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ECONOMIC AND MIGRATION RELATIONS BETWEEN BELARUS AND KAZAKHSTAN IN THE FRAMEWORK OF EURASIAN ECONOMIC UNION (EEU)

Abstract

This article encompasses bilateral relations between Kazakhstan and Belarus within the framework of the EEU. The economic relations and migration processes of the two countries and in the EEU space are also discussed. The free trade zone created within the framework of the EAEU, for example, contributes to a smoother and more equal entry of the countries participating in this integration mechanism into the world economic system, which is particularly relevant given the current international economic and migration relations. The risks of migration processes within the framework of the Eurasian economic Union (EAEU) are studied from the point of view of three participants: migrants, countries of departure and countries of arrival. Study of the process of forming a single labor market in the Eurasian space within the framework of the Kazakhstan, Belarus, and Russian Federation. The study analyzes the approaches of leading Kazakh and Belarusian experts involved in the system analysis of the problem under study. In the course of working on the material, the author used the system-analytical method, the historical-analytical method, and the method of economic forecasting.

Keywords: bilateral relation, Kazakhstan, Belarus, migration process, EAEU, Customs Union, Economic Cooperation, the Russian Federation.

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¹Тарих ғылымдарының кандидаты, доцент e-mail: tanirbergenlaura@gmail.com, тел.: +77012521251 ²халықаралық қатынастар "мамандығының магистрі" e-mail: xan.9701@gmail.com, тел.: +77087673943 Халықаралық қатынастар және әлемдік экономика кафедрасы, Халықаралық қатынастар факультеті Әл-Фараби атындағы Қазақ Ұлттық Университеті, Алматы қ. Қазақстан

ЕУРАЗИЯЛЫҚ ЭКОНОМИКАЛЫҚ ОДАҚ (ЕАЭО) ШЕҢБЕРІНДЕГІ БЕЛАРУСЬ ПЕН ҚАЗАҚСТАН АРАСЫНДАҒЫ ЭКОНОМИКАЛЫҚ ЖӘНЕ КӨШІ-ҚОН ҚАТЫНАСТАРЫ

Аңдатпа

Мақалада ЕАЭО аясындағы Қазақстан мен Беларуссия арасындағы екіжақты қатынастар қарастырылған. Екі елдің және ЕАЭО-дағы экономикалық қатынастар мен көші-қон процестері де талқыланады. ЕАЭО шеңберінде құрылған еркін сауда аймағы, мысалы, қазіргі интеграциялық механизмге қатысушы елдердің әлемдік экономикалық жүйеге біркелкі және тең дәрежеде енуіне ықпал етеді, бұл қазіргі заманғы халықаралық экономикалық және көші-қон қатынастарында ерекше маңызды. Еуразиялық экономикалық одақ (ЕАЭО) аясындағы көші-қон процестерінің тәуекелдері үш қатысушының көзқарасы бойынша зерттеледі: мигранттар, шығушы елдер және келуші елдер. ЕАЭО туралы шартпен кепілдендірілген және Қазақстан, Беларуссия және Ресей Федерациясының интеграциясының нысаны мен әдісін ұсынатын ЕАЭО шеңберіндегі еуразиялық кеңістіктегі бірыңғай еңбек нарығын қалыптастыру үдерісін зерттеу. Зерттеу барысында талқыланып отырған мәселені жүйелік талдауға қатысатын жетекші қазақстандық және беларуссиялық мамандардың тәсілдері талданады. Материалмен жұмыс жасау барысында жүйелік-сараптамалық әдіс, тарихи-сараптамалық әдіс және экономикалық болжау әдісі қолданылды.

Түйінді сөздер: екіжақты қатынастар, Қазақстан, Беларуссия, көші-қон процесі, ЕАЭО, Кеден одағы, экономикалық ынтымақтастық, Ресей Федерациясы.

