

capacity, can replace five patrol airplanes as well as an airplane equipped with AWACS. It is planned to install on the information surveillance platform a three-coordinate radar station with a phased antenna grid, developed by one of the Belarussian enterprises of the military and industrial complex. As it was explained in the Ministry of Defence, this station, lifted by an aerostat to the required elevation, will be able to detect immovable and movable targets at distances «significantly exceeding the capacities of the terrestrial detection facilities».

Specialists are sure that the use of a flying command station A-50 (which is not available at the air forces and air defence teams) for getting early warning information about a massive attack from the air, including high-precision weaponry, will cost one order of magnitude higher.

Currently, the issue is coordinated with the Russian specialists on the creation of the aerostat shell. According to specialists: «It will be made from special synthetic materials that ensure not only strength, but also their low-visibility». Besides, Russian and Belarussian enterprises are working to create «special self-defence weaponry for an aircraft, i.e., station for radio electronic suppression of sighting devices of the striking air forces by means of laser SHF arms», stated military men. They also think that the aerostat is easy to use by border guards, as well.

Besides radar and surveillance operations, dirigibles can transport military equipment, arms and personnel. The designers say, that «Using the capacity for vertical landing and take-off from unspecialized sites, dirigibles can become an irreplaceable transport means».

*Leonid Semenov. 05.12.05.*

## WAY TO EUROPE

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*The majority of illegal migrants consider Belarus as a transit state on the way of their illegal migration to countries of the European Union*

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The geographical position of Belarus also brings about a problem of illegal migration to this country. According to experts, the territory of Belarus is used to reach Western Europe. Foreigners use not only tourism channels, transit passage and business trips, but also seriously violate the rules of entry. According to information of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the majority of migrants consider Belarus as a transit state on the way of their illegal migration to the countries of the European Union. Enhancement of the migration policy in Europe, funding of their expenses related to strengthening of the borders and organization of filtration areas leads to the situation when illegal migrants, who have failed to enter the countries they intended to reach, take attempts to settle in Belarus.

Now, the majority of illegal migrants coming to Belarus are from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran, Iraq, India, Sri-Lanka and China, who mainly use the transparency of the Russian-Belarussian border. Russia «supplies» up to 95% of these migrants. Migrants often enter the Russian Federation and other CIS countries legally. They also use rather liberal entry and visa conditions. Absence of customs and border control allows them to freely move to other states of the

Commonwealth of Independent States, including Belarus. According to official data, every year internal authorities of Belarus, together with border guards and KGB officers, detain over one hundred organized groups going to Poland, Ukraine, Lithuania and Latvia. In 2003, for example, they blocked the way to Europe for some 133 such groups (1925 persons). In 2004, to 126 groups (1044 persons). Later, they were deported under escort. During six months of 2005, 28 groups were detected (including 153 persons). Specialists argue that this problem will remain urgent in the future as well.

#### **THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE GOING FROM BELARUS TO USA HAS INCREASED**

As regards emigration of people from Belarus, then, currently, there is no mass-scale emigration from Belarus to foreign countries for permanent residence. These people emigrate mostly for reunification of families or trying to find employment. The major part of emigrants from Belarus goes to CIS countries. At the same time, according to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, there has been some increase in the number of people moving for permanent residence to USA and Germany in the last three years. Thus, in 2000, 7.8% of all emigrants from Belarus went to USA, while in 2004 this figure was 8.5%. There has been a growth of emigrants to Germany, from 1.9% in 2000 to 9.8% in 2004.

#### **THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE GOING FROM BELARUS TO ISRAEL HAS REDUCED**

Of interest are statistical data related to the State of Israel where about 100 000 immigrants from Belarus live. Since Belarus proclaimed its independence 15 years ago, the number of persons going to Israel for permanent residence has reduced almost 20 times. According to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, in 1990, at the peak of emigration, about 98% of all emigrants from the country left for Israel for permanent residence. In 1995, about 45% of emigrants from Belarus went to Israel and in 2005 less than 5%. It should be noted that in 1990 over 135 000 people went from Belarus to other states for permanent residence, while in the recent years this figure has made from 10 000 to 14 000 people.

#### **THE SOURCE OF SUPPLEMENTATION OF THE BELARUS POPULATION**

As regards issues of immigration of foreigners to Belarus, according to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, in the last 5 years it has received mostly immigrants from Russia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan. From 1990 till 2000, about 627 000 persons arrived to Belarus from CIS countries. In 2001-2004, over 69 000 persons arrived from CIS and Baltic States. Belarusian authorities have begun to recognize that currently foreign migration is one of the sources of supplementation of Belarus population. For example, in 2000, it supplemented about 30% of the natural decrease. In 2003, the figure was 9.4% and in 2004 it was 4.1%. In the recent years, external labour migration has been developing. This is facilitated, primarily, by Belarus integration into the international labour market. Belarusian citizens go to other countries, while foreigners are involved in the labour market in Belarus. The account of migrant labour was begun in 1994. Compared to that year, today the scope of foreign labour migration has increased 5 times on the basis of agreements and contracts. Assessing the impact of foreign migration on

the development of Belarus, it should be noted that in case of non-return migration the country loses skilled staff as well as funds used for their training. However, in case of re-emigration people gain foreign experience; they are trained through effective programmes and then use their experience in their own country. Thus, specialists improve their skills. The financial status of families improves, and tension on the labour market reduces.

