

Everything estimated meticulously

Belarus boasts balanced budget for 2012

By Alexander Bestemyanov

Belarus' macroeconomic forecast for 2012 is rather ambitious, with plans to raise exports and ensure GDP growth. However, it's difficult to outline all parameters until inflation is brought into line.

Debit with credit

How will Belarusian incomes and expenditures be distributed this year? The variables haven't been disclosed, with the Government taking longer than usual to approve the state budget. However, we do know that it will be balanced. In 2012, Br141.8 trillion, or 27.8 percent of GDP, is to arrive as income from the consolidated budget while expenditure will equal the same amount. Balancing the budget is one of the most vital principles for any state, as the total amount of envisaged expenditure shouldn't exceed total earnings.

"In 2012, the major goals for the state financial sector are enhanced stability and competitiveness of the national economy while reliably fulfilling financial obligations to foreign and domestic lenders. We also aim to preserve the quality of budgetary services and social

protection for the most vulnerable members of the population," promises the Finance Ministry.

Whom and how much?

The 2012 budget will preserve its social orientation, with a considerable part being spent on salaries, pensions, scholarships, allowances and other payments, as well as on the implementation of state social standards. Priorities are healthcare and education, with over two million square metres of state subsidised housing to be constructed for those in need. Real salaries in the state sector will rise by at least 5 percent.

In 2012, Br8.9 trillion is being allocated for social programmes, including those helping young people, and subsidising communal and transport services. Funding of the agro-industrial complex is being reduced, with money directed towards agro-industrial development via modernisation and renewal of machinery, energy saving measures and agrarian science, as well as subsidised interest rates on bank loans. In 2012, Br2.6 trillion is being allocated to the development of industry, construction and architecture.

The latest budget aims to give



Budget revenue dependent on successful work of Minsk Tractor Works

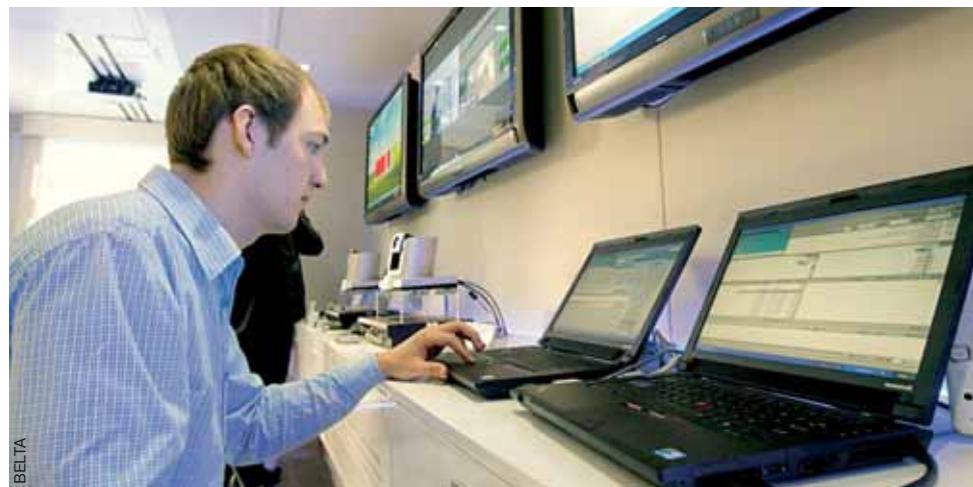
regions greater financial independence, with a new approach. It's decided to abolish the formation of certain state targeted funds; in addition, expenditure (previously

financed by these funds) is now being covered from the budget's general revenue.

The Government forecasts 5-5.5 percent GDP growth this year,

with economic growth generated from domestic resources. This reflects wider forecasts for the world economy and is guided by our major trading partners abroad.

Modern technologies to meet at industrial park



Chinese Huawei demonstrates new IT solutions in Minsk

By Olga Belova

National Academy of Sciences keen to take part in Belarusian-Chinese industrial park projects

"The concentration of modern technologies and equipment in one place presents a great opportunity for scientists," notes the Chairman of the Presidium of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, Anatoly Rusetsky. He stresses that the Academy of Science is ready to take part in realis-

ing park projects connected with the biotechnological and pharmaceutical sectors. "There will be opportunities for serious investments, so we'd like to take part in biotechnology and pharmaceutical ventures with definite offers," he adds. "We see ourselves operating in this field."

Mr. Rusetsky admits that Belbiograd could join the future Belarusian-Chinese industrial park in Belarus, although he notes that no final decision has been taken. The Belarusian-Chinese indus-

trial park would be a multi-profile structure focusing on innovative products.

A treaty on co-operation regarding the Belarusian-Chinese industrial park was signed in Minsk in September 2011, with construction due to begin in 2012, near the capital. At least \$1bn of direct Chinese investments are to be involved, allowing science-driven goods to be produced. These would change the import structure of the country, with household appliances being among the goods manufactured.

Precious green 'gold' won't change its colour

By Ruzhena Novitskaya

Forest stock per capita in Belarus is double Europe's average

Boasting around nine million hectares of forest resources, it's no surprise that Belarus has long been called a 'forest republic'. In all, 23 percent of our forests are artificially planted; they all are owned by the state. Moreover, we enjoy 0.8 hectare of forests per capita, and over 160 cubic metres of forest stock — double the average European level. Over the last sixty years, forest volumes have almost doubled here.

"In Belarus, forestry management is based on the rational use of resources," asserts Fiodor Lisitsa, Belarus' First Deputy Forestry Minister. "Forest planning projects are in place, with quotas for cutting carefully decided on scientific grounds."

Over the last five years, the Forestry Ministry has seen positive dynamics regarding planting and felling.

Traditionally, trees are



Wood cutting conducted at special forestries

planted in spring. Winter passes quickly, so are you already planning your planting schedule?

At present, all Belarusian forestries are collecting seeds for major species of trees in a centralised manner. Over 85 tonnes of cones from common pine trees have been gathered, alongside 177 tonnes of cones from common spruces and around 30 tonnes of acorns from common oaks. Seed preparation is primarily organised by special seed plantations, to

ensure enhanced characteristics.

Fire can destroy woodlands worldwide but was brought to a minimum in Belarus last year...

We achieved good results in this area, protecting our forests via constant monitoring by the state forest protection service. During the fire hazard season, the forestries organise constant patrols. We began preparing in autumn 2010, immediately after the previous season.