

# Belarus Business Newsletter for Belgium & Luxembourg

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## EMERGING POSITIVE TREND IN BELARUSIAN ECONOMY EXPECTED TO LAST

A positive trend has emerged in the Belarusian economy and it will last. Prime Minister of Belarus Andrei Kobyakov made this statement at the government meeting held by the President of Belarus on 1 October to discuss the current social, economic and political situation in the country. The Government is taking measures to ensure macroeconomic stability and preserve adequate level of social protection of the population. "Today one can say that the measures we have taken allow us to avoid further slowdown of economic growth. Meanwhile, we've honored our foreign currency commitments in full and on time," noted Andrei Kobyakov. In January-

August 2015 the GDP growth rate improved by 0.5% compared to January-July figure. "The economy is in the recovery growth stage. However, the drastic devaluation of the Russian ruble in August followed by the forced devaluation of the Belarusian ruble against foreign currencies introduced some corrections but there are reasons to believe that the emerging positive trend will last," said the Prime Minister. For instance, in June-August the industrial output rose by 0.6% against January-May. As a result, in



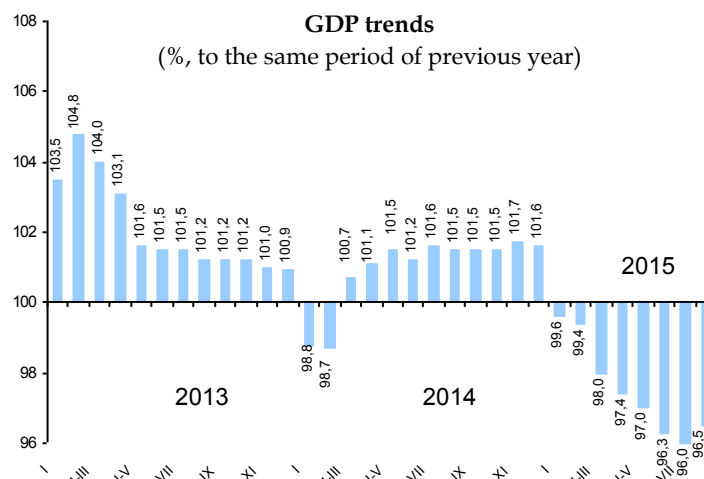
Andrei Kobyakov, Prime Minister of Belarus

January-August 2015 the growth rate totaled 92.9%.

On the whole, the economic situation in Belarus is believed to be complicated but manageable. Among other things the Government has managed to curb the growth of unemployment and secure a positive balance of trade in merchandise and services.

JAN-AUG 2015 INDICATORS:

- GDP **-3.5%**
- Industry **-7.1%**
- Agriculture **-1.4%**
- Wholesale trade **-3,3%**
- Retail trade **+1.1%**
- Consumer prices **+7.8%**
- Real salaries **-3.1%**
- Labor productivity **-2.6%**
- Unemployment **1.0%**



### Trade in Goods, January-August 2015

Belarus-World

	US\$ bln	% to '13
Exports	18.4	73.6
Imports	19.8	74.4

Belarus-EU

	US\$ bln	% to '13
Exports	6.1	79.6
Imports	3.8	60.5

## BELARUS ADJUSTS ITS BUDGET AND PREPARES STRUCTURAL REFORMS



The Government of Belarus has adjusted certain positions of the 2015 state budget plan: the 2015 budget surplus has been reduced by 33.4% to Br10.461 trillion (\$590.9m). Revenues of the 2015 budget have been increased by 4.2% to Br163.348 trillion (\$9.227bn); expenditures up 8.4% to Br152.887 trillion (\$8.636bn).

As previously reported, Belarus' Ministry of Finance reported a surplus of republican budget of Br14.4 tril-

lion (U.S. \$825 million at the NBB rate) in January-July 2015, or 3% of GDP.

Republican budget revenues amounted to 97.9 trillion rubles (\$5.53 billion) in January-July 2015, or 58.3% of the adjusted target for the whole year.

