

FOREIGN ACTIVITY OF UKRAINE: RELATIONS WITH ROMANIA

Topicality of research: Romania has important place in foreign policy relations of Ukraine. Ukrainian-Romanian diplomatic relations have always been strained and unstable. These countries have coterminous, which leads for dwelling of Ukraine's and Romanian's ethnic minorities on both territories. The beginning of 21st century is characterized by complicated relations between neighbor-countries both in territorial and ethnic aspects, especially Romania sued to International Court of Justice on the maritime delimitation of the exclusive economic zone and continental shelf of the Black Sea near the Island Zmiinyi, as well as with the claims for the Danube-Black Sea navigable channel.

Purpose of research is to study of relations between Ukraine and Romania by the spheres for gaining the basic understanding of the present condition of economic and political cooperation under integration processes.

24 years ago a new epoch started in the centuries-old relations between the Ukrainian and Romanian peoples. On February 1st, 1992 Ukraine and Romania, two independent states, established the diplomatic relations. In general historic context it is worth mentioning that Romania was among the first countries of the world to have recognized the state independence of Ukraine.

Since the year of 1990 Bucharest has pressed for the quickest division of territorial waters and determination of the Island Zmiinyi. The most important events in 1991-2000 are thought to be signing of Treaty on good neighborly relations and cooperation as well as the Treaty on the regime of Ukrainian-Romanian state border. These Treaties confirmed "as inviolable" the state border between the two states. But they don't contain any issues concerning the continental shelf delimitation and exclusion of economic zone.

The second stage of the relation's progress between Ukraine and Romania is the beginning of 21st century. First of all, this period is concerned with designating the Island's Zmiinyi status. Besides procedure of continental shelf delimitation, assessment of satisfying rights and freedoms level of Ukraine's and Romanian's people, detection of economic and ecological results of the Danube-Black Sea navigable channel engine by Ukraine.

The beginning of the third stage in progress of Ukraine-Romania relations is characterized by partnership in following sphere: Trade and economy; Science and technologies; Culture and humanities.

Taking into consideration the information of the economic relations improvement, the main indexes of foreign economic activities have been presented.

Volume of trading (January – September, 2015) – \$649,92 m, export – \$409,73 m, import - \$237, 19 m.

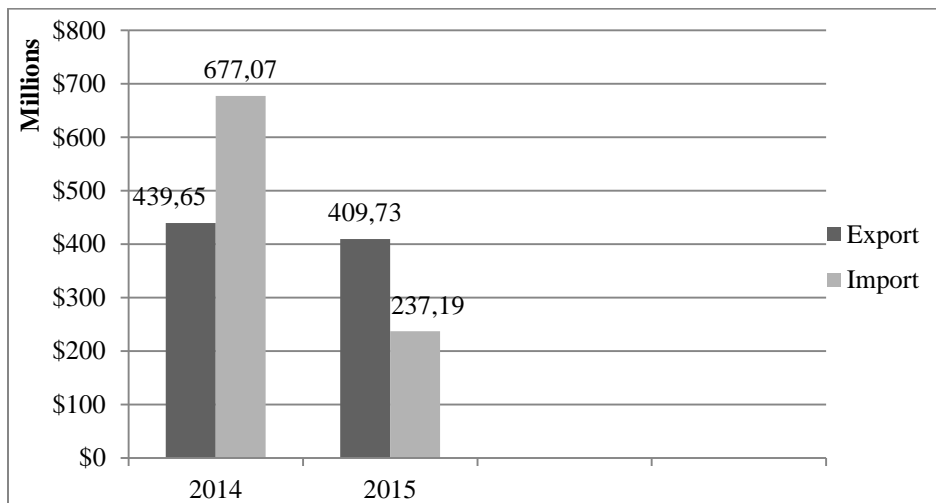


Figure 1. Volume of foreign trade of Ukraine with Romania in 2014-2015

Exports to Romania are mainly presented by the following commodities: ferrous metals – 25,0 %; timber and woodwork – 23,5 %; ore, slag and ashes – 13,1 %; footwear – 8,4 %; clothes and textiles – 4,8%.

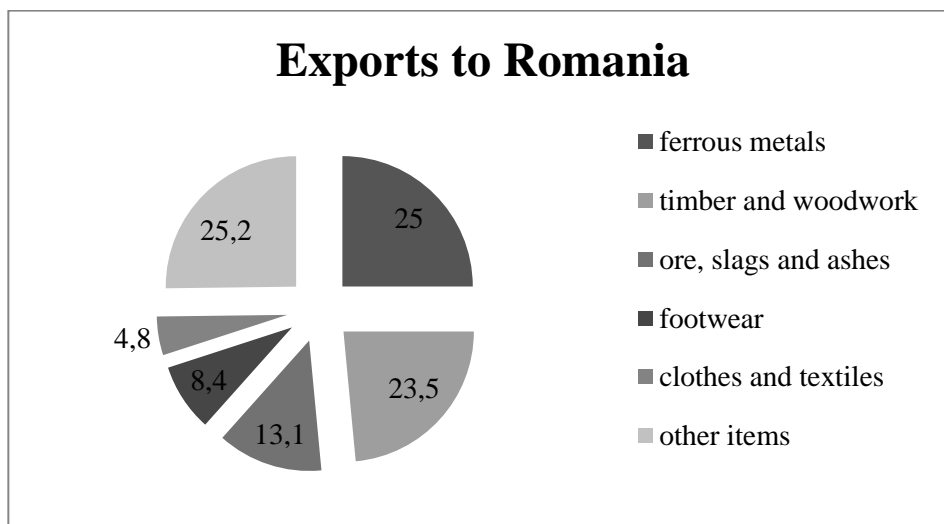


Figure 2. Structure of export of Ukraine to Romania in 2015

Items of import to Ukraine consist of the following commodities: grain crops – 36,9 %; mineral fuel, oil – 16,0 %; surface transport- 9,3%; timber and woodwork – 6,9 %.

