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THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN
N.A.NAZARBAYEV'S INITIATIVE ON THE "EURASIAN UNION" AND
ITS HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

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Abstract.

The idea of establishing a closer economic “Eurasian Union” of independent states was proposed by the First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan N.A. Nazarbayev on March 22, 1994 during his visit to the United Kingdom. One week later, on March 29 of that year, during an official visit to the Russian Federation in Moscow he justified his new proposal in detail in his speech at the meeting at the M.V. Lomonosov Moscow State University. The main idea is that post-Soviet development in two directions, namely: first - the full preservation of political freedom and national identity of each member republics of the Union, and second - the need for close economic cooperation. From here, it was announced that time itself has raised the issue of ensuring stability and security in the Eurasian region. For the first time in London, a directory of such an intergovernmental association, the “Eurasian Union”, was presented and it was later renamed.

Indeed, the issue raised by the First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan was very relevant and it is still important currently. Well-known public and state figures of that time and today, politicians and economists, scientists have always stated the correctness and necessity of this initiative, which was not implemented for various reasons. It is known that even the most difficult situation in the CIS proves the viability of this idea.

The article analyzes the fact that the Customs Union, established in the mid-1990s of XX century and known for its effective work in joint economic relations between its member states, is guided by some of the requirements of the Eurasian Union proposed by the President of Kazakhstan.

1. Introduction

It is known that the break-up of the Soviet Union at the end of XX century posed difficult challenges for the allied republics and their peoples, which were part of this large state union. One by one, these republics declared their sovereignty. However, for a long time they were deprived of the advanced path of world political and economic development in accordance with the requirements of barracks socialism, and it was impossible for them to enter the world political community and the market separately. This situation made it difficult for the new states to find a way out of the crisis as soon as possible, especially before the collapse of the Soviet Union. The answer was that the former Soviet republics should join a new economic union, thereby ending the crisis and ensuring prosperity in line with world market requirements.

CIS was born in late 1991 in this difficult situation. However, the joint activities of the Commonwealth countries have not been able to meet the demands of the transition period since the beginning. Most importantly, the economic crisis in the Commonwealth has deepened. Industrial enterprises began to stop rapidly. Such negative conditions have occurred in all sectors of the economy. Based on this, the internal and external demographic situation in the countries, the problem of migration has become more complicated.

Western experts, who are closely monitoring the current situation in the CIS, wrote: “At the same time, Russia is not able to show a model of economic development within the CIS, which is the basis for investment and real integration initiatives in the countries of its strategic interests and their economies”(1: **Archive of the President of Kazakhstan (AP RK). Fund-75-H, Series 1, File -3038, p.66).**

2. Materials and methodology

Materials. New data from the archives of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan (AP RK), the Archives of Foreign Policy of the Russian Federation (AFP RF) were used to write the research article. In addition, foreign and domestic research papers on diplomacy and international relations were analyzed and referenced.

Methodology used in the study.

The methods of historiography, objectivity, historical comparative analysis and historical sequence were mainly used in the theory and methodology of scientific research. It is clear that the relations of the Eurasian Union, which we are studying, are the relations of states at the international level. The relations between the countries of the world are multi-vector. For example, it consists of special areas such as economic, political and cultural ties. The most important issue is the historical study and research of interstate relations. That is, looking at the relationship between the countries, we also see the ongoing processes of world-class relations. From these processes we can study the development, prospects and co-development of states with the rest of the world.

Researcher of international relations Kyrgyz scientist A.E. Dzhorobekova in her book “Theory of International Relations” wrote: “International relations are an integral part of science. It covers the history of diplomacy, international law, the world economy, military strategy and other areas, as well as a comprehensive study of various objects. Therefore, the theory of international relations plays an important role. It has its own concept, theory and methodology” (2: Dzhorobekova, 2001).

Russian scientist D.V. Egorov in his paper “Rethinking the Eurasian Concept: Project of the Eurasian Union of N.A. Nazarbayev” (3: Egorov, 2014) considered Nazarbayev's idea of creating a Eurasian Union. The author emphasizes the factors that have a special impact on the relations between Kazakhstan and Russia and other CIS countries and the process of integration of the Eurasian countries.

