

THE DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

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There have been active debates about international economic integration processes in the Republic of Belarus recently. The reason for the debate is the creation of the Eurasian Economic Community (EAEC or EurAsEC) of the Customs Union of Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan.

The EAEC was established on 1 January 2012 and today is the most significant, perspective and fast growing integration association among former Soviet Union Republics.

But nowadays, risk issues for the Republic are acute due to Russia's joining the WTO. Belarusian goods are not yet competitive enough and cannot compete successfully with European ones.

The nature of trade relations between Belarus and Russia during the last two decades has not undergone fundamental changes. Hydrocarbon raw materials, ferrous metals, components and materials are imported from Russia and Belarusian foodstuffs, machinery and equipment are mainly supplied to the Russian market.

The European market has great demand and is a major consumer of goods of the Belarusian petrochemical industry.

However, the European market is closed for Belarusian food and high-technology products because of their low competitiveness. That's why Belarus cannot fully utilize investment and technological potential of Western cooperation.

To use all the advantages of participation of Belarus in EEP it is necessary to join all the innovation clusters (pharmaceutical, automobile, agricultural machinery engineering) being formed and it is also necessary to create large industrial holding companies in cooperation with other member-states.

The implementation of joint industry programs will help to pull together positions in the fields where direct competitive pressures take place. Nowadays the exporting potential of small and medium business sector of Belarus is not used fully to develop integration links. To activate foreign economic activities of the subjects of business within EEP it is necessary to develop a unified interstate business platform project.

The most important way to use the integration potential of EEP effectively is to develop scientific and technical cooperation. Science and innovations take a key place in the processes of world development, formation of future models of social and economic formations, become guarantors of survival in crises, open new opportunities in the struggle for technological leadership which is becoming more aggravated.

It is necessary to intensify the processes of introduction of scientific achievements into production.

The Belarusian economy and science can successfully cooperate with the world scientific community, first of all in the following directions: information and software; nanotechnologies and nanomaterials; power effective technologies; genetics and biotechnology; ecological stability and radiation safety; the effective use of the international transport corridors.

The Republic of Belarus possesses a number of potential competitive advantages:

1. advantageous geographical and geopolitical position and considerable transit potential;
2. diversified industrial complex;
3. considerable scientific and technical potential;
4. high general educational level of the population at low labor costs and versatile system of preparation of qualified personnel;
5. the developed system of transport communications;
6. multivector foreign economic relations and a developed commodity distribution network abroad.

To realize all these advantages, to modernize and to raise the competitiveness of national economy it is necessary to develop the package of measures, providing fast adaptation of social and economic policy of the state to new external and internal conditions connected with the integration of our country in world economy and aggravation of the international competition.

Realization of the basic provisions will allow to create favorable conditions for active development of integration processes, development of science and innovations, continuous increase of technological capabilities of domestic production and its competitiveness on global markets. It will also improve the quality of life of the population so that it will correspond to that of the most developed countries of the world, strengthen national security of the countries being integrated.

Literature

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