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POLICY OF FOOD SECURITY IN THE NOVEL LEGISLATION OF CERTAIN COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD

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SUMMARY

The author has examined recently approved legislative innovations devoted to the food security and its components in different countries, namely: Belarus, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan. The directions of the state policy on stable provision of food security in these countries were highlighted.

Key words: food security, legal regulation, food sovereignty, agro-industrial complex.

ПОЛИТИКА ОБЕСПЕЧЕНИЯ ПРОДОВОЛЬСТВЕННОЙ БЕЗОПАСНОСТИ В НОВЕЛЛАХ ЗАКОНОДАТЕЛЬСТВА НЕКОТОРЫХ СТРАН МИРА

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АННОТАЦИЯ

Автором исследованы утвержденные в последнее время новеллы законодательства, посвященные тематике обеспечения продовольственной безопасности и ее составляющих в некоторых зарубежных странах, в частности: Беларуси, Азербайджане, Казахстане. Освещены направления государственной политики стабильного обеспечения продовольственной безопасности в этих странах.

Ключевые слова: продовольственная безопасность, правовое регулирование, продовольственная независимость, агро-промышленный комплекс.

Problem statement. For most of the world's leading countries, food security is an essential component of economic security. However, food security is one of the main guarantees of ensuring the national security of the state and an important condition for the formation of a full-fledged concept of its successful development and economic growth. It is generally admitted that food security is defined as a health of the economy, in which the State is able to guarantee the satisfaction of food needs at the level necessary to ensure the vital functions of the entire population and the state as a whole. As a consequence, the climate of food security depends directly on the general state and dynamics of the country's economic development, including the agro-industri-

al complex (APC), the food and processing industry.

Analysis of recent publications and research. A significant number of scholars were engaged in researches on the level and directions of the state policy to ensure the stability of the national food sector, in particular, the following domestic and foreign scientists as V. Balabanov, Y. Bilyk, E. Borysenko, P. Borshchevskiy, V. Heets, L. Hrekov, L. Deineko, O. Kochetkov, A. Kuzmin, A. Miroshnychenko, H. Mostovyi, V. Rusan, O. Sobkevych, I. Klymenko, E. Sierova, V. Skorohod, V. Trehobchuk, V. Shamrai, A. Yurchenko, V. Yurchyshyn, etc. [1].

The analysis of the provisions of foreign law regulating the field of food security was carried out by the following scholars: S. Lupshaiev, T. Kurman, A. Tryhub

[2], D. Mishchenko, S. Shcherbyna, etc. However, many issues regarding the definition of legislative measures to improve the food security policy have not been investigated yet.

Purpose of the article is to highlight legislative innovations, in particular recent legislative and regulatory acts devoted to food security and its components in certain foreign countries (namely, Belarus, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan).

Presentation of basic material of the research. The components of food security are the proper functioning of the mechanism for the stable supply of food to end-consumers and providing the processing industry with custom-made raw materials. The basis for creating and maintaining the proper level of food supply of the country is its agro-industrial



production, which provides for the food needs of the population. At the same time, food security can be achieved under the conditions of guaranteed physical and economic access to food supplies. Ensuring food security is an important and urgent problem for both a low level of economic development or developed countries. All countries of the world are keen to create and constantly improve mechanisms for maintaining adequate levels of food security, especially for low-income and socially vulnerable populations.

States of the world are divided into those who achieve food security at the expense of their own production of food in the necessary volumes and those who are forced to import a significant part of food supplies, which is related to spending of funds and leads to strengthening their economic and political dependence on developed countries. In such a manner, ensuring food security envisages joint purposeful and coordinated activity of legislative and executive structures of all levels, scientific and financial institutions, industrialists and entrepreneurs. This involves the creation of appropriate regulatory framework and implementation of effective food supply policy [3, p. 50, 54]. Consequently, ensuring food security is an important factor that characterizes the economic development of any country in the world.

Thus, in Belarus, the Decree of the Council of Ministers dated

December 15, 2017, № 962 [4] approved the Doctrine of National Food Security, which defines the fundamental strategic priorities for providing food supplies to the population of this country by 2030. This Doctrine was adopted instead of the National Food Security Concept of the Republic of Belarus (RB), approved in 2004 [5], which, in modern realities, have objectively lost its relevance, given the new challenges and threats that exist in the context of the need to strengthen food security.

