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**NOTE**

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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Market situation in particular following the invasion of Ukraine - <i>Information from the Commission and Member States</i> - <i>Preparation of the Council debate</i>

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With a view to the meeting of the Special Committee on Agriculture on 20 December 2025, delegations will find in the Annex a background document on the above-mentioned subject.

### **Market situation in particular following the invasion of Ukraine**

The Minister of Economy, Environment and Agriculture of Ukraine, Sobolev Oleksii, is expected to participate in the introduction of the discussion on the market situation, in particular following the invasion of Ukraine, at the **Agriculture and Fisheries Council** meeting on 27-28 October 2025. In this context, the Presidency will invite ministers, during the discussion on the market situation, to exchange views on the opportunities and challenges related to Ukraine's gradual integration into EU agricultural markets as well as on other important issues currently affecting agricultural markets. Trade in agricultural products remains a vital source of income for Ukraine's economy in the face of Russia's continued brutal aggression

On 5 June 2025, the EU's autonomous trade measures for imports from Ukraine expired. The Commission concluded a revised EU-Ukraine Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) on 30 June 2025 and submitted a proposal to the Council for approval on 28 July 2025. The agreement is expected to be approved and enter into force before the end of October 2025.

The updated agreement seeks to strike a balance between supporting Ukraine's trade with the EU and addressing the sensitivities of certain EU agricultural sectors. The negotiated market access varies, with a limited increase in the market access for certain sensitive items compared to the original DCFTA, and full liberalisation of others deemed non-sensitive. EU exporters will also benefit from lower tariffs or full liberalisation for a number of products, as well as increased quota volumes at preferential tariffs. Furthermore, market access is conditional on regulatory alignment of Ukraine with relevant EU production standards on animal welfare, use of pesticides and veterinary medicines by 31 December 2028.

The agreement also includes a bilateral safeguard clause, enabling either side to take appropriate measures in case of market disturbances. In the EU's case, such assessments may be conducted at the level of one or more Member States or specific regions, recognising that market pressures may be felt unevenly across the Union.

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In light of the above, the Presidency invites ministers, when discussing the market situation at the AGRIFISH Council on 27-28 October, to address, in addition to issues currently affecting agricultural markets, the following specific questions, focusing on the agricultural aspects:

1. *How can the EU best ensure Ukraine's alignment with relevant EU standards for agri-food products by the end of 2028, and what forms of assistance would most effectively support this process?*
  2. *How can improved cooperation and trade between the EU and Ukraine in agri-food products deliver mutually beneficial outcomes, including for producers in EU Member-States, in areas such as food security and open strategic autonomy?*
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