In general, in the preparation of this work, an analysis of scientific works submitted by N.A. Nazarbayev in the post-Soviet period, which identified the need and importance of this economic union of independent states. Attention was paid to the contents of archival documents and official records, and data found to be valuable on the basis of comparability requirements were used to write the article.

3. Observation and discussion

The growing crisis has increased the number of protests among the population of the CIS countries. Of particular concern is the escalation of interethnic relations in the republics. All this posed big problems for the CIS, but with each passing day it became more difficult to find a solution. And this has set great new tasks for the leaders of the Commonwealth. The current situation called for its speedy resolution.

Hence, the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, studying and analyzing the world experience of economic cooperation between the states, put forward his initiative to establish a new Economic Union, the only way

out of the crisis - to prevent such contradictions. It was called the “Eurasian Union”.

Analyzing the deepening situation in the CIS at that time, N.A. Nazarbayev concluded: “Recent statements by some CIS leaders show that some have begun to change their previous views on cooperation, and even to take a negative view. However, the main image of change is time, and people do not forgive us the vain expectations that do not lead to anything good. Therefore, Kazakhstan, which has always had effective cooperation and continues to do so today, began to look for ways to develop cooperation aimed at strengthening cooperation in the CIS” **(4: AP RK, Fund-5-H, Series -1, File -287, p. 7).**

According to a British official document from the same period it was stated, “Experts note the economic problems encountered within the CIS and the ineffectiveness of integration measures of some countries joining the Commonwealth. According to them, the CIS has entered a critical stage of its development through the steps taken to overcome such and other difficult situations” **(5: AP RK, Fund-75-H, Series-1, File -3038, p.68.).** The statement also clarified the real situation of the CIS member states.

The newly independent states of the former Soviet Union are now seeking to establish personal relations with the developed countries of the West and the East in order to isolate themselves from the contradictions that have led to deep crises. In this context, N.A. Nazarbayev told that “As the world became more diverse, more and more centers began to appear. A multi-centered world has been established. Access to these phenomena makes it necessary to build Kazakhstan's foreign policy on the basis of new principles. First of all, efforts had to be made to “yugoslavize” the former Soviet Union in order to prevent the economic collapse of the new states due to the severance of traditional economic ties.

To address this issue, I sought to establish a diverse relationship not only with the leadership of the CIS, but also with the leaders of foreign countries. In the early 1990s, the media criticized me for my active work with foreign countries. At a time when the Cold War was coming to an end and the two worlds were at a standstill, such work was necessary to ensure Kazakhstan's independence. We may not be able to make a clear analysis of the real scale and real consequences of such a huge phenomenon. However, it is true that the name of the world has changed. A radically different system of international relations is being formed. It created new opportunities as well as new threats. Kazakhstan is surrounded by the most dangerous regions such as Afghanistan, Tazhikistan and the Caucasus. We are likely to be influenced by other regions of the CIS. It is known that all this poses significant challenges to our reforms” **(6: Karasaev, Dyusen and Kaliyev, 2018).**

In other words, the living standards of the people, which were weakening day by day, began to grow, as they became dissatisfied with the economic policies of the new sovereign states. All CIS countries are also concerned about the deepening of the mass crisis in the post-Soviet republics, which could lead to serious consequences, disintegration based on contradictions, and large-scale civil wars. If left unchecked, such a phenomenon would jeopardize the transition of the region to the dependent

regions of the world's most powerful capitalist states based on the production of raw materials.

The task of the future close union was to jointly resist this, to establish an economy in accordance with the requirements of the world market, to conduct coordinated production, to exchange goods, and to jointly address other political, economic, social and defense issues.

The reversal of the situation has caused concern among politicians, scientists, intellectuals and all those interested in the future of the country within the CIS. Joint state measures to prevent this and to end the crisis on their own have not fully yielded results. The real situation has forced the leadership of the member states to look for new ways out of it. The British newspaper "Financial Times" gave this answer to the leader of Kazakhstan at a critical time N.A. Nazarbayev "If there is no economic development, there can be no single economic zone" (**7: APRK. Fund-75-H, Series-1, File-3038, p.66.**). He drew the world's attention to such a deep crisis within the CIS and its possible consequences at the global level.

