



*Ambasciata d' Italia
Minsk*



2nd ITALIAN-BELARUSIAN ECONOMIC FORUM ON GREEN ECONOMY
MINSK, 23 APRIL 2018
Last update March, 1st 2018

What, where and when

The Second Italian-Belarusian Forum on Green Economy will be held in Minsk on Monday, 23 April 2018 9:00 AM at the conference hall of the Double Tree Hilton Hotel (Prospekt Pobeditelej, 9). The Forum consists of two main sessions. During the first session in the morning a group of experts, representatives of State institutions as well as of specialized agencies will discuss the country's energy market, with a special focus on the investment opportunities for the Italian companies. The first session will be followed by a coffee break. After that, the second session will be entirely dedicated to B2B and B2G meetings between participants with translation services provided in Italian and Russian (translation services will be limited to a fixed number of tables). Business lunch will be provided and B2B and B2G will be continued in the same venue in the afternoon. The Forum is organized to keep the momentum of the 1st Italian-Belarusian Forum on Green Economy (Minsk, 24 March 2017) and in the spirit of the First session of the Intergovernmental Belarusian-Italian Commission on Economic Cooperation (Minsk, 22-24 February 2016). This event is also organized in the framework of the cultural and economic programme of the Italian Embassy in Minsk “*Vivere all’Italiana*”, which aims to integrate cultural, linguistic and economic promotion of Italy in Belarus.

Aims and opportunities

The initiative aims at promoting in Belarus the best green economy technological achievements of Italian firms with a sharp focus on waste management and pyrolysis, renewables (solar and wind power plants), energy efficiency in civil and industrial housing, agroindustry and biomasses, smart cities and other related aspects. Moreover, the Forum aims at deepening and broadening the scope of bilateral economic cooperation between Italian and Belarusian firms. Actually, recent efforts made by the national Government of Belarus towards energy diversification have created interesting opportunities for business in the country. For example, the New Plan adopted for the National Economic Development of Belarus for 2016-2020 emphasizes these tendencies, involving measures to support green economy, new production models, information and public awareness campaigns designed to ensure country's transition to sustainable development and energy efficiency. The strategic goals set in the Plan address a variety of issues, such as the establishment of an effective waste management system, promotion of sustainable tourism, conservation of biodiversity and use of renewable energy resources. Moreover, the development of this economic sphere can be enhanced through EU funding within specific programs for technical assistance (such as the Single Support Framework for Belarus 2017-2020), along with the support from the UN Development Programme (UNDP) in cooperation with the Belarusian Ministry for Natural Resources and Environmental Protection. During the Forum businessmen will be able to consider opportunities for financing new projects offered by the Italian Export Credit Agency (SACE),

major private banks and international financial institutions present in Belarus (UBI Banca, Belagroprombank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund are active in Belarus), as well as by the national agencies supporting the business community.

Who

The forum is organised by the Embassy of Italy in Belarus in cooperation with Confindustria Belarus and the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Belarus. The event is sponsored by UBI-Banca, Belagroprombank and Shate-M *plus*. Major local governmental agencies, specialized associations and representative offices of Belarusian-Italian economic organisations will participate in the initiative offering the business community of the two countries a unique opportunity for debate on green economy.

Participation

Interested Italian companies and entities are kindly asked to write an email to the following addresses of the commercial service of the Embassy of Italy in Minsk: commerciale.minsk@esteri.it, segrcomm.minsk@esteri.it, minsk.stage02@esteri.it (or call at: +375 17 2038916). The Belarusian companies and entities can contact the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry directly at irinavi@cci.by (or call at +375 17 2907258). Confirmation can be submitted to the aforesaid addresses till March, 30 2018 CoB. Late confirmations will be considered depending on availability.

The participation to the Forum, including business lunch, two coffee-breaks and B2B/B2G facility with interpretation, is free of charge. The sessions will be convened at the Double Tree Hilton Hotel in Prospekt Pobeditelej, 9, 220020, Minsk, Belarus.

Participants who are interested in B2B and B2G meetings are kindly asked to inform us in advance for the booking of the tables. Please find attached the draft work programme for the event.

N.B.: Those participants who transit from the European Union via the International Airport of Minsk and plan to stay for less than 5 days do not require an entry visa for Belarus, otherwise it is necessary. The Belarusian VISA waiver program does not apply to participants travelling to Minsk from the Russian Federation.

N.B. Other updates will follow.

Draft Programme

8:30 Registration

9:00 Institutional greetings, launch of the Forum

9:30 Start of the morning session “Exploring the market of green economy in Belarus”.

11:00 Coffee break

11:30 Start of the B2B and B2G meetings

13:00 Business lunch

14:00 Start of the afternoon session - B2B and B2G meetings

16:00 Coffee break

18:00 Closing of the meetings and the Forum.