

POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ADVANTAGES OF SIGNING THE ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN UKRAINE AND THE EU

Formulation of the problem. One of the most important and at the same time difficult problems of Ukraine is the issue of European and Euro-Atlantic integration. European integration is Ukraine's main foreign policy priority. This issue is really relevant for the Ukrainian people, because it is a way to bring the country to a new level, modernize the economy and other areas, attract foreign investment and develop technology. It will also help make Ukraine more competitive and better in medicine, science and education. Therefore, European integration is extremely necessary and can provide our country with many opportunities for a better present and future.

Aim. Identify the political and economic benefits that Ukraine has received since the signing of the Association Agreement with the EU.

Presentation of the material. The Association Agreement is the largest international legal document in the history of Ukraine and the largest international agreement with a third country ever concluded by the European Union in terms of its scope and thematic coverage. The political part of the agreement was signed on March 21 in 2014, the economic part - on June 27 in 2014, and it entered into force on September 1 in 2017.

The economic part of the Agreement to some extent covers the main areas and sectors of the economy. The very fact that the Parties agreed on such a diverse set of actions in terms of content and number of mutual agreements is evidence that Ukraine and the EU intend not only to take cooperation to a qualitatively new level, but also to significantly bring Ukraine's economic system closer to the EU economic system. First of all, the movement of goods, capital and services, harmonization of approaches and principles on which sectoral policies and systems of regulation of production and commercial activities are based. The Association Agreement also envisages the development of an intensive dialogue between Ukraine and the EU, which will cover a wide range of issues - from discussing the prospects for the development of certain industries to consultations on the regulation of certain areas and dispute resolution.

Ukrainian society today needs objective and comprehensive information on the main economic, institutional and social effects of the Association Agreement. This need is conditioned by the fact that the vast majority of the economic provisions of the Agreement actually determine the content of the reforms that Ukraine must implement in order to really modernize and become a successful country in the broadest sense of the word.

The signing of the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the EU should be considered an exaggeration as a historic event in the relations between the parties. But if for the European Union the Association Agreement means the success of the Eastern Partnership policy, for Ukraine the Agreement is in fact a choice of strategic direction for reforming the country and further integration into the system of modern world economic relations. At the same time, we must be aware that Ukraine will be able to make the most effective use of the modernization potential of the Agreement only if it clearly, timely and fully fulfills its obligations. And this will require an adequate intellectual understanding of current socio-economic problems and processes, restorative political efforts, institutional capacity and financial costs. There is another point that should be emphasized. The implementation of the Agreement is a threefold process. And the main responsibility for its success lies with politicians and the Government, because they are the ones who shape and implement the relevant economic policy. Ultimately, it is up to them to decide whether the Association Agreement will be an effective tool for reforming and modernizing Ukraine, whether the Agreement will remain another formal document, and whether the idea of integration and related changes will simply be discredited.

I also would like to mention more specifically the positive consequences of Ukraine's accession to the EU:

- political: Participation in European collective security and guarantee, with its help, territorial inviolability of Ukraine;
- Stability of the political system and adaptation of national legislation to legislation EU, reform of incompetent national judiciary;
- economic: Macroeconomic stability, new markets for Ukrainian goods and additional investment in the Ukrainian economy, subsidies to degrading agriculture, reduction of customs tariffs and obtaining a positive trade balance;
- Ensuring the development of medium and small businesses, implementation of EU standards in production, increasing the competitiveness of domestic enterprises;
- social: Effective protection of human rights in the EU institutions, opening borders for free movement population and expanding opportunities for education, work and leisure, ensuring a high standard of living;
- Formation of the middle class, reform of education, health care, social protection etc;
- cultural (ideological): Wide access to the EU's information potential. Dissemination of Ukrainian culture in EU countries.

Conclusion. Integration to the European Union is a real chance for Ukraine to finally become a stable state with undeniable prospects for the future. European integration provides opportunities for economic development, strengthening Ukraine's position in the world system of international relations. But despite the fact that Ukraine is taking certain steps to achieve its goals and is improving, it is worth remembering that it can always be better, so there are still many unresolved issues. But European integration has given impetus to move further faster.

References

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