

## Deputies strengthen interaction

**Priority must be given to Socio-Economic Development Programme for 2011-2015, notes President of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko on meeting Chairman of House of Representatives of National Assembly of Belarus, Vladimir Andreichenko**

The President began by noting, "You must now have an opinion on the new Parliamentary members and their professional abilities, so I'd like to hear your point of view. Is there enough experience and has the succession been saved?" Mr. Andreichenko replied that he finds the deputies active and well-informed.

The President is keen to see the National Assembly prioritise the Socio-Economic Development Programme of the Republic of Belarus for 2011-2015 and Mr. Andreichenko was able to assure him that work is already well underway. At the first session of the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of the fifth calling, 30 draft laws were adopted, with 55 drafts prepared for the second session. Most deal with modernisation of the Belarusian economy, including the improvement of standards of living for citizens and strengthening national security.

Mr. Lukashenko would like deputies to accompany him on business trips around the regions, to give them a better idea of specific issues country-wide. He stresses the need for deputies to strengthen their co-operation with local authorities and be aware of public feedback.

In addition, the international activities of parliamentarians came under scrutiny, alongside the formation of working groups to liaise with other nations' parliaments. Mr. Andreichenko reported on inter-parliamentary co-operation between Belarusian and Russian lawmakers, stressing that interaction has been constructive and fruitful.

# Most important points of significant interest

Meeting the heads of the military-industrial complex, Alexander Lukashenko has demanded that the defence industry focus on making weapons and equipment for worldwide export

By Vasily Kharitonov

"It's about the security of our country, our army and its arsenal," Mr. Lukashenko stated at the opening of the meeting. "The defence sector of the economy has always been our flagship for advanced technologies and innovations. Only the most reliable and the best innovations are in demand by all armies so we shouldn't lag behind."

Belarus' military-industrial sector has a tradition of strength, specialising in electronics and optics, communications systems and effective air defence. Armoured vehicles and aircraft have been upgraded, building on the Soviet legacy.

Where other former Soviet republics have allowed their industry to fall away, Belarus has taken a different path, repairing machinery and keeping it up to date. The whole world sells weapons and Belarus has done its best to retain a slice of the pie, providing employment and continually upgrading its technology, as the President emphasised.

Today, more than 70 percent of Belarusian defence industry goods are exported. Enterprises such as Peleng, Minsk Wheeled Tractor Plant and Tetraedr export almost all of their manufactures. Mr. Lukashenko notes, "We've managed to overcome the situation whereby Soviet



High interest to Minsk's Peleng production at military exhibition

weapons, which were in excessive supply in the Armed Forces, dominated our export structure;

now, almost 90 percent of our exported arms and services are Belarusian-made; it's a positive

trend which we aim to maintain."

The President aims to improve efficiency while developing new fields and modern weapons — for use by our own army and the world market. "The benefits are obvious: modernisation of the military-industrial complex and the introduction of new industries are a platform for implementing advanced technologies. In future, they'll inspire the innovative development of other sectors of the economy and strengthen our position on the world market. Finally, they'll strengthen the country's defence and increase revenue for the state budget."

The feasibility of projects is obviously important, and projects should only be entered into where sufficient funding exists. The President notes, "Specific products, pricing and delivery to foreign markets and to our army must be calculated, with all those involved taking personal responsibility, from the PM down. There's no such thing as easy money."

The President is keen to strengthen national security, in the broadest sense, raising the combat readiness of the Armed Forces as well as improving currency inflow from abroad. Every nation seeks the best equipment for its army, so Belarus would be wise to take advantage of the opportunity.

## Creativity and craftsmanship have always been in fashion

By Alexey Yarov

**Minsk's Alesya Factory was modernised a few years ago, funded from its own savings, and is already seeing results. Last year, its output almost doubled on 2011, with over a third of goods exported. By December, its average salary had crossed the \$500 threshold.**

The First Deputy Head of the Presidential Administration, Alexander Radkov, paid a visit recently, asking about everything from wages and the prices of food and medicines to the construction of housing and tuition fees at universities, besides professional questions on fashion. He suggested, "An important element of the work of managers, businesses and industry is to determine the correct direction of economic development, to ensure future profitability. Maybe, you should sell clothing designs, or maybe it's more profitable to make the designs your-



Alexander Radkov visits the enterprise

self, but several aspects need to be taken into consideration: competitiveness, market movement, people's attitude towards innovations, efficiency and human resources.

Speaking of salaries, Mr. Radkov stressed that the company should expand opportunities for employees to earn bonuses for raised labour in-

tensity or skill. Other issues touched upon bidding for tenders and high interest rates on loans. He emphasised, "Generate good ideas and we'll help with their implementation." He noted that the most valuable element is a company's tradition of production and its high-level specialists.

**NEW DIMENSION**

ASÍ ES LA REALIDAD GEOMÉTRICA

Das Wort, das Buch, Belaja Weshha

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