In this regard, the President of Kazakhstan said, "The Eurasian Initiative for the Establishment of the Eurasian Union in March 1994 was first mentioned on a thesis basis during a visit to the United Kingdom on March 22, 1994. Speaking at the Royal International Institute, the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan said that post-Soviet development is determined in two directions: first - the formation of national statehood, and second - the need for cooperation. Therefore, in order to ensure stability and security in the region, it was necessary to create a "union of states" that would work in practice. For the first time in London, a directory of such an intergovernmental association was presented and called "Euro-Asian Union".

One week later, on March 29, 1994, during an official visit to the Russian Federation, a lecture was given at M.V. Lomonosov Moscow State University, where the President of Kazakhstan said that "in the current conditions of independence, it would be possible to create a completely new union, recognizing the equality of rights of all, and embracing the sovereignty and independence of each state". At the same time, it was warned that "no old Union will be restored and no empire will emerge" (**8: Nurymbetova, Kudaibergenov, 2010**).

The Kazakh leader noted that the new economic union could go beyond the future CIS and join other countries in the Eurasian Valley. Demonstrating the responsibilities of each member of the Union, he spoke about the role of Kazakhstan in it. "Kazakhstan has an important geopolitical position. As a bridge between Asia and Europe, the republic seeks to do everything possible to bring the peoples of the two continents closer. It was noted that there are all the conditions to solve this problem.

Kazakhstan also seeks to strengthen the Commonwealth of Independent States. I use every opportunity to preserve the economic ties and spiritual values of the former Soviet Union in this space, all the strategic goals in the region.

As for our policy in the Asian region, we will focus on economic cooperation, peace and stability, and ultimately the resolution of national conflicts in dangerous areas of the Asian continent. We cannot afford not to address other large-scale issues of concern to rapidly developing nations.

This is the formation of a new economic development, the integration of the national economy, the development of science, the peaceful use of nuclear energy” (9: AP RK. Fund-5-H, Series -1, File-224, pp.3-4)

About this proposal there is information in the Russian archives: “On March 27-30 of this year, the President of Kazakhstan N.A. Nazarbayev pays official visit to Moscow. As a result, 23 agreements were concluded. The Presidents signed an agreement on military cooperation, an agreement on the terms of use and lease of facilities at the Baikonur cosmodrome, an agreement on further deepening economic cooperation, a memorandum on basic requirements for citizenship and legal status of Russian and Kazakh citizens.

Speaking to the President of the Russian Federation, as well as during his speech at MSU, the President of Kazakhstan proposed the creation of a “Eurasian Union” (EAU) that would unite the former Soviet republics instead of the CIS.

N.A. Nazarbayev stated that it is difficult to call CIS a real Commonwealth, with some members in open warfare and others in covert economic warfare. Many key decisions are not implemented by the heads of state and government of the CIS.

Today, the leaders of the CIS countries do not have a mechanism for joint action within the Commonwealth. There is a need to substantiate common steps to address common issues” (10: Archive of Foreign Policy of the Russian Federation (AFP RF). Fund-897, Series-1, File-8, pp.20-21) Kazakhstan President’s initiatives were published in the archive documents.

The project “Creation of the Eurasian Union of States” prepared under the leadership of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, and was sent to the leaders of the CIS member states on June 3, 1994, published in Kazakhstan on June 6 and in Russia on June 8. N.A. Nazarbayev addressed to the “New Cooperation Association” that the Eurasian Economic Union is an alliance for the realization of the national and state interests of each member state, as well as joint integration capabilities. The EAU is a form of cooperation between sovereign states” (8.17).

Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the Republic of Kazakhstan On October 14, 1994, Dolgov V.I. met with the President of Kazakhstan N.A. Nazarbayev and noting that the issue of the Eurasian Union was raised during the meeting with Nazarbayev, he said: Nazarbayev has launched a well-known initiative to establish the Eurasian Union (EAU). According to the president, he takes into account Russia's support and “there is no fear that some CIS countries will not join the Union immediately, but without economic cooperation it will not last long”.

