

INTERNATIONAL
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Ukraine's Path Towards EU Accession: Opportunity or Threat?



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Context

Ukraine is officially on the path to EU membership.
The dairy sector is one of the most prepared branches of the agri-food complex.



In 2024–2026, the business community initiated and developed the **Roadmap for the Integration of Ukraine's Dairy Sector into the European Union** (April 2026).

This Roadmap is now the practical strategic planning tool for 2026–2030.

РОЗРОБКА ДОРОЖНЬОЇ КАРТИ
ІНТЕГРАЦІЇ ДО ЄС МОЛОЧНОГО
СЕКТОРУ УКРАЇНИ ЗДІЙСНЮЄТЬСЯ:



ЗА ПІДТРИМКИ:



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
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Swiss Confederation
Швейцарська Конфедерація



Dispelling Enlargement Concerns

Common concerns about market distortion, cost differences and sudden volume increases do not match the reality of Ukraine's dairy sector:



Production Realities –
High-value focus, not low-cost mass export



Shared Standards –
Full alignment with Hygiene Package & General Food Law



Mutual Trade Integration –
Two-way street expanding the single market



The Roadmap as a Tool:

Methodology, Stages, and Principles of Implementation

Vision 2030

By 2030 the Ukrainian dairy sector will be:

Fully integrated into the EU single market

Fully compliant with EU requirements on food safety, feed, traceability and sustainability

Competitive and a reliable partner for European companies

Able to use market opportunities rather than create threats

- 11 thematic areas

- 80+ concrete, measurable tasks

- RASCI responsibility matrix

- Clear timelines



Opportunities

- Expanded free access to the EU market (after full alignment).
- Attraction of investments in modernisation and sustainable development.
- Participation in European high-value-added supply chains.
- Exchange of experience and best practices with Polish, French and Dutch partners.
- Strengthening Ukraine's position as a reliable supplier amid global competition.

Supply Chain Security & Resilience

Joint Commercial Power

Level Playing Field



Challenges / Potential Threats

- Significant investments needed to meet EU standards (HACCP, traceability, CSRD, etc.)
- Temporary access restrictions (quotas, licences, security deposits)
- Increased competition on the EU market after full opening
- Need to synchronise support policies and trade mechanisms
- Social and economic impact on small producers



Our Position

We see European integration not as a threat, but as a strategic opportunity that must be carefully prepared.

The Roadmap allows us to:



- 1 Systematically prepare for membership.



- 2 Minimise risks.



- 3 Maximise mutual benefits for Ukraine and the European dairy sector.

We invite our European partners to:



- 1 Accelerate technical assistance and capacity building.



- 2 Design fair transitional mechanisms together.



- 3 Treat the Ukrainian dairy sector as a future partner, not a competitor,



Together we can strengthen the competitiveness of the entire European dairy sector.



SMPU – Polish Dairy Chamber Cooperation

Business-level dialogue between Ukraine and Poland already exists — ahead of government agreements. SMPU, Ukraine's Association of Milk Producers, and the Polish Dairy Chamber are building trust one agreement at a time.



2024 Memorandum of Understanding – signed in Białystok on 17 June 2024, launching a joint Roadmap for the EU integration of Ukraine's dairy sector.

Joint Declaration – a shared call for constructive dialogue on border trade disputes and for closing gaps that allow uncontrolled imports.

Shared Direction – joint technology exchange, modernisation projects, and continued support for parity trade.



Thank you for your attention!

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