

Import restrictions on certain Ukrainian cereals and oilseeds

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Regulation

Implementing Regulation (EU) [2023/903](#)

What is changing and why?

In response to Russia's attack against Ukraine, in June 2022 the European Union started to allow quota-free and tariff-free imports of Ukrainian agricultural goods (Regulation [2022/870](#)).

But this led to a surge in imports, creating logistical problems including a lack of transport and storage capacity to handle the incoming goods. Local farmers in certain EU countries were negatively affected because the imported food competes with their own produce.

To address these problems, the EU put temporary rules in place in June 2023. Under these rules, wheat and meslin (CN customs code 1001), maize (1005), rape or colza seeds (1205), and sunflower seeds (1206) from Ukraine could not be imported into Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Romania, or Slovakia. However, these products can still pass through these countries and can be sold in other EU countries.

On 15 September 2023, the European Commission removed these restrictions because they were no longer considered necessary. Hungary and Poland disagreed, and introduced their own national import bans. Ukraine has complained about these bans to the World Trade Organization. Slovakia also initially imposed a ban, but then lifted it.

Timeline

The restrictions on Ukrainian grain imports were lifted on 15 September 2023. The Commission will continue to review the situation.

For more information see the [full record](#) on the AGRINFO website – where you can also view the latest [AGRINFO Update](#) newsletters and [search](#) the database.

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