

Секция 13

**МИР НА РУБЕЖЕ ВЕКОВ.  
ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКИЕ АСПЕКТЫ  
(на иностранных языках)**

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Investment Environment in Belarus**

To attract foreign investments, Belarus is seeking co-operation with international organisations. We have recently begun work on organising co-operation with UN European Economic Commission in order to implement investment projects for construction of border terminals in accord with the "Construction-Maintenance-Transfer" scheme.

The Law on Free Economic Zones in the Republic of Belarus has come into force. It specifies working conditions for the investors within the territory of these zones and grants a lot of privileges compared to laws in force. At present, there are four free zones: "Brest", "Minsk", "Gomel-Raton", "Vitebsk".

The National Assembly ratified a Convention on Protection of Investors' Rights signed by a number of CIS countries.

In the nearest future, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development intends to approve a new strategy of relations with Belarus. Our Government is conducting negotiations on various aspects of economic co-operation with European Union, International

Monetary Fund and the World Bank. Simultaneously, we continue searching for new ways of attracting and stimulating foreign investors and minimising their risks.

Apart from the investment-attractive legal terms already mentioned, Belarus has well-known advantages in comparison with other CIS countries: advantageous geopolitic location, stable socio-economic environment, developed industrial and agricultural complexes, qualified scientific and technological manpower and labour force, absence of customs borders with Russia and Kazakhstan and significantly much quieter criminal situation than in other CIS countries.

Thus, we have some grounds to believe that the currently small foreign investments in our economy today are just a temporary occurrence.

Foreign investors may find it worthwhile and promising to invest in Belarusian industries, such as electronics, instrument-making, biotechnology, light industry, food industry, wood-processing, chemistry and oil-chemistry. To support these industries, the Government introduced special privileges, as well as additional privileges for export-oriented enterprises with foreign capital.

The world-known companies, such as Ford, Coca-Cola, Siemens, Salamander, Mann, McDonalds, Bayer and Neoplan have already entered the Belarusian market.

All these facts give certain optimism about further development of investment co-operation and inflow of foreign capital into Belarusian economy. We believe in strengthening of mutual trust and continuation of fruitful co-operation.

Как страна, заинтересованная в притоке иностранных инвестиций, Республика Беларусь ведет активную работу по поиску путей поощрения крупных инвесторов и минимизации их рисков.

Действует Закон "О свободных экономических зонах в Республике Беларусь", который определяет режим работы инвесторов на территории этих зон, предоставляя им больший объем льгот по сравнению с остальной территорией республики. В настоящее время в Беларуси действуют четыре свободные зоны: "Брест", "Минск", "Гомель-Ратон", "Витебск".

Национальным собранием республики ратифицирована Конвенция о защите прав инвестора, подписанная рядом стран СНГ.

Кроме названных правовых условий, Республика Беларусь имеет такие преимущества, как выгодное геополитическое положение, стабильная социально-политическая обстановка, квалифицированные научные, инженерно-технические и рабочие кадры, отсутствие таможенных границ с Россией, Казахстаном и значительно более спокойную, чем в других странах СНГ, криминогенную обстановку.

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