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NOTE

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>Exchange of views</i>

With a view to the meeting of the Council (Agriculture and Fisheries) on 27-28 October 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 Deputy Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration and Trade Representative of Ukraine, Mr. Taras Kachka, 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 would like to focus the discussion on opportunities and challenges related to Ukraine's gradual integration in EU agricultural markets. Trade in agricultural products is a vital source of income for Ukraine's economy in the face of Russia's continued brutal attacks.

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.

In the updated agreement, 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. In addition, 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.

Finally, the agreement includes a safeguard clause where both sides will have the possibility to activate a safeguard mechanism enabling the adoption of appropriate measures in situations where imports may cause adverse effects to either party. In the EU's case, the assessment of a possible disturbance can be done at the level of one or more Member States or a region.

In light of the above, the Presidency proposes the following questions:

1. *How can the EU ensure Ukraine's alignment with relevant EU production standards by the end of 2028 and assist Ukraine in the process?*
 2. *In what areas can improved cooperation and trade between the EU and Ukraine produce mutually beneficial outcomes, e.g. in relation to food security?*
 3. *What are the key issues currently affecting agricultural markets in your Member State?*
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