

Pick-up points for 'broken revenue'

Belarus produces at least 200,000 tonnes of glass waste annually — mostly bottles and jars. Meanwhile, the glass recycling facilities at Grodno, Gomel and Yelizovo receive just 50-60,000 tonnes of 'domestic' glass waste: far less than their capacity can process. Around 20,000 tonnes are purchased from abroad, despite our country easily having the potential to provide this internally.

By Semen Bogomazov

Directly to landfill site

The Deputy General Director of Belresursy Association, Gennady Popov, tells us that most bottles end up in landfill sites: several hundred thousand tonnes of glass waste take this route annually. It hardly seems to make sense, since Belarus is actually deficient in glass, requiring purchase from abroad, using foreign currency.

A couple of years ago, a question was raised of how to enable cleaning, removal of labels and colour sorting (brown, green and white). Last December, a modern plant was launched in the industrial zone of Kolyadichi, near Minsk, to produce recycled glass from around 120,000 tonnes of fragments every year. The factory is designed to work continually, with three 8-hour shifts; sadly, lack of raw materials means only one shift occurs daily.

"It's hard to say what the facility could really achieve," admits Mr. Popov. "In Germany, up to 90 percent of

glass comes from recycling, saving money and materials. Belarus has the capacity to provide the same proportion of its glass needs, but plants are standing idle.

Conscious choice

Specialists urge that an efficient system of waste collection is needed, so that people can place empty glass jars and bottles in special bins. Mr. Popov argues that Belarusians are not used to the idea of separating out their rubbish. He also believes that a national recycling campaign to promote the idea may not achieve results. He is confident that the only way forward is to place recycling points in every courtyard, so that the process is as easy as possible. Few such recycling points currently exist. He explains, "Last year, we noticed that courtyard yellow bins for plastic waste, paper and glass

worked well, filling quickly — and their number was quite large. Those for glass were less popular, probably because there were fewer of them, so people had to walk to find them. As a result, they filled slowly."

Example to follow

Separate waste collection organisations are experiencing progress. According to the Deputy Minister for Housing and Utility Services,



bility of producers and suppliers of certain goods and glass packaging, obliging them to actively participate in collecting secondary material resources — glass in particular. In addition, glass packaging producers and suppliers can either independently collect waste or conclude agreements with the Ministry.

"Following the Governmental order, we've declared the launch of a month-long trial for recycling collection, encouraging companies and citizens to pass along the glass waste they've accumulated over winter months," Mr. Shagun adds.

A natoly Shagun, around a decade ago, just 2-3 percent of secondary material resources came from domestic recycling. This has now risen but various problems continue unresolved. "The establishment of a modern facility to sort glass waste inspires us to create a system for separate glass collection — at least in Minsk," he says.

A recent decree envisages 'expanded responsi-

Reserves and opportunities

National Bank may soon reduce refinancing rate

Nadezhda Yermakova, the Chair of the National Bank's Board, notes that any such move will depend on inflation, the financial market and the overall economic situation. The last reduction was on March 13th, 2013 (from 30 to 28.5 percent) and it is planned to bring the rate to 13-15 percent per annum by the end of this year. According to Ms. Yermakova, further reduction should be possible, with a decision made after the March inflation level is published.

Germans to help finding investors

Belarusian Innovation Fund to join European network of technology parks

The Belarusian Innovation Fund and the Technology Park of Warnemünde (Germany) have signed an agreement on co-operation in the field of woodworking and automation of manufacturing processes. It is expected that the Belarusian Innovation Fund will enter European network of technology parks. The Technology Park of Warnemünde is one of the first such parks set up in Eastern Germany. Currently, it has a well-developed structure of providing services.

The Belarusian delegation headed by Director of Belarusian Innovation Fund Alexander Shumilin visited Germany in early April. The Belarusians attended innovation centres and organisations of the country to establish co-operation and identify areas of joint work. Representatives of the fund negotiated with the leadership of the Jülich Research Centre at the Hanover Industrial Fair within the framework of 'Technological Co-operation Day'. This centre makes up database covering many scientific and technical fields while developing special forms of project descriptions.

Following the results of the meeting, the Belarusian delegation agreed on the inclusion of promising domestic projects into the Jülich Centre database to search for potential partners and investors.

Targeting collaboration

Belarusian business delegation to visit Barcelona in late May

The delegation is to visit the *Construmat 2013* International Construction Exhibition, familiarising with the latest achievements in the sphere of construction materials and technologies, while searching for business partners and potential investors.

Construmat 2013 is Western Europe's largest forum for contemporary technologies and achievements in the construction industry, including conferences, seminars, master classes and other events.

Meanwhile, in late June, Bialystok will be hosting the 17th *Good Neighbourliness* Belarusian-Polish Economic Forum, bringing together business circles from our two states, discussing trade-economic co-operation.

Double energy of fast river flows

By Dmitry Pimenov

New hydroelectric power station constructed using unique Italian technology

A month and a half ago, Italian PVB Group SPA agreed to construct a new hydroelectric power station, located on the River Nieman. The most recent visit to Minsk saw the Italians present their final investment project to Belarus' ENERGY T.I. EST and the Investment Finest Company, which is ready to inject over 110m Euros into the new power station.

With a capacity of 45MW, the new station could be ready within 2.5 years from the contract's signing; construction will take just one year but 18 months are



Grodno hydroelectric power station has produced 12m kWh of energy

needed for various approvals and organisation.

The Italians' technology is unrivalled, generating double

the power from the same volume of water as classic turbines. The Italians have already built several such hydroelectric power stations

in Italy, as well as across other European countries. They are currently building a similar power station in the USA.

The Chairman of the State Science and Technology Committee of Belarus, Igor Voitov, notes that the investment treaty to construct the hydroelectric power station on the River Nieman has been discussed with foreign partners. Meanwhile, Belarus could host Italian production of equipment, for export to CIS states. Over 50 Italian companies and four international banks are setting up an association of industrial enterprises to implement various projects in Belarus, via a registered corporation, which will represent their interests.