

NEWSLETTER

«ECONOMIC NEWS»

March 26, 2024

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FINANCES**PM SHMYHAL: UKRAINE RECEIVES \$880M FROM IMF UNDER EFF ARRANGEMENT**

Ukraine has already received a tranche of \$880 million from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) Arrangement.

The relevant [statement](#) was made by Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal, an Ukrinform correspondent reports.

“Today, Ukraine has received \$880 million from the IMF. It is the third tranche of financial assistance under the EFF Arrangement,” Shmyhal wrote.

In his words, the above funds will help Ukraine to cover the priority budget expenditures and maintain macrofinancial stability.

The Prime Minister emphasized that Ukraine continues to successfully fulfill its commitments to the partners.

“We are already preparing for the next review of the program. We are grateful to the IMF for its support and cooperation,” Shmyhal added.

A reminder that the four-year Extended Fund Facility (EFF) Arrangement, totaling \$17.5 billion, has been a core element of the Ukrainian Finance Ministry’s plan to stabilize the country’s economy and lay the basis for its recovery since 2016.

The EFF is designed to increase the reserves of the National Bank of Ukraine (NBU), to stop the exodus of capital, to enhance the measures taken by the Ukrainian government to stabilize the country’s balance of payments, as well as to help Ukraine overcome structural problems in its economy by implementing overdue reforms.

Within the EFF framework, Ukraine has already finalized a number of substantial changes in the energy and banking sector, as well as changes aimed to increase the NBU’s independence, remedy the public finances, reform the sector of state-owned companies, and counteract corruption.

UKRAINE TO RECEIVE USD 5.4B FROM IMF IN SEVERAL TRANCHES IN 2024 – USTENKO

In 2024, Ukraine is planning to receive USD 5.4 billion from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and this aid will come in several tranches during the year.

The relevant statement was made by Advisor to the President of Ukraine Oleg Ustenko in a commentary to [Ukrainian Radio](#), an Ukrinform correspondent reports.

The first tranche of USD 800 million will arrive in the coming days, and a few more tranches are expected to be transferred during 2024.

“It seems to be an insignificant amount but, in terms of the possibility of attracting additional funds, it is an important signal of cooperation with the IMF,” Ustenko explained.

Generally, Ukraine’s Extended Fund Facility (EFF) Arrangement with the IMF will be in effect for several years, totaling about \$15.6 billion.

“The International Monetary Fund, as experts in Washington say, has the keys to the gate. That is, when the IMF works, other investors come and international financial institutions operate. The funds coming from international institutions and in the form of support from our allies and partners go to the state budget and are spent on all those programs that are not related to the country’s defense and security. The security and defense sector – all relevant articles of the state budget – are financed by our own funds and tax payments that Ukraine collects on its own. We are talking about approximately USD 40 billion per annum, this is the amount of security and defense expenditures, and about the same expenditures go on non-security social programs, such as financing the deficit of the Pension Fund, salary payments to teachers, doctors, etc.,” Ustenko told.

As for the non-defense programs, Ustenko mentioned that Ukraine would need \$40 billion per annum, of which USD 19 billion (or EUR 18 billion) is covered by the EU’s Ukraine Facility programme until 2027.

With additional funds from the IMF in the amount of USD 5.4 billion for 2024, Ukraine would receive a total of USD 24.4 billion.

“There is an expectation that funds will be found and eventually voted in the United States, approximately USD 10 billion. Hence, a total of USD 34.5 billion will come from the EU, the IMF and the United States, and the rest will be partially financed in the form of support from other allies and partners and our internal borrowings,” Ustenko concluded.

A reminder that, on March 22, 2024, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Executive Board completed the Third Review of the extended arrangement under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) for Ukraine, allowing the authorities to draw the equivalent of about USD 880 million.

Ukraine's 48-month EFF arrangement, with access of SDR 11.6 billion (equivalent to USD 15.6 billion), was approved on March 31, 2023.

DEPOSIT GUARANTEE FUND TO SELL INSOLVENT BANKS' ASSETS WORTH UAH 2.9B THIS WEEK

The Ukrainian Deposit Guarantee Fund is planning to sell the assets of insolvent banks for a total amount of UAH 2.9 billion this week.

