

"Far arc" reserves

The Republic of Belarus traditionally maintains friendly and cooperative relations with the countries of the so-called "far arc" – Asia, Africa and Latin America. The coincidence of positions on most topical issues on the international agenda, the similarity of approaches to solving problems of socio-economic development contribute to the expansion of interaction between our republic and these states in all areas. Moreover, Belarus traditionally implements a multi-vector foreign economic policy, maintaining foreign trade contacts with most countries of the "far arc" and diversifying export deliveries to new markets. Suffice it to say that in 2024, Belarusian products were exported to the markets of 161 countries, including Asia, Africa and Latin America. And the value of exports of goods and services from Belarus last year amounted to almost fifty billion dollars. The most important export positions in the countries of the "far arc" are occupied by Belarusian products of mechanical engineering, food and petrochemical industries, metallurgy. This work discusses how relations between the Belarusian side and Asian, African and Latin American partners are developing today.



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Резервы "дальнейшей дуги"

Boris Zalesskij



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Specifics of Belarus' interaction with countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America

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ASIA

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Systematic work brings results

Expanding contacts with Asian countries is an urgent task for the Republic of Belarus, because this continent is a very capacious and rapidly expanding market. For this reason, Asian partners are important for the Belarusian side in terms of promising cooperation in trade and economic, industrial and cooperative, and scientific and technological terms. Let us recall that back in 2021, it was noted at the Belarusian-Asian Forum that "there are still many opportunities to promote Belarusian trade and economic interests in the Asian direction ¹." But for this, it is necessary to continue systematic work, initiating new formats of contacts in interaction with a number of Asian countries. Among the interesting partners of Belarus on this continent, we will consider **Iran**, **Saudi Arabia** and **Oman**.

As for **Iran**, the 16th meeting of the mixed Belarusian-Iranian commission on economic cooperation was held in Tehran in October 2023, during which the parties discussed issues of trade and economic, industrial, investment, banking, petrochemical cooperation, as well as in the field of healthcare and pharmaceuticals, transport and air traffic. Belarus and Iran agreed on a plan for further cooperation in promising areas of partnership, which "includes the implementation by the parties in the near future of activities in the areas of industrial cooperation, agriculture and veterinary medicine, healthcare and pharmaceuticals, transport and cooperation through chambers of commerce and industry ²." In addition, the Iranian capital hosted meetings of the mixed working group on oil cooperation, the joint Belarusian-Iranian committee on international automobile communication, as well as the Iran-Belarus business forum, within the framework of which "an agreement on cooperation was signed between the Minsk branch of the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Tehran Chamber of Commerce,

¹ Zaleski, B. Vector of cooperation – Asia. Collection articles / Boris Zalesky. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2022. – P. 3.

² Belarus and Iran agreed on a cooperation plan on promising areas of interaction [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-iran-soglasovali-plan-sotrudnichestva-po-perspektivnym-napravlenijam-vzaimodejstviya-592926-2023/>

Industry, Mines and Agriculture, which will give additional impetus to the development of Belarusian-Iranian business relations ³. ”

Let us recall that at the 15th meeting of the joint commission in July 2022, while discussing successful bilateral projects and joint promising activities, the participants expressed interest in increasing the volume of trade between the two countries. After all, "in the best years, the parties reached 250-300 million dollars. Therefore, <...> we intend to reach a trade turnover of around \$500 million in a short period of time ⁴." In March 2023, celebrating the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations, Minsk and Tehran signed a roadmap for comprehensive cooperation for 2023-2026, which provided for interaction on a wide range of issues - from politics and economics to media and tourism. This systemic document allowed the parties to work through a list of specific practical activities, many of which are already being successfully implemented. "Intensive work at various levels has led to a significant increase in trade. In 2022, trade turnover increased threefold compared to the 2021 level. In the current [2023] year, it has added another 25% compared to the same period last year ⁵. ”

Among the Belarusian exporters that are successfully developing the Iranian market, the enterprises of the Bellesbumprom concern stand out. Over the first eight months of 2023, they increased their exports to Iran by more than 1.6 times. "Cellulose, plywood, and wood boards" are supplied to this country from Belarus ⁶. At the same time, the concern plans to increase export volumes and expand cooperation ties with Iranian

³The Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Minsk and Tehran signed a cooperation agreement [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/torgovo-promyshlennye-palaty-minska-i-tegerana-podpisali-soglashenie-o-sotrudnichestve-594460-2023/>

⁴ Zalesky, B. The route of interaction – Asia. Intensification of multifaceted relations of Belarus with the main economic partners on the continent / Boris Zalesky. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing , 2023. – P. 65.

⁵Industrial cooperation and education. Roman Golovchenko outlined promising areas of cooperation with Iran [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <http://www.government.by/ru/content/10714>

⁶Bellesbumprom enterprises increased exports to Iran by more than 1.6 times [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/predpriyatija-bellesbumproma-uvelicili-eksport-produktsii-v-iran-bolee-chem-v-16-raza-594471-2023/>

partners. In particular, Svetlogorsk Pulp and Cardboard Mill OJSC supplies bleached cellulose to Iran. In October 2023, the company's specialists visited the Islamic Republic to "reach a qualitatively new level of cooperation. We plan to increase the volume of exports, as well as expand cooperation ties on the supply of chemicals from Iran, necessary for the production of cellulose ⁷. "

If we talk about the Belarusian regions interested in actively developing trade and economic relations with Iran, we can note the Vitebsk region. The fact is that since 2022, there has been a multiple increase in the trade turnover of the Vitebsk region with this country, which is due to the need to build new logistics options for export goods. At the same time, "among the new types of products that were not previously supplied to Iran are fiberglass, wood boards, various types of acids and reagents. The Vitebsk region continues to supply lumber to Iran - 49% of the turnover. The region purchases fresh vegetables and fruits, which account for 98% of all purchases from this country, and medical equipment ⁸. "

And in November 2023, the Belarusian region offered Iranian partners to create cooperation chains in the pharmaceutical sector. After all, a pharmaceutical cluster has already been created in the Vitebsk region. In addition, Vitebsk specialists are ready to offer Iran petrochemical products, which account for almost half of the region's industrial production, from fiberglass to oil additives. The Vitebsk region can also offer food products, carpets, shoes, and linen products. The Iranian side also made interesting proposals for cooperation. In particular, "there are many deposits in Iran and the mining industry is developing, so we would like to interact with the Vitebsk region in this area ⁹. " So the parties hope

⁷ Bellesbumprom plans to increase export volumes and expand cooperation ties with Iran [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/bellesbumprom-planiruet-uvelichit-obiemy-eksporta-i-rasshirit-kooperatsionnye-svyaзи-s-iranom-594315-2023/>

⁸ Vitebsk region proposed Iran to work in cooperation in pharmaceuticals [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/vitebskaja-oblast-predlozila-iranu-rabotat-v-kooperatsii-v-farmatsevtike-600855-2023/>

⁹ Mechanical engineering, petrochemistry. Ambassador of Iran on the possibilities of cooperation with the Vitebsk region [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/mashinostroenie-neftehimija-posol-irana-o-vozmozhnostiah-sotrudnichestva-s-vitebskoi-oblastiu-600832-2023/>

not only to continue old ties, but also to find new opportunities to build up economic partnership.

In the near future, Minsk and Tehran also intend to intensify their partnership ties. They signed a memorandum of cooperation back in 1995, and an agreement on establishing sister city relations in 2006. At the end of 2023, during a discussion of the interaction between the two capitals, the Chairman of the Minsk City Executive Committee V. Kukharev emphasized that "Minsk is open to dialogue on a wide range of issues - from mutually beneficial trade, equipment supplies, exchange of delegations to projects in culture and sports ¹⁰." Cooperation in tourism, healthcare, and the creation of joint ventures are also promising. One of the proposals is to open an Iranian trading house in the Belarusian capital.

A separate conversation is about cooperation in education. In July 2024, in Iran, the Belarusian State University (BSU) signed memorandums of understanding with two universities of this country: the first - with the Amir Kabir University of Technology, the second - with the Malek Ashtar University of Technology, in order to develop mutually beneficial international cooperation in a number of areas in the field of education, science and technology. "In particular, it is planned to exchange students in training programs at all levels, teachers and scientists, develop and implement joint educational programs, carry out research and educational projects, exchange information, educational materials, organize conferences, seminars, workshops and courses and prepare joint publications ¹¹." In addition, the Malek Ashtar University of Technology is interested in developing scientific cooperation in the field of optics, materials science and metallurgy, electrophysics, polymer physics and composite materials. For reference, we note that BSU cooperates with Iranian institutions within the framework of four permanent agreements and memorandums. In order to popularize Iranian culture and

¹⁰ Minsk is interested in developing cooperation with Iran at the regional level [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://belta.by/society/view/minsk-i-iran-aktivizirujut-sotrudnichestvo-na-regionalnom-urovne-602411-2023/>

¹¹ BSU signed memorandums of understanding with two Iranian universities [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/society/view/memorandumy-vzaimoponimaniy-podpisal-bgu-s-dvumja-vuzami-irana-645726-2024/>

language, the Persian language has been studied within the framework of the specialties of the Faculty of International Relations "International Relations" and "Linguistic Studies" since 2008, and the Center for Iranian Studies has been functioning since 2010. Currently, three Farsi teachers work at the Department of Oriental Languages, and ten citizens from Iran study at BSU.

Speaking about **Saudi Arabia**, we recall that in May 2024, the third meeting of the Belarusian-Saudi Joint Committee on Cooperation (JCC) was held in Riyadh, within the framework of which its participants identified practical steps to expand the legal framework, develop cooperation in the areas of industry, investment, standardization and certification, agriculture, science and technology, education, sports and tourism, medicine, and security. In addition, the parties noted "significant progress in reactivating the entire range of bilateral political, trade, economic and humanitarian relations between Belarus and Saudi Arabia and agreed to promote the maintenance of high dynamics of bilateral contacts ¹². "

The first two meetings of the SCC were held in 2015 and 2016. At the first, in Riyadh, the parties created the Belarusian-Saudi Business Council so that "it would become a platform for fruitful interaction between representatives of the business circles of the two countries. At the same time, a contract was signed for the supply of soil mixtures of the Belarusian enterprise "AridGrow Production" ¹³. " At the second, in Minsk, the Belarusian-Saudi Business Forum and B2B were organized under the auspices of the chambers of commerce and industry, where representatives of 63 enterprises and organizations from Belarus and 11 companies from Saudi Arabia participated, who considered the prospects for expanding cooperation "in the areas of construction, chemical industry, heavy industry, energy, telecommunications,

¹² On the third meeting of the Joint Committee on Cooperation between the Republic of Belarus and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : https://mfa.gov.by/press/news_mfa/e892dc96bef2ae42.html

¹³ Zalesky, B. Horizons of the Far Arc. Potential for Interaction of the Republic of Belarus with the Countries of Asia and Africa / Boris Zalesky. – Palmarium Academic Publishing, 2022. – P. 33.

information technology, real estate, trade and investment, food production, pharmaceuticals, tourism" ¹⁴.

It should be noted that the third meeting of the SCC focused on the expansion of the legal framework for Belarusian-Saudi relations. For reference: since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1997, Minsk and Riyadh have adopted about ten documents that formed the legal framework for bilateral contacts. Including the General Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Belarus and the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, signed in 2003 and "regulating issues of bilateral cooperation in the trade, economic, investment, educational, scientific, technical, cultural, information, tourism, youth and sports fields" ¹⁵, as well as agreements on the avoidance of double taxation and on mutual protection of investments signed in 2009.

In January 2024, when the Belarusian delegation headed by Foreign Minister S. Aleinik visited Saudi Arabia, the parties worked out industrial, scientific and business clusters of cooperation between the two countries, devoting most of their time to "ways to intensify scientific cooperation, identify new promising research projects and develop contacts between scientists" ¹⁶. In particular, agreements were reached on resuming joint work on a number of fundamental and applied projects, as well as on exchanging visits of scientists and researchers from the two countries. In addition, the discussion focused on Belarus's involvement in the large-scale economic diversification program "Vision 2030" implemented by Saudi Arabia, the possibilities of industrial cooperation, supplies of Belarusian equipment, as well as the prospects for implementing joint projects in third countries.

Following the January talks, the parties reached a number of practical agreements that will be implemented this year. For example, Minsk and Riyadh will create a coordinating structure to promote mutual trade. To this end, in January of this year, "a memorandum of understanding was signed between the National

¹⁴ Business Forum "Belarus – Saudi Arabia" [Electronic resource]. – 2016. – URL : <https://www.cci.by/o-palate/novosti/biznes-forum-belarus-saudovskaya-araviya/#>

¹⁵ Saudi Arabia [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://export.by/saudi-arabia>

¹⁶ Prospects for new projects in science and economics. Aleynik's visit to Saudi Arabia has been completed [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/politics/view/perspektivy-dlja-novvkh-proektov-v-nauke-i-ekonomike-zavershen-vizit-aleinika-v-saudovskuyu-araviyu-608909-2024/>

Marketing Center [NMC] and the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry [of Saudi Arabia]" ¹⁷. And recently, the next very important step was taken: in May, a Belarusian-Saudi business forum was held in Riyadh, co-organized by the NMC and the Riyadh Chamber of Commerce and Industry, which signed a memorandum of cooperation. At this forum, the attention of Saudi companies was "drawn to the prospects for developing cooperation in the industrial (BELAZ, Mogilevkhimvolokno, Polotsk-Steklovolokno) and agricultural (Servolux, Vitebsk broiler poultry farm) industries" ¹⁸. In the same May 2024, Belarus and Saudi Arabia supplemented the legal framework and signed a draft agreement on air traffic, and a memorandum of understanding was adopted between the aviation administrations of the two countries.

Another topical issue of interaction between the parties is the role of exhibitions in the development of trade and economic cooperation between Belarus and Saudi Arabia. Even during the first round of political consultations in the history of bilateral relations between the foreign ministries, which took place in December 2023 in the Saudi capital, it was noted that, by resuming the entire range of bilateral contacts based on the development of economic partnership, the parties will "promote the intensification of direct interaction between the business circles of the two countries, the exchange of information, and encourage participation in exhibitions in their countries" ¹⁹. And already in March of this year, the Belarusian side invited Saudi partners to participate in the agricultural exhibition "Belagro".

