

BELARUS BUSINESS HARBOUR IN BALTICS

3rd Belarusian Business Forum in Vilnius

CONCEPT AND DRAFT AGENDA (as of 5th April, 2024)

Date: April 9th 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

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 Matsiyeuskaya** - 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)