

customs authorities at a qualitatively new level, primarily due to its complexity and consistency; to create a balance between promoting the development of international trade and ensuring the effectiveness of customs control; create conditions for stimulating and supporting bona fide and law-abiding participants in foreign economic activity, thereby reducing their material and time costs.

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«Fight against official crime in the customs authorities of the Republic of Belarus»

Research Field:

Customs in the age of globalization and regionalization

The Republic of Belarus has a stable legislative framework that establishes a system of measures and principles for combating selfish and official crime. This legal framework presupposes strict criminal liability for corruption offenses. The body responsible for organizing the fight against corruption is the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Belarus, which is endowed with special powers.

The legal basis for anti-corruption activities in Belarus is contained in the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus, which regulates the most important public relations. In addition, our country is an active participant in a number of UN and Council of Europe conventions in the field of combating corruption and organized crime¹. The attention is paid to the documents of the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Belarus to the formation of anti-corruption consciousness in the system of customs authorities. So, for example, Art. 351 "Customs authorities, their main tasks and functions" of the Customs Code of the EAEU also defines the main tasks of combating corruption².

It should be noted that neither the economic damage incurred by the state, nor the amount of bribes received by officials are incommensurate with the harm caused to the authority and position of a civil servant of the customs authorities of the Republic of Belarus.

The main measures to counter corruption crimes in the customs authorities include:

¹ Борба с кorrupciej – vazhnejshaya zadacha gosudarstva [Elektronnyj resurs]. – Rezhim dostupa: http://www.mas.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/borba-s-korrupciej-vazhnejshaya-zadacha-gosudarstva-1013/. – Data dostupa: 25.04.2021.

² Tamozhennyj kodeks Evrazijskogo ekonomicheskogo soyuza: Kodeks EAES, 01 yanvarya 2018 g., № 296-Z: s izm. i dop. [Elektronnyj resurs]. – Rezhim dostupa: http://www.consultant.ru/document/cons_doc_LAW_215315/. – Data dostupa: 25.04.2021.

improvement of the legislative framework governing relations in the field of customs, preparation of promising legal norms, taking into account the minimization of the potential for their double interpretation;

implementation of educational, preventive and informational work;

in recent years, the customs authorities have been actively introducing an electronic declaration system, which greatly simplifies the customs clearance procedure and excludes the personal contact of the customs inspector with the declarant;

building up the practice of participation of the population in public control over the activities of customs authorities. For example, there are hotline telephones that can be used to report any violations;

training and retraining of personnel of customs authorities on corruption prevention;

establishment and participation in international events on anti-corruption issues.

However, the main difficulty in countering official criminality during the passage of the customs service is the low social security of employees, the worsening economic situation due to inflation and the crisis, uncertainty associated with constant reform of the customs authorities.

Thus, corruption as a phenomenon not only denigrates the activities of the state apparatus, but also discriminates against the constitutionally enshrined rights and interests of citizens, runs counter to democratic foundations and, of course, contradicts the principle of legality. As a result, it is necessary to make every effort to eliminate all manifestations of corruption, in particular in the field of customs. For this purpose, a special system has been developed in the Republic of Belarus, it is focused on an uncompromising and decisive fight against corruption in the customs authorities, mainly consisting of an anti-corruption legislative framework and modern information technologies. Of course, combating corruption in the customs sphere is far from an easy process. The implementation of the initiatives, which are reflected in the normative legal acts, presupposes the mobilization of not only the state apparatus, but also, no doubt, the initiative of the public to solve this problem.

The principle of legality is the fundamental imperative of service in the customs authorities of the Republic of Belarus. It presupposes unconditional and uncompromising observance of the Constitutional provisions and indicates that all the activities of the customs authorities should be carried out based solely on the legislative acts of the Republic of Belarus.

Customs have no right to public recognition and trust if their personnel violate the law. Consequently, the named illegal actions not only have a strong impact on the economy of the state, but, what is even more serious, negatively affect the public consciousness of citizens.