As for the participation of Belarusian exporters in Saudi exhibition forums, back in September 2023, Belarus presented a

¹⁷ Belarus and Saudi Arabia to create a coordinating structure to promote mutual trade [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-saudovskaja-aravija-sozdataut-koordinirujuschuju-strukturu-po-sodejstviju-vzaimnoj-torgovle-609070-2024/>

¹⁸ Belarus and Saudi Arabia to Activate Interaction between Trade Institutions [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-saudovskaja-aravija-aktivizirujut-vzaimodejstvie-mezhdu-institutami-torgovli-633452-2024/>

¹⁹ From tourism to investment. The Belarusian delegation held intensive negotiations in Saudi Arabia [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/politics/view/ot-turizma-do-investitsij-belorusskaja-delegatsija-provela-nasvschennye-peregovory-v-saudovskoj-aravii-605885-2023/>

collective national exposition at the International Food Industry Exhibition Foodex Saudi in Riyadh, where 40 countries and more than 600 brands participated. "The Belarusian stand featured the flagships of dairy products: Minsk Dairy Plant No. 1, Slutsk Cheese Factory, Glubokoye Dairy Canning Plant, and the Kalinkovich Dairy Plant, a branch of OAO Rogachev MKK ²⁰. "

And in May of this year, the 2nd International Exhibition of Food Industry Saudi was held in the Saudi capital. Food Show 2024, which brought together more than a thousand major food industry companies from 97 countries on one exhibition site. The Belarusian stand Belarus . Taste of Nature was presented for the first time at this exhibition forum, where domestic exporters demonstrated a wide range of dairy products, including those made from dry milk, assorted cheeses and desserts. In particular, the Slutsk Cheese Factory presented a line of lactose-free dairy products, elite cheeses with ginger, chia seeds, safflower petals, black and white truffles, frozen curds of the Kletskeya Krynachka and Yas Belous brands, as well as an innovative product - A2 milk, which contains milk protein type A2 and does not contain beta-casein A1. A wide range of products was shown by one of the leaders of the dairy industry of Belarus - the Molochny Mir company, including elite hard cheeses "Parmesan", "Maasdam", "Gorodean", cheese with black truffle, natural milk, natural cream and whipping cream, frozen curds "Gorodean", dry and innovative products. "The share of the enterprise's export deliveries to the international market is more than 65% with a volume of raw material processing of about 660 thousand tons per year ²¹." The leading industry enterprise "Milkavita", whose product portfolio includes more than 150 items, presented at the exhibition packaged liquid milk and cream with long shelf life, butter, dry milk products with improved characteristics of solubility and

²⁰ Belarus presented its national exposition at the International Food Exhibition Foodex Saudi in Riyadh [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-predstavila-natsionalnuju-ekspozitsiju-na-mezhdunarodnoj-pischevoj-vystavke-foodex-saudi-v-er-589285-2023/>

²¹ Belarusian enterprises present potential at food industry exhibition in Saudi Arabia [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/predpriyatija-belarusi-prezentujut-potentsial-na-vystavke-pischevoj-promyshlennosti-v-saudovskoj-aravii-635857-2024/>

temperature processing. And in this regard, Saudi Arabia is one of the main partners of the enterprise.

Returning to the topic of the Belarusian-Saudi Joint Committee on Cooperation, we emphasize that its third meeting clearly demonstrated the parties' focus on achieving specific results in updating the entire spectrum of trade and economic cooperation. Let us hope that these decisions of the committee will give a significant impetus to cooperation in other areas of bilateral relations between the Republic of Belarus and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Finally, another interesting country in the Persian Gulf region is **Oman**. In August 2024, the first Belarusian-Omani business forum was held in the capital of this Middle Eastern state, Muscat, where representatives of government agencies, relevant departments and over 70 companies from both countries discussed current topics of cooperation in mechanical engineering, agriculture, food security, food industry, high technology, logistics and tourism. During this meeting, the parties stated that they were "betting on intensifying Belarusian-Omani cooperation across the entire spectrum of areas"²² and would try to find effective tools for conducting bilateral trade, establish partnerships in the field of information technology, and realize the export potential of Belarusian enterprises in the dairy and mechanical engineering industries.

It should be noted that diplomatic relations with this sultanate on the Arabian Peninsula were established in July 1992. Over these thirty years, the parties have signed several agreements - on trade and economic cooperation, mutual protection of investments, avoidance of double taxation, as well as on the establishment of friendly relations between Minsk and Muscat. "In July 2023, an Agreement was signed between the Government of the Republic of Belarus and the Government of the Sultanate of Oman on air traffic"²³. The contractual and legal framework was supplemented by memorandums of understanding - between the

²² Belarus is working on expanding exports to Oman [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-prorabatyvvaet-rasshirenie-eksporta-v-oman-657416-2024/>

²³ Cooperation in the political sphere [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : https://egvpt.mfa.gov.by/ru/blr_oman/political/

ministries of foreign affairs, justice, education, culture, and chambers of commerce and industry.

Trade turnover between the countries is formed mainly due to Belarusian exports. For example, in 2020, Oman received “deliveries of dairy products (skimmed and whole milk powder worth \$347.6 thousand, whey worth \$18.8 thousand), potash fertilizers (\$328.5 thousand), collectibles and antiques (\$57.7 thousand)” from Belarus ²⁴. However, over the past three years, Belarusian exports have decreased slightly. Despite the low level of mutual trade, the Belarusian side calls the Sultanate of Oman the most important partner in the Middle East and focuses “on the development of trade and economic relations and investment cooperation ²⁵. ”

It should be noted that Oman, home to just over five million people, was recognized as the 66th largest economy in the world by the end of 2023. And today, the Vision 2040 development strategy is being implemented here - “a 20-year national multi-sector document that represents a key guideline for the development of the state. Its goal is to diversify the economy based on innovation, develop the private sector, and integrate into the global economy” ²⁶ in order to double the gross domestic product per capita by 2040. Moreover, Oman's geographical location provides significant opportunities to expand trade and economic ties with other countries of the world. And in the next few years, free economic zones will be actively expanding in this Gulf state.

Belarusian interests in this country are currently linked to trade interests in a number of areas. “Today, Belarus mainly supplies Oman with dairy products (milk and condensed cream, whey), elevator equipment, flat rolled products made of iron or non-alloy steel, polymer threads, paper and cardboard products,

²⁴ MART activities [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.mart.gov.by/activity/mezhdunarodnoe-sotrudnichestvo/sotrudnichestvo-s-zakreplennymi-stranami-i-regionami/sotrudnichestvo-s-sultanatom-oman/>

²⁵ Rachkov: Oman is the most important partner of Belarus in the Middle East [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/rachkov-oman-vazhnejshij-partner-belarusi-na-blizhnem-vostoke-569090-2023/>

²⁶ Borisevich, N. Belarus has serious potential for increasing food exports to Oman / N. Borisevich // [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL : <https://produkt.by/news/novosti-belarusi/u-belarusi-est-sereznyy-potencial-dlya-naraschivanija-eksporta>

jams, fruit puree, radiators, pipeline fittings, measuring and control devices, and skin care products ²⁷." But the first Belarusian-Omani business forum also noted serious potential for other export items.

For example, the two countries plan to develop mutual trade through the exchange. The sale of agricultural products is considered a priority. In particular, "it is planned to use the platform of the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange [BUCE] to supply dairy products produced in Belarus to the Omani market. For this purpose, the first Omani company has already been accredited at BUCE, which intends to take part in exchange trading in the near future ²⁸." And for the Omani side, the greatest interest is in dry milk, which is widely used in the country's food industry. Therefore, it is advisable to start exchange trading with Oman with this commodity item. In the future, in addition to dairy products, the range of Belarusian goods supplied to Oman through BUCE can be expanded to include such items as rapeseed oil, beet pulp and molasses, sugar, amino acids, and feed additives.

The Belarusian High-Tech Park (HTP) is also establishing cooperation with Oman, having outlined areas of mutual interest for the development of joint initiatives with ITHCA Group . This Omani group of companies was established in 2019. It includes Oman Broadband , Oman Technology Fund , Oman Towers and Space Communications Technology . The main functions of ITHCA Group are to actively work on the creation of Oman's IT infrastructure, expansion of networks and digital capabilities of the Sultanate. It "scales data centers/cloud storage, creates cybersecurity infrastructure, interacts with national and international organizations and foreign partners to implement strategic initiatives in the ICT sector ²⁹." In addition, the HTP

²⁷ Borisevich, N. The Promising Middle East. We survey the horizons of cooperation between Belarus and Oman / N. Borisevich // [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL : <https://belta.by/comments/view/mnogoobeschajuschij-blizhnij-vostok-obozrevaem-gorizonty-sotrudnichestva-belarusi-s-omanom-9338/>

²⁸ Belarus and Oman plan to develop mutual trade through the exchange [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-oman-planirujut-razvivat-vzaimnuju-torgovlju-cherez-birzhu-657057-2024>

²⁹ Hi-Tech Park Establishes Cooperation with Oman in the IT Sphere [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL : <https://belta.by/tech/view/park-vvsokih-tehnologii-nalazhivaet-vzaimodeistvie-s-omanom-v-sfere-it-657529-2024/>

signed a memorandum of understanding with the Oman National Engineering and Investment Company, which provides services to the country's utilities and engineering sector. This document expresses practical interest in interaction with HTP residents on projects related to the development of food tech and VR technologies.

As for other results of the first Belarusian-Omani business forum, the National Center for Marketing and Price Study of Belarus signed a memorandum of cooperation with the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The intention to cooperate between the Minsk and Omani dairy plants was also indicated. In addition, the Belarusian delegation visited the free economic zone and the port of Sohar, which is in the province of Northern Al-Batinah, where possible ways of cooperation and directions for its expansion were discussed, emphasizing the prospects for interaction in the transport and logistics sector and the creation of joint production enterprises, both in this province and throughout Oman.

In general, these August meetings in Muscat and Sohar showed that “the parties have considerable potential for developing business cooperation, which today needs to be capitalized on in specific projects ³⁰.” Both in terms of trade, economic and investment cooperation, and in terms of expanding partnerships in the scientific, technical and educational spheres.

³⁰ Zalessky, B. Perimeter of the Far Arc. Potential of Sustainable Partnership in Solving Multi-Vector Interaction. / Boris Zalessky. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2023. – P. 20.

China: Strategic Partnership enters a new era

In March 2023, the leaders of the Republic of Belarus and the People's Republic of China adopted a **joint statement** on the basic principles for developing exemplary relations of all-weather and comprehensive strategic partnership between the two countries in the new era, which include mutual support for the state course and on issues affecting each other's fundamental interests. In addition to this joint statement, "during the state visit, Belarus and China concluded 27 intergovernmental, interdepartmental and interregional agreements, more than 10 commercial agreements in various fields" ³¹, and the total economic effect of this visit is estimated at more than three and a half billion dollars.

Among the signed documents, one can note **the Program of Belarusian-Chinese scientific and technical cooperation for 2023-2024**, which aims the two countries to create joint innovative production. After all, "a developed engineering base, a modern system for training highly qualified personnel, many years of advanced experience of leading Belarusian design bureaus - all this forms the basis of future high-tech industries" ³². In this regard, we emphasize that in 2022, Chinese investors invested over 100 million dollars in the implementation of projects in Belarus. In addition, more than forty projects were implemented with the participation of companies from China, and this year about twenty more promising initiatives are being developed. In this context, it is worth noting the Great Stone Industrial Park, where in 2022 "Belarusian resident enterprises launched the production of glass for all types of land transport, innovative photographic printed products, automated process control systems in industry and energy. The scientific and technological park "InKata" was put into operation, where companies carrying out

³¹ MFA: the state visit of the President of Belarus to Beijing became a significant event in relations with China [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/politics/view/mid-gosvizit-prezidenta-belarusi-v-pekini-stal-znachimym-sobytiem-v-otnošenijah-s-kr-557851-2023/>

³² Belarus and China aim to create joint innovative production facilities [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-kitaj-natselenv-na-sozdanie-sovmestnyh-innovatsionnyh-proizvodstv-556688-2023/>

scientific research and experimental developments are located ³³.

Let us recall that in the last days of 2022, the number of residents in the China-Belarus Industrial Park “Great Stone” reached 100. For reference, we note that “at the end of 2021, 85 residents were registered here” ³⁴. In particular, the 99th resident was Yunchenbel LLC, founded by the large Chinese company SUMEK International Technology Trading. “The new resident will create an e-commerce platform that allows for the import and export of mechanical and electrical equipment” ³⁵. And the Belarusian company Human Craft will produce medical products - individual bone tissue prostheses based on 3D printing technologies, which will be used in surgery, traumatology, dentistry and in the treatment of oncological diseases. Also at the end of December 2022, agreements of intent were signed to enter the industrial park as residents of Information Technologies Foryou LLC and Information Technologies Tontun LLC (People's Republic of China).

In addition, at the end of 2022, the resident company IP Group LLC signed a lease agreement for a universal production building with an area of 5.5 thousand square meters in the industrial park. This transaction was one of the largest in 2022 in the Belarusian industrial real estate market. “A project for the development and serial production of high-tech data processing and storage devices will be implemented on these premises. In particular, the company will be engaged in the production of computer equipment, server equipment, monitors, and interactive smart panels. In the future, the resident plans to expand the range

³³ Abramenko: “The Great Stone” is a colossal opportunity for doing business on the “Belt and Road” platform [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/abramenko-velikij-kamen-eto-kolossalnye-vozmozhnosti-dlia-vedenija-biznesa-na-platforme-pojas-i-put-556679-2023/>

³⁴ Zalessky, B. Partnership of Flexible Forms. Peculiarities of Eurasian Cooperative Dialogue in the Context of Global Threats / Boris Zalessky. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2022. – P. 5.

³⁵ The number of residents of the Great Stone has reached 100 [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/kolichestvo-rezidentov-velikogo-kamnia-dostiglo-100-542481-2022/>

of import-substituting products ³⁶.” In total, 19 residents were registered in Great Stone by the end of 2022. And more. Last year, the park residents exported their products worth more than \$100 million to 20 countries.

In 2023, Great Stone is expected to attract at least 20 residents. In January alone, several investors from Belarus have already registered. In particular, "very interesting projects in the field of veterinary products. And the second project is in the field of science, <...> in the field of nuclear energy ³⁷." At the end of January, Great Stone registered a new resident - BaikalGroup LLC. "A company with Chinese capital will create a transport and logistics center in the park <...>. The park resident plans to provide warehouse and logistics services, including storage, packaging, tracking, labeling..." ³⁸. Goods will be delivered to the countries of the Eurasian Economic Union.

In February 2023, three more new residents were registered in the industrial park: two with capital from Belarus, one from China. Heprotrade LLC will produce environmentally friendly thermal paper, the products of which will be widely used in the field of sales and services. "The production capacity will be up to 300 tons per month. The implementation of the project will provide the domestic market with such products and reduce imports, as well as supply them for export ³⁹." The second February resident, Rivex LLC, will produce innovative dressings and sterilization materials, which are intended both for the domestic market and for the countries of the Eurasian Economic Union. Bel-Nord Logistics LLC, founded by a Chinese company in the field of international logistics, one of the largest in the Inner

³⁶ Great Stone ended the year with its largest deal [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/v-velikom-kamne-zavershili-god-krupnejshej-sdelkoi-542635-2022/>

³⁷ “Great Stone” plans to attract at least 20 residents this year [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/velikij-kamen-v-etom-godu-planiruet-privlech-ne-menee-20-rezidentov-547180-2023/>

³⁸ New resident of the Great Stone will create a transport and logistics center [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/novvi-rezident-velikogo-kammia-sozdast-transportno-logisticheskij-tsentr-547574-2023/>

³⁹ Two more residents with Belarusian capital registered in “Great Stone” [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/esche-dva-rezidenta-s-belorusskim-kapitalom-zaregistrirovany-v-velikom-kamne-549664-2023/>

Mongolia region, plans to "develop logistics infrastructure by building warehouses and introducing a wide range of services in this area. In addition, road transportation of goods along the China-Europe route will be organized"⁴⁰. " This initiative will also help in solving the most important strategic task – expanding the presence of Belarusian products on the Chinese market.

In just one and a half months of 2023, seven new residents have already been registered in the Great Stone. In total, during the operation of the industrial park, "the total number is 107 residents with a planned investment volume of \$ 1.3 billion"⁴¹. It is expected that in order to create additional conditions for attracting new investors in 2023, work will continue to further improve the special legal regime of the park with an emphasis on the implementation of new high-tech projects, including in the field of traditional and innovative Chinese medicine. Promising projects are also planned to be implemented in logistics, e-commerce, fine chemistry, biotechnology, instrument making, research and development. In February 2023, at a meeting of the working group on the China-Belarus Industrial Park, it was noted that at the sites of the Great Stone "it is possible to quickly increase the level of localization in the production of medical and technological equipment, transport and other areas, and promptly replace the falling imports with these products. In order to fully utilize the existing potential, it is necessary to continue to actively develop the park, build infrastructure and announce the project on a global scale"⁴². In short, current challenges dictate a window of opportunity for residents of the industrial park - in particular, and also create additional competitive advantages for the prospective development of the Belarusian economy - in general.