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

"The sale of the assets of 12 insolvent banks has been scheduled in the Prozorro.Sale system for this week (March 25-29, 2024). The starting price of all lots is UAH 2,853.9 million," the report states.

In particular, loans receivable will be put on sale for UAH 2,553.4 million; immovable property, land plots and other fixed assets of banks – for UAH 165.4 million; the accounts payable owed to banks – for UAH 135.1 million.

A reminder that the Ukrainian Deposit Guarantee Fund sold the assets of insolvent banks for a total amount of UAH 129.2 million in January 2024 and UAH 178.7 million in February 2024.

UKRGASVYDOBUVANNYA TRANSFERS UAH 3.9B IN RENT PAYMENTS IN JAN-FEB 2024

In January-February 2024, Ukrgasvydobuvannya JSC transferred UAH 3.9 billion in rent payments to the consolidated budget.

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

"Ukrgasvydobuvannya JSC, which is part of Naftogaz Group, transferred UAH 3.9 billion worth of rent payments to the consolidated budget in January-February 2024. The local and regional budgets in the areas, where the company conducts its hydrocarbon production operations, will receive 5% of the sum, or UAH 195.8 million," the report states.

In particular, the Kharkiv region received UAH 100.1 million worth of rent payments, Poltava region – UAH 78.8 million, Lviv region – UAH 8.5 million, Dnipropetrovsk region – UAH 3.9 billion. Another UAH 4.4 billion worth of rent payments was transferred to the budgets of other regions.

A reminder that Ukrgasvydobuvannya JSC transferred UAH 23.8 billion in rent payments to various-level budgets in 2023.

RETAIL DEPOSITS IN MEMBER BANKS OF DEPOSIT GUARANTEE FUND REACH UAH 1.2T AS OF MAR 1

In February 2024, the total amount of retail deposits in the member banks of the Ukrainian Deposit Guarantee Fund increased by UAH 13.1 billion, totaling UAH 1.208 trillion as of March 1, 2024.

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

"The total amount of retail deposits (including those of individual entrepreneurs) in the member banks of the Ukrainian Deposit Guarantee Fund reached UAH 1.208 trillion as of March 1, 2024, which is UAH 13.1 billion higher compared to the previous month," the report states.

In particular, the amount of hryvnia-denominated retail deposits came to UAH 780.8 billion, foreign currency denominated retail deposits – UAH 427.3 billion.

The share of individual entrepreneurs in the structure of depositors was 3.3%. The total amount of their deposits came to UAH 133.9 billion (11.1% of the total deposits).

SANCTIONS

SHMYHAL, CAMERON DISCUSS SEIZURE OF IMMOBILIZED RUSSIAN ASSETS

Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal discussed with the UK Minister of Foreign Affairs David Cameron the issue of seizing frozen Russian assets.

Shmyhal reported this on [Telegram](#), Ukrinform saw.

"We discussed the escalation of Russia's attacks on civil infrastructure and the necessary assistance to Ukraine. And also the mechanisms that will make Russia pay for the crimes and destruction committed. In particular, the confiscation of the frozen Russian assets," he said.

Shmyhal thanked Cameron for his personal involvement in the process.

The parties also raised the issue of creating a special international group with the participation of Ukraine, which will work out the legal ways to proceed with such seizure.

"Ukraine has already submitted its proposals. The International Damage Register has been established. Next, we propose that an International Compensation Commission be set up, as well as a compensation fund. Our position is unequivocal: all frozen Russian assets must be directed to the needs of our state," the head of government emphasized.

Shmyhal also thanked the UK for the significant amount of aid provided and for signing a security agreement with Ukraine, which gives confidence in long-term support from British allies.

As Ukrinform reported earlier, EU High Representative Josep Borrell proposed to use income derived from frozen Russian assets in Ukraine's interest. If the EU countries support the proposal, the entire amount of such income will be directed to the EU budget and forwarded to Ukraine: 90 percent for military needs, another 10 percent – for the country's reconstruction programs and development of the Ukrainian defense industry.

According to Borrell, the total amount of sovereign assets of the Russian central bank, which were frozen in Western jurisdictions, may reach \$350 billion.

