



Belarusian energy and ecology forum
Energy Expo
 presented over 250 developments and innovative projects

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The 16th Verona Eurasian Economic Forum will be held on November 2nd-3rd, in Samarkand (Uzbekistan)

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The Palace of Independence turns 10. But it has already become not just a symbol of the sovereign country, but its centre.

The symbol of our statehood

The Palace of Independence celebrated its 10th anniversary. During these years it has managed to become an integral part of the national history, an art gallery and an exhibition of achievements of Belarusian masters. Familiar to millions of people interiors and backstage of the most important political events, a corner of subtropics in Minsk and a unique museum of gifts — in our material devoted to the first anniversary of the Palace of Independence, which is the place of work of the Belarusian Head of State and at the same time, by the order of the President, has become public. → **6-7**



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Strategic projects are important for the future of Belarus

The Head of State warned that control over the implementation of instructions will be the most serious.

“After we make a decision, we don’t always implement it. We deliver at the wrong time — this has already become the norm. But my biggest worry of late is when our government starts lying and misinforming the President instead of taking care of concrete things. In order to present itself in the best light. We will not hold on to the country if we look into a crooked mirror. And we will not give it new impulses whatever strategic plans we may have.”

According to the President, strategic projects can be implemented in various sectors. For example, to deepen existing technological processes in mechanical engineering and agriculture.

“In each of the areas there is an opportunity and need to go deeper. The technologies are clear, schools exist, personnel know in which direction to move,” Aleksandr Lukashenko noted.

Another area of work is the construction of production facilities from scratch. One of them was the Belarusian Nuclear Power Plant and Belarusian National Biotechnology Corporation. The implementation of these projects began thanks to persistent urging of the President. In particular, the construction of the nuclear power plant has led to the emergence of a new industry.

“Two sites were chosen. One nuclear power plant was built. Today our ratio of consumption of electricity generated by nuclear energy to the total electricity generation is higher than that in the United States of America and even in Russia. We generate about a quarter of the total thanks to peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Today I am carefully leading you to the idea that it would be nice to have a second nuclear power plant in the country,” the President emphasised.

In his words, the relevant considerations are at the initial stage. “Either we add two units to the existing nuclear power plant or build two units in Mogilev Region where the second appropriate site is located. And then we will get more than half of electricity from a nuclear power plant. A clean and very profitable product,” the Belarusian leader stressed.

Setting up car production should be considered as one of the largest projects in Belarus. During the solemn ceremony to open the BelGee car factory in November 2017 Aleksandr Lukashenko mentioned that his dream of seeing a Belarusian car made in the country had come true. The rate of manufacturing localisation has increased substantially since then. Output figures have gone up. Today one can say with confidence that Belarusian Geely cars are truly people’s cars.



The President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko, convened a government conference to discuss the improvement of the system of planning and overseeing the implementation of strategic projects. The Head of State emphasised the importance of strategic projects, “This is the future of not only a system but of a country in general. Strategic projects, if we talk about Belarus, are the future of our country.”

“People line up to buy Geely cars now. The cars are pleasant to look at and are quality ones. Today we have ambitious plans of making 120,000 cars per annum instead of 30,000-40,000 cars,” Aleksandr Lukashenko stated.

The President reminded that Belarus intends to start manufacturing automobiles together with the Chinese company FAW Group. The corporation’s most famous brand is Hongqi cars (red banner in Chinese).

every country to think beyond protective and compensatory measures. We need to calculate the strategic prospects for the development of the national economy (hence the state). We need to look to the future,” the President said.

The Head of State pointed out that an entire network of research institutes focusing on various areas has evolved in Belarus over the course of 30 years. However, among them there are those that need serious reform.



“We will soon show them to the nation. We’ve started making a new automobile brand. You see how life has turned out: cars are in demand. And Geely is the top seller in Belarus already. Russians pray to buy these cars. People are lining up to buy them. When has it ever happened? It means that we should develop this kind of business. And we have to see prospects. These are the strategic projects that will elevate the country two or three levels above where it is now,” the Head of State noted.

According to the Head of State, the aim of the meeting is to discuss ways to improve the system of planning and overseeing the implementation of strategic projects. Everything is important in this area — from the idea to its implementation and guaranteed economic effect.

“The shock restructuring of the global political, economic and financial relations prompts

This is why the President reminded the government of his demand to review the number and structure of research institutes in order ‘to get rid of those that do not produce results’.



Aleksandr Lukashenko also mentioned the work of the State Committee on Science and Technology and the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus. By the way, the academy is in for a comprehensive inspection. “The

Academy of Sciences should be subjected to most serious analysis in winter. I hope to god that everything is the way the head of the academy tells us: they make everything starting with drones and ending with milk powder products that they sell to China. They make everything. We will see whether it is true. I mean electric vehicles and so on,” the President said.

Continuing the conversation about the work of Belarusian scientists, Aleksandr Lukashenko remarked that their studies, analytical work, projections concerning scientific and technological advance for decades to come are certainly necessary.

“But one has to admit that for some reason the real sector of the economy is not really eager to use works of the scientists in large numbers. Not all the new R&D products are assimilated by the manufacturing sector,” the President emphasised.

Aleksandr Lukashenko reminded that in spring 2023 he instructed the government, the Academy of Sciences and his aide Aleksandr Kosinets to consider the possibility of creating a so-called brain trust capable of assessing and supervising large-

scale projects in the country. By the way, such projects have already been earmarked.

“We need a centre which will act on behalf of the President and will see what is going on in the country and make all of

you implement these projects,” the Head of State explained.

The government presented to the Head of State a version with two main structures: a centre that develops ideas and calculates their economic effect, and a council which decides on the viability and relevance of such ideas. The final decision on the largest projects is expected to be made by the Head of State.

The President drew attention to the role of regional governors in the implementation of strategic projects, “Remember this: the failure of a project on your territory will mean your failure.”

Deputy Head of the Belarus President Administration Maksim Yermolovich said that all problematic issues arising in the planning and implementation of the largest investment projects had been analysed and foreign and Soviet experience in developing large-scale production facilities had been studied.

“Objectively, today there is no single centre in Belarus to determine large-scale investment projects and capital investments. The process is decentralised and is carried out according to the proposals from central government bodies, regional executive committees or investors,” Deputy Head of the Belarus President Administration noted.

At the meeting, they discussed the need to create and the features of the functioning of the centre and the Council for Strategic Investment Projects. There were many proposals on how to organise this work.

“In the end the following proposal was recognised as the basic one: the creation of the council for large-scale, strategic investment projects under the President of Belarus. It will be a powerful intellectual institution, which will be incorporated into the state administration system and will analyse and suggest such strategic projects to the President,” Maksim Yermolovich told reporters about the results of the meeting.

As far as the organisation of the centre for strategic projects is concerned, during the discussion it was noted that it is necessary to give an additional impulse to the Economy Ministry. The ministry has to streamline work in a way so as to make sure that the projects, which are worked out by scientists, are offered by enterprises and investors, pass the appropriate scientific and technical evaluation.

“The council will oversee the realisation of these projects among other things. Including by involving all the government agencies that have the relevant skill sets,” Deputy Head of the Belarus President Administration added.

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A strong economy is the key to sovereignty and independence

Last week, President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko held four important international meetings. On Tuesday, the First Vice President of Iran and the Head of the Venezuelan Foreign Ministry became guests of the Palace of Independence. On Thursday, the Belarusian leader received the Head of Mordovia and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Equatorial Guinea. The theme of economic co-operation, working under sanctions pressure, and the need to deepen co-operative ties ran through all the negotiations. The President constantly emphasises: now, when the whole world is stormy, it is the economy that comes to the fore. Here are the key statements of the Head of the Belarusian State.

Welcoming the Minister of the People's Power for Foreign Affairs of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela Yvan Gil Pinto, the President of Belarus said,

"It's good that you have come to Belarus, it's very well-timed. I think we don't need to get to know each other, we don't need to find out what Belarus and Venezuela can bring to the table in bilateral co-operation. We have known each other for a long time and did a lot in the past to intensify our interaction."

Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that due to certain circumstances, primarily external factors, interaction between the two countries has been put on hold. "I feel that we need to have a fresh look at all areas and matters of cooperation that we identified in the times of Hugo Chavez. We definitely need to determine what we should and can do for Venezuela and what Venezuela should do for Belarus. We need to develop an appropriate plan, a roadmap for the short and medium term, and perhaps even the long term. If other states, say Cuba, need to be included in this cooperation scheme, we don't mind it. In other words, if you agree, we will be ready, the foreign minister will be ready to implement these agreements by the new year," the Head of State noted.



