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Mogherini, Poroshenko discuss Ukraine-EU summit scheduled for July 2018



Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has said that he discussed the agenda of the 20th Ukraine-EU summit scheduled for July 2018 with EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission Federica Mogherini.

"We exchanged views on the substantive content of the next summit. I am grateful to Ms. Mogherini for the powerful support of our proposals, for a fruitful meeting and for another confirmation of the unity of Ukraine and the EU and solidarity," he said after a meeting with Mogherini in Kyiv.

HEADLINES



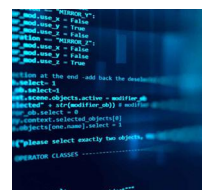
EC APPROVES EUR 1 BLN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR UKRAINE



UKRAINE'S AEROSPACE SECTOR HAS 26% RISE



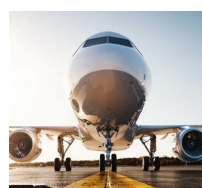
MOBILE OPERATORS PREDICTS LAUNCH OF 4G IN JULY



TOTAL INVESTMENT IN UKRAINIAN IT COMPANIES TRIPLE IN 2017



RADAR TECH AND UKRSIBBANK LAUNCHES ACCELERATOR



KYIV AIRPORT (ZHULIANY) POSTS 51.6% RISE IN PASSENGER FLOW IN FEB

European Commission approves EUR 1 bln macro-financial assistance program for Ukraine



The European Commission has adopted a proposal for a new macro-financial assistance (MFA) program for Ukraine worth up to EUR 1 billion to support economic stabilization and structural reforms. According to the website of the European Commission, this will be the fourth macro-financial assistance program for Ukraine, which is subject to approval by the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union.



“Today’s proposal follows a request from the Ukrainian authorities and direct discussions between Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker and Ukraine’s President Petro Poroshenko. The new program seeks to build on the progress made in supporting economic stabilization and structural reforms under the three previous MFA operations.”

European Commission Vice-President Valdis Dombrovskis said that Friday’s proposal on the fourth Macro-Financial Assistance program shows the EU’s commitment to stand with the people of Ukraine. He also said the Commission is counting on the European Parliament and Member States for their support for this program. The Commission said that the disbursements under this program would depend on the implementation of reforms in Ukraine.

Anti-corruption court in Ukraine may be created within months

Ukraine’s Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman said he hopes that an anti-corruption court will be created in the next few months.

“We hope that this court will be created by the Verkhovna Rada within several months,” the prime minister said following a meeting with High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and European Commission Vice President Federica Mogherini in Kyiv.

Groysman said his government will do everything possible to support the creation of this court. In addition to the anti-corruption court, Mogherini and Groysman discussed the implementation of the association agreement between the EU and Ukraine and cooperation plans for 2018, the prime minister said. During the briefing, Mogherini said the anti-corruption court should be independent and should be created in line with the conclusions of the Venice Commission.

President Poroshenko supports holding tax amnesty after discussion

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has said that he supports the idea of holding tax amnesty in Ukraine so that Ukrainians could pay the respective tax, bring money into Ukraine and legally invest in the Ukrainian economy.

"I propose that we once again return to the discussion of the so-called 'zero' declaration. We cannot say that every Ukrainian is guilty of something. We should give every Ukrainian the opportunity to pay the respective tax, in accordance with the law, bring money into Ukraine, invest it in the Ukrainian economy and feel a free citizen of a free country," he said at a meeting with business representatives in Kyiv. Poroshenko invited those present to join the drafting of a bill on the so-called "zero" declaration. "I will not submit it now, but if you support this, I propose our joint work in order to protect, first and foremost, small and medium-sized businesses," he said.

