FEATURES OF FOREIGN ECONOMIC ACTIVITY IN THE MODERN GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT

Rybakova Tetiana, Kuznietsova Tetiana

Formulation of the problem. Intensification of foreign economic activity is a very important condition for the economic development of each country in the modern global environment. Currently, Ukraine’s foreign economic activity has negative dynamics associated with full-scale Russian aggression. The most important task is to find ways to eliminate emerging political and economic problems; therefore, studying the peculiarities of Ukraine’s foreign economic activity in the modern global environment is quite a relevant scientific and practical task.

Analysis of recent research and publications. Today, there are a sufficient number of studies on the development of Ukraine’s foreign economic activity in modern conditions that characterize the global environment. However, the challenges faced by the state in connection with the war started by Russia make it necessary to reconsider approaches to the study of foreign economic activity.

Setting the task, the purpose of the study. Identifying the peculiarities of Ukraine’s foreign economic activity in the modern global environment under the conditions of the Russian invasion.

Method or methodology of research. General scientific (analysis and synthesis, system analysis, comparison) and specific research methods (sociological, morphological, graphic).

Presentation of the main material (results of work). The article emphasizes the importance of foreign economic activity for the development of the country in the modern global environment. Current conditions regarding the implementation of foreign economic activity of Ukraine as one of the world’s leading exporters of agricultural products are studied. The main trends of Ukraine’s foreign trade against the background of a full-scale war with Russia are analyzed. The main areas of regulation of foreign economic activity in Ukraine in the conditions of war are determined.

Field of application of results. Scientific studies of globalization and foreign economic activity, the educational process (in the preparation of the relevant sections of textbooks and tutorials for courses «International Economy», «Foreign Economic Activity»).

Conclusions according to the article. Ukraine is one of the world’s leading exporters of agricultural products and the food security of many countries of the world depends on Ukrainian exports. The results of military operations on the territory of Ukraine greatly affected its foreign economic activity, and this is most evident in the deterioration of foreign trade indicators. The structure of exports is dominated by products with low added value, and the difficulty of exporting them through seaports during the war caused a drop in export earnings. However, in connection with simplifying the access to the EU market, new prospects for the intensification of foreign economic activity are opening up for domestic enterprises.

Key words: foreign economic activity, foreign trade, export, import, global environment, Russian invasion, food crisis.

JEL Classification: F10, F51

ОСОБЛИВОСТІ ЗДІЙСНЕННЯ ЗОВНІШНЬОЕКОНОМІЧНОЇ ДІЯЛЬНОСТІ
В СУЧАСНOMУ ГЛОБАЛЬНОMУ СЕРЕДОВИЩI

Рибакова Т. О., Кузнецова Т. В.

Постановка проблеми. Активізація зовнішньоекономічної діяльності є дуже важливою умовою для економічного розвитку кожної країни в сучасному глобальному середовищі. Нараці зовнішньоекономічна діяльність України має негативну динаміку, пов’язану із повномасштабною російською агресією. Відтак,
ОСОБЕННОСТИ ОСУЩЕСТВЛЕНИЯ ВНЕШНЕЭКОНОМИЧЕСКОЙ ДЕЯТЕЛЬНОСТИ В СОВРЕМЕННОЙ ГЛОБАЛЬНОЙ СРЕДЕ

Рыбакова Т. А., Кузнецова Т. В.

Ладонина проблемы. Интенсификация внешнеэкономической деятельности является очень важным условием экономического развития каждой страны в современных глобальных условиях. В настоящее время внешнеэкономическая деятельность Украины имеет отрицательную динамику, связанную с полностьюшадной российской агрессией. Важнейшей задачей является поиск путей устранения возникающих политических и экономических проблем; поэтому изучение особенностей внешнеэкономической деятельности Украины в современной глобальной среде является достаточно актуальной научной и практической задачей.

Анализ последних исследований и публикаций. На сегодняшний день существует достаточное количество исследований, посвященных внешнеэкономической деятельности Украины в современных условиях, характеризующих глобальную среду. Однако вызовы, с которыми столкнулось государство в связи с развязанной Россией войной, заставляют пересмотреть подходы к изучению внешнеэкономической деятельности.

Постановка задачи, цели исследования. Объясняют особенностей внешнеэкономической деятельности Украины в современной глобальной среде в условиях российского вторжения. Методы или методология исследования. Общенаучные (анализ и синтез, системный анализ, сравнение) и частные методы исследования (социологические, морфологические, графические).