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ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКИЕ И МИГРАЦИОННЫЕ ОТНОШЕНИЯ МЕЖДУ БЕЛАРУСЬ И КАЗАХСТАН В РАМКАХ ЕВРАЗИЙСКОГО ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКОГО СОЮЗА (ЕАЭС)

Аннотация

Данная статья охватывает двусторонние отношения между Казахстаном и Беларусью в рамках ЕАЭС. Обсуждаются также экономические отношения и миграционные процессы двух стран и на пространстве ЕАЭС. Созданная в рамках ЕАЭС зона свободной торговли, например, способствует более плавному и равноправному вхождению стран-участниц этого интеграционного механизма в мировую экономическую систему, что особенню актуально в современных международных экономических и миграционных отношениях. Риски миграционных процессов в рамках Евразийского экономического союза (ЕАЭС) изучаются с точки зрения трех участников: мигрантов, стран выезда и стран прибытия. Исследование процесса формирования единого рынка труда на евразийском пространстве в рамках ЕАЭС, гарантированного Договором о ЕАЭС и представляющего собой форму и метод интеграции Казахстана, Беларуси и Российской Федерации. В исследовании анализируются подходы ведущих казахстанских и белорусских специалистов, занимающихся системным анализом исследуемой проблемы. В процессе работы над материалом использовались системно-аналитический метод, историкоаналитический метод, метод экономического прогнозирования.

Ключевые слова: двусторонние отношения, Казахстан, Беларусь, миграционный процесс, ЕАЭС, Таможенный союз, экономическое сотрудничество, Российская Федерация.

Introduction

After Kazakhstan and Belarus gained independence, their political priorities, economic interests and cultural priorities (migration process) are of increasing interest, since the political course of these countries, given their strategic position (Kazakhstan is located in the center of Asia, and Belarus is located in the center of Europe), has a geopolitical significance for the future of the modern world, for its order and stability. Kazakhstan and Belarus have a common economic past: in Soviet times, Kazakhstan remained a raw material appendage of the center for decades, and Belarus - the "Assembly shop" of Soviet engineering. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, all members of the USSR were disrupted by industrial relations and the newly independent countries (former Soviet countries) faced an economic crisis, each country tried to find a way out of this crisis on its own. However, in the early 1990s, the two republics were already faced with the task of resuming economic relations, which could only be done on the basis of integration, but this time on principles fundamentally different from the basic principles of the USSR. These were the key strategic tasks on which the authorities of Kazakhstan and Belarus focused their efforts. In the international arena, the two countries traditionally share common views and similar approaches to the formation of a fa ir world order, building equal and mutually beneficial economic and migration cooperation, ensuring global and regional security, and developing multi-level integration processes. Another component of the international legal framework for regulating labor migration between Kazakhstan and Belarus is interstate agreements within the Eurasian Economic Community (EurAsEC), the Customs Union (CU) and other interstate associations. The first Belarusians appeared on the territory of modern Kazakhstan after the uprising of Kastus Kalinovsky (Bronislav Zalessky and others). At the beginning of the 20th century, during the Stolypin agrarian reform, Belarusian peasants moved to Kazakhstan. During the Stalinist repressions, Belarusian cultural figures were exiled to Kazakhstan (Vladimir Duditsky, Petro Bitel, Jan Skrygan, Simon Khursik, etc.). With the beginning of the Great Patriotic War, 10.7 thousand workers and employees, their family members were evacuated from Belarus. The first Kazakhs settled on the Belarusian land not so long ago - in the middle of the last century. The oldest generation of Kazakhs of the public association "Ata-Meken" (which means "Father's Land") went through the Great Patriotic War, took part in the liberation of Belarus, and then left to live on this generous and kind land. Many Kazakhs, who today make up the Belarusian Kazakh diaspora, studied, served in the army or worked in Belarus during the Soviet Union. The Main regulatory document in the field of labor migration in the Republic of Kazakhstan is the agreement on cooperation in the field of labor migration and social protection of migrant workers in the CIS countries.

Experimental

The methodological basis of the research is a set of general scientific approaches to the study of traditional and new concepts for the development of mutually beneficial and sustainable economic, scientific, technical, cultural, migration relations between countries, as well as for the development of relevant legal, organizational and infrastructure components of this process and also schools of international relations. Theory in international relations including the school of neo liberalism asserts on the bilateral relationship can allow states to successfully cooperate in international relations. Its leading idea can be formulated as follows: intensification, world economic freedom of the market, globalization. Another

school of international relations - constructivism, including bilateral relations in international relations based on a social culture that is created on the basis of social values. This target setting is considered as a necessary condition for the social and economic, migration progress of the Belarusian and Kazakh societies. As the main directions of long-term Belarusian-Kazakh trade and economic cooperation implemented on the territory of both States.

