

# BELARUS BUSINESS HARBOUR IN BALTICS

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Belarusian Business Forum in Vilnius

CONCEPT AND DRAFT AGENDA (as of 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2024)

**Date:** April 9<sup>th</sup> 2024 (Tuesday)

**Venue:** Marriott Vilnius (Rinktinės g: 3, Vilnius)

**Organisers:**

- Association of Belarusian Business Abroad (ABBA)
- Lithuanian Employers Confederation (LDK)

**Partners:**

- European Commission (key partner)
- Three Seas Business Forum in Vilnius (April 11, 2024)
- Commercial Law Development Program of the US Department of Commerce

**Side-events:**

- Networking Session for the Belarusian businesses in the Baltics (April 9, 17:15)
- Networking Reception (April 9, 20:00)
- Breakfast meetup of ABBA Members in the Baltics (April 10, 10:00)

**Objectives:**

- Continue dialogue between the Lithuanian official bodies and relocated fair Belarusian business on key issues of doing business in Lithuania
- Discuss the bottlenecks of relocated fair Belarusian investment in the Baltics
- Promote relocated fair Belarusian businesses in Lithuania and in the Baltics in general
- Provide networking opportunities with the Lithuanian official representatives and Lithuanian / Latvian / Estonian business associations representatives
- Promote Lithuania as a business destination country

**Target group:**

- Relocated fair Belarusian business from Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia, as well as from other countries planning to invest in the Baltics
- Lithuanian official bodies involved in Belarusian affairs, representatives of Lithuanian business associations and private business
- Representatives of Baltic business associations and private businesses

**Number of expected participants:** 100 persons, including:

- 60 relocated business representatives from the Baltics with Belarus origin
- 15 representatives of Lithuanian official bodies, business associations, and representatives from Lithuanian private business
- 10 businesses representatives with non-Belarusian origin
- 5 ABBA management board and members' representatives outside of the Baltics
- 10 journalists, experts, and representatives of international organizations:

**Language:** English, Belarusian, Lithuanian (simultaneous translation will be provided)

## Preliminary Agenda

### April 9, 2024

9:30-10:00 Registration and Welcome Coffee

10:00-10:20 Opening of the Forum by the organisers and partners.

10:20-10:35 **Keynote Speech from Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, National Leader of Belarus (by video, confirmed)**

10:35-11:45 **Opening Panel. Is there a place for Belarus in the regional trade and business community and what are democratic Belarus' prerequisites for that?** Belarus is not a member of WTO and currently is being excluded from global value chains and regional economic cooperation. Can this be changed and how? Do EU countries see Belarus as a regional economic partner when democratic changes happen in the country?

**Gediminas Varvuolis** - Ambassador At Large For Connectivity, Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (confirmed)

**Drew Roberts** – Senior Attorney at International Commercial Law Development Program of the US Department of Commerce (confirmed)

**Dzmitry Kruk** – Senior Researcher, BEROCC (confirmed)

Moderator: **Palina Prysmakova**, Associate Professor at Florida Atlantic University (confirmed)

11:45-13:00 Lunch Break

13:00-13:15 **Keynote Speech from MP Žygimantas Pavilionis, Chairman of Foreign Affairs Committee of the Parliament of Lithuania (confirmed)**

13:15-14:30 **Issues Panel. Business migration of Belarusians to Lithuania: status quo and perspectives.** Lithuania is the home for more than 70,000 Belarusians, but Lithuanian authorities claim that national security issues matter the most when having the migration door open for



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Belarusians. How does this influence the business run by Belarusians in Lithuania? What is expected to change in the nearest future?

**Lucija Voišnis** - Deputy Director of the Migration Department under the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania (confirmed)

**Svetlana Naumčik** - Associate Partner, migration law expert at iLAW LEXTAL (confirmed)

**Maryja Kolesava-Hudzilina** - President of Belarusian Association of Human Rights Lawyers (confirmed)

**Vytis Jurkonis** - General Manager of Freedom House Lithuania (confirmed)

**Philip Daineka** – Owner and CEO at Flatlogic UAB, ABBA member (confirmed)

Moderator: **Anna Matsiyenskaya** - Co-Head of Eastern Desk at WBK Lawyers (Poland);  
Chairwoman of the Supervisory Board at ABBA (confirmed)

14:30-15:30 Coffee Break

15:30-16:45 **SME Panel. Financial opportunities and practical advises on how to develop business in Lithuania.** What are the opportunities and restrictions for businesses with Belarusian shareholders in Lithuania? How to improve access to finance? How to reach out to Lithuanian and Baltic markets?

**Danukas Arlauskas** – President, Lithuanian Employers Confederation (confirmed)

**Mindaugas Mikalajūnas** – CEO, smeGo financial platform (confirmed)

**Maryia Zharylouskaya** - International Lawyer & Expert in Labour Law (confirmed)

**Anna Ivanova** – Owner & CEO, A2.Print MB, ABBA Member (confirmed)

**Illa Jasinski** – Co-owner, “Karčma 1863” tavern (confirmed)

Moderator: **Sierž Naūrodski**, Vice President, ABBA; Senior Economist, CASE (confirmed)

16:45-17:00 Concluding remarks by organizers

17:15-18:45 **Coffee and Networking Session for the relocated fair Belarusian businesses**

20:00-22:00 **Networking Reception** (“Karčma 1863” tavern)

**April 10, 2024**

10:00 – 12:00 Breakfast meetup of ABBA Members in the Baltic countries (invitations only)



**CLDP**

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