

NEWSLETTER

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Executive editor A.Buteiko

Editorial office address: Kyiv, 01001,
8/16 Bohdan Khmelnytsky Str.
tel.: + 38(044) 290-05-58

Account manager: Tetiana Skorik
tel.: +38 (044) 299-04-44
email: skorik@ukrinform.com

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AGRICULTURE

EU AGREES TO RESTRICT IMPORTS OF UKRAINIAN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

On Monday, April 8, the EU countries and the European Parliament preliminarily agreed on stricter restrictions on imports of certain agricultural products from Ukraine, including poultry, sugar and corn.

This was announced by Belgium, which currently holds the presidency of the European Union, Ukrinform reports citing DW.

This agreement extends the duty-free access that the European Union granted to Ukrainian agricultural products after the full-scale invasion in February 2022. It expires on June 5.

At the same time, the agreement reportedly restricts access for poultry, eggs, sugar, corn, cereals, and honey to the average volumes that were in place between mid-2021 and the end of 2023.

It is noted that the fact that 2021 was taken into account means that imports should be significantly reduced, because in 2021, which preceded the full-scale invasion, imports of Ukrainian agricultural products to the EU were much lower due to quotas and import duties.

As Ukrinform reported, on March 27, EU permanent representatives approved the extension of the so-called autonomous trade measures (trade visa-free regime) for Ukraine for the next year with the only clarification on the conditions for applying protective restrictions.

Recently, UK Defense Secretary Grant Shapps called on EU countries not to impose restrictions on trade with Ukraine during the war.

THE COMPROMISE REGARDING AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS OF UKRAINE TO THE EU TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE INTRODUCTION OF TARIFFS ON PRODUCTS FROM RUSSIA

As part of a compromise solution among EU countries regarding the imposition of restrictions on imports of certain types of agricultural products from Ukraine, the EU has introduced export tariffs against Russian shipments of similar products. This was announced today in the Belgian city of Genk following an informal meeting of agriculture ministers from EU countries by Belgian Minister of the Middle Class, Self-Employment, Agriculture, and Institutional Reforms David Clarinval, Ukrinform correspondent reports.

"On the one hand, we managed to implement measures restricting the export of certain (Ukrainian) goods and expanded their list. At the same time, we aimed to continue our solidarity with Ukraine and extend the mechanism that was activated by the European Commission as extraordinary measures (autonomous trade measures). We need to consider the bigger picture. There was also a significant increase in taxation (tariffication) for Russian imports, which are not subject to our sanctions. This was part of the package, a compromise solution reached yesterday in trilateral negotiations," emphasized the Belgian official.

He noted that Belgium's presidency of the EU worked hard to reach an agreement on extending autonomous trade measures for Ukraine. At the same time, it was quite challenging to reach consensus among different interests, which, according to the minister, "do not necessarily coincide." In his opinion, the decision reached following these negotiations between the European Commission, the EU Council, and the European Parliament allows for achieving a "good balance."

As Ukrinform reported, on April 8, representatives of EU member states (Coreper) confirmed a preliminary agreement reached earlier on the same day between the Belgian EU presidency, the European Parliament, and the European Commission regarding the extension of autonomous trade measures (suspension of import duties and quotas on Ukrainian exports to the EU) until June 5, 2025.

At the same time, the EU decided to strengthen protective measures regarding Ukrainian exports of "sensitive" goods and limit them to the average trade volumes registered during the period from 2021 to 2023. These measures can be activated by one or more EU countries in response to destabilization of their domestic agricultural market due to excessive influx of Ukrainian agricultural products.

Such exclusions from the regime of autonomous trade measures may apply to imports from Ukraine of a certain list of "sensitive" products, including poultry meat, eggs, sugar, oats, maize, cereals, and honey.

According to the European Commission, imports of Russian agricultural products to the EU during 2022-2023 amounted to approximately 2.5 million tons per year, including cereals. This production was not included in the list of goods subject to EU sanctions.

Recently, the European Commission proposed the introduction of a restrictive tariff on imports of Russian and Belarusian grain amounting to 95 euros per ton, aimed at reducing the competitiveness of this product in the EU market.

These decisions must undergo formal adoption stages in the European Parliament and the EU Council.

DISCUSSIONS ON RESTRICTIONS ON UKRAINIAN EXPORTS TO THE EU CONTINUE - THE EUROPEAN COMMISSIONER FOR AGRICULTURE

The European Commission and member states continue discussions on exceptions from the so-called autonomous trade measures for Ukraine. These exceptions may be resorted to if duty-free and tariff-free trade with Ukraine in agricultural products threatens the stability of the national agricultural markets of these EU countries. This was announced today in the Belgian city of Genk following an informal meeting of agriculture ministers from EU countries by EU Commissioner for Agriculture Janusz Wojciechowski, Ukrinform correspondent reports.

"Currently, there is a discussion about the (list of) essential products to which the most sensitive goods should be added, such as poultry, eggs, sugar. Also, there is still controversy about the level of such limits, about the period for calculation (average indicator of Ukrainian exports)... My proposal was to include 2021, but the European Commission's position is known - 2023-2023. During the trilateral negotiations, certain changes were made, for example, to include (in the calculation) half of 2021," the EU Commissioner said.