DEFENSE

FINANCE MINISTRY: UAH 235.1B ALLOCATED FROM STATE BUDGET FOR DEFENSE PURPOSES IN JAN-FEB 2024

In January-February 2024, a total of UAH 235.1 billion was directed from Ukraine's state budget general fund to the security and defense sector.

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

"In January-February 2024, the expenditures from the state budget general fund on the security and defense sector came to UAH 235.1 billion, or 55.4% of the total expenditures," the report states.

A total of UAH 159.8 billion was allocated for the security and defense sector in February 2024.

The funds were directed as the military pay for servicemen, rank and file personnel and senior officers, police officers, as well as to purchase military and special equipment, weapons, ammunition, defense products, individual protective gear (helmets, bulletproof vests, and other special equipment), fuels and oils, food products, etc.

A reminder that a total of UAH 1,843.8 billion was allocated from Ukraine's state budget general fund for the security and defense sector in 2023.

UKRAINE CAN BE GIVEN TWICE AS MANY SHELLS AS PART OF THE CZECH INITIATIVE - 1.5 MILLION

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, Jan Lipavsky, said that Ukraine could receive 1.5 million shells instead of the previously promised 800,000 as part of the Czech initiative to purchase ammunition.

He stated this in an interview with Bloomberg, reports Ukrinform.

"We can do much more than the number (of ammunition - ed.) announced at the beginning," said the head of the Czech Foreign Ministry, citing the figure of 1.5 million shells.

According to him, the Czech proposal is already helping Ukraine to "fight better" because the Ukrainian military "knows that they will have supplies of fresh shells, and this has changed their view on the use of existing stocks."

At the same time, Lipavsky noted that the Czech initiative alone is not enough to support Ukraine.

As reported by Ukrinform, Czech President Petr Pavel announced on the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference that Prague had found about 800,000 ammunition (500,000 caliber 155 mm and 300,000 - 122 mm) in third countries, which EU members could purchase for Ukraine. This initiative was supported by several states.

In particular, on March 25, Iceland announced the allocation of 2 million euros for the purchase of shells for Ukraine.

NUCLEAR SAFETY

UKRAINE, SWEDEN TO DEEPEN COOPERATION IN NUCLEAR INDUSTRY

The deepening of cooperation between Ukraine and Sweden in the nuclear industry will help strengthen the energy security of the two countries and the European continent as a whole.

This issue was discussed at a meeting between Ukrainian Energy Minister German Galushchenko and Swedish Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Energy, Business and Industry Ebba Busch, Ukrinform reports, citing the [Ukrainian Energy Ministry's press service](#).

"Cooperation in the nuclear industry between our countries is a priority. We were able to show other countries that the future of the nuclear industry is possible without Russia: Ukrainian specialists from Energoatom worked together with specialists from a Westinghouse plant in Sweden to create a technology that allowed us to use Western-made fuel in Soviet VVER reactors. Now this fuel is successfully working at the Rivne NPP," Galushchenko said.

Both parties discussed the prospects for deepening cooperation between Ukraine and Sweden for the further displacement of Russia from the market for nuclear fuel and atomic technologies in Europe.

Busch noted that renewable energy plays a leading role in Sweden, which largely depends on variable factors, including weather. At the same time, the experience of Ukraine, living in wartime, proved the importance of stable and reliable generation, which is important for the country's energy security.

"You can't build an energy system only for peacetime. [...] That's why Sweden plans to develop not only renewable energy but also nuclear energy. And we see significant potential in cooperation with Ukraine in this direction," she said.

ENERGY

UKRENERGO SCHEDULES RECORD ELECTRICITY IMPORTS FOR MAR 26

On March 26, 2024, Ukraine is planning to import 18,649 megawatt-hours of electricity, which is the highest daily amount since the beginning of the year.

The relevant statement was made by Ukrenergo National Power Company on [Facebook](#), an Ukrinform correspondent reports.

"During the day, a total of 18,649 megawatt-hours of electricity will be imported from Romania, Slovakia, Poland, Hungary and Moldova with a maximum capacity of up to 1,537 megawatt-hours at certain hours. No [electricity] exports have been scheduled," the report states.

According to Ukrenergo, Ukraine's energy system is operating in stable mode. No electricity shortage is expected.

Power engineers continue working around the clock to eliminate the consequences of Russian missile and drone attacks. Dismantling operations are underway across all impacted locations. Emergency and repair works are being carried out, where the Ukrainian State Emergency Service allowed to do so.