During negotiations with First Vice President of Iran Mohammad Mokhber, Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasised,

"We have a lot to talk about. This is why I also hope our conversation will yield good practical results. You know the situation Belarus is in. It is roughly the same situation you are in. The pressure exerted on our states is unprecedented, but you have already learned to resist it to some extent, and your experience is very important for us. What I am constantly surprised by is that during these large-scale actions Iran has not decreased the level of its development, but, on the contrary, has significantly increased it."

Aleksandr Lukashenko paid an official visit to Iran in March 2023. Then the two Presidents agreed to work out a plan of action for the foreseeable future so that trade between the two countries and co-operation in general could develop more successfully. Following the talks, Aleksandr Lukashenko and Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi signed a roadmap of comprehensive co-operation between the two countries for 2023-2026.

"The most important and key thing. Based on the experience of relations with Iran, on many years of cooperation with Iran, I conclude that your bureaucrats and ours need to learn to work very fast. If we have agreed on something, it must be implemented on time. The most important thing for us is time, not sanctions and pressure. We should not lose time because of red tape," the Belarusian leader emphasised.

Aleksandr Lukashenko remarked that the situation in the world is aggravating, and with the crisis in the Middle East unfriendly Western countries led by the United States of America are constantly directing the spearhead of this conflict against Iran.

"You can feel it better. Our answer is as follows: we must co-operate more closely with each other in order to be able to counter these attacks," the President of Belarus said.



Starting the conversation with Equatorial Guinea's Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Co-operation and Diaspora Simeón Oyono Esono Angüe, the President of Belarus noted,

"Fortunately, we have recently been working very closely with your country in order to develop a concrete plan of action for our relations. I will definitely visit your country in the near future. We have already scheduled this.

We'll figure out the dates. But the most important thing is that we have a clear idea of how to build up trade and economic relations between our countries."

The visit of Simeón Oyono Esono Angüe to Belarus will contribute to the implementation of the agreements that were reached between the Heads of the two States at the September negotiations in Minsk. Then one of the results of the summit meeting was the decision to create a joint intergovernmental commission on trade and economic co-operation. An impressive delegation from Equatorial Guinea, headed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of this country, arrived in the Belarusian capital for its first meeting.

"I've already told the President of Equatorial Guinea and would like to once again emphasise that Belarus has all the technologies for advancing your country to a higher level. You are also very interested in it. I also mentioned our proposals during the visit of your President. Essentially, we are ready to not only sell the products you need to you. We are ready to transfer technologies to you and train your people how to use them. And it would be a good idea (it is the second direction) for you and us to manage to create a manufacturing base in Equatorial Guinea that will be able to work for the benefit of neighbouring states at least," the President of Belarus said.

Aleksandr Lukashenko believes that the current visit of the Equatorial Guinea's minister of foreign affairs, international co-operation and diaspora will become the key stage in preparing a future meeting of the two leaders.

As experts note, the development of dialogue between Belarus and Equatorial Guinea has every chance of becoming exemplary in terms of its intensity.

Aleksandr Lukashenko often states that the future of our planet largely belongs to Africa. And if we are already relatively familiar with the north of the continent, recently more and more substantive contacts have been made with the central and southern parts. In general, the mainland is experiencing a real renaissance. The countries located here are increasingly declaring their desire to finally shake off the neocolonial yoke and independently determine their destiny and paths of development.



During a meeting with the Head of Russia's Republic of Mordovia Artyom Zdunov, the President of Belarus welcomed the initiative of the head of Mordovia to establish twinning ties between Cherven District of Minsk Region where Artyom Zdunov's grandfather's brother fought the enemy and his homeland — Atyashevo Municipal District of Mordovia.

"Today our battles continue in fields, factories, cultural and information sectors, in schools and

universities — for our truth, for our development prospects, for our right to be sovereign and independent. We will have it all if we have a strong economy. This is the basis of everything," the Belarusian leader said.

Last year the parties reached a record high trade of nearly \$90 million. In January-August 2023 this figure rose significantly — the growth rate made up almost 300 percent, or \$115.7 million.

"But it is far from the limit. We have enough resources for further development in this regard," the President is convinced. "Today is the most appropriate time to develop industrial co-operation, and joint import-substituting manufacturing in the first place... We could participate in the creation of joint ventures in micro- and radioelectronics. You are also probably aware that we are now actively working with Russian partners on the concept of creating an aircraft for regional transport. Perhaps, taking into account your production potential, we could find common ground on this issue."

The president voiced Belarus' interest in co-operation with the company Ruzkhimmash in the development of foundry production and production of equipment for the chemical industry. The Head of State also mentioned Belarus' readiness to share experience and technologies of using secondary resources, including synthetic RDF-fuel, to produce thermal energy.

Speaking about the upcoming International Exhibition and Forum called Russia at VDNKh in Moscow in November, where Mordovia will present its best achievements, Aleksandr Lukashenko proposed instructing the governments to hold a meeting at the VDNKh site at the same time and update joint agreements.



By Vera Arteaga

As part of the event, international specialised exhibitions *Energy. Ecology. Energy Saving. Electro (ENERGY EXPO)*, *Innovative Industrial Technologies (Green INDUSTRY)*, *Salon of Innovative Transport E-TRANS*, *Technologies for the Petrochemical Industry (OIL & GAS Technologies)*, *Atomexpo-Belarus*, *ExpoSVET*, *Water and Air Technologies* and *ExpoCity*. More than 200 enterprises and organisations from Belarus and Russia took part in the forum, presenting over 250 different developments and innovative projects.

The *EnergyExpo* exhibition has traditionally attracted the attention of leading domestic and global manufacturers of equipment, technologies and materials for energy, electrical engineering, ecology and energy saving since 1995 and is one of the largest on this topic in the CIS and Baltic countries.

During the event, enterprises and organisations presented modern equipment and technologies for the production and distribution of electrical and thermal energy, automated systems, energy and resource-saving technologies. The structure of the exposition included industry sections of the Energy Ministry, the Be-

The 27th Belarusian energy and ecology forum took place in Minsk



Unifying energy



larusian State Concern for Oil and Chemistry, the State Committee for Standardisation, the State Committee for Science and Technology, the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, the Education Ministry and the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Ministry.

Emphasising the importance of the forum, Energy Minister Viktor Karakevich noted, "Over the years of its existence, the forum has become the largest business and exhibition platform for the fuel and energy complex, which promotes the widespread introduction of the latest technologies and services in the industry, as well as high-tech projects aimed at strengthening the energy security of Belarus."

He also noted the contribution that the nuclear power plant makes not only to preventing climate change, but also

to strengthening the energy security of Belarus, "Since the inclusion of the first power unit into the unified energy system, which took place on November 3rd, 2020, the BelNPP has generated more than 20 billion kWh of electricity, which made it possible to replace 5.3 billion cubic metres of natural gas. Reduction of foreign exchange burden on the economy amounted to over \$650 million."

Viktor Karankevich said that the second power unit of the BelNPP is planned to be put into commercial operation by the end of the year. The minister emphasised that Belarus has implemented all IAEA recommendations. Cooperation between Belarus and the IAEA will continue. In particular, preparations for the next mission of the OSART Agency — on operational safety — will begin in the near future. It is envisaged that the IAEA mission will visit Belarus in 2025.

The busy business programme of the forum included 18 events, including conferences, seminars, round tables, and presentations of companies participating in the exhibition. During the business program, issues of ESG transformation and sustainable development were considered; digitalisation of production, fuel and energy and petrochemical complexes; energy storage systems using lithium-ion batteries to ensure uninterrupted power

supply to industrial facilities in Belarus; reality and prospects of electric transport and many others.

A number of significant agreements were signed on the sidelines of the forum, including agreements between Belarus and the state corporation Rosatom on strategic cooperation in the energy sector.

First Deputy Chairman of the Presidium of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus Sergei Chizhik spoke about the priority areas of environmental development in Belarus at the scientific and practical conference *ESG Transformation and Sustainable Development* as part of the *Energy Expo* forum.

Now in Belarus there is a slightly different view of energy — it is no longer just about obtaining energy and using it. "Now the focus is on obtaining green energy, minimising environmental problems and saving available energy. Serious changes are taking place before our eyes. The second unit of a nuclear power plant is starting to operate in Belarus. We already feel that we are starting to consume more electrical energy. If the country relies on electric energy, which means it is more advanced, flexible and environmentally friendly. We are no longer surprised at all by electric cars — a significant part of the cars on the streets are electric," noted Sergei Chizhik.

