

by submitting a written application to the Customs authority and documents provided by the Universal Postal Union accompanying the international mail [4].

To conclude, governments throughout the world recognize the value of Customs Services in their national economies and realize that the service being provided by Customs is one they cannot easily dispense with.

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WTO: ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF MEMBERSHIP

ВТО: преимущества и недостатки членства

Кривулец А.А., Судиловская В.А.

Научный руководитель: канд. пед. наук, доцент Веремейчик О.В.
Белорусский национальный технический университет

International trade between different countries is an important factor in raising living standards, providing employment and enabling consumers to enjoy a greater variety of goods. International trade has occurred since the earliest civilisations began trading, but in recent years international trade has become increasingly important with a larger share of GDP devoted to exports and imports. International trade is managed and developed by multilateral trade agreements and other forms of international economic co-operation. These developments resulted in the adoption of the General Agreement on Tariffs and

Trade (GATT) in 1947. Later on in 1995 the World Trade Organization (WTO) became the successor to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Today, the WTO has 164 Member States. The WTO is not simply a continuation of the GATT; it has a completely different character. The World Trade Organization is the only international organization dealing with the global rules of trade. Its main function is to ensure that trade flows as smoothly, predictably and freely as possible [1]. Trade rules accepted globally provide assurance and stability. Consumers and producers know they can enjoy secure supplies and greater choice of the finished products, components, raw materials and services they use. Producers and exporters know foreign markets will remain open to them.

The WTO fulfils five essential tasks:

1. Administration of the new multilateral trade agreements.
2. Provision of a forum for fresh negotiations.
3. Settlement of disputes.
4. Surveillance of national trade policies.

5. Cooperation with other international bodies in drawing up of economic policies at the global level [2, p. 111].

By lowering trade barriers through negotiations among member governments, the WTO's system also breaks down other barriers between peoples and trading economies.

Any country that is in control of its trade policies is eligible to apply for membership in the World Trade Organization. The country seeking membership is called an Observer. A country has to go through a six-step process before becoming a WTO member [3].

First of all, the country submits an application. This application is reviewed by a Working Party for Accession forms. Any current WTO member can join the Working Party. It can also include representatives of different organizations (the United Nations, International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, World Intellectual Property Organization, etc.). The Working Party then oversees the entire application process.

Then the Observer submits forms that describe its current trade policies in detail. This is called Memorandum of the Foreign Trade Regime. It includes statistics about that country's economy. It also includes existing free trade agreements and any laws affecting international trade. Then the Working Party reviews these forms to determine how they would affect its ability to conform to WTO requirements. The Secretariat distributes them to all WTO members. Every WTO member can ask the Observer questions.

Thirdly, the Working Party outlines all the terms and conditions that the Observer must meet before becoming a member. After becoming a member of

WTO, the Observer must agree to follow all WTO rules. It must agree to make the legislative and structural changes needed to meet these rules.

The Observer then negotiates bilateral trade agreements with any country it wishes. The agreements will set, reduce, or remove tariffs. The agreements will open up access to the countries' markets. They will also adjust different policies to trade goods and services more freely. Every agreement must also be applied to all other WTO members. That means the bilateral agreements can take a long time to negotiate because the stakes are so high.

At the fifth stage the Working Party drafts the terms of membership. The so-called Accession Package has three agreements. It includes changes that the observer has made to its trade policies. It also contains the terms of bilateral trade agreements. It also has a membership treaty, called the Protocol of Accession. Last but not least is the list of commitments made by the applicant. Those obligations are called the schedules.

Finally the General Council approves the Protocol of Accession. It issues its decision and publishes the approved Protocol of Accession. The country has only three months to rectify the agreement. After rectifications, it notifies the WTO Secretariat. One month later, it becomes a member.

At the moment, Belarus remains the only country in the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), deprived of the preferential advantages in the world trade related to the membership in the WTO. In these circumstances our country is forced to fulfill almost all the requirements of the international trade organization without being its member.

This situation leaves no alternative to the Belarusian authorities. They have to intensify the negotiation process with the WTO in order to be able to compete on equal terms both within the EAEU and abroad. For the last 20 years, Belarus has been trying to harmonize the terms of accession with WTO members.

Unlike the governments of a number of other EAEU countries, the Belarusian government most adequately assesses the risks to its economy associated with the opening of the national market. Therefore, for Belarus today the question of conditions of participation in the WTO is more relevant than the question of accession to this organization. The negotiations are conducted in four areas: bringing national legislation in line with the WTO multilateral agreements, access to the market of goods, access to the market of services, state support for agriculture.

The conditions of our country's membership in the organization should be considered taking into account the structure and characteristics of the Belarusian economy.

The formation of positive effects from the expected membership of Belarus in the WTO depends entirely on the conditions of accession to this organization, which the Republic will be able to secure in the negotiation process, the

duration of the transition period and the tools to mitigate the negative effects through reforms of the system of state regulation and the development of its competitive advantages.

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CYNOLOGICAL SERVICE OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

Кинологическая служба Республики Беларусь

Кудрова А.А.

Научный руководитель: к. пед. наук, Веремейчик О.В.
Белорусский национальный технический университет

The use of specially trained dogs for the detection of illicit substances (narcotic and explosive) is actively practiced all over the world along with expensive instrumental methods. The development of canine service, as a part of the operational task of finding and detecting objects of smuggling, is currently