Republican budget expenditures reached 83.5 trillion rubles (\$4.717 billion), 55.3% of the target for 2015.

The state agencies are also currently in the middle of planning the budget for 2016. According to the Ministry of Economy of Belarus, the budget plans for 2016 have three main scenarios, based on the forecasts for the global price of oil at \$57, \$45 and \$30 a barrel.

In the meantime the Government and the National Bank of Belarus are finalizing the program of structural reforms for 2016-2020, which should be presented in October 2015. The programme will outline key principles that allow to create the basis for sustainable economic growth.

Belarus also discussed the preparation of new projects with the World Bank as part of the partnership strategy for the 2014-2017 during autumn annual meeting of the boards of governors of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund that took place in Lima, Peru on 9-11 October 2015.

## BELARUS INTRODUCES HYGIENIC TESTING FOR SOME IMPORTED PRODUCTS



Belarus has approved a list of imported products subject to sanitary and hygienic testing. Chief sanitary inspector of Belarus issued an official resolution on this issue on September 10, 2015 following another government resolution (No. 666 of Aug 6, 2015).

The resolution took effect on August 27 to make it mandatory for sole traders and companies to get imported products tested by relevant sanitary-hygienic agencies in the framework of import registration procedures. The new hygienic requirement

targets light industry products, household appliances, foodstuffs, children's goods, household chemicals and some other imported products. Belarusian manufacturers will not have to apply for this sort of hygienic certificates for their products.

The chief sanitary inspector's list includes a wide array of food products (fish, dairy, non-alcoholic beverages except fruit-and-vegetable juices, sugar, confectionery goods, flour, cereals, tea and coffee), children's clothes and toys, furniture, stationery goods,

baby prams; cosmetics, personal hygiene products, household chemicals, household appliances for food processing/storage, refrigerators, freezers; wallpaper, plastic goods.

Mandatory hygienic testing shall not apply to products manufactured in the territory on the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU), if relevant certificates are available. Another exception is perishable food products, products sold by self-employed businessmen who pay the single tax, second-hand goods.

## BELARUSIAN TRANSPORT WEEK IN MINSK

During 6-8 October Minsk hosted the main annual event for transports and logistics industry - Belarusian Transport Week. During this week a number of important events took place in the capital - International exhibition "Transport and Logistics - 2015", International exhibition "Engineering in Logistics - 2015", International exhibition "Transport Infrastructure - 2015", and 9th Belarusian Transport and Logistics Congress.

Representatives of major European players in transport and logistics arrived in Minsk to discuss the opportunities of strengthening cooperation in this area and finding opportunities to streamline delivery and transit of goods. Among the participants were government and business circles of Belarus, Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Austria and China.

One of the main topics discussed during the Belarusian Transport Week was China's New Silk Road initiative, as it creates opportunities for many countries on the Eurasian continent.

Head of Belarusian Railways Vladimir Morozov stated that transport authorities of the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) and their peers in the European Union (EU) should join their efforts to create favourable terms for cargo traffic in the framework of the New Silk Road project. There are eight container trains running from China to Western Europe and back to China four times a week across Germany, Poland, the Czech Republic and Lithuania. Container cargo transportation by rail via Belarus takes almost 14 days although the trains cross the country within less than 12 hours. Optimized customs procedures and border inspections are needed to shorten transit times.

Poland and Belarus could join efforts to enhance the appeal of China's New Silk Road Project, stated Poland's Vice Minister of Economy Mariusz Haładyj during the Belarusian Transport Week. As one of the projects in this area Belarus and Poland are discussing launching of a new container train called Volat. Belarus is ready to offer to Volat the same set of tariffs as for the

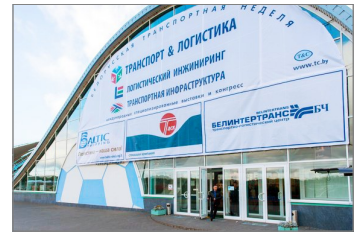
Viking container train, which has been running for several years. The Viking train travels via Bulgaria, Romania, Moldova, Ukraine, Belarus, and Lithuania and connects a number of maritime container lines in the Baltic region with a similar system of the Black Sea and the Mediterranean Sea.