He noted that from the beginning, the European Commission proposed to extend the application of autonomous trade measures (ATMs) for Ukraine for another year, for the period 2024-2025, without changes. It was Commissioner Wojciechowski himself who proposed certain changes to these ATMs, including the inclusion of enhanced protective measures, which would allow individual EU member states or groups of countries to make certain exceptions from the ATMs to restrict or even stop imports from Ukraine of all products, the import of which may be considered excessive and destabilizing to the market of these countries or the European Union.

"I am not directly responsible for these negotiations. For me, the most important thing is if we extend these ATM measures, we absolutely must continue the system of state aid for our farmers. Without such state aid, our farmers will lose more from this situation than now. I want to remind you - in two years of applying ATMs with Ukraine, the overall trade balance amounted to 16 billion euros in favor of the EU. At the same time, in the agricultural sector, the trade deficit with Ukraine amounted to 8.5 billion euros. This fact justifies the request of our farmers to continue state aid," Wojciechowski said.

GERMANY AND FRANCE COMMENTED ON THE COMPROMISE ON THE EXPORT OF UKRAINIAN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS TO THE EU

Germany considers the compromise reached by EU agriculture ministers regarding the export of Ukrainian agricultural products to be a good compromise. Meanwhile, France will insist on restrictions on the export of Ukrainian grains, Ukrinform reports.

In particular, German Minister of Food and Agriculture, Jan Eichmann, welcomed the compromise, calling it "sensible" and one that "takes into account the interests of both European farmers and Ukrainians." He made this statement in the Belgian city of Genk, where an informal meeting of agriculture ministers is taking place.

He assured that Germany "strongly supported such a decision, which allows ensuring Ukraine's ability to export its products to the EU market, but primarily to global South markets, where they are extremely needed." The German politician added that an exception has been made for wheat.

On the other hand, Mark Fesneau, Minister of Agriculture and Food Sovereignty of France, stated that his country, along with some other states, will continue to search for tools to regulate issues with Ukrainian grains in the European market. At the same time, he considers the new restrictions on other Ukrainian agricultural export items to be satisfactory.

"I expect the Commission to give us an idea of how it intends to regulate grains in the context of deep market destabilization and when Ukrainian grains can now be exported via the Black Sea. We need to find a balance," he said before the start of the informal meeting of agriculture ministers.

Fesneau expressed regret that the issue of quotas, particularly for barley and soft wheat, was not even included on the agenda. "Therefore, we will use other tools. We cannot wait for the market to be further destabilized," the minister said.

He called the EU's decision on restrictions on other types of food a step in the right direction. "Measures aimed at regulating the flow of poultry meat, eggs, and sugar overall correspond to French proposals," Fesneau commented.

FINANCES

LAND AUCTIONS GENERATE UAH 2.82B THROUGH PROZORRO.SALE SYSTEM

As of April 8, 2024, more than 10.8 thousand successful auctions for the sale and lease of land plots were held via the Prozorro.Sale system, having raised UAH 2.82 billion.

The relevant statement was made by Prozorro.Sale JSC on [Facebook](#), an Ukrinform correspondent reports.

"The land auctions held via the Prozorro.Sale system generated UAH 2.82 billion for various-level budgets. This sum came from more than 10.8 thousand successful auctions for the sale and lease of land plots, involving 11.8 thousand bidders," the report states.

Another 1.1 thousand auctions are at the stage of closing a deal and can potentially generate more than UAH 541 million for land auction organizers.

According to the company, in average, three bidders compete for one land lot. The average increase in price for completed land auctions is 71.2%.

The highest revenues from land lease auctions were recorded in such regions as Lviv, Kyiv, Cherkasy, Chernivtsi and Volyn.

As of April 8, 2024, more than 1.3 thousand land auctions were listed as receiving bid applications in the Prozorro.Sale system.

A reminder that a total of 114.13 thousand hectares of agricultural lands were sold in Ukraine in 2023, which used to be affected by the moratorium until 2021.

PUBLIC CONTRACTING AUTHORITIES ANNOUNCE TENDERS WORTH UAH 87.8B VIA PROZORRO IN MAR 2024

In March 2024, public contracting authorities announced UAH 87.8 billion worth of procurement tenders via the Prozorro system.

The relevant statement was made by the [Ukrainian Economy Ministry](#), an Ukrinform correspondent reports.

By comparison, in February 2024, the value of procurement tenders listed in the Prozorro system was lower, totaling UAH 74.3 billion.

Last month public contracting authorities signed UAH 45.2 billion worth of agreements through the Prozorro system, which is UAH 3.1 billion lower than the projected value of tenders.

"The policy of the Ukrainian Economy Ministry is aimed at expanding the range of domestically produced goods purchased by customers, including in the defense procurement category. As part of the 'Made in Ukraine' program, more and more Ukrainian manufacturers will be able to develop local production in order to ensure fast deliveries and cover the domestic demand for certain goods and services," Ukrainian Economy Deputy Minister Nadiya Bihun noted.

In her words, a total of 38.3 thousand procurement tenders were announced via the Prozorro system in March 2024. The highest expenditures were expected to be spent on road maintenance (UAH 16.6 billion), building maintenance (UAH 7.2 billion), gasoline and diesel fuel (UAH 5.9 billion), tactical gear (UAH 5.4 billion), and medicines (UAH 3 billion).

