

Unofficial Translation

**LAW OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS  
dated 01.08.2002 No. 136-3**

**ON CITIZENSHIP OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS**

Adopted by the House of Representative on 18.06.2002  
Approved by the Council of Republic on 28.06.2002

(in edition of the Law of the Republic of Belarus dated 22.06.2006 No. 129-3,  
dated 04.01.2010 No. 105-3, dated 24.12.2015 No. 330-3,  
от 20.07.2016 No. 414-3)

This Law defines legal grounds of state regulation in the sphere of citizenship, regulates grounds and procedure of acquisition, retention and termination of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus, defines decision-making, execution of decisions and appeals against decisions on citizenship issues, defines special occasions of change and retention of citizenship, determines competence of state authorities, as well as rights and obligations of citizens of the Republic of Belarus in the this sphere.

**CHAPTER 1  
GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**Article 1. Citizenship of the Republic of Belarus**

Citizenship of the Republic of Belarus is a sustainable legal relationship between a person and the Republic of Belarus embodied in the complex of their reciprocal rights, obligations and responsibility based on recognition and respect of dignity, basic rights and freedoms of a person.

Citizenship of the Republic of Belarus is unalienable attribute of state sovereignty of the Republic of Belarus.

**Article 2. Legal regulation of the issues of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus**

The issues of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus are regulated by the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus, this Law, the other legislative acts and international treaties of the Republic of Belarus.

If an international treaty of the Republic of Belarus determines the regulations other than those envisaged by this Law, the regulations of the international treaty shall apply.

**Article 3. Principles of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus**

Citizenship of the Republic of Belarus is based on the following principles:  
everyone has the right for citizenship;  
citizenship of the Republic of Belarus is equal to all citizens of the Republic of Belarus regardless on what grounds it was acquired;  
citizenship of the Republic of Belarus cannot be granted against the will of a person;  
no one shall be deprived of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus or the right to change citizenship;  
The Republic of Belarus strives for avoidance of instances of statelessness.

**Article 4. Protection and patronage of citizens of the Republic of Belarus by the state**

The state guarantees its protection and patronage to citizens of the Republic of Belarus both on the territory of the Republic of Belarus and outside it.

If there are no diplomatic missions and consulates of the Republic of Belarus in a country where citizens of the Republic of Belarus stay, protection of right and legal interests of citizens of the Republic of Belarus can be executed, in accordance with international treaties of the Republic of Belarus, by respective authorities of the other countries.

**Article 5. Inadmissibility of extradition of a citizen of the Republic of Belarus to a foreign country**

Citizen of the Republic of Belarus cannot be extradited to a foreign country if the other is not envisaged by international treaties of the Republic of Belarus.

### **Article 6. Retention of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus**

Residence of a citizen of the Republic of Belarus on the territory of a foreign country does not lead itself to loss of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus.

### **Article 7. Citizenship of the Republic of Belarus in Республике Беларусь при заключении и расторжении брака**

Conclusion or termination of marriage between a citizen of the Republic of Belarus and a citizen of a foreign country or a stateless person does not lead itself to acquisition or termination of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus by the spouses.

A person who concluded a marriage with a citizen of the Republic of Belarus acquires citizenship of the Republic of Belarus in case of his/her wish and compliance with the conditions envisaged by this Law.

### **Article 8. Citizens of the Republic of Belarus**

As citizens of the Republic of Belarus are recognized:

persons who are citizens of the Republic of Belarus at the date when this Law came into force;

persons who acquired citizenship of the Republic of Belarus in accordance with this Law.

Persons who were born within the borders of current territory of the Republic of Belarus, who were citizens of former USSR in the past by birth and acquired citizenship of the Republic of Belarus before this Law came into force are recognized as citizens of the Republic of Belarus by birth.

### **Article 9. Foreign citizens and stateless persons**

Persons who are not citizens of the Republic of Belarus and have proof of their affiliation with nationality / citizenship<sup>1</sup> (hereinafter, if not defined otherwise, – citizenship) of another country are recognized as foreign citizens in the Republic of Belarus.

