Work on reshuffling of employees of Ukrainian customs agencies is to be continued

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Business is waiting for work on the reshuffling of employees of customs agencies to be continued and welcomes the initiative to select future employees from among undergraduates, the co-chairman of the committee for customs policy at the American Chamber of Commerce in Ukraine Igor Dankov has said.

"It's a bit soon since the appointment of the new heads of the customs agencies to draw any conclusions. However, there have been some results. Many foreign economic trade companies have now got the chance of normally registering goods without the obligatory "gratitude" to customs officers. The slick operators who offered corrupt services to settle problems at the customs checkpoints have gone into hiding. However, business is waiting for the work of the new head of the customs service on the reshuffling of employees to continue. There is a lot to be done here," he told Interfax-Ukraine.

Dankov said that it is impossible to build a new customs service of a European type only with the old employees. "It is a good idea to select future employees among undergraduates, so people know where they will work after graduation. The possibility of training abroad will make work at customs agencies more attractive for youth, this is for sure," he added.

Dankov said that providing good conditions of work and wages for customs officers would considerably change the situation in fighting corruption at the local level.

He also took an example: wages of employees of state are not very high, but are compensated for by a large social package.

"The wages of customs officers require radical changes. Today, an ordinary inspector of the customs clearance department has to show the abilities and skills of a lawyer, economist, goods manager, appraiser and sometimes criminologists. Allowing cargos to go via the border, every day inspectors makes decisions that have a large effect on the state and business if we assess them in monetary terms. It's absurd that they receive wages of only $200-250 a month – in the equivalent," he added.

He said that the idea of reviving tutorship in customs agencies is good. This would have allowed transferring knowledge and experience to new generations of customs officers.

"The introduction of the institute of the public appraisal of heads of structural divisions of the customs agencies by business society is a very important instrument," he added.

Dankov said that the innovation was for the first time in the history of the Ukrainian customs sector reflected in a memorandum of cooperation recently signed between the Income and Tax Ministry of Ukrainian and business associations: the American Chamber of Commerce and the European Business Association.