Изложение основного материала (результаты работы). В статье подчеркивается важность внешнеэкономической деятельности для развития страны в современной глобальной среде. Изучены текущие условия осуществления внешнеэкономической деятельности Украины как одного из ведущих мировых экспортеров сельскохозяйственной продукции. Анализируются основные направления внешнеэкономической деятельности Украины в современной глобальной среде в условиях войны.

Область применения результатов. Научные исследования глобализации и внешнеэкономической деятельности, учебный процесс (при подготовке соответствующих разделов учебников и учебных пособий по курсам «Международная экономика», «Внешнеэкономическая деятельность»). Выводы в соответствии со статьей. Украина является одним из ведущих мировых экспортеров сельскохозяйственной продукции, и от украинского экспорта зависит продовольственная безопасность мирового сообщества.
globalization despite all its contradictions significantly affects the economic, political and socio-cultural aspects of the life of countries, which is reflected primarily in the intensification of foreign economic relations. The nature of the state’s foreign economic relations determines the foreign trade strategy of its enterprises. Accordingly, the foreign economic activity of the country should be perceived as a key direction of development of many modern states, in particular, as a source of goods flow as well as of income from export and import operations.

Recently, in particular, after the signing of the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the EU on June 27, 2014, our state’s intentions to become a significant player in international markets, including European ones,
have intensified. Some domestic enterprises managed to expand the scope of their activities, and reach new levels, including captured shares of foreign markets. The obvious progress of domestic enterprises had a positive effect on the stabilization of the country’s economy, which led to the growth of national income and increased the image of Ukraine on the international market. But the appropriate positive trend was significantly weakened because of the introduction of quarantine restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic [3, p. 169].

The Russian invasion markedly undermined the Ukrainian economy. According to the experts of Concorde Capital investment company [4], there are the following negative factors associated with the war:

• outflow of population and significant reduction of income, which reduced the potential for domestic consumption by 20-25%;
• destruction of industrial enterprises, which led to a reduction in the potential of industrial production by 25-30%;
• blockade of ports by Russia, due to which the export potential is reduced by half;
• actual reset of investments, which slows down economic growth for years.

The main economic problems of Ukraine that have accumulated since the beginning of the Russian invasion are falling GDP, almost complete abandonment of exports and declining imports, new debt, problems with exchange rate stability and galloping inflation.

The consequences of the war also affect the world economy. Inflation which is already ravaging most global economies is steadily rising due to the sharp increase in oil, natural gas, and food prices. As for the major global economic actors, like the USA, Canada, UK, and the EU, the experts expect a negative impact on household consumption, increase uncertainty, unpredictable stock swings, supply chain disruptions, bulging utility bills, decreased investment due to political risks, and economic growth impediments [5, p. 144]. The war has had a negative impact on the Middle East countries, increasing instability in the region and beyond. Russian invasion has greatly affected sectors critical to their economies, from oil and gas to agricultural imports and tourism [6].

The war caused a global shortage of food. Ukraine, being one of the world’s top agricultural producers and exporters, ranked sixth largest wheat exporter in 2021, exporting 20 million tones of wheat and meslin, with a 10 percent global market share [7, p. 7]. Ukraine accounts for 13% of corn exports and more than a third of the sunflower oil trade.

More than 55 percent of Ukraine’s land area is arable land [8]. In some southern oblasts, areas that have witnessed some of the war’s most intense fighting, 80% of the land was under active cultivation in 2019 (Fig. 1).

![Fig. 1. Southern agricultural territories of Ukraine affected by the war

In the structure of Ukrainian agricultural exports in 2021 such products dominated as sunflower oil ($6.4 billion), corn ($5.9 billion), wheat ($5.2 billion). Ukraine, as one of the world’s largest exporters of agricultural products, provides for the needs of many countries, and some of them especially rely on food supplies from Ukraine. As it can be seen from Fig. 2, the wheat imports of many countries in North Africa and Western and Central Asia are highly concentrated towards supplies from Russia and Ukraine. Overall, more than 30 net importers of wheat depend on the two countries for over 30 percent of their annual wheat import needs [10]. Many of these countries are in the groups of Least Developed Countries, and Low-Income and Food-Deficit Countries. The food crisis has been felt in Africa and the Middle East, which import a significant portion of Ukrainian wheat.
Dependence on Ukrainian sunflower oil is even more acute: there are more dependent countries and their geography is more extensive, and not only the developing countries are represented here. In many countries, dependence is critical, since Ukrainian exports provided more than 70% of total sunflower oil purchases.

