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PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTIVE DIRECTIONS OF UKRAINE'S INTEGRATION INTO THE EU

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European integration processes in Ukraine have been studied. The relations between Ukraine and the EU in the conditions of globalization are analyzed, the prospects of Ukraine's European integration into the EU are determined. The processes of adaptation of the legislation of Ukraine to the legislation of the EU are investigated. Ukraine's trade partnership with EU countries is analyzed. Rated indicators of trade and economic cooperation between Ukraine and the EU. It is established that according to the results of 2020, the EU remains a key trading partner of Ukraine with a share of 40.7% (in 2019 - 40.1%). Prospects for further cooperation between Ukraine and the European Union have been identified. Barriers in relations between Ukraine and the EU have been identified. Specific proposals have been made for further cooperation between Ukraine and the EU. The expediency and necessity of partnership relations and cooperation between Ukraine and the countries of the European Union are established.

ПРОБЛЕМИ ТА ПЕРСПЕКТИВНІ НАПРЯМКИ ІНТЕГРАЦІЇ УКРАЇНИ В ЄС

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співтовариство

Досліджено євроінтеграційні процеси в Україні. Проаналізовано взаємовідносини України з ЄС в умовах глобалізації, визначено перспективи євроінтеграції України в ЄС. Досліджено процеси адаптації законодавства України до законодавства ЄС. Проаналізовано торговельне партнерство України з країнами ЄС. Оцінено показники торговельно-економічного співробітництва Україна-ЄС. Встановлено, що за результатами 2020 року ЄС залишається ключовим торговельним партнером України із часткою 40,7% (у 2019 р. – 40,1%). Визначено перспективи подальшої співпраці України з країнами Європейського Союзу. Виокремлено бар'єри у відносинах України і країн ЄС. Внесено конкретні пропозиції щодо подальшої співпраці України з країнами ЄС. Встановлено доцільність та необхідність партнерських відносин та співробітництва між Україною та країнами Європейського Союзу.

Problem statement

In recent years, integration processes have begun to play an important role in the world economy, which significantly affects Ukraine's competitiveness on the world stage. Today, Ukraine defines the direction of its foreign policy as a way of integration into the European Union (EU). Ukraine's choice is due to the understanding that integration is one of the main factors contributing to the independence of our state, national security, political stability, economic development, scientific and technological development, helping to establish Ukraine as a European state.

Ukraine is already gradually forming the preconditions for joining the European Union, so our country understands that our economy will take a step towards joining the European economic processes that must be met. Therefore, a whole system of national legal framework in the field of customs relations is being created, the mechanism of

regulation of foreign economic activity is being adjusted through its harmonization in accordance with the norms and standards of GATT / WTO and EU countries. But such integration should be carried out taking into account the peculiarities of the transitional stage of its development, as well as the expected changes in the near future on the European continent, both geopolitical and economic, related to the accession of new countries to the European Union. European will be a complex and lengthy process.

Analysis of recent research and publications

Researchers have studied the problematic issues of Ukraine's integration into the EU. Some of them: Artyomov I. [1], Asheim B. [2], Baganarenko A. [3], Brykova I. [6], Gemi D. [4], Cooke P. [2], Wongrowska M. [4], Zhuravski V. [4], Grajewski P. [4], Efremov O. [5], Poruchnik A. [6], Saban M. [7], Sytnyk S. [8]. But the issue of taking into account

the peculiarities of Ukraine's economic development, uncertainty about the prospects of Ukraine's cooperation with the EU and ways to accelerate it remains unresolved.

Formulation of the goals of the article

Investigate European integration processes, analyze Ukraine's relations with the EU, determine the prospects for European integration.

Presentation of the main material of the study

Ukraine is a priority partner of the European Union (EU). The EU supports Ukraine in ensuring a stable, prosperous and democratic future for its citizens, as well as the idea of its independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty, as evidenced by the situation with the annexation of Crimea, the European Union and violation of the integrity of Ukraine's borders, which goes against legal actions [9].

Currently, the process of adapting the legislative framework of Ukraine to EU legislation is underway, its essence is to approximate to the modern European legal system, this step will ensure the development of political, entrepreneurial, social, cultural activity of Ukrainian citizens. gradual increase in the welfare of citizens, bringing it to the level prevailing in the EU member states.

Adaptation of Ukrainian legislation involves reforming its legal system and gradually bringing it into line with European standards and includes private, customs, labor, financial, tax legislation, legislation on intellectual property, labor protection, life and health, environment, consumer protection, technical rules and standards, transport, and other areas identified under the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement. An important factor in reforming Ukraine's legal system is Ukraine's participation in Council of Europe conventions, which set common standards for this organization and the EU [10].