Economic relations of Kazakhstan and Belarus in this article is understood as "Belarus-Kazakhstan interaction in the context of deepening integration in the post – Soviet (Eurasian) space in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries and assessing the impact of the integration factor on the state of bilateral cooperation between the Republic of Belarus and the Republic of Kazakhstan in the context of the Customs Union, the Common economic space (CES) and the Eurasian economic Union (EEU) in 2011-2015"[1].

An analysis of economic and migration relations in the late XX – early XXI century has shown that we will focus on Russia's integration priorities in relation to its closest political and economic partners – Kazakhstan and Belarus. One of these forms of integration relations between Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan is the Customs Union (here in after – the CU). As well as migration processes in the XX century and the beginning of the XXI century developed rapidly. In the modern globalizing society, which has both positive and negative consequences for the development of the Republic of Kazakhstan. In the XXI century, migration processes affect the population, the movement of capital and the development of territories, the formation of the legal and political culture of society.

The desire to establish friendly and mutually beneficial relations with the Republic of Kazakhstan has been among the most important foreign policy priorities of the Republic of Belarus since its entry into the international arena as a sovereign and independent state. The successful development of cooperation was facilitated by the active participation of the two countries in the integration processes in the post-Soviet space, although there were certain differences in the approaches of the leaders of Belarus and Kazakhstan to the prospects of integration. While for the Belarusian leadership, especially in the second half of the 1990s, the main priority was to strengthen the political institutions of integration associations, the Kazakh leadership considered it more important to solve the economic problems caused by the fragmentation of the post-Soviet space.

Results and Discussions

Formation elements of Kazakhstan and Belarus bilateral relations and cooperation in the framework Eurasian Economic Union

At that time, after the collapse of the Soviet Union, all the countries that gained independence in economic and political terms were very vulnerable. To enter the international arena, all post-Soviet countries had to unite in the framework of integration and regionalization. As a result, The Union of Independent States was formed in the early 90's. After that on September 16, 1992, the Republic of Belarus and the Republic of Kazakhstan established diplomatic relations [2]. It was during the Soviet period of the historical development of Belarus and Kazakhstan that a strong economic and cultural Foundation was laid for further successful interstate cooperation.

However, over time, there are still some differences in the approaches of Alexander Lukashenko and Nursultan Nazarbayev to the new unions in Eurasia. If the Belarusian side sought first of all to strengthen the political institutions of integration associations, the Kazakh leadership considered the economic interaction of the parties to be more important. But this in no way hindered the development of strong political ties between the republics. Meetings between officials of Belarus and Kazakhstan were not only successful, but also supported by the creation of organizational structures. So, in 1996, the Belarusian-Kazakh intergovernmental Commission on trade and economic cooperation has started its work.

The main reasons for the decline in trade include a lack of systemic efforts on both sides in implementing the agreements achieved and a lack of initiative among the business circles of the two countries (the main reason); inadequate use of traditional specialization patterns; significant differences in the legislative framework; and mutual non payments by economic agents. Other factors include low efficiency of joint ventures; high cost of transit of Kazakhstan and Belarus goods through the territory of Russia; insufficiently effective payment mechanism, under which payments can only be made in freely convertible currency; lack of a single quotation for the two national currencies; and the problem of collection of VAT and indirect taxes. The most difficult aspect of bilateral relations is trade and economic cooperation. Belarus and Kazakhstan are strategic partners. Their mutual economic interests stem primarily from the high level of historically established economic, industrial and technological contacts in many sectors of the national economy, and from the objective need to maintain and develop them on an equal basis. In addition, Kazakhstan and Belarus have established a free trade regime without any exceptions or restrictions. Belarus is interested in the products of Kazakhstan's ferrous and non-ferrous metallurgy, in the supply of lead car batteries, hides, oil, grain, flour and cereals. And Kazakhstan buys Belarusian wheeled tractors, forage harvesters, trucks, household appliances, consumer goods and food. In 1996-1997, mutual trade exceeded \$ 200 million. At that time, Belarus was the third largest trading partner of Kazakhstan (after Russia and Ukraine). These two years were marked by a sharp increase in bilateral economic relations, including trade. In 1998, Belarus was already ranked sixth among Kazakhstan's trading partners [3].