Latvia's Deputy State Secretary of the Ministry of Communications Uldis Reimanis called the Baltic States to coordinate their efforts to attract cargoes in the framework of China's New Silk Road Project.

During the Belarusian Transport Week companies and state entities have presented to the potential partners numerous investment and cooperation projects in development and modernization of automotive roads, railroads, civil aviation infrastructure, inland water transportation and logistics.

Next Belarusian Transport Week will take place in the autumn of 2016.

Web-site: [www.tc.by](http://www.tc.by)



## LAUNCH OF BELARUS-BELGIUM EXPORT-IMPORT AGENCY

On 25 August 2015 in Brussels *Belarusian-Belgian Export and Import Agency*, or "Belexia" in abridged form, was created. The main goals of the Agency is to promote exports from Belarus to Belgium, to the European Union, and other countries of the world, as well as to attract investments to the Belarusian economy.

From the Belarusian side the

National Center of Marketing and Price Studies became the founder of the Agency, supported also by the Economic Institute of Science and Research of the Ministry of Economy of Belarus.

Belgian company "Belby Egnineering", represented by its Director Mr. Etienne Vauthier, became the founder from the Belgian side.

The Agency has already started its activities, and opened its office in Brussels.

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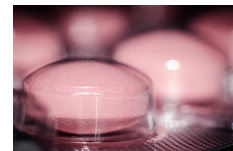


## INVESTMENT PROJECTS FROM BELARUS

### Establishment of pharmaceuticals and biologicals manufacturing facility

Setting-up an enterprise to satisfy domestic demand for effective drugs, produced in line with the international standards of good manufacturing practice. A land plot of 4.5 ha with infrastructure and communications is available for this project.

**Estimated investments: US \$ 67 mln | Belarusian partner: "BelVitonipharm" | Location: Vitebsk city**



### Reconstruction of ampule manufacturing facility

OJSC "Borisovskiy Zavod Meditsinskikh Preparatov" is looking for partners to construct an injection drug manufacturing facility with an output of 100 million ampules a year. Infrastructure and raw materials are available.

**Estimated investments: US \$ 16 mln | Belarusian partner: "BZMP" OJSC | Location: Borisov, Minsk region**



### Reconstruction of manufacturing facilities at the RUE "Belmedpreparaty"

The Republican Unitary Enterprise "Belmedpreparaty" is looking for partners to launch up-to-date manufacturing of ointments, gels for external use, and eye drops.

**Estimated investments: US \$ 42 mln | Belarusian partner: RUE "Belmedpreparaty" | Location: Minsk city**



### Production of medicines in tablets

The Open Joint Stock Company "Borisovskiy Zavod Meditsinskikh Preparatov" ("BZMP" OJSC) is looking for partners to launch production of medicines in tablets. Relevant infrastructure is available. The expected share of investor in the statutory fund is 64,6 per cent.

**Estimated investments: US \$ 15 mln | Belarusian partner: "BZMP" OJSC | Location: Minsk region**



### Creation of production facilities for medicines in gelatin capsules

PRUP "Minskinterkaps" is looking for partners to set-up manufacturing of medicines in hard and soft gelatin capsules with an output of 667 and 333 million capsules a year. The expected share of foreign partners in the statutory fund is 60 per cent.

