

Opening new horizons

In 2024, the export geography of the Belarusian Ministry of Industry's enterprises totaled 67 countries, including the resumption of supplies to 15 markets, to which there were no exports in 2023. In the first quarter of 2025, the organizations of the Belarusian Ministry of Industry increased the volume of exports to non-CIS countries by one and a half times. Supplies to African countries increased 1.8 times, to Asia - 1.7 times. Since ensuring stable growth of the Belarusian industrial complex is one of the priority tasks of our republic, the industry continues to work on creating conditions for expanding export opportunities. Belarusian enterprises are actively cooperating with the most promising regions of Asia and Africa as part of their efforts to diversify markets. They create favorable conditions and prerequisites for mutually beneficial cooperation in the long term. In addition, a new and improved legal and contractual base of cooperation is being formed, which allows bringing these relations to a qualitatively new level. How are Belarus' relations with a number of Asian and African countries developing under these conditions? This is the subject of this study.



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Expanding the framework of Belarus' economic partnership in the context of fragmented global challenges

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Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange: from East Asia to West Africa

In 2025, the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange (BUTB) took another major step forward in the development of exchange trading in our country. In the first quarter of this year, the total value of export exchange transactions on the BUTB increased by almost one and a half times to 1.3 billion Belarusian rubles. The most sought-after Belarusian goods abroad were sawn timber, milk powder, meat, butter, and feed additives. At the same time, in the first three months of 2025, 774 new companies were accredited to participate in exchange trading on the BUCE (470 residents and 304 non-residents) were accredited to participate in exchange trading. As of March 31, 2025, more than 36,000 companies were accredited, of which more than 8,000 were non-residents from 81 foreign countries¹.

When it comes to specific countries that are actively involved in the work of the BUBE, **Russia** is, of course, the leader in this list, not only ranking first in terms of trade volume among all countries represented on the Belarusian exchange platform, but also being the largest destination for exchange exports. At the end of the first quarter of this year, deliveries of Belarusian goods to the Russian market grew by more than 40 percent in value terms, exceeding two hundred million dollars. Russian companies mainly buy meat products, milk powder, butter, cheese, and feed additives at auctions. Belarusian participants are most in demand for grain, plant protection products, veterinary drugs, and food raw materials. The growth rate of the total value of transactions in this segment of the commodity market was 135 percent. In addition to agricultural products, metallurgy and woodworking products, construction materials, lubricants, polymer

¹ The number of transactions on the BUTB auction platform increased by a third in the first quarter [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/kolichestvo-sdelok-na-torgah-butb-za-i-kvartal-vyroslo-na-tret-712291-2025/>

products, and a wide range of industrial and consumer goods demonstrated high liquidity on the exchange over the three months. "In particular, export sales of Belarusian gas silicate blocks to Russia increased by 26%, ferrous and non-ferrous metal scrap by 12%, and industrial products by 3%. In turn, Russian enterprises increased sales of polymers and polymer packaging by 63%, ferroalloys by 22%, and ferrous metal products by 6%." ² .

According to the results of January–April, the Russian market grew by another 20 percent compared to the same period in 2024, exceeding \$310 million, which is significantly more than China and Uzbekistan, which ranked second and third, respectively. This demonstrates the sustained interest of Russian businesses in the tools offered by the BUTB and the desire of Russian companies to develop cooperation with Belarus in the field of electronic exchange trading. It remains only to add that as of mid-May this year, "4,522 Russian residents are accredited on the BUTB, including seven exchange brokers. Thus, since the beginning of the year, the number of Russian trading participants has increased by 264 companies" ³ .

In May of this year, the Natproektstroy group of companies, one of Russia's largest construction holdings, expressed interest in cooperating with the BUTB. The discussion focused on the possible use of exchange trading for the procurement of materials, equipment, and machinery for the construction of transport and energy infrastructure facilities. Suppliers could include not only Belarusian and Russian companies, but also companies from other countries accredited by the BUTB. In particular,

² The stock exchange turnover of Belarus and Russia grew by 17% [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/birzhevoi-tovarooborot-belarusi-i-rossii-vyros-na-17-706573-2025/>

³ BUTB: Russian companies continue to lead in terms of the total value of exchange transactions [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-rossiiskie-kompanii-po-prezhnemu-lidirujut-po-summe-birzhevnyh-sdelok-715396-2025/>

one area of cooperation with the Natproektstroy Group could be the purchase of cellular concrete blocks produced by the Belarusian Cement Company. Since export exchange trading of these products is conducted on the BUETB on a regular basis, and the seller is the direct manufacturer, working through the exchange will ensure regular deliveries and the proper quality of goods. It should be noted that "in January-April 2025, 257,000 cubic meters of aerated concrete wall blocks were sold abroad, which is 32% more than in the same period of 2024. The entire volume was purchased by residents of Russia"⁴.

Recently, there has been an increase in exchange trading of BUAT with other countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). For example, with **Azerbaijan**. In 2024, transactions concluded by Azerbaijani companies on the Belarusian exchange "accounted for more than 20% of the total trade between Belarus and Azerbaijan, while compared to 2023, the exchange trade turnover between the two countries increased almost 2.5 times"⁵. As of early May this year, 156 businesses from this South Caucasus country were already accredited on the BUTB, with about a third of them regularly participating in trading. Lumber is in the highest demand among Azerbaijani importers. This item accounts for over 90 percent of the exchange's trade turnover between our countries. However, the situation is gradually changing and, based on statistics for 2025, we can talk about an increase in the share of agricultural products in the structure of exchange transactions. In particular, sales of Belarusian dry milk, butter, and meat products to Azerbaijan are growing dynamically. According to the results of the first four months of this year,

⁴ One of Russia's largest construction holding companies plans to cooperate with BUTB [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/odin-iz-krupneishih-stroitelnyh-holdingov-rossii-planiruet-sotrudnicat-s-butb-716037-2025/>

⁵ Stock exchange trading accounted for more than 20% of trade between Belarus and Azerbaijan [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/birzhevaia-torgovlja-obespechila-bolee-20-tovarooborota-belarusi-i-azerbajdzhana-712981-2025>

the volume of purchases of these goods has already exceeded the total figure for the whole of 2024 by 30 percent. In May, at the Belarusian-Azerbaijani Business Forum, the first BUTB broker in Azerbaijan, SAM-ZT LLC, was awarded an accreditation certificate. This company will focus on attracting new participants to the exchange platform and, if necessary, will assist them in concluding transactions, making settlements, and organizing logistics. In addition, to enhance cooperation with the Azerbaijani business community, a memorandum of cooperation was signed between the BUTB and the Small and Medium Business Development Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The combined efforts of the agency and the exchange will make it possible to more effectively inform Azerbaijani entrepreneurs about opportunities for working on the Belarusian trading platform and will contribute to increasing the share of the exchange segment in the trade turnover of the two countries.

Another CIS country that intends to increase the volume of exchange trading, expand its product range, and increase the number of users of the BUTB trading platform in 2025 is **Turkmenistan**. "At the end of last year [2024], the total value of exchange transactions by Turkmen participants increased 25-fold, from \$80,000 to almost \$2 million. All of this was Belarusian exports, namely sawn timber and milk powder,"⁶. In May of this year, at the International Trade and Services Exhibition (ITSE-2025) in Ashgabat, representatives of the BTB expressed interest in developing cooperation with Turkmen businesses, both in terms of increasing the volume of transactions and expanding the range of goods involved in mutual trade. This is especially true given that "compared to January-April last year, the value of exchange transactions by Turkmen

⁶ BUTB and the Embassy of Turkmenistan agree on cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2025.
– URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-i-posolstvo-turkmenistana-dogovorilis-osotrudnichestve-707495-2025/>

participants in the trade fair increased more than fivefold, primarily due to an increase in exports of Belarusian products"⁷. As for imports from this Central Asian country, the most promising product groups are textiles and fruit and vegetable products. In this regard, negotiations were held on the sidelines of the ITSE 2025 forum with a number of Turkmen manufacturers of these products to attract them to the Belarusian exchange platform. A meeting was also held with the State Commodity and Raw Materials Exchange of Turkmenistan, at which opportunities for intensifying cooperation were discussed, including in the field of analytics and technology exchange, which will contribute to increasing the efficiency and competitiveness of the Belarusian and Turkmen exchange platforms. It should be added that as of April 30, 2025, 21 residents of Turkmenistan were accredited on the BSE, six of whom arrived last year with the aim of purchasing products from the woodworking and dairy industries.

As for **Georgia**, in 2024, the volume of exchange trading with this South Caucasus country grew almost fourfold on the BTB, to just under \$13 million, and 27 new Georgian companies began using the exchange mechanism. "Until now, the Georgian market has mainly been supplied with forestry products, including sawn timber, sleepers, posts, and stakes, as well as dry whole and skimmed milk. In turn, Georgian companies sold raw materials and semi-finished products from poultry, pork, and beef at exchange auctions,"⁸. And in March this year, the first deal for the sale of butter to the Georgian market was registered on the BUTB. The purchase volume amounted to eight tons. It is expected that the expansion of the

⁷ BUTB will assist Turkmen enterprises in entering the Belarusian market [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-posodejstviet-turkmenskimi-predpriyatijam-v-vyhode-na-belorusskij-rynok-712486-2025/>

⁸ Belarus and Georgia have expanded the range of goods traded on the stock exchange [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-gruzija-rasshirili-tovarnuju-nomenklaturu-birzhevoj-torgovli-704568-2025/>

range of exchange exports to Georgia will serve as an incentive for new buyers from this country to enter the Belarusian exchange platform and create conditions for further increase in mutual trade.

In March 2025, the first deal to sell Belarusian meat by-products to **Uzbekistan** was also registered. "The Uzbek importer who made the purchase was accredited to the BUET in February 2025 as part of a set of measures to diversify the markets for the sale of domestic meat industry products"⁹. This indicates that the volume of meat and meat products exported through the Belarusian exchange platform is showing steady positive growth, and the circle of foreign buyers is constantly expanding. In particular, in January–February of this year, foreign companies purchased almost 9,000 tons of meat and semi-finished meat products on the BUET, which is more than half of the total sales volume in the past year. In monetary terms, exports of meat products exceeded \$40 million. Compared to 2024, the geography of buyers has expanded, and Belarusian meat products are now supplied through the exchange to Azerbaijan, China, Russia, and Uzbekistan.

Now let's move to **East Asia – to China**. By mid-May of this year, 274 residents from this country had already been accredited on the BTB, "four of whom have the status of exchange brokers. Since the beginning of the year, 27 new companies have joined the pool of Chinese users of the exchange platform"¹⁰. In the same month, Belarusian flax fiber began to be sold to China through the BUFF. "A total of five exchange deals were concluded with a total volume of 102 tons. The sellers were two leading flax fiber producers from the Vitebsk and Mogilev regions, and

⁹ Belarus has expanded the range of meat products exported to Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-rasshirila-nomenklaturu-birzhevogo-eksporta-miasnoi-produktsii-v-uzbekistan-702458-2025/>

¹⁰ A large manufacturer from the Chinese city of Karamay is to be accredited on the BUTB. What will be sold and bought [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/na-butb-akkreditujut-krupnogo-proizvoditelja-iz-kitajskogo-goroda-karamaj-cto-stanut-prodavati-714542-2025/>

the buyer was a Chinese trading company from Jiangsu Province, specializing in the import of textile products"¹¹. This event is important for three reasons. First, it is an additional incentive for Belarusian flax mills to offer more products for exchange trading. Second, it is a positive signal for Chinese importers who are interested in the Belarusian market but have not yet decided to enter the exchange platform for one reason or another. Third, expanding the pool of foreign buyers increases competition during BUTB trading sessions, allowing domestic exporters to conclude deals on more favorable terms. Thus, the geography of flax fiber sales through the exchange now covers four countries: China, Latvia, Russia, and Turkey. Cottonized and short fiber, as well as combed tow, are exported. Since the launch of exchange trading in flax fiber, 570 tons of this product have been sold to foreign markets.

Speaking of China, it should be noted that Chinese regions are also actively contributing to increasing trade turnover through the BUET. For example, **the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region (XUAR)** plans to widely use the exchange mechanism in mutual trade with Belarus, with an emphasis on products with high added value. In May this year, a business delegation from the city of Karamay, located in the XUAR, agreed with the BTB on the development of exchange trading in non-commodity goods, which will facilitate direct contact between producers and consumers of goods in Belarus and the XUAR. Due to the specific nature of Karamay's economy, which is based on oil production and processing, the Chinese side was particularly interested in the regular exchange trading of polymer products, petrochemicals, and lubricants on the domestic market conducted by the BSE. In the first four months of 2025, the total value of transactions for these product groups already exceeded

¹¹ Belarusian flax fiber began to be sold to China through an exchange [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belorussskoe-lnovolokno-nachali-prodavat-v-kitaj-cherez-birzhu-715888-2025/>

one hundred million Belarusian rubles, which is one-third more than in January–April 2024. At the same time, demand from Belarusian trading participants is showing steady growth, and the presence of suppliers from this city at the auctions would have a positive impact on the level of competition. Karamay, as one of the centers of China's oil industry, can play a key role here. As for promising areas of cooperation in the exchange sector, the parties noted such items as polymer packaging, plastic containers, polyethylene film, technical oils, and additives. Belarus could offer agricultural products, direct supplies from leading Belarusian milk processing enterprises, meat processing plants, and oil extraction plants. Following these negotiations, the parties agreed to accredit a large Karamay-based manufacturer of polymer products on the BTB with a view to selling plastic containers used for food and non-food products and polyester granules on the Belarusian exchange platform.

