

NATIONAL SECURITY SECTOR REFORM

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The situation both inside and around the country is unfavorable for the national interests of Belarus. The main threats to national security are the growing aggressiveness of the Kremlin's foreign policy, Belarus' participation in post-Soviet integration projects under the auspices of Russia, the dominance of Russian media in the information space and the low level of national consciousness of Belarusians.

The main directions of reforming the existing state policy are: withdrawal from integration associations with the participation of Russia; preservation and development of the national cultural heritage, the Belarusian language; sustainable economic growth; high level and quality of life of citizens; democratic system of government.

As a result of the reform, the threats of external intervention and destabilization of the situation in the country, attempts to split the society and territorial integrity of Belarus will decrease.

PROBLEMS SOLVED BY THE REFORM

1. Aggressive foreign policy of the Kremlin.

For realization of the revisionist, the imperial plans of the Kremlin is actively uses:

- economic and energy blackmail,
- informational pressure,
- spread of phishing web news and misinformation,
- toxic effects on the elite and society,
- the falsification of history in order to manipulate the public consciousness,
- artificial provocation and incitement internal conflicts.

The Russian leadership is using the concept of "Russian peace" to strengthen Moscow's control over Belarus. The basis for this is often the Russian language and the Russian Orthodox Church.

The Kremlin is actively using soft power methods: NGOs, thought factories, the media, bloggers, social networks, exchanges and internships in Russia.

2. Lack of democracy, freedom of speech, freedom of assembly and other basic freedoms.

Independent media are under severe pressure. Civil society and the political opposition face severe restrictions on their activities and persecution. There have been no free and fair elections in the country for more than two decades.

3. Low level of national consciousness and dominance of the Russian language.

The complete inability of state ideologues and state media to compete with the propaganda of the Russian media: Russian television and radio actually dominate the information field of Belarus.

4. The problematic state of the Belarusian economy.

The Belarusian economy is facing significant depreciation of fixed assets and technological backwardness not only from world leaders, but also from its neighbors - the EU.

5. Membership of Belarus in integration supranational entities, dominated by Russia - the Union State, the CSTO, the EurAsEC, the CIS.

As part of the CSTO, Belarusians are threatened with involvement in armed conflicts in Central Asia and around the world. Through participation in the CSTO, there is a threat of the use of Asian or Russian troops on our territory. Belonging to the CSTO also hinders the modernization of the army.

6. Changing priorities and emphases in the foreign policy of the European Union.

The EU is facing unprecedented migration challenges and the consequences of Brexit. Many EU countries are looking for compromises with the Kremlin. The United States is not a real guarantor of Belarus' independence, despite progress in bilateral relations and Washington's firm commitment to Belarus' independence and sovereignty.

MAIN GOALS / OBJECTIVES OF THE REFORM

The main goal of reforming the national security sector is the immediate mobilization and consolidation of society in order to protect independence and sovereignty.

Objectives:

- strengthening national identity, increasing patriotism and national dignity;
- unification of society on the basis of democratic values and the idea of building an independent Belarus;
- reduction of the Kremlin's influence on Belarus through informational, economic, integration and humanitarian factors;
- withdrawal from post-Soviet integration associations dominated by Russia;
- integration into Western political, economic and military structures (EU, NATO).

MAIN STEPS TO IMPLEMENT THE CONCEPT

Priority measures (until 2021):

1. In the political sphere:

- withdrawal from the "Union State", the Eurasian Union, the Customs Union and other integration entities, where Russia dominates;
- banning pro-Russian organizations whose activities run counter to national interests, as well as Russian foundations and organizations that fund such structures;
- introduction of criminal liability for public statements challenging the existence of a separate Belarusian nation and / or its historical right to its own state. Introduction of criminal liability for public insults to the Belarusian language;
- civil society monitoring of pro-Kremlin initiatives in Belarus;
- border and customs control on the border with Russia.

2. Ban on the sale of Belarusian infrastructure to Russian companies.

3. In the information sphere:

- liberation of independent media from pressure and control by the state, ensuring freedom of the media and freedom of speech in Belarus;
- ban on broadcasting journalistic socio-political and news programs created by Russian TV channels in Belarus;
- inclusion in the standard TV package of mandatory public TV channels of Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Ukraine;
- resumption of permanent activities of the Public Coordinating Council in the field of mass media.

4. In the military sphere:

- withdrawal from the CSTO, return of full control of Belarus over its own air and missile defense systems;
- withdrawal from the territory of Belarus of Russian military facilities - a communication center in Vileyka and a radar station near Baranovichi;
- expansion of patriotic education in the Belarusian army;
- translation of educational work in the army into Belarusian;
- development of border infrastructure at the borders with EU countries, increasing the capacity of border crossings.

5. In the environmental sphere:

- ban on commissioning and closure of new harmful industries in Brest, Mogilev, Svetlogorsk;
- publication of comprehensive truthful information on the construction, safety and operation of the Astravets NPP;
- holding a broad public discussion on the fate of the Astravets NPP.

6. In the social sphere:

- raising wages and improving the working conditions of health and education workers.