SOME DEVELOPMENTS PRESENTED AT ENERGY EXPO

► Electric cargo vehicle

The vehicle with a frame-panel body was developed by the Joint Institute of Mechanical Engineering of the National Academy of Sciences. The electric vehicle is designed to transport passengers and cargo on public roads, in closed areas and in protected environmental zones.

► Electric scooters

The main advantage of electric scooters from the Optron instrument-making plant is environmental friendliness and cost-effectiveness. Two models with a range of up to 60 kilometres are presented: with a maximum speed of 25 km/h and 50 km/h.

► Automated gas metering system

The software and hardware complex allows for automatic metering of gas consumption (remote collection, transmission and analysis of readings), leakage monitoring with the ability to remotely close shut-off valves. This uses wireless data transmission technology.

► Republican System of Automated Environmental Monitoring

The system combines monitoring data of atmospheric air, precipitation and snow cover, is capable of promptly reflecting complete and accurate information, allows improving the processes of recording and quality control of the received data, speeds up and simplifies the process of obtaining and using them.

► Active layers for solar cells

This is a development of Francysk Skaryna Gomel State University. Active layers based on organic-inorganic sol-gel coatings containing nanopowders can be used in solar cells to increase their efficiency. The coatings have increased mechanical strength and hydrophobic properties.



Yelizaveta Kobetskaya

Aleksey Yazmitirov

Aleksey Yazmitirov

Port arms

What is the Belarusian military industry? Let's look at the examples of trips and statements of the President

Belarus is strengthening its own defence capability and speaks about it openly. We are not enemies for our neighbours, but we demonstrate that we are ready to defend our Fatherland. We are strengthening the army and teaching it to act taking into account the experience of modern conflicts, and we are rapidly developing the defence industry. Let us remember what new products of the military-industrial complex the Head of State personally became acquainted with recently and what statements he made.

ROCKET AMMUNITION

June 2023, Minsk Region. One of the military-industrial complex enterprises. The production of domestic ammunition lies in Aleksandr Lukashenko's area of interest. Not without reason. **Any, even the most modern military equipment without them becomes an ordinary means of transportation. Production is now on stream.** More than 20 enterprises are involved in the implementation of projects; the most widespread type of warhead was chosen as the basis — 122 millimetres, jet. The plans are ambitious — to reach 10-12 thousand, or even 15 thousand units per year. That is, we have something to shoot with. The question of what is no less important. After all, the President emphasises, in armed conflicts, a significant role is played not only by high-precision modern weapons, missiles, airplanes, helicopters, the notorious Leopards and Bradleys, but also simpler machine guns, assault rifles, grenade launchers, modern (albeit modernised) missile systems salvo fire like Grad and Shkval. And it is on their production that the Head of State places emphasis, "They solve big, big problems. Without this there will be no victory at the front."

SMALL ARMS AND AMMUNITION FOR THEM

June 2021, Orsha district, Ustye production and technical cluster. The place where there is a production site for the repair and modernisation of anti-tank guided missiles, a site for the assembly of cartridges of various calibres, as well as a unique laboratory that tests and verifies all types of gunpowder and cartridges produced in our country. It was in the Orsha District that the Head of State studied all kinds of small arms. Domestic including. We talked about localisation. The President insisted: it should be maximum.

"War can break out at any moment, anywhere, God forbid, here. Territorial defence was created. It needs to be armed. That was the point of creating ammunition production. We'll buy a machine gun, we have a sea of automatic weapons. And ammunition is a consumable item, you must have it."

It is important not only to have a weapon, it is important to be able to wield it. Hence, the presidential order — to teach. Especially young people. The President explains what almost everyone should be able to do, "Assemble, disassemble the machine gun, shoot. So that you don't have to train on the battlefield in difficult times." In the summer of 2021, in that same hangar, the Ustye enterprise was demonstrated to the President:

- modern domestic assault rifles VSK-100 and VSK-100BP, made on the basis of the Kalashnikov light machine gun, which are a three-in-one weapon, hit targets more accurately and allow flameless and almost silent shooting;
- Belarusian-made sniper rifle. Such weapons are popularly called 'bortovik'. This rifle has a thick barrel chambered for 7.62 by 51 calibre cartridges;
- PV-17 pistol. This is an analogue of the Austrian Glock. According to the designers, the pistol provides an effective firing range of up to 50 meters, and the magazine is designed to hold 17 rounds. The total length of the weapon is only 22 centimetres, and the width is three.
- 9M114 ATGM guided anti-tank missile, which is designed to destroy modern tanks and other armoured vehicles, including enemy air targets. According to experts, due to the presence of a secure control channel, it cannot be knocked off course.



ROCKETS

May 2020, experimental testing site of the research and production OKB TSP in Machulishchi.

A site near Minsk, where the President studied the prospects of Belarusian rocket science. And they are quite good. In turbulent times today, many people associate the word Polonaise not with dance, but with a formidable Belarusian-made multiple launch rocket system. Yes, maintaining the defence capability of the army always costs a lot of money, yes, only countries where the printing press operates have extra funds, but no matter how expensive it is, defence will still have to be spent.

"Our strategic task in the field of defence, if suddenly, is to inflict unacceptable damage on the enemy. And we must demonstrate this now, so that those who, God forbid, decide to fight with us, understand that we can respond with dignity. The best answer from the point of view of weapons today is missiles, precision weapons... There is no point in developing intercontinental ballistic missiles with nuclear weapons. We cannot do this. We must focus on what is possible. Therefore, we are creating appropriate rocket production... **We need our own rocket. We cannot create weapons that will make us dependent on other countries. No one will just give us these weapons."**

UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES

Unmanned aerial vehicles have become a real threat to the enemy, a means that terrorises fighters and civilians in warring countries, and a weapon for committing terrorist acts. Aleksandr Lukashenko looked at what a small but nimble 'bird' can do in **October 2022 at the Obuz-Lesnovsky training ground in the Baranovichi District.** He asked in detail: how invulnerable the equipment will be in battle, how many units of equipment can be produced per month, what is the efficiency, whether mass production has been established, whether it has been put into service, whether there is export potential... The President, by the way, was shown equipment capable of protecting, not leading attack. "Here, of course, we are leaders in the world, and this is no less important than having drones that can carry out strikes", Aleksandr Lukashenko commented. "A dozen of these green vehicles can completely close the southern border of our country with Ukraine from drones and other aerial targets... Naturally, these are not missile type, they are simpler ones that a soldier needs in battle today. They are very important, but this is a different segment than the same promoted Bayraktars or Iranian Shaheeds, where missiles are used. Here is another segment that is very necessary for our military personnel."



TANKS

Tanks remain an indispensable weapon in battle. On that day, Defence Minister Viktor Khrenin reported to the Head of State about modernising the good old T-72s to the T-72BM2 level and equipping them with protection against anti-tank missile systems. "No worse than the T-90," the minister said about the work done. "70 shots – 67 hits," the tankers reported.

"We need to modernise," the Commander-in-Chief pronounced the verdict. "We need to reach more significant levels of modernisation. The guys want it to be simple and reliable... **The main thing is to teach, teach, teach people. If all our crews work like these guys, then we won't be afraid of war."**

The President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko,

"We had fully absorbed the experience of modern warfare. By the middle of next year we will have everything we need in full: communications, reconnaissance, unmanned aerial vehicles, including strike drones. Everything you saw today was the defence of our state."

"We are not amassing army units near the borders of Poland and the Baltic states for the sake of an attack. Nevertheless, we will do it actively while defending. In order to launch an offensive at any moment if necessary... "We are not talking about the more powerful weapons that we now have in order to demonstrate our might and inflict unacceptable damage on the adversary [if Belarus is attacked]. We will not buy thousands of tanks, but we can always inflict unacceptable damage. In other words, before attacking Belarus the adversary will have to think about the response that will be unacceptable for them. That is, before attacking Belarus, they will think that the answer will be something that is unacceptable to them. That's why we train."

"We took a look at how the Russians defend themselves. Every week, every month the defence improved. And we brought it all here. All the elements are present here. Therefore, do not worry, we are preparing to defend the Fatherland in a real way."