**Estimated investments: US \$ 26,7 mln | Belarusian partner: "Minskinterkaps" | Location: Minsk city**



For additional information on these and other available investment projects please contact the commercial section of the Embassy of Belarus in Belgium and Luxembourg  
e-mail: [be.trade@mfa.gov.by](mailto:be.trade@mfa.gov.by), Tel. +32 2 340 02 76, -88

## SEARCH FOR BUYERS / IMPORTERS / DISTRIBUTORS

### PULPWOOD AND TECHNICAL WOOD FROM BELLESEXPORT

Export and Production Republican Unitary Enterprise "Bellesexport" of the Ministry of Forestry of the Republic of Belarus plans to export 1.7 million cubic meters of pulpwood and technical wood in 2016. The company is looking for partners in Europe, interested to buy its products for

manufacturing of cellulose, paper, particle boards, etc.

"Bellesexport" is also offering edged and unedged sawn timber, wood stakes, firewood, Christmas trees, planting material (pines, spruce, oak, chestnut).

The company sells wooden

products through *Belarusian Universal Stock Exchange* during scheduled trades.

**Contact:**

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[v.borisov@bellesexport.by](mailto:v.borisov@bellesexport.by)

URL: [www.bellesexport.by](http://www.bellesexport.by)



### GOMSELMASH INTENDS TO PROMOTE "PALESSE" HARVESTERS IN EUROPE

Belarusian production holding *Gomselmash* is looking for partners interested in organizing supplies of its harvesters in Europe.

*Gomselmash* manufactures a range of combine grain, potato and forage harvesters, and other agricultural machinery under "Palesse" trade mark.

Currently the agricultural machinery produced by *Gomselmash* is exported to the CIS states, countries of Eastern Europe, Asia, and Latin America.

Financing arrangements, such as leasing are available for the buyers of "Palesse" machines.

**Contacts:**

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URL: [www.gomselmash.by](http://www.gomselmash.by)



### MINSK MOTOR PLANT OFFERS DIESEL ENGINES

The OJSC "Minsk Motor Plant" Holding Managing Company" is looking for partners interested in purchasing or distributing diesel engines.

The company manufactures multi-purpose diesel engines with the bore/stroke of 110x125 mm and 110x140 mm within the power range:

- 4-cylinder diesel engines from 44,2 kW (60 hp) to 114,0 kW (155 hp);

- 6-cylinder diesel engines from 95,7 kW (130 hp) to 184,0 kW (250 hp).

- 8-cylinder diesel engines from 312,5 kW to 331,2 kW (425-450 hp).

The engines are certified to international ecological standards: off-road – stage 1, stage 2, stage 3A; automobile – Euro-1, Euro-2, Euro-3.

The engines are used in tractors, combine harvesters,

trucks, buses, open mine machinery, agricultural, industrial, construction, road-building, forestry and other special machinery.

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## UPCOMING BUSINESS EVENTS

**Exhibitions in Belarus****8-11 October****Mother and Child**Venue: Starovilenski Trakt 41, MinskWeb-site: [www.expoforum.by](http://www.expoforum.by)**13-16 October****Real Estate**Venue: ul.Ya. Kupaly 27, MinskWeb-site: [www.belexpo.by](http://www.belexpo.by)**13-16 October****StroyExpo Autumn**11<sup>th</sup> International specialized construction exhibitionVenue: ul.Ya. Kupaly 27, MinskWeb-site: [www.belexpo.by](http://www.belexpo.by)**20-23 October****Health & Healthcare 2015****Health & Beauty**23<sup>rd</sup> International ExhibitionVenue: pr.Pobeditelei, 20/2, MinskWeb-site: [www.minskexpo.by](http://www.minskexpo.by)**21-23 October****Belarus Dentistry 2015**11<sup>th</sup> International ExhibitionVenue: pr.Dzerzhinskogo, 83, MinskWeb-site: [www.tc.by](http://www.tc.by)**21-23 October****Tourbusiness 2015**22<sup>nd</sup> International Tourism ExhibitionVenue: ul.Ya Kupaly 27, MinskWeb-site: [www.belexpo.by](http://www.belexpo.by)**27-30 October****Automotive Service, Mechanics, Automotive Components 2015****Road Construction 2015**

