



## EU-UKRAINE CO-OPERATION IN THE COAL SECTOR

**Within the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy, the EU and Ukraine have decided to step up their energy cooperation and the EU-Ukraine Action Plan agreed in February 2005. The EU-Ukraine Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the field of energy, signed on 1 December 2005 includes a road map for enhancing effectiveness, safety and environmental standards in the coal sector.**

The coal sector plays a key role in Ukraine's security of energy supplies, accounting for some 50% of the country's energy production. There is also a need to continue to reform and restructure the Ukrainian coal industry and to enhance environmental and mine safety standards while mitigating the social and regional consequences.

Previous EU assistance to Ukraine's coal sector has included projects aimed at addressing the social consequences of coal industry restructuring. These projects were implemented in the regions of Luhansk and Donetsk with encouraging results, albeit on a pilot scale. Particularly in Luhansk, the project effectively managed to create new employment opportunities for miners and mining communities as a whole (re-training, active employment strategies, economic regeneration, etc).

The Coal Sector Policy Support Programme (see below) is the EU's biggest investment in Ukraine's coal sector so far. The €8.9 million project will run until December 2010.



## LARGEST EU-FUNDED PROJECT IN UKRAINE HOLDS LAUNCH PRESENTATION

**On 13 July in Kyiv the EU-funded project "Coal Sector Policy Support Programme" held its launch presentation. The project goal is to support Ukraine in developing and restructuring its coal industry. It is currently the largest EU-funded bilateral technical assistance project in the country.**

The aim of the project is to analyse ecological and social risks in the coal sector, create a wide security programme (including personnel training), and develop the strategic plan for coal sector reforms in Ukraine. Through its individual components the programme is geared towards creating a reliable and sustainable basis for the comprehensive coal sector policy support framework as part of the coal sector transformation process in Ukraine.

The project objectives include making Ukrainian mines safer and more environmentally-friendly, addressing social issues including the feasibility of a Social Development Fund to support ex-miners and elaborating a Strategy for the development of the Ukrainian coal industry.

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## EU-FUNDED PROJECT NEWS

### JOINT EU/UNDP PROJECT SIGNS PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH DONETSK REGIONAL AUTHORITIES

On 9 July in the presence of the Head of the EC Delegation, Ambassador José Manuel Pinto Teixeira, the UN Development Programme in Ukraine (UNDP), Donetsk Regional State Administration and Donetsk Regional Council have signed a tripartite Partnership Agreement. The document, signed in the framework of the EU-funded and UNDP-implemented project "Community-Based Approach to Local Development" (CBA), sets out the obligations of the parties regarding co-financing of at least 40 community-based projects, generated within the eight rayons of the region.



In total, about \$400,000 is expected to be contributed by the EU-funded project with approximately \$360,000 to be allocated from the local budgets.

Ambassador Pinto Teixeira, present at the ceremony, underlined the importance of EU support to the CBA project in the context of strengthening local governance and promoting further decentralisation. "I look forward to meeting with communities who have empowered themselves thanks to this project and are working together to improve their living standards," he added.

During the official signing ceremony, a list of rayons selected for their participation in the joint CBA project was announced. To enable the implementation of CBA-related activities in all of these districts, individual Partnership Agreements have also been signed with respective districts' leaders.

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### EU HELPS BORDER GUARD SERVICE TRANSITION TOWARD A CIVILIAN BORDER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

On 13 July the representatives of the EC Delegation, EU Border Assistance Mission in Moldova (EUBAM), the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and the German and US embassies gathered to share experiences and lessons in a process that supports Ukraine's capability in the fight against trafficking and smuggling of persons and contraband of all categories.

The EU-funded, IOM-implemented "HUREMAS 2" and "GUMIRA" projects and EUBAM – an EU Mission fully funded by the European Union – promote humane and orderly policies in the movement of persons across borders. A common objective is to assist the State Border Guard Service (SBGS) in meeting dynamic border challenges posed by organised crime.

In an effort to institutionalise EU-compliant standardisation, participants highlighted the need to accord primacy to curricula enhancement, promote the "multiplication" training system, ensure proper Internet connections, and shore up networks at the border division-level, border detachments, regional directorates, and the SBGS Administration.

The IOM's and EUBAM's EU-funded technical cooperation on migration activities advocate for openness and transparency that allows for proportionate and justifiable responses to identified and known risks to the border. Support of available human resources and maintenance of technical resources are critical issues in those border areas where there is a rule-of-law basis and proven reason for increased scrutiny.

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## HEAD OF EC DELEGATION VISITS LUHANSK REGION

On 14-15 July the Head of EC Delegation José Manuel Pinto Teixeira visited Luhansk region. The objective of the visit was to meet the authorities of the region, as well as to follow up on the four EU-funded projects that are operating in Luhansk region.

Ambassador Pinto Teixeira took part in Luhansk in a press conference of the EU-funded projects "Coal Sector Policy Support Programme" and "Sustainable Integrated Land Use of the Eurasian Steppes". He also officially opened the EU-funded Coal Sector Support Office in Luhansk. The Head of EC Delegation then visited sites related to the project "Sustainable Integrated Land Use of the Eurasian Steppes".

Ambassador Pinto Teixeira also visited Sverdlovsk, one of the focus cities for the project "Sustainable Local Development in Ukraine". During his visit, Ambassador Pinto Teixeira saw excavators and transportation vehicles for the heating supply company and sewage works provided to the town by the EU-funded project. He also met with Mayor of Sverdlovsk to discuss the €8.7 million works contract under the "Support to Sustainable Regional Development" project which will mainly benefit Sverdlovsk.

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## EU-FUNDED PROJECT HOLDS WORKSHOP ON TECHNICAL REGULATION

On 14 July the EU-funded project "Technical assistance to Ukrainian quality infrastructure" held a workshop on the technical legislation regulating the production and circulation of goods. More than 60 representatives of Ukrainian industry and industrial associations, importers, conformity assessment bodies, institutes and business community attended the event.

During the workshop the participants had an opportunity to hear opinions of developers of the relevant technical regulations adopted in Ukraine or draft regulations, developed on the base of EU Directives. During discussions, possible options for eliminating gaps and contradictions of the Ukrainian legislation vis-à-vis relevant European legal acts were discovered.

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## EU-FUNDED PROJECT ORGANISES SEMINAR ON ENERGY REGULATION

On 20-21 June the EU-funded twinning project "Strengthening the enforcement of competition law and policy in Ukraine" organised a seminar on regulation in the electricity and natural gas markets. Ten representatives of the Antimonopoly Committee of Ukraine (AMCU) and National Electricity Regulatory Commission of Ukraine took part in the event.

The seminar focused on concrete examples of electricity and natural gas market regulation in the EU Member States and featured a presentation by Jonathan Losser of France's Energy Regulation Commission. The twinning project is a response of France and Hungary to demands of Ukraine in the field of practical implementation of competition policy, particularly the practical knowledge and experience of conducting legal proceedings, training case handlers, improvement of organisational structure of the AMCU and help in daily work of the AMCU's staff.

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## EU-FUNDED PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 3 AUGUST, ANTIMONOPOLY COMMITTEE, KYIV

5th Steering Committee of the Twinning project "Strengthening the Enforcement of Competition Law and Policy in Ukraine"

Representatives of the Twinning project, Ministry of the Economy, Industry and Employment of France and Antimonopoly Committee of Ukraine will take part in the meeting.

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