

us to conclude that these types of the AEO are interested in placing and storing goods on their own premises. The third type of certificate shall give the AEO the right to benefit from the special simplified procedures referred to AEO-1 and AEO-2.

*The terms for inclusion* in the AEO registry have changed with the entry into force of the new Code. The mechanism for the phased reduction of the security for fulfillment of obligations of the duty for AEO-1 is very progressive and should attract the AEO. Among the conditions for including a legal person in the Register of the AEO by way of issuance of the second type of certificate, the most advanced is determining the compliance of the financial sustainability of the AEO. This condition can be considered as an alternative to security for fulfillment of obligations. The conditions for including a legal person in the Register of the AEO by way of issuance of the third type of certificate shall be the same as the conditions for AEO-2.

For the development of the MRA of the AEO between the Republic of Belarus and the PRC and the EU taking into account the recommendations of the WCO and world experience, the following steps are to be undertaken: 1. Fix an authority whose competence will include determining the possibility of the AEO's participation in the MRA; 2. Develop information systems to provide data exchange on the AEO; 3. Identify the conditions on the basis of which the participation of the AEO in the MRA will be approved; 4. Identify the benefits, visit each other and make on-site observation of each other's validation process; 5. Prepare a draft of the MRA; 6. Launch the pilot project, measure outcomes; 7. The entry of the MRA should come into force.

Practical implementation of these recommendations will show their strengths and weaknesses and will allow them to be adjusted, taking into account the interests of the AEO and all states parties of the MRA.

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## **DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION (ON THE EXAMPLE OF MERCOSUR)**

International economic integration is a characteristic feature of the modern stage of development of the world economy. At the end of the 20th century, it became a powerful tool for accelerating development of national economies and contributed to their inclusion into international relations.

International economic integration is a complex of economic relations between integrating countries, characterized by deep interpenetration of

economies and long-term technical, technological and economic interdependence.

The main forms of integration are a free trade zone, a customs union, a common market and an economic union. The transition from lower forms of integration to higher ones is a stage of integration [1].

A successful example of economic integration is the South American integration association MERCOSUR, which arose as a result of rapprochement between Brazil and Argentina in the 80s of the 20th century. This cooperation aimed to confront challenges that Latin American countries faced both on the world stage and within the region. Further, Paraguay and Uruguay officially declared their interest in the regional integration process, thereby demonstrating that this type of political alternative had become attractive for other countries of the region. With the accession of new members, a new phase of integration was launched, marked by the signing of the Asuncion Treaty and the creation of MERCOSUR in 1991 [2].

In its development, the Common Market of the Southern Cone passed three stages of integration: a free trade zone, a customs union and a common market.

The first stage was carried out on the basis of two programs for liberalization of intraregional trade of goods: the Trade Liberalization Program and the Final Adjustment Regime to the Customs Union. The next stage was a formation of a customs union. In 1994 a common external tariff was adopted. As a result, in the second half of the 1990s, progress in convergence was observed, but in the new century, the integration process slowed down. At the stage of a common market creation, the mobility of production factors was ensured by national legislation, rather than by application of the Agreement [3].

After analyzing the main economic and social indicators of MERCOSUR, we can come to the following conclusions. As for intraregional trade indicators, mutual trade increased significantly in absolute terms. However, while at the initial stages of integration it accounted for about 20 % of the total trade volume, at the modern stage it only amounts to about 15 %. Brazil is a dynamic exporter, although it is not so active in buying goods within the region. Argentina, on the contrary, is a more active buyer, but it gradually redirects its goods to foreign markets. For Paraguay and Uruguay, the intraregional market plays a more significant role.

At the subregional level, it should be a matter of concern that the largest and leading economy in the integration process is buying less and less within the region. Therefore, it is necessary to redefine and establish lines of action in relation to domestic production and trade relations [4].

Nevertheless, the modern development of MERCOSUR no longer questions urgency and irreversibility of integration processes in the region. The low growth of world trade, protectionist tendencies, the weakening of multilateral institutions, as well as the disintegrating pressure

of some important economies create an environment in which MERCOSUR can function more successfully than any of its individual members.

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## THE DEVELOPMENT OF AGROTOURISM IN BELARUS: PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS

Tourism plays a major role in the global economy, providing a tenth of the world's gross national product. This sector of the economy is developing rapidly and in the coming years will become its most important sector.

International tourism is an active source of foreign exchange earnings and affects the country's balance of payments. In addition to the impact on the economies of many countries, international tourism affects their social and cultural environment, ecology. The ecology, in turn, affects the tourists.

However, the growth of international tourism causes some negative consequences, such as inflation, environmental destruction and violation of the traditions of the local population. This is particularly evident in developing countries, where tourists from richer industrialized countries impose on their presence their inherent way of life and level of consumption.

Therefore, timely and comprehensive assessment of the effects of international tourism is a very important factor for the formulation of such economic and tourist policies that would make it possible to extract the maximum benefit and prevent the destructive impact of tourism.

*Agrotourism* is gaining popularity in Belarus. Agrotourism (rural tourism, green tourism, agro-ecotourism) rests in the countryside (in villages, farms). It arose as a result of the rapid development of the hotel industry in large resort areas (seaside resorts, ports, spa centers). This form of tourism has become attractive for tourists who prefer peace, true naturalness, and direct contact with local traditions.