In the Odesa region, Ukrenergo's professionals managed to restore some equipment at one of the war-affected substations. Hence, the capacity of high-voltage grids increased, and the duration of power outage limits reduced. Now, about 50% of electric transport vehicles are resuming operation in the city. Power outage schedules are remaining in effect for household consumers.

In the Khmelnytskyi region and the city of Kryvyi Rih, power supply restrictions were lifted. However, if the consumption rate increases, power engineers will have to introduce power outage schedules.

"The most challenging situation is remaining in the Kharkiv region. Power engineers are working to gradually reconnect consumers under backup schemes," Ukrenergo noted.

A reminder that, due to a deterioration in weather conditions, about 70 settlements were left without electricity in the Odesa and Mykolaiv regions. Meanwhile, over the past day, power supply services have been restored for more than 10,500 consumers.

UKRENERGO ON RUSSIAN ENERGY TERROR: MOST CHALLENGING SITUATION IN KHARKIV, ODESA AND KRYVYI RIH

Following a series of Russian attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure, the most challenging situation is remaining in such cities as Kharkiv, Odesa and Kryvyi Rih.

The relevant statement was made by Ukrenergo National Power Company Board Chairman Volodymyr Kudrytskyi in a commentary to *Ukrainska Pravda*, an Ukrinform correspondent reports.

"Kharkiv is facing the most challenging situation. The enemy attempted to destroy with ballistic weapons practically all trunk network objects providing the city with power supply. These are several of our substations and local power plants," Kudrytskyi told.

In his words, it is difficult to make a forecast regarding the situation in Kharkiv at the moment. At the same time, he expects that, by the end of this week or at the beginning of the next week, the situation with power supply services in the city will improve.

According to Kudrytskyi, Odesa and Kryvyi Rih are also facing power supply issues. In Odesa, Russia's recent overnight attack made the situation with power supplies additionally complicated. Meanwhile, Kryvyi Rih is overcoming the consequences of Russia's March 25 attack.

Kudrytskyi emphasized that power engineers expect to balance the energy situation in the above cities in the coming days.

A reminder that, on March 26, 2024, Ukraine was planning to import 18,649 megawatt-hours of electricity, which is the highest daily amount since the beginning of the year.

ENERGY MINISTRY NOT TO SUSPEND ELECTRICITY EXPORTS OR REVISE TARIFF RATES FOLLOWING RUSSIA'S MAR 22 ATTACK

Ukrainian power engineers continue to verify the damage caused to the country's energy sector by Russia's massive missile attack, which took place on March 22, 2024.

The relevant statement was made by Ukrainian Energy Minister German Galushchenko at a briefing, an Ukrinform correspondent reports, referring to the ministry's [press service](#).

"It has been the largest attack since the full-scale aggression started. We still do not have a full understanding of the extent to which the objects have been destroyed. There is a huge rubble, and dismantling works are now underway. Not everywhere there is access to equipment to check the condition. Regarding the amount of damages, the real figures will become clear as the damage is verified. But, I think, it is definitely about billions," Galushchenko told.

In his words, Ukraine will certainly demand that the aggressor repay these sums through lawsuits.

According to Galushchenko, the matter of suspending electricity exports in order to stabilize the situation in the energy system is not considered at the moment.

"I do not see today that this would somehow radically solve our situation. There are currently no decisions on the tariff rates, the fate of public service obligations (PSO), or the export ban. Now, we are focusing efforts to document the consequences of the attack. After that, we will come up with figures, recovery terms, and will make decisions on relevant issues," Galushchenko explained.

He pointed out that Ukraine could import electricity from EU countries. Today, the import capacity is up to 1.7 gigawatts, and the Ukrainian side is applying to the European Network of Transmission System Operators (ENTSO-E) to increase the capacity limit.

"We need more, as today it is a matter of survival. At least 2.5 gigawatts would be what we need," Galushchenko added.

A reminder that, according to Ukrhydroenergo PrJSC CEO Ihor Syrota, [it is likely to take Dnipro Hydroelectric Power Plant \(HPP\) years to resume normal operation](#) following Russia's missile attack.