The First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan N.A. Nazarbayev said he would not back down from his initiative to establish the Eurasian Economic Union because he believes that it will be implemented. He expressed great satisfaction with the results of the Moscow summit of the CIS, noting that the decision to establish the Interstate Economic Committee (IEC) is the first concrete step in the development of integration phenomena in cooperation. It has shown that it is in line with his initiative to establish the Eurasian Union” (11: AFP RF. Fund-897, Series - 1, File-5, p.46)

Since the end of this year, N.A. Nazarbayev's new proposal was discussed in the CIS and other foreign public organizations and in the media. In the first of these discussions: "On December 28, 1994 in Moscow the International Congress of Citizens of Belarus, Kazakhstan, Russia, Ukraine and other countries was held by the name "Four plus all" dedicated to the search for new ways of cooperation between the former Soviet republics. The main report was made by the Chairman-organizer of the International Congress of the Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs A. Volsky talked about Nazarbayev's project to establish the Eurasian Union that it is the most effective way for post-Soviet states to enter into closer integration relations. Many speakers say that economic interest in itself leads to new integration processes.

The expectations of the civil, social and political forces of the CIS countries were not met, and they began to feel more clearly the harmfulness of individual policies. The integration proposals that have not been published over the years are not the result of the inertial thinking of individual fans, but, on the contrary, the universal recognition of peoples. This is evidenced by the fact that the project on the Eurasian Economic Union is gaining maximum support in the post-Soviet region" (12: AP RK. Fund-75-H, Series-1, File-848, pp.16,17,18.).

However, this proposal was not immediately supported in all CIS countries. In particular, the Russian Federation has expressed concern about its slowness. For example, Russian President Boris Yeltsin wrote a letter to N.A. Nazarbayev where he wrote: "I have read with interest your proposals on the establishment of the Eurasian Union. I agree on the need to unite, while preserving the sovereignty of states and on a voluntary basis. This is a requirement of the time. Integration should be in-depth and cover all areas: economics, politics, science, military, ecology, social spheres. It may be necessary to introduce a system of government above the nations.

The most important thing in this direction is that, despite the difficulties and problems, the Commonwealth of Independent States has done a good job for all of us. I believe that what we have achieved while trying to create something new cannot be ruled out.

I can openly say that I do not like the idea that the leaders are not ready for a close cooperation and that the countries with conflicting relations should be excluded from the EAU. Can such a decision solve the situation between them? We cannot be isolated from them together with you; the common historical destinies have connected our peoples. That is, I believe that at the next meeting of the leaders of the Commonwealth in September, we must all work together to consider in more depth the issue of advancing integration" (13: AFP RF. Fund-897, Series -1, File-7, pp.2-3.)

Similar views on the future of the Eurasian Union were expressed by other Russian statesmen and public figures of the time. For example, in 1994, Russian Defense Minister P. Grachev said: "In our opinion, it is too early to establish a Eurasian Union, which will solve only part of the problems of the future CIS countries, given the existence of the Commonwealth and this seems to be a one-sided conclusion" (14: AFP RF. Fund-897, Series -1, File -7, p. 82.)

In his official message to Boris Yeltsin, then Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation Alexander Shokhin said: “Recently, the President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev, in his opinion, made a number of proposals aimed at strengthening the integration process in the CIS. In April, he proposed the creation of a Eurasian Union. In July, the Presidents of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan decided to establish the Central Asian Union at a meeting in Almaty. In August, the President of Kazakhstan stated at the Council of Heads of States that he would raise new integration issues within and outside the Commonwealth” **(15: AFP RF. Fund-897, Series-1, File-7, p. 10.)**.

In a short period of time, the discussion of the initiative on the Eurasian Union began to take place not only in the political circles of the CIS countries, but also in public organizations, academia and the media. One of the first was a scientific-practical conference in September 1994 in Almaty on “The Eurasian space: opportunities for integration and their implementation”. It was attended by statesmen, public figures, politicians, scientists and members of the media from all over the Commonwealth. In the final document adopted by the conference participants, they proposed to take steps to strengthen the opportunities for integration into the CIS, using the idea of the “Eurasian Union of States” and other integration projects. The International Movement for Democratic Reforms called on the CIS leaders to meet in Moscow was called for a “Eurasian Union”.

On behalf of more than sixty collective participants in the independent states the need to support the President of Kazakhstan N.A. Nazarbayev's initiative was noted. Today it is clear that the CIS cannot survive in this state. It is necessary to create new forms of cooperation, new economic, defense, diplomatic, and environmental conditions. It is necessary to create joint organizations to carry out their activities. It is needed by peoples who have lived in close contact and support for centuries. The forum “New Accord”, organized on the initiative of the International Movement for Democratic Reforms, fully supported the establishment of the Eurasian Union.