Another important document adopted in March 2023 is **the Comprehensive Strategy for Joint Industrial Development** ,

⁴⁰ The new resident of the Great Stone will develop international logistics [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/novyi-rezident-velikogo-kamnja-budet-razvivat-mezhdunarodnuju-logistiku-551642-2023/>

⁴¹ This year, Great Stone registered 7 new residents [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/v-etom-godu-velikij-kamen-zaregistiroval-7-novyh-rezidentov-551821-2023/>

⁴² Chervyakov: Current economic challenges are a window of opportunity for residents of the Great Stone [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/chervyakov-tekuschie-vyzovy-ekonomiki-okno-vozmozhnostej-dlja-rezidentov-velikogo-kamnja-550498-2023/>

implemented by the Ministry of Industry of Belarus and the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology of China and providing for the creation of mechanisms to stimulate Belarusian and Chinese enterprises to activate and strengthen technological interaction. A roadmap with specific projects and initiatives has been prepared to implement this strategy. "It is planned to create joint ventures in China, use Chinese technologies and competencies to modernize Belarusian production facilities and attract Chinese investment to implement projects in Belarus" ⁴³; in such key areas as mechanical engineering, electronics, woodworking, optical-mechanical, pulp and paper and chemical production.

the Minsk Tractor Works is ready to intensify cooperation with the Chinese side. Currently, a project to organize the assembly of BELARUS tractors with a capacity of 350 horsepower is ongoing in China. The first prototype was tested in 2020-2021. Last year, two more BELARUS 3523 tractors were delivered to China for certification, after which a decision will be made on the localization of the assembly of Belarusian tractors. And in Minsk, tests of the BELARUS 3523 model with a diesel engine from the Chinese corporation Weichai continue. It is expected that 100 such engines will be delivered to the plant in the near future. "Another area is related to the supply of components from China. Last year, imports from China amounted to \$ 1.8 million, according to the results of two months of the current [2023] year - \$ 400 thousand." ⁴⁴ So the parties are interested in joint investment projects.

During the state visit of the Belarusian delegation to China, several documents were signed concerning the development of production and in **the agro-industrial complex**. In particular, on the territory of our country "the largest pig-breeding complex in Belarus for 300 thousand heads will be built - in the Minsk region.

⁴³ Abramenko, A. On the specifics of doing business in the KNO, joint projects and prospects for cooperation / A. Abramenko // [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL : <https://www.belta.by/interview/view/ob-osobennostiah-vedenija-biznesa-v-knr-sovmestnyh-proektah-i-perspektivah-sotrudnichestva-8633/>

⁴⁴ The General Director of MTZ spoke about the intensification of cooperation with China [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/ob-aktivizatsii-sotrudnichestva-s-kitaem-rasskazal-gendirektor-mtz-553348-2023/>

<...> And we will modify our beef cattle breeding based on the Mogilev region. First of all - the construction of a separate slaughterhouse. About a thousand lightweight sheds will be built for keeping cattle of the Aberdeen Angus or Limousin breeds ⁴⁵. "

Belarus also plans to almost double the volume of food supplies to China in 2023. Last year, these exports exceeded more than 500 million dollars. At the same time, Belarusian supplies "increased in poultry meat (by 3 times), rapeseed oil (by 3.1 times), milk and cream (by 1.4 times) <...>. Currently, 148 Belarusian producers in 171 categories of goods are accredited for supplies to China ⁴⁶." And by the beginning of 2024, the task has been set to approach the mark of food exports - 900 million dollars. In general, in trade and economic cooperation with partners from China, the Belarusian side has every chance to increase the volume of goods exports to 2.2 billion dollars this year.

Two more interesting documents signed in Beijing in early March 2023 concern the topic of **regional cooperation**. The first is **the plan for the Year of Regions of Belarus and China for 2023**, which "contains more than 80 bilateral agreements and initiatives" ⁴⁷ to attract at least \$150 million in direct Chinese investment by each Belarusian region and Minsk by 2026. The second is **the Agreement between the Ministry of Economy of Belarus and the Ministry of Commerce of China on Deepening Trade and Economic Cooperation between the regions of the two countries**, in which the parties focus on three Chinese regions. First, **Tianjin** is a city under central government, where the manufacturing and logistics focus prevails. Second, the city of **Qingdao, located in Shandong** Province, where manufacturing and medical enterprises are particularly developing and where **the Shanghai Cooperation Organization** free trade zone is actively used. Third, **Chongqing** is another city of central subordination.

⁴⁵ Belarus expects to almost double food supplies to China [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-rasschitvvaet-pochti-v-dva-raza-narastit-obiemy-postavok-prodovolstvija-v-kitaj-553023-2023/>

⁴⁶ In 2022, the export of Belarusian goods to China almost doubled [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/za-2022-god-eksport-belorusskih-tovarov-v-kitaj-praktichieski-udvoilsia-556681-2023/>

⁴⁷ Abramenko: Belarus and China strive to deepen bilateral cooperation in all areas [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/abramenko-belarus-i-kitaj-stremjatsia-k-uglublenniju-dvustoronnego-vzaimodejstviya-vo-vseh-oblastjakh-556675-2023/>

"This is the heart of logistics, transit. Here, mainly e-commerce, the emphasis is on transport and logistics, including green corridors. This is when the train is not checked at the border, but is controlled at the destination, which gives a big plus in terms of cost and time ⁴⁸. "

Also in early March 2023, Belarus and China signed **a plan for the development of cooperation in the field of healthcare for 2023-2025** , which noted that "the parties will develop cooperation in the field of healthcare, science and education, based on the principles of national legislation of the countries, as well as on the principles of mutual benefit and mutual assistance ⁴⁹." The two countries will prioritize cooperation in such areas as: organizing joint scientific research in the field of medicine, exchanging experience in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases; organizing seminars and master classes for experts; cooperation in the field of epidemiology and microbiology and exchanging data on the spread of epidemic diseases; interaction in the field of surgery, transplantation and hematology; participation in international medical exhibitions held in the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Belarus. It is important to note that in the Joint Declaration on the Establishment of All-Weather and Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, published in September 2022, Belarus and China agreed to develop cooperation in the field of high-tech medicine, vaccines and drugs and "determined the priority of forming a joint pharmaceutical cluster, commercializing new pharmaceutical products and technologies, as well as creating a high-quality center for traditional Chinese medicine in Belarus ⁵⁰. "

For reference: the two countries have long-standing ties in the field of medicine. The first agreement on cooperation in the field of healthcare and medical science between the Belarusian and

⁴⁸ Nikolay Snopkov: The total economic effect of the Belarusian-Chinese agreements is estimated at more than \$3.5 billion [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <http://www.government.by/ru/content/10547>

⁴⁹ A plan for the development of cooperation in the field of healthcare for 2023-2025 between Belarus and China was signed [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://minzdrav.gov.by/ru/sobytiya/podpisan-plan-po-razvitiyu-sotrudnichestva-v-oblasti-zdravookhraneniya-na-2023-2025-gody-mezhdu-bela/>

⁵⁰ China and Belarus adopted a Joint Declaration [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://zviazda.by/ru/news/20220916/1663330543-kitay-i-belarus-prinivali-sovmestnuvu-deklaracivu>

Chinese Ministries of Health was signed back in 1994. In 2021, the Belarusian government adopted a resolution “On state registration of strategically important medicinal products”, which allows for their accelerated registration to combat the pandemic. And then, for the first time, the Ministry of Health carried out state registration of a drug of Chinese traditional medicine (TCM) - soft capsules “QINGYI”. And today, “810 types of medical equipment, 502 medical products and 480 drugs produced in China are registered in Belarus. From April 2020 to the present, China has provided gratuitous assistance in the amount equivalent to \$ 30 million. Personal protective equipment, medical and diagnostic equipment, and a vaccine against COVID-19 have been transferred to Belarus⁵¹. ”

In our country, TCM centers and the necessary conditions for doing business for the creation of pharmaceutical production have already been created. In particular, for the residents of the Great Stone Park, the Ministry of Health of Belarus has developed a collection of “Main Aspects of Admission to Circulation of Medical Products and Medicines” in Russian and Chinese in order to inform them about the opportunities and preferences. In addition, work has already been completed on the architectural project “Construction of a Polyclinic on the Territory of the Great Stone Park Taking into Account the Creation of a Regional Center for the Promotion of Traditional and Innovative Chinese Medicine”; work is being completed on including the specialty “Traditional Chinese Medicine Doctor” in the nomenclature of positions, which will give an additional impetus to the promotion of this topic in Belarus.

At the end of February 2023, the Ministry of Health of Belarus and the State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine of China announced that they were preparing a memorandum on TCM issues, which should reflect the issues of creating a TCM center in Belarus, a pharmaceutical cluster and the development of traditional Chinese medicine in the China-Belarus Industrial Park “Great Stone”. It should be noted that “reflexology

⁵¹ The Ministry of Health of Belarus and Weigao signed a cooperation agreement [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/minzdrav-belarusi-i-kompanija-weigao-podpisali-soglashenie-o-sotrudnichestve-552445-2023/>

methods, diagnostic methods, therapeutic gymnastics, classical acupuncture, Chinese massage, as well as treatment methods based on modern technologies are used in Belarus - electroacupuncture, laser acupuncture, ultrasound acupuncture <...>. Traditional Chinese medicine centers have been created in the regional centers of Belarus. Interaction has been established with a number of universities - Tianjin, Changchun, Zhejiang University of Traditional Chinese Medicine ... " ⁵². In addition, the educational process in this specialty is carried out at the Belarusian Medical Academy of Postgraduate Education in the Department of Reflexology. On average, more than 200 doctors undergo training annually. The department's staff have repeatedly undergone internships in Beijing, Taiyuan and Tianjin. These methods have proven their effectiveness, including in the treatment of post-COVID syndrome. Every year in Belarus, reflexologists perform about 900 thousand reflexology procedures.

In 2023, the parties continue to actively interact in this context. In February, the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Belarus signed a number of cooperation agreements with Chinese partners. Firstly, in the city of Weihai, in Shandong Province, with the Weigao International Medical Trading Company , which supplies medical products and spare parts made in China. Secondly, in the city of Shijiazhuang, in Hebei Province, with the North pharmaceutical company. China Pharmaceutical Company Limited (NCPC). "This company has been selected as a strategic partner that will represent the interests of the Belpharmprom holding in the area of procurement of pharmaceutical substances in the People's Republic of China, as well as perform functions of studying the market situation, submitting proposals to the holding's management company for the supply of substances and raw materials in accordance with applications ⁵³. "

⁵² Belarus and China are preparing a memorandum on traditional Chinese medicine [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-kr-gotoviat-memorandum-po-voprosam-traditsionnoj-kitajskoj-meditiny-552902-2023/>

⁵³ The cooperation agreement was signed by the Ministry of Health of Belarus and a Chinese pharmaceutical company [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/soglashenie-o-sotrudnichestve-podpisali-minzdrav-belarusi-i-kitajskaja-farmkompanija-552543-2023>

As for the development of cooperation between Belarus and China in the new era in **the field of education**, the China International Educational Expo was held in Beijing in February 2023. Education Expo, within the framework of which the work of the thematic exposition "Education in Belarus" was organized, where the leading Belarusian universities presented their educational programs: Belarusian State University of Economics, Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radioelectronics, Minsk State Linguistic University, Belarusian State University of Culture and Arts, Gomel State Technical University named after P.O. Sukhoi, Belarusian National Technical University, Polotsk State University named after Euphrosyne of Polotsk and Mogilev State University named after A.A. Kuleshov. It should be noted that the Belarusian exposition was the only foreign one presented at this educational forum, which was visited by more than two thousand young men and women from China interested in studying in Belarus.

In addition, during the negotiations held in the Chinese capital at the Beijing University of Civil Engineering and Architecture, the possibility of higher education institutions of Belarus joining the International Engineering and Architectural Consortium of Educational Institutions was discussed. In general, "following the meetings of representatives of Belarusian universities in Chinese universities and consulting companies, 17 agreements on cooperation in the field of educational services were signed, 16 agreements were worked out for signing ⁵⁴." For reference, we note that "Belarusian and Chinese partners have already signed more than 540 direct cooperation agreements. To date, almost 500 citizens of the Republic of Belarus are studying in the PRC, the number of Chinese students in Belarusian universities has reached 8,000 people ⁵⁵." In addition, the creation of joint educational structures is actively promoted in Belarus and China. For example, seven joint projects are already functioning:

⁵⁴ Belarus – China: 17 new agreements in the field of education signed [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-kitaj-podpisano-17-novyh-soglashenij-v-oblasti-obrazovanija-553144-2023/>

⁵⁵ Zalesky, B. The route of interaction – Asia. Intensification of multifaceted relations of Belarus with the main economic partners on the continent / Boris Zalesky. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2023. – C. 19.

three laboratories, two centers and two institutes. 40 joint educational programs of the first and second levels of higher education are being implemented, 10 of which were developed over the past two years.

In this context, an important participant in international cooperation with the People's Republic of China in the field of education is **the Belarusian State University (BSU)**, which already interacts with more than 50 Chinese universities, and over three thousand citizens of the Celestial Empire are currently studying in its classrooms. In March 2023, BSU identified new vectors and forms of cooperation with leading universities in China in order to strengthen, intensify and expand areas of partnership.

In particular, BSU is reaching a new level of cooperation with Peking University, which is the oldest university in China and was founded in 1898, where the local library has more than eight million books and where over 46 thousand students study, including more than four thousand foreigners. Let us recall that the two universities signed a memorandum of understanding in 2019. In March 2023, the parties initiated cooperation in the field of mathematical sciences. "The development of joint research projects, academic exchange for lecturing on modern achievements in the field of probability theory, mathematical statistics and data analysis seem promising ⁵⁶." In addition, interaction in the field of joint training of master's and postgraduate students will be expanded. For this purpose, in the near future, this topic will be analyzed in detail to determine the specialties and scientific fields of knowledge in which they plan to cooperate.

Another partner of BSU in China is Beijing Foreign Studies University, one of the country's leading universities in the field of training linguists. In development of the agreements with it since 2017, BSU signed an agreement on the exchange of students in March 2023 in order to develop academic mobility of students and postgraduates studying Chinese, Belarusian and Russian

⁵⁶ BSU reaches a new level of cooperation with Peking University [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/bgu-vvhodit-na-novvj-uroven-sotrudnichestva-s-pekinskim-universitetom-557082-2023/>

languages. The parties will also develop joint innovative pedagogical methods.

