



# **RESULTS OF THE ASSOCIATION WORK IN 2016 AND PLANS FOR 2017**





# AEB members

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## 22 members of the Association



**The Association is included in:**

2 working groups under the Foreign Investment Advisory Council under the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus

- on improving the business environment in the Republic of Belarus
- on improving the availability of qualified personnel

Interdepartmental working group on improving the catering in the Republic of Belarus under the Ministry of Antimonopoly Regulation and Trade

Public Advisory Council under the Ministry of Antimonopoly Regulation and Trade



1. The working group under the Council of Ministers and the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus "Improving human resources in accordance of with an international business demands "
2. The working group under the Council of Ministers and the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Belarus "Improving investment climate"
3. Interdepartmental working group on improving the catering in the Republic of Belarus under the Ministry of Antimonopoly Regulation and Trade
4. Member of the Advisory Board under the Ministry of Antimonopoly Regulation and Trade of the Republic of Belarus
5. Member of the Advisory Board under the Ministry of Sports and Tourism of the Republic of Belarus
6. Member of the Advisory Board under the Ministry of Tax and Duties of the Republic of Belarus
7. Member of the Advisory Board under the Ministry of Architecture and Construction of the Republic of Belarus
8. Member of the Advisory Board under the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Belarus



## Committee on Tourism and Hospitality

By the initiative of the AEB member "MPS-Hotel" and the leading restaurateurs in Belarus the assortment list of catering products and goods for restaurants, cafes and bars was significantly (2-3 times) simplified and reduced.

With the support of the EU project "Reforum" AEB experts developed "Analytical report with proposals of reforms aimed at improving the state of inbound tourism in view of its investment attractiveness in the Republic of Belarus"

AEB Proposals for the **abolition of visas and the establishment of preferential regimes for tourism and hospitality entities** were sent to all key ministries and agencies, placed in the media and presented at :

- Investment Forum "Broadening the Horizons"
- 4 meetings of the Ministry of Sports and Tourism with business and public



## **HR-Committee**

A meeting of the Committee 29 March 2016 :

- on popularization of CSR initiative Job Shadow Day
- on cooperation of foreign investors with the Belarusian education system and ways to improve this interaction
- on meeting the staffing needs of foreign investors
- on improving the level of training of the teaching staff and lecturers of educational institutions. Attraction of foreign lecturers to the educational process.

The Ministry of Education supported the initiative of the AEB members to expand the scope of JSD and offered to develop jointly a mechanism of "the Day of following a professional by a shadow" in 2017 taking into account requirements of national legislation and business interests.

## **Initiative to the Ministry of Justice:**

- Cancellation of the stamp as a mandatory requisite in economic activities of legal entities



## **Food Industry Committee**

Work is continuing on the abolition of control identification marks

Improved rationale of the abolition of control identification marks taking into account the data for 2016 and re-directed proposals in the Ministry of Antimonopoly Regulation and Trade and the Council of Ministers



## **Plant Protection Products Committee :**

- Proposals of the AEB members were included in the new edition of the Law on plant protection products
- Appeal from the AEB contributed to postpone adoption of the draft Decree on licensing the wholesale of plant protection products
- The inclusion of representatives of the AEB members in the working group in the Chamber on the preparation of the draft Law for 2017
- Appeal "on the consequences of changes in the legal regulation in the sphere of purchases of plant protection products" was directed to the Presidential Administration, the Council of Ministers, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, the Ministry of Economy, the Ministry of Antimonopoly Regulation and Trade and regional executive committees.



## **Taxation committee**

The following officially initiated suggestions :

- 1) On standardized and monochrome packaging for tobacco products to the Directorate for the regulation of tobacco products in the Ministry of Health of Canada
- 2) «On the Conference of the Parties of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control» in order to form a unified position on the conference agenda :
  - to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus
  - to the Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Belarus



## **Taxation committee**

**3) Appeal to the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Belarus to amend the work plan for 2017 of the working group on improvement of doing business in the territory of the Republic of Belarus under the Foreign Investment Advisory Council under the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus on:**

- adjustment of the Project of establishing quotas for the production of tobacco products, in particular the abolition of the quota system for filter cigarettes of the 1st price group;
- ensuring uniform distribution of the excise burden on cigarettes of different price groups;
- ensuring public access to statistical information on tobacco products and quotas for tobacco production.

