

The increased levels of UV radiation reaching Earth are thought to be having the expected range of adverse effects on human and ecological health," including impaired immune systems, elevated skin, cancer rates, and disruption of aquatic ecosystems. Current estimates suggest that if all countries comply with the Montreal Protocol, the ozone shield will gradually begin to heal within the next few years, but a full recovery to pre-1980 levels is not expected until about 2050.

## THE ROLE OF FOREIGN ECONOMIC ACTIVITY IN REGIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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1. The system of economic relations has gone to impasse since development has reached such a level of anthropogenous loading on a nature that there is a threat of global ecological accident. Therefore there is a necessity to develop economic and public relations in an essentially new direction - in a direction of the sustainable development (the steady balanced ecological-economic development). First of all it is necessary to provide such a development at the local level. The purpose of a regional policy at the present stage should become a generality of state and regional competitiveness with reduction of spatial disproportions in development potential.

2. Foreign economic activity influences greatly on the local sustainable development. Thus the system "state foreign trade policy – local foreign economic activity" is considered.

Among the factors of foreign economic activity which influence local sustainability are:

- regional policy;
- development of inter-regional cooperation;
- foreign trade – local economy;
- efficiency of commodity structure; qualitative change of the produced goods;
- qualitative improvement of reproduction process;
- the mechanism of financial and economic tools to support local export activity;
- export strategy;
- integration processes.

3. Sumy region has significant experience in inter-regional and frontier cooperation. This allows to form the certain regional policy for local steady

economic development and to observe requirements of the balanced ecological-economic development. Thus, programs in sphere of ecology are developed together with regions of Russia (for example, clearing of the rivers Psel, Seim, prevention of a soil erosion, supervision over emissions of polluting substances in atmospheric air by European technique COORINAIR, etc.).

4. The commodity structure of the enterprises' foreign trade relations and the organizations in Sumy region (Ukraine) is determined by mechanical engineering production (51,85 %), food production (4,62 %) and the chemical industry (13,28 %). Therefore within last five years export of the region has the steady tendency to growth: about 164,1 million \$ in 1999 up to 351,9 million \$ in 2003. Competitive production of mechanical engineering provides more than 50 % of Sumy region export (SMNPO "Frunze ", DP "Aviakon" Konotop, Konotop factory " Motordetal Praveks").

"The Program to revive the enterprises' work in Sumy region for a period of 2000-2004" is developed. It promotes introduction of energy-saving technologies, re-structurings of the enterprises in Sumy region, and also to escalating of competitive, hi-tech production.

Strategic direction in escalating export volumes is expansion of the nomenclature and improvement of produced food stuffs' quality. The enterprises of a processing industry have considerably expanded the markets of competitive production deliveries (Romny Milk factory, Belopolye Cheese factory).

5. Expansion of the output nomenclature, improvement of its quality and making it conform to the world standards have enabled enterprises of Sumy region to expand foreign markets, also to determine the niche in world trade, and to develop export strategy on the nearest future.

6. Obligations of Ukraine according to the Agreement on partnership and cooperation with EU provide the introduction into World Trading Organization (WTO). At a present stage a work is carried out to make some changes in the economy of Sumy region because of the joining Ukraine to WTO. Branches which will undertake the basic cargo of foreign trade are determined. And also branches which will suffer most of all from the process of connection or will not sustain a competition at all are defined.

7. Efficiency of a regional policy in the way to steady balanced ecological-economic development will depend on participation in its realization of all interested groups: the enterprises, public organizations, authorities, scientists, etc.