During a working trip to the Brest Region, October 6th, 2023

SECURITY



BELARUSIAN STATEHOOD

SOVEREIGNTY

The most grandiose material symbol of our statehood — the Palace of Independence — allows you to discover Belarus, see the uniqueness of its history and culture, the impressive achievements of independence and the sovereignty of modern times. It is here, in the northwestern part of Minsk, on the banks of the Svisloch River, that the residence of the President of the Republic of Belarus is located, where high-level negotiations are held, meetings on the most important domestic and foreign policy issues, and meetings of the Head of State with representatives of Belarusian and world media are held. The modern history of the country is being written here.



The symbol of our statehood

By Maksim Osipov

10 year anniversary

The Palace of Independence opened its doors to the first distinguished guests 10 years ago. From October 24th to October 25th, 2013, a meeting of the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council and a summit of the Heads of State of the CIS took place here, which began the history of the new building.

The decision to build an administrative and representative complex — a symbol of the country's sovereignty and independence — was made by the President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko in 2011.

The task set by the Head of State was not an easy one: to create an official ceremonial site unique for Belarus in a fairly short time, the appearance and interior decoration of which should echo national, cultural and historical motifs. Design and construction were carried out in parallel, they lasted only 30 months instead of the originally planned 58.

The chief architect of the Palace of Independence was Vladimir Arkhangelsky.

Under his leadership, a large team of professionals from the Minsk-proekt enterprise and other organisations worked scrupulously to create a coherent image of the building and each of its individual premises, masterfully weaving tradition and modernity into design elements.

Despite the fact that the Palace of Independence is one of the youngest administrative buildings in the country, it has already entered the annals of world history, becoming a symbol not only of Belarusian independence, but also of Belarus' peacekeeping efforts on the world stage. In February 2015, the fateful Normandy Four summit took place here. Political leaders from Germany, Russia, Ukraine and France arrived in Minsk to participate in the negotiations, which lasted more than 15 hours.

Since then, the Green Hall, used for private conversations in a small circle, has gained worldwide fame. This is what participants in numerous excursions around the Palace of Independence especially like to see — participants in various meetings and ceremonies with the President, the best representatives of various sectors of the country's national economy, Belarusian and foreign journalists, talented youth. Taking a selfie at a table that has gathered world leaders is worth a lot! However, just like seeing in the President's office — in the holy of holies of our state — a unique symbol of Belarusian statehood: the first copy of the current Constitution of the Republic of Belarus, which is an exclusive museum exhibit.



During the Normandy Four talks in the Green Hall

The property of the entire Belarusian nation

The halls of the Palace of Independence, as a cultural heritage of the entire Belarusian nation, were open for excursions by personal order of the President.

The tradition of excursions to the main symbol of Belarusian statehood was founded on July 22nd, 2015, by 90 young men and women — participants in the international youth trade union educational forum TEMP-2015. For two and a half hours, they examined the interiors of the Palace of Independence, its courtyard, the Alley of Honoured Guests, and the work rooms of the residence. Since then, excursions to the country's sovereign interiors have become regular.

The first thing that visitors to the Palace of Independence usually pay attention to is the grandiose and bright Hall of Ceremonies. This main palace hall is decorated with a copy of the Slutsk belt. In December 2013, another element of the Palace of Independence began counting down the history of solemn ceremonies — the Hall for Presenting Credentials. That day, there, near the bas-reliefs with lines from the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus, the Statute of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and the books of Francysk Skaryna, 10 ambassadors began their diplomatic missions: Zambia, Spain, Cuba, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Netherlands, Oman, Slovenia, Uganda and France. A bright exhibition of Belarusian achievements. In addition, there is the National, Red, Kaminsky and a whole suite of other halls. Each of them contains beauty and grandeur.

A bright exhibition of Belarusian achievements

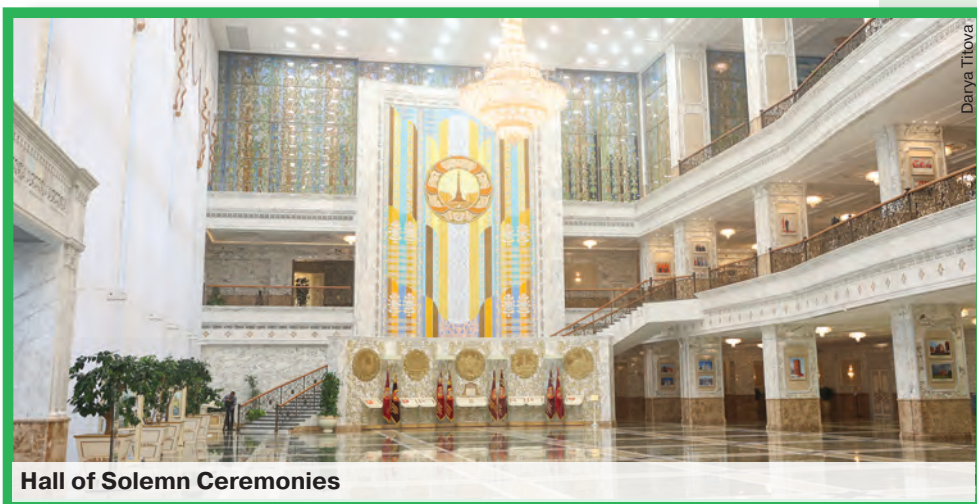
The palace also has its own winter garden with terraces and a fountain, on both sides of which the sculptural bronze compositions Neman River and Pripyat River rise on pedestals. Allegorical compositions of famous Belarusian rivers in the form of female and male figures hold in their hands vessels from which streams of water flow — a symbol of life and prosperity.

At the same time, the Palace of Independence is also a unique, bright and convincing exhibition of the achievements of our country. The monumental masterpiece, created almost entirely from domestic materials, became not only the architectural pearl of Minsk, but also a presentation of the enormous capabilities, knowledge, skills and multifaceted talent of Belarusians. The frame of the unique building was made by the Molodechno Metal Structures Plant, the granite and marble 'clothing' of the palace was processed in Gatovo near Minsk, the tables were made at Bobruiskmebel, Molodechnomebel and Pinskdrv, the tapestries were made at the A.M. Kishchenko Decorative and Applied Arts Combine in Borisov, and giant windows — at the GLASSBEL double-glazed and architectural glass plant in Minsk. All stages of construction, from the erection of metal structures to decoration, were under the personal control of the President. Moreover, the Head of State himself even took part in developing the design of one of the halls. The interiors of each room are unique, but all are designed in a classic style. The Belarusian flavour is given by the widespread use of national ornaments, primarily the motifs of Slutsk belts. Traditional Belarusian patterns are present in many interior elements; they are easily recognisable in marble, metal, mosaic, parquet, artistic painting of walls and ceilings.

A special pride is the 23 grandiose chandeliers and more than 150 sconces, manufactured at the Cascade located in the city of Lida. The large ceremonial chandeliers of the Cascade now often appear on television screens when official events and meetings at the highest government level are being reported from the Palace of Independence.



The Palace's large ceremonial chandeliers — real works of art



Hall of Solemn Ceremonies

You can visit the Palace of Independence right now and see its interiors without leaving home by taking a virtual tour on the website of the President of Belarus president.gov.by



Slutsk belt. Copies from the original from the second half of the 18th century. Silk, gold thread, weaving

Alley of Honoured Guests
Its ceremonial laying took place in 2013 on the eve of the official opening of the Palace of Independence. On October 23rd, the President and his sons planted the first spruce on the alley, thereby starting a tradition. Nowadays there are trees planted here by political leaders of different countries, including President of the People's Republic of China Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

This is a symbol and it is very important

The Palace of Independence fits harmoniously into the capital quarter, which is significant for all Belarusians: next to the palace is the State Flag Square, a little further away — Victory Park, the Belarusian State Museum of the Great Patriotic War History and the famous Minsk — Hero City Stele.

The Palace of Independence has become a solemnly official and warmly warm embodiment of national statehood, based on deep traditions and looking to the future.

In October 2013, speaking at a colloquium before students of the Mogilev State University named after A.A. Kuleshov, the President spoke on this matter very clearly, "Look at this centre — State Flag Square, the restored BelExpo, where we exhibit the highest achievements of our people, and the Palace of Independence is a symbol, and for the country, as for any person, this is very important. Especially now when we want to present ourselves. With this centre we emphasised that we have created our own state."



Banners of the BSSR, government awards, which remind about the special achievements of our country during the Soviet Union



In the Museum of Gifts

Art gallery and treasury

The Palace of Independence is not only a platform for important events, but also a place to get acquainted with the culture, history and traditions of Belarus.