Representatives of 30 parties and 60 social movements in the former Soviet Union took part in the conference “The Eurasian Community: Integrity through Diversity” on June 18, 1994. They appealed to the people, parliamentarians and heads of state: “We are grateful for the President of Kazakhstan N.A. We support Nazarbayev's Eurasian Union project and call on the heads of state to look at it in the interests of their peoples” **(6, 125-127)**.

The Eurasian Union Program signed by N.A. Nazarbayev states: “One of the stages in the implementation of the EAU project is the formation and development of the Central Asian Union. For example, agreements are made to resolve the issue of citizenship without delay, to sell real estate and take it from the territory of the next state, which allows people to overcome the psychological barriers of relocation. Issues of socio-economic, scientific, technical and cultural cooperation are being addressed. In particular, I would like to note that the documents adopted between Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan are based on the requirements of the CIS and do not contradict its activities. Therefore, the door is open to other countries. That is, regional cooperation is another clear sign of

strengthening the CIS and further development of cooperation” (6,129-130), thus the important tasks will be performed by the Eurasian Union.

Speaking about the formation of the Eurasian Union and its necessity, N.A. Nazarbayev stated that “Despite many unavoidable difficulties, we have made significant progress in our movement, especially last year, which was marked by large-scale integration efforts. This was evidenced by the establishment of economic cooperation, which led to the creation of a practical economic union, the Interstate Economic Committee, the Interstate Economic Court began to work, and other institutions of cooperation were formed and began to function. It can be said that there are zones of active integration, including Russia-Belarus-Kazakhstan interaction.

These phenomena were preceded by an active beginning in the Central Asian region between Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. Since the end of last year, on the basis of a bilateral agreement, important decisions have been made to develop relations between Kazakhstan and Russia. We have identified ways to address civil and military cooperation, customs space, and other pressing political and economic issues. It seems to us that such cases, including civil, can be considered as a way to resolve these cases bilaterally and multilaterally within the CIS” (16: AP RK. Fund-5-H, Series-1, File-4798, p.1.).

About the New Economic Union, which has more tasks than the CIS Nazarbayev wrote in his book “The Age of Independence” that “I have always considered the creation of a common economic space and a common defense policy to be the key tasks of the new union. Moreover, the independence of all the countries of the new union and the internal political structure of the state are based on the principle of non-interference in each other's internal affairs. My speech at the Istanbul Summit of Turkic-speaking states in October 1994 was devoted to this issue. I proposed to change the format of the union so that different countries in the region, from Eastern Europe to China, could participate. On April 13, 1994, a month after I addressed the Eurasian Initiative in Cholpon-Ata, Kyrgyzstan, we signed an agreement with the leaders of Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan to establish a Common Economic Space. Thus, the future Central Asian economic cooperation has a legal basis. In January 1995, Kazakhstan, Russia and Belarus signed an agreement on the establishment of the Customs Union and adopted a program to further deepen cooperation” (17: Nazarbayev, 2017).

If we look at the history of the Eurasian region, which has become a place of residence of many modern states and peoples for centuries “Cooperation between the Eurasian Union led by President of the Republic of Kazakhstan N.A. Nazarbayev is not an issue that has simply risen. The history of the peoples of the Eurasian region is rich in examples of associations and communities of its time. In particular, the close economic, political and even military alliances of the peoples of this region have been formed since ancient times and have had a positive impact on the development of the peoples of the region. If we look at the historical data, this region was inhabited by the common ancestors of the Slavic and Turkic peoples, who formed the basis of the Soviet Union. They have formed an alliance of historically rooted states. These associations have always been

successfully tested in history. In other words, it is known that the need for such a union in the XXI century is an initiative of the President.

It is known that such cooperation was due to the fact that their ancestors established close relations, solved economic problems, established trade relations, implemented cultural and linguistic communication, formed alliances of war against external enemies, and as a result overcame difficulties. That is, interaction, helping each other, successfully passed the test of time and created direct conditions for their further development.

