

Dear Colleagues!



The Ukrainian practice of numerous international conventions and national concepts implementation has identified a large number of contradictions in the area of foreign trade state regulation. The activities directed to resolving these contradictions have clearly indicated a need to improve not only the quality of interaction between Customs and business community, but also the level of theoretical knowledge in the matters related to international trade and Customs affairs.

These issues are becoming more and more crucial for Ukraine in the light of the commitments taken under the new international agreements, which in one way or another mention "trade facilitation".

The global world considers the total content of the activity, contemporary called "trade facilitation", to be the result of a fairly long evolution process of both trade practices and relationships between trade (as a subject of private law) and public authorities. For states, whose experience is reflected in the mandatory or recommended standards of relevant international instruments, each step of evolution meant only another step up the previously established basis (customs, legal standards, practices, professional knowledge, skills, etc.).

For Ukraine, however, facilitation of trade ultimately means building a completely new basis to instantly overcome the stages of evolution that were missed during the period of the state monopoly of foreign trade and its consequences. There are two key stages in this process: a stage of transition to the use of information technologies in general (while performing current functions) and a stage of the working methods adoption based on the processing of formalized information (for instance, risk management). In fact, these are the methods to determine the configuration of the modern trade facilitation.

The process of Ukraine's integration into the world trade, closely connected with the issue of improving the national system of trade regulation, requires development and implementation into the daily practice of fundamentally new approaches to cooperation between Customs administrations and business community.

The Secretary General of the World Customs Organization Kunio Mikuriya stated that the events of the first decade of the XXI century had clearly revealed the need for close cooperation between all the participants of international trade. This is a key to the dynamic development of the world economy and all the projects together with initiatives proposed for implementation in this field should be assessed against it. Today it's time to launch an active dialogue with stakeholders, which will enable to experience innovation principles and allow to quickly and effectively address the challenges facing Customs administrations at the present stage.

Issuing the journal creates favorable conditions for the knowledge and experience exchange in the field of cooperation between Customs administrations and business community as well as expands possibilities to conduct virtual discussions for anyone who takes a scientific or professional interest in this field. The results of this exchange and discussions will undoubtedly be a useful theoretical and practical contribution to the overall success.

In this regard, I wish dedication and inspiration to the editorial board and the authors of scientific publications as well as trade and Customs community.

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