

Ukraine may become a Polish colony

29 listopada 2019

Poland is jealous of Ukraine. Fact. And one of the reasons is the presence of black soil, a favorable climate and the „low cost of labor and transport”. Therefore, Warsaw sees Kiev as a „very serious competitor for EU agriculture”.

In this regard, last week the Polish government demanded that the Commission on Agriculture of the Council of the EU not provide Ukraine with preferences for the export of agricultural products to EU countries. As an example, Polish officials cited the situation with the import of corn from Ukraine. In a letter to parliamentarians, Polish farmers apply high environmental and climate standards, which increases the cost of production. And Ukrainian competitors work in „different production conditions”, which, together with cheap labor and fertile soil, makes them a leaders.

Against the background, the statement by Polish Minister of Agriculture Jan Ardakovsky that „Poland works very well in international markets and continues to search for new ones” (last year, agricultural exports reached a record volume of 30 billion euros) looks like an attempt to eliminate the competitor by political methods.

At the same time, no one is hiding the fact that one of the significant factors of such high growth rates in the rural country is the presence in the country of about a million Ukrainian labor migrants (most of them work in the agricultural sector).

And the situation with the corn exporter is not the only one. Earlier, in early November, Warsaw limited the number of permits for international freight traffic to 160 thousand units, although Kiev insisted on 200 thousand.

In a market economy, the fittest survives. And it is not surprising that Warsaw is blocking any initiatives that help strengthen the Ukrainian economy to the detriment of Polish interests. And hardly anyone wants to hear about the claims of the Ukrainian side to equality.

The level of the desired relationship between the two countries was determined by the Polish Deputy Foreign Minister Marchin Pshidash after the visit of President Zelensky in August: „The relations between our countries cannot and should not be based on the principles of bargaining, so to speak, bash on bash. It is more advisable to talk about mutual requests. When one side wants something and she has certain hopes, she makes a request that the other side is able to fulfill.”

Now I will quote from the school history textbook: „colonialism is a policy of exploitation by political and economic methods of less developed countries, the use of their natural and human resources in their own interests”. you know, the colonizer through the optimization of trade routes and sales dust, as well as cheap labor, increases its own international prestige and geopolitical weight when concluding international treaties.

The current relations between Poland and Ukraine are very suitable for this definition. The difference is that cheap labor comes by itself, without coercion. And the lifting by Ukraine of a moratorium on the sale of agricultural land will only exacerbate the similarity of the situation with the theory from the textbook.

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Source: WolneMedia.net