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Answer given by Mr Šefčovič
on behalf of the European Commission
(15.1.2026)

The reviewed EU-Ukraine Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA)¹ is fair and balanced. It creates a situation where no economic reasons can be invoked to maintain national measures. The reviewed DCFTA provides additional market access for Ukraine, while limiting imports of sensitive products. For these products, the Agreement will lead to a significant decrease of imports as compared to the situation under the autonomous trade measures in place until June 2025. Ukraine also improved market access for European pork, poultry and sugar, and reduced further or eliminated import duties for other key products like dairy. In addition, the EU additional concessions are subject to a strong safeguard that can be invoked in case of negative effect in one or several Member States and are conditioned to the gradual alignment by 2028 of Ukrainian legislation to relevant EU production standards.

In the past, some Member States have already received specific funds under the EU agricultural reserve to address the local disturbances caused by the logistical bottlenecks that emerged in 2022 and 2023, as a direct consequence of Russia's war of aggression in Ukraine.

The Commission's proposal for the new multiannual financial framework² includes a new Unity Safety Net for crisis measures, with a total budget of EUR 6.3 billion — effectively doubling the current agricultural reserve. If needed, this reinforced support will allow to respond to market disturbances and help safeguard the EU farmers affected by agricultural market crises.

¹ OJ L, 2025/2130, 20.10.2025, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2025/2130/oj>.

² Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the European Fund for economic, social and territorial cohesion, agriculture and rural, fisheries and maritime, prosperity and security for the period 2028-2034 and amending Regulation (EU) 2023/955 and Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 - COM/2025/565 final.