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GENERAL TRENDS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF FOREIGN TRADE REGULATION IN THE AGE OF GLOBALIZATION

Research Field:

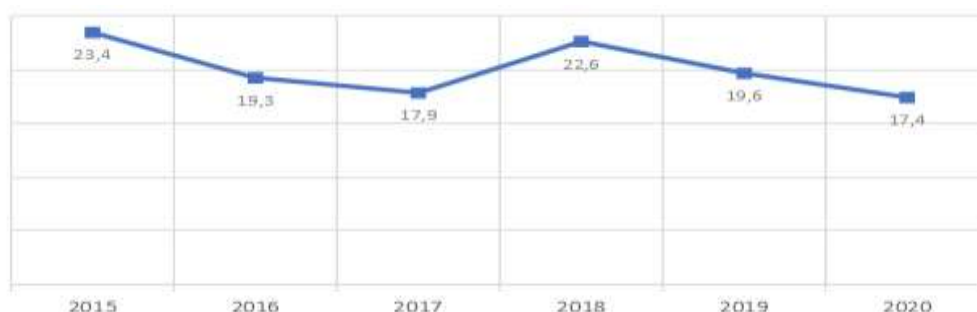
Customs in the age of globalization and regionalization

With free trade as its goal, the world community seeks to reduce barriers to trade. The World Trade Organization (WTO) aims at stable, predictable and free trade flows among its members¹. The contradiction lies already in the wording, since stability and predictability are provided by control, and the flow of goods free from barriers will be mobile and changeable. Also, the elimination of customs-tariff and non-tariff regulatory measures, as the main methods of managing foreign trade in goods, is hardly possible and necessary: there is no alternative to protect the domestic market, human health and the environment.

Customs duty as the oldest method of regulating trade still exists, which is directly related to the functions it fulfils². The first one is a protective function. It is realized in the following way: established import customs duties increase the value of imported products, thus making them less competitive in comparison with the products of domestic producers.

The distributional function of customs duties can also be distinguished: the impact on the volume and structure of aggregate demand, the process of reproduction of fixed capital, the change in the structure of production costs.

But while these two functions can be replaced by non-tariff measures of regulation, the fiscal function, which generates a significant part of the budget, remains the key one.



¹ About WTO [Electronic resource] / World Trade Organization. – Mode of access: https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/thewto_e.htm. – Date of access: 16.04.2022.

² Тарарышкіна, Л.И. Таможенныя плацежы / Л.И. Тарарышкіна, Ю.В. Тарарышкін. – Мінск: БГУ, 2022. – 287 с.: ил.

Figure 1: Share (%) of tax revenues from foreign economic activity in the national budget of the Republic of Belarus¹

The presented graph shows that the role of customs payments in the formation of the budget of the Republic of Belarus is quite large. This situation is generally typical for developing countries, which makes it impossible to abandon customs and tariff regulation.

Since the second half of the last century, the use of non-tariff instruments in international trade by the world's nations has increased, especially since the 1980s. The trend has continued over the past two decades: while in the early 2000s there were about 3,500 non-tariff measures in the world, then in 2010 - more than 6 thousand, and by the beginning of 2020 - more than 13 thousand². There has also been an increase in their diversity, as shown in the table below.

Table 1. UNCTAD International Classification of Non-Tariff Regulation Measures³

Imports	Technical measures	A Sanitary and phytosanitary measures B Technical barriers to trade C Pre-shipment inspection and other formalities
	Non-technical measures	D Contingent trade-protective measures Non-automatic import licensing, quotas, prohibitions, quantity-control measures and other restrictions not including sanitary and phytosanitary measures or measures relating to technical barriers to trade E F Price-control measures, including additional taxes and charges G Finance measures H Measures affecting competition I Trade-related investment measures G Distribution restrictions K Restrictions on post-sales services L Subsidies and other forms of support M Government procurement restrictions N Intellectual property O Rules of origin
Exports		P Export-related measures

Thus, it can be seen that, unlike customs-tariff measures, non-tariff regulation has a much larger number of ways to implement it. This raises the problem that non-tariff measures are more insidious and discriminatory than tariffs. Tariff measures, including the determination of tax

¹ Аналитические доклады «О состоянии государственных финансов Республики Беларусь» [Электронный ресурс] / Министерство финансов Республики Беларусь. – Режим доступа: https://www.minfin.gov.by/ru/budgetary_policy/analytical_reports/. – Дата доступа: 10.03.2023.