And the new partner of BSU following the meetings held in the same March 2023 was the China University of Political Science and Law. The universities signed a memorandum of understanding, which will allow cooperation in the field of jurisprudence in numerous vectors. "This is the exchange of students, the opening of joint educational programs, the implementation of joint research and educational projects, the exchange of information, educational materials and scientific reports, the organization of conferences, seminars, workshops and courses and the preparation of joint publications ⁵⁷. "

Brest State Technical University (BrSTU) is also among the active Belarusian universities developing cooperation with Chinese partners . In January 2023, BrSTU signed an agreement on cooperation in the field of education, science and culture with the Guangdong Construction Vocational and Technical Institute to combine the efforts of the two educational institutions for the joint training of qualified specialists in the interests of the economies of the two countries. The parties plan to create a joint educational program for the training of Chinese students. The idea is to recruit study groups where the students will study in China for the first two years, and then in Belarus. The Chinese side was especially interested in the specialty "architecture". "These joint educational programs are very popular because they allow students to receive two diplomas in one cycle of study ⁵⁸. "

It should be noted that the Guangdong Construction Vocational and Technical Institute is the largest and only state higher professional educational institution that trains builders and architects and is located in the industrial center of southern China. It has 22 thousand students. With the support of the National Development and Reform Commission of the People's Republic

⁵⁷ Student exchange, joint programs: BSU and leading universities of China have identified new vectors of cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/obmen-studentami-sovmestno-programmy-bgu-i-veduschie-vuzy-kitaja-opredelili-novye-vektory-557224-2023/>

⁵⁸ Brest University and Guangdong Institute will jointly train architects and builders [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/brestskij-universitet-i-guandunskij-institut-budut-sovmestno-gotovit-arhitektorov-i-stroitelej-543128-2023/>

of China, an industrial and educational integration base was built on the basis of the institute, where students study various innovative and traditional construction technologies, design methods, water supply systems, BIM technologies, and real estate management. As for BrSTU, more than 200 Chinese citizens are currently studying in Brest. The most popular specialties among them are in the field of economics, construction, and mechanical engineering.

Finally, another block of documents signed in early March 2023 in Beijing concerned interaction in **the media sphere**. This included **an agreement on cooperation between the news agencies of Belarus and China – BELTA and Xinhua**. In this regard, it should be noted that the first cooperation agreement between BELTA and Xinhua was signed back in January 1993, then re-signed in June 2018. The new document – already the third – “implies the exchange of text news, photos and videos, mutual support and promotion on the Internet and social networks”⁵⁹. The agencies agreed to exchange experience and train journalists, editors and technical staff to improve their professional skills.

All these initiatives and projects adopted in the spring of this year in the relevant documents indicate that cooperation between Belarus and China as a whole tends to strengthen in all areas, but there is still a great deal of unrealized potential that will be realized in the new era – exemplary relations of all-weather and comprehensive strategic partnership between the two states.

⁵⁹ BELTA and Xinhua signed an agreement to strengthen cooperation and intensify news exchange [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belta-i-sinhua-podpisali-soglashenie-ob-ukreplenii-sotrudnichestva-i-aktivizatsii-obmena-novostjami-553192-2023/>

China: On the Foundation of New Ideas

In July 2023, the fifth meeting of the Belarusian-Chinese Intergovernmental Committee on Cooperation (IGC) was held, within the framework of which a new model of strategic partnership between the Republic of Belarus and the People's Republic of China was formed and unique opportunities and mechanisms for deepening practical cooperation across a wide range of areas were created. The participants of the meeting agreed that "our common goal should be a new point of growth in trade turnover of at least 120% compared to last year [2022] ⁶⁰." Speaking more specifically about the most important areas of Belarusian-Chinese economic cooperation, four key issues should be highlighted in this regard.

Firstly, increasing and diversifying trade, systematic accreditation of Belarusian food producers, launching channels for purchasing important goods through Chinese operators. Secondly, increasing railway container transportation for the delivery of Belarusian goods to China and Chinese equipment to Belarus, ensuring the operation of green railway corridors, organizing subsidized reverse trains from Belarus to large logistics centers in China and back. Thirdly, "deepening investment cooperation, joint industrial development, technological cooperation in licensed automotive manufacturing, in the assembly of electric vehicles, machine tool manufacturing, joint production of medical equipment, and the development of bio- and digital technologies ⁶¹." Fourthly, financing strategic investment projects within the framework of China's preferential credit lines, their effective implementation, increasing credit, financial, technical and economic cooperation, including in the purchase of necessary equipment. Let us recall that "according to the results of 2022, the countries [Belarus and China] reached a record volume of \$5.8

⁶⁰ Snopkov: a new model of strategic partnership between Belarus and China has been formed [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/snopkov-sformirovana-novaja-model-strategicheskogo-partnerstva-belarusi-i-kitaja-576417-2023/>

⁶¹ Chervyakov identified important areas of cooperation to strengthen relations between Belarus and China [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/chervyakov-vydelil-vazhnye-napravlenija-sotrudnichestva-dlja-ukreplenija-otnoshenij-belarusi-i-kitaja-576438-2023/>

billion in terms of goods turnover. Five months of the current year were marked by a 1.5-fold increase in trade turnover. Exports of Belarusian goods to China are growing at a record pace: 1.8 times in 2022, 1.6 times in the first 5 months of 2023. ⁶²

During the fifth meeting of the IGC, the parties agreed to focus their efforts on implementing major projects in the field of development and cooperation, including the provision of gratuitous assistance from the Chinese government. In this context, it should be emphasized that 15 important socially oriented projects have already been implemented in Belarus for a total of over one and a half billion Chinese yuan. "About a dozen new strategic projects are underway, including the infrastructure development of the Great Stone Industrial Park, the supply of necessary technological equipment with a total funding of over 900 million Chinese yuan ⁶³." At the same time, the parties plan to accelerate the implementation of these projects, including two international-class sports facilities - a stadium and a swimming pool - by September 2024.

As for other production and cooperation projects, in July 2023 the Ministry of Industry of Belarus and the Chinese corporation China National Machinery Industry Corporation (Sinomach) signed an action plan for the development of cooperation "in priority areas of cooperation in the sphere of production of agricultural, municipal equipment, machine tool building, as well as the implementation of investment projects at Belarusian enterprises" ⁶⁴and even discussed issues of creating individual models of agricultural equipment, the possibility of organizing the production of various equipment, the participation of subsidiaries of the Sinomach corporation in the modernization

⁶² Snopkov: Belarus and China demonstrate an exemplary example of cooperation to the whole world [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/snopkov-belarus-i-kitaj-demonstriruiut-vsemu-miru-obraztsovyi-primer-sotrudnichestva-576412-2023/>

⁶³ Belarus and China agreed to implement major projects in the field of development and cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-kitaj-dogovorilis-o-realizatsii-krupnyh-proektov-v-oblasti-razvitiia-i-sotrudnichestva-576096-2023/>

⁶⁴ The Ministry of Industry and Trade of Belarus and the Chinese company Sinomach signed an action plan for the development of cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/minprom-belarusi-i-kitajskaja-kompanija-sinomach-podpisali-plan-meropriyatij-po-razvitiu-576228-2023/>

of industrial enterprises from Belarus, and the supply of components for Belarusian manufacturers of agricultural equipment.

In the same July 2023, the Chinese company Baimen and OJSC Slutsk Cheese Factory signed a strategic commercial agreement to establish a joint venture for the production of dairy products this year in the administrative center of Liaoning Province - in the city of Shenyang. It should be noted that this Chinese company is a major exporter of "Belarusian dairy products (in 2022, products worth about \$ 50 million were exported. It is implementing a project for processing colostrum and obtaining whey protein at the site of the Great Stone Industrial Park" ⁶⁵. By creating a joint venture in Shenyang, Baimen and Slutsk Cheese Factory intend to further scale the project, systematically increasing the range of dairy products produced for the Chinese buyer.

And one more interesting fact. In the same July 2023, OJSC "Management Company of the Holding "Bobruiskagromash" held negotiations with YTO Group Corporation – a Chinese manufacturer of agricultural and construction equipment, part of the integrated engineering conglomerate Sinomach – "on the organization of joint production of self-propelled mowers, municipal vehicles, and issues of supplying components for Bobruiskagromash equipment from China were also discussed ⁶⁶." In the near future, the parties will prepare the necessary documents for this project.

A separate conversation in this context is about the Chinese-Belarusian industrial park "Great Stone". Let us recall that 2023 marks ten years since the Chairman of the People's Republic of China (PRC) Xi Jinping announced the initiative - "One Belt, One Road", which marked a new era in economic relations between states and united more than a hundred countries across the planet.

⁶⁵ Belarusian-Chinese dairy production enterprise to be established in China this year [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belorussko-kitajskoe-predpriatie-po-proizvodstvu-molochnoi-produktsii-sozhdut-v-knr-v-etom-godu-576098-2023/>

⁶⁶ "Bobruiskagromash" and the Chinese company YTO Group Corporation discussed the prospects for cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/bobruiskagromash-i-kitajskaja-kompanija-yto-group-corporation-obsudili-perspektivy-sotrudnichestva-575895-2023/>

Among the first participants in this mega-project was the Republic of Belarus, where the Great Stone Park is actively developing, which plays the role of a nodal platform for this initiative and already unites more than a hundred residents from 15 countries. Suffice it to say that "the volume of actual investments in the park has already exceeded \$ 830 million, and the volume of declared investments is \$ 1.34 billion ⁶⁷." And in the first quarter of 2023 alone, 11 new companies have already been registered here with investment projects in the field of logistics, e-commerce, medicine, biotechnology, instrument making, research and development. To be more precise, "the number of residents of the Great Stone Industrial Park has now reached 108 <...>. The volume of production [for the three months of 2023] has grown by 1.3 times, revenue from the sale of goods – by 1.8 times, export of goods – by 1.2 times, direct foreign investment on a net basis – by 2 times, tax payments – by 3.5 times ⁶⁸."

One of the priority areas of the Great Stone today is mechanical engineering. Let us recall that the cluster of enterprises working in this area is the largest in the park and has more than 20 projects. In particular, joint Belarusian-Chinese enterprises producing internal combustion engines, gearboxes for passenger and freight transport operate here. Some of the Chinese residents produce construction equipment based on the chassis of the Minsk Automobile Plant, and a Belarusian resident produces glass for all types of land transport, which is in great demand in the countries of the Eurasian Economic Union. Another relevant area of the Great Stone is high-tech and competitive production - companies carrying out research and development. Currently, more than 25 such companies are registered in the park.

Speaking about new residents, it can be noted that in March 2023, another company was registered in the Great Stone Industrial Park - IRBI LLC, whose investment project has an

⁶⁷ The declared investments of the Great Stone residents are estimated at more than \$1.3 billion [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/zajavlennye-investitsii-rezidentov-velikogo-kamnja-otsenivajutsja-bolee-chem-v-13-mlrd-568784-2023/>

⁶⁸ Ministry of Economy: 11 new companies registered in Great Stone in Q1 [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/minekonomiki-za-i-kvartal-v-velikom-kamne-zaregistrovano-11-novyh-kompanij-567541-2023/>

innovative import-substituting nature. "The park resident will produce monoblocks, mini-computers for offices and industrial computers, as well as components for computer equipment. In addition to production, the company will implement its own application software packages ⁶⁹." These products will be intended for the domestic market of Belarus, and will also be exported to the countries of the Eurasian Economic Union.

In April 2023, another resident was registered in the industrial park - SinoBelMedika LLC, initiated by the Chinese company Shanghai Electric Medical Group, which is part of the largest manufacturer of energy and industrial equipment Shanghai Electric Group Company Limited. The new resident "will implement a project to create a modern high-tech production of X-ray tubes on the territory of the industrial park. The sale of products on the Belarusian market will contribute to import substitution ⁷⁰."

In May 2023, during negotiations between the park's management and the delegation of Gansu Province, the issues of developing traditional Chinese medicine in Belarus were discussed, and "the possibility of creating a center for traditional Chinese medicine and developing pharmaceutical production in the park was discussed ⁷¹." And in June 2023, an agreement was reached on cooperation between the Belarusian Ministry of Health and the Chinese pharmaceutical company Jifei to study "the issue of creating a biotechnology cluster for the production of drugs, vaccines, insulin, CAR - T technologies in the Great Stone industrial park <...>. Work is underway to determine the prospects for localizing the range of drugs of the Jifei company." ⁷²

⁶⁹ The new resident of the Great Stone will produce computers and components [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/novyi-rezident-velikogo-kamnja-budet-proizvodit-kompijutery-i-komplektujuschie-558151-2023/>

⁷⁰ New resident of the Great Stone plans to produce X-ray tubes [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/novyi-rezident-velikogo-kamnja-planiruet-proizvodstvo-rentgenovskih-trubok-560903-2023/>

⁷¹ Delegation of the Chinese province of Gansu to study the possibility of developing pharmaceutical production in the Great Stone [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/delegatsija-kitajskoj-provintsii-gansu-izuchit-vozmozhnost-razvitiia-farmproizvodstv-v-velikom-kamne-567520-2023/>

⁷² The Ministry of Health and the Chinese pharmaceutical company "Dzhifei" intend to sign a cooperation agreement [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL :

And in the same June 2023, the Belarusian and Chinese sides announced that they would continue to attract investors with large projects to the Great Stone Industrial Park, with special attention being paid to the development of traditional Chinese medicine at the Park site. Also, "the ministries of economy of the two countries and the largest shareholder companies of the Industrial Park Development Company agreed to continue active work to attract anchor investors with large projects to the Great Stone, organize new in-demand production facilities, in particular in the field of mechanical engineering and automotive components, medical equipment, and increase the localization of existing resident production facilities ⁷³." The parties will systematically and pragmatically improve the investment environment, consistently eliminate emerging development risks and bring the Park to a new qualitative level of development, strengthening its position as the central Belarusian-Chinese project and an international industrial cluster with an eye on the Eurasian Economic Union market.

At the already mentioned fifth meeting of the Belarusian-Chinese Intergovernmental Committee on Cooperation, which took place in July 2023, the parties discussed, among other things, the dynamics of mutual contacts in the field of education in order to strengthen direct inter-university ties and implement a number of large-scale joint educational and scientific projects. Among the promising areas of cooperation, the meeting participants noted the following: training of personnel and expansion of the practice of implementing joint educational programs in innovative specialties by leading universities of Belarus and China; cooperation in creating digital platforms that provide the population with access to educational resources; combining efforts to develop norms and standards for the digitalization of education; exploring the possibility of creating an Association of Higher Education Institutions of the two countries.

<https://www.belta.by/society/view/minzdrav-i-kitajskaja-farmkompanija-dzhifei-namereny-podpisat-soglasenie-o-sotrudnichestve-569796-2023/>

⁷³ Belarus and China will continue to attract anchor investors with large projects to the Great Stone [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-kitaj-prodolzhat-privlekat-velikij-kamen-jakornyh-investorov-s-krupnymi-proektami-569986-2023/>

It should be noted that, to date, more than 560 direct cooperation agreements have been signed between educational institutions of Belarus and China, which is about 10 percent of the total number of current inter-university agreements of Belarusian higher education institutions. "There are also 9 joint educational and scientific structures (3 laboratories, 4 centers and 2 institutes) operating on the basis of educational institutions of the two countries, 40 joint educational programs are being implemented, 10 of which were developed in the last two years, the implementation of 6 of them began in the 2022/2023 academic year. The possibility of implementing another 20 joint educational programs and organizing joint training of highly qualified scientific personnel is being worked out ⁷⁴." This fall, the educational departments of the two countries plan to approve a plan for the development of academic and scientific exchanges for 2023-2025, within the framework of which new specific steps will be taken towards constructive interaction between Belarusian universities and Chinese partners.

