

About ten years ago Belarussian banks started carrying out operations using plastic cards. The first bank which received permission to carry out such transactions (with MasterCard/EuroPay card) was Belvnesheconombank. In accordance with National Bank experts' estimates, there are more than 75 000 holders of international banking association plastic cards in Belarus today. Altogether, taking into account users of the national payment system BelCard, the number of plastic cards holders in the Republic of Belarus exceeds 120 000. Today many banks issue international payment cards system in Belarus but the leader in this market is Belarusbank- it has issued more than 45 000 cards. Priorbank, having issued more than 68 % of cards in dollars, occupies the first place in hard currency sector of the market. The BelCard national payment system based on microprocessor cards has become an indisputable competitor to international payment system in Belarussian regions.

The BelCard national payment system based on microprocessor cards has become an indisputable competitor to international payment systems in Belarussian regions. The economic essence of their emission arises when annual inflation is not more than 6 % per annually with refinancing rate at 10-12 %. Along with technical and legal prerequisites, the possibility of qualitative changes in the "plastic money" market depends on the way of thinking of the consumer-potential plastic product user. Banks still don't manage to profit from card payments throughout the Internet.

Thus, the card boom in Belarus is postponed till tomorrow when qualitative changes in technical, legal, financial and the attitude of the man on the street will be able to provide a qualitative break-through. In my opinion, the ideal case of introduction plastic cards could be the combination of corporate, banking and international cards into one.

*Ю.И. Печень
Филиал БГЭУ (Бобруйск)*

DYNAMICS OF BELARUS EXPORT COMMODITY POLICY

ДИНАМИКА ЭКСПОРТНОЙ ТОВАРНОЙ ПОЛИТИКИ РЕСПУБЛИКИ БЕЛАРУСЬ

At present in the Republic of Belarus the National Model of stable innovative development has been formed. It is based on short and long term forecasting and programming. The priority component of the model is increase of export of goods and services within the coming five years.

One of the peculiarities of Belarus economy is a large proportion of export in the gross national product. Belarus export demonstrates permanent growth and made 59, 60, 55, 56, 60 % accordingly in the period from 2000 to 2004.

The basic position in export belongs to the following commodity groups: machines, equipment and vehicles; products of chemical industry; textiles; food products; raw materials.

The export dynamics in the above mentioned commodity groups is positive – in 1998 their export made 30,2; 21,9; 7,8; 8,7 % having reached 23,2; 15,3; 4,9; 8,5 % by 2004. Another important change in the export flows is growth of the share of mineral products.

If in 1997–1999 the volume of this commodity group in the total amount of export did not exceed 8,5–9,5 % in 2004 it reached 27,5 %. The visible structural shift was achieved by export of oil products and petroleum. The positive new tendency proves that in the Republic of Belarus has been created the mechanism of adaptation to the unprecedented growth of the world oil prices, despite the absence of oil deposits inside the country. As a result the direction of export flows has been changed, and the export trade balance with the countries outside CIS increased considerably and became positive. At the same time we must admit that strengthening positive shifts in the export dynamics requires growth in the export – import flow of other commodity groups because if oil products are excluded the export trade balance with the countries outside CIS remains still negative.

2. Analysis of export of mineral products allowed to reveal the interrelation of profit in trade with distant foreign partners and growth of deficit in trade with the Russian Federation. Thus the deficit in trade with Russia (1589,6 mln dol. USA) is comparable with gained profit in the trade with the countries outside CIS (1012,2 mln dol. USA). The positive shifts in the Belarus export structure were achieved at the expense of the above mentioned changes. The major trade partners of Belarus are the Russian Federation (48,1 %) followed by Great Britain (9,3 % with 95,9 % oil products and petroleum in 2003); Poland (4,3 % with 32 % of oil products) and Germany (4,2 %).

It is observed that export of goods with low degree of processing to the countries outside CIS has increased considerably. The cumulative share of petroleum, potassium fertilizer and saw-timber increased from 16,9 % in 1999 up to 30 % in 2004 – 2005.

At the same time there is essential growth in the export of high technology products. As for the goods with high added cost, their export is aimed at CIS countries, where the existing position is preserved by reduction of prices which lowers profitability of export deliveries.

The major part of goods for export is produced by a small group of large industrial companies, while other enterprises (including gross national product enterprises) manufacture goods with low competitiveness at the world markets. Thus 20 large workshops produce more than 55 % of the total amount of export and more than 80 % of it go to the countries outside CIS.

The leading position in export production belongs to 5 enterprises of the Ministry of Industry «Belarusian Metal Works», «BelautoMAZ», «MTZ», «Atlant». In the structure of «Belneftchim» export 50,4 % make oil products of Mozyr. Refining enterprise, 18,4 % of potassium fertilizers are produced at «Belaruskaliy». At the same time all the products of organic synthesis make no more than 30 %. As for currency income flows and profit they are still concentrated only at few enterprises.

By way of conclusion it is necessary to admit that in Belarusian export structure there are separate sectors of efficiency which have considerable risks of stable development.