In 2000, Kazakhstan's oil transit through Belarus amounted to 2 million tons. In 2001, about 1 million tons of oil were processed under tolling agreements [4].

Measures designed to remedy these shortcomings are envisaged in the above-mentioned Program of Long-Term Economic Cooperation for 1999-2008. In the process of its fulfillment, it is necessary to address the following tasks:

- to bring closer together the legal frameworks of the two countries in the area of regulation of foreign economic activity and the tax system, and to carry out measures for the mutual protection of national commodity producers and for the development of interregional cooperation;

- to elaborate specific interstate projects and programs of economic cooperation and to set up joint ventures of different type and form of activity;

- to develop and make more effective use of transportation links;

- to work together to develop stock markets.

These transformations, which have to be carried out as part of a concerted structural policy, are connected with a profound structural adjustment of the production potential and affect the interests of both states. Let us note once again that special attention today is paid to the further implementation of Kazakhstan-Belarus agreements reached by the two presidents under the Program of Long-Term Economic Cooperation for 1999-2008. In 2001, deputy heads of government of the two states signed a specified Program of Long-Term Cooperation Measures for 2001-2008, which accentuates systemic efforts to unify the legal framework in such areas as taxation and foreign economic relations, mutual protection of national commodity producers, establishment of interstate business entities and joint ventures, creation of a securities market, and harmonization of approaches to WTO accession. [4].

1-table

The turnover of the Belarusian-Kazakh trade operations

Export and Import of goods	2010		2012		2013			
							2014	
	Billion	as a %	Billion	as a %	Billion	as a %	as a %	Billion
	dollar	of total	dollar	of total	dollar	of total	of total	dollar
	USA	volume	USA	volume	USA	volume	volume	USA
Export of Belarusian goods to Kazakhstan	464,8	1,84	806,9	1,75	870,4	2,34	879,4	2,44
Import of Kazakhstani goods in the	405,8	1,16	119	0,26	82,4	0,19	87,4	0,22
Republic of Belarus								

Договор между Республикой Беларусь и Республикой Казахстан о долгосрочном экономическом сотрудничестве на 2009-2016 годы [Электронный ресурс]. – Режим доступа: http://www.pravo.by/pdf/201257/2012-57(007-009).pdf. – Дата доступа: 10.2020 [5].

2-table

Export and Import of goods	2015	2016	2018	2020
	Billion dollar	Billion dollar	Billion dollar	Billion dollar
	USA	USA	USA	USA
Export of Belarusian goods to Kazakhstan	525,1	363,7	783,7	105,1
Import of Kazakhstani goods in the Republic of Belarus	49,4	55,4	112,4	138,0

https://kazakhstan.mfa.gov.by/ru/bilateral_relations/trade_economic/ [6].

Shortly before the signing of the EEU treaty, Belarus also moved to abolish export duty on crude oil between Russia and Belarus. (Instead, from 2017, export duties of 3.5 billion USD have been set aside in Belarus's state budget) [7]. Prospects for the future of the EAEU.

The Belarusian-Kazakh intergovernmental Commission on trade and economic cooperation continued to work. By the beginning of 2016, it had held 11 meetings. The next meeting, the twelfth in a row, was held in Gomel on July 21, 2016[8]. In 2013, Kazakhstan had 13 joint Assembly plants for the production of Belarusian equipment (trucks, agricultural machinery, elevators, attachments for cars, etc.)[9]. In 2015 in Belarus, there were about 200 enterprises with the participation of Kazakh capital, but they were mainly focused on the financial, rather than the production sphere [10]. Kazakhstan and Belarus ' relations within the EEU not only in economic and political aspects, but also in the migration process also cooperate. Because migration processes started even very early during the great Patriotic war and the 1950s there were migration flows from Belarus.

