

Kazakhstan's border policy: Russian direction. Part 2

Undoubtedly, openness and contact of the Kazakhstan-Russian borders promotes the development of bilateral relations between the states as well as strengthening of inter-regional cooperation. But, at the same time, such openness promotes various border security problems for both countries, which according to the results of monitoring of publications in the FSS RF central weekly newspaper «Russian border» in 2013, such as:

- attempts to move through the border various kinds of weapons and ammunition without the relevant documents in the direction from Kazakhstan to the Russian Federation, which is then passed into the hands of criminal groups;
- facts of illegal border crossing, illegal migration, associated with searching of work in the territory of the Russian Federation by citizens from Central Asian states, primarily from Uzbekistan and Tajikistan;
- human traffic from the Republic of Kazakhstan to the Russian Federation;
- drug trafficking from Kazakhstan to Russia for further sale of narcotics in Russia or further transit to the EU;
- import of drastic psychotropic substances, illicit in the Russian Federation, for example, sibutramine. They are purchased in China, legalized in Kazakhstan and are imported to the Russian territory;
- contraband from the RK to the RF (food, home-made alcoholic beverages, cheap Chinese goods) and from the RF to the RK (non-ferrous metals, wood products, building materials, agricultural and food products, alcohol and alcoholic beverages, consumer goods, fuels and lubricants, auto parts);
- poaching on the Caspian Sea from both sides;
- illegal disafforestation by economic agent from bordering regions [1].

Number of reasons contribute to the growth of the listed problems:

- large extension of the border determines the difficulty of its controls, even by joint Kazakhstan-Russian efforts;
- border «transparency», presence of simplified checkpoints, special regime for the population of the bordering areas, removal of tariff barriers create opportunities for illegal border crossings and transportation of prohibited items;
- different levels of socio-economic development of border areas;
- high intensity of traffic flows when border services cannot cope with the enormity of the work;
- lack of necessary border facilities (its demarcation is not completed, there are thefts of demarcation pillars), facilities on crossing points, i.e. lack of the necessary material and technical basis for border protection;
- all sorts of techniques to conceal contraband goods (use a bow to hide the smell of drugs from the border guards and dogs, etc.);
- corruption among border officials;
- lack of coordination between Kazakhstan and Russian border guards, that often leads to conflicts (e.g., in 2012, Kazakhstan border guards used weapons during arrest of poachers who were Russian citizens).

As it can be seen from the given analysis of security problems and direction of their spreading, mainly criminal flows move from Kazakhstan to Russia, that could form the reason of discontent from the Russian side which is already observed among some Russian experts and citizens.

To prevent the development of such a scenario, the states have to establish cooperation between their services providing border security, including Border Service of the National security committee of the RK and Border Service of the Federal Security Service of the RF, to ensure coordination and coherence among them. In addition, it is necessary to complete the demarcation of the state border and equip checkpoints using new technology.

References:

1. <http://granicarossii.info/load>

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