*JTI with the support of the AEB has organized a seminar for specialists from government authorities about the current trends in tobacco market in the world and Belarus.*



# Grant applications, developed in 2016.

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1. Mini-grants competition of the Embassy of Finland – the project “Consultancy Fair for sustainable partnership and joint actions of tourism entrepreneurs in regions, experts and authorities”
2. Grant competition in the framework of the project REFORUM (EU) for the expert groups - the project "Analytical report on investment issues in the tourism industry«
3. Without competition, the partnership with the Lithuanian Business Confederation - workshop Maximizing capacity of BSOs and local authorities dialogue: towards inclusive decision-making
4. Competition for local initiatives aimed at promoting a healthy lifestyle, funded by the EU - project "Mediation as an innovative way to resolve family conflicts caused by the presence of NCD in the regional centers of Vitebsk region (Lepel, Lioznensky, Pastavy and Ušačy)
5. Grant competition of the German program for Belarus – the project Green Economy Forum: Inklusion europäischer Erfahrung zur nachhaltigen Wirtschaftsentwicklung in der Republik Belarus
6. Grant initiatives competition of the Embassy of the Netherlands – the project Supporting introduction of mediation, as an innovative way to resolve conflicts (answer is being expected)
7. Competition in the program Latvia-Lithuania-Belarus – the project CREAzone (answer is being expected)



## **Association as the applicant:**

The project «Research on the Public Advisory Councils under the Ministries»  
*(donor - Pact/Belarusian Research Centre, 7873 USD including taxes)*

The project «Maximizing capacity of BSOs and local authorities dialogue: towards inclusive decision-making»  
*(partner- Lithuanian Business Confederation, donor – the Embassy of Lithuania in Belarus, 2046 EUR without paying taxes)*

## **Association as a partner:**

"Analytical report on the development of proposals of reforms aimed at improving the state of inbound tourism in view of its investment attractiveness in the Republic of Belarus "  
*(donor – EU project REFORUM, around 3500 EUR)*



## Changes in the legislation on the basis of grant projects implemented in 2016

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Amendments dated 10.05.2016, in the Decree of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus dated March 20, 2012 N 247 "On organization of public discussion of draft laws and regulations on the development of business ...".

Decree is supplemented by provisions on the rights and responsibilities of the board members.

Not only draft regulations developed by the state authority, but also problems arising from legal entities and individuals in doing business can be submitted for consideration and discussion.

Enlarged list of possible boards' members: individuals can be included in the board - experts and professionals specializing in specific sectors of the economy and law.

Republican state administration bodies and other state organizations are obliged to place on their official websites on the Internet and (or) in the media:

- notifications about development of normative legal acts;
- draft normative legal acts.



## **Pilot project on integrated waste management of dairy enterprises**

*(donor – EU, coordinator – UNDP, AEB budget 2016-2017 – around 11 mil. USD)*

- a new partner JSC "Milkavita" – milk holding
- refitting a shop floor at the Polesie production site of JSC "Milkavita" (Khoyniki)
- further processing 50 tons per day of whey with high content of the curd mass, which is more active with respect to the external environment and is not recycled by a processing method
- production of a new import-substituting product "whey-fat blend with fat content of 30-40%"

## **The project "Development of «Kastrychnitski Ekanamichny Forum» in collaboration with the IPM Research Center**

*(donor – EU, AEB budget 2016-2019 – around 40 mil. EUR)*

- assistance in organizing the annual conference KEF
- assistance in organizing regional conferences KEF in the regional centers
- the organization of thematic meetings of local advisory councils on the development of entrepreneurship in the regions, in collaboration with a local partner of KEF

## Will European Business and Institutions Bolster the New Trends That Have Appeared in Belarus?

🕒 June 1, 2016




It'll take at least a \$1.5 worth of net foreign direct investment (FDI) to stimulate economic growth in Belarus in 2016. These words were said by Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko, in his annual Address to the Belarusian Nation and National Assembly. A statement of this calibre would seem to be targeting European investors, given the EU Foreign Affairs Council's decision to lift the bulk of the restrictive measures against Belarus.