Noting the prospects of export of labour for Belarus, specialists state that this will help the country integrate into the international labour market and will facilitate the future growth of investments to the Belarusian economy. The number of labour emigrants from Belarus is permanently increasing, going up almost three times since 1996. Currently, people go from Belarus to more than 20 countries of the world. Before 2000, the majority of them went to Russia. The emigration to USA has increase in the recent time. For example, in 2002, the number of people who left for USA on the basis of contracts was 1547. Two years later, this number was 2026 persons. The relevant numbers of people going to Russia were 1147 and 916, respectively. Mostly labourers go to Russia, for a long term. Basically, people under 24 leave Belarus. As a rule, they are students who are overwhelmingly employed at jobs demanding physical labour. The most common type of activities for Belarusian students abroad is seasonal agricultural work. The second place is services and leisure activities. It is known that Austria, Germany, France, Switzerland, Russia and USA have an increased demand for the so-called auxiliary staff, while in the construction sector, which has traditionally employed foreign labour, the rate of employment is dropping.

Analysis of labour migration processes in Belarus indicated that, according to official data, the greatest number arrived to Belarus in 1998, i.e., 2969 persons. Later, this number started to decrease: to 1252 in 2003, and about 500 in 2005. They basically include citizens coming from Ukraine, Russian, Turkey, Bulgaria, Germany, China and Poland, who were employed in agriculture, construction, woodworking, trade and public meals sectors. Last year, about 160 persons were employed in jobs demanding mostly intellectual labour; of them, 30 were managers, as a rule, of joint ventures and organizations with capital from their own countries. The Ministry of Internal Affairs records people coming to Belarus not only for work, but also as asylum seekers.

#### **BELARUS IS ATTRACTIVE FOR REFUGEES**

In early 1990's, the inflow of forced migrants from other countries to Belarus increased. This can be explained by transparent borders, the geopolitical situation of the country, and its political and social stability. Belarus has created an integrated and effective system of legal and social protection. Legislation on refugees is implemented successfully; it meets requirements of international standards. Belarus acceded to the UN Convention of 1951 relating to refugees and the Protocol of 1967. Therefore, the country can be attractive for foreigners. Over 2001–2004, about 600 foreigners arrived to Belarus asking for citizenship. As of 1 June 2005, 749 persons were recognized refugees, of which 278 persons were under legal age. Basically, they are from countries of Central and South-East Asia and Africa. The absolute majority among them are Afghans and Ethiopians. With financial support of the European Union, temporary

accommodation centres for illegal migrants are under construction near the airport Minsk-2 and near Brest.

*Vadim Ignatenko. 12.01.06.*

## ALARMING PROSPECTS

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*Belarusian experts predict a growth of crimes related to corruption and an active development of shadow economy*

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Corruption-related crime is characterized by a high latency and will be on the rise in the near future. This opinion is presented by specialists from the Institute of Criminology and Criminal Science of the Ministry of Justice of Belarus. According to criminal law experts, the statistical data of the last 10–12 years about corruption-related crimes demonstrate that this type of crime has a positive dynamics. This gives grounds to presume that future increase of corruption-related crimes would represent a stable trend, and it will be in place, at least, in the coming years. In 1992, there were about 2,700 crimes of this kind in Belarus; in 2004, this number was over 6,800. According to experts, today, the most common among them bribes, abuse of authority or official position, misappropriation or embezzlement. Also, they indicate that corruption-related crimes are very latent now due to their hidden nature and the close character of entities where this crime prospers.

Speaking about the types of punishment adjudicated by Belarusian courts of law for these crimes, criminal law experts told that correctional labour is now the most common punishment, over 53%; though in 1992, less than 5% of suspects of corruption were sentenced for correctional labour. In the last two years, not more than 3% of suspects have been sentenced to pay fines, whereas in 1992 this type of punishment was used in relation to almost 32% of suspects. In 1992, not a single sentence included punishment for corruption-related crimes represented by deprivation of the right to hold specific positions, while in the last year about 10% of suspects had this ruling. In the last 10 years, more lenient punishment adjudicated by courts of law, compared to what is stipulated in the law, has been more common. This judicial practice, at least, indicated to inadequacy of sentencing for the above crimes as compared to the scale of corruption-related crimes. According to experts, such practice does not help prevent crimes or enhance law and order and legality.

At the background of corruption-related crimes as well as crimes in the field of economy and financial and credit sectors, there has been a boost of the shadow economy, by means of which criminal circles avoid paying taxes, legalize their incomes and use a significant part of incomes to pay off corrupt officials. This creates a vicious circle: the shadow economy nourishes the criminal circles, which, in their turn, create a good ground for corruption and economic crimes.

According to data obtained during interview with officers from law-enforcement, fiscal and judicial authorities, currently, corruption-related crimes are committed due to three main reasons: social and economic; moral; and related to underdeveloped criminal legislation. At