

INTERACTION OF CUSTOMS SERVICE AND BORDER SERVICE: CHALLENGES AND PERSPECTIVES

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Being a sovereign state, the Republic of Belarus has its own territorial border. Customs Service and Border Service are the administrative authorities of the State. As such, they are responsible for ensuring national security not only at state borders but also on the whole territory of Belarus. Therefore, national security depends on the effective collaboration of both services and their joint activities on a number of issues, which is undoubtedly one of the most important goals to achieve today.

Today globalization, organized crime syndicates and terrorist organizations operating through fluid networks have placed a great responsibility on both services globally to provide effective and efficient controls.

In this respect a common challenge shared by Customs and border administrations is to facilitate cross-border movement of goods and people ensuring Customs control, thus protecting the economic interests of the Republic of Belarus on the state border of our country.

Interaction between border and customs authorities is viewed as a set of forms, techniques, methods (both organizational and legal) the aim of which is to collaboratively address issues related to ensuring national security at the state border and in the border area. Such kind of interaction should meet certain principles:

– compliance with legal regulation of relations arising in the process of interaction;

- having meaning and being aimed at achieving national goals;
- border and customs services are viewed as independent bodies within their competence and enter into relationships as equal subjects of law;
- sharing information and approval of joint plans and actions;
- mutual responsibility.

Fruitful cooperation of the customs and border authorities of our country is impossible without concerted efforts to develop, coordinate and improve technological schemes for the legitimate movement of persons, vehicles and goods at checkpoints across the State border. Such collaboration is based on the exchange of operational information, provision of mutual assistance, participating in joint operations, etc. Officers of both services conduct research in regulatory framework, Customs and border related issues aimed at improving control on the state border. The staff of both services regularly undergo training, retraining and advanced training in the relevant educational institutions of our country.

Today as never before the scope of transnational crime has increased creating new challenges for enforcement agencies. In this respect both services pay much attention to planning, organization and implementation of joint measures to identify and prevent activities related to the illegal movement of persons, goods and vehicles across the State border.

Cooperation in fight against international terrorism, organized crime, and illegal migration, cross-border fiscal fraud; the smuggling of drugs, dangerous, harmful and prohibited goods; money laundering, objects of historical and archaeological heritage is of urgent importance.

At present an important aspect of the interaction of the customs and border services of the Republic of Belarus is the improvement of forms and methods of border and customs control at checkpoints across the State border.

In this respect transport control functions are transferred from the border service to the customs service at certain checkpoints.

The State Customs Committee, together with the State Border Committee, has introduced a technology for direct passport control by customs authorities at all checkpoints.

At checkpoints for cargo vehicles (both road and rail), passport control will be carried out by customs officers. For this purpose a schedule has been drawn up. Experience shows that it significantly speeds up the border crossing process. A customs officer simultaneously performs customs and passport control. In this case customs clearance is carried out in one place. Moreover, the number of border guards is optimized. They are transferred from checkpoints directly to guard the border where it is necessary.

However, there are difficulties in the joint work of the two services: the lack of a unified approach that would ensure the optimization of interaction between services; low activity of stakeholders in providing preliminary information on shipments of goods falling under customs control; difficulties associated with the shortcomings of the technical component of joint work.

Despite the existing difficulties, the customs and border services of the Republic of Belarus jointly create favorable conditions for the movement of individuals and vehicles across the border, which greatly contributes to improving national security and the positive image of our country in the international arena.

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ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN THE SYSTEM OF CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES

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Currently, the flow of persons, goods and vehicles through the customs border is rapidly growing. This leads to the continuous improvement of the activities of the customs authorities. In this process, artificial intelligence is an integral part and allows customs authorities to speed up customs operations and complete them automatically. However, with the introduction of various information technologies, difficulties arise in mutual understanding between specialists in automated systems and employees of customs authorities. For example, it is sometimes difficult for officials to identify the technologies necessary to apply artificial intelligence to solve customs tasks. Therefore, the coordinated work of customs officers and developers of artificial intelligence is a prerequisite for the transition to automatization of customs processes.

Today, the main goal of the state is the formation of a modern, efficient, saturated with new information technologies of the customs service. The manual execution of customs operations is gradually being transferred to automatic, without the participation of customs officials.

Artificial intelligence is an automated technology that simulates human behavior to perform various intellectual tasks. It includes a set of methods and