

En ce qui concerne la France, nous pouvons comprendre que le gouvernement et le peuple du pays votent depuis longtemps en faveur de ce que l'on appelle «l'énergie verte». Au cours de la dernière décennie, plus de la moitié des centrales à charbon françaises ont été arrêtées. Au cours de la dernière décennie, le gouvernement français a activement plaidé en faveur du développement de la production à partir de sources d'énergie renouvelables (en particulier l'éolien et le solaire).

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COOPERATION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FREE TRADE ZONES

Пшеничная Д.А.

Научный руководитель: к.э.н. Мазаник Ю.М., ст.преподаватель
Кажемская Л.Л.

Белорусский национальный технический университет

The Republic of Belarus is actively applying various strategies to expand its presence on global markets, especially in the context of the development of foreign trade amid integration processes. In partnership with participants in integration initiatives, the Republic of Belarus is actively promoting the creation of free trade zones between the Eurasian Economic Union (hereinafter – the EAEU) and third countries in order to increase the commodity and geographical diversification of Belarusian exports.

The free trade regime is one of the closest forms of international economic integration, which is established by agreement among States with a high level of trade, economic and political ties.

This regime provides for the abolition of tariff and quantitative restrictions on trade among countries. It is possible to establish exceptions for particularly sensitive goods [1].

In the Republic of Belarus, the free trade regime is applied in relations with the CIS countries, Georgia, Serbia, Vietnam and Iran. Let's take a closer look at cooperation with Vietnam and Iran.

The Free Trade Agreement between the EAEU and Vietnam was signed on May 29, 2015 and entered into force on October 5, 2016. From this date, the Free Trade Regime between the EAEU and Vietnam began to function.

Also, on October 5, 2016, bilateral protocols between Belarus and Vietnam, as well as between Russia and Vietnam, on supporting the automobile production in Vietnam entered into force.

In order to adapt national economies to the Free Trade Regime with Vietnam, transitional periods from 5 to 10 years were established, during which customs duties were gradually reduced [2].

As of 2017, the EAEU has already reset the rates of import customs duties for Vietnam by 43% of tariff items. Within 10 years, duty-free import of goods to the common union market for Vietnamese exporters will expand and cover 90% of positions.

The average tariff rate of the EAEU member states for goods from Vietnam will be reduced from 9.8% to 2.5% over 10 years. For agricultural products, the decrease will be from 9.9% to 5.6% and for industrial products – from 8.0% to 1.2% [2].

According to the FTZ Agreement, the average rate of Vietnam's import tariff for the EAEU countries will be reduced from 10% to 1% by 2025. For agricultural products, the decrease will be from 16% to 0.2% and for industrial products – from 8.9% to 0.1% [2].

The Free Trade Agreement between the EAEU and Iran was signed in 2023. This agreement provides for the simplification of trade conditions and customs procedures through the mutual zeroing of duties on almost 90% of commodity items, as well as the intensification of cooperation and investment [1].

Currently, the Republic of Belarus is interested in concluding free trade agreements with more than 30 EAEU member states. As part of efforts to liberalize access of Belarusian goods to the markets of third countries, negotiations are underway on the creation of free trade zones with India, Israel and other countries. A draft agreement with Singapore is also being developed, which covers both trade in goods and services and investment.

In 2023, negotiations on the conclusion of Free Trade Agreements with the UAE and Indonesia began and today are actively progressing. The same kind of agreement is being prepared for signing with Egypt [1].

In November 2023, the President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, signed a decree according to which negotiations on an agreement with China on trade in services and investments began. This creates a legal framework for the development of trade and investment relations between the two countries [3].

Cooperation on the creation of Free Trade Zones in the Republic of Belarus can bring positive results provided that the interests of all parties and the desire for mutually beneficial cooperation are taken into account, which contributes to the sustainable economic development of the country.

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