Additionally, 400 drone procurement tenders were listed, totaling UAH 1.6 billion. Some of them, namely for the purchase of 4,000 drones, came from Ukraine's Defense Procurement Agency (DPA). That public contracting authority also listed a framework agreement for the supply of 154 pickup vehicles via the Prozorro system.

A reminder that, in January 2024, public contracting authorities announced UAH 58.14 billion worth of procurement tenders via the Prozorro system.

DEPOSIT GUARANTEE FUND TO SELL INSOLVENT BANKS' ASSETS WORTH UAH 4.25B THIS WEEK

The Ukrainian Deposit Guarantee Fund is planning to sell the assets of insolvent banks for a total amount of UAH 4.252 billion this week.

The relevant statement was made by the [Ukrainian Deposit Guarantee Fund](#), an Ukrinform correspondent reports.

"The sale of the assets of 11 insolvent banks has been scheduled in the Prozorro.Sale system for this week (April 8-12, 2024). The starting price of all lots is UAH 4,251.8 million," the report states.

In particular, loans receivable will be put on sale for UAH 3,956.7 million; immovable property, land plots and other fixed assets of banks – for UAH 288.8 million; the accounts payable owed to banks – for UAH 6.4 million.

A reminder that the Ukrainian Deposit Guarantee Fund sold the assets of insolvent banks for a total amount of UAH 396.1 million in March 2024.

DEFENSE

THE UNITED STATES HANDED UKRAINE CONFISCATED WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION THAT COULD HAVE FALLEN INTO THE HANDS OF THE HOUTHIS

On April 4th, the United States transferred weapons and ammunition confiscated as part of a lawsuit against the forces of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps to Ukrainian military personnel. Ukrinform reports this, citing the United States Central Command (CENTCOM) on the X social network.

According to reports, Ukraine received over 5,000 AK-47 rifles, machine guns, sniper rifles, RPG-7 grenade launchers, and over half a million 7.62mm caliber bullets. This quantity is sufficient to equip one brigade.

"The government acquired ownership rights to these munitions on December 1, 2023, as part of a civil forfeiture lawsuit by the Department of Justice against the Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)," CENTCOM reported.

Initially, these munitions were confiscated by American military and Navy partners on four separate stateless transit ships between May 22, 2021, and February 15, 2023. The weapons and equipment were destined from the IRGC to the Houthis in Yemen, violating a UN Security Council resolution.

"Iran's support for armed groups threatens international and regional security, our forces, diplomatic personnel, and citizens of the region, as well as citizens of our partner countries. We will continue to do everything possible to shed light on and stop Iran's destabilizing activities," the statement said.

As reported, the Houthis, who control the most populous areas of Yemen, began attacking ships in the Red Sea last November. They refer to their actions as a response to Israeli military operations in Gaza and as a show of solidarity with Palestinians.

On Sunday, April 7th, two ships were attacked near the coast of Yemen.

RHEINMETALL DELIVERS 20 MORE INFANTRY FIGHTING VEHICLES TO UKRAINE

The company Rheinmetall has received an order from the federal government of Germany to supply an additional 20 Marder infantry fighting vehicles to Ukraine. This was reported on the manufacturer's website, according to Ukrinform.

The order was placed in March 2024.

Delivery of this new batch is planned for the year 2024.

The vehicles of the 1A3 version can be equipped with integrated laser rangefinders, ensuring effective and precise targeting.

The company had already sent the first 20 such combat vehicles to Ukraine at the instruction of the federal government in March 2023. Overall, as of today, Rheinmetall has delivered a three-digit number of Marder infantry fighting vehicles to the Armed Forces of Ukraine through direct deliveries and programs of the so-called "circular exchange."

Rheinmetall obtained outdated Marder 1A3 infantry fighting vehicles from the Bundeswehr's stocks. In the spring of 2022, the company began repairing armored personnel carriers at its own expense for immediate use. Since then, relevant work has been ongoing at Rheinmetall facilities in Unterlüß and Kassel.

The Marder infantry fighting vehicle was developed for the Bundeswehr and is still in use by them; it is one of the most proven weapon systems of its kind in the world. Over the years, the model has undergone multiple upgrades and improvements.

RECOVERY***IN AUSTRALIA, THEY DEMAND THE TRANSFER OF \$9 BILLION OF FROZEN ASSETS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION FOR THE RESTORATION OF UKRAINE***

A group of 26 prominent Australians has called on the Australian federal government to confiscate \$9 billion USD of Russian frozen assets and redirect them to financial support for Ukraine. This was reported by the Sydney Morning Herald, as per Ukrinform.

The group, including former prime ministers, businessmen, trade union and military leaders, as well as former diplomats, addressed Australian Treasurer Jim Chalmers with a call to consider several options for redirecting billions of "dirty money" stored in Australia since the imposition of sanctions against Russian oligarchs and others believed to have facilitated the invasion and occupation.

Members of the "Friends of Ukraine Network" appealed to the government to join other countries in developing legal options for using frozen Russian assets for the recovery and reconstruction of Ukraine, as well as updating Australian legislation to ensure the ability to use Russian assets.

"We make this plea because Australia can significantly exceed its capabilities at no cost to Australian taxpayers," the letter said, signed by former Prime Minister John Howard, healthcare industry leader Dr. Tania de Jong, and Reverend Bill Crews, a humanist and church minister.

