

POLISH-UKRAINIAN FOREIGN TRADE RELATIONS: CURRENT SITUATION

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Foreign trade between Poland and its Eastern European partner - Ukraine- is a crucial part of the countries bilateral economic relations.

According to preliminary data of the Central Statistical Office and Ministry of Economics of Poland, trade turnover between the Polish and Ukraine in 2011 increased by 30.3% (compared to 2010) and amounted to 7,476 million U.S. dollars, the value of Polish exports to Ukraine increased by 19.8% to value of 4,694 million U.S. dollars, the value of imports of goods from Ukraine to Polish increased by 53% and amounted to U.S. \$ 2781mln .

Ukraine moved from 12 to 10 position among the top recipients of Polish goods. The importance of imports from Ukraine increased clearly - of 1% of the total foreign purchases of goods made by Poland in 2011, to 1.31%, a rise of Ukraine from 21 to 19 position among the major suppliers of goods to the Polish market. Taking into account the total trade turnover Ukraine occupied 16th place among the most important Polish trade partners, and its share, as compared to the previous year increased from 1.68% to 1.86%.

The structure of Polish exports to Ukraine in 2011, according to preliminary data of the Central Statistical Office occupied the most important position in the electromechanical industry products - 29% of total exports to Ukraine. The next positions are products of the chemical industry - 21%, metallurgical products - 11% of agri-food products - 10%, industry products, wood and paper - 9%, light industry products - 7%, -5%, mineral products, ceramics 3% .

In the structure of imports of goods from Ukraine occupy the highest position in metallurgical and mineral products, their share amounts to about 28%. Another item of imports from Ukraine are the agri-food products - 18%, electrical industry products 7%, industry products, wood and paper - 6%. For perspective directions of development of Polish companies on the Ukrainian market include: energy, agri-food industry, consumer goods sector, services sector - especially health services, education and tourism.

In relations with Ukraine, Polish entrepreneurs report a number of systemic barriers that hinder economic cooperation. The most important of these include: lack of transparency and high volatility of Ukrainian legislation, resulting in different views; complex and opaque procedures officers; high levels of corruption in different spheres of economic life; insufficient level of the judiciary, lack of efficient and objective economic disputes, failure to comply with court judgments.