

Results of the Study of International Practice of Improving The "Single Window" Mechanism Aimed at Simplifying Procedures International Trade

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Abstract. The article reveals the concept and regulatory framework of the "Single Window" mechanism, presents an analysis of international experience on the successful and effective implementation of this mechanism (for example, Singapore, Sweden, the EU, Thailand, Mozambique). The problems arising during the implementation of the single window concept are presented, the solution of problematic issues arising in practice is proposed, and a number of recommendations are given for the successful implementation of the single window mechanism.

Keywords: Single Window mechanism, simplification, harmonization, international experience

Main part

Today, within the framework of large-scale reforms carried out in our country, systematic work is being carried out on liberalization of foreign economic activity, rapid development of entrepreneurship and tourism, increasing investment and export potential, ensuring transparency of Customs Control and formalization, as well as wide involvement of information and communication technologies in customs bodies. In particular, by introducing new interactive services, automated information system "risk management" and establishing the activities of the Institute "Authorized Economic operator", complex procedures of customs administration were simplified. At the same time, the implementation of modern methods of Customs Administration, the practical application of advanced information and communication technologies, the effective use of the Customs Information System "single window", the full coordination of Customs Service with international standards and the development of scientific potential are also important issues.

In order to increase the efficiency and speed of implementation of control functions of phytosanitary, sanitary-epidemiological, veterinary, environmental control bodies and certification bodies in our country in relation to goods and vehicles transported through the state border, as well as the introduction of interagency electronic cooperation, the decree of the president of the Republic of Uzbekistan № PP-4297 dated April 23, 2019 was adopted. On measures for further improvement of administrative procedures in the implementation of foreign economic activity", according to him, it is envisaged to introduce the Customs Information System "single window" (hereinafter referred to as "Single Window"), which meets the criteria of recommendations and guidelines for simplification of UN trade procedures and creation of "single window" developed by the Center for electronic business operations.

In addition, in accordance with the resolution of the president of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated November 20, 2019 "on measures for further improvement of the business environment in our country and improvement of the entrepreneurship support system" NR PP-4525, starting from February 1, 2020, documents and certificates with the characteristics of permission required in the implementation of export-import operations are issued

In order to create convenience for entrepreneurs and investors, on the basis of the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated 05.06.2020 No. UP-6005 "On reforming customs administration and improving the activities of State Customs Service bodies", from September 1, 2020, the customs information system "Single Window" was introduced at border customs posts;

Today, our main task is to raise customs administration to a new stage, a sharp reduction in the human factor through the digital transformation of customs and cargo operations, the transformation of the customs sphere into a corruption-free system based on the principles of openness, transparency and reliability. To

achieve these results, according to the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated June 27, 2022 No. UP-122 "On additional measures to improve customs administration", it was envisaged to increase the number of services provided through the customs information system "Single Window" with full digitalization of customs services to 40.

Simplification of trade procedures consists in automation, standardization and harmonization of international trade and exchange of trade information. Its main goal is aimed at eliminating formalities of an unnecessarily bureaucratic nature, increasing the effectiveness of established control over commodity flows. Therefore, the use of modern methods, such as "single window" and electronic commerce, related to the provision of trade information, has now become part of the trade strategies of many countries. This, in turn, ensures the effective integration of the economies of these states into the world economy and serves as an important factor on the path of economic development. Currently, the principle of a "single window" has been put into effect in many countries of the world, thanks to which sustainable growth and resource conservation in the economy are achieved.

The experience of foreign countries shows that the "single window" mechanism is a global trend to improve the efficiency of customs authorities. The lack of transparency regarding excessive and lengthy customs clearance processes and multiple documentation requirements leads to increased costs and time required for trade. This, in turn, is a greater barrier to trade than tariffs and quotas.

To date, the Single Window system is used in 73 countries. In 18 countries, systems have been created that involve all government agencies related to foreign economic relations. This system has been partially implemented in 55 countries.

Singapore was the first in the world to introduce the "Single Window" concept. In 1989, the Singapore Government made electronic filing of customs declarations mandatory through the TradeNet system. This system served as the basis for describing the model of an Automated information and Settlement System. The Trad Net system was created as part of a partnership between the public and private sectors: a number of government agencies of Mauritius, the Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Crimson Logic, a partner company that uses its own version of the Trad Net system in Singapore, participated in its implementation. The fee for all services is charged only in case of access to them in addition to the fees for the initial registration and organization of economic activities of each user. The most important is the fact that this project is self-financing and allows you to receive sufficient funds for further investments in the field of e-government within the country. In addition, the Mauritius Trad Net system was purchased by Ghana and subsequently adapted to meet the domestic needs of that country.