Volume of industrial products sold in Ukraine 28.1% up in January 2018

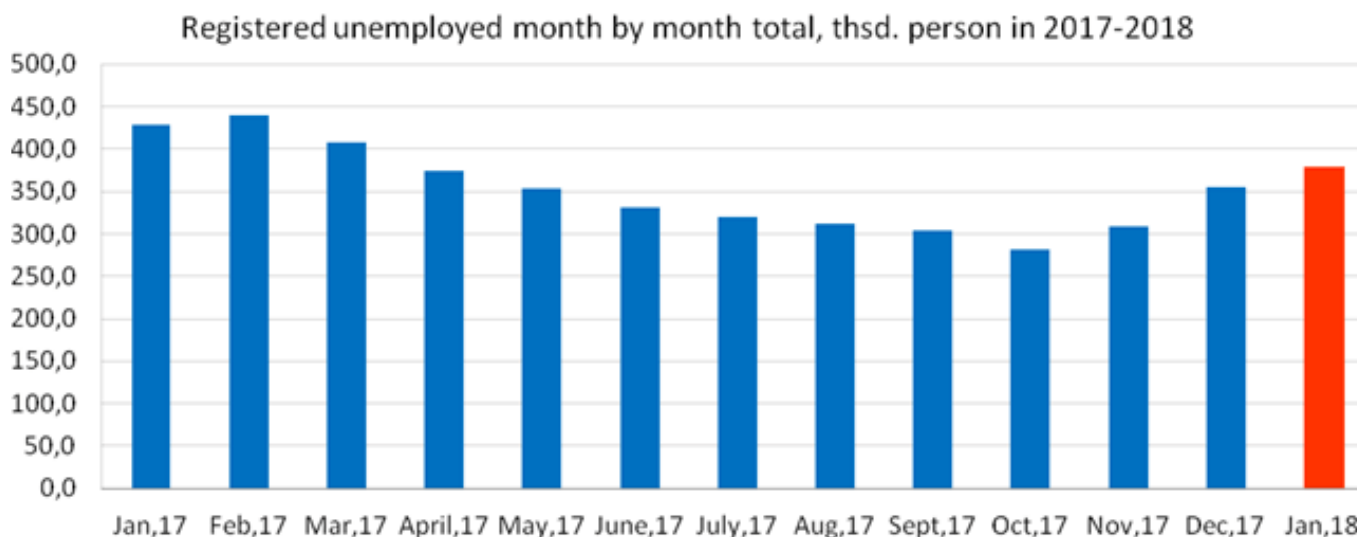


The volume of sold industrial products (goods, services) in January 2018 stood at UAH 204.197 billion, which is 28.1% more than in January 2017, in particular the volume sold abroad was worth UAH 59.119 billion (an increase of 48.1%), the State Statistics Service has reported. According to the agency, in January 2018 compared to January 2017 the index of turnover of sold production in mining and quarrying grew by 7.7%, in processing industry by 33.8%.

In the total volume of sales, the largest share accounted for the supply of electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning (25.7%), metallurgical production (18.9%), production of food, beverages and tobacco goods (17.7%), and mining and quarrying (14.2%).

As reported, in 2017 industrial products (goods, services) worth UAH 2.153 trillion were sold, which is 21.9% more than in 2016.

Number of registered unemployed in 2017-2018



Adoption of law on currency will facilitate inflow of investment to Ukraine

The adoption of the draft law on currency developed by the National Bank of Ukraine (NBU) will facilitate the inflow of foreign direct investment (FDI) into the country, Oleh Churiy, the deputy head of the central bank, has said.

"We believe that the adoption of this law will certainly promote such an inflow, since we will first of all bring our legislation in correspondence with European standards, it will fully comply with these principles and this will indicate that we are finally moving towards free capital movement, removing many restrictions that are currently ineffective and inhibit the inflow of foreign investments. I think this will be a very positive factor in terms of inflow of not only foreign investments but also from the point of view of even domestic investments," he said at a press conference in Kyiv. Churiy also said that the entry into force of the law on currency would not affect the situation in the market.

Ukraine's aerospace sector has 26% rise in production



Enterprises of the aerospace sector in Ukraine increased production by 26.3% in 2017, to UAH 4.6 billion.

Sales last year grew by 24% and export – by 8.1%, according to a report of the head of the State Space Agency of Ukraine (SSAU) for 2017 posted on the agency's website.

According to the report, in 2017, the sector enterprises produced and sold products for over UAH 4.6 billion. Total volume of gross products was over UAH 5.4 billion.

SSAU currently manages 26 enterprises and organizations of the aerospace industry.

The national budget for 2017 announced UAH 2.91 billion of financing the aerospace industry, or 14.2% less than in 2016. In the total amount of financing, 61.5% of the funds from the national budget's general fund are envisaged for paying on debt obligations on previously attracted loans for the implementation of international industry projects.

