

PAZIŅOJUMS MEDIJIEM

Tūlītējai izplatīšanai

EU Ministers of Agriculture, at the Council of Ministers, talk about measures capable to improve situation on EU agricultural market

Riga, January 26, 2015 – On Monday, January 26, in Brussels, the Minister of Agriculture, Jānis Dūklavs chaired the meeting of EU Council of Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries (Agrifish). It was the first Agrifish meeting for Latvia as a Presidency of the European Union Council. At the meeting, the Minister Jānis Dūklavs acquainted the Ministers of Agriculture and Fisheries from EU Member States with the agenda of Latvia's Presidency.

For Latvia one of the priorities is the simplification of the recently reformed Common Agricultural Policy. This will facilitate the implementation of the new rules in the Member States. Organic farming is also a key issue for Latvia. The Presidency intends to continue the ongoing work on the proposals for animal health, plant health and official controls.

The EU Council of Ministers for Agriculture and Fisheries considered the proposals for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down the Multiannual Plan for Baltic Sea cod, Baltic herring and sprat stocks in the Baltic Sea and fisheries using these stocks. After the Common Fisheries Policy has been reformed, the approach to the management of stocks has changed, and this is the first multiannual plan of the new generation, which addresses the issues raised by the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy. Latvia's Presidency has started consideration of the proposal in working group on matters of internal and external fisheries policy of EU Council and is planning an intensive work to achieve an agreement at the Council level during Latvia's Presidency.

The Ministers discussed the ban on agricultural products introduced by Russia, which has already been in force for five months. This situation has serious consequences for EU agriculture and for economy in general. The Presidency as well as Member States emphasized that the European Union must act by joint efforts and with solidarity in further negotiations on abolition of sanctions introduced by Russia.

“Ban on imports, Russia introduced in August, must be abolished for the entire European Union and a differentiated attitude to Member States will not be tolerated,” emphasized the Minister of Agriculture of Latvia, Janis Duklavs.

There were also discussions at the Council on market development and measures, introduced by the Commission in the sector of fruits, vegetables and milk. Many Member States stressed that these measures are not sufficient to mitigate consequences for a number of products caused by the ban on imports. Some Member States pointed out that a support measure is also necessary for pig meat sector.

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