

## Workshop program

### "The experience of Belarus in creating a favorable business climate.

#### Lessons in Advocacy"

August 8, 2018

Azerbaijan Confederation of Entrepreneurs

Time	Content
9.30 – 11.00	<p><b>Session 1. How Belarus managed to rise from 129th place in Doing business 2007 to 38th in DB-2018. Interaction between business and government.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- why did the authorities reform the business climate? The state of the economy, external factors and imperatives, challenges and threats that prompted the government to change attitudes toward business;</li><li>- how did the government react to the crises of 2011, 2015-2016 years?</li><li>- actions and proposals of the business and analytical communities on changing the business climate.</li><li>- how was the advocacy team formed for business climate reforms? The role of business associations, scientific and analytical centers. Dialogue Participants from both sides.</li><li>- twelve National Business Platforms (NBP) of Belarus (2006 - 2018). From skepticism to an influential instrument and an informative platform for dialogue between business and government;</li><li>- the content of the NBP of Belarus: the balance of interests, requirements, the procedure for determining the content, the role of the NBP Working Group; how the NBP is adopted, how it works after adoption;</li><li>- factors influencing the format, content and regime of the dialogue between business and government;</li><li>- how the Directive № 4 of December 31, 2010 of the President of Belarus "<b>On the Development of Entrepreneurship Initiative and Stimulation of Business Activity in the Republic of Belarus</b>" appeared.</li><li>- public Advisory Councils as a platform for discussion of recommendations of the National Business Platform. The composition of participants, working regime, the influence on the decision-making process;</li><li>- working groups of the government on development of joint draft decrees and other documents: working group on the draft presidential decree on the development of entrepreneurship (adopted on November 23, 2017); working group on the adjustment of the Tax Code (February 2018 - up to the present), working group on the Strategy for the Development of Entrepreneurship in Belarus until 2030, working group on country marketing (2009).</li><li>- the Presidential Council for the Development of Entrepreneurship: powers, working regime, authority, composition, practice of protecting producers of goods</li></ul>

and services. Case, brought to meetings, as well as cases, considered in the current regime.

- lessons of the main successes and failures to advocate the recommendations of the NBP of Belarus.

11.00 – 11.15

Coffee break

11.00 – 13.00

## **2. Components of the business climate in Belarus**

- legislative base for supporting SMEs of Belarus;
- state programs and their effect on the development of SMEs;
- SME support infrastructure (business centers, incubators, etc.);
- how the adopted decrees, laws on SME support work Directive № 4 of December 31, 2010 "On the Development of Entrepreneurship Initiative and Stimulation of Business Activity in the Republic of Belarus", Decree No. 7 "On the development of entrepreneurship";
- Draft Strategy for the Development of Entrepreneurship within the framework of socio-economic development programs of the country (five-year plan);
- medium-term development strategy "Belarus - \$ 100 billion in 2025". Actions of different actors on the development of this document;
- access to finance for SMEs: sources, conditions, impact on the economy;
- licensing and obtaining permits;
- inspections, fines and penalties;
- taxes and tax administration;
- a special Belarusian institute "pseudo-entrepreneurship";
- access to finance;
- registration of property;
- problem of equality of business conditions. The special status of state-owned enterprises. Regime of anti-monopoly regulations;
- customs and rules for conducting export-import transactions.
- how is analytical support for the NBP of Belarus carried out: participants, content, surveys, the Business Optimism Index, the evaluation of NBP performance.
- main challenges and problems of interaction of the scientific, expert communities with business associations and unions.