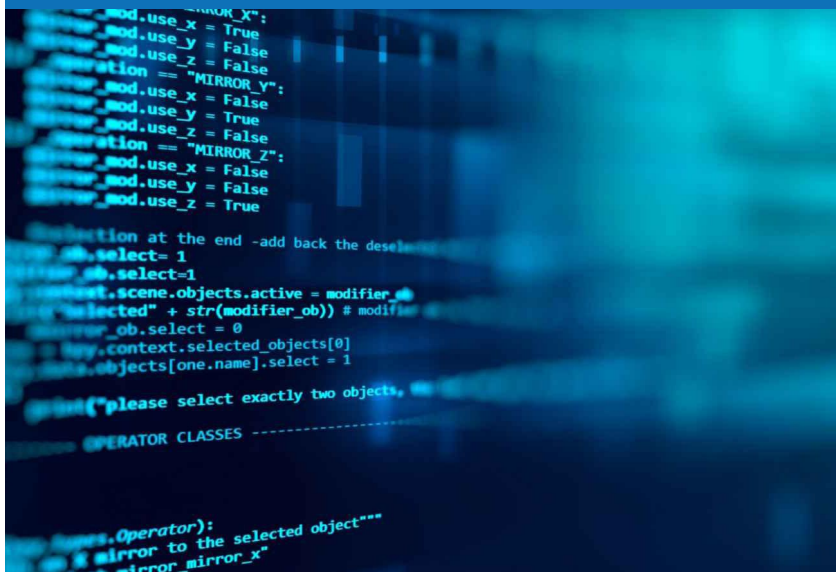
Ukraine and Saudi Arabia plan to launch production of AN-132 aircraft

Ukraine and Saudi Arabia are working on plans to launch bulk production of Ukraine's new light multipurpose An-132 aircraft with a capacity of 9.2 tonnes designed by Antonov State Enterprise (Kyiv) at the production facilities in Taif (Saudi Arabia). The press service of Antonov State Enterprise said on its Facebook page that during a visit of a delegation from Antonov headed by Antonov President Oleksandr Kryvokon to Saudi Arabia Ukrainian specialists studied a project on building a technological cluster where bulk production of new An-132 aircraft would be launched.

The press service said that this project is to be a part of the scientific and technical development program of Taif city located in the western part of Saudi Arabia. King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia officially announced the start of the program in October 2017.

The program includes building of industrial and university campuses, a residential quarter with 10,000 apartments and an international airport.

Total investment in Ukrainian IT companies triple in 2017



Total investment in Ukrainian IT companies reached \$265 million in 2017, which is a 3.3-fold increase from 2016, according to a report of AVentures Capital after the publication of the Dealbook of Ukraine drafted in partnership with the Ukrainian Venture Capital and Private Equity Association (UVCA), Ukrainian business angels network UAngels and Ukraine Digital News association.

According to the study, a total of 44 deals were signed in 2017, and for 90% of the deals were deals with foreign equity funds (General Catalyst, IVP, Spark and Almaz Capital) but with participation of Ukrainian investors. The foreign capital was 96% of total investment, while in 2016 and earlier foreign and local capital's shares were almost equal.

"The total amount of investments in Ukrainian IT companies over the past five years was \$630 million, including with the participation of the world's leading investors, which indicates the development and sustainability of the industry in the conditions of the country's economic and political problems," AVentures Capital Managing Partner and co-author of the Dealbook Yevhen Sysoev said.

According to the study, in 2017, Ukrainian startups attracted investment primarily from venture funds (90%), as well as angels (6%) and crowdfunding platforms (3%).

The largest deals disclosed in 2017 were \$110 million of investments in Grammarly (from General Catalyst, IVP and Spark Capital), \$30 million in BitFurry (from Credit China Fintech Holdings), \$10 million in Petcube (from Almaz Capital, Y Combinator, AVentures Capital, U.Ventures, Digital Future and others) and \$7 million in People.ai (from Lightspeed Venture Partners, Index Ventures, Shasta Ventures, Y Combinator and SV Angel).

Ukrainian largest mobile operators predicts launch of 4G for 1800 MHz band in July 2018

The big three of Ukrainian mobile operators predicts that the 4G communications technology for the 1800 MHz band could be launched in July 2018, representatives of all three mobile operators told reporters.

CEO of mobile operator lifecell Ismet Yazici said that his operator is ready to launch 4G communications in July, as soon as conversion of radio frequencies is finished.

"We will launch in the 1800 MHz band in July. Nobody has the right to launch it until July. Everyone should start simultaneously. Now it will be a frequency exchange. This is a difficult and complicated operation. I'm not even sure that Ukraine had precedents of such a grand exchange frequencies," Kyivstar President Peter Chernyshov said. He said that from the point of view of infrastructure, Kyivstar has everything ready to launch 4G in the 1800 MHz frequency band.

CEO of Vodafone Ukraine Olha Ustinova also said that the network of her operator is ready for the launch of 4G communication. "I predict that in the 2600 MHz band we will launch it at the end of March, if nothing happens. In the 1800 MHz band – early July," she said.

