

# CERHA HEMPEL CEE NEWSLETTER *Belarus*

## The new regulations on foreign donations in Belarus

### Introduction

The new Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus No. 3 "On Foreign Donations" (the "**Decree**") was adopted on 25 May 2020. It will come into force on 27 August 2020 except for the provision on bank reporting, which will come into force on 1 January 2021.

### The key points of the new regulations

The definition of a foreign donation has been widened. According to the Decree, foreign donations now also include the goods, works and services purchased using the money donated from abroad and transferred to third parties on a gratuitous basis.

The list of purposes for foreign donations has been revised. Some purposes have been removed from the list, including scientific research, support of the cultural sphere, protection of historical and cultural heritage, and environmental protection, whereas other purposes have been added, namely:

- The provision of medical care. This includes medical and social care, as well as palliative medical care, the purchase of medicines, medical services and treatment at a health resort;
- The prevention and liquidation of natural and anthropogenic emergencies. This purpose is complemented by ensuring fire, industrial, nuclear and radiation safety, eliminating the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster;

- The installation of water and wastewater treatment facilities, the creation of facilities for the use of waste, facilities for the disposal of waste, and the introduction of alternative energy sources.

In addition, the extent to which banks must report on foreign donations has increased. Under the Decree, banks should report every single transaction on a monthly basis with respect to foreign donations, both cross-border and internal.

For the registration of foreign donations, recipients should pay a fee of 0.5% of the amount of the donation received.

### Summary

The Belarusian authorities aim to tighten the control on foreign donations in Belarus in order to prevent international money laundering and curtail the influence of foreign institutions on the social and political environment of Belarus.

### For more information

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