

**ПЕРСПЕКТИВЫ РАЗВИТИЯ РЕСПУБЛИКИ БЕЛАРУСЬ
В УСЛОВИЯХ РЫНОЧНОЙ ЭКОНОМИКИ**

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**BELARUS AND THE EUROPEAN UNION:
TENDENCIES OF MUTUAL RELATIONS AND PROSPECTS
БЕЛАРУСЬ И ЕВРОПЕЙСКИЙ СОЮЗ:
ТЕНДЕНЦИИ ВЗАИМООТНОШЕНИЙ И ПЕРСПЕКТИВЫ**

Европейский союз является одним из трех основных и наиболее развитых центров современного мира наряду с США и Японией. Это крупнейшая мировая торговая держава, на которую приходится почти четверть мировой торговли. Расширение Европейского Союза на Восток привело к тому, что в настоящее время он имеет с Республикой Беларусь общую границу протяженностью в несколько сотен километров. Этот факт вынуждает наполнить новым содержанием как европейскую политику Беларуси, так и политику ЕС по отношению к Беларуси.

Однако, в целом, расширение ЕС и приближение его к белорусским границам имеет положительное значение для республики. Ведь по большому счету к границам Беларуси приближается крупнейший мировой рынок с высоким уровнем потребления и доходов населения, мощный инвестор с новейшими технологиями, ноу-хау, собственными рынками.

The European Union (EU) is a supernational and intergovernmental union of 27 states in Europe. It was established in 1992 by the Treaty on European Union (The Maastricht Treaty), and is the de facto successor to the six-member European Economic Community founded in 1957. Since then new accessions have raised its number of member states, and competences have expanded. The EU is the current stage of a continuing open-ended process of European integration. The EU is now the largest political and economic entity in the World, with around 493 million people and a nominal GDP of €10.5 (\$13.7) trillion. The Union is a single market with a common trade policy. It has its own currency, the Euro – already adopted by 13 member states. The Union has a Common Agricultural Policy, a Common Fisheries Policy, and a Regional policy to assist poorer regions. It has initiated a limited Common Foreign and Security Policy, and a limited joint policy on crime.

In more recent times, the European Union has been extending its influence to the east. Expansion of the European Union on the East has led to that now it has with Belarus the common border in some hundreds kilometers. This fact compels to fill with the new contents both the European policy of Belarus, and a policy of EU in relation to Belarus.

As an integral part of the European continent and a promoter of peace and development, Belarus gradually embodies the idea of good-neighborliness. The European vector is one of the priority directions of foreign policy of Belarus. This priority is caused by many factors – historical, economic, political and cultural. Belarus aspires to construct parity, mutually advantageous relations with the European states. Thus the major sphere of cooperation is trade and economic. Belarus is developing most effectively trade and economic cooperation with Germany, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Italy, France, Belgium. The mutually important issues of trans-border cooperation, fighting crime, strategic transit, maintaining regional contacts, environmental and cultural cooperation serve as an additional incentive to building constructive relations between Belarus and the EU in the specified fields. Development of relations with the EU can increase cross-border cooperation, allowing greater cooperation on economic development, environmental protection and border management. Greater access for Belarusian products, provided European standards, to the EU market of 480 million consumers, which would help to increase Belarus' trade and subsequently enhance the country's further economic development. So, we would have deeper economic and trade relations and more business opportunities.

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**INVESTMENT CLIMATE AND PROSPECTS
FOR INVOLVEMENT OF FOREIGN INVESTMENTS IN BELARUS
ИНВЕСТИЦИОННЫЙ КЛИМАТ И ПЕРСПЕКТИВЫ
ДЛЯ ПРИВЛЕЧЕНИЯ ИНОСТРАННЫХ ИНВЕСТИЦИЙ В БЕЛАРУСЬ**

В Республике Беларусь сформирована и реализуется долгосрочная государственная инвестиционная политика. Принят Инвестиционный кодекс – основополагающий документ, регулирующий не только национальные, но и иностранные инвестиции на территории страны. В силу выгодного географического положения Беларусь является своего рода плацдармом для зарубежных инвесторов в плане освоения новых перспективных рынков стран СНГ.

The Republic of Belarus is at the crossroads of railways and motor-roads, oil, gas and product pipelines and communication systems between East and West. Over the period of 2002–2006 the country received more than 3.5 billion US dollars worth of foreign investments, including US\$ 1.8 billion of direct investments.

The most attractive sectors for foreign investors in the Republic of Belarus are: machine building and metalworking, light, chemical and petrochemical, woodworking, food industries, as well as trade activities, communications, transport, and medicine.

About 3000 companies have been set in our countries with participation of investors from 77 countries of the world. The five leading investor countries are: