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Answer given by Mr Wojciechowski
on behalf of the European Commission
(9.9.2024)

Imports of agricultural products from any third country into the EU are subject to Union's rules on sanitary and phytosanitary standards (SPS). In addition, bilateral trade in goods between the EU and Ukraine is governed by the Association Agreement¹, and companies, such as MHP, are required to comply with these requirements when importing goods into the single market. According to Regulation (EU) 2017/625², the competent authorities of Member States are responsible for carrying out official controls on goods introduced into the EU.

Ukraine is making important progress in aligning to EU legislation according to the SPS roadmap. In particular, Ukraine has reconfirmed that it is on track to align to EU animal welfare standards by 1 January 2026.

On 13 May 2024, the Commission issued a statement confirming its intention to engage in negotiations with Ukraine under Article 29 of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement³. For this review of the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area, the Commission considers it appropriate to link the further opening of the EU market with the respect of EU production standards in Ukraine in view of its path towards EU accession.

Poultry is also one of the seven sensitive products covered by the automatic safeguard mechanism under Article 4(7) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1392 of the Autonomous Trade Measures for Ukraine⁴. The Commission is closely monitoring the thresholds for activating the automatic safeguard. Once activated, most favoured nation (MFN) duties will be applied to poultry imports until the end of 2024.

¹ Association Agreement between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and Ukraine, of the other part (OJ L 161, 29.5.2014, p. 3–2137, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_international/2014/295/oj).

² Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2017 on official controls and other official activities performed to ensure the application of food and feed law, rules on animal health and welfare, plant health and plant protection products (OJ L 95, 7.4.2017, p. 1–142, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2017/625/oj>).

³ Statement by the Commission on the Review Process under Article 29 of the Association Agreement on the occasion of the adoption of Regulation (EU) 2024/1392 of the European Parliament and of the Council on temporary trade-liberalisation measures supplementing trade concessions applicable to Ukrainian products under the Association Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, of the one part, and Ukraine, of the other part (C/2024/3550) (OJ C, C/2024/3550, 3.6.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/C/2024/3550/oj>).

⁴ Regulation (EU) 2024/1392 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 on temporary trade-liberalisation measures supplementing trade concessions applicable to Ukrainian products under the Association Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, of the one part, and Ukraine (OJ L, 2024/1392, 29.5.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1392/oj>).