International Specialized Exhibition

Venue: pr.Pobeditelei, 20/2, MinskWeb-site: [www.minskexpo.by](http://www.minskexpo.by)**27-30 October****International Show Industry Exhibition**

International Specialized Exhibition

Venue: pr.Pobeditelei, 20/2, MinskWeb-site: [www.belinterexpo.by](http://www.belinterexpo.by)**27-29 October****Mint Lion**

International exhibition of advertising industry

Venue: pr.Pobeditelei, 20/2, MinskWeb-site: [www.belexpo.by](http://www.belexpo.by)**29 October****Novopolotsk Economic Forum**

Forum and matchmaking session

Venue: Novopolotsk, various venuesContacts: (+375 214) 74-75-72,

Margarita Sergeevna MALCHIK

**29-30 October****Your House**6<sup>th</sup> International specialized exhibitionVenue: Belexpo Exhibition Center,

Brest

Web-site: [www.belinterexpo.by](http://www.belinterexpo.by)**29-31 October****Modern Office****Bank. Insurance. Leasing****Residential & Commercial****Real Estate**Venue: pr.Pobeditelei, 20/2, MinskWeb-site: [www.expoforum.by](http://www.expoforum.by)**5-8 November****Interstyle 2015**14<sup>th</sup> International Specialized Exhibition for beauty, SPA and cosmetology equipment and materialsVenue: pr.Pobeditelei, 20/2, MinskWeb-site: [www.tc.by](http://www.tc.by)**10-13 November****Prodexpo**21<sup>st</sup> International wholesale food fair**Food Technology**Venue: pr.Pobeditelei, 20/2, MinskWeb-site: [www.belexpo.by](http://www.belexpo.by)

## 20TH BELARUSIAN ENERGY AND ECOLOGY FORUM

20TH BELARUSIAN ENERGY AND ECOLOGY CONGRESS  
 20TH INTERNATIONAL SPECIALIZED EXHIBITION "ENERGY EXPO 2015"  
 10TH SPECIALIZED EXHIBITION "WATER & AIR TECHNOLOGIES 2015"  
 11TH SPECIALIZED EXHIBITION "EXPOLIGHT 2015"

MINSK, 13-16 OCTOBER 2015

The Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Belarus, ZAO "Technics and Communications" with support of other state authorities and private companies organize in Minsk from October 13 to 16, 2015 the 20th Belarusian Energy and Ecology Forum, which includes the 20th International Specialized Exhibition "Energy Expo 2015", the 10th Specialized Exhibition "Water and Air Technologies 2015", the 11th Specialized Exhibition "ExpoLight 2015" and the 20th Belarusian Energy and Ecology Congress.

The event will take place in the Indoor Soccer Arena in Minsk, pr.Pobeditelei 20/2.

Since it was first held in 1995 Energy Expo traditionally draws attention of leading international and domestic manufacturers of hardware, technologies and materials for the energy sector, environmental protection, energy saving and electrical engineering. Today the Exhibition is one of the largest of its kind in the CIS and the Baltic States.

320 companies participated in the Forum in 2014, representing 15 countries of the world (Austria, Belarus, Germany, Italy, China, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Turkey, Finland, France, the Czech Republic, Switzerland, Sweden, Estonia), including the largest domestic manufacturing and engineering firms as well as a big number of their foreign counterparts interested in supplying products and technologies to Belarus.