Persons who are not citizens of the Republic of Belarus and do not have proof of their affiliation with citizenship of another country are recognized as stateless persons in the Republic of Belarus.

Legal status of foreign citizens and stateless persons in the Republic of Belarus is regulated by the legislation of the Republic of Belarus.

### **Article 10. Document confirming citizenship of the Republic of Belarus**

A document confirming citizenship of the Republic of Belarus is a passport of a citizen of the Republic of Belarus or another document containing reference to citizenship of the Republic of Belarus.

### **Article 11. Non-recognition of affiliation with citizenship of a foreign country in relation to a citizen of the Republic of Belarus**

Affiliation with citizenship of a foreign country is not recognized in relation to a person who is a citizen of the Republic of Belarus unless otherwise is envisaged by international treaties of the Republic of Belarus.

Citizens of the Republic of Belarus who also possess another citizenship cannot be limited in their rights, cannot evade execution of obligations or cannot be released from responsibility originating from citizenship of the Republic of Belarus.

## **CHAPTER 2 ACQUISITION OF CITIZENSHIP OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS**

### **Article 12. Grounds for acquisition of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus**

Citizenship of the Republic of Belarus is acquired:

by birth:

as a result of granting of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus;

by registration

on the other grounds envisaged by this Law and international treaties of the Republic of Belarus.

### **Article 13. Acquisition of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus by birth**

A child acquires citizenship of the Republic of Belarus by birth if at the date of a child's birth:

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<sup>1</sup> In the authentic version in Russian, the text contains reference to nationality and citizenship. Both terms has the same meaning – a person's link with specific country in the form of citizenship/nationality. But citizenship is issued in the meaning of Russian term "подданство", which is the term for citizenship for the country where the head of the state is a monarch. Here and after in the text the term "citizenship" is used. *Comment of UNHCR Representation in Belarus.*

at least one of child's parents possesses citizenship of the Republic of Belarus, irrespective of the place of the child's birth;

parents (the only parent) of a child, temporary or permanently residing in the Republic of Belarus, are stateless persons, provided that the child was born on the territory of the Republic of Belarus;

parents (the only parent) of a child, permanently residing in the Republic of Belarus, are foreign citizens, provided that the child was born on the territory of the Republic of Belarus and countries which citizens are his/her parents do not provide him/her with their citizenship.

A child who is situated on the territory of the Republic of Belarus and whose parents are unknown becomes citizen of the Republic of Belarus.

#### **Article 14. Granting of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus**

A person who attained the age of 18, has the right to submit application for granting of citizenship of Belarus if s/he:

observes and respects the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus, the other legislative acts of the Republic of Belarus, takes the responsibility to observe and respect further on the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus and the other legislative acts of the Republic of Belarus;

knows one of state languages of the Republic of Belarus within the limits required for communication;

resides in the Republic of Belarus after acquisition of permit for permanent residence in the Republic of Belarus uninterruptedly for the duration of seven years with the exception of instances envisaged by Part Three of this Article. The period of residence in the Republic of Belarus is considered to be uninterrupted if a person was exiting the Republic of Belarus for not more than three months within each year during last seven years until application for granting of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus.

has legal source of income which provides him/her and incapacitated family members, who depend on him/her, with the minimum wage determined in the Republic of Belarus;

does not have citizenship or will loss citizenship of a foreign country in case of acquisition of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus, or applied to competent authority of a foreign country for termination of citizenship of a foreign country s/he currently has, with the exception of instances when termination of citizenship of a foreign country is not possible for reasons outside person's control.

Persons granted refugee status or asylum in the Republic of Belarus may be granted citizenship of the Republic of Belarus provided that they comply with the conditions envisaged by Paragraphs Two – Five of Part One of this Article.