The interiors of the palace were repeatedly decorated with exhibitions of famous Belarusian artists, designers, photographers, sculptors, and talented aspiring authors.

The first exhibition project at the Palace of Independence was an exhibition of paintings by the Belarusian artist, Honoured Artist Valery Shkarubo, organised in the spring of 2017. It began a new tradition of presentations of national art and creativity at the Palace of Independence.

In addition, the Palace is also a unique museum in Belarus. On the third floor of the building there is a real treasury containing gifts to our President from foreign colleagues, high-ranking political figures, delegations, diplomats and athletes, and other world famous persons. Here you can see paintings, panels, icons, souvenir swords with openwork inlay, towels, national clothes, decorative vases and dishes, figurines and sculptures from the CIS countries, Bolivia, Venezuela, Vietnam, Iraq, Iran, China, Cuba, Kuwait, Mozambique, Myanmar, Palestine, Serbia, Ukraine, South Korea and other parts of the planet. Moreover, this collection is constantly updated with new unique elements.



In the Winter Garden

SOVEREIGNTY

The third Belt and Road Forum for International Co-operation in Beijing with the participation of Russian President Vladimir Putin can be considered a new Yalta Conference, during which a completely different model of the world is being developed, where there is no place for US hegemony. In fact, we can state the beginning of the process of ending the 400-year rule of the Anglo-Saxon Empire over the rest of the world.

By **Aleksei Avdonin**, an analyst with the Belarusian Institute of Strategic Research (BISR)

Representatives of 130 countries and 30 international organisations took part in the forum, which was held in the Chinese capital from October 17th to October 18th. The initiative to create the Silk Road Economic Belt (SREB) and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road (MSR) was announced by the current leader of China, Xi Jinping, in the first year of his reign in September 2013 during a speech to students in Astana. Other projects are cur-

New Yalta Conference

The forum in Beijing clearly demonstrated: the United States is rapidly losing its position as a hegemon



Vladimir Putin and Xi Jinping during a meeting at the Belt and Road Forum in Beijing, China, October 18, 2023

rently being developed, such as the Digital Silk Road, the Polar Silk Road, the Health Silk Road, the Space Silk Road, the Green Silk Road and the Great Tea Road.

Belarus is an active participant in the Belt and Road Initiative and directly in current historical events. Our country is intensively developing trade, economic and financial co-operation with China. One of the key results, or (as the Chinese say) the pearl of the project, is Industrial Park Great Stone.

In the current conditions of the global crisis of overpro-

duction, it is important for such technological and financial agglomerates as China to ensure the expansion of their sales markets and at the same time ensure the safety and independence of delivery routes for their goods to their main consumers.

From an economic point of view, the Belt and Road Initiative, is precisely a long-term strategic import regime into the traditional high-premium European market. Over the past 10 years, since the announcement of this initiative by Xi Jinping, Beijing has invested more than \$1 trillion to create the required transport infrastructure, logistics and production strongholds from Chinese territory through Eurasia to Europe.

The effect of this project is crucial for China: Beijing is thus gradually levelling its dependence on traditional Anglo-Saxon logistics hubs, such as the Suez Canal.

The President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko,

"The vision of great China and its leader of world peace is a huge contribution to the peaceful development of the entire planet. This benefits Europe, Ukraine, Belarus, and America. Only peace. War will lead to disaster. We are glad that China, this ancient nation, is finally beginning to play a decisive role in our world. We have great hopes about it, and we count on it also because (this is our pragmatism) it is our big friend."

During an interview with Chinese media on February 23rd, 2023

China's key competitor in the struggle for the European market for goods and services is the Anglo-Saxon corporations of the USA and Great Britain. The latter are doing everything to exclude or at least reduce the revenue of Chinese companies in European countries.

A striking manifestation of such unfair competition on the part of British-American corporations is the requirement for their satellites — Poland and the Baltic countries — to block border crossings or reduce the service of vehicle traffic on the borders with Belarus.

The contradictions between Beijing and the Anglo-Saxons

over the European market will continue to intensify. American corporate circles urgently need to squeeze Chinese corporations out of the European market and ensure stable sales of their products, otherwise there will be a collapse and disappearance of the United States as a financial and economic superpower.

Added to the economic problems of the United States are financial ones: more and more investors doubt the reliability of American debt obligations and the dollar as a means of increasing and preserving the value of assets.

Modern geopolitical processes are based on deep economic and financial reasons. It is certainly difficult for the United States to come to terms with its new status and loss of its hegemonic position. This causes Washington to resort to extreme forms of aggression and reaction in the form of war in Ukraine and the Middle East.

China understands that in the context of growing competitive confrontations with the West and the loss of previous sales markets, the most effective and attractive direction for the development of foreign economic policy is to deepen co-operation with Russia, Belarus and integration associations in the post-Soviet space. We act as a locomotive of stable economic growth, generators of a clear and predictable future.

FACT

Since the beginning of this year, 22 new residents have entered the China-Belarus Industrial Park Great Stone. The total volume of their declared investments amounted to about \$50 million. According to the Economy Ministry of our country, over the past year, residents of the Great Stone increased production volumes by 1.5 times. Their revenue increased almost 2 times compared to 2021, and exports of goods increased 1.3 times.

Scientists and businessmen will discuss co-operation within Greater Eurasia in Samarkand

02–03.11.2023



XVI VERONA EURASIAN ECONOMIC FORUM

SAMARKAND, UZBEKISTAN

The 16th Verona Eurasian Economic Forum will be held from November 2nd to November 3rd, 2023, in the city of Samarkand (Uzbekistan). The organisers of the Forum the Conoscere Eurasia Association and the Ministry of Investment, Industry and Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The event venue will be the Silk road Samarkand tourist centre.

By **Marta Astreiko**

The forum, focused on the business and academic community, creates unique conditions for free communication, business contacts and discussions. The format of the event will allow representatives of private and public companies from dozens of countries to meet each other and exchange views on a wide range of issues.

Top officials of the largest companies and financial institutions, prominent political and public figures from European and Asian countries, including Russia, Belarus, Italy, leaders of the Eurasian Economic Union, the European Union, the Shanghai Co-operation Organisation, BRICS, experts, scientists are invited to the Verona Forum and diplomats. About a thousand people are expected to

attend, including a large delegation of Italian entrepreneurs.

Traditionally, the focus will be on the development of economic, energy and humanitarian co-operation. Forum delegates will discuss the role of Uzbekistan in the development of international economic relations.

During the eight sessions that will be held within the Forum, we will talk about new mechanisms for trade, investment and technological co-operation in the modern international context; prospects for the development of raw materials and energy markets; restructuring of logistics and transport routes taking into account changing global realities; markets for financial and banking services in a changing global context; a new technological revolution providing both challenges and opportunities for Eurasia; prospects for industrial and technological co-operation in Greater Eurasia; ensuring the

development of the agricultural sector and global food security, the possibility of active implementation of ecological agriculture. Experts will also reflect on the prospects for an economy based on the common heritage of humanity and the environment in the face of global upheaval.

As experts note, Greater Eurasia represents more than 70 percent of the planet's population and is a geopolitical space that includes 45 percent of the world's countries.

As part of the cultural program of the 16th Verona Eurasian Economic Forum, the film festival of new Italian cinema N.I.C.E. will be held, which has been introducing audiences in many countries to the latest in Italian cinema for more than 30 years.

Popular Italian performers will perform at the Stars of Sanremo concert. There will also be

an exhibition of ceramics from Florence and Samarkand, which are sister cities.

The Verona Eurasian Economic Forum was first held in 2007 in Verona (Italy).

In 2022, the city of the event was Baku (Azerbaijan). In the Azerbaijani capital, at the anniversary 15th Verona Eurasian Economic Forum, participants discussed a wide range of current issues in the field of economics and finance, healthcare, ecology, energy and technological innovation in the Greater Eurasia space. The main theme is Eurasia on the Path to a New Geopolitical and Socio-Economic Order: The Transition to a New People-Oriented Economy."

In 2023, Samarkand was chosen as the venue for the 16th Verona Eurasian Economic Forum, which for centuries served as the recognised centre of the

Silk Road, a crossroads of cultures, and a connecting link between Europe and Asia.

The Conoscere Eurasia Association is an independent, non-partisan and non-profit organisation. Founded by the Honorary Consulate of the Russian Federation in Verona on November 10th, 2007, the Association aims to develop relations between Italy and the Russian Federation, the European Union and the Eurasian Economic Union, which includes countries such as Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Armenia and Kyrgyzstan.

