

The problem of poverty among the population can lead to increased social inequality and tension, as well as to interregional migration flows. The main task of the state is to equalize regional differences among the population. The ways to achieve this goal are the wage system, the pension system, and the social security system for such population groups.

Thus, improving the quality of life in Belarus should be carried out on the basis of special state programs that take into account all factors contributing to the improvement of quality of life. These programs should be aimed at creating favorable conditions for the comprehensive development of people, maintaining a high level of social security, and ensuring fair distribution of resources, which together will contribute to sustainable growth and development of society as a whole. Special attention should be paid to vulnerable groups of the population, such as pensioners, people with disabilities, and low-income families. For them, it is necessary to develop and implement special support and social protection programs to guarantee a decent standard of living and access to basic goods.

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## **ANTIMONOPOLY REGULATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS: LEGAL FRAMEWORK, VIOLATIONS, AND ENFORCEMENT**

### **Антимонопольное регулирование в Республике Беларусь: правовая основа, нарушения и применение**

The development of market economies and the construction of an effective economic system in the Republic of Belarus are inextricably linked to ensuring fair competition and combating monopolistic activities. In the context of an evolving market and the pursuit of

economic integration, creating equal conditions for all market participants and preventing monopolization are key objectives of state economic policy. For the Republic of Belarus, the effective functioning of antimonopoly regulation is of particular importance.

The goal of this article is to examine the concept and legal framework of antimonopoly legislation in the Republic of Belarus, identify typical forms of its violation, and also outline the types of liability and provide examples of the application of legislation in the country.

Antimonopoly legislation represents a set of legal norms aimed at preventing, restricting, and suppressing monopolistic activities and unfair competition, as well as at stimulating and developing a competitive environment in commodity markets. In the Republic of Belarus, the central regulatory legal act governing antimonopoly activity is the Law of the Republic of Belarus of December 12, 2013, № 94-3 «On Counteracting Monopolistic Activity and Developing Competition». In addition to this Law, the legal basis of antimonopoly regulation consists of: the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus, which guarantees the principles of a market economy and protects the rights of citizens and organizations; the Civil Code of the Republic of Belarus; the Code of Administrative Offenses; Resolutions of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus; and other legislative acts. The state administrative body authorized to oversee compliance with antimonopoly legislation is the Ministry of Antimonopoly Regulation and Trade (MART) of the Republic of Belarus.

The Law «On Counteracting Monopolistic Activity» identifies violations committed by economic entities, as well as by state bodies and government institutions. These violations include: abuse of a dominant position; anti-competitive agreements (cartels), classified as either horizontal (between competitors) or vertical (between supplier and distributor); unfair competition; and anti-competitive actions by state bodies.

For violations of antimonopoly legislation in the Republic of Belarus, various types of legal liability are provided for: administrative, civil, and, in exceptional cases, criminal. MART regularly develops and implements antimonopoly legislation in various sectors of the economy. Price collusion, where competitors agree to maintain or raise prices in the market, is a common violation of Belarusian antimonopoly legislation. For example, the Ministry of Antimonopoly Regulation and Trade revealed cartels of suppliers of food products, building materials, or medicines, which inevitably led to increased prices for consumers and restriction of competition. Another significant problem is the abuse of a dominant position. Large companies, holding a dominant market share, can exploit their position to push out other players. Unfair competition is also actively suppressed. This includes actions such as spreading false information, copying product designs, making incorrect comparisons, and using another's trademarks to mislead consumers. When considering cases of violation of antimonopoly legislation, MART conducts a comprehensive market analysis, gathers evidence of violations, invites participants to provide testimony, requires the elimination of violations, and holds those responsible administratively.

Effective antimonopoly regulation is critically important for ensuring a competitive environment and sustainable economic growth in the Republic of Belarus. The aforementioned Law «On Counteracting Monopolistic Activity and Developing Competition», along with its accompanying acts, provides the foundation for combating anti-competitive practices. As market relations evolve, continuous improvement is necessary in both legislation and law enforcement.

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## **CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (CSR) BY THE EXAMPLE OF BELARUSSIAN COMPANIES**

### **Корпоративная социальная ответственность на примере белорусских компаний**

Corporate social responsibility (CSR) is a business model that encourages companies to operate in ways that enhance society and the environment while still being accountable to their stakeholders and the public.

The study of corporate social responsibility (CSR) is highly relevant in the modern world for the following reasons:

- To integrate into global value chains and attract foreign investment, Belarusian companies need to comply with international business standards, where CSR is an integral component.
- Effective CSR practices contribute to social stability, improved environmental conditions, and the creation of a favorable business reputation for the country as a whole, which is a key factor for long-term and sustainable development.
- Corporate social responsibility is a part of a company's reputation. The higher it is, the easier it is to interact with the government and consumers.
- The problem of this study lies in the contradiction between the growing theoretical significance of corporate social responsibility for business development in Belarus and its insufficient, often unsystematic, implementation in practice.

Research objectives are:

- Conduct a theoretical analysis of the evolution of the CSR concept and identify the key elements of a strategic approach to its implementation.
- Identify and systematize actual CSR practices among leading Belarusian companies.

Belarusian companies are actively implementing corporate social responsibility. These are companies like Coca-Cola, Bellakt, MTS, Belkanton Group. They all conduct