As for **Southeast Asian** countries (SEA), by the end of the first quarter of 2025, 13 companies from four countries – Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore – were registered on the BUOTB. On the last day of March, the first company from **Myanmar** successfully completed the accreditation procedure and plans to purchase Belarusian dairy products on the exchange. Almost all companies from these five countries have been accredited on the exchange over the past six months with the aim of purchasing dairy products. Participants from **Singapore** are the most active in trading. "By the end of 2024, the value of their transactions had increased 1.6 times, to \$28 million. All sales were accounted for by imports of Belarusian sawn timber, pulp, and skimmed milk powder. This year, Singapore continues to be a dynamic market for exchange trading. In January–March, the exchange turnover between Belarus and Singapore amounted to \$13.6 million, which is 5.2 times more than in the first quarter

of 2024,"¹² . In 2025, Belarusian exports will continue to dominate the structure of exchange trade with Southeast Asian countries, as this is due to the high level of demand for the main export commodities sold through the BSE. These are primarily softwood lumber and dry dairy products. In the short and medium term, these product groups are expected to be the key drivers of growth in the volume of exchange transactions between Belarusian companies and residents of Southeast Asian countries.

Speaking of the **Middle Eastern** countries that were among the leaders in the first quarter of 2025 in terms of the total value of exchange transactions with Belarusian residents, we would like to note **the United Arab Emirates** (UAE) as one of the key markets for Belarusian goods in this region. "In January-March, Emirati companies concluded stock exchange transactions for the purchase of Belarusian products worth about \$24 million. This is nine times more than in the first quarter of last year. Belarusian sawn timber, milk powder, and amino acids were in the highest demand among participants in the trading from the UAE,"¹³ . In April this year, the BSTB agreed to establish cooperation with the Dubai Gold and Commodities Exchange (DGCX) in the field of clearing, which will improve the efficiency of settlements and reduce risks for Belarusian trading participants, especially when conducting cross-border transactions. It is expected that the introduction of clearing with the assistance of the DGCX will help attract large Emirati importers to the BSE and contribute to further growth in the exchange turnover of the two countries. In May 2025, the list of goods traded on the exchange between Belarus and the UAE was expanded again. Now, in addition to sawn

¹² Another Southeast Asian country will trade on the BUTB [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/na-butb-budet-torgovat-esche-odna-strana-jugo-vostochnoj-azii-706041-2025/>

¹³ BUTB and Dubai Gold and Commodities Exchange to cooperate in clearing [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-i-dubajskaja-birzha-zolota-i-tovarov-budut-sotrudnicat-v-sfere-kliringa-707027-2025/>

timber, dry milk, and feed additives, businesses from both countries have started trading textile products, with the first deal to sell Belarusian-made cottonized flax fiber to the UAE market being signed. The buyer was an Emirati food and service holding company, one of whose areas of activity is the manufacture of textile products – workwear, bed linen, kitchen towels, and other linen products. It should be noted that "as of May 22, 2025, 35 companies from the UAE are accredited on the BUTB"¹⁴.

Another Middle Eastern country, **Syria**, began using the BUTB platform in May this year to trade with Belarusian dairy companies, where the first deal for the supply of dry milk was concluded. The purchase volume was 100 tons. The seller was one of the leading milk processing enterprises in the Vitebsk region, and the buyer was a food importer and distributor from the Syrian province of Idlib, accredited on the BUTB at the end of April. In addition to Syria, the pool of Middle Eastern buyers of domestic dairy products on the exchange also includes countries such as Jordan, Lebanon, the UAE, Oman, and Saudi Arabia. "In the first four months of this year, exchange exports of dairy products reached \$205 million, which is 29% more than in the same period last year. Dry milk is the sales leader, accounting for 61% of total export transactions,"¹⁵.

Turkish companies are also actively using digital infrastructure and BUET tools in trade with Belarusian enterprises, acting as importers and exporters of a range of raw materials and non-raw materials. Statistics show that "in 2024, the exchange turnover between Belarus and Turkey more than doubled, reaching \$20.8 million. <...> In particular, in January–April 2025, the growth rate was 109% compared to the same

¹⁴ Belarus and the UAE have expanded the range of exchange-traded commodities [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-oe-rasshirili-nomenklaturu-birzhevoj-torgovli-716548-2025/>

¹⁵ Belarusian dairy products sold to Syria for the first time via the BUET [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belorussskuju-molochku-vpervye-prodali-v-siriju-cherez-butb-712882-2025/>

period in 2024"¹⁶ . This year, purchases of Belarusian sawn timber continue to dominate the structure of exchange transactions, accounting for almost 90 percent. At the same time, new commodity items with great potential for scaling up supplies are gradually being added. For example, last year, sales of Belarusian flax fiber, sugar, wheat gluten, and skimmed milk powder to the Turkish market began, and in 2025, the first exchange contracts were signed for the supply of "vet-blue" semi-finished leather products to Turkey. In addition, Turkish participants regularly purchase ferrous and non-ferrous scrap metal at exchange auctions, supply raw materials to domestic textile manufacturers, and sell equipment for the food industry of our country. It should be added that as of mid-May this year, 112 Turkish residents have already been accredited on the BUET, more than half of whom joined the Belarusian exchange platform between 2023 and 2025.

On the European continent, **Serbia**, a key trade and economic partner of Belarus in the Balkans, stands out in terms of cooperation with the BSE. "Over the past year, the exchange turnover between Belarus and Serbia has increased 37 times"¹⁷ . And in the first four months of this year, Serbian companies concluded deals on the exchange for a total amount exceeding three million dollars, which is ten times more than in the same period last year. At the same time, new items were added to the commodity structure of Belarusian and Serbian trade on the exchange. In particular, "while in January-April 2024, only Belarusian butter was supplied to Serbia, this year Serbian exchange participants actively purchased skimmed and whole milk powder in Belarus, as well as sold

¹⁶ The digital infrastructure of the BUTB is in demand by Turkish businesses trading with Belarusian companies [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/tsifrovaja-infrastruktura-butb-vostrebovana-turetskim-biznesom-v-torgovle-s-predpriyatijami-belarusi-715310-2025/>

¹⁷ BUTB intends to expand cooperation with Serbian businesses [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-namerena-rasshirjat-sotrudnichestvo-s-biznesom-serbii-704810-2025/>

herbicides and sugar beet seeds"¹⁸. In May 2025, at the business forum "Logistics, Trade, Investment. Belarus – a key point for entering the EAEU market" held as part of the Novi Sad International Agricultural Fair in the Serbian city of Novi Sad, representatives of the Belarusian Trade and Economic Council focused the attention of Serbian small and medium-sized enterprises operating in the agricultural sector on expanding trade in sugar and rapeseed oil. Intensified cooperation with Serbian businesses will open up additional purchasing opportunities for Belarusian exchange participants, who will be able to purchase the locally produced goods they need, including seed material, plant protection products, and food raw materials, without intermediaries. As of the second half of May, eight Serbian residents were accredited with the BUTB. The immediate plans are to accredit a brokerage company in this Balkan country, which will represent the interests of the BUTB and assist in attracting Serbian business circles in order to take exchange trading between Belarus and Serbia to a whole new level.

Finally, let's see how the Belarusian exchange's ties with partners in **Africa** develop in 2025. By mid-May of this year, 15 companies from six countries on this continent had already been accredited on the BUTB, including Egypt, Kenya, Côte d'Ivoire, the Seychelles, Senegal, and South Africa. In terms of capacity, purchasing power, and demand for Belarusian products, the African market is considered one of the most promising areas for the development of cross-border exchange trading for Belarus, which is why the BUET will pay special attention to this region. "African countries are of interest both as potential consumers of goods sold on the exchange and as suppliers of raw materials needed by Belarusian enterprises. In particular, <...> there is already positive experience

¹⁸ Trade turnover of Serbian companies on the BUTB increased tenfold [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/tovarooborot-serbskih-kompanij-na-butb-vvros-v-10-raz-716218-2025/>

in exporting sawn timber and dry milk to the African market"¹⁹. Sugar can also be considered a promising export commodity. As for imports to Belarus from Africa, soybeans and cocoa beans, textile raw materials, mango puree, and other exotic fruits are likely to be in demand.

More specifically, in March of this year, the first exchange transaction for the export of dairy products to **Senegal** was registered on the BUTB. "The subject of the transaction was a consignment of 125 tons of whole milk powder. The seller was a large domestic milk processing enterprise from the Grodno region, and the buyer was a Senegalese food importer accredited the day before, headquartered in Dakar,"²⁰. This fact indicates that this **West African** country is of considerable interest to Belarusian dairy producers. Firstly, Senegal itself is a major consumer of milk powder and regularly needs imports to meet domestic demand. "Last year, the country imported almost 34,000 tons of milk products worth \$106 million,"²¹. Secondly, for Belarusian milk processing enterprises, this is not only a promising sales market, but also an opportunity to strengthen their position in the region as a whole, for example, by using Senegal as a point of access to potential buyers from Guinea, Mauritania, and Mali.

And finally, as of mid-May 2025, 8,350 foreign companies were accredited on the BSE. This fact alone clearly shows that foreign companies "on the Belarusian stock exchange platform <...> will not only increase sales to traditional markets, but also open up new supply

¹⁹ BUTB assessed the prospects for expanding stock exchange cooperation with African countries [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-otsenila-perspektivy-rasshirenija-birzhevogo-sotrudnichestva-so-stranami-afriki-714267-2025/>

²⁰ Belarus plans to supply dry milk to West Africa through the BRI [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-planiruet-postavljat-suhoe-moloko-v-zapadnuju-afriku-cherez-butb-703207-2025/>

²¹ Belarus plans to supply dry milk to West Africa via the Belarusian Unitary Enterprise [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-planiruet-postavljat-suhoe-moloko-v-zapadnuju-afriku-cherez-butb-703207-2025/>

channels"²². This applies to the Commonwealth of Independent States, as well as East Asia, the Middle East, the Balkans, and West Africa.

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²² Zalessky, B. Challenges of Turbulence. The Trajectory of Belarus' International Economic Cooperation / Boris Zalessky. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2025. – P. 41.

Kyrgyzstan: additional impetus for cooperation

In March 2025, **Belarus** and **Kyrgyzstan** signed a Roadmap for the Development of Cooperation for 2025-2027. This systematic document contains the most practical measures aimed at intensifying cooperation in the trade, economic, scientific, technical, and humanitarian spheres, and includes "77 measures, including the development of bilateral trade in goods and services, cooperation in industrial cooperation, agriculture, pharmaceuticals and healthcare, food and light industry, and other areas"²³, and is also intended to give additional impetus to the development of cooperation between Minsk and Bishkek. The fact is that Kyrgyzstan is an important trade and economic partner for Belarus in Central Asia, with which cooperation is developing in all areas in a positive direction. For example, the volume of mutual trade is growing. While in 2023, trade turnover between the countries amounted to more than \$160 million, an increase of almost 1% compared to 2022, "last year, the figure grew by more than 15%, exceeding \$190 million"²⁴.

At the 12th meeting of the Belarusian-Kyrgyz Intergovernmental Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation, held in November 2024 in Bishkek, it was noted that the parties should pay special attention to the development of industrial cooperation, the creation of a favorable investment climate, and an increase in trade between the countries through a large-scale increase in the supply of Belarusian products. To this end, Belarus and Kyrgyzstan have planned to increase the volume of mutual trade several times over, up to \$500 million. "This is the level of trade

²³ Belarus and Kyrgyzstan signed an action plan for the development of cooperation for 2025-2027 [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-kyrgyzstan-podpisali-plan-meropriyatij-po-razvitiyu-sotrudnichestva-na-2025-2027-gody-703746-2025/>

²⁴ Anatoly Sivak: Cooperation between Belarus and Kyrgyzstan is developing positively in all areas [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/11187>

turnover that we must achieve through joint efforts in the coming years,"²⁵ . To this end, during the commission meeting, the banks of the two countries signed a basic agreement on the general terms and conditions for the provision of export credits in order to have "significant potential for raising cooperation to higher levels in terms of both trade growth and the implementation of major initiatives in industrial cooperation and new infrastructure projects."²⁶ . Belarus and Kyrgyzstan are currently implementing a number of successful joint projects.

In particular, a joint project in the field of elevator equipment is showing good momentum. Moreover, "given Kyrgyzstan's great need to replace and upgrade its elevator equipment, this enterprise will have a larger order book than it does now."²⁷ . In March of this year, OJSC Mogilevliftmash completed the manufacture of the first batch of elevator equipment for a joint assembly plant in Kyrgyzstan. This equipment will soon be delivered to the production site of Kyrgyz Unaa Kurulush LLC in Osh. It should be recalled that an agreement on the launch of assembly production was reached in the summer of 2024 as part of the program to upgrade the elevator fleet in Bishkek. In September last year, the parties signed a general cooperation agreement, and in November they concluded a contract for the supply of 20 elevators worth more than \$200,000. "At the moment, a list of components and parts to be manufactured at the Kyrgyz partner's facilities is being agreed upon. The plan is to replace at

²⁵ An ambitious figure of \$500 million. Belarus and Kyrgyzstan plan to increase trade turnover several times over [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/ambitsioznaja-tsifra-v-500-mln-belarus-i-kyrgyzstan-planirujut-kratno-uvelicshit-tovarooborot-701449-2025/>

²⁶ Zalessky, B. New Frontiers of Partnership. Prospects for Internal and External Economic Development in Belarus / Boris Zalessky. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2025. – P. 60.

²⁷ From elevator manufacturing to waste recycling. Golovchenko on successful joint projects in Kyrgyzstan [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/ot-proizvodstva-liftoy-do-musoropererabotki-golovchenko-ob-uspeshnyh-sovmestnyh-proektah-v-kyrgyzstane-692620-2025/>

least 100 elevators in residential buildings in Kyrgyzstan every year."²⁸ We would like to add that since the beginning of 2025, the volume of Belarusian industrial goods exported to Kyrgyzstan has increased by 23 percent compared to the same period in 2024.

