Greetings

Dear readers,

The tenth year of EurAsEC saw a number of pivotal developments which will determine the progress of the integration of the post-Soviet states. A great deal of work was done in conjunction with the government agencies and ministries of Belarus, Kazakhstan and Russia to implement the Customs Union treaty. Due to the political will and concerted efforts of these countries’ leadership, the legal framework of the Customs Union of Belarus, Kazakhstan and Russia was successfully finalised on time, and the Union began functioning on January 1, 2010. Another milestone was the establishment of the Customs Union Commission — a supranational body to which the member states delegate important powers pertaining to foreign trade regulation. As a follow-up, the leaders of the member states are considering a higher form of integration, the Single Economic Space. This indicates that economic cooperation in Eurasia is approaching a deeper, systemic level.

The Customs Union became a reality. The first assessments of this project’s long-term economic effect on the member states have been made. Now we have a lot of hard work ahead of us to adjust the various interrelated elements of the new economic structure. We place particular importance on systemic monitoring and data collection and processing. Equally importantly, we need studies that will enable us to better understand the prospects for Eurasian integration. I welcome and fully support the EDB’s efforts in this field.

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EurAsEC Deputy Secretary General