Among the active participants in this cooperation is the Belarusian State Technological University (BSTU). Back in April 2023, the Belarusian university discussed promising areas of partnership with members of the Guangdong Union for Scientific and Technical Cooperation with the Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States. In particular, BSTU signed an agreement on cooperation and the creation of a joint laboratory of applied technologies with the Guangdong Vocational and Technical College of Light Industry. "The parties agreed to organize academic exchanges, summer schools, discussed the prospects for contacts in the field of polymers, functional coatings, paper production technology and other areas ⁷⁵." Documents were also signed on the implementation of joint educational programs with the Guangdong Nanhua Vocational College of Industry and

⁷⁴ Bakhonovich: Education ensures intellectual, cultural and linguistic rapprochement between Belarus and China [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/bahonovich-obrazovanie-obespechivaet-intellektualnoe-kulturnoe-i-jazykovoe-sblizhenie-belarusi-i-kitaja-576391-2023/>

⁷⁵ The educational and scientific potential of BSTU is presented in the Chinese province of Guangdong [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/obrazovatelnyj-i-nauchnyj-potentsial-bgtu-prezentovan-v-kitajskoj-provintsii-guandun-563887-2023/>

Commerce, the Guangdong Vocational and Technical College of Communications. And a bilateral agreement on scientific and technical cooperation was concluded with the Ningbo International Science and Innovation Center in order to jointly develop modern polymer composite materials, elastomers and plastics, additive technologies.

In May 2023, BSTU signed a cooperation agreement with the Kunshan Institute of Industrial Technology to create joint Belarusian-Chinese transfer centers in the field of high technology and 3D modeling. The idea is that "every year the Belarusian side will select at least 10 projects that will be financed by the PRC in order to develop cooperation in the field of high technology ⁷⁶." In addition, the parties agreed to create a joint university "Kunshan-Minsk" on the basis of BSTU so that students could study part of the time in China, part in Belarus, and ultimately receive two diplomas. And another interesting idea: together with Chinese companies, a biomedicine center will be created in the Minsk City Technopark, where they will develop testing technologies and drugs aimed at treating diseases of humans and various animals. In short, the agro-industrial complex associated with vaccines will be developed.

Another Belarusian university that continues close cooperation with Chinese partners in 2023 is the Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radioelectronics (BSUIR). In July of this year, in Minsk, together with the North China Research Institute of Electromagnetic Protection, BSUIR opened the Belarusian-Chinese research laboratory of external electromagnetic influences. One of the key tasks of the new laboratory is to develop a finished product of practical interest and in demand on the global technology market, "conduct fundamental and applied research, implement their results, promote training and advanced training, conduct internships for engineering personnel and researchers of BSUIR and the partner institute" ⁷⁷,

⁷⁶ Investments, creation of a joint university and biomedicine center. Kunshan delegation visited BSTU [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/investitsii-sozdanie-sovmestnogo-universiteta-i-tsentra-biomeditsiny-delegatsija-kunshanja-posetila-569539-2023/>

⁷⁷ Belarusian-Chinese research laboratory opened at BSUIR [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belorusko-kitajskaja-nauchno-issledovatel'skaja-laboratorija-otkrylas-v-bguir-576810-2023/>

as well as strengthen international cooperation of scientists and specialists for joint scientific research within the framework of China's Belt and Road initiative.

As for Chinese universities, Liaoning University, which in July 2023 became a partner of Brest State University named after A.S. Pushkin, as well as Brest State Technical University (BrSTU), has shown high interest in cooperation with Belarusian partners. In particular, the agreement between BrSTU and Liaoning University “provides for academic exchanges, joint educational programs, implementation of research projects, and socio-cultural interaction. We plan to fill the agreement with real events and develop a roadmap in the future ⁷⁸.” For example, to train Chinese students in the specialty “Smart Transport” based on the faculties of mechanical engineering and information technology.

Returning to the fifth meeting of the Belarusian-Chinese Intergovernmental Committee on Cooperation, we note that the participants of this discussion proposed to take scientific and technical cooperation to a new level and considered the possibility of creating joint high-tech production in a number of areas. “Such areas <...> could be robotics, electric transport, medical equipment and pharmaceuticals, laser technology ⁷⁹.” By creating a full innovation cycle - from the idea to the release of high-tech products, the parties will expand promising areas of partnership, interacting on the educational foundation of new ideas, which ensures the intellectual rapprochement of Belarus and China. In addition, all these facts indicate that the new model of strategic partnership between the two countries, including trade and economic, scientific and technical and educational, formed within the framework of the fifth meeting of the IGC on cooperation is beginning to take on specific innovative contours for the benefit of the two peoples.

⁷⁸ Brest universities signed cooperation agreements with Liaoning University [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/vuzy-bresta-podpisali-soglasheniya-o-sotrudnichestve-s-liaoningskim-universitetom-576902-2023/>

⁷⁹ Shlychkov: implementation of joint projects with China will allow to create new high-tech industries [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/shlychkov-realizatsiya-sovmestnyh-proektov-s-kitaem-pozvolit-vyiti-na-sozdanie-novyh-576315-2023/>

China: Taking regional cooperation to a new level

In March 2023, in Beijing, the Republic of Belarus and the People's Republic of China adopted at the highest level a joint statement on the basic principles for the development of exemplary relations of all-weather and comprehensive strategic partnership between the two countries in the new era. At the same time, the parties signed a plan for the Year of Regions of Belarus and China for 2023. This document "contains more than 80 bilateral agreements and initiatives to attract at least \$150 million in Chinese direct investment by each Belarusian region and Minsk by 2026." ⁸⁰In September 2023, the third meeting of the working group on interregional trade and economic cooperation of the commission on trade and economic cooperation of the Belarusian-Chinese intergovernmental committee on cooperation was held in the China-Belarus Industrial Park "Great Stone", where topical issues of interaction between the regions of the two countries and the prospects for its development were discussed. The parties noted that certain economic indicators of cooperation between Belarus and China have reached a fairly high level. "In the first half of 2023, mutual trade turnover exceeded \$4 billion, with Belarusian exports approaching the landmark mark of \$1 billion

⁸¹ ”

One of the active participants in deepening trade, economic, scientific, technical and socio-cultural cooperation between the regions of the two countries is **the Minsk region**. In 2022, the trade turnover of the Belarusian capital region with the Chinese side exceeded two billion dollars, while the export of the Minsk region amounted to almost one billion. At the beginning of 2023, the list of products of the Minsk region supplied to China has already exceeded the mark of more than one hundred. "Products

⁸⁰ Zaleski, B. New Realities for Partnership. Chronicle of International Cooperation in the Context of Economic Mobilization / Boris Zaleski. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2023. – C. 13.

⁸¹ Chebotar: Belarus aims to expand trade and economic cooperation with regions of China [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/chebotar-belarus-natselena-na-rasshirenie-torgovo-ekonomicheskogo-sotrudnichestva-s-regionami-kr-590444-2023/>

of milk processing enterprises and other municipal enterprises of the region are especially in demand. All milk processing enterprises of the holding "Minoblmyasomolprom", as well as the Slutsk and Stolbtsy meat processing plants have an export license⁸². " And in the first five months of this year, the capital region has already provided export supplies to China for more than five hundred million dollars.

Among the interesting partners of the Minsk region among the Chinese regions, it is necessary to note **the province of Guangdong**, which is home to more than 127 million people and which is attractive not only as part of the sales market for products, but also as a supplier of technologies in the field of mechanical engineering and agriculture. After all, this province is one of the most developed in China, where powerful mechanical engineering and processing companies operate. In 2022, the parties celebrated the tenth anniversary of the signing of the cooperation agreement. In May 2023, the Belarusian region and the Chinese province agreed on the prospects for interaction. And at present, the roadmap for the development of bilateral relations is already being supplemented and updated. It should be noted that "in the first half of 2023, trade turnover between the regions increased by 20%. Exports reached Br 646.2 million. Poultry meat, beef, and flax fiber are supplied to China from the Minsk region. The main imports are automatic data processing machines, textile products, and auto parts⁸³. " In addition, the parties are discussing the issue of attracting investments from Guangdong Province to the economy of the Minsk region, as well as options for cooperation between the largest companies producing household appliances and cars, including electric vehicles, at production sites located in the preferential zones of the Minsk region, such as the China-

⁸² What products of the Minsk region may appear on the Chinese market in the near future [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://mlvn.by/01032023/kakava-produkcziya-minskoj-oblasti-v-blizhajshee-vremya-mozhet-povavitsya-na-rynke-kitava/>

⁸³ The Minsk Regional Executive Committee discussed a roadmap for cooperation with the Chinese province of Guangdong [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/v-minskom-oblasti-polkome-obsudili-dorozhnyu-kartu-sotrudnichestva-s-kitajskoj-provintsiej-guandun-583608-2023/>

Belarus Industrial Park "Great Stone", where "12 new residents were added" in the first nine months of 2023 ⁸⁴.

As for another partner of the Minsk region in China - **Zhejiang Province**, the parties intend to expand cooperation in the field of traditional Chinese medicine. As is known, a corresponding center has been created on the basis of the Minsk Regional Clinical Hospital. In June 2023, during the negotiations between the delegations of the Health Committee of Zhejiang Province and the General Department of Health of the Minsk Regional Executive Committee, the development directions of this center, "the supply of medicines from China, the possibility of training doctors of the capital region in new methods were discussed. The Belarusian side also proposed to consider the issue of organizing joint production of biologically active additives, herbal medicines ⁸⁵." In addition, the task is to expand the capabilities of the aforementioned Center for Traditional Chinese Medicine, where such procedures as acupuncture, manual therapy, and massage are now performed on its basis.

Finally, one of the promising partners of the Minsk region among Chinese regions is **the city of Chongqing**, the only municipality under central control in China, which is also the economic center of the upper reaches of the Yangtze River, where more than 32 million people live. This city is the stronghold of China's development strategy in the western part of China and the nodal point of the Belt and Road project. Logistics hubs, ports and customs infrastructure are being built here to participate in the development of logistics of the China-Europe Express. Chongqing is a modern production base of China, where the full chain of the electronic information industry and automotive industry is represented. Suffice it to say that in 2022, car production here amounted to more than two million cars, and 284 thousand units were exported.

⁸⁴ The Minsk Regional Executive Committee explained why the Chinese province of Guangdong is interesting for the region's economy [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/v-minoblispolkome-rasskazali-chem-dlja-ekonomiki-oblasti-interesna-kitajskaja-provintsija-guandun-593552-2023/>

⁸⁵ Minsk Region and Zhejiang Province Intend to Develop Cooperation in Traditional Medicine [Electronic Resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/minskaja-oblast-i-provintsija-chzhetszjan-namereny-razvivat-sotrudnichestvo-v-sfere-traditsionnoi-574675-2023/>

As for interregional relations, Chongqing and Minsk Oblast established sister city relations in 2017. With the launch of the regular service of the China Railway Express "Chongqing - Minsk", trade turnover between the parties has been growing every year. "In 2022, imports and exports between Chongqing and Belarus exceeded 500 million yuan, an increase of 54.8% year-on-year. Belarus is an important supplier of meat products and butter to Chongqing. Belarusian dairy products and confectionery are very popular among the city's residents ⁸⁶." In 2023, the parties will take new specific steps to further deepen trade and economic cooperation, establish humanitarian and cultural contacts. In particular, within the framework of the 2023 China Goods and Services Expo, which took place in late June - early July of this year in the Great Stone Industrial Park, where about 180 Chinese companies presented their products, a thematic exposition of the Chongqing Export Goods Exhibition Pavilion was also shown. More than 20 city enterprises displayed mechanical engineering products, including cars, motorcycles and components, on an area of about 300 square meters. In addition, official representatives of the Minsk region and Chongqing "discussed cooperation in mechanical engineering, food supplies to the Chinese region, and logistics ⁸⁷."

Vitebsk is also among the active participants in the Belarusian-Chinese interregional cooperation. **region**, which in 2022 exceeded the volume of deliveries to China almost twice, amounting to more than 55 million dollars. But back in 2006, the basis of the Belarusian region's exports to the Celestial Empire was represented by only 12 large items, of which 97 percent was a bundle of synthetic threads. "And according to the results of 2021, the export basket of the Vitebsk region expanded to 28 items, and its basis began to be formed by deliveries of agricultural products

⁸⁶ More than 20 enterprises from Chongqing will take part in the Exhibition of Chinese goods and services in the Great Stone [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/bole-20-predpriyati-iz-chuntsina-primit-uchastie-v-vystavke-kitajskih-tovarov-i-uslug-v-velikom-kamne-573747-2023/>

⁸⁷ Mechanical engineering, medicine, tourism: Minsk region and Chongqing discussed areas of cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/mashinostroenie-meditsina-turizm-minskaja-oblast-i-chuntsin-obsudili-napravleniya-sotrudnichestva-574541-2023/>

(meat, milk and dairy products) - about 70 percent ⁸⁸. " And today these deliveries also include dry confectionery, rapeseed oil, polyethylene, acrylic bundle, fiberglass, flax and wood processing products, peat, alcoholic beverages.

But recently, the interaction of the Vitebsk region with China has gone beyond the scope of purchase and sale, as the parties are moving "to the next level - exchange of technologies, assistance in their refinement, in their research, development of new types of products" ⁸⁹ in order to enter the plane of attracting investors, investing Vitebsk funds in Chinese territory and mastering new technologies. In addition, the stake in development is made on the educational, scientific and cultural segments. Let us recall that the Vitebsk region has signed eight bilateral documents - agreements, protocols, programs - on cooperation, established and maintains regular contacts at the level of executive authorities, organizations and companies with four provinces and one city in China. In addition, 19 bilateral documents on cooperation of cities and districts of the Vitebsk region with Chinese partners have been concluded.

The most intensive interaction between the Belarusian northern region and **the province is observed Heilongjiang** , which is located in northern China, where rice is grown and agriculture is generally very developed. Over the past 18 years, the parties have created a good contractual and legal basis for relations: 1) Agreement on cooperation in trade, economic, scientific, technical, humanitarian, cultural and other spheres (2005); 2) Agreement on the establishment of sister city relations (2011); 3) Cooperation development program for 2016-2020. "Polotsk, Novopolotsk and Vitebsk once concluded sister city agreements with the cities of this region of the Celestial Empire ⁹⁰.

⁸⁸ Mishin, A. What are the prospects for cooperation between the Vitebsk region and the provinces of China? / A. Mishin // [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL : https://vitbichi.by/news/ekonomika/analitik_obvasnit_kakovy_perspektivy_sotrudnichestva_vitebskov_oblasti_i_provintsiv_kitavya/

⁸⁹ Subbotin: cooperation with China goes beyond purchase and sale, into the plane of investment projects [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/subbotin-sotrudnichestvo-s-kitaem-vyehodit-za-ramki-kupli-prodazhi-v-ploskost-investproektov-598640-2023/>

⁹⁰ Pushnyakova, A. Grocery products, MDF boards: Vitebsk region will present the region's potential in Harbin in June / A. Pushnyakova // [Electronic resource]. - 2023.

" In May 2023, at the XI International Economic Forum "Innovations. Investments. Prospects" in Vitebsk, enterprises from Heilongjiang Province expressed interest in partnership with Vitebsk meat producers, and also "expect to establish mutually beneficial cooperation with Orsha and Dubrovno flax processors in the near future, share their developments and discuss the possibility of supplying modern equipment"⁹¹. And in June of this year, at the international trade and economic exhibition in Harbin, the administrative center of Heilongjiang, a memorandum of intent to establish friendly relations between the Vitebsk concern "Meat and Dairy Products" and an enterprise from the city of Suihua, the same province, was already signed. In addition, the Belarusian side is interested in cooperation in the field of electrical equipment production and instrument making, since the Chinese partners have very extensive competencies in this area. So, in the near future, new promising projects in this regional interaction may appear.

