

European Neighbourhood Policy: key principles

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Abstract - The article considers the policy of the European Union towards neighboring states, including Ukraine; the review of the legal framework of the European Neighborhood Policy and its underlying principles has been done; the attitude of domestic scientists to such program of the EU and their prediction about its impact on the future of Ukraine in the global geopolitical space has been analyzed.

Key words - the European Union, the European Neighbourhood Policy, European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument, Neighboring States, Member States, the Action Plan.

I. Introduction

While pursuing its policy expansion, the European Union simultaneously has an intention to create and maintain a stable relationship with the states, which became its new neighbors. For this purpose European Union within its own foreign policy has developed a program that focuses on cooperation with these countries, called the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP).

II. Main Part

The regulatory framework for the formation of the concept of the European Neighbourhood Policy was publication of the No-tice to Council and European Parliament "Wider Europe – Neighbourhood: A New Framework for Relations with our Eastern and Southern Neighbours" on March 11, 2003 by the European Commission and the Address "European Neighbourhood Policy. Strategy" on May 12, 2004.

The "European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument" (ENPI) was introduced for the financing of the ENP.

The main purpose of the ENPI is to support sustainable development, convergence of policies and standards of the EU member and neighboring states. This activity should be carried out in accordance with the principles of the European Neighbourhood Policy and the approved plans of the EU neighbors. Funds are provided for the programs or projects of each country to comply with the approved plan of action [5].

The concept of the ENP applies to sixteen states: 6 countries of the former Soviet Union (Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine) and 10 countries of Eastern and Southern Mediterranean (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia and the Palestinian Authority) [2].

Implementation of the European Neighbourhood Policy is based on multilateral and bilateral agreements with neighboring countries. Bilaterally EU forms relationships through the implementation of the Action Plans.

The key principles of the ENP are the following:

1) the principle of participation, according to which cooperation priorities will be determined by joint agreement of the parties considering common values and interests;

2) the principle of privileged partnership based on differentiated approach, according to which the depth of relationships with each of the partner countries differs and depends on how effectively common values would be implemented [2].

Thus, EU suggests the privileged relationships for the neighboring countries, that are built on mutual pursuit of common values (democracy and human rights, rule of law, management, market economy principles and sustainable development). The ENP extends beyond existing relationships and offers to deepen political relations and economic integration [6]. The cooperation in issues of information society development, environment protection and also on such issues as: education, health, development of civil society are emphasized. The implementation of these and others objectives, which are set out jointly agreed Action Plans, depends on the level of interest of the neighboring countries in it [2].

Since the early stages of its development and implementation European Neighbourhood Policy has caused controversial estimates of national experts. Many Ukrainian scientists are working on the analysis of the principles of the ENP and its impact on relations with Ukraine. Among them are: O.Kovalyova, O.Sushko, G.Druzenko, O. Dergachov, G.Yavorska, S.Tereshko.

S.Tereshko notes, that the mechanism of ENP is "not able to satisfy the needs of all European Union's neighboring countries". He argues that his policy has united countries from absolutely different geographical regions, which also have completely different perspectives of relations with EU. The researcher claims, that the most post-soviet countries seek the direct membership while the countries of North Africa and West Asia can not qualify to join the EU. They need completely other forms and instruments of cooperation [3].

Some of Ukrainian scientists note that the problem of the neighborhood policy is that it lacks "the prediction of possibility of the fundamental evolution of relations".

As G.Druzenko says, the ENP is "a result of a complicated compromise between Member States and European institution". Pointing on the formation of "the most pro-Russian and the most left parliamentary coalition during the entire history of Ukrainian parliamentarism", which was formed after two years of implementation of the ENP concerning Ukraine, he pays attention to the fact that in a certain way the EU "policy of 'deliberate vagueness' has made its contribution to the architecture of a modern Ukrainian authority".

However, according to the researcher, in difficult circumstances, due to a significant expansion of the EU, the suggested Neighbourhood Policy "gives neighboring countries a real chance to gradually begin to take advantage of the European Economic Area." An important issue at the same time is that the success of

cooperation of neighboring countries and the EU within its policy toward them depends not only on the Member States, but also “directly depends on the government and societies of these states” [1].

As for Ukraine, the years of 2012 and 2013 became the historically important period for it. At that time there was a significant deployment of a new budgetary process of EU, designed for the next seven years – by 2020, taking into account the expenditure items on the possible expansion of the association. It is time when the EU expects Ukraine to confirm European aspirations (a report on the achieving compliance with the Copenhagen criteria, readiness for EU membership and the start of negotiations about it) [4].

Taking this into account, the following benefits of ENP, identified by scientists, should be emphasized: 1) supporting adaptation programs aimed at promoting European standards in the legislation of some countries and European economic and political standards as well; 2) the dimension of justice and internal affairs, aimed at solving the problem related to the eastern border of the EU, namely its modernization, improving the quality and quantity of border guards as well as the intensification of cooperation between the EU and its eastern neighbors in the fight against various kinds of organized crime; 3) cross-border cooperation, that facilitates mutual contacts of local communities on both sides of the European Union border and at the same time prevents illegal immigration; 4) the public dialogue, which provides the support for cooperation between nongovernmental organizations, local authorities in the EU and their counterparts from the former Soviet Union outside the EU; 5) the program of support of transport infrastructure development that aims at the developing and modernizing of existing communication and transport infrastructure, which combines the EU countries with Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, Russia, Georgia, Azerbaijan and others [3].

Conclusion

Thus, the ENP has no direct relationship to the process of EU enlargement and does not make predictions about the future development of the EU neighboring countries. Such peculiarity of ENP causes different assessment of a world society in general and Ukrainian scientists in particular.

However, according to the national scientists, even being put on a par with countries that do not have and cannot have intentions of joining the EU, Ukraine being

an interested in the association state has a good chance to use the ENP as a reference point for the further development of relations with EU with prospects of further integration in this association.

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