The Conoscere Eurasia Association also develops relations with member countries of the Shanghai Co-operation Organisation, such as China, India and Pakistan, and its observer members Iran and Mongolia. Members of the association are individuals, enterprises and government agencies in Europe and Eurasia.

Hyena of Europe is out for blood again

Cave xenophobia and militant revanchism. Who in Warsaw is haunted by Pilsudski's laurels and why Poland is dragging the world into a new massacre.

Recent Polish foreign policy indicates that the local leadership has not learned the lessons of history. Politicians in Warsaw have not drawn any conclusions from the previous three divisions of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and with manic persistence are stepping on the same rake, dreaming of new power under the banner of the Washington Regional Committee.

By Yevgeny Kononovich

On reinforced soldering

To be honest, Warsaw has never hidden its imperial ambitions since the collapse of the USSR and the collapse of the socialist camp. But today, even for the most uninitiated people in politics, it is already obvious that over the years that the Law and Justice party has been in power, Poland has turned into an outpost of the anti-Russian and anti-Belarusian policies of Western countries. By the way, in both 2005 and 2015, PiS won the elections with the slogan of the revival of 'great' Poland within the borders 'od morza do morza', that is, from the Baltic Sea to the Black Sea. In addition, all these years, unbridled nationalism, Anti-Russian sentiment and hatred of everything Soviet have been actively heating up in Polish society.

Poland's 'partners' prescribed enhanced 'nutrition'. They began to pump it up with multibillion-dollar financial injections from EU funds (from 2014 to 2020 alone, Warsaw received €106 billion of such assistance). At the same time, the active militarisation of the country and the rearmament of its army began.

White whale for PiS

In 2020, the hyena of Europe began to play openly, supporting an attempted coup in Belarus. Polish troops were deployed to the borders of our country.

With the outbreak of hostilities in Ukraine in 2022, the topic of geopolitical redistribution has once again gained relevance for the Polish authorities.

Scaring the West with horror stories that not today or tomorrow Belarus and Russia will attack Poland, Warsaw has sharply increased its military spending.

There is a task to increase the country's military budget to 4 percent of GDP by 2026 (no NATO country in Europe spends that much on military needs), and triple the size of the army to 300 thousand people. Poland is disposing of old weapons to Ukraine, and in return is purchasing ultra-modern American and South Korean tanks, self-propelled artillery units and fifth-generation F-35 fighters. Everything is done in order to, if necessary, regain influence 'od morza do morza'.

They had a pang of disappointment... Feeling American support, the Polish government sometimes allows itself to be overly daring. How can one not recall Warsaw's dispute with the European Commission, which froze the allocation of 35 billion euros of aid to Poland from a special COVID fund for the country's post-pandemic recovery. The tranche was blocked because, according to Brussels, Warsaw had not made enough changes to judicial legislation.

PiS leader Jaroslaw Kaczynski accused Brussels of seeking to deprive Poland of sovereignty, political and economic independence, and to subordinate it to Berlin. Party Secretary General Krzysztof Sobolewski added fuel to the fire,

"We will have no choice but to take out all the guns that are in our arsenal and respond with barrage fire. At this point, we are only signalling that the time for our concessions regarding the European Commission and the European Union is already over."

Political extremism, revision of history, incitement to total xenophobia, and rabid militarism have long become the hallmark of the Law and Justice party. It is important for them to constantly

shift the audience's attention to an external enemy. And even the most 'bosom' friend can become one overnight.

Grain Thriller

This happened, for example, with Ukraine. Polish farmers are furious over the huge supply of Ukrainian grain, which arrives in the country in trainloads. As you know, it was intended for countries in Africa and the Middle East, but not even a tenth of it made it there. Cheap Ukrainian grain settled in Europe, including Poland, greatly reducing local prices. In response, the government banned the import of Ukrainian grain and food products, making an exception only for transit. Kiev, in turn, filed a lawsuit with the World Trade Organisation. It came to the point of publicly attacking each other. Vladimir Zelensky said at the UN General Assembly that 'it is alarming to see how some in Europe, including our friends, are playing solidarity in the political theatre, while they themselves are turning grain into a thriller'.

Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki then reproached Zelensky for insulting the Poles and hinted that Poland would stop supplying weapons to Kyiv. In addition, President Duda went even further and said, "Ukraine is behaving like a drowning man: clinging to everything it can. A drowning person is generally extremely dangerous; he can drag him down to the depths."

Of course, such disagreements and disputes would hardly have been possible if the Polish authorities had not felt support from the United States behind them.

The President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko,

"Now the countries of the European Union and the United States of America are arming Poland at an accelerated pace. This creates another source of tension, another stronghold for the aggression of the most aggressive country in the world and, unfortunately, the most powerful — the United States. Poland is being made the next proxy training ground after Ukraine in the confrontation with Belarus and Russia. The Polish government must think with its head. And foremost about his people. For the West, Poles were and remain Slavs. And this is a consumable. Learn your history, neighbours."

From a speech at a solemn meeting on the eve of Independence Day, June 30th, 2023

And who's paying for that

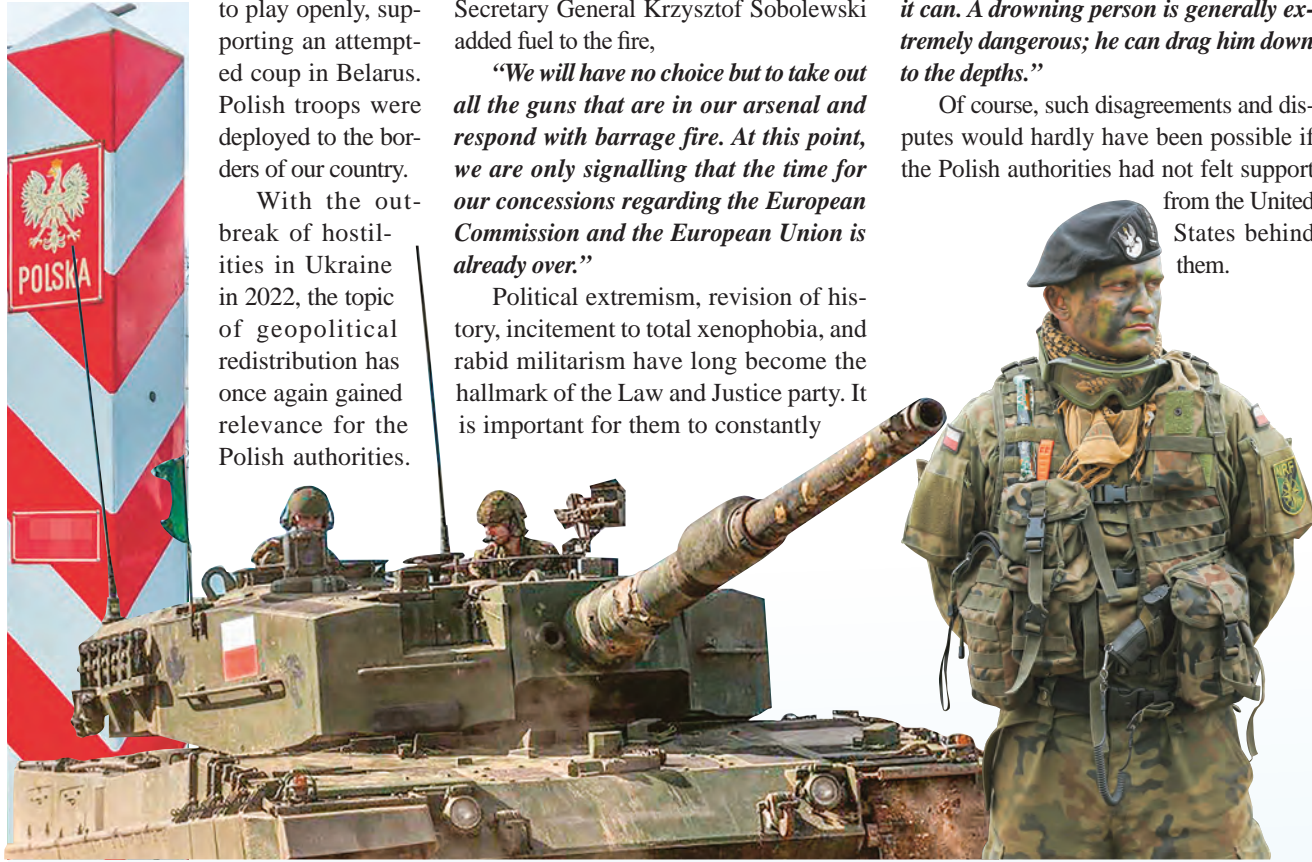
Will the situation change if the opposition party Civic Coalition nominates its leader Donald Tusk for the post of Prime Minister? Of course, one should not expect Poland's policy to turn 180 degrees. However, it is important to understand that, unlike the pro-American Kaczynski, Tusk is still more of a pro-European politician. Moreover, his efforts will be aimed at bringing Poland closer to the EU.

