

EUROPEAN INTEGRATION: IS UKRAINE READY TO BECOME A MEMBER OF EU?

Nowadays, there is an important question about the establishment of friendly and partner relations between Ukraine and the European Union. The EU is an active participant in today's geopolitical space. European Union is one of the most significant geopolitical events of the XX century. As a result of extensive and deep integration, European Union became a powerful geopolitical center.

Actually, relations between Ukraine and the European Union were first established in December 1991, when the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, holding the Presidency of the EU at that time, officially recognized Ukrainian independence on behalf of the European Union.

The intention of Ukraine to develop the relations with the EU which are based on the principles of integration was announced long time before. In the Decision of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine (the Parliament of Ukraine) adopted on the 2nd of July 1993 «On the Key Directions of the Foreign Policy of Ukraine», Ukraine declared its European integration aspirations for the first time. The document indicated that «the priority of Ukrainian foreign policy is Ukrainian membership in the European Communities, as long as it does not harm its national interests. In order to maintain stable relations with the EU, Ukraine shall conclude a Partnership and Cooperation Agreement, the implementation of which shall become the first step towards its association and, later, full membership in this organization.[1]Ukraine was the first CIS country to sign a Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) with the EU, in 1994. European integration was declared to be the government's strategic goal. However, the PCA was ratified by the EU states only in 1998.

The policy of Ukraine aiming to develop Ukraine – EU relations is based on the Law of Ukraine dating from the 1st of July 2010 «On the Foundations of Internal and Foreign Policy» [6; 7]

According to Article 11 of this Law, one of the key elements of Ukrainian external policy is «ensuring the integration of Ukraine into the European political, economic and legal area in order to obtain the EU membership».

The basic interest and the main priority of Ukraine's foreign policy today, is its growth as an independent state and at the same time with the conservation of

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national values, cultural identity, social, economic security and political sovereignty.

The implementation of the basic national interests is an important prerequisite for the security, welfare, social and cultural progress for all citizens of Ukraine. The European choice of Ukraine is natural and quite law-governed. It can be explained by several factors.

First of all, there is a geographic and civilizational affinity between Ukraine and Europe. With the accession of Poland, Slovakia and Hungary in 2004, and Romania in 2007 to the EU, countries which are bordered with Ukraine, our country has become a direct border with the EU.

Secondly, this is the Ukrainian historical tradition of cooperation with other European nations.

Thus, taking into account the geographical location of Ukraine, general culture and philosophy of perception of social values, Ukrainians naturally oriented to the EU, as living standards and values that dominate in it, the nearest for Ukraine [2].

Rapprochement with the EU will ensure gradual improvement of investment attractiveness, which will increase the social welfare.

The attractiveness of European markets for Ukraine is obvious. It means an access to the sources of foreign exchange and investment, new technologies. That is why the course of Ukraine's integration in to the EU is a priority of its domestic and foreign policy.[3]

With this in mind, we can identify the main causes in an effort of Ukrainian's integration with the EU: guarantee of territorial integrity; guarantee of human rights, fundamental freedoms and improving of living standards; involvement of foreign investment, new technologies; access to global markets; harmonization of national legislation with European standards.[4]

In past years, observed the development of our country, there are several factors that delay the movement of Ukraine in this direction.

Among these factors a decisive role play next issues: discrepancy of democratic mechanisms and the state of civil society with European standards; low level of economic development, low GDP and per capita income; immaturity of the basic institutions of the economy.

Analysis of the above mentioned «deterrence factors», allows us to identify important activities of the government of Ukraine to implement to the European integration, such as: profound structural transformation that are necessary to ensure sustainable economic growth in Ukraine; democratization of social relations; deepening of border and customs cooperation; coordination of the fight against organized crime, illegal migration etc.

From the joining the EU, Ukraine can get not only the guarantee of integrity, support from influential European countries, but such benefits as political, economic and social.

As for political benefits, one of the main positives of Ukraine's membership in the EU is to ensure the country's stable political system and European collective security. It is in the interest of the European Union to ensure peace and stability within its borders to have the irrevocably stable and democratic states with a predictable and friendly foreign policy.

