



# Country's renewal — the way to success and prosperity

On Friday, April 19th, President of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko delivers the State of the Nation Address to the Belarusian People and the National Assembly

**Dear fellow citizens!  
Honoured deputies and members of the Council of the Republic!**

**Honoured guests!**  
2013 is a key year in the current five-year plan.

If look back, the early days of this plan were difficult, as we all remember. We were affected by the world financial and economic crisis. However, we managed to stabilise the situation.

Today, we are overcoming the barrier to average salaries of \$500 countrywide. I repeat: the average salary. We've coped with high inflation, have calmed the currency market, have provided a budget surplus and have kept gold and foreign currency reserves at a safe level.

These positive trends have been recognised abroad.

For instance, the annual UN Human Development Index places us among the top 50 states: the high-

est index in the CIS. This is the objective opinion of the UN.

However, there are also reasons for concern, as we live in a global world. The dramatic events in Greece and Cyprus unfortunately affect Europe, bringing unfavourable forecasts for the future.

The world's financial and political elite are at a loss. Simple ways of solving problems — like printing more currency — have no effect; nor do more complex solutions. They lack the power or courage to make inevitable yet fundamental reform, waiting for others to act.

In such periods of history, mankind always returns to basic economic needs, providing essential commodities: food, clothing and shelter. We have a good margin of stability in this regard and good skills, because Belarus has developed its private sector and has refrained from blowing financial smoke bubbles.

The further growth of citizens' welfare depends not only on national operational measures but upon the correct choice of development strategy. Taking into account the extreme interdependence of our modern world, we need to understand global processes and our role.

Despite the financial crisis, global intellectual progress continues with tremendous momentum.

Mankind is accumulating knowledge and improving technologies. The information revolution is creating hundreds of new products and services.

I'm convinced that new scientific inventions, rather than sophisticated financial schemes, will revive the 'dying engine' of the global economy.

There is a global whirlpool of new ideas, technologies and inventions, which is sucking Belarus within.

Despite meeting average Euro-

pean standards, our destiny is tied to that of the wider world.

All global phenomena — from the Internet to the 'shale revolution' — affect us directly and immediately.

Accordingly, we must learn to live in this new world, where everything is changing rapidly, right in front of our eyes, and where every decade brings a whole historical era.

We have no choice: we must adapt to rapid changes or stay on the sidelines of history.

Modern times have three main requirements.

The first is speed.

Modern civilisation is characterised by constant acceleration. It's felt everywhere: in the speed of new ideas, technologies, economic trends, trade, education, media and politics. It's even felt in the everyday lives of people.

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## Good weather in Klaipeda

Belarusians bring spring to Klaipeda, in snowy Lithuania, where Baltic Sea winds encourage spring melt → 8

## Memorandums worth of 90 million Euros

Lithuanian ARVI and VMG Groups to set up several new productions in Belarus → 8

## Not excessive merit badges for the goods

More products marked 'eco' but with no proof of right to bear the label → 9

## Elegant, always recognisable, true Saint Petersburg style

Minsk hosts display of glass, enamel and ceramics by artists from northern Russian capital → 10

## SKA club continues its phenomenal season

Minsk's handball team is one of Europe's most titled clubs

## Konstantin Sivtsov on form again

Konstantin Sivtsov of Gomel wins Giro del Trentino second cycling stage of 224.8km, beating his closest rival, Mauro Santambrogio → 11

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Tourism of the Republic of Belarus, for a period since 26.03.2007 until 26.03.2012.