and that the government should efficiently introduce adopted legislation.

"I believe Ukraine could join the World Trade Organization in the latter half of 2007," Mityukov said. The Ukrainian official said he would refrain from comparing the timelines for Russia's and Ukraine's accession to the WTO, since there were "substantial differences between the two countries' economies."

He added that both countries should first of all pursue a coordinated tariff policy so that their accession to the WTO would not undermine existing economic relations. - Source: RIA Novosti Agency

Ukrainian veterinaries ban import of pigs, pork from Croatia, Bulgaria's Yambol Area

According to the press service of the State Department of Veterinary Medicine, the Department has forbidden the import of live pigs and pork from Croatia and Bulgaria's Yambol district.

The ban was imposed because of the spread of

classical hog cholera all over Croatia's territory, as well as registration of this disease in the territory of Bulgaria's Yambol district.

The press service emphasized that import from these territories of other cargoes controlled by the veterinary service must proceed in keeping with veterinary requirements concerning the import in Ukraine of the objects of state veterinary and sanitary control and supervision.

At the end of February, the Veterinary Service banned the import of live pigs, as well as products and raw materials made of them, from the Osjecko-Baranjska district of Croatia because of cases of classic hog cholera there. - Source: The Ukrainian News agency

Poultry and cattle livestock in Ukraine

In February 2007, production of fresh meat and by-products increased by 2.5% up to 28,000 MT, whereas production of frozen poultry meat and by-products decreased by 28% to 7,000 MT

According to the State Statistics Committee of Ukraine, cattle livestock in Ukraine as of March 1 constituted 6395.19 thousand heads, sheep and goats 160.4 thousand heads, pigs 8162.9 thousand heads, poultry 158.1 thousand heads. - Source: AgroPerspectiva; Translated and edited by: usapeec.kz

Anthrax Found In Ivano-Frankivsk Region

Anthrax has been found in Ivano-Frankivsk region. This follows from a statement by the Ministry of Emergency Situations and Protection of Population from Chornobyl Accident Consequences.

On March 7, the Ivano-Frankivsk regional state laboratory of veterinary medicine found an anthrax agent in the carcass of a cow brought

to the Olvia enterprise's slaughter floor by a resident of the Starunia village (Bohorodchany district) on March 6.

Seven people had contact with the infected carcass, which are presently being examined and undergoing treatment.

Experts of the district sanitary and epidemic station and veterinary medicine service are conducting anti-epidemic and anti-epizootic measures in the nidus of infection. - *Source: Ukrainian News Agency*

Inflation in February

Ukrainian consumer prices 0.6% up in February. Thus, the prices of foods remained unchanged in February, those of nonfoods rose by 1.7%, and services by 1.3%.

Ukrainian inflation was 0.5% in January. Particularly, food prices rose by 0.4%, non-food prices rose by 0.3%, while the cost of services rose by 1.2% in January.

Inflation rates were 11.6% in 2006 and 10.3% in 2005. The Cabinet of Ministers forecasts inflation rate of 7.5% in 2007. - *Source: Ukrainian News Agency*

Moldova



Moldova resumes beef export to Russia

Moldova has resumed exports of beef to Russia, Minister of Agriculture and Food Industry Anatoly Gorodenko said at a Cabinet session. The first pilot batches of beef have been supplied to the Russian market, he said.

“We are testing the established mechanism of control over meat exports, which ensures that external markets only get local products meeting all their requirements. Pork exports to Russia may be resumed soon, too,” Gorodenko said.

Russia's agriculture watchdog suspended meat imports from Moldova in April 2005, suspecting it of re-exports, and due to the necessity to protect the domestic market from dangerous animal diseases. - *Source: Itar Tass Agency*

Agriculture Ministry denies reports about bird flu outbreak in Moldova

The Veterinary Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry denies the unofficial reports about a bird flu outbreak in Moldova. In a communiqué, the Veterinary Division says that no virus was found as a result of the inspections at the poultry farms. - *Source: Reporter News Agency*

Moldova posts optimistic GDP forecasts

According to the republic's Economy Ministry, Moldova forecasts annual gross domestic product (GDP) growth of at least 5 percent in 2008-2010. According to the document, in 2010 Moldova's GDP will be up 25 percent on 2005 and up 80 percent on 1999, in real terms. Experts indicated that economic growth would be achieved due to curbing inflation, ensuring the stability of the national currency, redirecting domestic and foreign investment primarily to manufacturing, and increasing the share of GDP in added value both in the industrial production and public service sectors.

It is anticipated that the exchange rate of the national currency will remain poised thanks mainly to considerable amounts in foreign currencies coming from Moldovan citizens working abroad. Inflation is predicted to stand at 8.7, 6.9, and 5.5 percent in 2008-2010, respectively. An important factor that Economy Ministry experts believe can help these targets to be achieved is fixed investment growth of 11 percent a year in 2008-2010. - *Source: RBC*

Consumption price index in Moldova increased by 0.7% in February 2007

The inflation rate in the Republic of Moldova amounted to 0.7% in February 2007, and cumulatively for the first two months of this year it registered an advance of 1.6%, the data of the National Statistics Bureau (BNS) show.

In February, the prices to food increased by 0.4%, the non-food products prices increased by 0.7%, and the tariffs to services provided to the population increased by 1.3%. BNS specifies that the tariffs to drinking water

supply increased most (14.7%) last month. Gas supplies via centralized nets were 4.7% more expensive, TV-set repairs were 5% more expensive, and hotel services and clothes on order were 3.7% more expensive.

Also this February, wheat flour price increased by 4.9%, pastry prices increased by 4.6%, fresh vegetables by 3.1%, while eggs are cheaper by 11.4%, sugar by 4.1%, and pork by 3.2%. As to the non-food goods, medications got 2% more expensive, lady's shoes by 2.2% in February.

The Government and the National Bank forecasted an inflation of up to 10% for this year, after an inflation rate of 14,1%. - *Source: Reporter News Agency*

Vaslui County on bird flu alert

Veterinary authorities of Vaslui County reported that special measures be undertaken at the border with Moldova in order to prevent bird flu. Romanian authorities decided to draw blood samples from fowls on the right bank of Prut River. Blood samples were drawn from 30 target-settlements. At the same time, a closer observation of fowls in farms as well as wild birds will be performed. These measures were taken after the H5N1 virus was found in Russia and because of officially unconfirmed information about signs of virus in Moldova. Minister of Agriculture and Food Industry Anatolie Gorodenco denied the rumours

related to the appearance of H5N1 virus in several poultry factories in Moldova (Vadul lui Voda, Tarnova, Floreni), mentioning that all the companies work in strict isolation regime.

The Minister says that the Veterinary Medicine Department daily collects information about the epizooty situation throughout the country. The State Sanitary Service in concert with local public authorities are tracing sick or dead birds, both wild and domestic. About 10 thousand samples were tested so far, taken from the wild and domestic birds. The result was negative in all the cases.

Head-specialist in medical virus research Constantin Spanu, deputy-director of the National Centre of Preventive Medicine told Info-Prim Neo that no cases of bird flu were found in Moldova until now.

According to International Epizooties Office, the virus was registered in 54 countries of the world, the last outbreaks being registered in countries from Asia, Africa, in Hungary, Russia, and Great Britain.

Moldova ceased imports of poultry meat and spring chickens from the countries where the virus was detected. Poultry factories were compelled to restrict access, and individual farmers were advised to breed fowls in isolation in order to avoid their contact with wild birds. - *Source: Moldova.org*

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