

# Senators decide to more deeply consider economic matters

Speaking at a seminar for members of the National Assembly's Council of the Republic, Deputy Economy Minister Dmitry Golukhov states that the establishment of holdings and clusters in Belarus is becoming a strategic economic avenue — able to ensure competitiveness for regions and branches of the national economy

By Sergey Kopylov

At present, 33 holdings are registered countrywide, uniting 203 commercial organisations and one non-commercial. Mr. Golukhov sees positive market prospects for holding structures boasting multi-purpose production and large volumes of manufactured goods. He notes that falling costs and risk factors, combined with enhanced management efficiency, are major advantages for large integrated

production structures. However, Mr. Golukhov admits that legislation regarding their establishment and operation is yet to be fully realised in Belarus.

The seminar directly tackled the professional activity of members of the Council of the Republic — as many work in the real sector of the economy. There was hot debate on the establishment of holdings and their operation, revealing that a gap exists between the Economy Ministry's theory and actual



Chinese Midea Group Holding and Horizont JSC enhancing manufacture of white goods

practice.

Members of the Council of the Republic also listened to reports on how legislation can govern the formation and operation of holdings, and on the role of Belarusian science in enhancing the competitiveness and sustainability of large production facilities. Belarus' Deputy Industry Minister, Pavel Utyupin, explained plans to establish industrial holdings within the Industry Ministry while the Chairman of BPS-Sberbank JSC, Vas-

ily Matyushevsky, reported on the latest activity of banking holdings. The Director General of Milavitsa JV JSC, Dmitry Dichkovsky, spoke of the successful experience of establishing a branch cluster.

During its eighth session, the Council of the Republic plans to study several draft laws to define economic and institutional conditions for modernising the Belarusian economy. These include laws to counteract monopolistic activity, to establish conditions

to promote competitiveness and legislation governing state-private partnership. Among them are draft laws 'On Investments', 'On State Innovative Policy and Activity in the Republic of Belarus', 'On Changes and Amendments to the Banking Code of the Republic of Belarus', 'On Accounting and Reporting', 'On Audit Activity', 'On State Purchases of Goods (Works, Services)', and 'On State Indicative Planning of Social-Economic Development of the Republic of Belarus'.

# Construction specialists appear in the limelight for success

International *Stroyexpo* Exhibition receives weighty priorities



Stroyexpo. Spring 2012 exhibition

By Leonid Nesterenko

Foreigners are taking a growing interest in Belarusian materials and construction specialists, as shown at numerous construction fairs. One of the largest such forums — *Stroyexpo-2012* — gathered almost double the number of foreign entrants in Minsk, compared to previous years.

Some were eager to see what our builders are capable of, while others were ready to offer their own construction and repair materials for sale.

Specialists are inclined to connect this interest with Belarus' joining of the Single Economic Space (together with Russia and Kazakhstan). Companies from these states wish to make a name for them-

selves and foreign producers appreciate that they can gain access to the entire SES market via Belarus.

"In 2012, Belarus plans to export almost \$500m of construction services," notes Belarus' Deputy Architecture and Construction Minister, Sergey Lastochkin. "Contracts have been signed for the implementation of construction projects

in various Russian regions while Belarusian specialists are now building sites in Venezuela and Turkmenistan."

Meanwhile, domestic companies need to modernise their production methods if they wish to compete abroad — using the latest materials, technologies, approaches and site design principles. Our niche may be the construction of contemporary, energy-efficient housing — which is gaining popularity worldwide. Belarus was the first within the CIS to develop this avenue.

According to the Belarusian Architecture and Construction Ministry, this year, 1.2m square metres of 'smart' accommodation will appear countrywide. Of course, refinements are needed but our construction services and materials have the chance to be successfully promoted around the globe. By 2015, around 60 percent of new buildings in the country should use energy-efficient technologies.



Krion JSC's workshop for air separation

## Profit from thin air

By Alexander Timofeyev

**Krion enterprise masters production of pure gases**

Krion enterprise specialises in the manufacture of air separation products: liquid and gaseous oxygen, as well as technical and medical, in addition to gaseous and liquid nitrogen and argon. Moreover, it produces welding gaseous mixtures. According to Belneftkhim Concern, to which Krion belongs, the major consumers of air separation products are industrial enterprises and those involved in construction, agriculture and medicine.

Recently the enterprise modernised its air separa-

tion unit to generate purer oxygen for use in the medical, laser, electronic and electro-technical branches, as well as in analytical chemistry. Previously such units were imported. Moreover, the factory can now ensure nitrogen purity of 5.0. This is set to rise to 5.5 by the third quarter of the year, with argon of 5.0 purity generated in the fourth quarter.

Krion JSC hopes that modernisation of its air separation unit (to generate extremely pure nitrogen and argon) will save up to 200 tonnes of conventional fuel per year, while expanding the share of innovative produce to 10 percent.