

## Minutes

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Ukraine-EU Sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) Sub-Committee

#### Association Committee in its Trade configuration

*Kyiv – 19 October 2017*

The meeting was held at 09:00-12:00 o'clock on October 19, 2017 at the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine (office 309), 24, Khreshchatyk str., Kyiv, Ukraine.

#### **Agenda:**

1. Welcome and introductory remarks
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Results of the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Ukraine-EU SPS Sub-Committee
4. Update on the implementation of the DCFTA SPS Chapter
5. Modification of Annex V to the Association Agreement (procedures for updating, new/repealed legislation, etc.)
6. Ongoing SPS matters
7. EU ongoing and future financial-technical assistance in the SPS area
8. Next meeting
9. Operational conclusions, AOB and closing

#### **Discussed points:**

##### **1. Welcome and introductory remarks**

UA Side: Opening and introductory remarks by Mr. Volodymyr Lapa. Thanked for fruitful cooperation and strong EU support, in particular regarding systematic reforms in the SPS area.

EU Side: Mr. Van Dyck marked the work between two sides in a constructive manner as well as reforms and progress in legislation approximation made by Ukrainian Side.

Mr. Van Dyck pointed out good cooperation on rabies, HPAI, ASF, an agreement on bilateral dairy certificate.

UA Side: Deputy Minister of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine on European Integration greeted close relations in the SPS area, and thanked for EU technical support and projects. Therewith, she highlighted the special trading preferences ensured by EU to Ukraine.

##### **2. Adoption of the agenda**

The agenda of the 2<sup>nd</sup> SPS Sub-Committee meeting was approved without amendments.

##### **3. Results of the 1st Meeting of the Ukraine-EU SPS Sub-Committee**

Sides discussed results of the 1st Meeting of the Ukraine-EU SPS Sub-Committee, therewith pointed mutual and long-term cooperation.

#### **4. Update on the implementation of the DCFTA SPS Chapter**

UA Side informed on the current state of national legislation in the SPS area, including adopted laws of Ukraine “On the basic principles and requirements for food safety and quality” and “On State control over compliance with legislation on food products, feeds, by-products of animal origin, animals’ health and welfare”.

Sides emphasized the importance of adopting the draft laws of Ukraine “On feed hygiene and safety” and “On consumer information concerning foodstuffs”.

UA Side expressed concerns that certain EU regulations on measures applied for plant health, stipulated by the Comprehensive Strategy for the implementation of Chapter IV (Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures), Title IV “Trade and Trade-related Matters” (hereinafter – the SPS Strategy), will be repealed soon and replaced with new legislation.

UA Side will prepare and send for EU consideration updated technical information on the differences, and proposals for amendments to the SPS Strategy.

#### **5. Modification of Annex V to the Association Agreement (procedures for updating, new/repealed legislation, etc.)**

UA Side made a point on the importance of joint efforts for implementation of measures set out in the SPS Strategy, especially regarding ensuring mutual trade with consignments in the SPS area.

Therewith UA Side informed EU Side on the preparation of internal procedures to be carried out in order to approve the common Decision of the SPS Sub-Committee on Annex V Association Agreement amendment.

EU and UA Sides discussed the procedure of Decision's adoption including the possibility to sign it during the next Ukraine-EU Association Council meeting.

#### **6. Ongoing SPS matters**

##### Comments on new import requirements of Ukraine

EU Side informed on the comments provided on the draft Order “On adoption of the Requirements for importation (sending) to the customs territory of Ukraine of live animals, reproductive material thereof, foodstuffs of animal origin and products not intended for human consumption” (hereinafter – draft Order”).

Ukraine will evaluate those comments during one-month period, and if requested Sides will carry out a technical meeting for further discussion.

##### EU Exports of animal products to UA

The EU proposed to start negotiations on bilateral veterinary certificates for EU exports to Ukraine of such products as: beef, pork meat, processed meat products, pet food, fishery products. Sides agreed to start negotiations on the certificate for EU exports of beef once the certificates for poultry-related commodities are concluded. The remaining certificates will follow at a later stage. The EU also stressed the importance of concluding negotiations on the harmonized certificate for gelatin and collagen casings still this year.

Both sides confirmed their intention to successfully finalise the drafting of poultry-related certificates by the end of the year.

### An update on animal health situation in Ukraine

First Deputy Head of SSUFSCP – Andrii Zhuk presented the current epizootic situation in Ukraine, as well as measures taken by the Competent Authority in order to eradicate and prevent diseases in particular ASF, HPAI, BSE, LSD, FMD, rabies.

UA Side expressed appreciation for EU support in eradication of ASF and rabies at the Ukrainian territory bordering with EU, meaning Grant Agreement “Support to the protection measures taken against African swine fever (ASF) in Ukraine” and co-financing in the framework of Agreement between the Minister of agriculture and rural development of the Republic of Poland and the Ministry of agrarian policy and food of Ukraine on the rabies eradication programme in Ukraine and Agreement between the Ministry of agrarian policy and food of Ukraine and the Ministry of agriculture of Hungary on the rabies eradication programme in Ukraine.

Sides discussed the possibility for future to sign multiannual agreements, in case of available funding ensured by European Commission.

### Bilateral trade issues

Bilateral trade issues have been discussed, in particular recognition of regionalization principles on highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), possibility of beef export to EU.

UA Side provided the letter requesting to review Ukrainian HPAI disease status, and also a letter on follow up mission on official control for beef.

EU Side raised a question on the audit to be carried out by Ukraine in one MS for ASF with the aim to recognise the EU ASF regionalisation policy in all affected MS and to carry out an audit in LT, see operational conclusions.

## **7. EU ongoing and future financial-technical assistance in the SPS area**

EU Side: Ben Christian Hell presented the situation on the implementation of EU funded technical assistance in the SPS area in Ukraine, notably assisting in the development of UA legislation in the framework of the SPS strategy's implementation.

He also introduced the future prioritized targets for EU technical assistance project in relation to the relevant obligations by Ukraine under the Association Agreement.

UA Side: Volodymyr Lapa expressed appreciation for all EU funded projects in the SPS area, and also stressed on the importance to involve universities to the projects' activities.

## **8. Next meeting**

Sides agreed to held the next meeting of the SPS Sub-Committee in April 2018 (date and venue still to be agreed).

## **9. Operational conclusions, AOB and closing**

Operational conclusions of the 2<sup>nd</sup> EU-Ukraine SPS Sub-Committee meeting have been amended and approved by EU and UA Sides.

As a closing remarks Sides expressed hope for further fruitful cooperation.