Another – new – partner of the Vitebsk region in China is **the province Jiangxi**, with which the Belarusian region signed a cooperation agreement in the fields of trade, logistics, investment, economics, education, healthcare, sports and tourism in October 2022. "As another practical step, it was decided to establish direct interaction between the Vitebsk FEZ and the special economic zones of Jiangxi Province and their residents in order to study the issue of creating joint ventures in Belarus and using cross-border trade mechanisms by Belarusian exporters in China"⁹². The discussion also focused on expanding the supply of Belarusian products to China via the Orsha-Nanchang reverse container train and exchanging practical experience in the investment sphere. After all, the city of Orsha has established cooperation with the administrative center of this province, Nanchang, in the field of

- URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/prodovolstvennye-tovary-mdf-plity-vitebskaja-oblast-predstavit-v-ijune-v-harbine-potentsial-regiona-567209-2023/>

⁹¹ Pushnyakova, A. Chinese industrialists intend to establish cooperation with enterprises of the Vitebsk region / A. Pushnyakova // [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/kitaiskie-promyshlenniki-namereny-naladit-sotrudnichestvo-s-predpriyatijami-vitebskoj-oblasti-567149-2023/>

⁹² The Vitebsk FEZ and the Jiangxi Province Special Economic Zones will establish direct interaction [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/sez-vitebsk-i-osobve-ekonomicheskie-zony-provintsii-tsziansi-naladiat-priamoe-vzaimodejstvie-566987-2023/>

innovative and traditional medicine at the level of individual medical institutions. In December 2022, a document of intent on cooperation was signed by City Hospital No. 2 of the Orsha Central Polyclinic and the Hongdu Hospital of Traditional Chinese Medicine, which “provides for the exchange of practical and scientific experience, medical technologies, mutual internships and advanced training of medical workers, as well as the implementation of projects in the field of traditional Chinese medicine, including physiotherapy, reflexology, electro-acupuncture, acupuncture, qigong , on the basis of the Orsha Central Polyclinic”⁹³.

As for the third Chinese partner of the Vitebsk region – **the province Shandong** , back in 2005, the parties signed a memorandum of cooperation, and in October 2019, they adopted an Agreement on the Establishment of Friendship and Cooperation Relations, in which they "defined the development of an effective mechanism for interaction in the field of trade and investment, the development of cooperative ties ..." as priorities for the development of partnership relations⁹⁴. In February 2023, an Agreement on the Establishment of Friendly Relations was signed between Novopolotsk and the city of Liaocheng, Shandong Province. At the same time, the parties noted the importance of developing interregional relations as one of the key links in bilateral cooperation. The implementation of a number of joint projects was also discussed. It should be noted that in order to strengthen Belarusian-Chinese ties, the Vitebsk Region and Shandong Province regularly hold joint events and conclude bilateral documents. "Previously, agreements were signed on establishing friendly relations at the municipal level between the cities of Vitebsk and Jinan, Novopolotsk and Weihai, Orsha and Qingdao, Polotsk and Dezhou, Glubokoe and Jining”⁹⁵. And in

⁹³ Orsha and Chinese Nanchang agreed to exchange medical experience [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/orsha-i-kitajskij-nanchan-dogovorilis-ob-obmene-meditsinskim-opytom-540364-2022/>

⁹⁴ Zalessky, B. From regions to innovations. Peculiarities of the Belarusian-Chinese strategic partnership / Boris Zalessky. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing , 2021. – C. 11.

⁹⁵ Novopolotsk and Chinese Liaocheng established friendly relations [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/novopolotsk-i-kitajskij-liaochen-ustanovili-druzhestvennye-svizi-550863-2023/>

September 2023, three more memorandums of cooperation were signed: in innovation, education and youth policy. "Based on these and following the negotiations, roadmaps for interaction on specific projects and areas of activity will be developed"⁹⁶.

Finally, in November 2023, within the framework of the 6th China International Import Expo in Shanghai, where more than 10 enterprises of the Belarusian northern region took part, including the Vitebsk concern "Meat and Dairy Products", the Polotsk Dairy Plant, the Verkhnedvinsk Butter and Cheese Factory, the Lepel MKK branch of the Vitebsk Meat-Packing Plant, the Vitba confectionery factory, the Naftan plant, the Polotsk-Steklovolokno enterprise and the textile manufacturer "Orsha Flax Mill", the Vitebsk Regional Executive Committee signed a memorandum of cooperation with the Zonghai company Business Management (Jinan) on the creation of the China Industry Park - in Vitebsk, as well as the Belarus Industry Park in Shandong Province - on the Qingdao site, where enterprises will be able to present their products, work out issues of their distribution in various regions of China. This will be one of the leading sites from which Vitebsk goods will be distributed. This will be a growth point for the Vitebsk region's exports, which they want to "maximum use, and not only for the sale of goods. <...> This is probably one of the most recent and promising projects"⁹⁷. All this generally suggests that the Vitebsk region intends to even more actively develop cooperation with Chinese regions in a wide range of areas in 2024, including in the economy, trade, science, engineering, technology, as well as in the fields of education, healthcare, and sports.

Now let's turn once again to the 6th China International Import Expo (China International Import Expo 2023) in Shanghai, where the **Brest Region** Day was held in November of this year , presenting the economic, cultural, tourist, educational and medical

⁹⁶ Kochetov, S. Vitebsk region and the Chinese province of Shandong intend to develop and expand partnership in innovation activities, in the field of education and youth policy / S. Kochetov // [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL : <https://www.vitbichi.by/news/ekonomika/vitebskaya-oblast-i-kitavskaya-provintsiya-shandong-namereny-razvivat-i-rasshirvat-partnerstvo-v-inno/>

⁹⁷ Subbotin: Import exhibition in Shanghai helps enterprises to declare themselves and find partners in China [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/subbotin-vystavka-importa-v-shanhae-pomogaet-predpriyatijam-zajavit-o-sebe-i-naiti-partnerov-v-kitae-598641-2023/>

potential of the Belarusian region with a focus on exporting goods and services to China. It should be noted that this exhibition forum was attended by “more than 150 countries representing regions of Asia, Africa and Europe”⁹⁸ and where various thematic sections were presented, including the automotive industry, high-tech equipment and information technology, medical equipment and drugs, consumer goods, trade in services, food and agricultural products. In this regard, the participation of Belarusian companies at the import exhibition in Shanghai is of strategic importance. After all, China is one of the largest and most dynamically developing markets in the world and “provides an opportunity for Belarusian companies to expand their horizons and establish business ties with potential partners and buyers, including Chinese state corporations”⁹⁹. An important detail: if at the 5th China Forum International Import At Expo 2022 in Shanghai, 27 organizations from the food industry, logistics, science and education participated in the Belarusian exposition, but this time more than 70 representatives from Belarus took part in this exhibition.

As for **the Brest region**, it is among the leaders among Belarusian regions in terms of trade and economic relations with the PRC. Suffice it to say that “in the first eight months of the current [2023] year, the volume of trade [with China] amounted to almost \$280 million and increased almost one and a half times. Thanks to contacts with business, Chinese foreign direct investment is already growing by 40%”¹⁰⁰. At the import exhibition in Shanghai, the Brest region demonstrated a wide range of goods and services that interested consumers not only from China, but also from other countries. In particular, at the collective stand of the Brestmyasomolprom concern, the Brest

⁹⁸ What will be the national exposition of Belarus at the international import exhibition in Shanghai [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/kakoj-budet-natsionalnaja-ekspozitsija-belarusi-na-mezhdunarodnoj-vystavke-importa-v-shanhaj-582374-2023/>

⁹⁹ International Import Expo Opens in Shanghai [Electronic Resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/mezhdunarodnaja-vystavka-importa-otkrvas-v-shanhaj-597935-2023/>

¹⁰⁰ Chinese partners are interested in creating production and logistics companies in the Brest region [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/kitajskim-partneram-interesno-sozdanie-proizvodstv-i-logisticheskikh-kompanij-v-brestskoj-oblasti-598059-2023/>

meat-packing plant, the Berezovsky meat-canning plant, the Kobrin butter and cheese making plant, the Luninets dairy plants, and the Pruzhany dairy plant presented their products with tasting. The educational potential of the region was presented by the Brest State Technical University, and the medical potential was presented by the Brest Regional Clinical Hospital.

As a result, representatives of the Belarusian region signed 18 bilateral documents at the exhibition: seven agreements, four memorandums, six commercial contracts, one action plan. They concern various areas, including trade and economic cooperation, cooperation in the field of education, healthcare, and tourism ¹⁰¹. For example, agreements were signed by: the Brest Regional Executive Committee with two corporations engaged in the creation of transport and forwarding centers and the development of e-commerce; Brest State Technical University with the Hubei Institute of International Business and Economics. As for memorandums on the development of cooperation, they were concluded by: the Brest Free Economic Zone and the Brest Branch of the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry with the Administration for the Management of the Coastal Park of the Comprehensive Bonded Zone in the city of Shenyang, which is the administrative center of Liaoning Province; the Sports and Tourism Department of the Brest Regional Executive Committee with the Belarusian-Chinese Center for Culture and Development of the PRC. Speaking about commercial contracts, they primarily concern the supply of Brest food products, primarily processed meat and dairy products, and are valued at more than twenty million dollars.

A separate conversation is about the sister city relations of the Brest region with Chinese partners. The Brest region has four sister cities in the PRC - the provinces of Liaoning, Shanxi, Anhui and Hubei. In November 2023, representatives of the Belarusian region, in addition to the import exhibition in Shanghai, held active negotiations in **Anhui Province**. The agreement on establishing friendly relations with it was signed back in September 2017. This

¹⁰¹ Gorodetsky, D. Commercial contracts and new cooperation agreements concluded in China / D. Gorodetsky // [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/interview/view/v-kitae-zakljuchili-kommercheskie-kontrakty-i-novye-soglashenija-o-sotrudnichestve-8970/>

time, the parties adopted an action plan for the development of trade, economic, scientific, technical and cultural cooperation for 2023-2025. In addition, agreements were concluded on establishing sister city relations between the cities of Brest and Hefei, Berezovsky District and the city of Bengbu, and the Brest Regional Clinical Hospital agreed to interact with Anhui Medical University. We will add that Brest and Hefei already intend to draw up a roadmap for cooperation. The main points to find common ground are "the production sphere, transport and logistics, education, medicine, culture... ¹⁰²"

Speaking about the economic aspect of cooperation between the twin cities, the Chinese partners are particularly interested in creating production facilities and logistics companies in the Belarusian region. In turn, the Belarusian side "is ready to offer services for converting wagons from the narrow European gauge to the broad gauge, as well as implementing a project to create a transport and logistics hub in the Brest region ¹⁰³." The fact is that Brest is a nodal point of the Chinese "Silk Road" and an important element of the cross-border corridor for promoting the project "Freight trains from China to Europe." In addition, the Brest region is ready to provide the Chinese side with a site for implementing a project to build an educational center. And this is only the beginning of the implementation of new joint mutually beneficial projects.

All these facts indicate that Belarusian-Chinese interregional cooperation is gradually reaching a new level of cooperation in the context of all-weather and comprehensive strategic partnership. So in the near future, the parties will demonstrate even more innovative approaches so that it would be much easier and simpler for the regions to work on joint projects and programs.

¹⁰² Brest and Chinese Hefei intend to draw up a roadmap for cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/brest-i-kitajskij-hefei-namereny-sostavit-dorozhnyu-kartu-dlja-sotrudnichestva-599168-2023/>

¹⁰³ Brest and Bereza acquired twin cities in the Chinese province of Anhui [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/brest-i-bereza-obzavelis-pobratimami-v-kitajskoj-provintsii-anhoj-598126-2023/>

China: Promoting Exporters and Assisting Foreign Importers

Back in early March 2023, the People's Republic of China (PRC) and the Republic of Belarus adopted a Joint Statement on the Further Development of All-Weather and Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in the New Era, in which the parties agreed to promote the development of bilateral trade and economic cooperation and steadily increase the volume of bilateral trade. One of the tools for increasing and diversifying Belarusian-Chinese trade today is the use of the exchange mechanism, which has been actively developing since 2019.

At the end of 2022, the amount of transactions made by Chinese companies at the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange (BUCE) increased by almost 15 percent and amounted to about \$53 million. At the beginning of 2023, the number of participants in trading sessions from China also increased significantly - from 67 to 113, two of which had the status of exchange brokers. "Last year, sawn timber, rapeseed oil, dry milk, wet blue leather and synthetic fibers were supplied to China through the exchange platform. In turn, Belarusian enterprises purchased Chinese-made ferrous metal products and soybean meal at BUCE ¹⁰⁴. "

The positive dynamics of the volumes of Belarusian-Chinese exchange trade was achieved thanks to active work to attract residents of the PRC to exchange trades, as well as by creating favorable conditions for representatives of Chinese business. In particular, the accreditation procedure on the exchange was simplified, the possibility of settlements on transactions in Chinese yuan was provided, and consulting support in Chinese was organized. In addition, special export trading sessions focused on the Chinese market were regularly held during 2022, which allowed Chinese importers to buy Belarusian sawn timber with delivery to points convenient for them in China. In

¹⁰⁴ The amount of transactions of Chinese companies on BUCE increased by 14% [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/summa-sdelok-kitajskih-kompanij-na-butb-vozrosla-na-14-551264-2023/>

2023, BUCE expected to even more actively increase supplies to this country of a number of domestic products. In particular, sawn timber, vegetable oils and meat and dairy products.

For example, in March 2023, the Chinese company **SUMEC expressed interest in cooperation with BUTB. International Trading**, which provides about three percent of the total volume of timber and lumber imports to this country. The parties considered "two forms of interaction: the company's participation in exchange trading as a visitor with the conclusion of transactions on its own behalf and at its own expense, or obtaining the status of an exchange broker, which allows attracting new buyers from China to the Belarusian trading platform ¹⁰⁵." Currently, the geography of SUMEC International Trading's purchases is quite diversified. Timber products are imported from Brazil, Canada, Congo, Russia, Finland and other countries, including Belarus, where the company recently opened a subsidiary. At the same time, the Chinese side is ready to purchase Belarusian lumber through BUCE on a regular basis, provided that the price offers of domestic wood processors are competitive and the rhythm of deliveries is guaranteed. Let us recall that in March 2023, at a special session at BUCE, focused on the Chinese market, Belarusian bidders placed applications for the sale of lumber in the amount of more than 100 thousand cubic meters.

In April 2023, the Chinese corporation **Xiamen Xiangyu Group Corporation (XMXYG)**, which is included in the list of 500 largest companies in the world according to Fortune magazine, confirmed its readiness to increase the volume of purchases of wood processing products at BUCE auctions, as well as to develop cooperation in other promising product areas. Since March 2022, its subsidiary, **Xiamen Xiangyu Superchain Supply Chain Development Co., Ltd.**, has been regularly participating in lumber trading on the Belarusian exchange platform. "During this time, XMXYG purchased almost 10 thousand cubic meters of

¹⁰⁵ BUTB agreed on cooperation with one of the largest Chinese importers of forest products [Electronic resource]. — 2023. — URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/butb-dogovorilas-o-sotrudnichestve-s-odnim-iz-krupnejshih-kitajskih-importerov-lesoproduksii-553935-2023/>

lumber worth about \$2 million through BUCE ¹⁰⁶. " Thanks to the exchange, the company has already purchased four trains of lumber and is determined to continue cooperation in the same vein, gradually increasing the volume of purchases. XMYG is also interested in expanding the list of goods that the corporation purchases at BUCE, and not only in the forestry segment. We are talking about the possibility of participating in trades in agricultural products and, first of all, rapeseed oil, which is in stable demand in China and was already supplied to the Chinese market through BUCE in 2022. Then it was sold for more than 42 million dollars, including within the framework of import transactions made by Chinese participants. Therefore, given the significant production capacity of Belarusian oil extraction plants, this area may become a new growth point for the Chinese corporation in Belarus.