As Academician V.G. Gusakov, the representative of the Belarusian research school, in his researches claimed, the problematic issues in the Republic of Belarus in the outlined format remain the following: a clear understanding of the strategic priorities of food security, taking into account local and regional peculiarities; lack of forecasting options for constructing a balance of imports

and exports of food supplies; absence of effective mechanism of protection of the domestic food market and its conditions [6, p. 166]. Subsequently, these tasks were solved in the abovesaid Doctrine, which in its content in a certain way duplicates a similar document, approved in the Russian Federation in 2010. Structurally, the Doctrine of National Food Security of the Republic of Belarus consists of 11 sections, which summarize the approaches, principles, capabilities and possibilities of the State in the field of building a powerful agro-industrial complex; determine the strategic directions of implementation of the state policy on ensuring food security at the national and regional levels, which, in turn, will provide opportunities to create favorable conditions for meeting the consumer's needs; guarantee everyone free access to high-quality and safe food; as well as support the State concept of healthy lifestyle and rational nutrition.

This normative legal act defines the main tasks of ensuring national food security, which include: stable development of domestic production of the main types of agricultural products, raw materials and food supplies sufficient to ensure food independence and the export potential of the agro-industrial complex; achievement of a high level of physical and economic affordability for the population of safe and high-quality food products in the required volumes and assortment; timely detection, evaluation and forecasting and prevention of internal and external threats to food security, minimization of their negative impact; the formation of a food culture and a high level of public awareness in the food sector, etc.

Besides that, the abovementioned document outlines the concept of food security as a state of the economy, in which, irrespective of the influence of world market conditions and other external factors, the population is guaranteed access to food supplies in the amount necessary for an active and healthy life, the creation of social and economic conditions to maintain the consumption of food at a rational level. It is anticipated that the main criteria for achieving the goals set out in the Doctrine for the dynamic development of national food security by 2030 in Belarus will be:

1) stable development and increase of efficiency of agroindustrial complex;

2) providing the domestic market with quality food products of domestic production;

3) increasing the efficiency of foreign trade in agricultural products and food supplies, etc.

It is expected that the results of the implementation of the basic provisions of the Doctrine should be:

1) to increase the level of food security to the optimistic on the important components (physical availability by 10%, food quality of the population by 25 %);

2) to increase the competitiveness of Belarusian commodity producers in the domestic and foreign markets, including in the world economy.

The document also establishes the necessity of annual preparation and publication of the results of the monitoring of the state of food security for their further submission to the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus until 1 July each year. It is expected that practical implementation of the provisions of the Doctrine of National Food Security will enable Belarus to significantly increase its performance in the global ranking of the Global Food Security Index, to switch from the policy of preferential food imports to a self-sufficiency strategy, to strengthen control over the quality of food products on the domestic food market, promote the implementation of a modern model of development of export agricultural potential of the country.

Azerbaijan also devotes considerable attention to the development and implementation of fundamental legislative initiatives in the field of food security, as the food security system in this country differs significantly from international and European standards and existing best practices. This is due to the fact that the standards of food safety, sanitary and phytosanitary norms and rules that are in force in Azerbaijan were developed in the times of the USSR and are subject to actualization in accordance with international requirements. In this regard, in the opinion of the political leadership of Azerbaijan, it is necessary to bring the food security system in line with the requirements of the EU and the relevant international institutions, to accelerate the elimination of duplication of powers in the activities of various state authorities, which carry out control in the field of food security, increase safety and quality of food products.



In order to overcome the existing shortcomings and bring food safety standards in line with best practices of the EU, the Decree of the President of Azerbaijan of December 6, 2016 [7] approved the Strategic Roadmap for the production and processing of agricultural products in the Republic of Azerbaijan. In pursuance of the Decree of the President of Azerbaijan "On Additional Measures for the Improvement of the Food Security System of the Republic of Azerbaijan" as of February 10, 2017 [8], the Commission for Food Security under the Cabinet of Ministers of Azerbaijan was formed. What is more, the Regulations on the Food Safety Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan were approved by the Decree of the President of this country as of November 13, 2017 [9]. This newly established structure started its activity from January 1, 2018 in the following fields: legal regulation of food safety; certification of food products, including food supplies as an export product; implementation of State control in the field of consumer rights protection at all stages of production and products sales taking into account potential risks. This Decree also provides for the establishment of the Food Safety Institute of Azerbaijan, which within its competence will carry out scientific and practical research in the field of food safety, will carry out risk assessments in this field, as well as develop draft technical regulations.