Period of residence determined by Paragraph Four of Part One of this Article may be reduced or may not applied at all for:

Belarusians as well as persons who identify themselves as Belarusian, and their descendants (cognates: children, grandchildren, great grandchildren) born outside current territory of the Republic of Belarus;

persons who have outstanding merits to the Republic of Belarus, high achievements in the area of science, technology, culture and sport or those who possess a profession or qualification of public interest for the Republic of Belarus;

foreign citizens or stateless persons who previously possessed citizenship of the Republic of Belarus.

Granting of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus is exercised taking into account the interests of the Republic of Belarus.

#### **Article 15. Acquisition of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus by registration**

A person who attained the age of 18, permanently resides on the territory of the Republic of Belarus, never possessed citizenship of the Republic of Belarus, complies with the requirements of Paragraphs Two, Three and Six of Part One of Article 14 of this Law, has the right to submit an application for acquisition of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus by registration if s/he:

was born was permanently residing on the territory of the Republic of Belarus before 12 November 1991;

is a spouse of a person who is acquiring citizenship of the Republic of Belarus by registration on the ground envisaged by Paragraph Two of this Article;

is a descendant of a persons who is acquiring, acquired or may acquire citizenship of the Republic of Belarus by registration on the ground envisaged by Paragraph Two of this Article.

Citizenship of the Republic of Belarus may be acquired by registration without complying with requirements envisaged by Part One of this Article by:

a child permanently residing on the territory of the Republic of Belarus, – by joint application of the parents, of whom at least one possesses citizenship of the Republic of Belarus, or by application of one of the parents who possesses citizenship of the Republic of Belarus if whereabouts of another

parent is unknown, or by application of the only parent who possesses citizenship of the Republic of Belarus.

a child situated on the territory of the Republic of Belarus custody or guardianship of whom has been established and whose the only parent or one of the parents, if whereabouts of another parent is unknown, or both parents have died, have been deprived of their parental rights, have refused to take care of a child or have authorized his/her adoption, have been recognized, by the court's decision, as incapable, missing or dead, as well as a person who attained the age of 18 custody of whom has been established, – by application of custodian (guardian) coordinated with the custody and guardianship authority.

**Article 16. Grounds for denial of examination of application for granting of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus**

An application for acquisition of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus shall not be examined if the applicant:

was convicted of a committed crime against peace and security of the humankind, of war crime, of a crime against the state;

has criminal record due to committed crime on the territory of the Republic of Belarus or outside its territory, which is recognized by the legislation of the Republic of Belarus as such<sup>2</sup>;

is being prosecuted in the Republic of Belarus or in a foreign country for crimes which are recognized as such by the legislation of the Republic of Belarus, – until decision-making (issuance of sentence) upon criminal case;

was deported or expelled from the Republic of Belarus or was transferred to a foreign country in accordance with international treaties of the Republic of Belarus on readmission, – until the period of ban on entry to the Republic of Belarus expires;

repeatedly (three and more times) was brought to administrative account on the territory of the Republic of Belarus, – until expiry of the period during which a person is considered as a person who has been brought to administrative account;

provided false information or counterfeit documents;

is serving in the military, police, security service, authorities of justice or the other state authorities of a foreign country.

If the grounds envisaged by Part One of this Article occur, an application for acquisition of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus is returned back, without any examination, to the applicant together with all the provided materials.

**CHAPTER 3  
TERMINATION OF CITIZENSHIP OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS**

**Article 17. Grounds for termination of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus**

Citizenship of the Republic of Belarus is terminated as a result of:

renunciation of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus;

loss of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus.

**Article 18. Renunciation of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus**

Citizens of the Republic of Belarus who attained the age of 18, with the exception of citizens of the Republic of Belarus custody of whom have been established, have the right to apply for renunciation of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus.

Renunciation of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus of citizens of the Republic of Belarus who attained the age of 18 and custody of whom have been established shall be allowed upon application of a custodian.

