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DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY OF CUSTOMS SERVICE OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

Стратегия развития таможенной службы Республики Беларусь

Макухин Д.И., Маркович И.Д.

Научный руководитель: преп. Мойсеёнок Н.С.

Белорусский национальный технический университет

Nowadays we live in a rapidly changing world. Participating in foreign economic activity is a key driver for the successful development of our country. International trade is governed by the rules of trading systems and national governments. Customs is the authority which is responsible for the administration of Customs law and collection of duties and taxes and which is also has the responsibility for the application of other laws and regulations relating to the importation, exportation, movement or storage of goods.

Modern Customs service of the Republic of Belarus is under the objective influence of the regional and international challenges and trends that have a direct impact on its development and, ultimately, on the work results and safety in the sphere of foreign economic activity of the state. Under these conditions, the phased modernization and improvement of Customs service is an important part of the safety of the Belarusian Customs border of the Eurasian Economic Union, in order to meet modern challenges and threats and develop foreign economic relations of Belarus with other states and the national economy as a whole [4].

The State Customs Committee has developed the basic directions of the development of Customs service of the Republic of Belarus for 2016-2020 and forecast period up to 2025. Also it was created indicators for assessing fulfillment of the tasks which were set in the Guidelines and the Program for the Implementation of Measures. The idea of rapprochement is based on the orders of the President, international experience and trends of Customs activity in the current and projected conditions, long-term international agreements, conceptual approaches of the World Customs Organization to build an efficient Customs service, scientific forecasts of sustainable socio-economic development of the Republic of Belarus.

The Belarusian Customs is moving towards the simplification of Customs formalities and the reduction of the time for Customs operations. One of the important and promising innovations introduced by the Customs authorities of

Belarus among the EAEU countries is the experiments on the automatic release of goods placed under the Customs procedures for export, import and transit.

The signing of the agreement on the Customs Code of the Eurasian Economic Union in 2015 played a significant role for the Union of Belarus, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Russia. The Customs code was created in conditions of search for a reasonable compromise between the interests of the EAEU member countries, as well as between the state and business [2].

The strategic objectives of the Customs service of the Republic of Belarus specified in the Customs code of the EAEU are the following:

- to ensure economic security of the country and a rapid response to emerging risks and threats in the sphere of Customs service;
- to exercise tax, currency, export and other types of control in accordance with the legislation;
- to arrange facilities for business by improving the quality and effectiveness of Customs administration with optimization of expenses on ensuring activity.

These objectives will allow maintaining high positions in the World Bank "Doing Business" report in the terms of "International trade", providing investment and transit attractiveness of the Republic of Belarus for transportation of goods.

Gradually modernization and improvement of checkpoints at the border are seen as an important tool for ensuring security of the Customs border of the EAEU, development of foreign economic relations of the country with other states and the national economy as a whole.

The implementation of programs for the development of road checkpoints over the past decades has made it possible to increase the capacity of checkpoints, to create the necessary conditions for full-scale implementation of information and communication technologies, to ensure proper level of control at the border, and to optimize the situation with a reduction in the number of control services without losing the quality of their Customs operations.

Organizational and technological modernization in the digital economic conditions and modern technological modes allow the Belarusian Customs service significantly reduce business costs for Customs clearance.

In the context of export-oriented economy, transit openness and enterprise freedom, the Customs service of Belarus will work towards optimization of the movement of commodity flows and the development of Customs logistics.

The implementation of measures of the development of Customs service will reduce corruption in the Customs sphere and minimize commitment of crimes connected with corruption by Customs officials.

The Guidelines of the development of Customs service of the Republic of Belarus for 2016-2020 have the specific tasks which are closely connected with the interests of the business community such as:

1. advance declaration technology. It increases the share of electronic advance declarations from 30% to 70%, consequently, automatic release on such declarations increases from 0 to 20%. It is anticipated the shift to the use of electronic remote form of inquiries to Customs authorities while supplying applications in order to release tax stamps, including banks and non-bank financial institutions in the register, applications for refund of overpaid Customs duties in trade turnover, as well as a number of other documents, which nowadays are supplied in paper form.

2. further development of a central database of personal accounts of taxpayers. As a result, it will be possible to control the payment of Customs charges in real-time before the release of goods. Business entities will be able to receive relevant information about the status of their personal account at any time. In accordance with the Guidelines, by the end of 2020 the share of automatically released goods will have increased to 25% on export and 10% on import. The time of Customs operations will be reduced through the cooperation with the concerned authorities in the automated control of the documents, confirming compliance with the prohibitions and restrictions. For example, it is possible to define the increase of the share of exported goods, the release time of which is no more than 5 minutes that will allow the country to raise amount of released goods up to 75%. Concerning imported goods, the release time of which is not more than 2 hours, its release will be raised up to 90%.

3. diminution of control operations. In addition to the introduction of an automatic transit it is planned to minimize the control operations with the maintenance of the security of goods supply on the basis of risk analysis systems. By 2020, the Customs clearance of 80% of transit goods should be less than 10 minutes [1].

According to the Chairman of the State Customs Committee, Yury Senko, it is advisable to take into account long-term international agreements, the WCO conceptual approaches to build an effective Customs service model, scientific forecasts of the sustainable social and economic development of Belarus. An important direction is cooperation with China in connection with the large-scale connection of Belarus to the implementation of the initiative to create the economic belt of the Silk Road [3].

Despite a variety of political and administrative pressures and challenges the Belarussian Customs Service faces today, it does its best to maintain the appropriate balance between facilitating legitimate trade and travel ensuring compliance with the laws and regulations as well as introducing innovations in the sphere of Customs service.

Литература

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ADVANTAGES FOR BELARUS TO JOIN THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

Преимущества вступления в ВТО для Беларуси

Махнач В.В., Антонов А.А.

Научный руководитель: преп. Мойсеёнок Н.С.

Белорусский национальный технический университет

The World Trade Organization (WTO) is an intergovernmental organization that is concerned with the regulation of international trade between nations. It consists of 164 members who actively enjoy all the benefits provided by membership in this organization.

Today Belarus is the only country of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) that hasn't got membership in the World Trade Organization.

Not being a member of the WTO but being a member of the EAEU Belarus should fulfil almost all the requirements of the World Trade Organization. This situation leaves the Belarusian authorities no alternative, and the Belarusian government has to intensify the negotiation with the World Trade Organization in order to be able to compete on equal terms both within the EAEU and outside the country.