Volume of Romania's investments to Ukraine (October, 2015) - \$24,3 m (0,03 % - from the total investments to Ukraine). Volume of Ukraine's investments to Romania - \$12,27 m (54th position in top foreign investor).

In 2013 The Program of cooperation in science and technology was signed between State Agency for e-government and The Ministry of National Education of Romania. According The Program competition of joint scientific-research projects was conducted in such directions: health care, agriculture and safety of nourishment, new materials, nanotechnologies, biological technologies, information technologies, and laser physics.

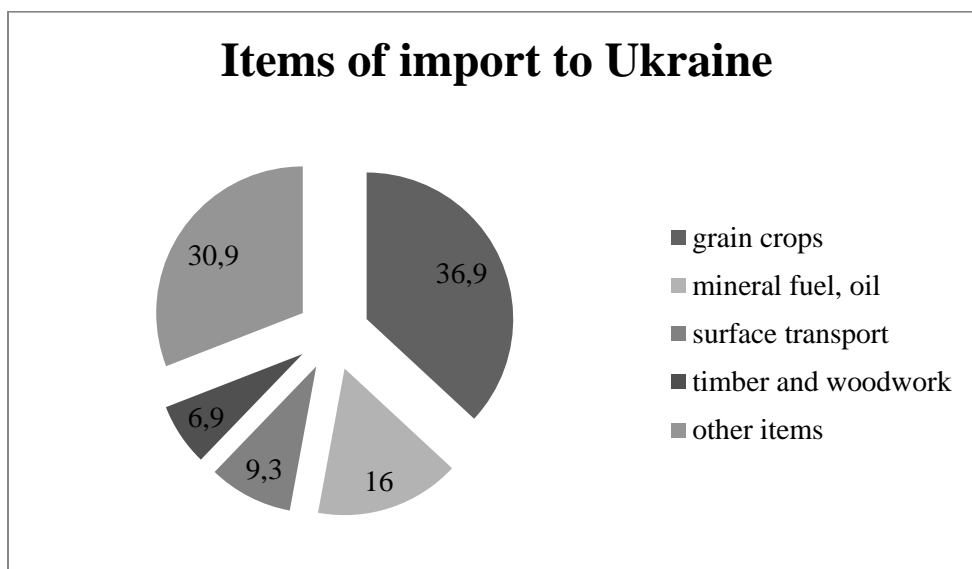


Figure 3. Structure of import of goods to Ukraine from Romania in 2015

Activity of Ukraine Cultural and Information Centre in Bucharest is priority. It's directed towards the forming of Ukraine's affirmative image, expansion of information about Ukraine, providing with interests of our country in Romaine relations. Realization of wide range actions, in particularly concerning assistance of progress of partnership between Ukraine and Romania in sphere of culture, education, science, tourism and sport, expansion information about Ukraine between Romaine community, familiarization with Ukraine's culture and history etc.

Today both Ukraine and Romania share a desire to minimize Russia's regional influence, and this can be achieved to a large extent due to the reduction of gas imports from Russia and finding alternative energy sources. European countries have come to understand that Russia perceives energy resources not only as an element of market relations, but also as the opportunity to blackmail its potential customers. Romania is one of the first countries in Europe to completely abandon Russian energy supplies: the needs of the population will be covered by internal resources.

More evidence of the beginning of a new stage in Ukrainian-Romanian relations was the joint discussion on the issue of using the Danube-Black Sea navigable channel, and the possible establishment of uniform rates for its usage, which will undoubtedly have a positive impact on trade between the countries.

The most important impulse for revival Ukraine-Romania relations is Ukrainian-Russian war 2014, which is marked as both on internal and external policy of Romania. Romania was the first state that ratified The Ukraine-European Union Association Agreement and also expressed willingness to help Ukraine in reforms undermined by Treaty.

Thus, relations between Ukraine and Romania had polysemantic character on initial stages, which are characterized by availability of truculent territorial and ethnic issues. The present stage has a tendency of positive displacement more in political than economic sphere. In the first place it concerns Local border traffic agreement between Ukraine and Romania, support of interests of Ukraine by Romania in all negotiations with NATO, EU, in independence, territorial integrity of Ukraine.

While sharing modern democratic values of international cohabitation based on good neighborhood, partnership, mutual trust and respect, Ukraine and Romania have established during this period a consistent political dialogue, built a framework of bilateral legislation, developed trade and economic cooperation, created new forms of cultural and spiritual links having long roots in the past.

References

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