The European Union is Ukraine's main trading partner. According to the results of 2020, the EU remains a key trading partner of Ukraine with a share of 40.7% (in 2019 – 40.1%). According to the State Statistics Service of Ukraine, the volume of trade in goods and services with the EU decreased by 9% compared to 2019 and amounted to 48.1 billion dollars. USA [11].

During this period, exports of goods and services to the EU decreased by 9.4% and amounted to 21.9 billion dollars. USA. Imports of goods and services from the EU fell by 8.7% to \$26.3 billion. USA [12].

The trade balance with the EU in 2020 remained negative for Ukraine, but fell to –4.4 billion dollars. US (in 2019 the balance was –4.6 billion US dollars).

The volume of trade in goods between Ukraine and the EU in 2020 amounted to 42.1 billion US dollars, which is 8.1% less than in 2019. At the same time, exports of goods to EU countries decreased by 10.3% and amounted to 18.6 billion dollars. US imports of goods fell by 6.2% to \$23.5 billion. USA [13].

Since European integration has both advantages and risks, Ukraine should focus on using the positive aspects of European integration, but also calculate the risks, implement a policy to manage these risks. The analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of Ukraine's integration into the EU allows

us to state that Ukraine needs to focus on its strengths and potential opportunities, which will provide the prospect of entering the European political and economic space [7].

Regarding the prospects of Ukraine's accession to the EU, Lithuanian Ambassador to Ukraine V. Sarapinas recently stated that this is possible in the near future. According to him, during Lithuania's second leadership in the Council of the European Union in 2027, the European Union could declare Ukraine a candidate for EU membership. He reminded of the initiative of Lithuanian Prime Minister A. Kubilius «Ukraine-2027», which aims to help unite the efforts of member states and EU institutions to help Ukraine implement reforms [14].

D. Shmygal also announced the launch of new areas of strategic partnership between Ukraine and the European Union. According to him, first, this is the direction of critical raw materials. The development of modern technologies and green energy poses new challenges to Europe. It is estimated that the European Union estimates that the demand for lithium used in the manufacture of batteries will increase 18 times by 2030 and 60 times by 2050. Ukraine has the largest lithium deposits on the European continent [15; 16].

He also noted that the second area of cooperation with the EU is cooperation in the field of hydrogen production, a promising energy resource. As Ukraine has 15 nuclear power units, Ukraine has a huge potential for stable hydrogen production and is ready to develop it together with Europe, having a constant market there. The third area is cooperation in the space industry. Ukraine has advanced technologies, enterprises, a strong production and personnel school, and scientific potential in this area. All this is extremely interesting for the European Union today [17; 18].

Despite some misunderstandings in the relations between Ukraine and the EU, the attention to our country is quite high. It should be noted that even the lockdown did not prevent the holding of the Association Council with the participation of MEPs and the delegation of Ukraine live, headed by the Prime Minister of Ukraine D. Shmygal. Back in October, the EU held the first «live» summit with the President of Ukraine V. Zelensky since the beginning of the pandemic. In February, the Prime Minister of Ukraine D. Shmygal was received in Brussels. The result of his visit was the Ukraine-EU Association Council, which took place on 11 February [15; 19].

The EU held a similar event with Serbia in December via video conference. The same fate awaits the meeting with Tajikistan. Instead, the EU postponed the Council of the Association with Ukraine from December to February to meet with Ukrainian officials live. And this meeting took place, despite the fact that the situation with the COVID-19 pandemic has not improved.

According to observers, this demonstrates Ukraine's importance for the EU. EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy J. Borrell told a news conference following the Association Council: «Everyone knows that the partnership with Ukraine is one of the most strategically important of all we have in the world.» Mr Borrell also stressed that the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement is the most comprehensive of all EU treaties [20; 21].

Authorities say Ukraine's relations with the European Union are at a good level and will only improve – first of all, deepening economic cooperation, but experts predict that Ukraine will be able to join the European Union in a decade [1].

Own suggestions

The best-case scenario so far is to learn from European experience, actively cooperate and exchange technology and human resources with the EU. Before joining the EU, Ukraine must first solve its internal problems, comply with EU requirements and adhere to the rules established by the Association Agreement. It is promising to focus on the experience of countries that have recently joined the EU.

Conclusions

So, in the end, I would like to say that Ukraine's accession to the European Union will be the beginning of

a new Ukraine. These relationships give us the opportunity to show what we are capable of, open new markets, ways to improve all areas, the establishment of the legal framework may finally be completed, which will clearly regulate the spheres of public relations. Technology will eventually elevate us to the level of European countries. These processes will launch a number of processes that will be aimed at the economic growth of our country. Starting from the modernization of enterprises to improve any products or services, while reducing production costs and be able to adapt to changing consumer needs, these modernization processes will increase profits and image of enterprises, which will form a good attitude of consumers to Ukrainian enterprises, and the attitude not only of our citizens but also of foreign citizens to our products. This will help the overall economic growth of the country and the formation of the image, will form a favorable attitude towards our country.

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