

PROSPECTS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF PAPERLESS TRADE IN EAEU

In the modern world, constant changes are taking place, this is caused by dynamically developing processes that affect all spheres of life and activity within the state. In modern conditions, the development of any state is impossible without integration processes. In this regard, any association of countries becomes relevant to create common borders, a market, with the aim of progressive development of the economies of its member countries. Such an integration association as the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) deserves close attention. The EAEU is an international regional integration organization founded on January 1, 2015 [1].

In modern conditions of development of advanced technologies and expansion of trade and economic relations, there is a need to optimize existing processes. In this regard, cross-border paperless trade acquires a special role.

The purpose of the article is to reveal the features of cross-border paperless trade and the prospects for its implementation in the context of Eurasian integration.

In order to conduct further research, let us define cross-border paperless trade (TBT). TBT is an advanced digital trade that involves the electronic exchange of trade-related data and documents. Cross-border paperless trade refers to trade carried out on the basis of digital technologies and including the exchange of trade-related data and documents in electronic form.

The more general concept of paperless trade has been widely discussed at customs forums and in the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC), as well as on the basis of the Eurasian Economic Union and its ministries. The concept is to simplify trade procedures, it was part of the efforts to carry out reforms in the customs sphere of the EAEU member countries [2].

In the current conditions of the development of the digital economy, the functioning of the EAEU initiatives depends on the coordinated work of the customs authorities of the participating countries, which requires the management to take the necessary measures. Therefore, for the development of paperless trade, various directions can be distinguished:

- implementation and unification of laws and regulations governing electronic transactions;
- implementation and development of centers for certification and labeling of goods;
- participation in cross-border electronic data exchange;
- electronic exchange of certificates of origin of goods;
- electronic exchange of sanitary and phytosanitary certificates;
- implementation of a developed system, according to which banks and insurers receive letters of credit in electronic form, without presenting paper documents.

When studying the impact of paperless trade and related measures, a wide range of methodologies are used, which are specific in the sense that they are applicable to only one country. They use data that cannot be easily collected for the region where the EAEU operates. Therefore, such recommendations in the development of directions will be different for the participating countries [2].

Therefore, the development of a competent and timely methodology that takes into account all aspects of cross-border trade is a priority. For example, such a technique may consist of the following steps:

- assessing the relationship between cross-border paperless trade reforms on the one hand, and the time spent on processing import and export transactions on the other;
- modeling the time spent to process exports and imports under various paperless trade reform scenarios across the region;
- simulation of the increase in registered various exports and imports, as well as cost savings, corresponding to the scenarios from the second stage.

Let's consider in more detail all the stages. The first stage of creating a system of paperless cross-border trade is to evaluate the most promising reforms in this area from the point of view of participants in foreign economic activity and assess the impact of such reforms on the system of customs authorities of the EAEU and cross-border trade. However, the concept of this stage exists in the context of the fact that at the moment there is no consensus on how this or that reform of paperless trade will affect trade costs or the final results of foreign economic activity. However, it can be said with certainty that reducing the time for processing transactions and the subsequent release of goods has a positive effect on the results of cross-border trade [4].

Therefore, the most promising part of developing the overall concept of paperless trade is the first stage, which evaluates the relationship between time and paperless trade reforms. The results of this stage will be taken into account at all other stages and serve as the basis for assessing the impact on the costs of participants in foreign economic activity and the results of foreign trade when developing scenarios for introducing reforms in the EAEU region.

For example, this stage will allow more extensive consideration of the impact of the following reforms aimed at the transition to electronic documentation on the activities of traders:

1. Introduction of an electronic and automated customs system based on artificial intelligence algorithms.
2. Connection to a single database of participants in foreign economic activity of customs authorities at checkpoints.
3. Electronic submission of customs declarations to the electronic declaration centers of all EAEU member countries.
4. Introduction of a system for filing various types of applications in electronic format and their subsequent issuance with the necessary marks of conformity.

The remaining two stages of this concept are based on a conditional assessment of the results of the implementation of reforms for paperless cross-border trade. So, based on this activity, the introduction of paperless trade can occur in two stages [3].

1. All countries in the region are achieving at least partial implementation of cross-border paperless trade.
2. All countries in the region are working towards full implementation of cross-border paperless trade.

Based on these two scenarios, it is possible to develop a strategy for the development of cross-border paperless trade, taking into account all the features of the EAEU member countries. At the same time, this strategy will allow gradually establishing cooperation between the customs authorities of the EAEU in the technical aspect of customs policy.

The first stage involves the initial stage of application in the practice of customs authorities of the methods of conducting paperless activities. At this stage, the main problems of introducing such methods and analyzing the features of foreign trade of certain countries - members of the EAEU are considered [4].

It should be noted that this stage is also characterized by the introduction of unified systems and bodies for the customs authorities of the EAEU. These can be technical, methodological, professional and other aspects of the work of specialized departments of customs authorities.

The second stage is characterized by the development of relations between participating countries in the development of paperless cross-border trade. At this stage, there is a widespread introduction of systems in this direction, taking into account the established economic and political conditions.

Based on the considered policy stages, a number of advantages for the EAEU member countries and their trading partners can be identified:

Fast document management. The ability to quickly disseminate information will improve the efficiency of customs authorities and enhance the professional

image of customs services. Paperless trade will also make it possible to have electronic copies of documents required for customs control or for subsequent training based on artificial intelligence.

Improving the quality of communication between participants in foreign economic activity and customs authorities. The development of a system of communication and feedback from participants in foreign economic activity will reduce the level of corruption in the customs authorities, as well as receive various additional information from participants in foreign economic activity.

3. Automatic backup of submitted documents. In modern digital conditions, it becomes more difficult to maintain the technical component of the activities of customs authorities. However, the development of paperless trade will help to save a significant part of the information from loss in case of possible technical failures on the servers of the customs services [3].

In view of the foregoing, it can be concluded that the EAEU has the necessary technical, methodological and professional resources to implement this concept.

The introduction of paperless cross-border trade will allow the EAEU to reach a new technical level of cooperation in various areas of customs authorities and international trade in general.

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