² По данным Всемирной торговой организации [Электронный ресурс] / ВТО. – Режим доступа: <http://itip.wto.org/goods/Forms/TableView.aspx?mode=modify&action=search>. – Дата доступа: 10.03.2023.

³ Международная классификация нетарифных мер [Электронный ресурс] / Организация Объединенных Наций. – Режим доступа: https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/ditctab2019d5_ru.pdf. – Дата доступа: 20.04.2023.

rates and fee methods, are transparent and exporters can obtain relevant information relatively easily. In addition, tariff measures are less discriminatory and are usually limited to bilateral relations and international multilateral trade agreements. Some non-tariff measures are often less transparent, largely hidden, and also quite strongly targeted, making it easy to apply different approaches to other countries.

Non-tariff barriers can be more restrictive to trade than actual tariffs. With the exception of a few sensitive goods where tariffs remain high, it is non-tariff barriers that are the real barrier to international trade today. The trade policy study of 91 countries, held in 2009, showed that non-tariff barriers are equivalent to 12% tariff barrier in the whole sample. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) found that non-tariff barriers contribute more than twice as much as tariffs to overall market access restrictions¹. It turns out that despite the goals set, countries continue to strengthen control over foreign trade in goods.

A relatively new trend is to address issues related to the protection of the environment and human health at the international level. Organized environmental crime networks increasingly operate as global transnational corporations, connecting local resources to global markets through complex and interconnected networks, often embedded within the business community and government, sometimes including those tasked with protecting wildlife. Therefore, in 2004, the Green Customs International Initiative² was born, which is a partnership of international organizations working together to prevent illegal trade in environmentally sensitive goods and promote their legitimate trade.

Table 2. Multilateral environmental agreements (hereinafter referred to as MEAs) concluded under the initiative

Name of MEA	In the Belarus
The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal	March 9, 2000
The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity	September 11, 2003
CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora)	November 8, 1995
Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer	October 25, 1988
The Rotterdam Convention (promote shared responsibility and cooperative efforts among Parties in the international trade of certain hazardous chemicals)	-
The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants	December 26, 2003

¹ Non-tariff barriers [Electronic resource] / Institute for government. – Mode of access: <https://www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/article/explainer/non-tariff-barriers#:~:text=A%20non-tariff%20barrier%20is,country%20goods%20were%20produced%20in.> – Date of access: 10.04.2023.

² About Green Customs [Electronic resource] / The Green Customs Initiative. – Mode of access: <https://www.greencustoms.org/who-we-are.> – Date of access: 20.04.2023.

Once the MEA enters into force, those states and organisations that have agreed to be bound by it are legally bound by its provisions. The problem, however, is that there is no mechanism to prevent circumvention of the MEAs. For example, contrary to the provisions of the Basel Convention, large quantities of obsolete equipment are being shipped to Ghana under the guise of humanitarian aid. Their disposal has spoiled the environment and reduced the life expectancy of the people. But the threat is not only to the local population but also to those whose devices have been sent there, as locals with sufficient knowledge of technology can recover information once stored on such devices. This is not only people's personal data (photos, bank accounts) but also information of national significance.

Thus, the goals of globalisation aimed at free trade are not being realised (the trend is exactly the opposite), and the goals aimed at environmentally and health-friendly flows of goods have been achieved only partially.

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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES USED IN THE CUSTOMS SERVICE OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Research field:

Modern technical means as the basis for effective customs control at the border.

The Republic of Korea is an industrially developed open-type state, better known as South Korea. Today, the state holds leading positions in the world in information technology, robotics and other areas. It is worth mentioning that the Republic of Korea is open to tourists from all countries all year round. Consequently, information technology has not bypassed the customs service of South Korea.

Export and import declaration in remote mode and customs control in electronic form have been used in South Korea for decades. With the help of this system, the Korean Customs Service carries out about 120 million transactions per year, connecting more than 80 thousand importers and other subjects of foreign economic activity (customs representatives, banks, carriers, forwarders, airlines, owners of customs warehouses) via the Internet. [1].

The model of customs administration based on information technologies used by the Korean customs includes four elements. We will focus on each of them in more detail.

1. Full electronic customs clearance [1]