Another interesting and important topic of Belarusian-Kyrgyz cooperation is cooperation in the field of ecology, waste management, and recycling of secondary material resources. In August 2024, a waste processing complex was opened in the city of Karakol, in the Issyk-Kul region, which was built on a turnkey basis by a Belarusian enterprise and for the construction of which 135 million som were allocated from the republican budget. The plant is capable of processing 50-80 tons of solid household waste per day. The enterprise has created 22 jobs.²⁹ This will not only enable high environmental standards to be met, but also provide valuable secondary material resources for the production of new types of products in demand.

And one more thing. In February 2024, speaking at the World Government Summit in Dubai, Kyrgyz President S. Zhaparov named three strategic directions for Kyrgyzstan's new economic policy: energy, mining, and transport and transit—to make this Central Asian country a region "with an attractive investment climate, liberal foreign trade policy, and an open and trusting business environment."³⁰ Today, serious strategic initiatives are being implemented there, including the construction of new hydroelectric power plants, two major railway

²⁸ Donis, I. Belarusian elevators to be assembled in Osh – first batch of equipment ready for shipment / I. Donis // [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://economist.kg/novosti/2025/03/11/v-oshie-nachnut-sobirat-bielorusskiiie-lifty-piervaia-partiia-oborudovaniia-ghotova-k-otghruzkie/>

²⁹ Waste sorting and asphalt concrete plants opened in Karakol [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://economist.kg/ekonomika/2024/08/30/v-karakolie-otkrvli-novvie-zavody-posortirovkie-musora-i-proizvodstvu-asfalta-2/>

³⁰ The President of Kyrgyzstan outlined three areas for the country's economic development [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://eurasiatoday.ru/prezident-kyrgyzstana-oboznachil-tri-napravleniya-razvitiya-ekonomiki-strany/>

projects, and the development of new deposits. More specifically, "in 2025, new hydroelectric power plants will begin operating in the Jalal-Abad, Osh, and Naryn regions. A textile factory will open in the Osh region, creating hundreds of jobs. In the Chui region, construction will begin on logistics centers for trade and export. Enterprises for the production of building materials will appear in the regions. A modern bus station and a renovated Osh market will open in Bishkek."³¹ . In total, 128 new enterprises are planned to be launched in Kyrgyzstan in 2025. Belarusian specialists with professional expertise in both the design and construction of such facilities, including engineering, supply of relevant equipment, and commissioning, are ready to provide any assistance in this matter, if necessary. Moreover, the parties still have "untapped potential in trade, industrial cooperation, agriculture, and transport and logistics"³² .

Returning to the signed action plan for the development of cooperation for 2025-2027, Belarus and Kyrgyzstan agreed that in June this year, at the Belagro international exhibition in the Belarusian capital, the parties will hold a business forum for the business communities of the two countries to "work out specific projects to fill the roadmap for cooperation until 2030."³³ . There is every reason to believe that this document will become a concrete roadmap for the development of bilateral Belarusian-Kyrgyz cooperation in the strategic perspective.

³¹ Sadyr Zhaparov: "Our ancestors saw a new way of life in Noruz" [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://eurasiatoday.ru/sadyr-zhaparov-nashi-predki-videli-v-nooruze-novyi-etap-zhizni/>

³² Head of the Cabinet of Ministers of Kyrgyzstan: there is untapped potential in trade and industrial cooperation with Belarus [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/glava-kabmina-kyrgyzstana-v-torgovle-i-promkooperatsii-s-belarusiu-est-nerealizovannyy-potentsial-692631-2025/>

³³ Sivak proposed holding a business forum between Belarus and Kyrgyzstan at the Belagro exhibition [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/sivak-predlozhit-provesti-biznes-forum-belarusi-i-kyrgyzstana-na-vystavke-belagro-703777-2025/>

Vietnam: priority projects and promising prospects

In April 2025, the 16th meeting of the **Vietnam-Belarus** Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation (MPC) was held in Hanoi. The parties discussed current and future priority cooperation projects. In particular, the two countries plan to expand their partnership in the agro-industrial complex. For example, Belarus is increasing food supplies to the Vietnamese market. Dairy products from Belarus have been certified in Vietnam. The necessary procedures for beef supplies are also in the final stages. As a result, about twenty Belarusian enterprises will gain access to the market of this Southeast Asian country. "After the completion of the beef certification process, Vietnamese partners expressed interest in organizing work to gain access to the Vietnamese market for Belarusian poultry and pork,"³⁴. In addition, Minsk and Hanoi are considering the possibility of joint tractor assembly. "The site has already been selected, and several models for the local and neighboring markets are being developed. A trial batch is planned to be produced in the near future,"³⁵.

It should be noted that the assembly of Minsk Automobile Plant (MAZ) vehicles has already been organized in Vietnam. In early April this year, MAZ took part in the Vietnam Expo international multi-sector exhibition in Hanoi, where a wide range of thematic sections were presented, including "food industry, agriculture, machine building, energy, metallurgy, ³⁶petrochemicals, construction, scientific and

³⁴ Belarus and Vietnam intend to expand cooperation in the agro-industrial complex [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-vietnam-namereny-rasshirit-sotrudnichestvo-v-sfere-apk-706233-2025/>

³⁵ Belarus and Vietnam are considering the possibility of joint tractor assembly [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-vjetnam-rassmatrivajut-vozmoznost-sovmestnoi-sborki-tractorov-706466-2025/>

³⁶ Food industry, machine building, medicine: Belarus to organize collective exhibition at Hanoi trade fair [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL:

technical developments, medicine, and pharmaceuticals." More than 500 companies from various countries participated in this exhibition forum, including China, India, South Korea, Laos, Cambodia, and Russia. The Belarusian collective exhibition included about ten companies, including MAZ, Polotsk-Steklovolokno, and exporters from the processing industry. Belshina from Bobruisk signed an agreement at the exhibition "on the intention to supply tires for a total amount of \$ 1 million"³⁷. This company had previously supplied tires to Vietnam for mining equipment. In 2024, it resumed its deliveries, but this time for military equipment. And now, new export deliveries are underway.

Returning to the 16th meeting of the IPC, we would like to note that Belarus and Vietnam intend to expand cooperation in the field of science and technology. It should be recalled that scientific and technological cooperation between the two countries "is carried out on the basis of the intergovernmental Agreement on Scientific and Technical Cooperation of June 5, 1995. The legal framework in this area already includes a number of agreements in various fields of scientific and technical cooperation. And it continues to expand"³⁸. Coordination is carried out by a joint Belarusian-Vietnamese commission on scientific and technical cooperation, whose last meeting was held in September 2019. At that time, the parties decided to announce a competition for Belarusian-Vietnamese scientific and technical projects for 2021-2022 in priority areas. As part of the implementation of the agreements reached, the State Committee for Science and Technology of Belarus and the Ministry of Science and Technology of Vietnam have implemented six joint projects: two in the

<https://belta.by/society/view/pischeprom-mashinostroenie-meditcina-kollektivnuij-ekspozitsiju-belarusi-organizujut-na-vystavke-v-692141-2025/>

³⁷ "Belshina" to supply a large batch of its products to Vietnam [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belshina-postavit-krupnuju-partiju-svoej-produktsii-vo-vietnam-706632-2025/>

³⁸ Zalessky, B. Time for concrete decisions. Chronicle of international cooperation / Boris Zalessky. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2022. – P. 109.

field of nanotechnology and one each in the fields of medicine, construction technologies, multifunctional materials, and rational nature management. In addition, cooperation has been carried out between scientific organizations and educational institutions of both countries, as well as between the Belarusian Republican Fund for Fundamental Research and the Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology. As a result of Belarus' participation in the Vietnam Expo in 2023, Belarusian and Vietnamese scientific organizations signed 14 cooperation agreements. A commercial contract worth €500,000 was also signed. At the end of 2024, Belarusian exports of high-tech goods to Vietnam amounted to more than \$75 million, accounting for more than 85% of total exports to Vietnam.³⁹

At the 16th meeting of the JPC, the parties agreed that the implementation of joint projects in areas such as agriculture, waste management, energy saving, peaceful use of outer space, information and communication technologies, medicine, innovative machine building, and new materials. In order to intensify this interaction, the 12th meeting of the Belarusian-Vietnamese Joint Commission on Scientific and Technical Cooperation will be held in Belarus in the fourth quarter of 2025, where specific proposals on the prospects for cooperation will be considered in detail, including the selection of mutually beneficial scientific and technical projects for implementation. The Belarusian side also proposed "to develop a cooperation program for 2025-2027 and focus on both traditional areas of cooperation and new ones, such as the digital economy, IT, digital transformation, and innovation."⁴⁰ The Vietnamese side, in

³⁹ Agriculture, energy conservation, space. GKNST on scientific and technical cooperation with Vietnam [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/selskoe-hozjajstvo-energoberezhenie-kosmos-gknt-o-nauchno-tehnicheskom-sotrudnichestve-s-vietnamom-706556-2025/>

⁴⁰ The State Committee for Science and Technology of the Republic of Belarus has outlined the areas in which Belarus is ready to strengthen cooperation with Vietnam [Electronic

turn, invited Belarusian scientists and start-ups to cooperate with Vietnamese enterprises, especially in the field of digital technologies, in particular artificial intelligence. It also expressed its desire to intensify cooperation between the Vietnam Atomic Energy Institute and Belarusian partners in the field of nuclear energy. After all, Vietnam's leading research organization, the Vietnam Atomic Energy Institute, specializes in the study and application of atomic energy for peaceful purposes. The institute operates under the auspices of the Vietnamese Ministry of Science and Technology and performs state management and coordination functions in the field of nuclear technology research. In this context, we would like to add that in February this year, the Belarusian Republican Fund for Fundamental Research () announced a competition for joint scientific projects with the Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology (VAST) entitled "BRFFI-VAST-2026", which will be conducted in the following scientific areas: ⁴¹modern materials and composites, nanotechnology, information technology, communications, laser and optical engineering and technology, energy and environmental safety, bioengineering and medical technology.

Another topic discussed at the 16th meeting of the JPC was cooperation in the fields of education, university science, and youth policy. During the discussion, the parties agreed to focus on strengthening inter-university cooperation in joint training, conducting scientific research, and exchanging best practices in commercializing their results. Belarusian universities are now ready to develop cooperation with their Vietnamese counterparts in areas such as the development of joint educational programs in biotechnology, information technology,

resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/v-kakih-oblastyah-belarus-gotova-ukrepljat-sotrudnichestvo-s-vjetnamom-rasskazali-v-gknt-707632-2025/>

⁴¹ A competition for joint scientific projects between Belarus and Vietnam has been announced [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/objavljen-konkurs-sovmestnyh-nauchnyh-proektov-belarusi-i-vietnama-696351-2025/>

biomechanics, and microbiology. There are also prospects for training personnel at all levels of education in English and Russian, including the organization of short-term and long-term Russian language courses. There is mutual interest in developing joint scientific, scientific-technical, and innovative projects in a wide range of areas. "In 2025, two joint scientific projects in the field of materials science and biology will continue. They will be implemented at the level of the Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radio Electronics and the Hanoi University of Science and Technology, the of the Baranovichi State University and the Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology"⁴². Also, in February, three joint scientific projects in the fields of optics and microelectronics, materials science, energy, and ecology were launched. The Belarusian State University, the Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radioelectronics, the Belarusian National Technical University, and the Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology are involved in this work. In particular, a Belarusian-Vietnamese project for 2025-2026 has been approved this year "Control of spin transfer mechanisms and spin-dependent scattering in spin-valve structures based on multilayer thin films with perpendicular magnetic anisotropy for the realization of fieldless magnetization switching in spintronic devices."

Speaking in more detail about the cooperation between Belarusian universities and Vietnamese partners, in March 2025, BSU intensified its cooperation with Vietnam National University in Hanoi, the leading and oldest university in the country. In 2023, the universities signed a cooperation agreement and have now worked out prospects for implementing joint educational programs, student and teacher exchanges, and joint scientific research. For reference, there are currently 14

⁴² Belarus and Vietnam to expand cooperation in education and higher education [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-vietnam-rasshirjat-sotrudnichestvo-v-sfere-obrazovaniia-i-universitetskoi-nauki-706679-2025/>

cooperation agreements between BSU and 10 educational and scientific institutions in Vietnam. Citizens of this country study at the faculties of philosophy and social sciences, mechanical and mathematics, philology, and at the BSU Institute of Business"⁴³. It is also worth noting that BSU has been awarded Vietnam's highest state award for foreign countries, the Order of Friendship of Peoples, for its active contribution to the training of students and the development of friendly relations between the two countries. And here is another example. In March of this year, Polotsk State University named after Euphrosyne of Polotsk and Vietnam National University of Oil and Gas signed a memorandum of understanding⁴⁴ to strengthen the practical component, targeted training of specialists, and cooperation with enterprises in the fuel and energy sector of the two countries.

Returning to the 16th meeting of the JPC, we note that during the discussion of the current agenda, the parties drew attention to a number of existing problems: settlements in national currencies, the opening of a direct flight, and logistics issues that need to be resolved. In particular, in the case of logistics, the issue is that "for certain groups of goods, delivery times from Belarus to Vietnam and vice versa reach 90 days"⁴⁵. The relevant working group is already addressing this issue in order to resolve these technical issues in the near future. Overall, all these facts show that Belarus and Vietnam are systematically and purposefully creating all the

⁴³ Science and student exchange. BSU and Vietnamese university to strengthen inter-university cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/nauka-i-obmen-studentami-bgu-i-vjetnamskij-universitet-usiljat-mezhvu-zovskoe-sotrudnichestvo-701574-2025/>

⁴⁴ Internship exchanges, joint conferences. Belarusian and Vietnamese universities agree on cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/obmen-stazhirovkami-sovmestnye-konferentsii-vuzy-belarusi-i-vjetnama-dogovorilis-o-sotrudnichestve-700945-2025/>

⁴⁵ Belarus and Vietnam are working on issues related to settlements in national currencies and the launch of a direct flight [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-vjetnam-prorabatyvajut-voprosy-raschetov-v-natsvaljutah-i-otkrytie-prjamogo-aviarejsa-706536-2025/>

necessary conditions for even closer and more active cooperation in all areas.