Previously, all operators had forecasted that 4G communications would be launched late March or early April.

Mobile operators buy out frequencies in 1800 MHz range for 4G for UAH 3.2 bln

Kyivstar, Vodafone-Ukraine and Lifecell mobile operators, according to the right of first purchase option to launch 4G standard communications, have purchased the lots of 25 MHz, 20 MHz and 15 MHz respectively in the 1800 MHz band for UAH 1.325 billion, UAH 1.06 billion and UAH 795,000.

An Interfax-Ukraine correspondent said that Oleksandr Zhyvotovskyy, the head of the National Commission for Communications Regulation (NCCR), announced the winners on the relevant lots at the 4G tender on March 6. According to the terms of the tender, the subjects of conversion, to ensure the continuity of provision of telecommunications services to their subscribers, are entitled to receive part of the radio frequency bands at a fixed price.

Radar Tech with Ukrsibbank launches accelerator



A team of the Radar Tech cluster, which has been organizing the Telecom accelerator project jointly with Kyivstar and which added the accelerator of agrarian investment jointly with MHP to it last autumn, has announced the launch of the similar project for Fintech startups with UkrSibbank.



"We are launching another corporate accelerator! This time it is Fintech!!!"
team member Yulia Poroshenko wrote on her Facebook page on Wednesday.

According to co-founder of Radar Tech Maksym Bakhmatov, the new accelerator program will start on March 26, 2018. Then the details of the program will be disclosed. Radar Tech cluster was created by a team of managing partners of Unit.city innovations park Bakhmatov and Maksym Yakover, the co-founder and managing partner of GrowthUP Group Denys Dovhopoly, advisor at McKinsey Poroshenko, telecom expert at BCG Yulia Myronova and Director General of Chasopys creative space Olena Kalibaba.

UkrSibbank was founded in 1990. BNP Paribas S.A (France) owns 60% of the bank's charter capital, while the EBRD holds 40%.

The bank ranked 7th among 88 operating banks as of October 1, 2017, in terms of total assets worth UAH 42.977 billion, according to the National Bank of Ukraine.

Kobe Steel from Japan shows interest in Kryvy Rih oxidized ore mill



A Japanese and Austrian company are interested in capital investment in Kryvy Rih oxidized ore mill, the Economic Development and Trade Ministry of Ukraine said on its Twitter page posting photos of a meeting of Ukraine's First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Economic Development and Trade Stepan Kubiv with a delegation headed by Hiroshi Ishikawa responsible for the Iron Unit Division at Kobe Steel.

"The group of companies has designed a new technology for processing oxidized ores and it is interested in building a complex on the basis of Kryvy Rih oxidized ore mill," the ministry said.

The press service of the ministry told Interfax-Ukraine that along with Kobe Steel, Austria's Hares Engineering GmbH also showed its interest in the mill.

"These are Kobe Steel and Austria's Hares Engineering GmbH. We have decided to shape an action plan. The ministry is interested in cooperation with them. The ministry is interested in leasing the property of Kryvy Rih oxidized ore mill. We will report later on concrete results of negotiations," the press service of the ministry said.

According to a report of the ministry on Twitter, Kubiv pointed out the importance of attracting Ukrainian construction and engineering companies to construction of the complex on the basis of the Kryvy Rih mill.

Kobe Steel's interest in the Kryvy Rih oxidized ore mill was reported back in the second half of last decade. In particular, in March 2009, during a visit of the then-Minister of Industrial Policy of Ukraine Volodymyr Novitsky to Japan, a memorandum of cooperation was signed between the Ministry of Industrial Policy, Kobe Steel and Hares Engineering to consider the introduction of ITMk3 technology (Ironmaking Technology Mark Three) at the mill. It was planned to create a working group to draft concrete proposals.

The construction of the mill started in 1985. The assessed total investment required to complete the construction and launch the Kryvy Rih oxidized ore mill, according to preliminary data, was about \$800 million.

EC rejects propositions of Metinvest and other hot-rolled steel exporters for non-applying anti-dumping duties

The European Commission (EC) has rejected price commitments proposed by Metinvest Group and other hot-rolled steel exporters from Ukraine, Russia, Iran and Brazil in exchange for non-applying the previously introduced anti-dumping duties to them. According to the EC decision dated March 8, published in the Official Journal of the EU on March 9 of this year, the verdict came into force the day after the publication in the official bulletin, i.e. on March 10, 2018.