Renunciation of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus of citizens of the Republic of Belarus who have not attained the age of 18, with the exception of citizens of the Republic of Belarus mentioned in Part Four of this Article, shall be allowed upon application of parents, adopters or [application of] the only parent, adopter.

Renunciation of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus of a child adopted by persons mentioned in Part Three of Article 27 of this Law shall be allowed after s/he attains the age of 18.

Renunciation of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus is exercise in accordance with the procedure determined by the President of the Republic of Belarus, and in the absence of the grounds envisaged by Article 20 of this Law do not occur.

<sup>2</sup> Comm. by UNHCR Belarus: Meaning that a person has criminal records for an action which is also recognized as a crime in the Republic of Belarus.

**Article 19. Loss of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus**

Citizenship of the Republic of Belarus is lost:

if a person is recruited for military service, service in the police, security services, authorities of justice or the other state authorities of a foreign country subject to absence of the grounds envisaged by Article 20 of this Law;

upon application of parents (the only parent) in relation to a child who acquired by birth citizenship of the Republic of Belarus along with citizenship of a foreign country. Loss of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus of a child between the ages of 14 and 18 is allowed only with the consent of the child expressed in writing and notarized.

on the grounds envisaged by international treaties of the Republic of Belarus.

**Article 20. Grounds for denial of termination of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus**

Termination of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus is not allowed if a citizen of the Republic of Belarus:

is the accused or in relation to him/her there is a guilty verdict of a court that came into force and shall be executed;

has tax liabilities or the other pending liabilities to the Republic of Belarus, its administrative and territorial units, legal entities and individuals;

does not possess any other citizenship or guarantees of its acquisition.

**CHAPTER 4**

**CANCELLATION OF DECISIONS ON THE ISSUES OF CITIZENSHIP OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS**

**Article 21. Cancellation of decision on acquisition or termination of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus**

Decision on acquisition or termination of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus shall be cancelled if it was made on the basis of knowingly false information or counterfeit documents

**Article 22. Procedure of cancellation of decision on acquisition or termination of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus**

Cancellation of decision on acquisition or termination of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus is made by the President of the Republic of Belarus or the other state authority that made this decision.

In case decision on acquisition or termination of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus has been cancelled, it is considered as invalid from the date of the decision.

**CHAPTER 5**

**CITIZENSHIP OF A CHILD IN CASE OF CHANGE OF CITIZENSHIP OF PARENTS, ADOPTERS, ADOPTION, DETERMINATION OF MATERNITY (PATERNITY)**

**Article 23. Citizenship of a child in case of change of citizenship of parents, adopters**

In case citizenship of parents, adopters or the only parent, adopter changes, citizenship of a child changes accordingly, if s/he [child] does not attain the age of 14.

Change of citizenship of a child between the ages of 14 and 18 in case of change of citizenship of his/her parents, adopters or the only parent, adopter, is allowed only with the consent of the child expressed in writing and notarized.

Subject to the wish of parents, adopters or the only parent, adopter, in case termination of their citizenship of the Republic of Belarus, child's citizenship of the Republic of Belarus may retain.

**Article 24. Retention of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus of a child custody or guardianship of whom has been established**

If parents or one of the parents of a child who resides on the territory of the Republic of Belarus and custody or guardianship of whom has been established by citizens of the Republic of Belarus, are terminating citizenship of the Republic of Belarus or are losing it and, in doing so, are not taking part in child's upbringing, child's citizenship of the Republic of Belarus retains.

**Article 25. Acquisition of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus by a child in case of acquisition of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus by one of the parents, adopters**

If one of the parents, adopters acquires citizenship of the Republic of Belarus while another

remains a foreign citizen or a stateless person, a child may acquire citizenship of the Republic of Belarus upon joint application of parents, adopters or upon application of parent, adopter who acquires citizenship of the Republic of Belarus, if whereabouts of another parent, adopter is unknown, with the exception of the case envisaged by Part Two of this Article.

