

Minister Sawicki's visit to Ukraine

On 15th to 16th June, 2010, during the International Exhibition „Agro 2010” on invitation of Mykoła Prysia”niuk, Ukrainian Minister of Agricultural Policy, Marek Sawicki, Polish Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, paid a formal visit to Ukraine.

The International Agri-Investment Forum “Ukrainian Agricultural Sector – space for investment” was an important event related to the exhibition due to participation of ministers of agriculture from Poland, Belarus, Lithuania and Sudan and of the deputy ministers of agriculture of the Russian Federation, Georgia and the People's Republic of China. Moreover, delegations from Germany, Saudi Arabia, Mali and Burkina Faso participated also in the Forum. The Ukrainian party was represented among others by Wiktor Słauta, Deputy Prime Minister for Agri-Industry Sector, and Mykoła Prysia”niuk, the Minister of Agricultural Policy.

The main topics raised by the participants to the Forum included the large potential of the Ukrainian agriculture and the need of procuring important investment means in order to revive the sector. The Forum's participants emphasized strong attractiveness of investments in the Ukrainian agricultural sector and the importance of declared government actions in the framework of recently presented comprehensive programme of economic reform among others aiming at attracting capital into this sector.

During the first day of the visit, Minister Marek Sawicki participated in the formal opening of the **International Exhibition „Agro 2010”**. The President of Ukraine, Wiktor Janukowycz also participated in this event. In his speech, President W. Janukowycz declared profound reform of agriculture, especially in the scope of animal production reconstruction (milk and meat production) and increase of support for the agricultural sector, including support in the framework of the planned for this year budget modernization.

In his speech, Minister Marek Sawicki described Polish agri-food sector. He said, that Poland is an important agricultural producer in Europe and in the world. He also drew attention to developing trade exchange between Poland and Ukraine. Poland has positive trade balance in agri-food products turnover with Ukraine, which in 2009 amounted to almost EUR 182 million. However, he noticed that there are still certain barriers causing difficulties for the development, in particular obstacles related to beef or livestock export to Ukraine, as well as regulations in the scope of dairy products. These issues were also raised by Minister Marek Sawicki during the bilateral meeting with Mykoła Prysia”niuk, the Ukrainian Minister of Agricultural Policy. It was decided that solution to this problem will be worked on in the nearest future. Minister Marek Sawicki assured that developing cooperation in the framework of the Eastern Partnership will be one of the main issues during Polish Presidency in the coming year. Minister Marek Sawicki presented history of our country's adaptation of agriculture to functioning in the conditions of the single market, at the same time declaring readiness of Polish experts to share experience with Ukrainian partners. According to the Minister, present nontraditional, extra-agricultural forms of economic activity in the countryside are very important. He expressed his readiness for further close cooperation between Poland and Ukraine in the domain of agriculture and assured that Polish entrepreneurs are interested in the investments in the Ukrainian agricultural sector.

During the stay of the MARD's delegation at the fair in Kiev, Minister Marek Sawicki met Wiktor Słauta, the Deputy Prime Minister for Ukrainian Agri-Industrial Sector, they discussed possibilities of development of Polish-Ukrainian cooperation in the domain of agriculture, including liquidation of the existing barriers hindering this development. **Minister Marek Sawicki also visited Polish companies stand at „Agro 2010”**, organized by the Department of Promotion of Trade and Investment of the Polish Embassy in Kiev.