Economic benefits: being in the EU, which has a market economy with a high level of competitiveness, will be a motivation factor for macro-economic stability. In addition, Ukraine will receive great benefits from the introduction of the single currency, which according to prevailing perceptions and expectations, will have an important long-term positive effects.

Also trade with the EU is an important source of hard currency, it can limit the barter, the extent of which threatens the economic security of the country now. It can gain subsidies for agriculture. As a member of the EU, Ukraine will join the effective common agricultural policy of the European Community.[3]

Social benefits:

- Effective protection of human rights in the EU institutions.

Human rights is one of the most important institutions of law of any modern state. Human rights are individual rights which have found their place in the national constitutions and treaties of international law. They cover rights, which are relating to personal and political freedom and basic social and economic rights.

- Opening the borders for free movement of people.

Ukraine's accession to the EU and accession to the Schengen visa-free area contains many advantages in social terms because it provides the freedom of movement through the European continent for the purpose of employment, education, treatment, recreation and more.

- Providing a high standard of living.

The main feature of EU is a real ensuring a high standard of living, especially in the first league, which is previously integrated into the European Economic system and therefore Ukraine's accession to the EU will mean a gradual raising of living standards.

- Formation of the middle class.

The matter of great political, economic and social weight- strengthen the middle class, the proportion of which must reach 45-50% of the total population, at the same time with reducing the proportion of people with incomes below the subsistence minimum. The formation of the middle class foresee the transition to

a new model of consumption, namely to those standards that provide a decent standard of living and stimulate the development of the internal market, employment and business activity of the population. In particular, it is a high-quality housing, high availability of durable goods, the availability of quality medical and personal services, and education. [5]

But if our strategy for the entry into the European Union will be successful, our country can face with such a disadvantage, like the complexity of the transition to European prices. After the entry into the EU in the short term, we can face the risks which faced such countries as Poland or the Baltic states. It is the problem of the transition to European prices, which leads to a sharp rise in prices of essential goods. We must be prepared for the fact that the price of the products can quickly grow up twice or even three times.

Thus, the real challenge is to guarantee that our society shares common European values and tries to embody them into Ukraine's reality. Political necessity for Ukraine is to draw conclusions from our own mistakes and to pluck up courage for a new phase of its foreign policy. It prompts us to do what is in Ukraine's interests. These are: to implement political reform and to complete economic reform, to adopt national legislation to European norms, to create favourable conditions for foreign investors.

Of course, when we speak of Ukraine's European integration, it is first and foremost about deeds, not words. Also we must take into account the existing threats and the experience of countries that have recently joined the EU, so Ukrainian citizens should be well informed about the risks and benefits of the country's accession to the EU.

The aim of Ukraine remains unchanged – to construct a strong democratic European nation worthy to become a member of EU.

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ОСОБЛИВОСТІ МІЖНАРОДНО-ПРАВОВОЇ ВІДПОВІДАЛЬНОСТІ ДЕРЖАВ

На сьогодні дуже актуальним є питання міжнародно-правової відповідальності суб'єктів міжнародного права. І хоча дослідженням цього інституту вчені займаються вже досить давно, проте досі існують суперечності між науковцями і виокремити одностайну позицію дуже складно. Як відомо, на національному рівні питання юридичної відповідальності є чітко визначеним. Чому ж саме в міжнародному праві виникає складність в цьому інституті? Відповісти на це запитання я спробую в своїй роботі.

Не викликає сумнівів той факт, що юридична відповідальність має загальносуспільний характер через те, що будь-яке суспільство складається з індивідів, які взаємопов'язані між собою. Таке суспільство зможе існувати лише тоді, коли кожен буде зазнавати негативних наслідків збоку держави за вчинені правопорушення, бо завдяки цьому будуть реалізовуватися як державні, так й індивідуальні інтереси. Не є винятком і держава, тому що вона існує на міжнародній арені не сама по собі, а має політичні, економічні, культурні та інші зв'язки з іншими державами.

Так, стаття 1 Текстів проектів статей про відповідальність держав за міжнародно-протиправні діяння, що прийняті Комісією міжнародного права

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