The entire agricultural production systems of the counties were threatened as well as food supplies. After all, the war affected the rise in prices of food, cattle feed, fertilizers and fuel, so the world is once again under the threat of a food and fuel crisis. Dissatisfaction is already beginning to emerge in some food-dependent countries, where already high prices have jumped even higher. Poor countries, already experiencing large-scale famine, will feel the food crisis most acutely. The World Bank warns that for each one percentage point increase in food prices, 10 million people are thrown into extreme poverty worldwide [11].

Before the Russian invasion, Ukraine exported 90% of its agricultural products through the Black Sea ports. However, heavy fighting and occupation of cities in the southeast of Ukraine have blocked access to important routes. So, exports by sea are not available due to the Russian invasion.

In that regard, businesses tried to refocus logistics on rail services. But it has its limitations due to the destruction of infrastructure and the threat from Russian troops. The railway traffic is limited also because of the width of the Ukrainian tracks (1520 millimeters versus 1435 millimeters in Europe), therefore, problems arise at the border, when goods must first be unloaded from the railway cars and then loaded into new ones. Transportation by road is also a difficult task today, because of the lack of fuel and truck drivers. However, even though Ukraine is constantly increasing the export by rail and road transport, this, according to the estimations of Ukrainian authorities, provides only 20% of the total volume of grain exports.

Currently, the Ukrainian harvest remains blocked in ports. In the case of successful negotiations, it will not be so easy to resume the process. Farmers and traders need safe routes to transport grain, and the routes run through the South, where infrastructure is damaged. There are also no guarantees on the part of Russia about compliance with the terms of the agreement.

The war affected not only countries that directly import Ukrainian agricultural products. World trade is based on the expectation of continuous supply, and the food crisis may continue in 2023. The situation is exacerbated by the expected decline in the production of grains and sunflower oil in Ukraine due to the occupation of large agricultural areas. Ukrainian agriculture is a direct victim of Russian aggression, as hostilities often take place on Ukrainian fields and farms. The war...
created the problem of soil contamination with unexploded ordnance, improvised explosive devices and spilled fuel. But the biggest problem is mines. According to the latest estimates, about 13% of the territory of Ukraine has been mined by the Russians [1, p. 21]. Significant problems for agricultural production are also continued bombardment of Ukrainian territory by Russia, a shortage of fuel and low purchase prices for agricultural products in Ukraine.

Recently published data on the commodity and geographical structure of Ukraine’s foreign trade in May 2022 revealed the vulnerability of the Ukrainian economy and its dependence on the export of raw materials. The biggest losses were found in producers with the lowest added value and level of processing. And the reason is not so much that the traditional sea route of raw material exports is blocked, but that the costs of transportation to the consumer are much more important for the sale of raw materials. After all, a ton of raw material products costs incomparably less than products with higher added value, so a change in transport significantly reduces the feasibility of its production [12].

After a short-lived positive foreign trade balance in March, a return to its traditional deficit began in April, and in May it was already $ 1.095 billion (Table1). Moreover, in May, the deficit was more than in April by $ 0.75 billion, the reason for which was the rapid growth of imports in May, which amounted to 36.3% against exports of 10.3%.

For the period from January to May 2022, Ukrainian exports decreased by 20.6% compared to the same period in 2021. Exports decreased due to a sharp drop in the groups «Ferrous and nonferrous metals» (-37.9%), «Mineral products» (-33.6%), «Machinery and equipment» (-27%). In general, the commodity structure of Ukraine's exports is characterized by the predominance of agricultural products, the share of which was 48.3%, while in 2021 it was 40.9% [14].

