THE ROLE OF CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES IN COMBATING ILLEGAL MIGRATION AND TERRORISM

Recently, for the countries of Europe, including the Republic of Belarus, the issue of ensuring national security is especially acute, since the range of threats has significantly expanded and acquired new dimensions. Today, it also includes illegal migration, which poses a new challenge to society and the state.

In 2003, at the conference "Illegal Migration as a Threat to International Stability and Security of States," President of the Republic of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko noted that illegal migration is a threat not only by itself. It is closely connected with such criminal manifestations as the distribution of drugs, smuggling of weapons, ammunition, terrorism, and human trafficking.

One of the main threats posed by illegal migration is terrorism, since illegal migrants are potential transporters across the customs border of weapons, ammunition, drugs and other goods that pose danger to society.

In the Republic of Belarus, the subjects directly involved in the fight against terrorism within their competence are the state security bodies of the Republic of Belarus, the internal affairs bodies of the Republic of Belarus, the Security Service of the President of the Republic of Belarus, the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Belarus and the border service bodies of the Republic of Belarus.

The function of the customs authorities is legally established, it consists in rendering assistance in the fight against international terrorism. However, in practice, the following tasks of the customs authorities of the Republic of Belarus are aimed at fighting terrorism:

- ensuring, within the limits of their competence, compliance with measures of customs and tariff regulation of prohibitions and restrictions in relation to goods transported across the customs border of the EAEU;
- ensuring, within its competence, measures to protect the national security of the state:
- ensuring measures to counter the legalization (laundering) of money from crimes and the financing of terrorism in the exercise of control over the movement across the customs border of the currency of the EAEU member states, securities and (or) currency values;
- detection, prevention and suppression of administrative offenses and crimes in accordance with the legislation of the member states of the Eurasian Economic Union.

Thus, the function of the customs authorities of the Republic of Belarus to fight illegal migration and terrorism is not legally fixed. However, the set of measures applied nowadays by customs authorities, specifically non-tariff regulation, prohibitions and restrictions, currency control, operational-search activities comprises the content of the function of countering terrorism within the competence of the customs authorities.