In addition to sovereign assets, over 40 Russian oligarchs have been sanctioned by the Australian government since the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine. It is estimated that \$9 billion USD in cash and assets of wealthy businessmen, considered allies of Russian President Vladimir Putin, have been "frozen." This is more than nine times the amount the Australian federal government promised to allocate for military and humanitarian aid to Ukraine.

As reported by Ukrinform, on March 18, Estonian Foreign Minister Margus Tsahkna stated that proceeds from frozen Russian assets in EU countries should be used to support Ukraine.

THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT HAS DEVELOPED MEASURES TO MOBILIZE PRIVATE SECTOR RESOURCES FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF UKRAINE

German government will consider a comprehensive document on mobilizing resources from the private sector for the reconstruction of Ukraine at a meeting on Wednesday, April 10. This was reported by the Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany (BMZ), Ukrinform's correspondent informs.

"Ukrainians are already working with impressive dedication to rebuild their country. For this, they need a functioning economy that creates jobs and added value. The World Bank estimates the cost of reconstruction today at around \$486 billion. Such a colossal amount cannot be raised by national budgets alone. Therefore, it is important for private companies to be able to take a more active part in the reconstruction and modernization of Ukraine," the ministry said.

Therefore, the federal government has identified 15 measures to support companies and private individuals in the reconstruction of Ukraine.

The document will be presented by the head of BMZ, Svenja Schulze. It was prepared with the participation of the Chancellor, the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Finance, Economy, and Climate Protection.

As reported, Berlin will host an international conference on the reconstruction of Ukraine in June.

GOVERNMENT ALLOCATES OVER ₾176 MILLION TO RESTORE WATER AND HEAT SUPPLY FACILITIES IN KHERSON REGION

The Cabinet of Ministers has allocated more than UAH 176.5 million to restore water and heat supply facilities in Kherson region damaged by the explosion of the Kakhovka hydroelectric power plant dam.

According to Ukrinform, the government made the corresponding decision at a meeting on April 9, 2024, the press service of the Ministry of Economy reports.

It is noted that the funds were allocated to the Kherson Regional State Administration from the reserve fund of the state budget.

"The allocated funds will be used to restore 25 water supply facilities and 4 heat supply facilities in the Kherson region. In peacetime, about 300,000 people lived in the areas served by these facilities. Today it is about 100,000. The government will certainly make every effort to restore the destroyed or damaged infrastructure and provide our citizens with water and heat," said Deputy Minister of Economy Ihor Fomenko.

The funds allocated by the government will be used to restore water supply facilities - UAH 139.38 million and heat supply facilities - UAH 37.16 million.

As reported earlier, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine has allocated an additional UAH 980.6 million from the state budget reserve fund to take measures to ensure the transportation of drinking water for the needs of Dnipropetrovska, Zaporizka, Mykolaivska and Khersonska oblasts.

The government also decided on August 22, 2023, to allocate an additional UAH 7 billion from the fund for the elimination of the consequences of armed aggression to implement a pilot project for the construction of main water pipelines in connection with the need to eliminate the negative consequences associated with the destruction of the Kakhovka hydroelectric power plant.

SANCTIONS

UKRAINE, EIGHT OTHER NATIONS ALIGN WITH EU SANCTIONS OVER RUSSIAN AGGRESSION

Ukraine and eight other nations from among candidate countries and members of the European Free Trade Area (EFTA) aligned with the decision of the EU Council of March 12, 2024, which expanded the list of persons and entities subject to EU sanctions for violation of sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, extending them for another six months, until September 2024.

That's according to a [statement](#) by the EU High Representative, released today on the EU Council website.

"On 12 March 2024, the Council adopted Decision (CFSP) 2024/847 concerning restrictive measures in respect of actions undermining or threatening the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine. The Council decided to renew the regime for a further six months until 15 September 2024, updated the entries for 97 individuals and nine entities. Additionally, the entries for nine deceased persons, as well as those for three other persons are deleted from the list of persons, entities and bodies set out in the Annex to Decision 2014/145/CFSP. The candidate countries North Macedonia, Montenegro, Albania, Ukraine, Republic of Moldova and Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this Council Decision," the statement reads.

As noted, the said countries will ensure compliance of national policies with the decision of the EU Council. The European Union took note of and welcomed these commitments.

At the same time, the European Council reminds that 9 deceased persons and three additional persons were excluded from the sanctions list for violating the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine.

As Ukrinform reported earlier, with the said decision, the EU Council revoked sanctions against two Russian businessmen and a Slovakian national: Arkady Volozh, Serhiy Mndoyantz, and Jozef Gambalek. According to EU sources, the restrictions previously imposed on these persons were lifted because they were allegedly "unfounded from a legal perspective."

Volozh is a co-founder of the Russian search engine Yandex.

NUCLEAR SAFETY

ENERGOATOM: RUSSIA ATTEMPTS TO CONCEAL TRUTH THROUGH FAKE REPORTS ON ALLEGED DRONE ATTACKS ON ZNPP

Energatom National Nuclear Energy Generating Company of Ukraine considers Russian fake reports on Ukraine's alleged drone attack on Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant (NPP) as the aggressor's attempt to conceal its own intentions or incidents, which had already taken place at the plant.

The relevant statement was made by the company's press service on [Telegram](#), an Ukrinform correspondent reports.