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## 25+ publications in the media

 [Скачать свежий номер газеты №16 \(2023\) от 28.02.2017](#)  
28 февраля 2017 года

**ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКАЯ**  **ГАЗЕТА**

Новости Актуально Макроэкономика Финансы [Менеджмент](#) Бухучет Налоги Право Труд События БЛОГ Об из,

### Торговля

#### Борьба за перечень

01.12.2016

Белорусские предприниматели добиваются отмены протекционистских мер, мешающих развитию бизнеса. Один из таких барьеров – обязательные ассортиментные перечни продуктов белорусского производства, которые должны быть в ресторанах, кафе и других объектах.

Такие перечни серьезно осложняют жизнь рестораторам. Например, иностранному инвестору, рассматривающему возможности вложения средств в белорусский общепит, трудно объяснить, зачем закупать 54 наименования белорусского алкоголя для бара класса люкс. Ещё сложнее убедить его, что Беларусь, не располагая собственными виноградниками, производит вина, коньяки и шампанское, которые достойно представят заведение клиентам.

Чтобы повысить качество услуг, уровень ценовой и географической доступности общепита и диверсифицировать услуги, государство решило посоветоваться с бизнесом. Распоряжением премьер-министра от 5.05.2016 № 168р была создана межведомственная рабочая группа для выработки предложений по совершенствованию организации общественного питания.

Благодаря инициативе ООО «МПС-Отель» (Renaissance Minsk Hotel), члена комитета Ассоциации европейского бизнеса (АЕБ) по развитию инфраструктуры в сфере туризма и гостеприимства, были разработаны и направлены в Министерство антимонопольного регулирования и торговли предложения по устранению барьеров для ведения бизнеса в сфере общественного питания. Одно из них – требование отменить ассортиментные перечни продуктов белорусского производства, обязательные для закупки объектами общепита. Предприниматели считают, что рестораны и кафе должны иметь право свободно выбирать поставщика товаров, независимо от места их производства, как это делается во всех европейских странах. По мнению АЕБ, устранение перечня плодотворно

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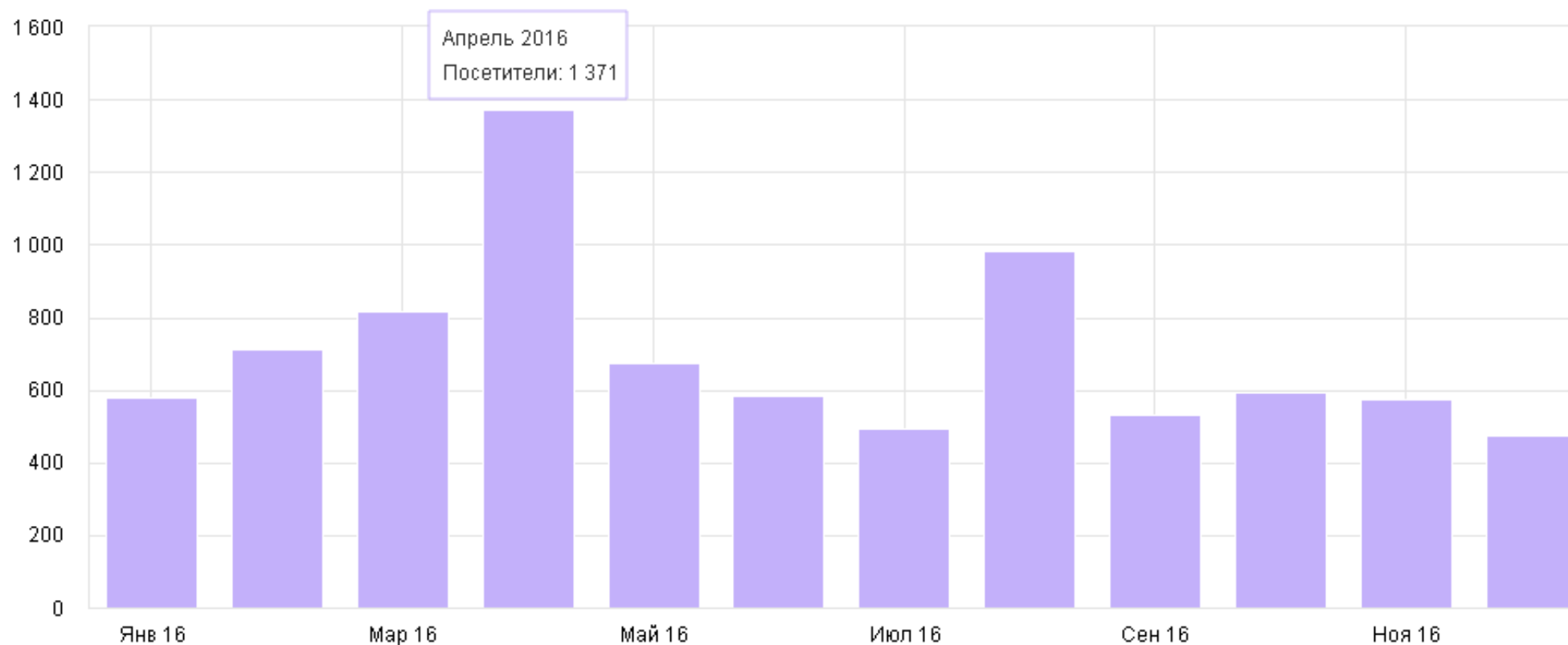