On March 22, 2024, over six Russian missiles hit HPP-2 unit, having damaged an overpass and crane beams. Relevant professionals are yet to access the plant's engine room in order to assess the scale of damage. At the same time, the Dnipro HPP dam remained intact, and the situation is controlled there.

GTSOU TO MAINTAIN LAST YEAR'S TERMS FOR TRANSPORTING GAS TO UNDERGROUND STORAGE FACILITIES

In 2024, Gas Transmission System Operator of Ukraine LLC (GTSOU) is planning to maintain last year's terms for transporting foreign-owned gas to underground storage facilities.

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

"In 2024, GTSOU's priority projects are to maintain the current terms for customers for the entire 2024/2025 season and expand the available gas transportation routes to Ukraine's gas transmission system. In particular, in cooperation with the Ukrainian National Commission for Energy, Housing and Utility Services Regulation (NCER), GTSOU is working to extend the existing shorthaul tariff rates until April 1, 2025," the report states.

This season, according to the company, all guaranteed capacities at EU-Ukraine interstate crossing points (Slovakia, Poland, Hungary) have been preserved and available. Additionally, there are no physical restrictions to re-export the natural gas pumped into Ukrainian underground storage facilities.

At the same time, GTSOU is working to diversify the routes and sources of transporting gas to Ukraine. In July 2024, together with adjacent operators, GTSOU will hold auctions providing access to the new (increased) capacity. This will allow for creating the guaranteed capacity for transporting gas from Poland and the Trans-Balkan direction as part of the Vertical Corridor initiative.

A reminder that Ukrtransgaz JSC maintained the tariff rates for the use of underground gas storage facilities at the level of 2023.

UKRNAFTA BOOSTS OIL, GAS PRODUCTION IN FEB 2024

Last month Ukrnafta PJSC produced 110.3 thousand tonnes of oil and 92.1 million cubic meters of natural gas, which is 0.09% and 10.7% respectively higher compared to February 2023.

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

"In February 2024, Ukrnafta PJSC produced 110.3 thousand tonnes of oil and 92.1 million cubic meters of natural gas, having exceeded the production volumes during the same period last year. In February 2023, the company produced 110.2 thousand tonnes of oil and 83.2 million cubic meters of natural gas," the report states.

At the same time, Ukrnafta PJSC continues efforts to drill new wells, implement production stimulation measures and upgrade obsolete equipment in compliance with the API standards.

A reminder that Ukrnafta PJSC produced 1.41 million tonnes of oil and condensate and 1.1 billion cubic meters of natural gas in 2023, which is 3% and 6% respectively higher compared to 2022.

BUSINESS

MCDONALD'S IS GRADUALLY RETURNING UKRAINIAN SUPPLIERS FOR ITS RESTAURANTS

In Ukraine, local ingredients in the McDonald's menu make up about 60% and their share is gradually increasing.

Yuliya Badritdinova, general director of McDonald's in Ukraine, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia, announced this during a press conference, Ukrinform correspondent reports.

"Today, about 60% of our products are made up of local ingredients and products. Before the war, it was 70%. We had to replace some positions, nevertheless, 60% is a big enough number, we did not completely switch to imports," said Badritdinova.

She emphasized that the main large suppliers in Ukraine remained partners of the network after the restoration of the establishments.

In particular, Bimbo QSR Ukraine, located in Dnipro, continues to bake buns for restaurants. She did not close for a day and after the return of McDonald's in September 2022, she continued to work with the company.

The factory in Kozyatyn, Vinnytsia region, which makes meat patties for Big Macs, also continues cooperation with McDonald's.

"This is actually an international partner of our company, its steaks are used by chain restaurants in other countries as well. For a certain period, they canned their lines that worked for our restaurants, but as soon as we recovered, they also returned production," Badritdinova said.

At the same time, some items in the menu had to be replaced with imported ingredients. One of them was the sauce for burgers, which before the war was produced for McDonald's at the facilities of Chumak PJSC.

"When the factory was occupied, we immediately switched to an alternative product in our system, which was supplied from Poland. Now we are gradually resuming the production of sauces according to our recipes at Askania-Pak LLC. We also resumed cooperation with local salad producers, who initially brought us the recovery also from Poland," added the head of the company.