Table 1. Merchandise trade by regions in Ukraine (April-May 2022)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regions</th>
<th>EXPORTS</th>
<th>IMPORTS</th>
<th>BALANCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>April 22</td>
<td>May 22</td>
<td>April 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>USD mln</td>
<td>% of total</td>
<td>USD mln</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2404</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>2651</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>-345</td>
<td>-1095</td>
<td>-368</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>1938</td>
<td>80,6</td>
<td>2080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>613</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>1002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>203</td>
<td>8,4</td>
<td>302</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1002</td>
<td>76,2</td>
<td>1002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>America</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>1,7</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1998</td>
<td>76,2</td>
<td>1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>incl. USA</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>1,2</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>137</td>
<td>76,2</td>
<td>137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>6,1</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>132</td>
<td>76,2</td>
<td>132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia and Oceania</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0,1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1002</td>
<td>76,2</td>
<td>1002</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Regarding the geographical structure of exports, in May 2022, there was a significant decrease in exports to Asian countries, the share of which in exports was only 11.4%, while in May 2021 it was 40.4% (Table 2). The reason for this collapse is that previously Ukraine supplied most of the raw materials to these countries, with the export of which in 2022 there were difficulties due to the war. At the same time, the share of imports from Asian countries in May 2022 compared with May 2021 decreased slightly, by only 2.5%. Compared to April 2022, in May, exports to Asian countries increased by 48.7%, while imports increased by 75.5%.

At the same time, there is a trend of further intensification of Ukraine’s foreign trade with European countries, including the European Union (EU). As can be seen from Table 2, the share of the European region in the export of goods from Ukraine in May 2022 amounted to 78.5% (of which 76.5% falls on the countries of the European Union) against 38% in May 2021. In addition, against the background of a cumulative drop in exports by almost half, Ukrainian exports to European countries even increased by 6%. For the import of goods to Ukraine, the share of European countries in May 2022 increased by 10.3% compared to May 2021 and amounted to 53.3%.

This means that today the countries of Europe, in particular the EU, are the main foreign trade partner of Ukraine. In addition, with the countries of Europe, in particular the EU, there was a surplus in foreign trade both in April and May 2022 (in May it amounted to $ 82 million, with the EU countries $ 145 million). However, in the commodity structure of foreign trade with the European Union, there is still a trend toward the predominance of low-value-added goods. So, in the 1st quarter of 2022, the share of agricultural products in Ukrainian exports to the European Union was 39%, and the share of ferrous and nonferrous metals was 22% [15]. In total, this is even more than in the corresponding period of 2021.

Cooperation with the EU is now the main priority of Ukraine’s foreign economic policy, therefore the measures aimed at deepening cooperation between Ukraine and the EU are currently being actively implemented. As a result of the creation of a Free Trade Area, the process of convergence of the economies of Ukraine and EU-member states, and consistent development of trade rules based on EU trade procedures and technical regulations [16] has begun. The
expansion of trade between Ukraine and the EU will also be facilitated by the regulation of the Council of the European Union on May 24, 2022, allowing for temporary trade liberalization and other trade concessions concerning certain Ukrainian products. This means that for one year import duties on all Ukrainian exports to the European Union will not be due. Thanks to these measures the EU will be able to significantly support Ukraine's economy [17].

Table 2. Merchandise trade by regions in Ukraine (May 2021-2022)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regions</th>
<th>EXPORTS</th>
<th>IMPORTS</th>
<th>BALANCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>May 2021</td>
<td>May 2022</td>
<td>May 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>USD mln</td>
<td>% of total</td>
<td>USD mln</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>5158</td>
<td>100,0</td>
<td>2651</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>1962</td>
<td>38,0</td>
<td>2080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>2086</td>
<td>40,4</td>
<td>302</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>America</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>3,9</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>incl. USA</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>2,3</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>352</td>
<td>6,8</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia and Oceania</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0,1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU countries</td>
<td>1858</td>
<td>36,0</td>
<td>2029</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIS countries</td>
<td>532</td>
<td>10,3</td>
<td>137</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


An economy at war must function under wartime laws. The imposition of martial law on the territory of Ukraine necessitated transformations in the processes of foreign economic activity. After all, the success of any business depends on the conditions that will be created for its development in the external environment, and the role of the state in regulating and supporting foreign economic activity. It is the state that creates the «rules of the game» which market participants must comply with [18, p. 243].

