

EU-Association and free trade – What are the opportunities and challenges for agriculture and rural development in Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia?

Panel Discussion at International Green Week

16th of January 2015, 3.30 to 5.30 pm, City Cube Berlin, Room M6/M7

Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia signed in summer 2014 an Association and Free Trade Agreement with the European Union. All three countries expect to foster their economic as well as political and social development by a deeper economic integration with the European Union.

However, trade relations especially for agricultural products have been traditionally very strong with Russia as an important importer of meat and milk products, fruit and vegetables as well as wine. Before and during the ongoing political crisis Russia was putting repeatedly pressure to their neighbour countries by restricting imports especially for agricultural products and it is expected to withdraw trade preferences after the implementation of the Deep and comprehensive free trade agreements.

Therefore, farmers and food industry in Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia have to cope with the reorientation of their value chains to new market opportunities in the European Union and other growing markets worldwide. Modernization and implementation of European standards is to be considered crucial for the successful competition on European and global markets. Growing global demand for food as well as for energy resources and fibre could be a chance to develop new value chains as an economic basis for rural development.

Speakers of the expert panel will be representatives of the ministries of agriculture of Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia, of the European Union and German business. Focus of the discussion will be short and mid-term effects of the EU-Association and Free Trade Agreement on these countries as well as options to support necessary adaption process for agriculture and rural development.

Draft program (as at 15. December 2014)

Welcome and facilitation

Prof. Rainer Lindner, Managing Director, Committee on Eastern European Economic Relations

Opening adress

Peter Bleser, Parliamentary State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Germany

Panel discussion

Oleksiy Pavlenko, Minister for Agricultural Policy and Food of Ukraine (tbc)

Vasile Bumacov, Minister for Agriculture and Food Industry of Moldova (tbc)

Otar Danelia, Minister for Agriculture of Georgia (tbc)

Monique Pariat, Deputy Director-General, DG AGRI, European Commission

Dirk Stratmann, German Agribusiness Alliance, Committee on Eastern European Economic Relations

The event will be translated simultaneously (German-English).