

## Emergency land routes for exports from Ukraine to EU could become permanent

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Ukraine has urged the EU to back plans to make permanent the current emergency land-routes for exports of grain and sunflower. The proposal would see investment in at least five border terminals and the building of a pipeline for sunflower oil.

Ukraine's agriculture minister Mykola Solsky told EU counterparts and the European Commission that his country needed financial support to help reduce its reliance on exports through the Black Sea, which Solsky noted that Russia had blocked before and could do so again.

Despite the creation of the Black Sea Corridor at the end of July, most grain and sunflower seed exports at the moment are still following overland corridors through Europe.

Solsky said at a news conference in Brussels that "we think these corridors should become stable and permanent".

He said that by increasing its fleet of trucks by a third to 16,000 could allow 10m to 20m tonnes of cereals per year to cross land borders, In normal times Ukraine supplies around 45m tonnes of grain to the global market per year.

Solsky said that, while shipping was cheaper, for crops in western Ukraine the distance to Baltic ports was no further than to the Black Sea. "To have an alternative route is a must, routes through friendly democratic countries in order to continue business," he said.