являются низкие значения показателей ВРП на душу населения и производительности труда. Подобная ситуация характерна также и для Курской области. Т.е. из приграничных регионов ЦФО только Белгородская и Смоленская области используют конкурентные преимущества, связанные с их приграничным положением, другим приграничным регионам можно рекомендовать эффективнее использовать имеющийся у них резерв наращивания стратегической конкурентоспособности.

Рассмотрим несколько подробнее показатели, характеризующие уровень развития инвестиций и внешней торговли. По показателю инвестиций в основной капитал на первом месте находилась Москва, на втором – Московская область. Значения данного показателя у остальных регионов ЦФО было в десятки раз ниже значения по Москве и примерно в 3 раза ниже значения по Московской области. Ситуация изменилась в 2009-2011 гг. Так, на протяжении данного периода времени лидером по показателю инвестиций в основной капитал стала Липецкая область, также значительно улучшились позиции Калужской, Белгородской, Московской, Тверской и Воронежской областей. В соответствии со значением экспортной квоты внешняя торговля наиболее развита в следующих регионах ЦФО: Белгородской, Липецкой, Московской, Тульской областях, а также в Москве. Следует отметить, что наиболее уверенные позиции по данному показателю занимают Липецкая и Тульская области, Москва, при этом ни один из этих регионов не является приграничным. По показателю иностранных инвестиций на душу населения лидирует Москва. В некоторые годы из рассматриваемого временного периода относительно высокие показатели иностранных инвестиций были характерны для Калужской, Костромской, Липецкой и Московской областей. В целом, показатели иностранных инвестиций на душу населения в регионах ЦФО меньше аналогичного показателя по Москве более чем в пять раз.

Низкие значения показателей инновационного развития, развития инфраструктуры и уровня развития ВЭД и инвестиций негативно влияют на стратегическую конкурентоспособность регионов ЦФО и, соответственно, на текущую конкурентоспособность регионов через ряд лет. В связи с этим мы рекомендуем всем регионам ЦФО, за исключением г. Москва, Белгородской, Московской и Воронежской областей, сосредоточить внимание на повышении значений показателей стратегической конкурентоспособности.

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RUSSIA'S ACCESSION TO THE WTO: GENERAL CONDITIONS, OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSEQUENCES

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Russia has finally joined the World Trade Organization (WTO) at a ceremony in Switzerland 16.11.2011, after 18 years negotiating its membership. It is one of the most significant events that influence the international position of Russia. Formerly Russia was the largest economy in the world that was not a member of the World Trade Organization. It is also the last member of the Group of 20 major economies to join, after China gained membership in 2001.

To join the WTO Russia had to abide some special rules and conditions. A so-called "tariff disarmament" would probably last 7 to 10 years and will proceed through annual gradual reductions in tariffs on finished goods [1].

The obligations assumed by Russia in connection with the entry the WTO, can be divided into 4 groups:

1. Reduction of import tariffs and import quotas. According to the report of the Working Group on Russia's accession to the WTO the average import rate will be reduced from 10% to 7.8%.

In this case, according to the Russian Ministry of Economic Development, reduction of the arithmetic average of the import rate will be 3.6 percentage points (from 12.9 to 9.2 %) and the weighted average rate – 4.7 percentage points (from 11.9 to 7.1%). In any case it will be about 30% and will conclude all sectors of the economy, except production of fuel and energy from natural raw materials, where Russia has no threat from imports.

2. Removing of administrative barriers on the admission of foreign companies to domestic markets. Quantitative import restrictions such as quotas, bans, permits, pre- authorization , licensing or other requirements or restrictions that are not supported by the WTO, should be excluded without possibility of introducing again. Besides, Russia receives the obligation to facilitate the admission of foreign companies on the market for 116 of the 155 service sectors.

3. Reduction of export duties. Russia is to reduce rates of about 700 commodities. Exports of oil and gas will not be affected, and the maximum effect will be made for black and non-ferrous metals, where the export rates will drop to 0%.

4. Commitment to reform legislation and system of government. The Russian legislation for the period of the WTO negotiations gradually was put in compliance with the standards of the organization. However, some commitments have not yet been fully implemented, in particular – in reforming the system of public procurement, transparency of legal acts, responsibility for discrimination of foreign firms and etc.

The first two groups of commitments (reduction of import tariffs and import quotas and removal of administrative barriers), will have the greatest impact on the Russian economy because they are like to facilitate access to Russian market for foreign producers and to lead to reduction of the share of domestic companies in the marke t[2].

