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Changes to admission of foreign goods to public procurement in Belarus

Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus no 206 of 17 March 2016, which enters into force on **23 June 2016**, sets restrictions on admission of foreign goods to public procurement procedures.

This Resolution brings into force the rule that if two or more bids are submitted on certain goods originating in Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and (or) Russian (*EAEU countries*), the bid on goods from another country of origin will not be allowed to participate in a public procurement procedure. Thus, the restriction concerns only a specific list of foreign goods approved by the Belarus Council of Ministers. Moreover, the restriction does not apply to procurement of foreign work and services.

The rule does not apply if national treatment applies to Belarusian goods in the foreign country. This type of treatment is usually regulated in international agreements. At the moment, national treatment in the procurement sector concerns only EAEU countries according to the Agreement on Eurasian Economic Union concluded on 1 January 2015.

We remind you that the country of origin of goods is the country where goods are completely produced or mainly processed according to rules set by legislation, as confirmed by the certificate of origin of goods.

In terms of setting up own production of goods in Belarus, the possibility to conclude an investment agreement with Belarus should not be overlooked. We would also remind you that legislation on public-private partnership projects enters into force on 2 July 2016.

bnt attorneys-at-law is an international law firm based in 10 Central and Eastern European countries.

We will be glad to assist you in realizing your projects in Belarus and advise you on law and tax matters.

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