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Vietnam: turning a new page in relations

In May 2025, the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of **Vietnam**, T. Lam, visited Belarus, during which the official representatives of Minsk and Hanoi signed a Joint Statement on the establishment of a strategic partnership for the near and medium term. This document is a new milestone in relations between the two countries, setting out the most important priorities for bilateral cooperation and serving as a guide for both sides in the development of joint plans and programs. After all, "Vietnam is one of Belarus' key partners in Southeast Asia, and our cooperation is based on sincere friendship, mutual respect, and support."⁴⁶ .

Following the high-level talks, a package of documents was also signed. In particular, the military departments of Belarus and Vietnam adopted a protocol of intent to strengthen cooperation in the training of military personnel and specialists. A memorandum of understanding and cooperation in the field of digital transformation and the digital economy was signed between the Ministry of Communications and Informatization of Belarus and the Ministry of Science and Technology of Vietnam. A similar document on mutual understanding and cooperation in science, technology, and innovation was also signed with the Vietnamese side by the State Committee for Science and Technology of Belarus. The Ministry of Culture of Belarus signed a program of cooperation in the field of culture for 2026-2028 with the Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Tourism of Vietnam. ⁴⁷A cooperation program for 2025-2027 has been signed

⁴⁶ Belarus and Vietnam establish strategic partnership [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/president/view/belarus-i-vjetnam-ustanovili-uroven-strategicheskogo-partnerstva-714295-2025/>

⁴⁷ Belarus and Vietnam sign package of documents following talks between Lukashenko and To Lam in Minsk [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/president/view/belarus-i-vjetnam-podpisali-paket-dokumentov-po-itogam-peregovorov-lukashenko-i-to-lama-v-minske-714299-2025/>

between the ministries of justice. The ministries of health of Belarus and Vietnam exchanged the texts of a memorandum of cooperation in the field of pharmaceuticals." In addition, a cooperation agreement was signed between the National State Television and Radio Company of Belarus and Radio Voice of Vietnam, and a memorandum of understanding was signed between the Belarusian Society for Friendship and Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries and the Vietnam Union of Friendship Societies. In the near future, the parties will adopt a roadmap – a plan of joint actions for the next three years and beyond.

This plan includes the resumption of regular deliveries of Belarusian mining equipment, trucks, and BELARUS tractors, as well as the establishment of joint production facilities. In particular, they are talking about maximizing the speed of the project to set up "joint production of Belarusian tractors and equipment from the Minsk Automobile Plant, including for delivery to other countries in the region" in Vietnam.⁴⁸ More specifically, the project will start with a range of tractors with a power output of 50 horsepower. In the future, it could potentially be expanded to include any models and modifications available in the tractor plant's lineup. It should be noted that over the entire history of Belarusian tractor deliveries to this Southeast Asian country, nearly 15,000 machines have been exported. Today, "there are plans to assemble the BELARUS 451 tractor with 50 hp for use on rice fields in wet and dry conditions. The localization of the product will be at least 45%,"⁴⁹ . It is expected that at least one thousand machines will be produced at this plant.

⁴⁸ Belarus has agreed with Vietnam to establish joint production of MAZ tractors and machinery [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/president/view/belarus-dogovorilas-s-vietnamom-o-sozdanii-sovmestnyh-proizvodstv-tractorov-i-tehniki-maz-714302-2025/>

⁴⁹ MTZ has announced which tractor model it plans to assemble at its joint venture in Vietnam [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/kakuju-model-traktora-planirujut-sobirat-na-sovmestnom-proizvodstve-vo-vietname-rasskazali-na-mtz-714396-2025/>

In terms of industrial cooperation, during the negotiations, the Vietnamese side discussed with their Belarusian partners the production of fire engines and "specialized buses for transporting schoolchildren, which could become another area of cooperation between the two countries." ⁵⁰

Another interesting topic that will be reflected in the roadmap is the supply of Belarusian food products to the Vietnamese market. In 2024, their exports amounted to just over six million dollars. "Currently, Belarus supplies dairy products and dry milk products to Vietnam. Whole milk packaged in Tetra Pak is in particular demand,"⁵¹. In the near future, Belarus will start supplying beef to the Vietnamese market. The Vietnamese side has already confirmed the relevant veterinary certificates. Similar work is already underway to obtain these certificates for pork and poultry meat supplies.

The Belarusian side also expressed its readiness to intensify cooperation with Vietnamese partners on the digitization of administrative procedures, which is one of Vietnam's priority areas of development. The Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Communications and Informatization of Belarus and the Ministry of Science and Technology of Vietnam on cooperation in the field of digital transformation and the digital economy, mentioned above, provides for "the exchange of experience and cooperation in the field of digital transformation and the digital economy, the development of digital research and development centers, exchange of experience in promoting innovation, exchange of knowledge, experience and best practices in the field of new and emerging digital technologies, such as artificial

⁵⁰ New horizons for cooperation. Turchin outlined prospects for industrial cooperation with Vietnam [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/politics/view/novve-gorizonty-sotrudnichestva-turchin-oboznachil-perspektivy-promkooperatsii-s-vietnamom-714395-2025/>

⁵¹ Belarus will soon start supplying beef to the Vietnamese market [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-v-blizhajshee-vremia-naladit-postavki-govjadiny-na-rynok-vietnama-714260-2025/>

intelligence"⁵². Thus, interaction and joint work within the framework of the memorandum will contribute to the development of the scientific and technological potential of the two countries and the expansion of the digital technology market.

As for cultural cooperation, the parties plan to hold Vietnam Culture Days in Belarus in 2027 to mark the 35th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. The signed program for 2026-2028 "covers all areas of cultural interaction: performing arts, visual arts, folk arts, circus arts, exchanges of artistic groups and delegations to participate in international festivals, seminars, conferences, and forums on culture and arts held in both countries."⁵³ This will contribute to the expansion of cultural ties and mutual understanding between the peoples of Belarus and Vietnam regarding the history and diversity of national cultures.

Finally, during this visit, a meeting was held between the Chairman of the Minsk City Executive Committee, V. Kukharev, and a delegation from the Hanoi People's Committee, at which the parties discussed prospects for further cooperation in the fields of economics, industry, healthcare, education, culture, and tourism. Particular attention was paid to trade and economic ties. It should be recalled that the Agreement on Friendly Relations between Minsk and Hanoi was signed in 2004, and the cooperation program for 2024-2026 was signed in 2023. In 2024, trade turnover between Minsk and Vietnam exceeded \$120 million. The Belarusian capital exports fertilizers, medicines, medical equipment, as well as machinery and measuring instruments to Hanoi. Vietnam supplies

⁵² Belarus is ready to intensify cooperation with Vietnam on the digitization of administrative procedures [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-gotova-aktivizirovat-sotrudnichestvo-s-vietnamom-po-tsifrovizatsii-adminprotsedur-714484-2025/>

⁵³ Vietnam Culture Days are planned to be held in Belarus in 2027 [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/dni-kulturny-vietnama-planirujut-provesti-v-belarusi-v-2027-godu-714327-2025/>

rubber, electronics, clothing, fish, and rice. The parties see great potential in the development of their capitals. Specific projects are already being implemented: the pharmaceutical company Minskintercaps supplies medicines to the Vietnamese market, and the Minsk Gear Plant is preparing to ship products worth almost \$90,000 to a partner in Hanoi.⁵⁴ . And a few more figures. In 2024, Minsk institutions provided assistance to 252 Vietnamese citizens. The Belarusian side proposed to organize training for Hanoi specialists in leading clinics in the capital, hold online conferences, and establish exchanges of medical delegations. So, the two capitals are actively developing relations in many areas. In general, speaking about Belarusian-Vietnamese interregional cooperation, it should be noted that "nine provincial-level administrative units of Vietnam have established friendly and partnership relations with six Belarusian regions." ⁵⁵

Let's sum up. The visit of the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam, T. Lama to Belarus showed that over more than 30 years of diplomatic relations, the two countries have maintained and developed cooperation in many areas, from national defense and security to the economy, trade, culture, education, science, and technology, as well as regional cooperation. During this time, a solid legal framework for cooperation in various areas has been established, including more than 50 documents. However, both Belarus and Vietnam are committed to continuing their joint efforts to take their relations to new heights in promising areas of cooperation, such as the digital economy and digital transformation, agriculture, industry, energy,

⁵⁴ Kukharev: Minsk and Hanoi have great potential for cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/kuharev-u-minska-i-hanoja-est-bolshoi-potentsial-dlja-vzaimodeistvija-714275-2025/>

⁵⁵ Ngy, N.V. In the stormy sea of international realities / N.A. Ngy // [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/interview/view/v-shtormovom-more-mezhdunarodnyh-realij-nguen-van-ngy-o-vazhnosti-druzhby-belarusi-i-vjetnama-9668/>

science and technology, the peaceful use of nuclear energy, transport and logistics, and banking and training. banking, and education"⁵⁶ so that the strategic partnership announced in May 2025 develops in all areas of mutual interest to the Belarusian and Vietnamese peoples.

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⁵⁶ Trade, defense, investment. To Lam spoke about the areas Belarus and Vietnam will focus on developing [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/torgovlja-oborona-investitsii-to-lam-rasskazal-na-razvitiikakih-sfer-sosredotochatsia-belarus-i-714314-2025/>

Pakistan: constructive dialogue – to a new level

In April 2025, Prime Minister of Pakistan Shahid Khaqan Abbasi paid an official visit to Belarus, during which high-level agreements were reached on expanding and intensifying Belarusian-Pakistani cooperation in a number of areas. Trade and economic cooperation is currently a priority. Suffice it to say that the Roadmap for the Development of Comprehensive Cooperation between Belarus and Pakistan for 2025-2027, signed in November 2024, includes 52 joint activities aimed at promoting mutual trade growth. It should be noted that "trade turnover between Belarus and Pakistan in 2024 amounted to \$ 50.3 million, and this is far from the limit"⁵⁷. And there is every reason to believe that this growth will continue in the current year. Especially in such sectors as the agro-industrial complex, production cooperation, textiles, and logistics.

For example, "the trade turnover of food and agricultural raw materials between Belarus and Pakistan in 2024 increased by 36.5% compared to 2023, with the growth of Belarusian exports being particularly significant – by 39.5%"⁵⁸. The largest share in domestic food exports to Pakistan – more than 60% – is accounted for by dry baby food. Leading enterprises in our country have ensured a threefold increase in exports of milk and dairy products to this South Asian country. "Last year, the republic sold \$1.9 million worth of baby food on the Pakistani market. This year, this amount is expected to increase to \$2.3 million,"⁵⁹. The

⁵⁷ Moroz: \$50 million in trade turnover is not the limit for Belarus and Pakistan [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/moroz-tovarooborot-v-50-mln-ne-predel-dlja-belarusi-i-pakistana-708211-2025/>

⁵⁸ Belarusian food exports to Pakistan grew by almost 40% in 2024 [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/eksport-belorusskogo-prodovolstvija-v-pakistan-v-2024-godu-vvros-pochti-na-40-708506-2025/>

⁵⁹ Gorlov assessed the potential for cooperation between Belarus and Pakistan in the agro-industrial complex [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/gorlov-otsenil-potentsial-sotrudnichestva-belarusi-i-pakistana-v-apk-708519-2025/>

possibility of expanding supplies of Belarusian skimmed and condensed milk is being considered.

In November last year, the Belarusian Center for Standardization and Certification "BelHalal" and the National Accreditation Council of Pakistan signed a memorandum of understanding on ensuring the quality of halal products, which allowed the official launch of the accreditation process for BelHalal as a halal product quality assurance body. The agro-industrial complex of Belarus intends to further develop cooperation with the business community of Pakistan. The plans include increasing exports of baby food, increasing the volume of supplies and expanding the range of exported goods: skimmed milk powder, dry whey, condensed milk, sugar, rapeseed oil, flour, beef and poultry meat. In addition, detailed negotiations are already underway on the organization of supplies of Belarusian veterinary drugs.

As for cooperative projects, joint production of equipment on Pakistani soil will give Belarus certain preferences and allow it to increase exports to Pakistan. Moreover, Islamabad is interested in Minsk organizing its assembly or joint production facilities on its territory. The Belarusian side has already agreed to set up an assembly plant there for tractors with a capacity of over 100 horsepower. The second stage in the creation of joint ventures is now underway – for tractors with a capacity of 50 horsepower. "We [the Belarusian side] have an 85% market share for tractors that are assembled there,"⁶⁰. In short, this year, the volume of Belarusian tractor deliveries to Pakistan will only increase. In addition, during the negotiations, the issue of deliveries of Belarusian-made municipal, freight, and mining equipment to this South Asian country was

⁶⁰ Preferences, export growth. Ministry of Industry on the expected effect of joint production with Pakistan [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/preferentsii-rost-eksporta-minprom-ob-ozhidaemom-effekte-ot-sovmestnyh-s-pakistanom-proizvodstv-708559-2025/>

raised, and "Belarus offered Pakistan to organize joint assembly of electric buses"⁶¹. The fact is that the Pakistani government has set itself the ambitious goal of converting a third of public transport to electric traction by 2030. So this promising Belarusian-Pakistani project could become quite large-scale and effective.