If one of the parents, adopters acquires citizenship of the Republic of Belarus while consent of another parent, adopter to acquire citizenship of the Republic of Belarus by a child is missing, the child may acquire citizenship of the Republic of Belarus upon application of the parent, adopter who acquires citizenship of the Republic of Belarus, if otherwise the child becomes stateless.

**Article 26. Retention of child's citizenship of the Republic of Belarus in case of termination of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus by one of the parents, adopters**

If one of the parents, adopters is terminating citizenship of the Republic of Belarus or is losing it, while another remains citizen of the Republic of Belarus, child's citizenship of the Republic of Belarus retains.

**Article 27. Citizenship of a child in case of adoption, determination of maternity (paternity)**

If a child who is a foreign citizen or a stateless person is adopted by a citizen of the Republic of Belarus or by spouses who are citizens of the Republic of Belarus, or by spouses one of whom is a citizen of the Republic of Belarus while the other one is a stateless person, s/he [child] becomes a citizen of the Republic of Belarus from the date of adoption's determination.

If a child who is a foreign citizen or a stateless person is adopted by spouses one of whom is a citizen of the Republic of Belarus while the other one is a foreign citizen, s/he [child] may acquire citizenship of the Republic of Belarus upon joint application of adopters.

A child who is a citizen of the Republic of Belarus retains citizenship of the Republic of Belarus in case of his/her adoption by:

- spouses who are foreign citizens;
- spouses who are stateless persons;
- spouses one of whom is a citizen of the Republic of Belarus while the other one is a foreign citizen or a stateless person;
- spouses one of whom is a foreign citizen while the other one is a stateless person;
- a person who is a foreign citizen or a stateless person.

A child who is a foreign citizen or a stateless person

If maternity (paternity) is determined by a person who is a citizen of the Republic of Belarus in relation to a child who is a foreign citizen or a stateless person, s/he [child] becomes a citizen of the Republic of Belarus from the date of maternity's (paternity's) determination.

## CHAPTER 6

### COMPETENCE OF STATE AUTHORITIES MAKING DECISIONS AND PROCESSING DOCUMENTS ON THE ISSUES OF CITIZENSHIP OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

**Article 28. Decision-making on the issues of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus**

Decisions on the issues of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus are made by the President of the Republic of Belarus and state authorities mentioned in Paragraphs Three and Four of Article 29 of this Law, in accordance with the procedure determined by the President of the Republic of Belarus.

**Article 29. State authorities involved in decision-making on the issues of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus**

State authorities involved in decision-making on the issues of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus are:

- the President of the Republic of Belarus;
- authorities of the interior of the Republic of Belarus;
- authorities of diplomatic service of the Republic of Belarus.

**Article 30. Competence of the President of the Republic of Belarus**

The President of the Republic of Belarus:  
defines the procedure of examination of the issues related to citizenship of the Republic of Belarus;

issues decrees on granting of citizenship and renunciation of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus;

issues orders in cases of denial of applications for granting of citizenship and applications for renunciation of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus.

**Article 31. Competence of the authorities of the interior of the Republic of Belarus**

Authorities of the interior of the Republic of Belarus:

receive applications related to the issues of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus from persons permanently residing in the Republic of Belarus, verify facts and documents provided in support of such applications;

send materials related to applications for granting of citizenship and applications for renunciation of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus for examination by the President of the Republic of Belarus;

determine affiliation of persons situated on the territory of the Republic of Belarus with the citizenship of the Republic of Belarus;

decide on the issues of acquisition of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus by registration by persons permanently residing on the territory of the Republic of Belarus;

register loss of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus by persons permanently residing on the territory of the Republic of Belarus;

decide on the issues of change of citizenship on the grounds envisaged by international treaties of the Republic of Belarus;

execute control over termination of foreign citizenship of persons granted citizenship of the Republic of Belarus;

decide, in accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Belarus, on the other issues related to citizenship of the Republic of Belarus.