At the same time, it is specified that five exporters from Ukraine, Russia, Iran and Brazil sent their price obligations to the EC in exchange for non-application of anti-dumping duties to them. Since these proposals were made at the end of the investigation, the commission was unable to analyze them in accordance with the established deadline, before making decisions within the investigations, undertaking to exclusively do this later. After making final conclusions on the investigation and publication of restrictive measures, price commitment from one more sixth exporter was sent to the EC.

Kyiv international airport (Zhuliany) posts 51.6% rise in passenger flow in February



The Kyiv international airport (Zhuliany) serviced 130,800 passengers in February 2018, which is 51.6% more than in February 2017, the airport's press service has reported.

The press service said that the number of passengers on international flights was 124,900 and on domestic flights – 5,900. The number of flights in February 2018 was 1,648, which is 20.5% more than a year ago, including 1,356 international flights and 292 domestic flights.

The most popular international destinations in February-2018 remained similar to January: Dubai (the UAE), Minsk (Belarus), Ankara (Turkey), Budapest (Hungary), Warsaw (Poland), Memmingen (Germany), Rome (Italy); and domestic – Odesa, Zaporizhia and Lviv.

Ukrainian patients request including glaucoma medicines in national Affordable Medicines program

Patients are asking to include medicines for the treatment of glaucoma in the Affordable Medicines program, representative of the Ukrainian Society of the Blind Yaroslav Savchuk has stated.



“Now, to drip drops every day, a person needs to spend about UAH 1,000 per month. If the state helps such persons by lowering prices, including these drugs in the Affordable Medicines program, they could drip these drops daily and won't become burden for the state,” he said at a press conference at Interfax-Ukraine.

“The Ukrainian society of the blind twice appealed to higher state agencies for help to include glaucoma medications in the list of available medicines, but so far the problem has not been resolved,” he stressed.

Marketing and Sales Director of PJSC Farmak Susanna Khalilova, in turn, noted that preparations for the treatment of glaucoma make up half of the company's ophthalmic portfolio. At the same time, its generic drugs are more affordable than the original medicines.

“We see the experience of European countries, for example, Poland, where the reimbursement program fully covers glaucoma treatment. The state should respond to the patients' request for including these drugs in the Affordable Medicines program,” she said.

According to the experts, about 20,000 new cases of glaucoma are registered in Ukraine every year. In general, about 200,000 people in Ukraine have glaucoma.

Chinese Xinjiang Beiken starts drilling first well in Ukraine



China's Xinjiang Beiken Energy Engineering has started drilling a first well for public joint-stock company Ukgazvydobuvannia under a contract to drill 24 wells signed last autumn, the press service of the Ukrainian company has reported. The press service said that it will take 112 days to drill the well in the Yablunivske field (Poltava region) with a projected depth of 4,940 meters.

As reported, Ukgazvydobuvannia late October 2016 announced a tender to attract external contractors for drilling operations in Kharkiv and Poltava regions. The contracts were signed with OOO Spetsmekhservis (lot No.1, May 29), Croscos (lots Nos. 8 and 10, June 7 and July 12) and Xinjiang Beiken (lots Nos. 4, 5, 7, 12, September 5). In addition, Ukgazvydobuvannia in late December 2017 announced a tender for drilling 42 more wells (seven lots). As a result of the tenders held in early February, Xinjiang Beiken won lots Nos. 1-5, Zhongman Petroleum and Natural Gas Group – lot No. 7 and Energofinans LLC (Kyiv) – lot No. 6.

Poltava Petroleum company seeks to attract partner to enter LPG

JV Poltava Petroleum Company (PPC) seeks to attract a partner to enter the retail liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) market, Director General Viktor Hladun has said in an interview with Interfax-Ukraine. "According to experts (ExPro), in 2017, our company occupied 2.5% of the Ukrainian LPG market. Taking into account a new commercial strategy of the company, one of the closest goals is the attraction of strategic partners to enter the retail market – sales to end consumers," he said.

Hladun also said that PPC plans to increase loading of its LPG plant thanks to purchase of raw materials on the market.

"Our team is working on the additional loading of the LPG plant and the increase in the depth of refining. The plant was built in 2010 and launched in 2011, taking into account the volumes of production the company then had," he said.

As reported, PPC belongs to Britain's JKC Oil & Gas Plc.

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Ukrenergo head Kovalchuk: power grid can accept no more than 3 GW from solar, wind farms without risk



The united power grid of Ukraine today can accept up to 3 gigawatts (GW) of new capacity of solar power plants and wind farms without an unbalanced response risk and serious changes to its structure, Ukrenergo Head Vsevolod Kovalchuk said at a roundtable in the Verkhovna Rada. According to him, this installed capacity of renewable energy facilities can be put into operation in December 2019. At the same time, the volume of the technical conditions already issued for the connection of new renewable energy capacities to the power grid amounts to 7,426 MW (4,200 MW for wind farms and 3,226 MW for solar power plants).

