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UKRAINE'S PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL INTEGRATION PROCESSES WITH EU

УЧАСТЬ УКРАЇНИ В МІЖНАРОДНИХ ІНТЕГРАЦІЙНИХ ПРОЦЕСАХ З БОКУ ЄС

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The article highlights the main objectives of Ukraine's foreign economic policy, the prerequisites for Ukraine's integration into the European Union. The requirements set by the commonwealth to be met are shown. The need for a clear national security strategy is noted. Attention is paid to the phased implementation of Ukraine's integration priorities in Western Europe with a focus on creating a free trade zone between Ukraine and the EU. The preconditions and introduction of the first stages of preparation for the implementation of Ukraine's international integration into the European Union are highlighted in the article.

Keywords: integration, Ukraine, the EU, partnership, decentralization.

У статті висвітлено основні завдання зовнішньоекономічної політики України, передумови інтеграції України до Європейського Союзу. Показані вимоги, висунуті співдружністю, які мають бути виконані. Зазначена необхідність чіткої стратегії національної безпеки країни. Приділено увагу етапності реалізації інтеграційних пріоритетів України в Західній Європі з орієнтацією на створення зони вільної торгівлі між Україною та ЄС.

Ключові слова: інтеграція, Україна, ЄС, партнерство, децентралізація.

Statement of the problem in general. The current state of economic development involves the implementation of the program of socio-economic development policy of integration processes. The integration of the economy determines a promising way to improve and expand global processes in various sectors of the economy. Integration as a process that cannot be imagined without increasing the number of partners and developing the latest technologies and services. Although integration processes do not always lead to positive consequences in the economy, due to the excessive influence of those ideas and processes that are part of the processes of an integrated state. Therefore, this topic is relevant.

Analysis of recent research and publications. Domestic scientists, in particular Kukharska N.A., pay much attention to the study of various aspects of Ukraine's European integration. In general, our study is based on the laws and bylaws of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, as well as articles of the Ministry of Finance of Ukraine.

Objectives of the article. The purpose of the article is to highlight the current situation in relations between Ukraine, the EU and other countries, the preconditions for their emergence and prospects for development.

Presentation of the main material. Ukraine's position between the Russian Federation and the European Union determines its special European function: its historical, cultural and, most importantly, family and personal ties with Russia, on the one hand, and its Polish and Habsburg heritage, on the other - forms a wide "intersection of sets" between Russia and Europe.

After Ukraine gained state independence, gradual integration into European structures and the establishment of multilateral cooperation with the EU became its main geostrategic priorities. European integration is not only a factor in accelerating the economic development of EU countries, their growing importance in international trade, monetary and financial relations, but also the center of

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gravity of geopolitical interests of many countries. Obtaining full membership in Ukraine's leading continental economic and political organizations can be considered prerequisites for the most organic model of realization of its interests on the world stage, its transformation into an active participant in the life of the world community.

Following the first Ukraine-EU summit in September 1997, Ukraine's leadership issued a statement of intent to become an EU associate partner. At the second summit in June 1998, Ukraine expressed its interest in developing a long-term strategy for bilateral relations with the EU, noting that Ukraine's European choice remains unchanged and its place as a Central European state in modern Europe is clearly defined. Ukraine's undisputed priority is to acquire associate and then full membership in the EU. To implement this course, the President signed a decree of February 24, 1998 "On ensuring the implementation of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between Ukraine and the EU and improving the mechanism of cooperation with the EU" and a decree of June 11, 1998 "On approval of Ukraine's integration strategy to European Union".

In December 1999, the Declaration of the European Council on the Common Strategy of the EU Member States was adopted, which defined the new nature of relations with Ukraine in terms of its place and role in European security.