**ENERGY EXPO**

Water & Air  
technologies

exp·light

ATOMEXPO  
Belarus

### Main Events of the Congress

12 - 13 October 2015

#### INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

*"The Prospects of Scientific, Technical And Innovative Cooperation Between The European Union and the Eastern Partnership Countries in the Field of Energy"*

14 October 2015

#### PLENARY MEETING

*"Main development trends in the fuel and energy complex, ecology, energy saving in the Republic of Belarus. Investment sources"*

WORKSHOP *"Belarusian energy system: current status, engineering specifics, and development prospects"*

15 October 2015

#### 6TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

*"Energy saving and improving energy efficiency. Renewable energy development prospects in the Republic of Belarus"*

15 October 2015

#### BELARUSIAN-POLISH ENERGY FORUM

THEORETICAL AND PRACTICAL CONFERENCE *"LIFE SUPPORT AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT"*

13 October 2015

WORKSHOP *"A Smart City: information technologies in municipal services"*

WORKSHOP *"Infrastructure of innovations"*

14 October 2015

WORKSHOP *"Modern trends in city and land-use planning policy"*

15 October 2015

WORKSHOP *"Energy-efficient construction in contemporary architecture. Main development trends, topical challenges, and their solutions"*

16 October 2015

WORKSHOP *"Sustainable city"*

WORKSHOP *"Energy saving and resource saving in housing and public utilities"*

#### Organizer:

ZAO **"Technics & Communications"**

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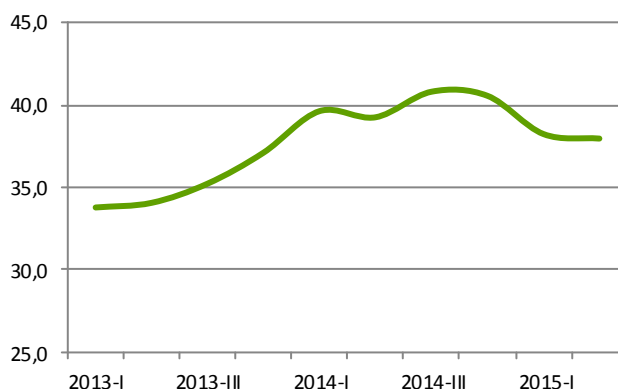
Project Manager Mr. Andrei Kazimirchik

## LATEST STATISTICS

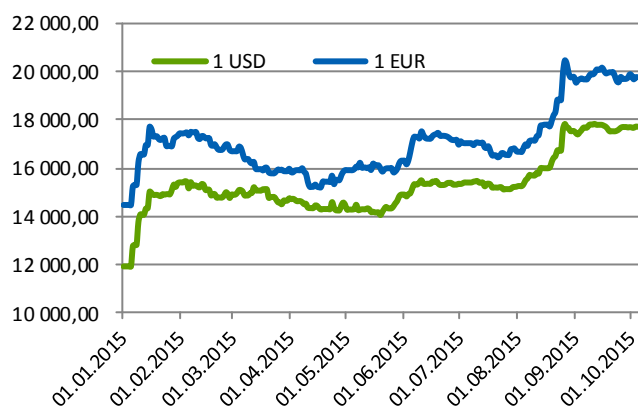
Exchange rates (as of 01.10.2015)

	Official Exchange Rate	Change from 31.12.2014, %
Currency basket	3,431.06	-35.46
US\$	17,688.00	-49.27
Euro	19,845.00	-38.00
Russian ruble	268.89	-25.36

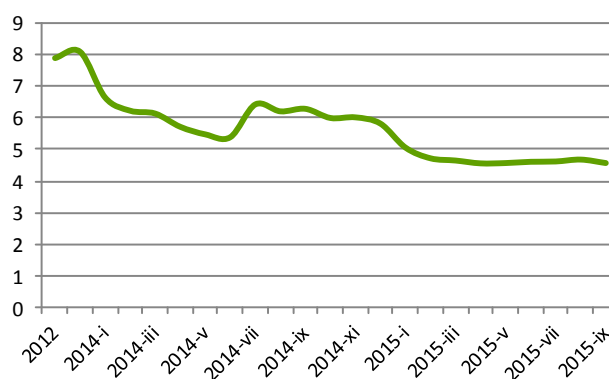
Gross Foreign Debt (US\$, billion)



US\$ and Euro exchange rates in 2015 (in BYR)



International Reserves (IMF Standards, US\$, billion)



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