

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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## Ukraine

**Post:** Kiev

### Slauta No Longer Vice PM for Agricultural Issues

**Report Categories:**

Agricultural Situation

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**Report Highlights:**

The President has removed two positions from his government; one of them is Vice-Prime Minister for Agricultural Issues. The incumbent is still a trusted advisor on agriculture irrespective of the change in his job title.

## **General Information:**

On October 13 the President of Ukraine Victor Yanukovich signed a Decree by which he fired two Vice-Prime Ministers. The move was made to bring the current Cabinet of Ministers staffing into compliance with a revamped Constitution. The current version of the Constitution envisages three Vice-Prime Minister positions, downsized from five. One of the pair fired from their positions is Vice-Prime Minister Victor Slauta who has long been loyal to the President and who remains an insider in Yanukovich's Administration. Immediately Mr. Slauta was appointed as a Presidential Adviser on agricultural issues and will continue work in the Presidential Administration. Slauta has held positions related to Agricultural Issues twice under Mr. Yanukovich.

In a press interview Mr. Slauta did not reveal any dissatisfaction with the shift. There are no indications that Mr. Slauta is trying to move up, and his total loyalty to the President would corroborate the rumor that the President indeed does not want to remove him from a position as trusted advisor. Mr. Slauta is a Soviet-trained agronomist and economist known for supporting economic measures not friendly to free trade. Historically he supported administrative measures restricting trade, exports and imports alike. He has occupied positions by appointment and as a Member of Parliament. He has a reputation as a tough manager and uncorrupt politician. He has borne messages of bad news when other GOU members preferred to maintain distance from unpopular measures.