During the Pakistani Prime Minister's visit to Minsk in April (2025), the two countries agreed to cooperate "in the textile industry, using the example of the enterprise in Baranovichi."⁶². Moreover, the Pakistani partners promised to provide assistance from specialists in this field. In terms of cooperation in transport and logistics, Minsk and Islamabad will create a sustainable system for servicing mutual trade. "Currently, the Belarusian Ministry of Transport has developed logistics schemes for the delivery of goods to Pakistan using the infrastructure of international transport corridors. Close cooperation has been established between logistics companies in the two countries,"⁶³. For now, Belarusian cargo only travels between Belarus and Pakistan by sea, but there's every reason to believe that another route will open up in the near future—a land route. Maybe even this year, "new corridors will open up. By road, there will be a North-South corridor and another corridor linking Belarus, Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, and Pakistan."⁶⁴

Overall, the visit of the Pakistani government delegation to Minsk was marked by the signing of a package of documents between the two

⁶¹ Belarus has proposed to Pakistan to organize joint assembly of electric buses [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/president/view/belarus-predlozhila-pakistanu-organizovat-sovmestnuju-sborku-elektrobusov-708441-2025/>

⁶² Belarus and Pakistan agree on cooperation in the textile sector [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/president/view/belarus-i-pakistan-dogovorilis-o-sotrudnichestve-v-tekstilnoj-sfere-708447-2025/>

⁶³ Belarus and Pakistan intend to develop cooperation in the field of transport and logistics [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-pakistan-namereny-razvivat-vzaimodejstvie-v-sfere-transporta-i-logistiki-707113-2025/>

⁶⁴ Liachovich talks about when new transport corridors will open between Belarus and Pakistan [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/kogda-mezhdu-belarusiju-i-pakistanom-otkrojutsja-novye-transportnye-koridory-rasskazal-liachnovich-708558-2025/>

countries, including an agreement between Belarus and Pakistan on readmission intergovernmental. An agreement on cooperation in the fight against crime was signed between the interior ministries of the two countries, and an agreement on military cooperation was signed between the defense ministries. "The State Military-Industrial Committee of Belarus and the Ministry of Defense Products of Pakistan signed a roadmap for military-technical cooperation for 2025-2027. The relevant ministries of both countries approved an action plan for the implementation of the memorandum of cooperation in the field of environmental protection."⁶⁵.

During this visit to Minsk, the second Belarusian-Pakistani business forum was held, attended by more than 200 companies from both countries, where opportunities for cooperation and exchange of experience were discussed "with key players from the following industries: light, food, woodworking, tobacco, pharmaceuticals, ⁶⁶mining, and precious stone extraction and processing." Eight documents were signed between Belarusian and Pakistani companies at the forum. In particular, a cooperation agreement was concluded between the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Pakistan Trade Development Authority, as well as an agreement on the exchange of postal items. Two memoranda of understanding were also signed between the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange and the All Pakistan Timber Merchants Association, and between the Belarusian Fund for Financial Support of Entrepreneurs and the Pakistan Small and Medium Enterprises Authority. In addition, a memorandum of understanding on the supply of

⁶⁵ A package of cooperation documents has been signed between Belarus and Pakistan [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/president/view/paket-dokumentov-o-sotrudnichestve-zakljuchen-mezhdu-belarusiju-i-pakistanom-708446-2025/>

⁶⁶ Belarusian-Pakistani business forum held in Minsk [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belorusko-pakistanskij-biznes-forum-prohodit-v-minske-708210-2025/>

cottonized flax fiber in 2025 was signed between Orsha Flax Processing Plant and the Pakistani company Mercury. The same company, Biopromservice LLC, signed a contract of intent for the supply of vegetable oils, and Aviation Technologies and Complexes CJSC signed a cooperation agreement for the supply of agricultural drones.⁶⁷ A transport forwarding agreement was also signed at the forum between transport and logistics companies CHTUP Belatakavto and Best Trans International.

Let's sum up. The current visit of Pakistani Prime Minister Sh. Sharif to Belarus showed that bilateral relations between Minsk and Islamabad continue to develop in the form of constructive dialogue based on the Islamabad Declaration on Pakistan-Belarus Partnership and the Treaty on Friendship and Cooperation signed in 2015. During these two days in April, the parties discussed "issues related to the transport and logistics system, the creation of joint assembly plants for tractors and electric buses, as well as service centers"⁶⁸, and also considered the development of banking relations and labor migration issues. Overall, Belarusian-Pakistani cooperation, which has been ongoing for more than 30 years, has proven to be strategic in nature, developing at both the political and economic levels.

⁶⁷ Support for SMEs, agricultural drones, logistics. Documents signed at the Belarusian-Pakistani Business Forum [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/podderzhka-msp-agrodrony-logistika-kakie-dokumenty-podpisali-na-belorussko-pakistanskom-biznes-forume-708284-2025/12/>

⁶⁸ Belarus and Pakistan intend to intensify bilateral cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-pakistan-namereny-aktivizirovat-dvustoronnee-sotrudnichestvo-706813-2025/>

Brest Region – Liaoning Province: goal – to promote sister-city relations

In recent years, cooperation between **the Brest Region** and the People's Republic of China has achieved quite impressive results. In particular, China is one of the top three trading partners of the southwestern region of Belarus. "Foreign trade turnover at the end of 2024 exceeded \$ 444 million. In addition, thanks to regular interaction with representatives of Chinese business, \$18.8 million in direct foreign investment was received last year. This is 20.9 times more than in 2023"⁶⁹. However, the potential for mutual cooperation between the parties is much greater, as Brest is actively developing ties with Chinese provinces. To date, it has already signed twinning agreements with a number of partners in China, including the provinces of Anhui, Hubei, and Shanxi.

In the spring of 2023, a twinning agreement was also signed with **Liaoning Province**. Just one year later, these regions took their first steps toward establishing economic ties. The parties stated at the time that they were "aimed at comprehensive cooperation. Of particular interest is cooperation in the economy, industry, automotive manufacturing, agriculture, healthcare, education, sports, culture, and tourism."⁷⁰. And in early June 2024, Brest and the city of Dalian, located in Liaoning Province, signed a friendship and cooperation agreement and identified the first areas of cooperation, ranging from tourism to the economy. First, Dalian has a well-developed tourism and hotel industry. There is great interest in attracting Chinese investors to build a hotel in Brest. The second

⁶⁹ Trade, medicine, tourism. Brest Region and Liaoning Province will promote sister-city relations [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/torgovlja-meditsina-turizm-brestskaja-oblast-i-provintsija-ljaonin-budut-prodvigat-pobratimskie-svjazi-709155-2025/>

⁷⁰ Economy, medicine, tourism. Brest Region and Liaoning Province aim to strengthen cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/ekonomika-meditsina-turizm-brestskaja-oblast-i-provintsija-ljaonin-natseleny-ukrepljat-sotrudnichestvo-638402-2024/>

area is education. Dalian has two universities and about ten state-owned higher education institutions, which opens up wide opportunities for cooperation. Thirdly, "the parties also see opportunities for joint work in the field of medicine. Healthcare institutions are already establishing contacts."⁷¹ In particular, on the same day, a memorandum of cooperation was signed between the Brest Central City Hospital and Liaoning University of Traditional Chinese Medicine. Brest is particularly interested in mechanical engineering, automotive engineering, electronics, and a number of other areas.

In April 2025, a delegation from the Brest region visited this Chinese province, where it adopted a work plan for the further promotion of twinning relations between the regions for 2025-2027, which will be developed in various sectors – the economy, trade, education, healthcare, culture, tourism, and sports. In particular, during this visit, Brest region enterprises signed memoranda of cooperation with three Chinese corporations. An agreement to extend the contract with Chinese partners was signed by OJSC Savushkin Product. The management company of the Brestmeatprom Concern holding company extended two cooperation agreements. At the same time, "contracts totaling 320 million yuan provide stable supplies of our meat and dairy products to the Chinese market, which is known for its high quality standards"⁷², and open up additional prospects.

In addition, an investment memorandum has been signed between the Republican Scientific and Practical Center for Transfusionology and Medical Biotechnology and Chinese companies. The fact is that a plant

⁷¹ Brest and Dalian, China, sign friendship and cooperation agreement [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/brest-i-kitajskij-dalian-podpisali-soglashenie-o-druzhe-i-sotrudnichestve-638390-2024/>

⁷² Enterprises in the Brest region signed memoranda of cooperation with corporations in Liaoning Province [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/predprijatija-brestskoj-oblasti-podpisali-memorandumv-o-sotrudnichestve-s-korporatsijami-provintsii-709408-2025/>

for the production of albumin and immunoglobulin is being built in Gantsevichi, which does not exist in the Commonwealth of Independent States. This is a unique enterprise. With the help of partners from China, it will be developed and "an entire cluster will be created there. This involves the processing of alcohol that will remain after the production of albumin and immunoglobulin, which will allow< ...> to save about \$2 million annually on alcohol production. This includes the production of bags for blood plasma and blood in general"⁷³.

During this visit by a delegation from the southwestern region of Belarus to Liaoning Province, new points of contact with the city of Dalian were identified in the industrial sector. Specifically, with a local machine tool factory. It should be noted that the Brest region's industry is undergoing extensive modernization, which requires modern equipment. And "the equipment of Chinese manufacturers meets all quality requirements"⁷⁴. As a result, agreements were reached between the Pinsk Shipbuilding and Ship Repair Plant and shipyards located in Dalian. It is planned that Chinese technical specialists will visit the Belarusian enterprise in the near future to assess the possibilities for shipbuilding in Pinsk.

One of the places visited by the Brest Region delegation was the Liaoning Academy of Agricultural Sciences. Common ground was found on several issues. First, mushroom production. Oyster mushrooms and champignons are grown in the Brest region, but Chinese partners have a huge number of mushroom species that are useful and can be cultivated in

⁷³ Brest Region and Liaoning Province to cooperate in pharmacology, industry, and crop production [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/brestskaja-oblast-i-provintsija-liaonin-budut-rabotat-v-farmakologii-promyshlennosti-i-rastenievodstve-710318-2025/>

⁷⁴ The Brest region sees great prospects for cooperation with Dalian, China, in industry [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/brestskaja-oblast-vidit-bolshie-perspektivy-v-sotrudnichestve-s-kitajskim-dalianem-v-promyshlennosti-709689-2025/>

Belarus. Secondly, flower production. In the Brest region, there is a farm called "Nakhodka Polesia" that grows tulips. With the help of Chinese partners, new types of flower products may appear there, which will be further cultivated, including in forestry enterprises. Thirdly, there is corn, which grows in huge ears. This is of great interest for the feed base of the southwestern region of Belarus. Fourthly, the issue of attracting Chinese investors to modernize the Berestye greenhouse complex is being studied, where it is planned to build additional greenhouses using new technologies. In addition, the Brest region is considering the possibility of creating another greenhouse complex to increase the volume of vegetable and greenery cultivation.

Finally, in terms of developing sister city cooperation, in addition to Brest, Baranovichi and Pinsk may have sister cities in the Chinese province of Liaoning – Benxi and Liaoyang. In particular, "Benxi, like Baranovichi, is an industrial city, which also opens up great prospects for profitable cooperation. This includes heavy machinery and machine tool manufacturing,"⁷⁵. Pinsk and Liaoyang, for example, are known for their light industry. As we can see, the Brest region and the Chinese province of Liaoning are aiming to cooperate in many areas, including pharmacology, shipbuilding, machine tool manufacturing, and crop production. And this is just the beginning.

⁷⁵ Baranovichi and Pinsk may get sister cities in China's Liaoning Province [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/u-baranovichej-i-pinska-mogut-pojavitsja-pobratimy-v-kitajskoj-provintsii-liaonin-710326-2025/>

"Great Stone": from investment to innovation

In 2025, the declared volume of investments by residents of **the Chinese-Belarusian industrial park "Great Stone"** may exceed two billion dollars. By mid-May, their volume had reached \$1.57 billion. These investments, along with plans to create around 16,000 new jobs, indicate the park's significant potential to stimulate economic growth in Belarus and create high-tech jobs. In particular, 55 residents have already started implementing their projects, making a tangible contribution to the economy of the park and the country as a whole. They export their products to 19 countries around the world. "Four clusters have already begun to form in the park: machine building – 31 projects, electronics and telecommunications – 15 projects, biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, and medical products – 23 projects, and integrated logistics – 15 projects,"⁷⁶ . This was announced at the republican seminar "Practical aspects of confirming own production and origin of goods" in May this year.

In the first five months of 2025, the Great Stone Industrial Park has already attracted eleven new residents from China, Russia, Turkey, Switzerland, and Belarus, bringing the total number of residents to 152. They represent 15 countries around the world. In terms of the structure of the park's residents, "61 residents of Great Stone are companies with capital from China, 62 companies are from Belarus, and 27 represent 13 other countries."⁷⁷ . The park's development strategy stipulates that by 2025, there should be at least 170 companies residing there. "In general,

⁷⁶ The declared investment volume of residents of the "Big Stone" industrial zone is approaching \$1.6 billion [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/zajavlennyyi-objem-investitsij-rezidentov-velikogo-kamnia-priblizhaetsia-k-16-mlrd-715294-2025/>

⁷⁷ Main markets and resident profile. The Great Stone spoke about its export potential [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/special/economics/view/osnovnye-rynki-i-portret-rezidenta-v-velikom-kamne-rasskazali-ob-eksportnom-potentsiale-716446-2025/>

in the medium term, by 2030, this figure should grow to 270,"⁷⁸ . The amount of investment in this area will increase by half to build an industrial city here – "an environmentally friendly, digital city of the future, where people< ...> could gain new skills, interesting professions, and fully realize their potential."⁷⁹ .