Kovalchuk said that if these capacities are introduced, it will be necessary to reduce the base of the nuclear power plants (NPPs) by 5,750 MW and increase the base of the thermal power plants (TPPs) by 2,800 MW. At the same time, this is contrary to the policy of decarbonization, and the "green" electricity is times more expensive than the nuclear generated one.

"This will lead to a need for a proportional reduction in the basic capacity of NPPs and an increase in generation at TPPs to ensure the required reserves. This contradicts the world and national policy of energy decarbonization, and the risks of energy dependence are increasing," Kovalchuk said.

Thus, to increase the share of renewable energy in the balance of energy the power-speed mobile reserve (natural gas-fired stations, pumped storage) with a capacity of up to 3,000 MW must be put into operation. This will increase the basic load of nuclear power plants and reduce the load of thermal power plants. The demand regulation system and introduction of the auxiliary services market will also help to balance the energy system at the initial stage of going "green".

Finland will issue EUR15 mln for energy efficiency projects in Ukraine in 2018-2021

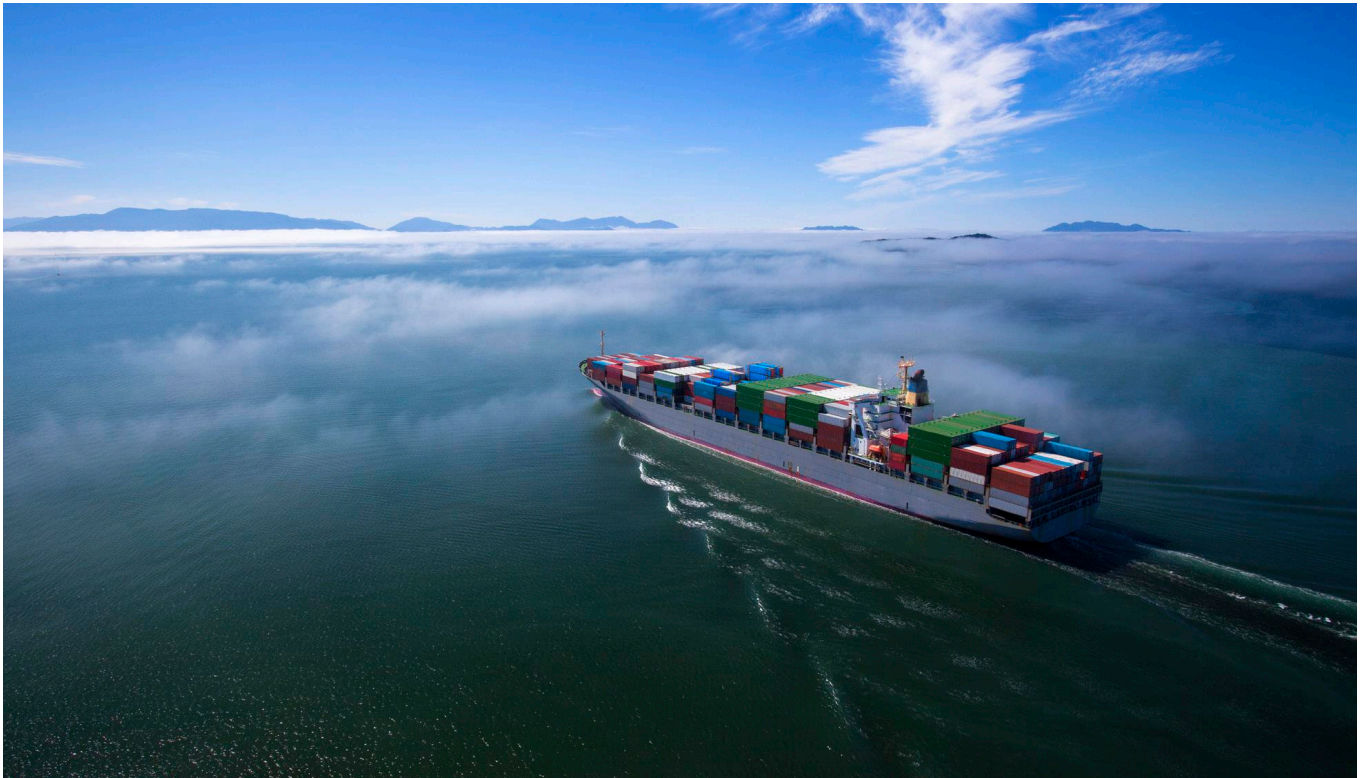
Finland will issue EUR15 million for the development of projects in education and energy efficiency in Ukraine in 2018-2021, Finnish Foreign Minister Timo Soini has said.



