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**INSTITUTION OF THE AUTHORIZED ECONOMIC
OPERATOR IN THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS
AS A SAFETY-TRADE FACTOR
BETWEEN THE EU, EEU AND PRC**

The trade direction of the EU — the EEU — the Asian region is remarkable as it covers 46 % of the world's land, and 68 % of the world's population. According to experts, a further increase in trade turnover between the EU and the PRC is expected in the near future, with transit through the EEU. These forecasts relate primarily to railway container. At the end of 2017, the volume of container traffic in transit through the territory of the EEU in the direction of PRC — EU — PRC already amounted to about 262 thousand TEU, which is almost 1.8 times higher than the 2016 figure. In order to attract additional cargo traffic between the EU and the PRC, the countries of the EEU need to further develop the transport infrastructure and eliminate barriers.

One of the most significant steps to remove barriers will be mutual recognition of AEO programs. Ideally, this is mutual recognition of the EEU AEO with the EU and the PRC. In practice, the countries participating in the EEU deal with issues of mutual recognition separately. As a result, mutual recognition with the AEO of the Republics of Belarus will be an excellent solution in this situation for the EU countries and the Asian region, since the Republics of Belarus is located at the «junction of the unions».

The new Customs Code of the EEU entered into force on January 1st, 2018. It should be noted that in the new version of the Code institution of the AEO underwent significant changes, both in terms of benefits provided for the AEO, and the conditions for issuing AEO certificates. In the new Code there are 3 types of certificates confirming the status of the AEO.

The issue of Mutual Recognition of the AEO becomes relevant for our country. The new code identifies for the first time, the MR of the AEO: with all the EEU member states; with countries that are not members of the EEU, in the framework of international agreements of the EEU with a third country; with countries that are not members of the EEU, in the framework of international agreements of a member state of the EEU with a third country. At the same time, not all issues of customs regulation are finally regulated by the new Code. One of such issues is the mechanism of MR of the AEO with other countries.

The new Code provides a wider range of *special benefits*. Key benefits for AEO-1 are the performing of customs operations and customs control on a priority basis and not providing security for fulfillment of the obligation to pay customs payments. Analysis of the benefits for AEO-2 allows

us to conclude that these types of the AEO are interested in placing and storing goods on their own premises. The third type of certificate shall give the AEO the right to benefit from the special simplified procedures referred to AEO-1 and AEO-2.

The terms for inclusion in the AEO registry have changed with the entry into force of the new Code. The mechanism for the phased reduction of the security for fulfillment of obligations of the duty for AEO-1 is very progressive and should attract the AEO. Among the conditions for including a legal person in the Register of the AEO by way of issuance of the second type of certificate, the most advanced is determining the compliance of the financial sustainability of the AEO. This condition can be considered as an alternative to security for fulfillment of obligations. The conditions for including a legal person in the Register of the AEO by way of issuance of the third type of certificate shall be the same as the conditions for AEO-2.

For the development of the MRA of the AEO between the Republic of Belarus and the PRC and the EU taking into account the recommendations of the WCO and world experience, the following steps are to be undertaken: 1. Fix an authority whose competence will include determining the possibility of the AEO's participation in the MRA; 2. Develop information systems to provide data exchange on the AEO; 3. Identify the conditions on the basis of which the participation of the AEO in the MRA will be approved; 4. Identify the benefits, visit each other and make on-site observation of each other's validation process; 5. Prepare a draft of the MRA; 6. Launch the pilot project, measure outcomes; 7. The entry of the MRA should come into force.

Practical implementation of these recommendations will show their strengths and weaknesses and will allow them to be adjusted, taking into account the interests of the AEO and all states parties of the MRA.

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DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION (ON THE EXAMPLE OF MERCOSUR)

International economic integration is a characteristic feature of the modern stage of development of the world economy. At the end of the 20th century, it became a powerful tool for accelerating development of national economies and contributed to their inclusion into international relations.

International economic integration is a complex of economic relations between integrating countries, characterized by deep interpenetration of