1-diagram



Currently, the Majilis deputies approved the draft law "On ratification of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Belarus on cooperation in the field of migration". At the plenary session of the chamber, it was noted that the Agreement between the government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Government of the Republic of Belarus on cooperation in the field of migration was made in Nur-Sultan on October 25, 2019. Under the Agreement, the parties cooperate in the field of migration, protecting the rights of citizens of one Party in the territory of another country, including communication, in accordance with the legislation and international obligations of their States[11]. Over 110 thousand ethnic Belarusians now live in Kazakhstan, mostly in the Akmolinsk, Western Kazakhstan, Karaganda, Kostanay and Pavlodar regions. The Belarus embassy in Kazakhstan pays special attention to this diaspora. Eight regional ethnic cultural centers have been set up in the country. So-called Renaissance schools established under the Minor Assemblies of the Peoples of Kazakhstan have opened classes for the study of the Belarusian language, the republic's history and cultural traditions[12]. The Kazakhstan-Belarus Friendship Society set up in Minsk is working actively. To mark the centenary of the birth of the great Kazakh writer M. Auezov in 1997, one of the streets in the Belarus capital was named after him by decision of the Minsk city authorities[13].



The Kazakh context of migration processes within the EAEU is determined by a number of factors, including the direction of migration flows, volumes, effective coordinated interaction within the organization, as well as the development of international cooperation. Creating a common labor market and attracting labor resources within the framework of the EAEU can serve as a powerful incentive to strengthen the priority areas of the country's economy and deepen regional integration. It is important to form a flexible and balanced migration policy, taking into account the specifics of the demographic potential and the development of priority sectors of the economy of Kazakhstan, involving the IRS with an emphasis on highly qualified labor, as well as preserving their own intellectual potential. It is very important to ensure the stability, security and regularity of migration flows based on more integrated cooperation of all member States both within the EAEU and along the entire perimeter of its borders.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the bilateral relations between Kazakhstan and Belarus are constantly developing in various spheres. Many factors influence the rapprochement of the two states. In particular, within the framework of the Eurasian integration organization, there are economic trade relations, migration processes and political and cultural relations. Economic ties in key areas are deepening. The creation of the Customs Union, the CES and the EEU did not have a negative impact on the state of Belarusian-Kazakh economic contacts. Moreover, it was in the economic sphere that the positive results of the Eurasian integration were most visible (expansion of trade in goods and services, harmonization of the legal framework for bilateral trade, etc.). At the same time, the creation of the EAEU did not lead to a significant expansion of Belarusian-Kazakh trade in goods and services, investment in each other's economies, and implementation of joint production projects using advanced technologies. This can be explained by the fact that the new integration Association is still being formed and its member States are in no hurry to sacrifice their sovereignty, including in terms of implementing economic policy (this is evidenced, for example, by Kazakhstan's unilateral accession to the WTO). The Treaty on the EAEU provides for the need to incorporate into the national legislation of the member States contractual requirements, including the legalization of migrant labor, protection of the legal rights of workers in the member States, the formation of an adequate regulatory framework in the field of migration, pension, labor, social security, etc., as well as their coordination and harmonization. The real situation of the workers of the Union member States and their ability to freely carry out their work in any state of the EAEU will largely depend on the solution of this task. The successful development of integration processes in the post-Soviet space will, in turn, make it more effective to manage migration flows and protect the rights of migrant workers. In General, the Kazakh-Belarusian cooperation is characterized by an active political and economic dialogue (in the latter case, with some reservations), equality and partnership within the framework of bilateral and multilateral relations. In this article, we focused on economic and migration issues, and this is quite natural. First, the economy is the area where Kazakh-Belarusian relations have reached their fullest extent. Secondly, the complex and contradictory nature of relations in the economic and migration sphere indicates its indisputable priority in bilateral relations. At the same time, success in economic and migration cooperation is impossible without intensive political contracts. Interaction between the two States, no matter how complex it may be, goes beyond interstate contacts and, in our opinion, is one of the cementing foundations of the EAEU and the CIS as a whole.

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