

Free the protocol of october 18, 2005) after

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FREE TRADE AGREEMENT BETWEEN UKRAINE AND REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

(With amendments and additions introduced by the Protocol of October 18, 2005) After the breakup of Soviet Union in 1991, the map of Europe drastically changed. Fifteen new independent countries were created and despite of their independence, they were still bound together by strong economic, political and social ties. The aim of all the countries was to develop homeland economy and to change the market type from planned to free market economy. The countries mostly relied on other ex-Soviet countries. At the time was established and the fact that Ukraine did not join the organization as a full member, the country mostly relied on bilateral agreements with ex-Soviet republics than on joining CIS and later Eurasian Customs Union.

The agreement was signed on December 17th, 1992, roughly a year after the breakup of Soviet Union and ratified only on March 19th, 1999.

This document is based on the Treaty between the Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, which was signed in 1990. The goal of the Free Trade Agreement is "to develop trade and economic cooperation... on the basis of... mutual benefit". The goal established by the sovereign states was based on their right to pursue economic freedom and independence. The goal was also compliant with the rules of the World Trade Organization (WTO) as Ukraine being a full member of the WTO and Belarus being an observer. As this agreement is still in power and being one of the main regulation medium on regulating trade and economic relations between countries, I believe that there are reasons and grounds to analyze the agreement. There were used Ukrainian original text of this agreement, which was originally published in Ukrainian, Belorussian and

Russian languages, alongside with English translation of this document to provide meaningfulness and compliance with the economic notions in this analysis. In the Article 1 stated that countries are abolishing custom fees and other taxes for export and import on goods which are produced in one of the countries while imported/exported to the other, but exclusions can apply to this if necessary.

The term of “ commodities originating from the... state” was also later amended in November, 2000, to comply with the policies of the Commonwealth of Independent states (CIS), as Belarus is a member of the organization. The parties also signed under non-discriminating paragraphs. These include not imposing any additional charges on imported/exported goods, which were discussed in the Article 1, in addition establishing non-discriminating policies, where taxes cannot be higher than those for domestic goods or goods produced in third party countries.