"The Kremlin's lies about Ukraine's alleged drone attacks are nothing else but an attempt to conceal its own intentions to carry out a terrorist attack or hide some serious emergency events, which had already occurred at the plant," the report states.

Energatom believes that the root causes of Russian manipulations around the situation at the plant lie directly in Russia's seizure of the nuclear energy facility and its further transformation into a military base, as well as the denial of access to certain objects within the plant for the IAEA representatives, and the disregard of adopted resolutions.

"The only way to prevent a nuclear and radiation accident is the implementation of the IAEA resolution, the withdrawal of Russian troops and military equipment from the plant, the transfer of Zaporizhzhia NPP to the control of Ukraine's Energatom as a legitimate operator, as well as the demining of adjacent territories," Energatom stressed.

A reminder that, on April 7, 2024, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) reported that [three drones had crashed at and near the occupied Zaporizhzhia NPP](#), hitting the surveillance and communication equipment on the top of the reactor dome roof of Unit 6 and a military vehicle.

According to the Main Intelligence Directorate at the Ukrainian Defense Ministry, following a drone explosion at Zaporizhzhia NPP, [no significant damage was recorded](#) that could threaten nuclear safety.

ENERGY

NAFTOGAZ SAYS NEW RULES OF USING UNDERGROUND GAS STORAGE FACILITIES TO COME INTO EFFECT FROM JUNE

The amendments to the rules of using Ukrainian underground gas storage facilities will come into effect from June 1, 2024.

The relevant statement was made by [Naftogaz Group](#), an Ukrinform correspondent reports.

"From now on, the customers of Ukrainian underground gas storage facilities will be able to pump in and pump out their natural gas from the storage facilities at a convenient time and in a convenient way. The corresponding amendments to the Code of Gas Storage Facilities were approved by the Ukrainian National Commission for Energy, Housing and Utility Services Regulation (NCER). The new services will become available to customers from June 1, 2024," the report states.

Naftogaz Group is planning to increase the volume of natural gas, which foreign energy companies will keep in Ukrainian underground storage facilities in 2024.

A reminder that the Ukrainian National Commission for Energy, Housing and Utility Services Regulation (NCER) approved certain amendments to make Ukrainian underground gas storage facilities more attractive to European customers.

Naftogaz Group will leave the tariff rates for natural gas storage services unchanged until April 1, 2025.

Before the 2023/2024 heating season started, foreign traders pumped 2.5 billion cubic meters of natural gas into Ukrainian gas storage facilities.

ENERGOATOM PLANNING TO BUILD FUEL ASSEMBLY PLANT NEAR SOUTH UKRAINE NPP

Energoatom National Nuclear Energy Generating Company of Ukraine is planning to build a fuel assembly production plant not far from the city of Yuzhnoukrainsk, where South Ukraine Nuclear Power Plant (NPP) is situated.

The relevant statement was made by Energoatom Board Acting Chairman Petro Kotin, an Ukrinform correspondent reports, referring to Energoatom's [YouTube](#) commentary.

"We decided to place the plant near the city of Yuzhnoukrainsk. I did not even expect such a great support to be shown by local residents," Kotin told.

In his words, production operations will be based on the technology of the U.S. company Westinghouse.

According to Kotin, the fuel assembly plant will contribute to the diversification of nuclear fuel supplies for Ukrainian nuclear power plants.

A reminder that, in November 2023, Energoatom National Nuclear Energy Generating Company of Ukraine [announced plans to build a plant manufacturing core equipment for small modular reactors \(SMR\)](#) using the technology of the U.S. company Holtec.

RISKS TO ENERGY SECTOR SHOULD BE MINIMIZED BY NEXT WINTER - PM

Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal named three vectors of activity to minimize risks to the Ukrainian energy sector next winter.

He emphasized this during a government meeting, Ukrinform reports.

"The enemy has carried out a number of intense attacks on energy facilities. First of all, we are talking about thermal generation. Our task is to minimize the risks to the energy sector by next winter. We need to ensure that Ukrainians have electricity and heat in their homes and that enterprises operate smoothly," the Prime Minister emphasized.

Source: Official telegram channel of the Prime Minister of Ukraine

According to the Prime Minister, there are three main vectors of activity to realize this task, the first of which is the actual repairs and attracting assistance from partners.

"We have high hopes for the Energy Support Fund of Ukraine, to which our international partners have made contributions of more than EUR 405 million," Shmyhal said.

He assured that the government is prioritizing the purchase of equipment for those regions where the situation is most difficult, in particular, for Kharkiv and Kharkiv region.

The second area is the decentralization of the Ukrainian power generation. The official emphasized that instead of large power plants vulnerable to attacks, we need dozens of small, dispersed facilities.

"We are deploying a network of cogeneration units that will support the operation of critical infrastructure in communities. We will increase the intensity of work in this area," he said.

The third and priority area is to strengthen air defense.

"We are also asking for help from our partners here. This is now a priority for our entire team," the Prime Minister added.

As Ukrinform reported earlier, according to Oleksandr Kharchenko, director of the Energy Research Center, Kharkiv can solve the problem with energy supply by installing a large number of small generation facilities of 2-7 MW.

EU HANDED OVER 167 GENERATORS TO UKRAINE

In response to Russian attacks against Ukraine's energy infrastructure, the European Union has sent 157 generators of various types and 10 more large generators with a capacity of 1 megawatt to the country.