Of course, the state is trying to save the national economy in the conditions of the new reality by introducing certain innovations in the field of legal regulation of foreign economic activity. The main directions of these innovations are [19]:

- restrictions on trade with Russia and Belarus;
- simplification of the number of required permits during martial law;
- regulation of the list of goods that are subject to licensing and quotas during the implementation of foreign economic activity during martial law. The introduction of martial law in Ukraine primarily affected licensing and quotas for export (for some goods, export was prohibited);
- simplification of customs clearance for various groups of goods, which are necessary both to provide the Ukrainian army with additional protective and military equipment and to provide civilians with food, medicine, and other humanitarian aid;
- reduction of deadlines for settlements under export and import transactions from 365 days to 90 days;
- introduction of restrictions on transfers of currency values and funds;
- changes to the list of critical import goods.

During wartime, changes in the legislation are introduced quite actively: current legal norms are canceled and new ones are established in order to respond quickly to the challenges that exist in the field of foreign economic activity in Ukraine during the war.

Conclusions. Today the effectiveness of foreign economic activity is an important factor in realizing the export potential of Ukraine, the acquisition of new world markets by participants in foreign economic relations and increasing competitiveness. Based on the analysis of the features of Ukrainian foreign economic activity in the modern global environment one can see that the results of military actions on the territory of Ukraine had a very strong impact on its foreign economic activity. This is most evident in the deterioration of foreign trade indicators and the growth of its negative balance. Undoubtedly, Ukraine is one of the world’s leading exporters of agricultural products, and the food security of many countries of the world, especially developing ones, depends on Ukrainian exports. However, the dependence of the Ukrainian economy on the export of primary and semi-primary products is still obvious, and it reflects the imbalances in the field of foreign economic activity that have developed over the years. Products with low added value have an advantage in the structure of exports, and the difficulty of exporting them through seaports during the war has caused a drop in export earnings. This largely affected the foreign exchange market, which is critically dependent on foreign exchange earnings, and led to a rapid depreciation of the national currency.

Under the current conditions, against the background of the destructive influence of the war, the investments shutdown and the labor market reduction, it is difficult for domestic enterprises not only to develop their activities but
also to survive. At the same time, the prospects that open up for them concerning easier access to the European market as part of the comprehensive assistance provided to Ukraine by the European Union (and in the longer term, Ukraine’s accession to the European Union) allow for increasing the efficiency through intensifying their foreign economic activity.

However, in order to improve the system of foreign economic activity in the country. Primarily, the most urgent task is to develop plans for economic recovery, taking into account the post-war state of economic entities, households and the state. And here it is very important to prevent a return to the economy of the agrarian and raw materials type, which makes Ukraine just a raw material appendage of the technologically advanced economies of the world. To achieve the structure of foreign economic activity characteristic of developed countries, it is necessary to modernize the industry based on innovative development, increase the efficiency in traditional sectors and develop high-tech sectors of the national economy.

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Постановка проблеми. На сучасному історичному етапі питання європейської континентальної безпеки набуває актуальності особливо на тлі російської агресії. Це очевидно і, навряд чи, піддається якомусь сумніву. Україна у європейській історії завжди грала роль захисника західної цивілізації. Окрім України таку ж функцію виконували і виконують Польща та Литва. Говорячи мовою історичних аналогій і порівнянь, неможливо у цьому аспекті, не згадати про таке велике і потужне державне формування як Річ Посполита. Як не дивно, але ця держава постала теж на тлі експансії Московії на сході. Необхідність спільної безпеки в Центральній Європі завжди була і залишається актуальною. Литва, Польща та Україна знаходяться на передньому краї, який може забезпечувати стабільний розвиток Європи. На сьогодні це є і переднім краєм всього цивілізованого світу.

Тому, утворення Люблінського трикутника між Києвом, Варшавою та Вільнюсом є історичною, політичною, економічною, гуманітарною необхідністю. Власне, Люблінський трикутник є трьостороннім регіональним альянсом для політичного, економічного, культурного й соціального співробітництва між Литвою, Польщею та Україною, метою якого зокрема є зміцнення діалогу між країнами, підтримка інтеграції Країн у Європейський Союз та НАТО і спільна протидія російській агресії в Україні. Ідея такого об'єднання належала В'ячеславу Чорноволу та Адаму Чарторийському. Економічна складова у цьому об'єднанні має виключно інструментальне значення, оскільки є базою для утворення системи сталого розвитку регіону. На протидію російській агресії відстоюється Європейська економічна і соціальна еєжа. Метою даного дослідження є проаналізувати стан і перспективи розвитку об'єднання Польщі, Литви та України як стабілізуючого економічного фактору в системі безпеки Європи в рамках Люблінського трикутника.