As reported, at the end of 2023, McDonald's in Ukraine resumed work by 70% of the indicators of 2021. Currently, 101 restaurants out of 117 existing ones are operating.

FINNISH BUSINESSES OPEN REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE IN KYIV

Confederation of Finnish Industries (EK) and EastCham Finland are opening a joint representative office in Kyiv.

The relevant statement was made by Finland's [Yle](#), an Ukrinform correspondent reports.

The office will help Finnish companies take part in Ukraine's reconstruction projects and operate on the Ukrainian market.

"The opening of the office is important for the involvement of Finnish companies in Ukraine's recovery efforts," EK Director General Jyri Häkämies noted.

The mission of the newly established office is to provide Finnish companies with information about the Ukrainian market and business conditions. It will also help Finnish businesses find local partners.

In early April 2024, Olena Kutsai will take charge of the Kyiv office.

Currently, there are 20 to 30 Finnish companies doing business in Ukraine.

A reminder that, in 2023, the prosecutor general's office of Russia declared 'unwelcome' the activity of EastCham Finland, specializing in economic evaluation.

SWEDISH BUSINESS READY TO COOPERATE WITH UKRAINIAN COMPANIES IN HIGH-TECH INDUSTRIES

Swedish businesses are interested in increasing their presence in Ukraine and developing cooperation with Ukrainian companies in high-tech industries, including energy, telecommunications, and cyber security.

This issue was discussed at a meeting between Ukrainian First Deputy Prime Minister, Economy Minister Yulia Svyrydenko and Swedish Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Energy, Business and Industry Ebba Busch, Ukrinform reports, citing the Ukrainian Economy Ministry's [press service](#).

"We discussed specific projects that may be of interest to Swedish companies for investment. We heard from our colleagues that Swedish businesses already operating in Ukraine are interested in increasing their presence, and potential investors expressed their interest in cooperation in such high-tech sectors as conventional and green energy, telecommunications and cyber security. It is very important for us to localize such high-tech productions in Ukraine," Svyrydenko said.

During the meeting, both parties discussed opportunities to increase support for Ukraine's energy sector amid Russian missile attacks and investments in other key sectors of the economy, which will be prioritized in 2024-2027 and have the greatest growth potential. They also discussed the possibility of involving Sweden's export credit agency in war risk insurance for Swedish investors.

Earlier reports said that Sweden had allocated EUR 26.4 million to the Eastern Europe Energy Efficiency and Environment Partnership Fund (E5P Fund) to provide grant support for energy efficiency projects in Ukraine.

AGRICULTURE

HUNGARY NOT TO REINTRODUCE IMPORT BAN ON UKRAINIAN HONEY

Hungary will not reintroduce a ban on honey imported from Ukraine despite demands by honey farmers who have protested saying cheap honey from Ukraine pushed down prices and threatens to drive them out of business.

That's according to [Reuters](#), Ukrinform reports.

Agriculture Minister Istvan Nagy said the unilateral import ban failed to have a positive impact on the local market as wholesale purchase prices have not increased to the extent that local farmers hoped for, while it hurt companies who packaged and exported honey to the EU.

He said honey exporters needed the Ukrainian honey as they would not be able to meet contracted deliveries otherwise.

When asked if the government would consider reintroducing the import ban, he said "no, as it has no impact."

Most honey imports into the EU come from China and Ukraine. Ukrainian imports accounted for 25% of the EU's honey imports in January-August 2023, according to European Commission data.

Prime Minister Viktor Orban's government imposed a ban on imports of 24 agricultural products from Ukraine last year including grains, pork, and also honey. On February 19 it abolished the import ban on honey, triggering protests from the country's around 22,000 beekeepers.

JAPAN HANDS OVER RECLAMATION EQUIPMENT TO UKRAINE

With the support of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Ukraine has already received 25 Komatsu excavators and bulldozers.

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

"As part of the International Technical Assistance Project 'Emergency Recovery Program' and 'Emergency Support for the Agricultural Sector', which is funded by the Government of Japan with the support of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Ukraine has received 25 equipment units made by Komatsu, one of the leading global manufacturers. Wheeled and crawler excavators, universal backhoe loaders and bulldozers were handed over to water management organizations of the Ukrainian State Agency for Land Reclamation, Fisheries and Food Programs," the report states.