**Article 32. Competence of the authorities of diplomatic service of the Republic of Belarus**

Authorities of diplomatic service of the Republic of Belarus:

receive applications related to the issues of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus from persons permanently residing outside the Republic of Belarus, verify facts and documents provided in support of such applications;

send material related to applications for granting of citizenship and applications for renunciation of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus for examination by the President of the Republic of Belarus;

determine affiliation of persons situated outside the Republic of Belarus with the citizenship of the Republic of Belarus;

register loss of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus by persons permanently residing outside the Republic of Belarus;

decide on the issues of change of citizenship on the grounds envisaged by international treaties of the Republic of Belarus;

execute control over termination of foreign citizenship of persons granted citizenship of the Republic of Belarus;

decide, in accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Belarus, on the other issues related to citizenship of the Republic of Belarus.

**CHAPTER 7**

**THE PROCEDURE OF SUBMISSION AND EXAMINATION OF APPLICATIONS ON THE ISSUES OF CITIZENSHIP OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS**

**Article 33. Submission and processing of applications on the issues of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus**

Applications on the issues of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus shall be submitted to the authorities of the interior of the Republic of Belarus at the place of residence of an applicant, and by persons permanently residing outside the Republic of Belarus, – to respective authority of diplomatic service of the Republic of Belarus.

Applications on the issues of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus shall be submitted by an applicant in person in writing. Requirements for the form of the application and the list of documents attached to it in relation to specific grounds of acquisition or termination of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus are defined by the President of the Republic of Belarus.

Applications on the issues of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus of a child or a person who attained the age of 18 custody of whom has been established shall be submitted by their legal representatives.

If an applicant is not able to apply in person due to documented circumstances of exceptional nature, an application and documents attached to it may be transferred for examination through another person or sent by post.

**Article 34. Period of examination of applications on the issues of citizenship of the**

## **Republic of Belarus**

Period of examination of applications for granting of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus shall not exceed one year.

Period of examination of applications for renunciation of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus shall not exceed six months.

Period of examination of applications for acquisition of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus by registration shall not exceed two months.

### **Article 35. Date of acquisition or termination of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus**

A person acquires citizenship of the Republic of Belarus:

in accordance with Article 13 of this Law – from the date of birth of a child;

in accordance with Parts One and Four of Article 27 of this Law – from the date of determination of child's adoption, [from the date of] determination of [child's] maternity (paternity);

in the remaining cases – from the date of entry into force of a decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus or from the date of a decision of state authorities mentioned in Paragraphs Three and Four of Article 29 of this Law.

Citizenship of the Republic of Belarus is terminated from the date of entry into force of a decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus or from the date of a decision of state authorities mentioned in Paragraphs Three and Four of Article 29 of this Law.

### **Article 36. Repeated examination of applications on the issues of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus**

Repeated applications of a person for granting of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus or renunciation of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus shall be accepted not earlier than in a year after previous decision was made. In case circumstances substantial for a case that were not or could not be known to an applicant occurred, repeated application may be examined earlier.

## **CHAPTER 8**

### **EXECUTION OF DECISIONS ON THE ISSUES OF CITIZENSHIP OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS. APPEALS AGAINST DECISIONS, ACTIONS (OMISSIONS) OF STATE AUTHORITIES AND OFFICIALS ON THE ISSUES OF CITIZENSHIP OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS**

#### **Article 37. State authorities executing decisions on the issues of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus**

Decisions on the issues of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus in relation to persons residing in the Republic of Belarus are executed by the authorities of the interior of the Republic of Belarus, and in relation to persons residing outside the Republic of Belarus, – by authorities of diplomatic service of the Republic of Belarus.

#### **Article 38. Appeals against decisions, actions (omissions) of state authorities and officials on the issues of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus**

Decisions on the issues of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus may be appealed:

made by the President of the Republic of Belarus – to the Supreme Court of the Republic of Belarus which examines such cases as a court of first instance;

made by authorities of the interior of the Republic of Belarus – to courts of the regions<sup>3</sup>, Minsk City Court;

made by authorities of diplomatic service of the Republic of Belarus – to Minsk City Court.