The economic situation in Poland will also contribute to this. A huge hole has opened up in the country's budget amid an unprecedented increase in military spending, as well as anti-Russian sanctions.

Ordinary Poles will ultimately pay for the actions of PiS, which has set a course for energy independence from Russia. And they are already paying. One of the highest inflations in the EU (15 percent), rising unemployment among the working population, tensions in commodity and energy markets, a decline in industrial production and devaluation of the national currency — these are the challenges that Poland faces in the second half of 2023.

During its two terms in office, the PiS government has accumulated as much foreign debt as all previous governments over the past twenty-odd years. From 969 billion, the national debt has grown to one and a half trillion zlotys.

Therefore, if Donald Tusk comes to power, he has no choice but to shift all attention to the economy and pursue a more independent, sound pro-European policy, without regard to overseas curators, in the interests primarily of his voters.



AN EPIDEMIC OF CORRUPTION AND THEFT HAS AFFECTED ALL LEVELS OF POLISH SOCIETY

By Maksim Osipov

Harvest pandemic

At the end of September, the Supreme Court of Control of Poland presented reports on the results of regular inspections of the actions of Polish government agencies as part of the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. The controllers described the actions of the Polish authorities during the pandemic as 'chaos, lack of open and transparent procedures and poor management of public funds'. It turned out that more than 13.1 million purchased doses of vaccines were expired and were disposed of — almost a billion zlotys.

Crime map in Poland

In the summer of 2023, experts from the Unilink insurance agency published the report called Insurance Navigator — Crime Map in Poland with a Rating of the 100 Most Dangerous Regions. As Unilink Chair Aleksandra Friedel noted, growing criminal activity poses an increasing threat to the property of Poles. In addition, the CSO of Poland says that in 2022 the number of crimes against property increased by 3 percent, but by the end of this year the growth is expected to be much more serious.

Criminal contribution of self-exiled oppositionists

Extremists who fled from Belarusian justice and settled in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth also make

a worthy contribution to the criminal picture of Poland. Just the other day, Polish police detained a 35-year-old citizen of Belarus, who at the end of September stole seven smartphones from a store in the town of Wolomin near Warsaw — worth more than 26 thousand zlotys (about Br20 thousand). Anyone who exchanges a Belarusian prison for a Polish one faces up to 10 years in prison. At the end of September, the police detained two Belarusians who were robbing shops in Biala Podlaska, as well as another fugitive who was homeless in Gdansk and who beat his competitor, a Gdansk homeless Pole, to death. Two more detained fugitives robbed car washes and catering outlets in Wroclaw, having a pistol, ammunition and a stun gun.

Witam lata 1990s

Hello nineties! — INN Poland columnist Konrad Baginski sadly ironises, "The reality is that crime is rising and people feel threatened. Shop owners are counting losses; people's cars are being stolen or parts are being stolen. Sellers are now forced to look at almost every buyer as a potential thief." Nevertheless, Rzeczpospolita newspaper understands everything clearly: the economic crisis of 2022 led to a surge in shoplifting in Poland: their number increased by almost a third. Moreover, in the first half of the year, Polish police recorded 40 percent more shoplifting than a year earlier.

Where is the most beautiful autumn in Belarus

Rustle colourful leaves, breathe in the mists over dewy meadows and harvest the sweetest apples — a very romantic time of year is coming in Belarus

By Sofia Arsenyeva

Ozertso (Minsk Region)

When in Russia you need to go to the North, to Onega Lake in order to enjoy the wondrous beauty of wooden architecture, then in Belarus everything is simpler.

The huge Skansen museum is located just a couple of kilometres from the bustling capital — in the village of Ozertso. Here you can travel back in time and see what a Belarusian village looked like at the turn of the 19th-20th centuries. Dozens of huts and outbuildings, mills, taverns and even three churches from different regions of the country were literally 'transported' to the museum. Everything is real — there is no remake!

Rituals and folk holidays is the main zest. They are organised not for fun, but to preserve traditional Belarusian culture. The bright performance with folk songs and round dances looks especially interesting in muted autumn colours.

Logoisk

People usually think about this place closer to winter, when the ski season be-

gins. But it is in autumn that the landscape impresses with its unique picturesqueness. The hills with steep slopes are covered with mixed forests — dark green coniferous patches are diluted with the gold of deciduous trees. The perfect backdrop for spectacular photos!

In the centre of Logoisk there is a park in the English style, founded in the first half of the 19th century. Hidden in the shade of the trees is a picturesque cascade of waterfalls with a fountain. Here you can also find the ruins of a luxurious mansion, part of outbuildings and an unusual arched bridge. Local residents believe in the legend that the wealth of the Tyshkevich count family, who owned Logoisk for four centuries, is buried in the park.

Kobrin

One of the most beautiful parks in Belarus is named after the commander Alexander Suvorov. This is no coincidence: at the end of the 18th century, the Generalissimo owned the Kobrinskiy Klyuch estate. The house where Alexander Vasilyevich lived and the temple where he often visited for services have been preserved here.

According to legend, Suvorov, known for his Spartan lifestyle, could even plunge into the icy water in the pond in the heart of the park even in the fall. Whether this is true or not, no one will know. In any case, you should come here not only for fascinating stories from the life of the famous commander. A special pleasure is to admire the autumn foliage that covers the mirror-like surface of the water. The park also has very exotic inhabitants — peacocks. You can see marvellous birds with luxurious tails even in winter.

Dubichno (Malorita District)

In the Belarusian tradition, oaks are considered the 'axis of the world'. You readily believe this when you see centuries-old giants: the roots go several meters underground, and the crowns seem to support the sky.

The oldest trees are located in the southwest of the country — in the Malorita District near the village of Dubichno. Living giants in the forest thicket are immediately visible. For example, the height of the Tsar Oak is 46 metres (a fifteen-story building!). According to one version, his age is more than eight hundred years. Not far away, the Patriarch Oak spread its branches. He is a little younger and shorter, but radiates the same powerful energy. Many tourists take acorns from oak forests as souvenirs: what if they manage to sprout them at home?

Zhilichi (Kirovsk District)

If you want to plunge into the high society atmosphere, you are welcome to the Belarusian Versailles — a luxurious palace in Zhilichy. Ignatius Bulgak, a participant in the Napoleonic wars, was so impressed by the Parisian chic that upon returning home from a campaign abroad, he ordered the restoration of a magnificent estate, 'like the French themselves'.

A large-scale restoration was completed here for the bicentenary. The rich decoration of the interior decoration of the halls literally dazzles the eye — the ceilings and walls were restored according to the original drawings and sketches. Outside, the palace is framed by an old park: the foliage on the trees has already begun to change colour from emerald to gold. It seems that the suburbs of St. Petersburg have a worthy competitor.



The Belarus President's Team started the new season with a victory

The team of the Head of State beat the Brest Region team 7:2 (3:1, 0:0, 4:1) in Olympic Arena in Minsk during the first match of the republican ice hockey league



The Belarus President's Team started the first match of the new season in an attacking style, and after half a minute Maksim Parfeevets scored the first goal. The guests responded with sharp counterattacks, but were unsuccessful. And in the very middle of the first period, the hosts carried out a spectacular combination, which was completed by Aleksei Shantyka with an accurate throw. Soon the Brest team gained a numerical advantage, which was quickly realised by Pavel Stepanov, but then Artyom Karkotsky scored the third goal against the Brest team. After the break, the game was on a collision course, the opponents carried out many attacks, but the goalkeepers were at their best and did not allow the attackers to score. But in the final third of the match, spectators saw five

goals scored. In the Belarus President's Team, Aleksei Shantyka and Artyom Karkotsky scored doubles, and Andrei Kostitsyn and Nikolai Stasenko also scored. Aleksandr Lukashenko earned two assistant points. The guests responded with an accurate shot from Viktor Artyushenko. The winning goalkeeper Stepan Goryachevskikh and Brest forward Pavel Stepanov were recognised as the best players of the meeting. The prizes were presented to them by Minsk Mayor Vladimir Kukharev.