Another partner of BUCE, which is interested in interaction with the Belarusian exchange platform, was the Chinese company **Beijing in May 2023. Huibaocheng Technology** . This importer purchases dairy products and vegetable oils, which are widely used in the food industry in China. The company plans to "purchase about 10 thousand tons of rapeseed oil on the exchange every month with the possibility of increasing supplies in the future ¹⁰⁷." The Chinese importer is interested in Belarusian dry milk, so it will actively participate in the bidding.

In June 2023, another large Chinese importing company announced its intention to increase purchases of sawn timber products at BUTB - this is **Taomu (Suzhou) Information Technology** . The fact is that, based on the results of five months of 2023, the company has already purchased about 53 thousand cubic meters of this product through the exchange, which is almost twice as much as last year's figure for the same period. But this is far from the limit. And by the end of 2023, "it is planned to

¹⁰⁶ Chinese corporation is ready to increase purchases of Belarusian sawn timber through BUTB [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/kitaiskaja-korporatsija-gotova-naraschivat-zakupki-belorusskih-pilomaterialov-cherez-butb-560768-2023>

¹⁰⁷ BUTB expects to increase supplies of sawn timber, vegetable oils, meat and dairy products to China [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/butb-rasschityvaet-narastit-postavki-v-kitaj-pilomaterialov-rastitelnih-masel-mjasa-i-molochki-567273-2023/>

purchase at least another 20 thousand cubic meters. Thus, Belarus can enter the top three markets from which Taomu (Suzhou) Information Technology imports woodworking products ¹⁰⁸." It is interesting that in 2022, the strategic partners of this company for the supply of sawn timber were Russia, Canada and Sweden, and Belarus occupied only fourth place.

Let us recall once again that at the beginning of 2023, the number of participants in BUCE trading sessions from China already amounted to 113. And as of November 27 of the same year, 152 of them were already accredited on the Belarusian exchange platform. "Based on the results of 10 months [of 2023], China has become the largest export destination for Belarusian participants in exchange trading. <...> As a result, compared to January-October last year, the volume of export transactions increased by two and a half times" ¹⁰⁹ and amounted to almost 60 million dollars.

One of the primary tasks that BUCE will solve in 2024 with its Chinese partners is to expand the range of goods from Belarus and China involved in mutual exchange trade. It should be noted that "Belarusian sawn timber, rapeseed oil, meat products and dry milk are exported to China through the exchange. At the same time, the exchange mechanism is becoming increasingly popular among Chinese businesses, ensuring high positive dynamics in the amount of transactions ¹¹⁰." For the further development of these processes in Belarus and China, it is planned to focus on small and medium-sized businesses, primarily manufacturers of import-substituting goods. In addition, it is planned to ensure further diversification of the product range through targeted work of BUCE with industry business associations and chambers of

¹⁰⁸ A major Chinese importer intends to increase purchases of sawn timber at BUTB [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/krupnyi-kitajskij-importer-nameren-naraschivat-zakupki-piloproduktsii-na-butb-571701-2023/>

¹⁰⁹ Osmolovsky: BUTB will provide comprehensive support to Belarusian exporters [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/osmolovskij-butb-okazhet-kompleksnuju-podderzhku-belorusskim-eksporteram-599485-2023/>

¹¹⁰ BUTB and the Chinese Embassy have defined priorities for cooperation in the trade and economic sphere [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/butb-i-posolstvo-kitaja-opredelili-prioritetv-vzaimodejstviya-v-torgovo-ekonomicheskoi-sfere-594539-2023/>

commerce and industry in various regions of China, which "will allow establishing interaction with both manufacturers of products in demand in Belarus and potential consumers of Belarusian goods" ¹¹¹. "

In particular, in July 2023, BUCE and the **Xinjiang Asia-Europe International Trade Center (AEEX)**, the operator of the **Asia electronic trading platform**, **agreed to increase exports to China. Europe Exchange**, which will directly attract Chinese importers to Belarusian exchange trades. At the same time, attention will be focused on "the regions through which the New Silk Road passes. First of all, these are Shanghai, Taicang and Xinjiang" ¹¹², where there are AEEX offices that are already establishing interaction with representatives of Chinese business interested in working through BUCE.

And in August 2023, the **China National Forestry Corporation announced its intention to expand cooperation with BUCE**, which plans not only to increase purchases of Belarusian lumber, but also to sell Chinese-made goods through the Belarusian import substitution platform. The parties also reached an agreement to study the possibility of importing Belarusian rapeseed oil and dry milk to China as the most liquid commodity items. "In this context, the issue of accreditation of the corporation as a stock broker is also being considered, which will allow it to attract business entities from other sectors of the economy to BUCE" ¹¹³. "

Another fact: in September 2023, the **Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region expressed its interest in developing cooperation with BUCE**, which "has four main features: a vast territory, huge reserves of natural resources, highly developed

¹¹¹ Prospects for the development of exchange trade between Belarus and China were discussed at a business forum in Shanghai [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/perspektivy-razvitiya-birzhevoi-torgovli-belarusi-i-kitaja-obsudili-na-biznes-forume-v-shanhae-597700-2023/>

¹¹² Xinjiang Asian-European Trade Center to Help Increase Exports to China via BUCE [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/sintszijskij-azijatsko-evropejskij-torgovno-tsentr-pomozhet-narastit-eksport-v-kitaj-cherez-butb-576501-2023/>

¹¹³ China Forestry Corporation intends to expand cooperation with BUTB [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/kitajskaja-lesopromyshlennaja-korporatsija-namerena-rasshirit-sotrudnichestvo-s-butb-581070-2023/>

agriculture and a powerful energy industry ¹¹⁴." The Chinese side is confident that exchange trading can play a key role in creating favorable conditions for companies from this region of China to do business in Belarus. And in this regard, BUCE, with its wide import and export capabilities, is able to simplify the activities of companies from Inner Mongolia on the Belarusian market.

Finally, in November 2023, within the framework of the 13th China International Timber Trade Conference, which was held in the administrative center of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region - Nanning, a memorandum of cooperation in the field of electronic exchange trading was signed by BUCE and **the China Forest and Wood Products Trade Association (CTWPDA)** to assist Chinese enterprises in entering the Belarusian market. Let us recall that in less than 11 months of 2023, "over 467 thousand cubic meters of Belarusian sawn timber were sold on the Chinese market. This is almost five times more than in January-November last year. At the same time, working with domestic suppliers, Chinese importers are actively using the mechanism of exchange-directed transactions, the volume of which has already reached 237 thousand cubic meters in just a few months ¹¹⁵." In this regard, the establishment of partnership relations between BUTB and CTWPDA will not only help find new buyers for sawn timber produced in Belarus, but will also provide an additional incentive for the development of Belarusian-Chinese cooperation in the exchange sector.

In total, 162 Chinese residents were already accredited at BUCE in January 2024, which is 51 more than in January 2023. "At the same time, the amount of transactions concluded by Chinese bidders increased by 2.7 times - from \$30.4 million in 2022 to \$80.6 million in 2023." ¹¹⁶This happened mainly due to

¹¹⁴ Belarus and China discussed prospects for the development of exchange trading [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-kitaj-obsudili-perspektivy-razvitiya-birzhevoj-torgovli-590151-2023/>

¹¹⁵ BUTB and the China Forest Trade Association signed a memorandum of cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/butb-i-kitajskaja-assotsiatsija-torgovli-lesom-podpisali-memorandum-o-sotrudnichestve-602012-2023/>

¹¹⁶ New broker BUTB will deal with import-substituting goods from China [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/novvi->

the export of Belarusian products. These were mainly supplies of sawn timber, rapeseed oil, dry milk and petrochemical products. If we talk about imports from China, "then Belarusian bidders mainly purchased products made of ferrous and non-ferrous metals through BUCE ¹¹⁷." For this reason, BUCE plans for 2024 not only to further increase the volume of export sales, but also to expand the range of Chinese-made goods. Moreover, in 2023, about a quarter of transactions on the BUTB industrial and consumer goods platform involved products of Chinese origin.

Developing the theme of import substitution, we note that in January 2024, the **Shanghai company Duxia Industry and Trade Co. , Ltd** has become the first stockbroker from China to specialize in the supply of import-substituting products to BUCE and attract manufacturers of goods in demand in Belarus – industrial and consumer – to the exchange platform. It should be noted that this Shanghai-based company traditionally produces printing machines and equipment for the production and processing of plastic packaging, which are sold not only in China, but are also exported abroad, mainly to the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Europe. As a broker, BUCE's Chinese partner intends to attract manufacturers of import-substituting goods that are in high demand on the Belarusian market to exchange trading. This primarily concerns electrical equipment, household appliances, video and sound recording equipment, measuring instruments, industrial tools, as well as components and spare parts for machines and mechanisms. As a result, the purchasing opportunities of Belarusian participants in the trades will be significantly expanded, and the appearance of Chinese manufacturing plants on the Belarusian electronic platform will provide more favorable conditions for concluding transactions. And one more fact in this regard: the new broker was accredited at BUCE with the assistance of the exchange's representative office in Shanghai, which opened in 2023 to expand

[broker-butb-zajmetsja-postavkami-importozameschajuschih-tovarov-iz-kitaja-611688-2024/](https://www.belta.by/economics/view/butb-i-administratsija-kitajskogo-shenijana-dogovorilis-o-sotrudnichestve-v-sfere-birzhevoj-torgovli-606169-2023/)

¹¹⁷ BUCE and the administration of the Chinese city of Shenyang agreed on cooperation in the field of exchange trading [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/butb-i-administratsija-kitajskogo-shenijana-dogovorilis-o-sotrudnichestve-v-sfere-birzhevoj-torgovli-606169-2023/>

the pool of Chinese users of the exchange platform, promote Belarusian goods on the Chinese market and organize the supply of import-substituting products in demand on the Belarusian market. And with the participation of the representative office, 19 new Chinese residents have already been accredited at BUCE.

By the way, already in the new year 2024, BUTB established partnership relations with the Chinese holding **Osell Group**, which unites a number of electronic trading platforms for Chinese manufacturers and facilitates their entry into foreign markets. The fact is that the “digital ecosystem Osell Grop is used by thousands of companies from various industries and agriculture, and the goal of cooperation with BUCE is to involve representatives of Chinese business in cross-border trade on the Belarusian exchange platform ¹¹⁸.” And already in January of this year, BUCE and Osell Grop organized a round table for business circles in Wuxi, Jiangsu Province, given the high level of economic development and significant export potential of the province. It is expected that the results of this event will appear in the near future.

Returning to the topic of Belarusian exports to China via BUCE, it should be noted that this trend will dominate in 2024 as well. Especially in terms of successful deliveries of Belarusian woodworking products to the Chinese market. This is evidenced by the figures that show that “in 2023, Chinese companies purchased 501 thousand cubic meters of sawn timber on the exchange platform, which is 4 times more than in 2022. Over 53% of the total sales volume were provided by exchange-directed transactions. At the same time, about 30 buyers from China regularly participated in the trading ¹¹⁹.” This year, BUCE will further expand the circle of buyers of these deliveries in China.

For example, on the eve of 2024, as part of the work to diversify sales markets and increase exports of the Belarusian forestry complex, BUTB agreed on accreditation with the **BNBM**

¹¹⁸ BUTB began cooperating with a major Chinese trading platform [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/butb-nachala-sotrudniczat-s-krupnoj-kitajskoj-torgovoj-platformoj-612305-2024/>

¹¹⁹ . BUTB expands the circle of buyers of sawn timber from China [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/butb-rasshirjaet-krug-pokupatelej-pilomaterialov-iz-kitaja-607633-2023/>

company Group Forest Products , which is a subsidiary of one of the largest construction holdings in this country - **China National Building Materials Group** , which is one of the leading importers of round timber and lumber. In the near future after the first trial purchase of BNB Group Forest Products plans to gradually increase volumes based on demand dynamics in China and deliver to warehouses in Changxing (Zhejiang Province) and Chengdu (Sichuan Province), and then ship to end consumers.

The above mentioned company **Taomu (Suzhou) Information Technology** , which became the largest foreign buyer of sawn timber at BUCE by the end of 2023, plans to scale up its business in Belarus. Last year, the company purchased more than 140 thousand cubic meters of sawn timber on the exchange, which is almost four times more than in 2022. In 2024, the company will continue to increase its purchase volumes. "At the same time, we are talking not only about increasing the import of sawn timber through BUCE, but also about purchasing other Belarusian goods that are popular in China ¹²⁰." These are dry milk, rapeseed oil, sugar. In order to further deepen cooperation in the field of exchange trading, the parties also agreed to work out the issue of integrating the BUCE platform and the Taomu (Suzhou) electronic marketplace . Information Technology , which already has banking and logistics services connected, which will allow Belarusian exporters accredited at BUCE to better and more effectively promote their products on the Chinese market, interacting with their end consumers.

All these facts indicate that in 2024, the use of the exchange mechanism will reach a qualitatively new level of expansion and diversification of Belarusian-Chinese trade and will give a powerful impetus to the relations of all-weather and comprehensive partnership between the two countries in the new era.

¹²⁰ The largest foreign buyer of sawn timber at BUTB is ready to scale up business in Belarus [Electronic resource]. — 2024. — URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/krupnejshij-inostrannij-pokupatel-pilomaterialov-na-butb-gotov-masshtabirovat-biznes-v-belarusi-610932-2024/>

China: University Rectors Forum a collaborative platform for innovative approaches

In November 2023, at the First Forum of Rectors of Higher Education Institutions of the Republic of Belarus and the People's Republic of China in Minsk, an Agreement was signed to establish the Chinese-Belarusian Association of Universities, which included more than 80 universities in Belarus and China. At that time, more than 560 direct university agreements between the two countries were in force. And a plan for the implementation of flagship projects between universities was being prepared for signing. In July 2023, this plan included 35 items, and now there are more than 70. They are constantly being added and expanded. This fact suggests that the new association is a truly new qualitative level of Belarusian-Chinese relations in the field of education and scientific research. After all, as a result, the parties are moving "to create joint associations of universities with high-tech enterprises of our countries, at the request of which scientific research, experimental design work and the commercialization of our university scientists for the economy will be carried out ¹²¹. "

Speaking about humanitarian cooperation between Belarus and China in general, this association has already become a calling card in such areas as inter-university cooperation, joint training of specialists and joint research. In addition, "such an association is of great importance for training even more Sinologists and Belarusian specialists who know the languages of our two countries well, who understand Chinese and Belarusian culture" ¹²² and opens up many opportunities for further development of cooperation between Belarus and China in the field of education. Many Belarusian universities, which promote joint educational

¹²¹ Belarus and China signed an agreement to establish an association of universities [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-kitaj-podpisali-soglashenie-o-sozdanii-assotsiatsii-universitetov-600861-2023/>

¹²² Xie Xiaoyong: The Chinese-Belarusian Association of Universities will become the calling card of humanitarian cooperation between the two countries [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/se-sjajun-kitajsko-belorusskaja-assotsiatsija-vuzov-stanet-vizitnoj-kartochkoi-gumanitarnogo-600900-2023/>

structures with Chinese partners, have become active participants in the new association. In particular, at that time, "seven joint projects were already functioning: three laboratories, two centers and two institutes. 40 joint educational programs of the first and second levels of higher education are being implemented, 10 of which have been developed over the past two years ¹²³." In this context, we note three Belarusian universities: Belarusian State University (BSU), Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno (GrSU), Brest State Technical University (BrSTU).

