

CUSTOMS ASPECTS OF INCREASE OF COMPETITIVENESS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

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Abstract: This scientific article investigates customs aspects of increase of competitiveness of the Russian Federation, defines a complex of actions and measures directed in the sense of increasing of competitiveness of the Russian Federation by reforming of customs structures.

Keywords: customs tariff, increase of competitiveness, national economy, customs duties, manufacturing industry, industrial structure, customs procedures, railways.

The purpose of this study is to define a complex of actions and measures directed in the sense of increasing of competitiveness of the Russian Federation.

According to official data of the World Economic Forum, nowadays Russia takes the 64th place in the Global Competitiveness Index. This Index indicates that our country concedes to well-developed countries on many aspects.

Increase of competitiveness is a task of current importance for the country these days.

Leading analysts claim that it is necessary to increase competitiveness of the country by means of improvement of legislation and reforms in economic, social and educational spheres of society.

In this article, the author considers customs system as a factor of increase of competitiveness of the Russian Federation and reveals main customs aspects and instruments of increase of national competitiveness.

For a start, we will consider customs tariff of the Russian Federation as a main instrument of increase of competitiveness of economy of the country. In scientific field, there is a set of opinions about this customs tool.

V.E. Novikov suggests using high rates of the customs tariff for importing goods in support of domestic producer. He believes that these measures might begin the process of reorganization of industrial structure. Novikov also assures that for successful competition on the international scene Russian economics needs diversification – disposal of a raw component and transition to manufacturing industry (Novikov [сайт] <http://www.gosbook.ru/node/60063>).

The author does not agree with the point of view of the analytic Novikov who considers that at present time realization of his ideas is almost impossible. Russia is a member of the World Trade Organization and the customs tariff carries out today only a unique function – fiscal function.

M.A.Tsekoyev has got the opposite opinion. He considers that low customs duties for import equipment will help Russia to attract foreign investors. He claims that it is necessary to develop manufacturing industry to increase national competitiveness of Russia. He believes that foreign investors may help us to develop it (Tsekoyev, 2012). We completely agree with Tsekoyev's opinion.

Elimination of inaccuracies in the Customs Code of the Customs Union too, in turn, has to promote increase of competitiveness of the country. The matter was investigated in details by Pestsova Y.A. in her work "Improvement of legislative base for increase of competitiveness of Russian economy". Pestsova considers that elimination of a number of inaccuracies in customs legislation is capable to lift up customs infrastructure of the country to a higher level and to simplify customs operations. Thereby the level of competitiveness of the country has to increase (Песцова [сайт] <http://www.ibl.ru/konf/120412/sovershenstvovanie-zakonodatelnoj-bazy-v-celjah-povysheniya-konkurentosposobnosti-rossijskoj-jekonomiki.html>). It is hard not to agree with the opinion of the author. We are absolutely convinced that objective processes of globalization demand simplification of customs procedures for increase in turns of world trade.

Increase of competitiveness of Russian Railways is capable to bring economy of Russia to a new level. Today the Trans-Siberian Railway is a kind of intermediary between the West and East countries. Nowadays commission of customs operations at check points is problematic – it takes a lot of time. Qualitatively new customs infrastructure is necessary for Russia. Customs declaration of goods has to be electronic. Introduction of advanced technologies to customs sphere has to increase competitiveness of railroads. Competitiveness of the country has to begin with its roads (Baliyev [сайт] <http://www.rg.ru/2011/09/27/magistal.html>).

The government of the Russian Federation should also have reconsidered such aspect as "transit tariff". China, for example, practices today 15-, and even 35 - 40 percent fall of transit tariffs for constant clients - national and foreign. This experience is adopted by some states of Central Asia and Transcaucasia that, in turn, involves bigger cargo transit to these regions in comparison with the Trans-Siberian Railway.

In addition, there is a number of operational reasons promoting decrease in freight traffic through the Trans-Siberian Railway: it is low throughput ability and lack of "exits" to some ports. These operational defects must be immediately eliminated (ФТС России [сайт] http://yutu.customs.ru/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=23434:2013-08-02-08-54-54&catid=4:news&Itemid=78).

Realization of the above-listed measures, in our opinion, will help Russia to increase competitiveness of the railroads and to bring economy to a new level.

Summing up all the information aforesaid, we come to the following conclusion: increase of competitiveness of the country without customs aspects is impossible. Russia needs foreign investments for economic growth. Foreign investments should be attracted by means of the low import customs duties. Customs legislation without contradictions and defects and qualitatively new customs infrastructure are the key to conducting successful world trade. Realization of the caused measures has to promote economic growth in Russia and to increase its national competitiveness.

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