**Attendance of Aebbel.by :  
up to 1.3 thousand unique visitors per month**

**The most popular sections:**

- 1. Events**
- 2. News**
- 3. About the AEB**
- 4. Membership**

Посетители

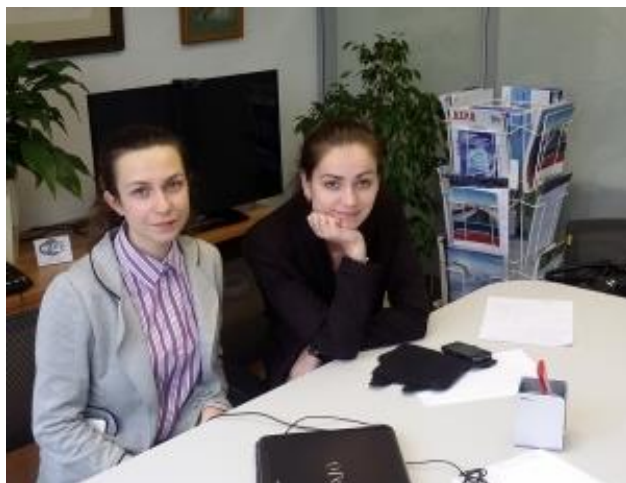




# Job Shadow Days in 2016

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- 8 students from  
BSU, BSEU, MSLU, BSUIR
- 8 mentors





# Events in 2016 (10)

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## **Decided:**

- To attract new members by directing to the central offices of major foreign companies letters (electronic and paper versions) with an invitation to membership in the Association. Sent 348 e-mails (including 124 overseas and 224 along Belarus), and the 145 paper versions (including 27 overseas and 118 along Belarus - 21 Belarusian company and 97 subsidiaries and representatives of foreign ones).
- To increase membership fees for a number of large and mostly interested companies in the Association;
- To invite members of the Association to place on their websites the AEB logo
- Accepted BRYCE COMPANY HOLDING INC. as a member of the Association
- Approved reduced membership fee for BRYCE COMPANY HOLDING INC. in the amount of one hundred (100) EUR per year
- Approved list of preferences provided to honorary members of the Association
- Approved a membership fee for honorary members of the Association since 1 January 2017 in the amount of three thousand (3000) EUR



# Plan of events for 2017

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<b>Meetings of the AEB</b>
<b>Food Industry Committee</b>
<b>Taxation Committee</b>
<b>Committee on Health and Pharmacy</b>
<b>Plant Protection Products Committee</b>
<b>HR-Committee</b>
<b>Committee on Tourism and Hospitality Development</b>
<b>Participation in the Public Advisory Councils</b>
<b>Development of partnerships and contacts of the AEB members</b>
<b>Annual ethno picnic of the AEB members</b>
<b>«Kastrychnitski ekanamichny forum», KEF</b>
<b>Corporate Social Responsibility Initiatives</b>
<b>CSR initiative for students and employers Job Shadow Days</b>
<b>Informing the AEB members</b>
<b>Meetings of the AEB members 2017</b>
<b>Creating and sending a selection of news for the AEB members (every Monday)</b>
<b>Development of the annual public report of the AEB and updating presentations</b>
<b>Implementation of projects of international technical assistance and sponsorship</b>
<b>Implementation of the UNDP project on the green economy</b>
<b>Implementation of EU Neighbourhood program project in partnership with IPM</b>
<b>«Kastrychnitski ekanamichny Forum»</b>