Another striking example is the principle of operation of the "Single Window" mechanism in Sweden. Customers using electronic customs declarations receive a response within 90 seconds. If the processing of the declaration takes a longer period of time, the foreign trade participant will have the opportunity to receive frequent updates on the progress of this operation through the SCS and by e-mail. The information received from traders indicates that 80% of them believe that the virtual customs service saves time, 54% reported that it allows them to save money directly, 72% believe that they can act with a higher degree of flexibility, and 65% indicate that the quality and efficiency services have increased. At the same time, the customs authorities were able to reduce costs, improve the efficiency of internal procedures and reorient existing resources for the implementation of core activities.

The Single Window system is constantly developing in the course of the Swedish Government's policy, which is open and focused on strengthening ties with the business community and the population. Customs authorities, along with other partner organizations, are developing this system based on meeting the needs and requests of national and external parties (business circles). This system is fully funded by public funds, and all services are provided free of charge.

In the European Union, the Single Window has existed as a policy recommendation for EU member states since the middle of the last decade. The EU is considering the possibility of creating a Centralized Customs Clearance, and this will be an expanded practical application of the "Single Window" mechanism. Finland applies the concept of "Single Window" within the framework of the PortNet system (national transport/maritime "Single Window"). In addition, beyond the facilitation of trade in goods, the concept of a "Single Window" is known in the legal framework created by the EU Services Directive (Directive 2006/123/EC). At the same time, there are a number of problematic areas: Electronic identification from a

distance, EU directives on money laundering; identification of entities such as trading companies; authentication in an electronic environment, requirements for qualified electronic signatures differ in different countries; exchange of electronic documents and recognition of their legal significance, which standards are used, etc.; in addition, access to government documents differs in different countries, as well as laws on confidentiality and protection of trade secrets.

Using the example of Mozambique and Thailand, it can be considered that the "Single Window" mechanism modernizes the economy, minimizes risks, reduces the time for submitting documents and unites all public and private organizations into a single structure.

Some "Single Window" mechanisms (for example, in Thailand) include a system for ensuring the payment of state excise taxes, taxes, duties and other fees. This may be of great interest to government agencies and commercial enterprises, and is especially important in cases where the system provides for the need to generate income. However, it should be noted that the addition of payment transactions requires significant additional work in the field of coordination, and especially security.

More than 30 countries from all regions of the world have implemented a Single Window mechanism and have received significant benefits due to the reduction of administrative barriers and resources associated with the preparation, presentation and processing of the required official information. Single Window mechanisms equally often reduce transaction costs in the field of foreign trade, increase the level of compliance by trade organizations with the requirements due to more accurate and timely presentation of data, which is accompanied by an increase in state revenues, an increase in the efficiency and effectiveness of management and control at the border.

Studying the international experience, we see that the main objectives of the introduction of a successful Single Window mechanism into the practice of each state are the following:

- reduce the time of release of goods and the number of documents submitted for this purpose;

- ensuring transparent and centralized access to information (regulations, samples of document forms, instructions for filling them out, classifiers, code directories, etc.) regulating foreign economic activity for all participants based on the widespread use in the activities of authorized state authorities of means to ensure remote access of foreign economic activity participants and interested organizations to relevant information using modern ICT and Internet networks;

- improve the risk analysis and management system and fully switch to selective control;

- creation of electronic document flow between participants of foreign economic activity, authorized state authorities and other interested bodies, as well as the system of interdepartmental electronic document flow;

- optimize the use of state and commercial sector resources, including reducing the costs of moving goods and vehicles across the customs border

- to increase the productivity of the customs service, authorized state authorities and participants in foreign trade, without reducing the level of security;

- to attract an additional number of foreign trade participants by reducing administrative barriers, as well as additional costs arising from them;

- to increase the level of coherence and interaction of the customs systems of the countries of the world, as well as other regulatory authorities with each other, using a certain model of data sent through communication channels;

- create incentives for providing foreign trade participants with security (guarantees) of their activities by presenting simplified procedures to law-abiding foreign trade participants that increase the efficiency of foreign trade operations.

In conclusion, it should be noted that the Republic of Uzbekistan is actively working in the field of unification and harmonization of customs procedures, reducing the time of customs control at border customs posts. The time spent on customs control and clearance is the main indicator by which the activities of the customs authorities of any country are evaluated. In this regard, the main goal of the introduction and development of the information system "Single Window" in the customs sphere - optimization of administrative procedures and reduction of barriers in customs and related areas by creating a mechanism for the exchange of information between authorized/interested bodies and organizations, participants of foreign economic activity on the basis of an integrated information system and up-to-date databases that allow

interested parties to submit and receive standardized (in a unified form) documents through a single access channel in order to meet all requirements concerning import, export and transit.

List of used literature

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