According to Ukrinform, this was reported on the website of the European Commission.

"In response to Ukraine's request for assistance, Austria, Germany, Sweden and the Netherlands offered 157 generators of various sizes through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism. To further strengthen Ukraine's energy infrastructure, the EU has also supplied 10 high-capacity generators (1MW) from its own reserves under rescEU [EU Civil Protection Program], worth EUR 3.57 million. Each of these powerful generators can provide electricity to a medium-sized hospital in an emergency," the statement said.

In this regard, European Commissioner for Crisis Management Janez Lenarčič noted that after a series of targeted Russian attacks against Ukraine's energy infrastructure last week, the EU is working around the clock to help Ukraine maintain a stable electricity supply and eliminate the consequences of these attacks.

"Russia's plans to bomb Ukraine to drive it into darkness will fail," the European Commissioner said.

He expressed his gratitude to the governments of Austria, Germany, Sweden and the Netherlands, which immediately responded to Ukraine's call for help in overcoming the consequences of Russian attacks.

According to the statement, the EU Emergency Coordination Center remains in close contact with the Ukrainian authorities and is ready to continue to provide further assistance to Ukraine in energy supply.

As reported by Ukrinform, Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal said that in recent weeks Russia had destroyed 80% of Ukraine's thermal power plants.

TWO POWER SUBSTATIONS DAMAGED IN RUSSIA'S OVERNIGHT DRONE ATTACK

On the night of April 9, 2024, two substations of Ukrenergo National Power Company had their equipment damaged in Russia's drone attack.

The relevant statement was made by the company's press service on [Facebook](#), an Ukrinform correspondent reports.

"Last night Russian drones twice attacked Ukrenergo's energy objects. Two substations in central and western Ukraine had their equipment damaged. Emergency and repair works are underway," the report states.

Following the enemy attack, municipal and household consumers faced short-term power supply interruptions in the city of Poltava.

At the same time, Ukrenergo's repair teams managed to restore some equipment, which had been damaged in Russian shelling of eastern Ukraine. Additionally, an overhead high-voltage power transmission line resumed operation in the western region.

UKRAINE, DENMARK ESTABLISH COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF BIOGAS

The Ukrainian Energy Ministry and the Danish Climate, Energy and Utilities Ministry have established partnership in the field of renewable energy sources with a special focus on biogas.

The relevant document was signed by Ukrainian Energy Minister German Galushchenko and Danish Climate, Energy and Utilities Minister Lars Aagaard at a meeting in Kyiv, an Ukrinform correspondent reports, referring to the [Ukrainian Energy Ministry](#).

Aagaard mentioned that Denmark and Ukraine had been cooperating in the energy sector for a decade, starting with wind energy, renewable energy sources and energy efficiency. Now, another component has been added, such as biogas. According to Aagaard, many Danish companies are ready to join cooperation with Ukraine in this area.

The above agreement will be included in the Ukraine-Denmark Energy Partnership Programme (UDEPP).

In the course of the meeting, Galushchenko emphasized the need to start implementing relevant projects as soon as now.

"Over the years of cooperation with Denmark, we have managed to launch a number of important projects in the areas of renewable energy, smart grid development and expert support in the process of integrating Ukrainian energy markets into European ones. Therefore, we are pleased to further expand our partnership with Danish colleagues," Galushchenko noted.

The two ministers also discussed the implementation of other cooperation programs, including the study of Danish experience in the energy sector development by Ukrainian professionals as part of the energy modeling program.

A reminder that, on March 20, 2024, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine endorsed in the second reading draft bill No. 9456 'On the Customs Control and Customs Clearance of Biomethane Transported through Pipelines via the Customs Border of Ukraine'.

Considering the existing resource portfolio, Ukraine can produce 21.8 billion cubic meters of biogas and/or biomethane annually.

DENMARK CONTRIBUTES ALMOST \$6M TO RESTORE UKRAINE'S ENERGY SECTOR

Denmark has announced the allocation of DKK 40 million (over \$5.8 million) to restore Ukrainian energy systems damaged by Russia's massive attacks on Ukraine's infrastructure.

This is said in a statement published on the website of the Danish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Ukrinform reports.

"The last few weeks, Russia has increased its targeted attacks and we've seen extensive destruction against Ukrainian energy infrastructure. Denmark provides 40 million DKK as a contribution to the necessary rebuilding in order for Ukraine to maintain its energy supply," said Dan Jørgensen, Minister for Development Cooperation and Global Climate Policy.

With the new contribution, Denmark is helping to ensure the energy supply— and with this, the Ukrainians access to water and heat – next winter. The money comes from the civil fund in the Danish government's Ukraine Fund.

According to Minister of Energy of Ukraine German Galushchenko, the current needs of the Ukrainian energy sector were discussed at a meeting with Minister for Climate, Energy and Utilities of Denmark Lars Aagaard.

Galushchenko briefed his colleague about the current situation in the Ukrainian energy sector and the consequences of recent enemy attacks, and thanked the Danish side for its assistance to the Ukrainian energy sector. He noted that Denmark was the first donor to the Ukraine Energy Support Fund. In total, the country has contributed about 11 million euros to the Fund over the past two years.