In May 2025 alone, four new participants joined the Great Stone project. The 149th resident was **the Belarusian company OPENI LLC** with a project to develop an innovative software and hardware platform for car head units, which will provide enhanced capabilities for control, technical condition monitoring, and multimedia interaction. "One of the key components will be the creation of a universal telematics module, T-BOX, which will provide two-way communication between the car and cloud services and a mobile application," said⁸⁰ .

The 150th participant in the park was **the Belarusian company MedStone**, which "will create a multidisciplinary medical center for the diagnosis of malignant neoplasms and the treatment of oncological diseases using innovative methods and technologies"⁸¹ . In the same month, the 151st and 152nd residents of the park with capital from Belarus also appeared: **Kitgroup Plus LLC** and **EKOTREYD LLC**. In the first case, it is planned to create an engineering design center in the park, which will produce production lines for processing flax. In the second case, it is

⁷⁸ Since the beginning of the year, Great Stone has gained 11 new residents [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/s-nachala-goda-velikij-kamen-popohnilsja-11-rezidentami-718940-2025/>

⁷⁹ A billion in investments and salaries above the national average. How the Great Stone park is developing [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/milliard-investitsij-i-zarplata-vyshe-srednej-po-strane-kak-razvivaetsja-park-velikij-kamen-720342-2025>

⁸⁰ New park resident to develop software platform for cars [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/novyi-rezident-parka-razrabotaet-programmuju-platformu-dlja-avtomobilej-713923-2025/>

⁸¹ During the celebration of the anniversary of the "Great Stone," the park registered its 150th resident [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/vo-vremja-prazdnovanija-jubileja-velikogo-kamnia-v-parke-byt-zaregistrirovan-150-i-rezident-714546-2025/>

planned to "produce ingredients for the food industry based on biologically active substances and elements"⁸², as well as to organize a research center with a testing laboratory and develop new types of products.

At the end of May, a resident of the Great Stone Park, **BelAgroGen Scientific and Production Center LLC**, opened a plant for the production of innovative veterinary drugs for park residents. This enterprise "specializes in the production of innovative veterinary drugs for the treatment and prevention of diseases in animals and poultry"⁸³. Many of the drugs are innovative developments of the company and have no analogues on the market of the Commonwealth of Independent States. Production in the industrial park is certified to comply with the requirements of the Eurasian Economic Union's good manufacturing practice rules.

A Turkish resident company, **BelTurMed LLC**, has acquired a plot of land in the industrial park for private ownership to implement an investment project for the production of medical consumables using innovative technologies and automated quality control systems. The project is aimed at import substitution, and the products will be supplied to the Eurasian Economic Union market. It should be noted that "the signing of the agreement on the sale of the land plot into private ownership was made possible by the unique legal regime in force in the industrial

⁸² New residents of the "Great Stone" will produce lines for processing flax and ingredients for the food industry [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/novye-rezidenty-velikogo-kamnja-budut-vypuskat-linii-po-pererabotke-lna-i-ingredienty-dlja-pischeprima-717204-2025/>

⁸³ A plant for the production of innovative veterinary drugs has been opened in "Veliki Kamen" [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/special/economics/view/zavod-po-vypusku-innovatsionnyh-preparatov-dlja-veterinarii-otkrvt-v-velikom-kamne-718202-2025/>

park. This is the only territory in Belarus where investors can acquire land in private ownership for the construction of their production facilities"⁸⁴.

As for the transport prospects of the "Great Stone," a large railway freight container terminal is being built next to the airport on an area of about forty hectares. "Five kilometers of railway have already been built, continuing the line from Shemetovo station, which was used to transport fuel and lubricants to the airport,"⁸⁵. It is expected that this terminal in the industrial park will be included in the general railway map of both the country and the world in 2026. And in 2028-2029, a project will be implemented to launch a high-speed electric train from Minsk to the airport with a stop in the "Great Stone" area. This train will depart from the central railway station in Minsk and run parallel to the M2 motorway, which leads to the airport and turns left near the Kurgan Slavy.

All these facts demonstrate that further work in the Chinese-Belarusian industrial park "Great Stone" will be aimed at attracting new investors, creating favorable conditions for the development of residents, and continuously improving and developing infrastructure. After all, as we can see, the park has set ambitious goals, which are already being successfully implemented.

⁸⁴ Turkish company acquires land plot in Veliki Kamen [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/special/economics/view/turetskaja-kompanija-priobrela-zemelnyj-uchastok-v-velikom-kamne-717664-2025/>

⁸⁵ A project to launch a high-speed electric train from Minsk to the airport is planned for implementation in 2028-2029 [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/proekt-po-zapusku-skorostnoj-elektrichki-iz-minska-v-aeroport-planiruetsja-realizovat-v-2028-2029-godah-720331-2025/>

Africa: new partners, new contacts

The **African** vector of Belarus' foreign policy is currently showing steady growth. At the same time, Belarus is focusing on pragmatic and mutually beneficial cooperation, offering its partners specific solutions in areas such as agriculture, education, healthcare, and machine building. As for exports from Belarus to Africa, they have been steadily gaining momentum since the beginning of 2025. The results of the first two months show that all contracts for the same engineering products are being fulfilled and even exceeding expectations. "Compared to the previous period, export growth is somewhere between 3 and 3.5 times..."⁸⁶. These supplies have almost completely replaced all lost exports to the European Union. All these facts show that the successful implementation of joint economic projects and cooperation on the principles of sovereign equality are attracting many African countries to Belarus. For example, **Libya** and **Guinea-Bissau**, which in 2025 intensified their relations with Belarus.

In February this year, Field Marshal and Commander-in-Chief of the **Libyan** National Army H.B. Haftar visited Minsk and expressed interest in developing cooperation with Belarus in various areas. Particular interest was expressed in Belarusian equipment and technologies in the agro-industrial complex in order to "learn from Belarusian experience in the agricultural sector. Your tractors and other agricultural equipment can all be used for agricultural development in Libya. This will enable us to obtain large grain harvests. We will even be able to export to third countries"⁸⁷.

⁸⁶ Kartun: Belarusian exports to African countries tripled at the beginning of the year [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/kartun-belorusskij-eksport-v-strany-afriki-v-nachale-goda-vyros-v-tri-raza-703341-2025/>

⁸⁷ Haftar: Libya is interested in Belarusian equipment and technologies in the agro-industrial complex [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/komandujuschij-livijskoi-natsionalnoj-armiej-livija-zainteresovana-v-belorusskoi-tehnike-i-696755-2025/>

A month later, a Belarusian government delegation traveled to Libya to identify the main tasks that need to be implemented quickly in agriculture, food security, industry, healthcare, and pharmaceuticals. In addition to helping introduce modern technologies for extracting natural resources, Belarus will also supply modern equipment for the mining industry. "Medicines, equipment, and consumables will be supplied in the healthcare and pharmaceutical sectors. There are also plans to exchange experience in the field of medicine and to treat Libyan patients in Belarus,"⁸⁸. Within the framework of industrial cooperation, issues related to the supply of Belarusian equipment, such as trucks, fire engines, garbage trucks, and buses, were discussed. A number of assembly plants and service centers are planned to be established in Benghazi.

Two months later, in May, a Belarusian government delegation visited Libya again to "intensify work in key areas that will ensure the unconditional implementation of agreements" in the fields of industry, agriculture, and healthcare.⁸⁹. In particular, the talks focused on the agro-industrial complex. The Belarusian side intends to grow wheat in Libya in order to "obtain products that will subsequently be processed into mixed feed, but mainly for the flour milling industry and flour production"⁹⁰. Moreover, there are enterprises in Belarus that are ready to organize the construction of a feed mill with a flour production workshop. And in Benghazi, the House of Belarus has opened, which will become a place of

⁸⁸ Belarus will assist Libya with the introduction of modern technologies for the extraction of natural resources [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-pomozhet-livii-s-vnedreniem-sovremennyh-tehnologii-dlja-dobychi-prirodnih-resursov-701761-2025/>

⁸⁹ From product deliveries to joint projects. Belarus and Libya to discuss areas of cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/politics/view/ot-postavok-produktsii-do-sovmestnyh-proektov-belarus-i-livii-obsudjat-napravleniya-sotrudnichestva-716915-2025/>

⁹⁰ The Ministry of Agriculture and Food explained what joint projects in the agricultural sector could be implemented by Belarus and Libya [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/kakie-sovmestnye-proekty-v-agrosfere-mogut-realizovat-belarus-i-livija-pojasnili-v-minselhozprode-717025-2025/>

attraction for economic entities and business circles, where "it will be possible to hold meetings, discuss specific contracts, and conclude them"⁹¹, where the parties will move directly from words to action. As we can see, in just four months, Belarus and Libya have embarked on ambitious plans for cooperation in key areas. This is impressive.

As for **Guinea-Bissau**, the first visit of the president of this West African country, U.S. Embalo, to Belarus took place quite recently, in May 2025, during which areas were identified where Minsk and Bissau could work together on a mutually beneficial basis. Firstly, in the field of industry. In this regard, a Memorandum of Cooperation was signed between the Ministry of Industry of Belarus and the Ministry of Trade and Industry of Guinea-Bissau with the aim of developing cooperation between the two countries in the field of industrial cooperation. In particular, "the parties intend to promote the exchange of technologies and the supply of industrial goods between the countries, and to support joint investments in industrial projects. The also provides for strengthening cooperation in the field of scientific research and the development of new industries"⁹². This document opens up a new export market for enterprises in the industry. For example, OJSC Minsk Tractor Plant is already considering the possibility of supplying small-sized equipment from the Smorgon Aggregate Plant and the Bobruisk Tractor Parts and Aggregates Plant "to increase labor productivity in the agricultural sector and crop yields"⁹³ in this West African country.

⁹¹ A place of attraction for business circles. House of Belarus opens in Libya [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/mesto-prijazhenija-biznes-krugov-dom-belarusi-otkrylsja-v-livij-716988-2025/>

⁹² Yefimov: Memorandum with Guinea-Bissau opens new export market for Belarus [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/efimov-memorandum-s-gvineji-bisau-otkryvaet-dlja-belarusi-novyi-eksportnyi-rynok-713426-2025/>

⁹³ MTZ is considering the possibility of supplying small-sized equipment to Guinea-Bissau [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/mtz-rassmatrivaet-vozmozhnost-postavki-malogabaritnoj-tehniki-v-gvineju-bisau-713943-2025/>

Secondly, during the first visit of the President of Guinea-Bissau to Minsk, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food of Belarus also signed a memorandum of cooperation with its African partners. The fact is that "Guinea-Bissau's economy is based on agriculture and fishing, and the country is one of the five largest producers of cashew nuts. In 2024, trade between Belarus and Guinea-Bissau consisted of exports of malt"⁹⁴. The signing of the memorandum opens up new horizons for expanding cooperation in the agricultural sector between the two countries. Belarus is ready to establish supplies of a wide range of agricultural products. In addition, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food offers the West African republic cooperation in the field of agricultural education.

It remains only to add that, in addition to the memoranda already mentioned, other documents aimed at strengthening bilateral cooperation were also signed in Minsk. These include an intergovernmental agreement on the abolition of visas for holders of diplomatic, official, and service passports⁹⁵, as well as a memorandum of cooperation between the ministries of justice. Overall, the visit of the President of Guinea-Bissau to Belarus showed that the diplomatic relations established more than twenty years ago between the two countries are developing and moving to a qualitatively new level – from sporadic contacts to the formation of an institutional framework for partnership.

⁹⁴ Agricultural education, product supplies. What was agreed in the agribusiness sector between Belarus and Guinea-Bissau [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/agnnoe-obrazovanie-postavki-produktsii-o-chem-dogovorilis-v-apk-belarus-i-gvineja-bisau-713415-2025/>

⁹⁵ Visa waiver, agro-industrial complex, industry. Belarus and Guinea-Bissau sign memoranda on strengthening cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/otmena-viz-apk-promvshlennost-belarus-i-gvineja-bisau-podpisali-memorandumy-po-ukrepleniju-713383-2025/>

Zimbabwe: on the path to strategic partnership

In April 2025, the second meeting of the **Belarusian-Zimbabwean** Joint Permanent Commission on Cooperation was held in Harare, where new areas for further interaction between the two countries, promising projects in the field of agriculture, cooperative collaboration, and the expansion of the legal framework for bilateral relations were discussed. It should be recalled that the first meeting of this commission was held in February 2024, where the parties identified "promising areas and cooperation projects for implementation in the medium and long term and for increasing bilateral trade"⁹⁶. At the second meeting of the commission, documents were signed "providing for the expansion of cooperation in agriculture, industry, education, healthcare, disaster management, and the mining industry"⁹⁷. An agreement was also reached on the development of a new comprehensive roadmap for cooperation for 2026-2030, which will include both ongoing and new bilateral projects.

It should be noted that the level of mutual trade between Minsk and Harare is still low. For example, "exports from Zimbabwe to Belarus have remained relatively small and volatile for many years. The trade imbalance in favor of Belarus highlights the need for Zimbabwe to increase competitiveness and expand the market for its export products"⁹⁸. Nevertheless, the Belarusian side considers this African country a reliable strategic partner on the continent. This was stated at the 2nd meeting of the standing commission.

⁹⁶ Zalesky, B. Innovative prospects. Evolutionary dynamics of Belarus' economic relations in the context of creating new partnerships / Boris Zalesky. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2024. – P. 169.