That is, the formation, history of development, political structure of the Eurasian peoples based on the territory of post-Soviet republics, including Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, their place in the region, the importance of the modern XXI century. It is well known that it has played an important role in the development of the region since ancient times”.

(6,130-130)

Past history has shown that the states and peoples of the Eurasian region need to work closely together to address global challenges in today's globalized world. Such new requirements were set by the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan N.A. Nazarbayev's proposal to establish the Eurasian Union was supported by world leaders, public figures, leaders of international political and public organizations. It provoked a heated debate in the press. This highlighted the relevance and importance of this initiative. For example, the “Eurasian doctrine has appeared for more than hundred years, has slowed down and risen again. It first appeared in the 70s of the XIX century (Danilevsky, etc.), then in the 20-30s of the XX century (supporters of the Eurasian doctrine were Russian emigrants) and at the end of the XX century - N.A. Nazarbayev and other intellectuals” said I.B. Orlova.

Z. Stankevich, a well-known Russian public figure, wrote about President of the Republic of Kazakhstan N.A. Nazarbayev's initiative to establish the Eurasian Union: “First of all, the President of Kazakhstan today is the initiator and political figure of the civilized (non-violent) reunification of the peoples of the former USSR. In particular, it differs from the signatories of the Belovezhskaya Pravda agreement in that it is not on the blacklist of big state dividers. Of course, like any outstanding figure of the rebuilding period, N. Nazarbayev has a historical responsibility for the fate of the union state. In fact, the issue was not the re-establishment of the USSR, but rather a union based on mutual equality, sovereignty and territorial integrity, inviolability of borders.

In March 1994, Vladimir Shumeiko, Chairman of the Council of the Russian Federation, stated his support for NursultanNazarbayev's proposal to establish the Eurasian Union. “The Eurasian Union is not about rebuilding the USSR, but about establishing a new union” he said. The problem is not whether the Union will be called Eurasian or Asia-Europe”. According to him, the establishment of a new community should be based on the existing structures of the CIS, in particular, the Council of Heads of State and Government and the Interparliamentary Assembly.

He concluded that institutions higher than the national structures that govern society should be gradually established. It is time for V. Shumeiko to propagandize these proposals in the society. The establishment of a

unified armed forces, a unified monetary system, as a result it is determined that the border is not needed”.

In March 1994, the Executive Committee of the International Movement for Democratic Reforms met with the President of Kazakhstan and expressed support for N.A. Nazarbayev's initiative to establish the Eurasian Union. “It can be said that this initiative, approved by the Eurasian Integration Charter and supported by the parties and public organizations of many independent states, is in line with the direction of our society”.

The Executive Committee of the Movement pointed out that the way to implement the Eurasian Union is to elect a single parliament between two or more states, to conclude economic, defense, diplomatic and environmental agreements, and to establish joint structures in their activities.

In March 1994, the press secretary of the President of the Russian Federation V. Kostikov called the initiative of the President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev at the end of his visit to Moscow to establish the Eurasian Union an important issue.

The proposal of the President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev to establish the Eurasian Union during his visit to Kyrgyzstan was met with understanding. In this context, the initiatives and proposals that define the main requirements and institutions for the implementation of the “Eurasian Union” will contribute to the further formation and deepening of comprehensive cooperation between the CIS countries interested in implementing a new interstate structure” the former President of the Kyrgyz Republic A. Akayev stated it in April.

During the visit of the President of Estonia Lennart Meri to Kazakhstan in June 1994, said that he liked N.A. Nazarbayev's initiative to create a Eurasian Union because it was based on the requirements of democracy and was in line with the long-standing European Union.

Former French Prime Minister Edith Cresson expressed great interest in the initiative of the states to establish the Eurasian Union proposed by Nazarbayev. He said he liked the novelty of the initiative of the leader of Kazakhstan.

In June 1994, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia Alexy II positively assessed the initiative of the Kazakh leader to unite, in particular, the proposal to establish the Eurasian Union” (6, 131-132,133,135-136). According to Russian officials, “the establishment of the Customs Union in accordance with various objective circumstances began with Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan, the countries in the CIS that were more prepared for their political and economic development.