"We appreciate Denmark's leadership and the example they set, which has since been followed by other countries. The Fund is now an effective mechanism for supporting the energy sector by purchasing equipment for restoration and repairs, thereby strengthening the resilience of our energy system," he said.

At the meeting, the ministers discussed the Ukrainian energy sector's current needs and measures to ensure the stable operation of the Ukrainian energy system during the next heating season.

As reported by Ukrinform, on February 23, President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky and Prime Minister of Denmark Mette Frederiksen signed an agreement on security cooperation.

On March 12, the Danish government announced a military aid package worth about DKK 2.3 billion (\$337 million) for Ukraine.

UKRNAFTA PLANNING TO DRILL TWO MORE WELLS IN WESTERN UKRAINE

Ukrnafta PJSC is carrying out preparatory works to drill two more wells in western Ukraine.

The relevant statement was made by the company's [press service](#), an Ukrinform correspondent reports.

"Ukrnafta is preparing a site to drill two exploratory wells in western Ukraine. According to the 3D geological and hydrodynamic model, as of January 1, 2023, the initial reserves in the productive horizons were as follows: 5.9 million tonnes of oil and 468 million cubic meters of gas," the report states.

Both wells are expected to be inclined. The first well will be 2,677 meters deep. The initial production rate has been estimated at about 16 tonnes oil per day.

The second well will be 2,672 meters deep. The initial production rate has been estimated at 25 tonnes of oil per day.

A reminder that, in March 2024, Ukrnafta PJSC started to drill an exploratory oil well with a projected daily production rate of 22.6 tonnes.

TRANSPORT

UDP, RHENUS LOGISTICS CONSIDER EXPANDING COOPERATION

Ukrainian Danube Shipping Company PrJSC (UDP) and Rhenus Logistics are considering prospects for expanding cooperation in the delivery of cargo to the warehouses of European customers.

The relevant statement was made by Ukrainian Danube Shipping Company PrJSC CEO Dmytro Moskalenko on [Facebook](#), an Ukrinform correspondent reports.

"We have visited the Austrian town of Krems and discussed with the representatives of Rhenus Logistics the prospects of creating joint logistics chains. [...] Rhenus Group already has a Ukrainian subdivision operating a logistics center. But, we have offered our colleagues to expand cooperation," Moskalenko wrote.

In his words, Ukrainian companies have a potential interest in shipping towards Western and Central Europe from the Danube region. Ukrainian Danube Shipping Company provides cargo handling services in Ukraine and the delivery of cargo to the ports of the Upper Danube, but the company is looking for a partner to complete the second part of the chain and carry shipments from the port to the destination warehouse.

According to Moskalenko, Rhenus Group has been watching the fleet modernization project of Ukrainian Danube Shipping Company with interest. Additionally, UDP can offer European partners a production site in Ukraine with perfect conditions for the placement of a technological cluster or a logistics hub.

The parties agreed to continue consultations regarding further cooperation after all proposals and opportunities are studied.

A reminder that Ukrainian Danube Shipping Company PrJSC [completed the construction of its third SLG barge](#) and expressed readiness to build up to 10 vessels annually.

UKRAINE, HUNGARY AGREE ON OPENING NEW BORDER CHECKPOINT

Ukraine and Hungary have signed amendments to the intergovernmental agreement on border traffic control, which will allow to launch a new checkpoint for passenger cars.

This was reported by the [press service](#) of the Ministry of Community Development, Territories and Infrastructure, Ukrinform reports.

"Ukraine and Hungary agreed on the opening of the Velyka Palad' – Nagyhodos" crossing point for passenger vehicles and the possibility for empty trucks weighing over 7.5 tons to cross at the "Luzhanka - Beregsurany" crossing point, - the message reads.

It is emphasized that the relevant changes to the agreement between the two governments on border traffic control were signed by the Deputy Prime Minister for the Reconstruction of Ukraine, Minister of Community Development, Territories and Infrastructure Oleksandr Kubrakov and the Ambassador of Hungary to Ukraine, Antal Heizer.

The parties are also considering the possibility of building a new cargo crossing point "Diyda - Beregdarots" in order to increase the carrying capacity of the Ukrainian-Hungarian border.

After signing the changes to the agreement, the document shall be ratified by parliaments.

According to the Deputy Prime Minister, Ukraine and Hungary are working to launch substantive negotiations on the introduction of joint customs and border control.

As reported, the Cabinet of Ministers decided to allow the opening of a new Ukrainian-Romanian checkpoint Bila Tserkva - Sighetu Marmatiei".

JAPAN CONSIDERS POSSIBILITY OF INVESTMENT IN BORYSPIL AIRPORT

The management of Boryspil International Airport and the representatives of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) have held a working meeting to discuss cooperation in updating the development concept of the airport.

The relevant statement was made by [Boryspil International Airport](#), an Ukrinform correspondent reports.

"The meeting was aimed at establishing cooperation between the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Boryspil Airport for updating the development concept of the airport in the context of resuming normal operating activities and the possibility of attracting investment for the implementation of projects related to the comprehensive modernization of the airport infrastructure," the report states.

In the course of the visit, JICA's representatives witnessed that the airport infrastructure was at the highest level of readiness for the resumption of flights. The parties also agreed to coordinate actions in order to better implement the future joint projects.

The management of Boryspil Airport mentioned that JICA was their long-term partner, which helped to implement a large-scale project on the construction of Terminal D in 2012.

