

PROBLEMS OF UKRAINE EUROINTEGRATION AND HISTORICAL ASPECTS

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Everyone knows that Ukraine's questionable reputation in the world is that of one of the most corrupted countries. This is not only an obstacle on our path into the civilized world and an impediment for economic development, but also a real threat to Ukraine's national security. More exactly, the existence of certain obstacles at the legislative level should be recalled. Claims against Ukraine in the area of the protection of intellectual property rights, the state's overwhelming interference in the regulation of trade, etc., are well known. Without getting into detail, it is possible to identify two principal groups of factors which stand in the way of Ukraine's soonest possible integration into the EU — external and internal factors. The external factors include, first of all, the undefined position of the EU itself with respect to the geographical borders of the future European Union, and even the timeframe for admitting new members. If the dispute with respect to the first question today has a mostly long-term character, and the nature of that polemic allows for a certain lag prior to the final answer, the second one requires quick, efficient actions that have been thought out in detail. Nevertheless, over the recent period, even the EU has become increasingly aware of the growing disparity between the real speed of the enlargement process and declared political ambitions. Even those EU politicians considered to be “Euro-enthusiasts” are beginning to speak openly about this. An example in this respect is the speech of the EU Enlargement Commissar G.Ferhoigen at the World Congress of the International Chamber of Commerce (May 4, 2000, Budapest).

On the other hand, the results of a survey conducted by the German Chamber of Commerce and Industry on the basis of an analysis of the dynamics of the economic parameters of candidate countries, also point to their real readiness to join the EU no earlier than 2004, or even later. Despite a certain paradoxical component of these developments, the EU's undefined stance at the present moment can turn into a positive development for Ukraine: the application of the EU's criteria for defining the individual readiness of a given country for membership, as well as the process of the EU's own internal reforming being put off in time, under certain conditions, provide Ukraine with the possibility of catching up with its Central and Eastern European neighbors with the goal of joining candidate countries for EU membership.

In this context, it would be logical to define the second group of factors that hold back Ukraine's European integration — the internal factors.

It should be noted that we are still experiencing the consequences of insufficiently co-ordinated measures for economic reforms and the assignments of the European integration. At the same time, today's dynamics of overcoming these consequences inspires optimism.

In particular, the nature of the tasks defined in the Message of the President of Ukraine to the Verkhovna Rada of "Ukraine: Entry into the 21st Century. The Strategy for Economic and Social Development for 2000-2004", as well as those formulated in the Programme of action of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine for 2000, demonstrate the decisive determination to co-ordinate measures with respect to the above-mentioned directions of the transformation processes in Ukraine.

And the last thing: no one has any doubts that the EU is, above all, an economic union, and the decision-making process regarding EU membership is conditioned, not least of all, by economic parameters. That is namely the reason why the undefined character of Ukraine's trade and economic policy (whether it should be liberal, or have a number of restrictions with respect to competitors on the national market) should be removed as a first step. The backing of this conclusion with a number of practical actions by executive bodies would become an effective catalyst in the process of Ukraine's integration into the single European economic space.

Literature

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