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CORRUPTION AS A GLOBAL PROBLEM OF MODERN SOCIETY

Коррупция как глобальная проблема современного общества

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Corruption is one of the global problems of our time, which has become one of the most pressing and difficult problems for all countries of the world, including the Republic of Belarus.

It is one of the major problems that Customs authorities face. They are often cited as an example among the most corrupted agencies. The problem of fighting corruption cannot be solved by a country alone, it requires coordinated countermeasures. This implies closer international cooperation in the fight against corruption.

The notion “corruption” is defined as the use by an employee of the public service of his or her official position for mercenary and criminal purposes. Corruption, both in Customs and in other state bodies, is viewed as illegal and unfair actions by officials. In all its manifestations, corruption has an impact on all spheres of society, because of corruption, people's trust in the government decreases.

Considering that Customs authorities play an important role in revenue collection, as well as in ensuring national security, controlling goods and vehicles that are crossing the border, the corruption activity in the Customs authorities can seriously damage the country's economic and political stability.

Nowadays corruption can take different forms such as bribery, extortion, protectionism, illegal distribution of public resources, illegal privatization, unreasonable provision of soft loans and orders, illegal financing of political parties and public organizations, etc.

The level of corruption depends on numerous factors and the most important of which are the level of democracy in the country, the structure of the economy, the welfare of the population and the degree of social inequality, as

well as cultural characteristics. In general, it is proportional to the economic well-being of the country.

According to the research of the rating of Transparency International the countries with the lowest level of corruption are Denmark, New Zealand and Finland. The countries with the highest level of corruption are Somalia, North Korea, Sudan. The Republic of Belarus, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation and Ukraine occupy 119, 126, 136 and 142 places respectively.

Therefore, an uncompromising and decisive fight against corruption is the central element of the internal policy of the Republic of Belarus. The legislative framework for the fight against corruption in all spheres of state activity has been created in the Republic of Belarus. It defines the concept of “corruption”, gives a list of corruption offenses and crimes, identifies specific organizational, preventive measures and mechanisms to combat corruption, and also provides the most severe criminal liability for these crimes.

The basic documents on the basis of which anti-corruption activities are organized in the Republic of Belarus, including the fight against corruption in Customs bodies, are the Law of the Republic of Belarus No. 165-3 of July 20, 2006, on “Combating Corruption”; the Law of the Republic of Belarus of July 15, 2015 No. 305-Z "On the fight against corruption." An important role is played by state programs of combating corruption approved by the President of the Republic of Belarus, providing a set of specific organizational, legal, socio-economic, and organizational and practical measures. These documents have determined a number of restrictions and special requirements for government officials, powers and rights of special units of the prosecution authorities in the sphere of combating corruption.

Giving a bribe is punished with a fine, or correctional labor for up to two years, or arrest, or restriction of freedom for up to two years.

A person who has given a bribe is exempt from criminal liability if an act of extortion of a bribe took place in relation to him or if this person voluntarily declared a deed after giving a bribe. The maximum penalty provided for such offenses is a fine of up to 50 basic units with or without deportation, and if there is a sign of repetition, up to 100 basic units with or without deportation.

Acceptance by an employee of a state body of a bribe, given to him for an act committed within his official authority in favor of a person giving such a bribe is punished with a fine, or deprivation of the right to occupy certain positions or be engaged in certain activities, or correctional labor for up to two years, or arrest, or restriction of freedom for up to three years, or imprisonment for the same period.

The Prosecutor’s Office of the Republic of Belarus has been designated as responsible for organizing the fight against corruption, and has been given special powers.

All customs clearance points contain colorful posters warning about criminal liability for the money left in the documents. This information is provided in both Russian and English. The same messages are posted on information stands and near the workplaces of customs officers. However, despite this, some citizens try to transfer money in various ways as a reward to customs officials, hoping to create a favorable environment for themselves, to gain illegal benefits.

The system established in the Republic of Belarus is aimed at countering corruption in the Customs authorities, which includes anti-corruption regulations that determines the procedure and mechanism for countering corruption. The introduction of modern information technologies, including electronic declaration of goods, which not only simplifies the Customs clearance procedure itself, but also eliminates the personal contact of the Customs official with the declarant, also helps to combat corruption in Customs sphere.

The fight against corruption in the Republic of Belarus is not a short-term campaign, but the most important task of the state in strengthening the independence and sovereignty of our state and ensuring public safety.

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POLITIQUE ANTIDROGUE DE L'UNION EUROPÉENNE

Антинаркотическая политика Европейского союза

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A l'heure actuelle, une des menaces les plus importantes à la sécurité de l'Union européenne est le trafic illicite international de stupéfiants. L'expansion des stupéfiants est étroitement liée avec le terrorisme, la criminalité transfrontalière, la contrebande et la traite des êtres humains; elle porte un grave préjudice aux Etats entiers en poussant hors de la vie normale la population la plus jeune et dynamique.