⁹⁷ Belarus and Zimbabwe to develop a comprehensive roadmap for cooperation until 2030 [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/politics/view/belarus-i-zimbabwe-razrabotajut-vseobijnijschuiu-dorozhnyiu-kartu-sotrudnichestva-do-2030-goda-709475-2025/>

⁹⁸ Mudzimba, I.G. Distance is no obstacle to friendship and cooperation / I.G. Mudzimba // [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/special/interview/view/posol-zimbabwe-rasstoianie-nepomeha-dlja-druzby-i-sotrudnichestva-9640/>

In particular, the effectiveness of cooperation between the two countries has already been proven in agriculture. Suffice it to say that Belarus has already contributed to increasing crop yields in this country. "When the program began in 2020, the wheat harvest in Zimbabwe was estimated at 150,000 tons. By the end of 2024, as a result of the implementation of the first two phases of the joint program, the wheat harvest had more than tripled and exceeded 550,000 tons."⁹⁹ . At the second meeting of the Standing Committee on Cooperation, new Belarusian agricultural machinery was handed over to the Zimbabwean side: seven Gomselmash combine harvesters and 189 BELARUS tractors. "As part of the third phase of the agricultural mechanization program, Zimbabwe plans to supply 80 grain harvesters, 3,491 tractors, and 30 grain dump trucks with trailers,"¹⁰⁰ . All this equipment will be provided with warranty and post-warranty service, repairs, and spare parts. Local specialists work and will continue to work on this equipment. They must receive appropriate training in equipment operation from Belarus. To this end, a service center was opened earlier in the country Bison Agro Machinery is the exclusive representative of Belarusian agricultural machinery in the region. Approximately 80 percent of the employees are Zimbabwean citizens who have professional training in the field of training, equipment operation, and repair. "A spare parts warehouse has also been set up here for rapid response in both technical maintenance and equipment repair, primarily for equipment operating in the fields during the hot season. This once again demonstrates the high quality of the

⁹⁹ Karankevich: Cooperation between Belarus and Zimbabwe in agriculture has proven its effectiveness [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/karankevich-sotrudnichestvo-belarusi-i-zimbabve-v-selskom-hozjajstve-dokazalo-svoju-effektivnost-709306-2025/>

¹⁰⁰ Belarus and Zimbabwe plan to develop industrial cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-zimbabve-planiruiut-razvivat-promkooperatsiju-709565-2025/>

approach and its focus on the further development of the center," said¹⁰¹. The construction of grain drying complexes remains an important priority: four are planned to be built in the country, and two are to be modernized. This will also help to increase the efficiency of the country's agriculture.

At the second meeting of the standing commission on cooperation, it was also announced that the Belgospisheprom concern is working on food supplies to Zimbabwe. "with regard to cooperation in the supply of fruit concentrates and purees for use in the food industry, interest was expressed in exploring the purchase of certain types of semi-finished products from raw materials not grown in Belarus, which are in demand by Belarusian canning enterprises, on the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange."¹⁰² Finally, one of the outcomes of the 2nd meeting of the Belarusian-Zimbabwean Joint Standing Commission on Cooperation was the signing of an agreement on the production, assembly, and sale of buses and a "contract for the supply of MAZ bus kits to Zimbabwe."¹⁰³

And finally, a week after the second meeting of the joint commission in Harare, Belarusian enterprises were represented at the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair 2025 (ZITF) in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, where more than 20 countries were represented, including China, Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, representatives of European Union countries and regions of the African continent. More than 430 exhibitors showcased their products and goods at the Zimbabwe International Exhibition Center. "The Made in Belarus exhibition stands

¹⁰¹ Government delegation notes success of Belarusian equipment in Zimbabwe [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/pravitelstvennaja-delegatsija-otmetila-uspeh-belorusskoj-tehniki-v-zimbabwe-709260-2025/>

¹⁰² Belgospisheprom is working on food supplies to Zimbabwe [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belgospisheprom-prorabatyvaet-postavki-pischevoj-produktsii-v-zimbabwe-709216-2025/>

¹⁰³ Belarus signed an agreement with Zimbabwe on the production, assembly, and sale of buses [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-podpisala-s-zimbabwe-soglasenie-o-proizvodstve-sborke-i-prodazhe-avtobusov-709476-2025/>

feature a wide range of goods and services from the machine-building, food, and education sectors,"¹⁰⁴ .

For example, developments in the line of mining dump trucks and related services for the maintenance and technical servicing of heavy equipment were presented exclusively at the Belarusian location. In addition, BobruiskAgroMash showed up with trailed and mounted machines, mainly soil cultivation equipment, as well as feed harvesting equipment. The Zimbabwean partners of the Belarusian company expressed interest in buying MZT series machines for applying liquid organic fertilizers. A number of projects are being developed to supply agricultural machinery to the African region, which will be implemented in the second half of 2025.¹⁰⁵ . It should be noted that Bobruiskagromash machinery is already operating in the fields of Zimbabwe, including heavy disc harrows and firefighting machines.

The exhibition also featured a range of products from the Belarusian food sector, with the participation of Orsha Meat Canning Plant, Grodno Meat Processing Plant, Kobrin Oil and Cheese Factory, Luninetsky Milk Plant, Berezovsky Meat Canning Plant. The educational potential, training programs, and industry-specific scientific and practical projects for foreign students were presented by Belarusian State University. Medical equipment for intensive care and diagnostics, as well as air purifiers, were demonstrated by the Integral association.

All these facts show that Belarus and Zimbabwe are mutually interested in developing a multifaceted partnership. The agreements reached at the 2nd meeting of the Joint Standing Commission on

¹⁰⁴ Belarusian enterprises represented at a multi-sector exhibition in Zimbabwe [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/beloruskie-predpriyatija-predstavleny-na-mnogootraslevoj-vystavke-v-zimbabve-710492-2025/>

¹⁰⁵ Bobruiskagromash to increase equipment supplies to Zimbabwe [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/bobrujskagromash-uvelichit-postavki-tehniki-v-zimbabve-711570-2025/>

Cooperation have already become the basis for specific projects within the framework of cooperation between Minsk and Harare.

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Zimbabwe: a roadmap as a powerful impetus for partnership

In May 2025, **Zimbabwean** President E. Mnangagwa to Belarus, during which a roadmap for strategic cooperation and partnership between the two countries for 2026-2030 was signed, taking into account all key joint initiatives in various areas of interaction and identifying new projects, including in interregional cooperation and industrial cooperation. Also, following the talks in Minsk, a package of documents was adopted at the highest level, including an agreement between the relevant ministries on cooperation in the prevention and elimination of natural disasters and man-made accidents, memoranda of cooperation in the fields of tourism, information and the press, on intentions to strengthen partnership in healthcare and the reconstruction of a hospital in Harare, on promoting the development of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, and on strengthening partnership in the field of waste management and water purification"¹⁰⁶ .

In particular, Zimbabwe is interested not only in supplies of finished Belarusian products, but also in the exchange of production technologies, the construction of infrastructure for the agro-industrial complex by Belarusian specialists, and joint educational projects. It should be noted that agriculture plays a key role in Zimbabwe's economy, with a significant part of the working population employed in this sector. The main crops grown in the country are corn, sorghum, peanuts, round nuts, and beans.¹⁰⁷ The necessary conditions have already been created to

¹⁰⁶ Belarus and Zimbabwe sign package of documents following talks between Lukashenko and Mnangagwa [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/politics/view/belarus-i-zimbabwe-podpisali-paket-dokumentov-po-itogam-peregovorov-lukashenko-i-mnangagvy-714764>

¹⁰⁷ Technology, infrastructure, and training. What Belarus and Zimbabwe agreed on in the agricultural sector [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/tehnologii-infrastruktura-podgotovka-kadrov-o-chem-dogovorilis-v-agrarnoi-sfere-belarus-i-zimbabwe-714560-2025/>

increase exports of Belarusian products to Zimbabwe. In 2024, skimmed milk powder was exported from Belarus to this African country, while citrus fruits and flowers were imported. At the beginning of 2025, meat and bone meal was added to the list of traded goods. And in June of this year, at the international specialized exhibition "Belagro-2025," the Zimbabwean side expressed interest in supplies of sunflower oil.

An important step was the agreement on the form of the veterinary certificate and the obtaining of permits by all Belarusian milk processing enterprises to supply dairy products to this African country. And already "in March 2024, the Zimbabwean side conducted an inspection of Belarusian milk processing enterprises, following which Belarusian enterprises began exporting dairy products to Zimbabwe. The form of the veterinary certificate for such supplies has also been agreed upon"¹⁰⁸. At present, issues of logistics, customs duties, and a potential increase in the volume of supplies of baby food, canned meat, and other food products to this republic are being worked out. In addition, Belarus is ready to participate in the training of specialists for Zimbabwe's agricultural sector by accepting students at relevant universities.

Special attention was paid to the construction of grain storage facilities during the negotiations. After the successful use of Belarusian equipment, which made it possible to achieve record wheat harvests in recent seasons, African partners said they needed to make sure they could store the harvested crops. In this regard, the Belarusian side offered its partners a number of projects in the livestock and poultry farming sectors, as well as for building grain drying complexes. The Zimbabwean side is interested in building these grain storage facilities. This is especially true

¹⁰⁸ Sunflower oil, milk. What other Belarusian products are Zimbabwe interested in [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/podsolnechnoe-maslo-moloko-v-kakih-esche-tovarah-iz-belarusi-zainteresovano-zimbabwe-719338-2025/>

given that Belarus "has companies that are ready to go there, design and build these facilities on a turnkey basis."¹⁰⁹ .

Another important issue is production cooperation. It should be noted that "Zimbabwe has been identified as one of the key countries on the African continent in terms of export diversification and export development"¹¹⁰ . There are quite a few plans, and they are being implemented quite successfully. In this regard, Belarus plans to set up tractor production in Zimbabwe by 2027 and, a little later, freight and passenger vehicle production, so that the jointly manufactured products can be supplied not only to the domestic Zimbabwean market but also, in the future, to neighboring countries. Belarusian specialists are already prepared for long-term assignments to ensure the high-quality transfer of expertise to their African partners.

Another interesting topic is cooperation in the field of mineral resource extraction. It should be noted that "Zimbabwe is engaged in the extraction of minerals, mineral resources, and gold. Over the past 10 years, gold production has grown to 40 tons per year, which is definitely a success."¹¹¹ . In this regard, partners from South Africa have proposed that Belarus "develop a serious investment framework that will ensure productivity growth in this sector and enable our economies to prosper."¹¹² . They are also ready to consider new opportunities for expanding

¹⁰⁹ Gorlov: Belarus is ready to build turnkey grain drying complexes and grain storage facilities in Zimbabwe [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/gorlov-belarus-gotova-postroit-pod-kljuch-zernosushilnye-kompleksy-i-zernohranilischa-v-zimbabwe-714729-2025/>

¹¹⁰ Belarus plans to organize tractor production in Zimbabwe by 2027 [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-k-2027-godu-planiruet-organizovat-v-zimbabwe-proizvodstvo-traktornoj-tehniki-714713-2025/>

¹¹¹ Agricultural machinery, dairy products, and cotton. Areas in which Zimbabwe wants to cooperate with Belarus [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/selhoztehnika-molochnaja-produktsiia-i-hlopok-po-kakim-napravlenijam-v-zimbabwe-hotjat-sotrudnicat-s-714434-2025/>

¹¹² Zimbabwe offers Belarus joint mining of mineral resources [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/zimbabwe-predlagaet-belarusi-zanjatsja-sovmestnoj-dobychei-mineralnyh-resursov-714772-2025/>

cooperation in the areas of waste processing and management, and water purification. In this regard, "the Zimbabwean side is interested in garbage trucks, dump trucks, and water trucks."¹¹³ . The Minsk Automobile Plant (MAZ) is being considered as a supplier. MAZ's partner in Zimbabwe currently operates in the country's capital, Harare, but after the completion of a large waste processing plant, it will expand its activities to ten more provinces. Therefore, there are plans to significantly increase the vehicle fleet in the near future.

As for humanitarian cooperation between the two countries, during Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa's visit to Minsk, a memorandum of cooperation was signed between the Belarusian Telegraph Agency and the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation. "The parties agreed to exchange journalists, photographers, and other specialists to share experience. The document will also enable the prompt and regular sharing of information about events in Belarus and Zimbabwe in English"¹¹⁴ . The Belarusian and Zimbabwean media will exchange not only text materials, but also photo and video content.

Assessing the results of the Zimbabwean president's visit to Belarus in May 2025, it should be noted that the high-level talks held in Minsk yielded tangible practical results, taking political relations between the two countries to a new level, expanding trade and economic cooperation, and continuing the formation of a legal framework for cooperation. Moreover, Belarus and Zimbabwe agreed to establish a commission at the level of heads of state, which "will become a high-level strategic

¹¹³ Dump trucks, garbage trucks, water trucks. What companies from Zimbabwe are ready to buy from MAZ [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/samosvaly-musorovozv-vodovozv-cto-kompanii-iz-zimbabwe-gotovv-zakupat-u-maza-714537-2025/>

¹¹⁴ BELTA and the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation have signed a memorandum of cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/belta-i-zimbabvijskaja-teleradioveschatelnaja-korporatsija-podpisali-memorandum-o-sotrudnichestve-714588-2025/>

mechanism for coordinating the work of existing joint commissions and committees"¹¹⁵ , with a view to achieving a sustainable mutual trade turnover of close to \$100 million by 2030. As for the current year, 2025, given Belarus' chairmanship of the Eurasian Economic Union and Zimbabwe's in the Southern African Development Community, the parties agreed to intensify cooperation between these integration platforms in order to "increase trade, create joint promising production facilities, and open new markets in both Africa and Eurasia."¹¹⁶ By strengthening each other's capabilities in this way, Belarus and Zimbabwe are giving an additional powerful impetus to other participants in these integration blocs in terms of strategy and models of mutually beneficial cooperation.

