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From:	Presidency
To:	Council
Subject:	Trade-related agricultural issues, including closer relations between the EU and Ukraine - <i>Information from the Commission</i> - <i>Exchange of views</i>

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With a view to the meeting of the "Agriculture and Fisheries" Council on 17 November 2025, delegations will find attached a Presidency background note on agri-food trade relations between the EU and Ukraine.

**Trade-related agricultural questions, including closer relations between the EU and Ukraine**

At the Agriculture and Fisheries Council meeting on 17 November 2025, the Commission will give an update on trade-related agricultural questions followed by an exchange of views by the Member States.

Since the last discussion on trade-related agricultural questions at the Agriculture and Fisheries Council meeting on 22-23 September 2025, significant developments have taken place in relation to trade with Ukraine, Mercosur, China, and the United States, among others. These will be described in a background note (14726/25).

In light of the special importance of trade with Ukraine in the face of the ongoing Russian aggression, the Presidency proposes to put particular emphasis on the question of closer relations between the EU and Ukraine at the Council meeting. The issue of trade with Ukraine has been raised on a regular basis in the Council since Russia's full-scale invasion in 2022.

Agri-food trade between the EU and Ukraine are vital for Ukraine's economy. At the same time, in 2024, the EU had an overall surplus in goods trade with Ukraine of EUR 18.3 billion. Ukraine is a key partner for the EU in terms of food security. Ukraine is a major exporter of feedstuff and other agricultural products to the EU, in part replacing previous exports from Russia. Ukraine also has the potential to be an even more important partner when it comes to issues such as protein diversification.

Under the revised Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA), the provision of market access to Ukraine strikes a balance between supporting Ukraine's trade with the EU and considering 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 for non-sensitive others. EU exporters will also benefit from lower tariffs or full liberalisation for a number of products in addition to increased quota volumes at preferential tariffs.

Under the DCFTA, Ukraine will also align with EU production standards, e.g. on animal welfare, pesticides and veterinary medicine, by the end of 2028. This will help ensure a more balanced trade and prepare Ukraine for EU membership by integrating it further into the EU agri-food market. This long-term framework provides stability and calls for a discussion on how the revised agreement is expected to affect trade and cooperation between the EU and Ukraine in the coming years.

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