In January 1995, a group of documents on the establishment of the Tripartite Customs Union was signed, thus forming the core of a single economic integration of the Commonwealth. In general, the work on the implementation of the tasks of the first stage of the Customs Union between Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan has been completed - tariff and quantitative restrictions on joint trade have been lifted, common trade rules for third countries have been established. Extensive work has continued on the approximation and harmonization of legislation, covering a wide range of foreign economic activity. In the second half of 1995, the countries began to implement the second stage of the establishment of the Customs Union

by removing customs control at the internal border, ensuring the most reliable joint external control” (18: AFP RF. Fund-897, Series-3, File-7, p.73-74)

Along with the countries of the CIS, the people of Kazakhstan also unanimously supported N.A. Nazarbayev's proposal. An exchange of views conducted by the Giller Institute in Almaty in April 1994 proved that the vast majority of Kazakhstanis were in favor of the initiative of the President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev to establish the Eurasian Union.

According to the survey, 77.6% of respondents supported the Eurasian Union, where 70.7% were Kazakhs and 29.9% were of other nationalities. 89.7% of the respondents supported the idea of maintaining the full need for a common border, 84.2% supported a single economic direction, 77.1% supported a single foreign policy and 75.9% supported the establishment of a single army.

Only 9.1% of those who commented on the November 1994 initiative of the President of Kazakhstan on the Eurasian Economic Union opposed the establishment of the Eurasian Union. The vast majority of the people of Kazakhstan support the deepening and further development of the phenomenon of cooperation in the CIS.

About half of the 1,200 Kazakhstanis who took part in the survey expressed confidence in the future of Cooperation, linking it to a radical improvement in their financial situation. However, in general, the new economic union was not realized in time due to the lack of common understanding between the CIS countries. However, it is known that the basis of this union project is reflected in the subsequent agreements on the customs union between Kazakhstan, Russia, Belarus and Kyrgyzstan”(4, 138-139).

4. Conclusion

In conclusion, the relevance and necessity of the first President of the Republic of Kazakhstan N.A. Nazarbayev's initiative to create a Eurasian Union within the CIS at that time, proposed in the early nineties of XX century, is constantly being determined. This is evidenced by the current number of joint economic measures of the CIS countries in the second decade of XXI century, as well as the activities of the member states of the Customs Union. The fact that the current complex political and economic contradictions in the CIS remain unresolved also indicates that they need to unite in closer ties, which can overcome this situation. And this is in order to ensure that the countries of the Commonwealth cooperate in responding to crises at the global and continental levels and other changes. Nazarbayev's initiative to create a “Eurasian Union” proves its viability. Speaking about the tasks assigned to the Eurasian Union, the Kazakh leader said during the discussion of the project: “The problem is only at a new, qualitative level of integration. We have laid the foundations for mechanisms to deepen integration in the economic and humanitarian spheres, and have developed new, and at my suggestion, the most effective rules and bodies of integration. That's the point. However, integration is a daily task that takes many, even decades. And the result will not appear to people immediately tomorrow. Europe gives us such a well-thought-out and coordinated example. From this, we should not be satisfied with the signing

of integration documents. Of course, there is an initiative, but the most important work is ahead” (19: AP RK. Fund-5-H, Series-1, File -5885, p.10.).

5. Recommendations

That is why the first President of the Republic of Kazakhstan N.A. Nazarbayev's initiative to establish the Eurasian Union came true:

- after the collapse of the Soviet Union, there would be close economic, social, cultural and other areas of cooperation between the member states on an equal footing;

- mutual partnership, based on a coordinated economic policy, would allow them to move together to the world market at the same time;

- joint actions between member states to address demographic and migration issues;

- It would help to prevent the current conflicts in the CIS, which continue until the end of the armed conflict, to identify its causes, to resolve them on the basis of peaceful agreements, and even to prevent them.

- After all, the implementation of the work plans of the “Eurasian Union” proposed by N.A. Nazarbayev, based on the economic development of its member states would be ensured, would create opportunities and aspirations for the accession of other republics of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe and Asia;

It is known that the viability of the initiative on the “Eurasian Union” is further confirmed by the current activities of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Customs Union, which was established under his direct leadership. That is, It is known that the historical significance of the first President of the Republic of Kazakhstan N.A. Nazarbayev's initiative on the “Eurasian Union”, which was proposed more than a quarter of a century ago and proved to be correct and necessary, is growing day by day.

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