

Time for trust

Alexander Lukashenko urges European Union to stop exerting useless pressure on Belarus and start building mutual trust

By Daniil Zakharov

The President made his announcement on receiving the credentials of foreign ambassadors, saying, "We expect the European Union to abandon its useless pressure on our country and take steps to prove its position as a serious partner and good neighbour. The heads of EU diplomatic missions will play a huge role in the process. The EU's mentoring attitude and assertion that its vision is the only right one can be

applied to those countries which seek to become members someday but Belarus is not among them. On our way towards evolutionary transformation or modernisation of our political and economic systems, it is not in the interests of our people to dance to someone else's tune."

He continued, "At the same time, Europe and Belarus understand the ultimate goal of our reforms: strengthening Belarus' position as a modern, responsible and

democratic European state. We appreciate a benevolent and respectful attitude and respond in the same way." Mr. Lukashenko emphasised that Belarus is an integral part of modern Europe, noting, "We share a common responsibility for its future and are ready to actively collaborate with European states to promote prosperity and security across the entire continent."

Addressing diplomats from EU member states — in particular, the Ambassador of the United Kingdom of



Foreign states' ambassadors receive accreditation in Minsk

Great Britain and Northern Ireland to Belarus, H.E. Mr. Bruce Bucknell — the Belarusian Head of State said, "We're ready to collaborate if you are. I think it's time to drop stereotypes and routine

accusations from the European Union towards Belarus. It's time to find common ground; I think it's what matters most."

During a brief conversation with the Ambassador

Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Lithuania, H.E. Mr. Linas Linkevicius, the President of Belarus expressed confidence, saying, "I think we're destined to cooperate."

Implementation of beneficial project

Swiss-Belarusian transport plant to launch manufacture in 2014

By Vladimir Matveev

"The first part of the plant is scheduled to become operational by the end of 2013, allowing the first products to appear in 2014," noted Belarus' Prime Minister, Mikhail Myasnikovich, while laying a ceremonial foundation stone at the future plant.

The investment project to jointly produce railway and urban passenger electric transport is envisaged by Decree #322 (dated 20th July 2012). The Holding Management Company Belkommunmash OJSC and Stadler Rail AG (Switzerland) have signed an investment project for 2012-2016, giving the Swiss company a 60 percent stake in the future company's authorised fund. It will design and build the enterprise, while organising engineering and transport infrastructure. Belkommunmash OJSC will contribute part of its property in-kind into the authorised capital of Electric Transport JSC (Minsk). The Belarusian-Swiss JV will generate 200 new jobs, and will produce goods for sale at home and within the CIS.

Recently, Mr. Myasnikov-



Such trains will be produced in Belarus soon

ich took part in a ceremony to lay a symbolic capsule bearing a message for our descendants, on the construction site of the Belarusian-Swiss plant, which is to produce urban passenger and railway transport in the Minsk Region's Fanipol.

The Prime Minister underlines that the launch of the joint Belarusian-Swiss enterprise is a new page for the Belarusian economy and indus-

trial complex. He also stresses that the project involves intellectual and production expertise from Belarus and Switzerland. He explains, "We plan to construct high-tech railway and urban electric transport meeting European and world levels. Its construction will enable Belarus to meet domestic needs and sell to the Customs Union market, while developing exports beyond the CIS." He emphasises that

the construction of the joint plant will take place quickly and notes that Swiss partner Peter Spuhler — the director and owner of Stadler Rail AG — has brought a major delegation of businesses from Switzerland and Germany to Belarus. A meeting took place with the Government, leaving participants pleased. It is hoped that the joint plant will inspire further projects, stresses the PM.

Potential enables expanded co-operation

Ukraine's Minister for Economic Development and Trade, Piotr Poroshenko, and Belarus' Prime Minister, Mikhail Myasnikovich, have discussed prospects for the expansion of trade-economic collaboration and the implementation of new joint projects in Minsk

In particular, Mr. Myas-

nikovich has suggested that Ukraine jointly construct a plant to manufacture engines, in the Minsk Region's Stolbtsy. "Maybe we should implement this project together?" he noted, addressing the Ukrainian Minister. Mr. Poroshenko replied positively, adding that Ukraine aims to assess its opportunities for participation.

According to the Ukrainian guest, Belarus and Ukraine boast huge potential for developing their interaction in machine and engine building, including establishing joint manufactures.

He added that, in recent years, co-operative ties between the two states' enterprises have significantly intensified. "We'd

like to express our deep satisfaction with the level of mutual relations which exist between our countries," he underlined.

Mr. Myasnikovich supports the idea of expanding partnership in establishing joint manufactures, as the intellectual and production potential of our two states is ripe for moving dynamically in this direction.

High level conference

Belarusian Foreign Minister Vladimir Makei takes part in first ministerial meeting of Forum of Small States, which unites 105 UN member states — with a population of under 10m people

At the UN General Assembly Small States' Forum, Mr. Makei spoke of the role played by small and medium-sized countries in today's system of international relations, including their relations with large countries. The Belarusian Foreign Minister underlined that the emergence of numerous players on the international arena, including small states, helps strengthen the global multi-polar system.

He held brief meetings with US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, as well as with the foreign ministers of Gabon, Gambia, Luxembourg, Singapore and Tuvalu. He also met the former President of Finland, Nobel Peace laureate Martti Ahtisaari.

The same day, Mr. Makei spoke at a high level conference dedicated to the 15th anniversary of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction. He noted that, in our age of global and regional challenges and threats, the Convention is a vital engine of disarmament and international security.

Belarus views the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, established 15 years ago, as a perfect example of multilateral efforts to eliminate one of the deadliest weapons of mass destruction created by humankind.

Mr. Makei is confident that a multi-polar approach to disarmament and non-proliferation is the best way to maintain international peace and security. He declared that concerted efforts are the only way for the international community to free the planet of chemical weapons, bringing peace to everyone.



Speech in the UN

Belarus' Foreign Minister, Vladimir Makei, met UN General Secretary Ban Ki-moon, in New York, to discuss interaction between Belarus and the UN. Mr. Makei confirmed an invitation to the General Secretary to visit our country and negotiated with the General Secretary of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, Ahmet Üzümcü, discussing further steps to develop co-operation.