Given the urgency of the issue of practical implementation of the state policy in the field of food security of the Cabinet of Ministers of Azerbaijan, the President of the country has been tasked to prepare a draft law "On Food Security" based on best practices of international experience, as well as a draft of State Program on food security for 2018–2025, which will include the following priority areas: ensuring compliance of the food assessment system with international standards; classification of food products by risk groups and determination of criteria for risk assessment taking into account international experience; improvement of the control system over the genetically modified organisms; development and implementation of control mechanisms at all stages of food production based on the principle of "from field to table" and according to the level of product risk; enhancing staffing capacity in the field of food security, etc. It is

also expected that the creation of the Food Security Agency of Azerbaijan, which will act as a single control body, will contribute to the improvement of the food security system in the state, and as a result will enable to improve the quality and safety of food products, eliminate cases of duplication in the activities of the competent authorities in the field of food security [8].

The problematic of legal provision of food security is also a priority issue for Kazakhstan. The draft Concept of food security of the Republic of Kazakhstan until 2030 was developed and announced for discussion in this country. The purpose of this program document is to ensure stable food security on a permanent basis by strengthening the security of the economy, including the agro-industrial complex, in which the State is able to provide the physical and economic accessibility to the population of high-quality and safe food supplies sufficient to meet the physiological standards of nutrition and demographic growth.

Achieving the goal of ensuring food security involves the implementation at the state level of the following tasks: creation of proper conditions for the stable development of agro-industrial complex; ensuring the physical and economic availability of food throughout Kazakhstan for each citizen in the volumes and assortment that will meet the established consumption norms; ensuring the food products safety. The efforts of Kazakhstan in this field will focus on the practical implementation of the following measures: creation of conditions for food safety at every stage "from producer to consumer"; development and implementation of a risk management system in this field, including strengthening phytosanitary and veterinary safety; development of the concept of a single information system for monitoring the threats of microbiological safety of food, etc. Thus, it is expected to actively introduce risk analysis and critical control points – Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) in all food processing and processing enterprises, as well as creation of conditions for the application of international food quality standards are envisaged ISO 22000 [10].

Conclusions. Consequently, nowadays there is a general tendency to intensify the efforts of the policy-makers of the states in the former Soviet Union

(Belarus, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan) in the direction of strengthening the legal support of food security. The analysis of legislative initiatives in Belarus, Azerbaijan, and Kazakhstan confirms the awareness of the state apparatus of these countries of the importance and urgency of food security issues at the national level.

The food security of any state can be ensured by through the consistent implementation of a set of interrelated and coordinated measures of organizational, social and economic, as well as administrative character, defined in the framework of regulatory acts, taking into account the best practices of international experience, including measures for the development of the national agricultural complex, food and processing industry, increase of volumes of agricultural products and raw materials.

In the current economic conditions, the problem of food security is a complex issue related to the macroeconomic development of the country, its capacity to carry out social-oriented policy, improving living standards, the introduction of international standards for food security.

Thus, as international practice shows, the reasons for increasing the level of consumption of imported food include: the low growth rate of domestic agricultural commodity production, including the reduction of the number of agricultural land that is being processed, continued the moratorium on the prohibition of the creation of a market for agricultural land; inefficient state agricultural policy, the implementation of which leads to the import of cheap food; increasing demand for food in connection with an increase in the population, growth of its incomes and a corresponding increase in the volume of consumed food; a change in the nutritional structure of the population, which may lead to the emergence of demand for food that is not produced in the country but imported.

Mechanisms for ensuring food security in many states are established in the relevant regulations, the provisions of which determine the conditions of functioning of the economy of the country and its individual industries, including agro-industrial complex, processing and food industry.

So, food security is one of the elements of the national security system of Ukraine, which characterizes economic stability



and political independence of the state, its ability to provide basic consumer needs of citizens, is a necessary condition for the physical existence of the population, since without the availability of own food resources, the state loses its food independence, which may causing significant damage to food security.

Food security means to achieve food independence, the state's ability to withstand external and internal threats, ensure dynamic and stable development of the production and consumption of food. In view of this, ensuring food independence is a prerequisite for achieving food security in the country. The problem of food security is directly linked to the insufficient level of food security provided by the state at the expense of its own resources.

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