Last week, 15 equipment units were delivered to water management organizations in the Odesa region.

Additionally, three Japanese-made equipment units were transferred to water management companies in the Zaporizhzhia region and seven – in the Rivne region.

Generally, the above project provides for the supply of more than 90 modern equipment units from leading Japanese and global manufacturers for water treatment enterprises of the Ukrainian State Agency for Land Reclamation, Fisheries and Food Programs, namely excavators, tractors, bulldozers, cranes, sweepers, tow cars, mowers, dredgers, etc.

This equipment is intended to significantly improve the efficiency of repair and maintenance works in the state-owned reclamation infrastructure objects of Ukraine.

A reminder that, since February 2022, Ukraine has received \$4.6 billion from Japan through the projects of the World Bank and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

SOCIAL

UKRAINIANS EARN MORE THAN UAH 94M BY PURCHASING WAR BONDS THROUGH DIIA APP

Since October 2022, Ukrainians have earned more than UAH 94 million by purchasing war bonds through the Diia application.

The relevant statement was made by Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister for Innovation, Education, Science and Technology Development - Digital Transformation Minister Mykhailo Fedorov on [Telegram](#), an Ukrinform correspondent reports.

“Since October 2022, Ukrainians have acquired more than 4 million war bonds through the Diia application. In this way, they invested in the state while also making a profit,” Fedorov wrote.

A reminder that the new war bonds were placed via the Diia application, such as Zaliznyi Port (at the rate of 16.25%, maturing on June 5, 2024); Askania-Nova (at the rate of 16.50%, maturing on November 20, 2024), Dzhankoi (at the rate of 17.96%, maturing on July 23, 2025), and Kerch (at the rate of 18.00%, maturing on October 15, 2025).

PENSION FUND COMPLETES FINANCING OF PENSION PAYMENTS FOR MAR 2024

The Pension Fund of Ukraine has completed the financing of pension payments for March 2024, allocating UAH 62.1 billion in total.

The relevant statement was made by the Pension Fund of Ukraine on [Facebook](#), an Ukrinform correspondent reports.

“On March 25, 2024, the financing of pension payments for March 2024 was completed. A total of UAH 62.1 billion was allocated for pension payments in March 2024,” the report states.

A reminder that, from March 1, 2024, about 10 million pensioners in Ukraine had their pension payments indexed with a coefficient of 1.0796. As a result, pension payments across Ukraine increased by an average of UAH 397.07. Following the indexation, the average pension amount is UAH 5,792.02.

SOME 104,292 UKRAINIANS ALREADY INVOLVED IN ARMY OF RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

As of March 25, 2024, a total of 104,292 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 104,292 Ukrainians have been assigned to socially useful works since October 1, 2022, mostly in the Kharkiv region (20,123 assignments).

The regions involving the highest number of unemployed people under the Army of Reconstruction project included also Donetsk (12,925 assignments), Kyiv (12,149), Poltava (11,699), and Chernihiv (11,382).

In general, 19 regions are taking part in the government project ‘Army of Reconstruction’. A total of UAH 716 million has already been transferred to finance such jobs.

A reminder that most Ukrainian enterprises are not planning to staff up in 2024. Only 8% of them expect to recruit new employees this year.

ESTONIAN VOLUNTEERS HAND OVER CARS AND ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES TO UKRAINIAN ARMED FORCES UNITS IN ZHYTOMYR REGION

Estonian volunteers handed over cars, all-terrain vehicles, and trailers to the Armed Forces of Ukraine in Ovruch, Zhytomyr region.

The Ovruch City Council reported this on [Facebook](#), according to Ukrinform.

"Estonian friends from the city of Tartu handed over humanitarian aid to the Ovruch City Council in the form of seven cars, two all-terrain vehicles, and three trailers, two of which are for all-terrain vehicles and one for cars, which will be further transferred to separate units of the Armed Forces of Ukraine," the statement reads.

It is noted that philanthropists from Estonia, who have repeatedly helped the Zhytomyr region, were awarded with gratitude from the Ovruch City Council.

As reported, Estonia will help restore the transport infrastructure in the Zhytomyr region, which was destroyed as a result of Russian aggression. The scale of the reconstruction is estimated at \$563 million.