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¹¹⁵ Belarus and Zimbabwe agreed to establish a commission at the level of heads of state [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/president/view/belarus-i-zimbabve-dogovorilis-sozdat-komissiju-na-urovne-glav-gosudarstv-714768-2025/>

¹¹⁶ New joint projects identified at talks between the presidents of Belarus and Zimbabwe [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/president/view/novye-sovmestnye-proekty-opredeleny-na-peregovorah-prezidentov-belarusi-i-zimbabve-714763-2025/>

Algeria: the first steps are the hardest

In April 2025, the first meeting of the **Belarusian-Algerian** Intergovernmental Joint Commission (IGC) on Trade, Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation was held in Minsk, at which priority areas of mutual interest were identified. It should be recalled that diplomatic relations between the two countries were established back in October 1995. Over the past three decades, the legal framework between Belarus and Algeria has developed in a rather fragmented manner. To date, only the Agreement on the Establishment of a Joint Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation, on the Abolition of Visas for Holders of Diplomatic and Service Passports between Belarus and Algeria, the Protocol on Cooperation between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Belarus and Algeria, and the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Algerian Chamber of Commerce and Industry have been signed. and a Memorandum of Cooperation between the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Algerian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.¹¹⁷

This country, located in North Africa, is the fourth largest producer of crude oil on the continent and the sixth largest producer of natural gas in the world. It has developed mineral resources such as oil, gas, phosphates, iron, lead, zinc, copper, marble, and mercury. The main items imported by Algeria are cars, equipment, metals, chemical and mineral products, food, consumer goods, electronics, textiles, wood, paper, plastics, and rubber. In this regard, "there are prospects for promoting Belarusian dairy and meat products, fertilizers, agricultural and other

¹¹⁷ Cooperation in the political sphere [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: https://egypt.mfa.gov.by/ru/blr_algeria/political/

equipment, woodworking products, and metal products on the Algerian market"¹¹⁸ .

It should be noted that in April 2024, the head of the Belarusian Foreign Ministry, S. Aleinik, visited Algeria. During the high-level talks, the "constructive nature of Belarusian-Algerian relations and the coincidence of the two countries' positions on most pressing international issues, including the recognition of the diversity of development paths for independent states" were noted¹¹⁹ . At the same time, agreements were reached on expanding the legal framework for bilateral cooperation with a transition from framework agreements to sectoral agreements. A number of topics for bilateral cooperation and projects for industrial and technical cooperation in the agro-industrial, food, machine-building, and municipal sectors were also discussed, as well as issues of interaction in the fields of education, science, technology, healthcare, pharmaceuticals, and tourism.

At the first meeting of the JPC, it was noted that trade between the two countries in 2024 amounted to about \$50 million, an increase of 16 times compared to 2023. Last year, Belarus supplied Algeria with skimmed milk powder, whey, soybean oil, and potato flakes. It should be noted that this North African country is the world's second largest importer of dairy products, purchasing tens of billions of dollars worth of these products annually. "The consumption of various types of dairy products is traditional here and constitutes a significant part of the daily diet of the population. Households spend up to a quarter of their budget on dairy products,"¹²⁰ . Belarusian meat and meat products, sugar, and confectionery also have great potential in trade with Algeria. In addition,

¹¹⁸ Algeria [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://export.by/articles/alzhir>

¹¹⁹ On the meeting between Belarusian Foreign Minister S. Aleinik and the President of Algeria [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: https://mfa.gov.by/press/news_mfa/e049817def98777b.html

¹²⁰ Zalessky, B. In Turbulent Times. The Potential for Inter-State Cooperation in the Age of Globalization / Boris Zalessky. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2019. – P. 104.

Belarus has already obtained certificates for the supply of beef to Algeria in 2025, which will become an additional export destination in bilateral trade. This indicates that "trade and economic relations between Belarus and Algeria are quite promising and can develop in various new directions"¹²¹.

For example, our country is ready to organize the assembly production of agricultural machinery on Algerian soil. The fact is that the assembly production of BELARUS tractors in Algeria was established back in 2011. By 2015, more than 500 tractor kits had been delivered to this country. Then the work was suspended. And now the Minsk Tractor Plant is extremely interested in resuming assembly, in particular of small-sized BELARUS-152 machines. "Such equipment is needed for farmers and private plots. The assembly of 800 series tractors and above is also being considered. This may include energy-intensive equipment,"¹²². In addition, assembly production in Algeria is planned, including with the prospect of supplying BELARUS equipment to third countries.

Algerian partners are also interested in the supply of equipment from AMKODOR. Silos as an element of integrated solutions for grain storage and processing were of particular interest. Possible formats for cooperation on equipment supplies were discussed.¹²³ At the Belarusian Automobile Plant, specialists from this African country expressed their readiness to jointly produce front loaders. In addition, at the first meeting of the JPC, the issue of "organizing assembly production of the Minsk

¹²¹ Yuri Shuleiko: Belarus is extremely interested in strengthening trade and economic relations with Algeria [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://www.government.by/news/yuri-shulevko-belarus-krayne-zainteresovana-v-ukreplenii-torgovo-ekonomicheskikh-otnosheniy-s>

¹²² MTZ is exploring opportunities for assembling small tractors in Algeria [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/mtz-prorabatvvaet-vozmozhnosti-sborki-malogabaritnyh-tractorov-v-alzhire-709669-2025/>

¹²³ New horizons for partnership. AMKODOR intends to supply equipment to Algeria [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/novve-gorizonty-partnerstva-amkodor-nameren-postavlyat-oborudovanie-v-alzhir-709828-2025/>

Automobile Plant in Algeria" was discussed.¹²⁴ . The parties also considered issues of possible cooperation between the two countries in the field of pharmaceuticals, and "agreed to study pharmaceutical products manufactured in the Republic of Belarus and Algeria in order to identify promising areas of cooperation"¹²⁵ .

Judging by all appearances, the active participation of Belarusian exporters in Algerian international exhibition forums is gradually emerging as a promising area of bilateral trade and economic cooperation. In particular, in April last year, at the Djazagro 2024 food industry exhibition in Algeria, participants in the Belarus. The Taste of Nature exhibition presented a wide range of products and services, offering products tailored to the specific characteristics of the region. Among the Belarusian companies were "well-known domestic enterprises and companies in the food industry: Babushkina Krynka OJSC – the managing company of the Mogilev Milk Company Babushkina Krynka holding, Volkovysk OJSC Bellakt, OJSC Lida Milk and Canning Plant, OJSC Soligorsk Poultry Farm¹²⁶ . The largest spot exchange in Eastern Europe, the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange, also demonstrated its capabilities there.

A year later, in April of this year, the Djazagro 2025 food industry exhibition featured "about 600 exhibitors and 108 unique brands from 36 countries, including Italy, Germany, Belgium, Portugal, Russia, India,

¹²⁴ MAZ assembly production may be established in Algeria [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/sborochnoe-proizvodstvo-maz-mogut-sozdat-v-alzhire-709604-2025/>

¹²⁵ First meeting of the Belarusian-Algerian Intergovernmental Joint Commission [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belpharmprom.by/news/pervoe-zasedanie-belorussko-alzhirskov-mezhpravitelstvennov-sovmestnov-komissii/>

¹²⁶ Belarusian enterprises presented their potential at a food industry exhibition in Algeria [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belorusskie-predpriiatija-predstavili-potentsial-na-vystavke-pischevoi-promyshlennosti-v-alzhire-629938-2024/>

Indonesia, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Japan..."¹²⁷ . There, participants in the national exhibition Belarus. The Taste of Nature presented a new wide range of products, offering products tailored to regional specifics and demand. Among them were well-known exporters: Volkovysk OJSC "Bellakt", OJSC "Lida Milk and Canning Plant", KPUP "Mozyr Milk Products", OJSC "Slutsk Cheese Factory". The Belarusian products presented included the most sought-after and popular items: a range of dry milk products, butter, frozen cottage cheese, and assorted cheeses.

Let's return to the first meeting of the IPC. This fact shows that the parties are ready to actively develop the entire spectrum of relations: from the supply of Belarusian agricultural products to ensure Algeria's food security to the development of joint assembly production facilities on Algerian soil with the aim of entering the broad African markets. So, specific priorities and areas of joint activity for the near future have already been identified. The next step is now expected to be the implementation of the planned initiatives for Belarusian-Algerian cooperation.

¹²⁷ Belarusian producers present their best food products at the Djazagro exhibition in Algiers [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/beloruskie-proizvoditeli-prezentujut-luchshie-produkty-pitanija-na-vystavke-djazagro-v-alzhire-707659-2025/>

Equatorial Guinea: specific projects are gaining momentum

Equatorial Guinea is a country on the west coast of Central Africa, which in December 2023 signed a Roadmap for the Development of Cooperation with Belarus for 2024-2026. This document covers 15 key areas of cooperation and 74 specific projects, including "cooperation projects, the supply of Belarusian equipment and the organization of its maintenance, agriculture, healthcare, pharmaceuticals and the sale of medical equipment, and forestry"¹²⁸, so that the two countries can make significant progress in developing their cooperation.

And already in April 2024, at the first session of the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of Belarus of the eighth convocation, deputies adopted a draft law "On the ratification of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Belarus and the Government of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea on the promotion and mutual protection of investments." This document aims to establish a legal framework for bilateral relations in the field of investment cooperation and strengthen guarantees for the protection of capital investments. "The ratification of the agreement will allow the use of effective mechanisms to protect Belarusian investors in the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, which will contribute to the development of trade and economic cooperation,"¹²⁹. In particular, the agreement provides for: the creation of favorable conditions for investment, the provision of a regime for investors in accordance with the minimum standards of treatment of foreigners provided for by international law, including fair and equal

¹²⁸ Bartosh, S. On deepening economic cooperation between Belarus and Equatorial Guinea / S. Bartosh // [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/comments/view/kommentarii-ob-uglublenii-ekonomicheskogo-sotrudnichestve-belarusi-i-ekvatorialnoj-gvinei-9188/>

¹²⁹ Belarus and Equatorial Guinea strengthen guarantees for mutual protection of investments [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-ekvatorialnaja-gvineia-ukrepili-jut-garantii-po-vzaimnoj-zaschite-investitsij-628593-2024/>

treatment, full protection and security, protection against the expropriation of property equivalent in effect to expropriation or nationalization, and the possibility of recourse to international arbitration to protect their rights and interests.

In 2024, the Belarusian Ministry of Industry undertook the implementation of six comprehensive projects in this African country. "These projects involve the supply of Belarusian machinery and equipment for the mechanization of agriculture, the electrification of remote agricultural areas, the improvement and cleaning of territories, waste disposal, construction, and the provision of fire safety in the country,"¹³⁰. To this end, the Belarusian Ministry of Industry has signed two memoranda of cooperation: the first with the Ministry of Social and Housing Construction and Urban Planning, and the second with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Local Corporations of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea. These documents provide for the development of cooperation between the ministries in the supply of Belarusian municipal and road construction equipment, as well as garbage trucks and special firefighting equipment. In this regard, it should be noted that there is a possibility of a comprehensive solution, where, along with the supply of various types of equipment and machinery, industry enterprises provide a full range of services, including the supply of spare parts, and training local specialists in the operation and repair of equipment, as well as sending their own technical specialists to commission the equipment and train local personnel in its use, is an important advantage for Belarusian manufacturers. This approach has already been successfully tested in large-scale projects to supply Belarusian equipment to African countries.

¹³⁰ Ministry of Industry intends to implement six comprehensive projects with Equatorial Guinea [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/minprom-nameren-realizovat-6-kompleksnyh-proektov-s-ekvatorialnoj-gvineej-607364-2023/>

The next issue is cooperation between Belarus and Equatorial Guinea in the field of construction. On this topic, it should be noted that the government of this Central African country recently announced plans to invest in infrastructure projects, such as the construction of new roads, bridges, and buildings, which will stimulate economic growth. In this regard, there is "growing interest from foreign companies in investing in the country's construction industry"¹³¹. In June 2024, talks were held in Minsk between the heads of the ministries of architecture and construction of Belarus and social, housing construction and urban planning of Equatorial Guinea, during which the construction of a ceramic brick factory by Belarusian specialists in the African state was discussed, as well as "the possibility of organizing advisory assistance by Belarusian specialists in Equatorial Guinea and training construction professionals using Belarusian methodology" was discussed.¹³²

And in August 2024, a cooperation agreement was signed between the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus and the Ministry of Education, Science, University and Vocational Training of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea to develop and strengthen mutually beneficial relations between the two countries. After all, cooperation in the field of education contributes to deepening relations and better mutual understanding between peoples. In this regard, the parties will promote "the establishment and development of direct links between educational institutions of the two countries, participation in educational events held in the states, and the exchange of educational literature and scientific publications in accordance with the legislation of the states."¹³³. And in

¹³¹ Overview of the construction market in Equatorial Guinea [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://budexport.by/equatorial-guinea/>

¹³² Belarus and Equatorial Guinea to boost cooperation in the construction sector [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-ekvatorialnaja-gvineja-privadut-impuls-sotrudnichestvu-v-stroitelnoj-sfere-644244-2024/>

¹³³ The Ministries of Education of Belarus and Equatorial Guinea have signed a cooperation agreement [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL:

September last year, students from Equatorial Guinea arrived in Belarus to study at universities. In 2025, the first citizens of this country will be admitted to Belarusian medical higher education institutions: "20 people will come to study in Belarus on a grant"¹³⁴.

All these facts show that the Roadmap for the Development of Cooperation between Belarus and Equatorial Guinea for 2024-2026, which should "promote partnership ties as effectively as possible on a multilateral basis in order to implement the planned bilateral agreements"¹³⁵, is gaining momentum, moving along an upward trajectory and increasing interaction in various areas.

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¹³⁵ Zalessky, B. Trend towards cooperation. Dynamics of economic development acceleration in the Republic of Belarus / Boris Zalessky. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2023. – P. 43.

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