Boryspil International Airport CEO Oleksiy Dubrevskyy noted that successful cooperation would continue. This refers not only to the exchange of experience but also the further implementation of airport infrastructure projects.

A reminder that Ukraine's infrastructure is 90% nominally ready to resume air services. Some airports would be able to fully re-open in several months. However, as long as the war unleashed by Russia continues, it is impossible to secure the Ukrainian sky and ensure that flights are completely safe.

INDUSTRY

UKRAINE'S METALLURGICAL PRODUCTION UP BY ONE-THIRD IN Q1 2024

In the first quarter of 2024, Ukrainian metallurgical enterprises increased production volumes by about one-third compared to the same period last year.

The relevant statement was made by [Ukrmetallurgprom Association of Enterprises](#), an Ukrinform correspondent reports.

In particular, the production output of pig iron reached 1.59 million tonnes in January-March 2024, which is 32.1% higher compared to the same period last year. Additionally, Ukrainian metallurgical enterprises produced 1.69 million tonnes of steel (+36.6% compared to January-March 2023) and 1.39 million tonnes of rolled metal (+35.5%).

Meanwhile, in March 2024, Ukrainian metallurgical enterprises produced 538.2 thousand tonnes of pig iron (+8.5% compared to March 2023), 610.9 thousand tonnes of steel (+14.8%), and 488.7 thousand tonnes of rolled metal (+9.2%).

A reminder that, according to Ukrmetallurgprom Association of Enterprises, all domestic metallurgical enterprises are planning to increase production volumes by 10-15% in 2024.

ENVIRONMENT

GOVERNMENT WANTS TO CREATE EFFECTIVE DEMINING MARKET WITH MAXIMUM INNOVATION - PM

The Cabinet of Ministers seeks to create an effective demining market in Ukraine, attract maximum innovation and establish mass production of demining equipment.

This was announced by Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal during a government meeting, Ukrinform reports.

"Another long-term consequence of the war is mining. Currently, about 156,000 square kilometers, or 26% of Ukraine's territory, are potentially dangerous due to Russian mine terror," he said.

According to the prime minister, the government seeks to create an effective demining market, attract maximum innovation, and establish mass production of equipment so that the process of neutralizing "Russian mine waste takes years, not decades," he said.

Shmyhal emphasized that he is proud of the successful Ukrainian technical developments, as two certified domestic vehicles are already involved in demining, and a third is being tested.

At the same time, an international coalition for humanitarian demining has already been established, which has attracted more than USD 700 million in funding for this sector.

"Since the beginning of the year, more than 80,000 hectares of land have been surveyed, of which 74,000 hectares have been returned to operation," the Prime Minister informed.

The official also noted that 34 mine action operators have already been certified, and dozens more are undergoing this procedure. In total, about 750 pyrotechnic groups are engaged in demining.

"We are strengthening our defense, rebuilding the country, taking care of people's welfare and bringing our common victory closer together," Shmyhal summarized.

As Ukrinform reported earlier, units of the State Special Transport Service of the Ministry of Defense demined another 1534.28 hectares of territory over the week, seized and neutralized 3437 explosive devices.

SOCIAL

MORE THAN 114,000 UKRAINIANS ALREADY INVOLVED IN ARMY OF RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

As of April 8, 2024, a total of 114,105 Ukrainians were taking part in socially useful works under the Army of Reconstruction project.

The relevant statement was made by the Ukrainian State Employment Service on [Telegram](#), an Ukrinform correspondent reports.

According to the data provided by the Ukrainian State Employment Service, a total of 114,105 Ukrainians have been assigned to socially useful works since October 1, 2022, mostly in the Kharkiv region (21,684 assignments).

The regions involving the highest number of unemployed people under the Army of Reconstruction project included also Donetsk (13,897 assignments), Kyiv (13,279), Poltava (12,691), and Chernihiv (12,287).

In general, 19 regions are taking part in the government project 'Army of Reconstruction'. A total of UAH 772 million has already been transferred to finance such jobs.

A reminder that, from April 1, 2024, the monthly salary for socially useful works under the Army of Reconstruction project increased to UAH 12,000.

MORE THAN 500 APPLICATIONS WERE RECEIVED TO THE INTERNATIONAL REGISTER OF LOSSES IN THE FIRST DAY

During the first day of operation, the International Loss Register received over 500 claims. Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal announced this at a government meeting, Ukrinform reports.

"We insist that the aggressor pays for the inflicted losses. We have taken an important step towards this - the International Loss Register has started operating in The Hague as part of the international Compensation Mechanism. In just the first day of its operation, it received over 500 claims from victims of Russian aggression," the head of the government noted.

According to him, work is underway to create a Compensation Commission and a Compensation Fund, which is intended to be funded from confiscated Russian assets.

In this regard, he welcomed the initiatives of European partners regarding the transfer of income generated from frozen Russian assets to Ukraine. In 2024, these profits could amount to a total of 5-8 billion euros, Shmyhal noted.

"But this is just the first step towards restoring justice. The principle of 'Russia will pay' must be fully implemented," emphasized the Prime Minister.

As Ukrinform reported, on April 2, the International Loss Register started operating in The Hague. A total of up to 8 million claims are expected from Ukrainians who have suffered from the armed aggression of the Russian Federation.