Unfounded denial of registration of applications on the issues of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus, violation of period [envisaged] for examination of applications, as well as the other unlawful actions (omissions) of officials on the issues of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus may be appealed to a court.

## **CHAPTER 9 FINAL PROVISIONS**

#### **Article 39. Validity of documents issued in accordance with previous legislation on citizenship of the Republic of Belarus**

Documents issued in accordance with previous legislation on citizenship of the Republic of Belarus retain their legal validity if there were properly processed and are considered as valid at the

<sup>3</sup> Courts of the regions means the highest, in terms of their hierarchy, courts of the regions of Belarus, for instance, the Court of Grodno Region.

date when this Law came into force.

**Article 40. Entry into force of this Law**

This Law comes into force after ten days counting from the date of its official publication.

This Law shall be applied to legal relations that occurred after its entry into force.

Until the legislation of the Republic of Belarus is aligned with this Law, it is applied in the part which does not contradict this Law.

For determination of affiliation with citizenship of the Republic of Belarus in relation to legal relations that occurred before this Law came into force, provisions of the Law of the Republic of Belarus dated 18 October 1991 «On citizenship of the Republic of Belarus» and Decree of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus dated 18 October 1991 «On entry into force of the Law of the Republic of Belarus «On Citizenship of the Republic of Belarus» shall be applied until 1 January 2004.

**Article 41. Alignment of legislative acts of the Republic of Belarus with this Law**

The Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus shall, within six months counting from the date of this Law's entry into force:

- elaborate and submit, in accordance with existing procedure, proposals on alignment of legislative acts of the Republic of Belarus with this Law;
- align acts of the Government of the Republic of Belarus with this Law;
- ensure revision and cancellation by republican entities of public administration subordinated to the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus their legal acts contradicting this Law;
- take measures required for implementation of provisions of this Law.

**Article 42. Repeal of certain legislative acts**

Due to adoption of this Law, the following legislative acts shall be repealed:

The Law of the Republic of Belarus dated 18 October 1991 «On citizenship of the Republic of Belarus»;

The Law of the Republic of Belarus dated 15 June 1993 «On introduction of addenda and amendments in existing legislative acts on citizenship»;

The Law of the Republic of Belarus dated 8 September 1995 «On introduction of addenda and amendments to existing legislative acts on citizenship of the Republic of Belarus»;

The Law of the Republic of Belarus dated 3 March 1997 «On introduction of addendum to the Law of the Republic of Belarus «On citizenship of the Republic of Belarus»;

The Law of the Republic of Belarus dated 13 November 1997 «On introduction of amendment to the Resolution of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus «On entry into force of the Law of the Republic of Belarus «On citizenship of the Republic of Belarus»;

The Law of the Republic of Belarus dated 22 June 1998 «On introduction of amendments and addendum to the Law of the Republic of Belarus «On citizenship of the Republic of Belarus»;

article 1 of the Law of the Republic of Belarus dated 9 November 1999 «On introduction of amendments to certain legislative acts of the Republic of Belarus»;

The Law of the Republic of Belarus dated 30 December 1999 «On introduction of addenda to the Law of the Republic of Belarus «On citizenship of the Republic of Belarus» and amendment to the Resolution of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus «On entry into force of the Law of the Republic of Belarus «On citizenship of the Republic of Belarus»;

The Law of the Republic of Belarus dated 18 June 2001 «On introduction of amendments and addenda to certain legislative acts of the Republic of Belarus on citizenship of the Republic of Belarus»;

The Resolution of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus dated 18 October 1991 «On entry into force of the Law of the Republic of Belarus «On citizenship of the Republic of Belarus»;

The Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus dated 19 June 1992 «On adoption of Regulations on the procedure of examination of issues related to citizenship of the Republic of Belarus».

President of the Republic of Belarus

A. Lukashenko