"Finland will continue to increase its financial support to Ukraine, which since the start of the conflict has reached EUR 34 million. Today we are ready to provide EUR15 million for projects in the field of education and energy efficiency," he said at a joint press conference with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin in Kyiv.

Soini added he calls on Ukraine to continue reforms, in particular, in the field of fight against corruption.

Ukrainian seaports increase transshipment by 4.6% in 2018



Freight handling at Ukrainian seaports in January-February 2018 totaled 20.5 million tonnes, which is 4.6% more than a year ago, according to tentative data from the Ukrainian Sea Port Authority. According to its data, the volume of transshipment of imported cargo increased by 24.4% and amounted to 3.5 million tonnes. Handling of imported coal grew by 26.6%, to 1 million tonnes, ores by 8.7%, to 1.1 million tonnes, oilseeds – by 89.2%, to 50,000 tonnes, while crude oil transshipment fell by 1.8%, to 80,000 tonnes and fuel – by 23.5%, to 70,000 tonnes.

The volume of transshipment of exported cargo decreased 3.4%, to 14.9 million tonnes. Handling of exported ferrous metals grew by 8%, to 2.8 million tonnes, while exported grain handling fell by 1.3%, to 5.9 million tonnes.

Handling of transit freights rose by 54.1%, to 1.9 million tonnes.

Transshipment of freights in containers was 7% more than in January-February 2017, reaching 1.592 million tonnes.

In general, the seaports of Ukraine processed 1,850 vessels in January-February 2018, which is 469 vessels, or 34% more compared to the same period in 2017.

Ukraine increases poultry exports by 40% in 2018

Ukraine in January-February exported 44,450 tonnes of poultry, which is 40.1% more than in the same period in 2017, the State Fiscal Service has reported.

According to its data, in monetary terms exports of these products increased by 1.6 times, to \$68.87 million.

Imports of poultry and offal products increased by 26.2%, to 20,290 tonnes, in monetary terms by 36.4% and amounted to \$8.76 million.

According to the service, exports of pork in January-February compared to the corresponding period in 2017 decreased by 67.8%, to 370 tonnes. Exports of these products amounted to \$870,000 against \$2.11 million in January-February 2017.

Pork imports to Ukraine during this period increased by 2.2 times, to 990 tonnes. Pork imports totaled \$1.59 million compared to \$740,000 in January-February 2017.

Terminal Odesa and Japan's Ocean Network Express want to boost cargo

Japan's Ocean Network Express (ONE) container line, starting from April 2018, launches a service in Ukraine via subsidiary Container Terminal Odesa at the Odesa seaport. The press service of Container Terminal Odesa reported, referring to Executive Commercial Director Ihor Yarovenko, the contract has been signed. In January and February 2018, cargo flow of subsidiary Container Terminal Odesa was 52,499 TEU. Last year the company attracted new clients like Yang Ming and Cosco Shipping Lines. In addition, ZIM company continues boosting its cargo flow via Container Terminal Odesa thanks to the increase of the size of container vessels from Asia.

Thus, the company said that despite the announced transfer of the service of Maersk company to the Yuzhny port from April 2018, which amounts to about 10% of all containers handled by Container Terminal Odesa, the subsidiary will not lose in freight traffic and will increase volumes in 2018.

General Director of Container Terminal Odesa Anastas Kokkin believes that the company and the port of Odesa will remain the leader in the container market of Ukraine.

Antimonopoly Committee sees signs of oligopoly in Ukrainian egg market



The structure of the egg market in Ukraine is close to oligopoly, however it is competitive, according to a report of the Antimonopoly Committee of Ukraine (AMC) for 2017 posted on its website. According to the report, the main participants in the egg production market are the agricultural holdings Avangard and Ovostar Union, Inter-Agrosystems Corporation with a total share of 46.61%.

The AMC notes the market is export-oriented with a trend towards increase in export volumes.

Taking into account the dynamics of production, sale of eggs in Ukraine and for exports, the AMC extended for 2018 a study of this market for compliance with the legislation on protection of economic competition in connection with price fluctuations.