Over the past 10 years, the average import tariffs were reduced by 30%. For the tariff positions dutiable at the rate of 30%, the rate were decreased to 20%, the number of tariff positions dutiable at the rate of 25% was 6-time reduced.

New customs tariffs have already led to adverse consequences:

- general weakening of the protection of the Russian economy. Initially the rate cut was justified by the effect of devaluation of the ruble, but to the time of transition to the new rates this effect has completely exhausted itself;
- negative social consequences (as the customs rates decreased in the first place for an expensive and prestigious goods and have not changed for most essential items);
- the narrowing of possibilities for the implementation of differentiated industrial policy (as a result of the general policy on alignment of tariff rates).

As a result, Russia enters the WTO not on the same terms that were 10 years ago.

In the field of non-tariff regulation, we will also abide by WTO international legal norms. Entering the WTO, Russia has an obligation to ensure compliance with WTO rules, the national health system, veterinary and phytosanitary, technical regulations, and

- used by the Russian Federation sanitary, veterinary and phytosanitary measures should be based on international standards, supported by sufficient scientific evidence and risk assessment;
- Russia will retain the right to apply more tough requirements compared to international standards, if it required by the level of protection established in the Russian Federation. Besides Russia will actively participate in the activities of relevant international organizations to develop the standards and recommendations.

So, there are hot discussions in the public and scientific literature about positive and negative effects on Russian caused by its entering the WTO. But anyway , in the short-term, immediate impact of Russia's accession to the WTO is relatively minor. It is just like minor concessions made at the final stage of the negotiations, compared to the concessions made steadily over the course of the entire 12 years. The sectors to suffer most will be pig farming (duties on the import of live pigs have fallen by 87.5%), dairy and cheese production, as well as the manufacture of trucks and buses. Seafood will become more expensive for consumers. The key to understanding the short-term impact of WTO accession is the stance taken by the state banks, which farmers say discontinued livestock loans immediately after WTO accession, and also AvtoVAZ, which has begun importing automotive sheet metal [3].

The domestic automotive industry, rigidly competing with import, is the most sensitive to WTO accession. The consequences may affect the quality of the economic and social development of the country, which, in turn, may lead to the closure of the number of enterprises, the loss of jobs, the growth of unemployment and rehabilitation of the population. However, the extent of the damage will depend on both the terms of our accession to WTO, and the branch actions of the modernization of production, the cost saving.

According to calculations of the total losses for the Russian economy in 2020, due to the entry the WTO in terms of added value amounts to 3.3% (2.5 trillion. rubles) of GDP, including 1.26 trillion rubles in the form of direct losses and 1.24 trillion rubles in the form of lost opportunities of growth. Taken together for 8 years, this effect will amount at least $ 10 trillion.

It is important to notice that joining the WTO will lead to an increase in raw material orientation of the Russian economy. As it is known, our extractive industries- oil and gas, coal, metallurgy, production of mineral fertilizers, etc., will have the least damage from WTO accession In Russian economy the share of these sectors is about 40%. Thus, lost 5.1% of the total output will lead to a 29% loss in turnover of agriculture and the manufacturing sector industry (excluding petrochemical and metallurgy). This slowdown of production development produce a serious threat for the stability of the development of the country, since, as it was shown by the recent worldwide financial and economic crisis in the context of globalization, it first of all hit raw-oriented economies and the national economies not relying on developed industry.

Finally, the WTO membership will contribute to further stratification of society by revenue and increase social tensions in the country, especially in regions where there are no significant reserves of natural resources or facilities for their processing. According to preliminary estimations only 10 regions will almost not lose from membership in the WTO – that in which the volume of industrial production and agriculture to 2020 will receive less than 10% growth. In 42 regions aggregate output will receive less on 20% of growth.

It should also be noticed that the process of accession to the WTO was closed for representatives of many sectors of the economy. This had the dual closed character:

- Firstly, there was not published information concerning the specific conditions of accession commitments and Russia in the context of individual sectors (rates, quotas, etc.). The press has widely covered only the course and the outcome of negotiations, not their actual object;
- Secondly, there weren't taken into account the interests of some of the key sectors of the economy. Some lobby groups have reached a huge success, as the tough negotiators have defended their requirements, others have been put before the fact unexpected concessions.

Although there are a lot of problems, Russia's becoming the WTO member certainly gives a positive political signal. Russia has pronounced its endeavour to further integration into the global economy and to adoption of the common practices of international business. Nevertheless WTO membership is not a panacea for all the problems in the Russian markets, it won't make Russia competitive in the West European market automatically, though it is an important step towards greater efficiency and predictability in the Russian business environment.

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