

## **State Secretary Lindemann: Relations with the Ukraine are excellent**

**"The bilateral relations between the Ministry for Agricultural Policy (MAP) of the Ukraine and the Federal Ministry of Agriculture are excellent"**, said Mr. Lindemann, State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection (BMELV) in Kiev today.



State Secretary Gert Lindemann (left) talking to Yaroslav Gadzalo, Deputy Agriculture Minister of the Ukraine, during the tour of the fairground of AGRO-2009

"This is illustrated, for example, by the German-Ukrainian cooperation projects that are without exception developing very positively." Lindemann is staying in the Ukraine for a working visit from 11 to 13 June.

He stressed in bilateral talks with the Ukrainian Agriculture Minister Melnik that the Federal Government supports the Ukraine in its efforts to meet the OECD requirements for seed variety certification (OECD Seed Schemes) as soon as possible. Minister Melnik showed great interest in the offer made by State Secretary Lindemann to carry out joint projects in the fields of bioenergy and meat hygiene with German support. The Federal Government also considers the Ukrainian negotiations on a free trade agreement with the European Union to be on the right track. Negotiations are currently focusing on the agricultural and energy chapters.

Lindemann and Minister Melnik together opened **the third German-Ukrainian Bioenergy Forum** on "Prospects for biogas production in the Ukraine". Both sides agree to further intensify cooperation in this field with the Agency for Renewable Resources (FNR).

Lindemann also visited the **Ukrainian agricultural fair "AGRO 2009"**. The AGRO is the largest international agricultural trade fair in the Ukraine. There are exhibiting companies from twelve nations. During his tour of the fairground, State Secretary Lindemann gave special mention to the German exhibitors, including 24 direct exhibitors, describing them as **"highly efficient suppliers of state-of-the art agricultural technology"**.

Source: BMELV, pressrelease 124 09.06.12