Traditionally the spectators saw performances of Belarusian pop singers in intermissions during the hockey match. The most active fans took part in contests right there on the ice, the winners of which won prizes from the Presidential Sports Club. Other fans got some gifts,

too: right after the final siren they received dozens of toys from players of the Belarus President's Team. Young players of Dynamo Moscow, who play in the international tournament in Minsk, presented Aleksandr Lukashenko with a jersey of their famous club.

The Belarus President's Team is a 14-time winner of the national amateur ice hockey tournament while hockey players from Gomel Region and Minsk Region have one title each. The organisers of the amateur ice hockey tournament are the Presidential Sports Club, the Sports and Tourism Ministry, and the Minsk City Executive Committee.

Based on materials of belta.by

The International Olympic Committee plays sports like an experienced gambler. We have not yet gotten used to the idea that in skateboarding you can become an Olympic champion at the age of 13, and this sport has already turned from a temporary to a permanent form of the Games programme. Before we had time to really get used to Olympic karate, it had already disappeared. But in Paris 2024, breaking appeared — in our words, breakdancing. However, what's with the dancing?! Last week, the IOC approved the inclusion of five new sports in the programme for the 2028 Summer Games in Los Angeles. These included flag football, squash, lacrosse, baseball/softball and cricket. No one even thinks to hide the fact that most of the newcomers received promotion to attract the attention of the public in North America. It seems we should take a closer look at Olympic trends.

By Sergei Gordienko

► Cricket

Oddly enough, this sport is by no means new to the Olympic programme. It was presented at the 1900 Games in Paris, but due to insufficient popularity in the world, it lost its Olympic status. However, now, when the number of subscribers on social networks, commercial potential, and so on and so forth is at the forefront, including in world sports, the appearance of cricket in the Los Angeles programme is easy to justify, even despite the fact that it is almost unknown in North America. Did you know, for example, that Indian cricket legend Virat Kohli has almost 300 million followers on social media. Only football players Cristiano Ronaldo (more than 600 million) and Lionel Messi (almost 500 million) have more among athletes. Cricket confidently ranks second in popularity in the world after football and in terms of the number of devoted fans it confidently overtakes all other team games — from baseball to hockey. And although it is almost unknown outside the former British Empire, it is a real religion in countries with a total population of about 2 billion people.

► Baseball/softball

This sport can also very conditionally be classified as beginners. Olympic medals in baseball were first played back in 1992 in Barcelona. Subsequently, due to the extremely narrow geographical distribution of the species (popular exclusively in North America, a number of Caribbean countries and Japan), it was either included or excluded from the Games

Heroes of the ball

Big changes to the Olympic programme



programme. There was baseball in Tokyo 2020, there will be no baseball in Paris 2024, but it will return again at the 2028 Games in the USA.

► Lacrosse

Lacrosse [a stick in French] is also not new to the Olympic programme. Competitions in this sport were held at two Games — in 1904 and 1908, but only three men's teams participated in them.

► Flag football

An absolute newcomer to the Olympics. Just last year, flag football was in-

cluded in the programme of the so-called World Games (for non-Olympic sports), which took place in Birmingham, America, and now, primarily thanks to lobbyists from the NFL, it has already been included in the official program of Los Angeles.

► Squash

Apart from the fact that baseball bats are sold in Belarusian sports stores, and in the press you will find reports about baseball matches of enthusiasts, squash can easily be called the only new Olympic sport actively cultivated in our country. At least in Minsk, there are many offers to play in adapted rooms for Br40-100 per hour to spend from 500 to 600 calories.

IMPORTANT ASPECT

Athletes from all countries will be guaranteed entry into the United States to participate in the 2028 Olympics — as stated by Los Angeles Olympic Games Organising Committee Chair Casey Wasserman at the IOC session in Mumbai

Chairman of the Council of the Professional Squash Association Anton Dovgalo says that there are only 5 private squash clubs in our country, all of them are located in Minsk. The national championships have been held for the last seven years, and every year the number of participants increases.

► What about dancing?

More recently, breakdancing has become an Olympic sport discipline that combines urban dance with incredible athleticism.

At the 2024 Olympics, two sets of medals will be competed for in breaking — among women and men. In a breaking competition, two dancers will go head to head. First one will perform the movements, then the other. Five judges will score based on six criteria: creativity, individuality, technique, variety, artistry and musicality.

BUT WHAT ELSE?

The IOC Executive Committee, which met in Mumbai, with the direct participation of World rowing, made significant adjustments to the programme of the Olympic competitions for academic rowers. Firstly, from 2028 there will be no separate competitions among lightweight rowers. And secondly, a completely new discipline will appear — beach sprint or coastal rowing. As follows from the presentation, the competition programme includes running from the starting line to the shore to your boat, which you need to get into as quickly as possible and continue the race with your opponents on the sea or ocean, then you should go around the buoy, go back and finish again on land, or rather the beach. World rowing insists that this format of competition is the future...





Aleksey Vyazmitinov

Photo of the week

Parents Week was held in Belarus — a special time when we celebrate the role and importance of parents in everyone's life. In the photo: Happiness of Nikolai Bykov, a father of many children from Polotsk.

DATES. EVENTS. PEOPLE.



On October 27th, 1728, James Cook (1728-1779) was born, an English navigator, explorer, cartographer and discoverer. He led three expeditions to explore the World Ocean, two of which circumnavigated the world. During these expeditions, he made a number of geographical discoveries.

October 27th is World Day for Audiovisual Heritage. Audiovisual heritage includes films, radio and television programmes, audio and video recordings. The mass distribution of such documents began in the 20th century, and now they are one of the main carriers of primary information. Audiovisual documents have become a complement to traditional written media.



On October 27th, 1984, the opening of through train traffic along the entire Baikal-Amur Mainline took place. BAM is one of the largest railways in the world. The construction of the main part of the railway, which took place in difficult geological and climatic

conditions, took more than 12 years. The length of the BAM is more than 4 thousand kilometres. The highway crosses 7 mountain ranges, more than 3 thousand water barriers, including 11 large rivers.

October 28th is International Animation Day. It was established in 2002 on the initiative of the International Animated Film Association. On October 28th, 1892, the French inventor Emile Raynaud for the first time publicly demonstrated his apparatus — a praxinoscope showing moving pictures in Paris.



October 29th is Motorist and Road Worker's Day in the Republic of Belarus. This holiday has become a national recognition of the services of transport workers in the development of the Belarusian economy. An indicator of the country's development is its own automobile industry. This holiday is very relevant for the highly developed automotive industry of Belarus: the trademarks of such giants as MAZ, MTZ, BelAZ, Gomselmash, Belshina are known in many countries.



On October 30th, 1888, the American John Loud invented the principle of operation of a ballpoint pen and received the first patent for it. Loud's pen was essentially a marker, capable of writing not only on paper, but also on rough surfaces like cardboard and wood. Subsequently, the invention was improved and patents for the ballpoint pen were acquired in different countries. The low cost and practicality of the new device captivated consumers.



On October 30th, 1728, Marcin Poczubutt-Odlanicki (1728-1810) was born, a Belarusian astronomer, educator, member of the Royal Society of London, corresponding member of the Paris Academy of Sciences. He is one of the organisers and first director of the Vilna Astronomical Observatory. In addition, he conducted systematic observations of stars and planets and discovered an unknown constellation. He made a significant contribution to the development of education and the popularisation of natural science and mathematics.

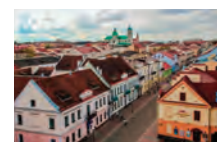


On October 30th, 1941, the heroic Defence of Sevastopol began during the Great Patriotic War. The Defence of

Sevastopol lasted 250 days. It had an important military-political and strategic significance, pinning down large enemy forces on the southern wing of the Soviet-German front and preventing him from launching an offensive in the Caucasus. The Defence of Sevastopol went down in history as an example of mass heroism and self-sacrifice of the city's defenders.



On October 30th, 1967, automatic docking of ships was carried out for the first time in space. Great attention was paid to the development of astronautics in the Soviet Union. After completing the experiment related to man's entry into outer space on March 18th, 1965, the task of meeting and connecting spaceships in space, that is, docking, was put on the agenda. It was brilliantly accomplished by Soviet scientists.



October 31st is World Cities Day. It was established by a resolution of the UN General Assembly in 2013. Currently, more than half the world's population lives in cities. Events held on this day are dedicated to the best practices of urban development or individual problems that are associated with urbanisation.