



Ukraine cancels unnecessarily strict inspection requirements on imports of animals and animal products

During summer 2009, Ukraine announced new inspection requirements which put European exports of animals and animal products at risk. These requirements were scheduled to enter into force on 14 January 2010. The European Commission immediately expressed concerns on this proposed measure and held co-operative and constructive discussions with the Ukrainian authorities. Early in January 2010 Ukraine announced the cancellation of its proposed inspection requirements.

New inspection conditions were brought to the attention of the European Commission in July 2009. The announced measure set up a mandatory inspection regime for all establishments exporting animals and animal products to Ukraine. The measure covered a wide range of animals and animal products. The European Union's concerns were based on the lack of a clear justification for the sudden introduction of such comprehensive inspections. Additionally, several aspects concerning the new requirements remained unclear, such as their overall scope, the range of products covered, and above all how these inspections would be carried out on the ground. Consequently, the European Commission, together with other trading partners of the EU, expressed these concerns with the aim of addressing these questions and working out a solution that would not unnecessarily disrupt trade.

Therefore, several discussions took place, between the European Commission and the Ukrainian authorities, in a cooperative and constructive manner, both in Brussels and in Kiev. In early January 2010, as a result of these discussions, Ukraine announced cancellation of the inspection requirements that had been announced in July 2009.

Ukraine is an important trading partner for the EU. According to the 2008 trade flows between the EU and Ukraine, the implementation of such a strict inspection measure would have affected EU exports worth over € 700 million.

The European Commission will continue to closely monitor the situation and advocate safe trading conditions and full transparency regarding the import requirements of the EU's trading partners.

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