In order to implement Ukraine's strategic course towards European integration, the President of Ukraine approved the "Program of Ukraine's Integration into the European Union" (2000), which should become the main tool of the national strategy on Ukraine's approach to the EU in all aspects of cooperation - political, social, financial, economic, trade, scientific, educational, cultural, etc. This document identifies ways and stages of implementation of the main priorities aimed at achieving compliance of transformation processes in Ukraine with the Copenhagen criteria. After the Verkhovna Rada approved in 2000 the President's Address "Ukraine: progress in the XXI century. Economic and Social Policy Strategy for 2000–2004." [1] the course of European integration is becoming an official priority of national integration policy.

Further stages in the development of Ukraine's integration into the European Union were the Address of the President of Ukraine to the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine "European Choice. Conceptual principles of the strategy of economic and social development of Ukraine for 2002-2011" [2] and the Strategy of economic and social development of Ukraine for 2004-2015 "Through European integration" [58], the ultimate goal of which is the acquisition by our country of full membership in the European Union. In addition, on March 18, 2004, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine approved the National Program for the Adaptation of Ukrainian Legislation to EU Legislation [3].

These documents determined that integration into European structures requires the development and implementation of a model of relations with the country's regions and their management, which would comply with the principles of EU regional policy, namely - partnership, subsidiarity, decentralization, concentration, program.

On February 22, 2005, the Ukraine-EU Action Plan was signed. This document included provisions on the beginning of a dialogue on the formation of a free trade area between Ukraine and the EU. In 2009, instead of the Action Plan, the EU-Ukraine Association Agenda was agreed upon, which became a fundamentally new instrument based on the principles of political association and economic integration. According to the Ukraine-EU Association Agenda, our country must:

1) continue progress in establishing a full-fledged market economy, including the issues of price formation, control over state subsidies and construction of a legal framework that guarantees fair competition;

2) move forward in the gradual approximation of the legislative and regulatory framework to EU standards and ensure its effective implementation;

3) improve the investment climate, which includes transparency, predictability and simplification of state regulation, and the application of these rules;

4) make progress in macroeconomic stabilization and growth, namely:
- strengthen the independence of the NBU, including, if necessary, amending the Law of Ukraine "On the National Bank" to bring it into line with EU standards;
- reform the taxation system and the pension system.

Thus, the presence of a clear national security strategy in the future becomes a necessary prerequisite for the development of the country, the stable dynamics of which is impossible without a clear vision of its role and place in the modern world, without a systematic assessment of its prospects.

However, despite the adoption of these important programs and documents, Ukraine has not yet created real preconditions not only for our country's accession to the EU, but also for its recognition as an "associate" member.

At the Copenhagen European Council in 1993, the Heads of State and Government adopted the so-called "Copenhagen" criteria, which should be used to assess candidate countries for EU membership. From a political perspective, candidate countries must establish stable institutions that guarantee democracy, the rule of law, human rights, and respect for and protection of the rights of national minorities.

The economic criteria for candidate countries are:

- evidence of the existence of a truly functioning market economy;
- ability to compete in the EU internal market;
- the ability to make commitments related to accession to the European Union (meaning the practical application of the *acquis communautaire*);
- the European Union's own interest in the markets of certain countries.

In addition to achieving the "Copenhagen" criteria for EU accession, Ukraine must meet two conditions in reaching the European level [4]:

- development of technologies and labor productivity;
- well-being and living standards.

Conclusion. To integrate into the European Community, Ukraine must achieve the indicators set out in the Maastricht Treaty for candidate countries: the stability of its currency; reducing the inflation rate to 2% per year (in 2014 - 25%, in 2015 - 46%); budget deficit up to 3% of GDP (in 2014 - 5%); public debt - up to 60% of GDP; GDP per capita - 10 thousand US dollars (in 2014, this figure in Ukraine amounted to 2.3 thousand dollars) [5; 6; 7]. That is, the main problems facing the enterprises of the real sector of the economy are the growth rates of production, labor productivity, competitiveness of goods, wages. The mechanism of management of the enterprises and industrial complexes of economy of the transformation period should be focused on the decision of these questions.

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