As reported, Ukrlandfarming agricultural holding in 2017 reduced the land bank by 5.8%. Ukraine's largest producer of eggs Avangard agricultural holding, controlled by Ukrlandfarming, whose shares are traded on the London Stock Exchange, in October 2015 completed the restructuring of eurobonds for \$200 million. Previously American Cargill has withdrawn from among the shareholders of Ukrainian-based UkrLandFarming (ULF) agrarian holding, according to a ULF financial report for 2016. Cargill's subsidiary, Cargill Financial Services International Inc. by the end of 2015, had held 1,668,749 ULF shares, or 5% of the total number. By the end of 2016, the number of shares owned by Avonex Limited had not changed, whereas the package held by Cargill was transferred to Cyprus-based Quickcom Limited's ownership. The report says that the sole owner of Avonex Limited and Quickcom Limited is Oleh Bakhmatiuk. Cargill acquired a 5% stake in ULF early in 2014 for \$200 million. Based on the sum of the deal, the total value of the holding was assessed at \$4 billion.

Epicenter K plans UAH 2 bln investments in development of agribusiness in 2018



The Epicenter K Group, which was developing agricultural business under the Epicenter Agro brand in the past two years, plans to invest UAH 1.4 billion in construction and reconstruction of grain silos and UAH 665 million in the upgrade of agricultural machinery fleet in 2018. "Today, \$150 million in hryvnia equivalent has been invested in what we already have agricultural assets. This year the investment component is UAH 2 billion, of which UAH 1.4 billion is the construction of new and reconstruction and expansion of operating silos and UAH 665 million for the renewal of equipment," General Director of Epicenter K Petro Mykhailishyn said at a press conference.

He said that the turnover of Epicenter and Nova Linia hypermarket chains managed by the group amounted to UAH 42 billion in 2017.

"We started in 2016, having a land bank of 445 hectares. Today, we have 110,000 hectares of land officially registered with contracts with the land owners... When we realized that companies that have imported components in their activities are trying to become exporters, we chose the path of agribusiness... The plan for this year on the purchase of imported goods is \$170 million, and we exported agricultural products for \$50 million last year. There is a gap. We need to increase exports three times to hedge our financial risks," Mykhailishyn said.

Agroholding Mriya plans to create seed business in Ukraine

Mriya agroholding is mulling the possibility of creating a separate seed business, which would allow not only covering the needs of the holding, but also planting and selling own seeds to other companies, the company has said in a press release. "The work in this field has already begun: the seed factory of the company in Khorostkiv, starting from last year, provides services of bringing the seed material to the sowing conditions (cleaning and calibration) for companies engaged in the sale of seeds," the agroholding said.

The capacity of the seed plant reaches 300 tonnes of grain seeds per day. It is equipped with two parallel lines and ensures the quality of seeds of more than 99% in terms of the purity of the material.

Mriya is a vertically integrated agro-industrial holding founded in 1992 by the Huta family. Today, its land bank is 180,000 ha in Ternopil, Khmelnytsky, Ivano-Frankivsk, Chernivtsi, Lviv and Rivne regions.

Investment in innovations of Ukrainian agriculture is estimated at UAH 5 bln a year



Investment of Ukrainian companies in the introduction of innovative technologies, in particular, research and development (R&D), should be around UAH 5 billion, up to \$200 million a year, Director General of the Ukrainian Agribusiness Club (UCAB) Taras Vysotsky has said. "According to expert estimates, companies need to invest 5-10% of revenue in innovative technologies. If this logic is followed, it is necessary to invest up to UAH 5 billion in the agrarian sector of Ukraine, up to \$200 million per year namely in R&D, not taking into account the purchase of equipment," he told Interfax-Ukraine.

According to Vysotsky, at present, the level of penetration of innovations into the Ukrainian agricultural sector is estimated at 10-12% compared to the global market. Agroholdings occupy a lion's share of the total number of companies actively using and introducing new technologies.

"The process is already irreversible, it will move forward. To make 10% turned into a critical mass, conditionally in 60%, it will take from three to five years. This will not happen by 100%, as long as 70% are used, the leaders will move forward. In fact, we have eight-year cycles: from two to three years – the leaders appear, from three to five years – to implement technology on a national scale," he said.

Kyiv International Economic Forum – KIEF – is a new major international conference focused on the future of economic development. Held annually in Kyiv, it is not just an event about or for Ukraine, but an innovative forum that covers the global agenda. KIEF has been envisioned to become a leading discussion platform at an intersection of civilizations based in the capital of the biggest country in Europe.

This year Kyiv International Economic Forum supported by the Prime Minister will take place on October 5 – 6.

Forum Organizing Committee:

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