7. In the cultural sphere:

- popularization of national heroes with a bias in the XIX and XX centuries;
- popularization of Kastus Kalinowski as a political founder of the modern Belarusian nation, as a symbol of the struggle of Belarusians for freedom and independence and as a figure that should consolidate around all those committed to the values of national revival and independence.

Medium-term goals (until 2025):

1. In the political sphere:

- reform of electoral legislation, holding free, fair and just elections to the country's parliament;
- formation of the National Guard to protect the parliament and preserve the constitutional order in the country;
- formation of the National Security Service, accountable to parliament;
- restoring the independence of the courts from the executive;
- exercising civilian control, primarily by parliament, over the Armed Forces;

2. In the economic sphere:

- diversification of energy supplies, reduction of Russia's share as a supplier of energy to Belarus to 50% of total energy imports;
- expanding the use of alternative energy sources;
- implementation of the state program on energy saving, reduction of energy consumption and transition to local fuels;

- construction of a new oil refinery in Navapolatsk, focused on light oil;
- inclusion of Belarus in the cooperation programs within the Three Seas Initiative in order to prepare the necessary documents, programs and infrastructure for Belarus' accession to the future system of liquefied gas supplies from the United States to Eastern Europe;
- privatization of state-owned enterprises with a ban on the acquisition by companies with a share of Russian capital of more than 20%, creation of conditions for attracting foreign direct investment;
- construction of modern railways and highways Kyiv-Minsk-Vilnius, Lviv-Brest-Grodno-Vilnius, Vitebsk-Polotsk-Dvinsk-Riga.

4. In the information sphere:

- establishment for cable broadcasting of the maximum admissible share of the TV channels in which production the foreign country participates, in 50% of total number of the TV channels offered in a package;
- improving the quality of Belarusian national TV channels, creating special socio-political and historical programs;
- retransmission by national TV channels of popular science, entertainment and news programs of the EU, Britain, Canada, the USA, Australia.

5. In the military sphere:

- transition to NATO standards;
- training of military personnel with sending Belarusian servicemen to relevant educational institutions and centers of NATO countries;
- translation into Belarusian of all life of the Belarusian army (service, combat work, maintenance, etc.);
- naming Belarusian military units and educational institutions after Belarusian national heroes;
- formation of the Belarusian Armed Forces from four integral units:
 1. a core of professional servicemen serving on a contract basis;
 2. citizens serving in the military;
 3. voluntary territorial units formed by citizens who retain civilian occupations but undergo periodic exercises and can be mobilized quickly;
 4. Reserves - all fit for service male citizens who have undergone military training during military service.
- changing the system of military training during conscription and reservists. Focus on patriotic upbringing and acquiring the necessary skills.
- change in the duration of compulsory military service up to 6 months;
- the number of the Armed Forces without taking into account reservists in the range of 75.0 thousand - 80.0 thousand;
- arrangement of proper infrastructure on the border of Belarus with Russia;

6. In the environmental sphere:

- creation of favorable economic conditions for investment in projects for energy production from renewable sources and recycling and reuse of waste;
- rehabilitation of radiation-contaminated areas.

7. In the social sphere:

- creation of conditions for the return of Belarusians working abroad, first of all - doctors and medical workers, highly qualified specialists of other professions;
- facilitating the return of the descendants of our compatriots who left Belarus before the restoration of state independence, through the adoption of the law on the map of compatriots - Belarusians abroad;

8. In the cultural sphere:

- return of the Belarusian language to the status of a single state language, guaranteeing the rights of national minorities to education and implementation of cultural activities in the native language;
- development and implementation of administrative and financial measures to stimulate Belarusian-language media, book publishing, cultural life. Return of state surcharges for education and upbringing in the Belarusian language in preschool, secondary and higher educational institutions.
- comprehensive decommunization and de-Sovietization of Belarus;
- Belarusianization of the religious life of all Christian denominations and other religions;
- Belarusianization of the education system of all levels and forms;
- restoration of registration, status and state funding of the Yakub Kolas National State Humanitarian Lyceum while preserving academic freedoms for teachers, students and parents; establishment of NDGL branches in all regional cities;

Long-term goals (by 2030):

- creation of a comprehensive Belarusian-language education system from kindergartens to universities;
- restoration of the Belarusian Autocephalous Orthodox Church as a national alternative to the Belarusian Exarchate of the ROC of the Moscow Patriarchate;
- fulfillment by Belarus of all criteria of membership in the EU and NATO, submission of the corresponding applications for membership in these structures;
- ensuring long-term food security through diversification of food supplies to the country, creation of food stocks, modernization of agricultural production, development of farms.
- strengthening cooperation and forming a strategic partnership within the Baltic-Black Sea community, forming and organizing the relevant regional intergovernmental bloc;
- implementation of a program to diversify energy supplies with a limitation of the share of suppliers in any of the countries to a maximum of 30% of total energy imports.

Download the full document: "The concept of national security of the Republic of Belarus"

DECISION-MAKING BODIES

President, Parliament.

REGULATORY LEGAL ACTS

The concept of national security of the Republic of Belarus

The proposals were developed by experts : Alexei Yanukovych.

SECURITY

REFORMS



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