Let's start with BSU: as of November 2023, "more than 80 cooperation agreements have been signed with 55 Chinese educational institutions, 72% of the total number of foreign students at BSU are Chinese citizens ¹²⁴." Since 2007, Dalian Polytechnic University (DPU) has become a strategic partner of the Belarusian university. The most significant project recently was the opening of joint institutes DPU-BSU and BSU-DPU. And in June 2023, the parties considered the prospects of holding mirror summer schools on the basis of the two universities and opening a new specialty "Photonics" on the basis of DPU-BSU in the 2024/2025 academic year.

Xi'an Foreign Studies University became BSU's new partner in China in April 2023. The memorandum of understanding considers cooperation "in the field of regional studies and country studies of the Eurasian continent, history and ethnic issues of the peoples of Central Asia, Russian-Soviet Oriental studies ¹²⁵." The Chinese university began operating in 1952 as the Northwest College of the Russian Language, which was one of the first to teach foreign languages. Now it includes 23 faculties and educational institutes, where about 20 thousand students, master's

¹²³ Zaleski, B. Hope for a Positive Future. Dynamics of Partnerships in the Context of Economic Realism / Boris Zaleski. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2023. – P. 103.

¹²⁴ "Photonics" and summer schools. BSU and Dalian Polytechnic University develop cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/fotonika-i-letnie-shkolny-bgu-i-dalianskij-politehnicheskij-universitet-razvivajut-sotrudnichestvo-571808-2023/>

¹²⁵ BSU and Xi'an Foreign Studies University signed a memorandum of understanding [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/bgu-i-sianskij-universitet-inostramyh-jazykov-podpisali-memorandum-o-vzaimoponimani-563650-2023/>

students and postgraduates from 37 countries study and where 20 foreign languages are taught, including Belarusian.

And in November 2023, BSU signed two more new documents with Chinese partners. First, this is a memorandum of understanding with the Sichuan University of Foreign Languages, which provides for prospects for cooperation in the field of regional studies, linguistics and Belarusian studies. After all, the Center for the Study of Belarus has been operating at this Chinese university since 2019. Secondly, this is an agreement on the exchange of students with the China University of Political Science and Law, which develops "a partnership within the framework of the memorandum of understanding between the universities, which has been in effect since March 2023, and concerns the training of graduates of the Chinese university in legal specialties in the BSU master's program, the provision of grant support for the implementation of academic mobility programs ¹²⁶." At the same time, the issue of the Chinese university joining the activities of the Center for Studies of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, created by BSU jointly with Qingdao University, was also considered.

Interaction with China in the field of education is one of the strategic areas of international cooperation of another Belarusian university – Grodno State University, which the first agreement with Chinese partners was signed back in 2001 - with the South-Central University of Economics and Law. Today, the Grodno university has 14 partners from different provinces of China. At the same time, interaction is carried out in a wide range of areas: joint educational programs, academic exchanges, joint research projects. And in October 2023, Grodno State University signed an agreement on international cooperation with the Shijiazhuang Engineering Professional College, which implies long-term cooperation in the field of introducing scientific developments into the educational process, developing scientific potential and ensuring high quality professional training of specialists in the field of academic mobility, developing online training. It remains

¹²⁶ BSU expands partnership with China, two new agreements signed [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/bgu-rasshirjaet-partnerskie-sviasi-s-kitaem-podpisanv-dva-novyh-soglashenija-598631-2023/>

only to add that over five years, more than 500 Chinese citizens have received bachelor's and master's degrees at Grodno State University, and two graduate students from China successfully defended their PhD dissertations. Today, more than 100 students from the PRC are studying at the Yanka Kupala Grodno State University ¹²⁷. And more. Grodno State University is the first of the Belarusian regional universities to begin studying Chinese in courses with a three-year training program. Over the course of five years, more than 600 people have completed the course.

As for Brest State Technical University, in November 2023 it signed a cooperation agreement with Anhui Wenda Institute of Information Engineering. This The university, located in the Chinese city of Hefei, became the 15th educational institution of China to sign a document on cooperation with BrSTU. The partners outlined the initial priorities for beneficial cooperation. In particular, graduates of the Chinese institute will be able to continue their education in the master's program at Brest University. In addition, Belarusian and Chinese teachers will conduct joint scientific research and develop teaching materials. A more distant prospect is the creation of joint educational programs. Let us recall that BrSTU has already concluded 170 cooperation agreements with universities in 35 countries in Europe, Asia, Africa, and Latin America. The Chinese vector of cooperation is one of the priorities. For example, "for more than 15 years, joint training of specialists in the field of road construction, accounting, and automation has been carried out with the Hohhot Professional Institute. Last year, a pilot program for training mechanical engineers was launched with Xinxiang University ¹²⁸. " And the Hebei Institute of International Business and Economics plans to create a joint program with BrSTU to train students in the field of electronic business. In addition, the Brest university has undertaken to carry out scientific work in the field of information

¹²⁷ GrSU and Shijiazhuang Engineering College agreed on cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/grgu-i-shitsziachzhanskij-inzhenernyj-kolledzh-dogovorilis-o-sotrudnichestve-595101-2023/>

¹²⁸ Brest Technical University will cooperate with the Institute of the Chinese province of Anhui [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/amp/regions/view/brestskij-tehnicheskij-universitet-budet-sotrudnicat-s-institutom-kitajskoj-provintsii-anhoi-602188-2023>

technology, which is financed by the Belarusian Republican Foundation for Fundamental Research and the National Natural Science Foundation of China. All these facts have shown that the creation of the Chinese-Belarusian Association of Universities has become an important stage in the development of inter-university cooperation, and also serves the benefit of the economies of the two countries and the development of the two peoples - Belarus and China.

In June 2024, the second Forum of Rectors of Belarusian and Chinese Universities was held in Minsk, attended by more than 40 heads of universities from the two countries, including 18 rectors of Chinese universities. They discussed the prospects for inter-university cooperation, primarily inter-university relations. And this is not only the training of personnel in innovative specialties, but also a wide range of scientific and technical cooperation, youth exchanges.

For reference, we note that currently there are more than 700 bilateral agreements in effect between universities in Belarus and China. Moreover, over 200 of them have been signed in the last two years alone. Currently, "40 joint educational programs of higher education are being implemented, 12 of which have been launched in the current academic year. Another 20 joint educational programs are in the development stage, including those for training highly qualified scientific personnel ¹²⁹." Also, 13 joint educational and scientific structures are already functioning on the basis of higher education institutions of the two countries - six laboratories, five biological centers and two institutes.

Speaking about the second Forum of Rectors of Universities of Belarus and China, we note that the discussion of topical issues in the field of conducting promising scientific research and introducing innovative teaching methods to prepare competitive and professional specialists in the context of current globalization was held within the framework of two sections - "Innovative Models of Cooperation between Universities of China and

¹²⁹ The International Innovative Youth Forum will be held in Minsk in 2025 [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/mezhdunarodnyj-innovatsionnyj-molodezhnyj-forum-proidet-v-minske-v-2025-godu-643825-2024/>

Belarus" and "Chinese-Belarusian Cooperation in Fundamental Sciences". Also at the forum, eight documents were signed that "provide for assistance in organizing the exchange of scientific information and students, work on joint educational and research projects, as well as information on training programs, holding scientific and educational events ..." ¹³⁰. Among them: agreements - on academic and scientific cooperation between the Belarusian State Medical University and Peking University, on cooperation between the Minsk State Linguistic University and the Shanghai Foreign Languages University; memorandums of understanding between the Belarusian State University of Information Science and Radioelectronics and Chongqing Polytechnic University, the Belarusian State University of Technology and Liaoning University, the Belarusian State University of Economics and Zhejiang University of Foreign Languages.

New opportunities for cooperation have also been achieved between the Belarusian State University (BSU) and Peking University (PCU). By the way, this Chinese university was founded in 1898 and is a leader among universities in the Celestial Empire. It ranks 12th in the world according to the international QS ranking. "The structure of PCU includes the faculties of natural sciences, information and engineering, humanities, social sciences, economics and management, as well as the Center for Medical Sciences, Interdisciplinary Units and Shenzhen Graduate School ¹³¹." In 2019, a memorandum of understanding was signed between BSU and PCU, and in May 2022 - an agreement on cooperation on a joint educational program.

As for BSU, it is already implementing 112 contracts and agreements with 73 Chinese partners - universities and research centers. Over three and a half thousand undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate students from China are currently studying at BSU. This is about 70 percent of all foreigners at BSU. Over the

¹³⁰ Eight documents on cooperation between universities of Belarus and China signed at the Rectors' Forum [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/vosem-dokumentov-o-sotrudnichestve-mezhdu-vuzami-belarusi-i-kitaja-podpisano-na-forume-rektorov-643857-2024/>

¹³¹ Inter-university holiday established in Belarusian and Chinese universities [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/mezhuniversitetskij-prazdnik-uchrezhden-v-belorusskom-i-kitajskom-vuzah-643681-2024/>

past year and a half, the Belarusian university has done a lot to strengthen partnerships with this country. There are several interesting examples. Firstly, in 2023, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Research Center was opened at the BSU Faculty of International Relations - a platform for conducting research in the field of international activities, history, law, trade, economics, and culture. Secondly, in November last year, within the framework of the first International Congress on Scientific and Technical Exchanges "One Belt, One Road", BSU became one of the founders of the new University Network for Research Cooperation (iUNRC). Thirdly, a joint training program in the specialty "Biotechnology" is being successfully implemented with PCU.

Fourthly, in March 2024, BSU signed an agreement with the Hainan Center for Excellence in International Education on the implementation of the Belarusian-Chinese project “Institute of Innovative Education” under the auspices of BSU in Sanya. There, on its basis, it is planned to train citizens of countries neighboring China and states participating in the “One Belt, One Road” project. “This is a kind of ecosystem that involves not only teaching students and training specialists, but also developing business initiatives within the framework of Belarusian-Chinese economic and industrial relations through the creation of high-tech products¹³².” This initiative has already received support from 14 leading universities in China. The new project will be developed in several areas: development of educational and methodological documentation, preparation of Chinese citizens for admission to BSU, career guidance events, organization of joint teaching of Russian as a foreign language and English using information and communication technologies. At the same time, in Sanya, BSU signed a memorandum of international cooperation with Sanya Yazhou Bei Science and Technology Development and Construction City LLC. This agreement was one of the first in the implementation of the project “Institute of Innovative Education” under the auspices of BSU and involves scientific and scientific-

¹³² Innovations, high-tech cooperation and export of services. BSU on new projects with China [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/innovatsii-vysokotekhnologichnoe-sotrudnichestvo-i-eksport-uslug-bgu-o-novyh-proektah-s-kitaem-622125-2024/>

technical cooperation between the parties in modern areas, including space.

Fifthly, in the same March of this year, BSU expanded cooperation with China in the field of language training for students by signing two agreements at once with the Second Beijing Institute of Foreign Languages. The first one regulates the opening of joint educational programs, implementation of joint research and educational projects, exchange of information, educational materials, organization of conferences, seminars, workshops, courses and preparation of joint publications. The second agreement provides for academic exchange of students, master's and postgraduate students. It is clear that these agreements will contribute to the development of partnerships in the field of education and science, deepening and expanding existing cooperation. Moreover, the Second Beijing University of Foreign Languages has extensive potential for international cooperation. Suffice it to say that this university offers training "at 14 faculties in 48 bachelor's degree specialties. There is also a master's degree program, postgraduate program and 15 research institutes ¹³³." So BSU approached the 2nd Forum of Rectors of Belarusian and Chinese Universities fully prepared to develop new multi-format ties with Chinese partners.

And already at this forum, BSU and PCU established a joint initiative - "Days of Friendship and Unity", which will be celebrated annually on June 25 and 26 and "will become a demonstration of effective and reliable interaction in various vectors, including the involvement of students and teachers in various scientific, educational, cultural exchange processes ¹³⁴." One of the central events of these "Days" will be the International Innovative Youth Forum, which will be held in 2025. Also within the framework of this forum, universities of Belarus and China put forward an initiative to create a Belarusian-Chinese Center for Fundamental Research, which is a fundamentally new step in

¹³³ BSU to expand cooperation with China in language training of students [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/bgu-rasshirit-sotrudnichestvo-s-kitaem-v-jazykovoj-podgotovke-studentov-622894-2024/>

¹³⁴ The Forum of Rectors of Leading Universities of Belarus and China has begun its work in Minsk [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/rukovoditelej-bolee-40-vuzov-belarusi-i-kitaja-obiedinil-forum-rektorov-veduschih-universitetov-643761-2024/>

scientific cooperation, since it is fundamental research in the field of production transformation that will allow Belarus and China to reach a qualitatively new level.

Summing up the results of this forum, it should be noted that the new stage of technological innovative development, based on the in-depth development of industrial transformation, development and technology of artificial intelligence, requires the implementation of specific measures to strengthen scientific and technical cooperation between Belarus and China. And in this regard, the Forum of Rectors of the two countries is becoming an effective platform for multilateral and bilateral cooperation in order to direct efforts to further develop joint Belarusian-Chinese platforms for the creation of innovative developments, the search for new opportunities to increase the effectiveness of educational and scientific and technical approaches.

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China: From In-Depth Plans to Project Implementation

In August 2024, the Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China (PRC) Li Qiang made an official visit to Belarus, during which a number of documents were signed that revealed the potential of Chinese-Belarusian cooperation in trade, investment, development and deepening of industrial cooperation, scientific and technical cooperation, as well as in-depth plans for the joint development of the provinces of China and regions of Belarus.

Among the participants of this interregional cooperation, we can note, first of all, **the Minsk region and the city of Chongqing**. This city is one of the four largest Chinese cities of central subordination, where more than thirty million people live. The in-depth plan includes such projects as "production of reagents and equipment for diagnostics, unmanned aerial vehicles, car seats, traditional Chinese medicine, assembly of industrial robots, integrated logistics"¹³⁵.

Let us recall that the capital region of Belarus signed a cooperation agreement with this Chinese city back in 2002. In March 2017, twinning relations were established between the regions. In June of last year, at the site of the China-Belarus Industrial Park "Great Stone", during the opening of the exhibition of Chinese goods and services, where a thematic exposition of the Exhibition Pavilion of Export Goods of Chongqing was shown and where "more than 20 city enterprises on an area of about 300 square meters placed mechanical engineering products, including cars, motorcycles and components"¹³⁶, the parties reached an agreement to intensify cooperation in various areas.

A month later, the Minsk region and the city of Chongqing signed a roadmap for 2023-2024 to develop cooperation in the production of reagents, education, tourism, and logistics. "Another

¹³⁵ From trade and investment to science and cinema. Belarus and China signed a significant package of documents on cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/society/view/ot-torgovli-i-investitsij-do-nauki-i-kino-belarus-i-kitaj-podpisali-vesomyj-paket-dokumentov-o-656104-2024>

¹³⁶ Zalesky, B. Potential for the implementation of the agreements reached / Boris Zalesky. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2023. – P. 36.

promising area is the creation of a joint venture for the production of electric vehicles with any degree of localization ¹³⁷." Moreover, the powerful industrial base in the field of mechanical engineering of Chongqing is of interest to Belarusian enterprises in the context of modernizing production using modern Chinese technologies, creating new joint assembly plants for cars, importing components and auto parts. "As an equally promising area, the parties identified cooperation in the field of healthcare development, including the development of a research center and production in the field of traditional Chinese medicine on the site of the Great Stone Industrial Park ¹³⁸," interaction at the level of medical institutions.

The development of twinning relations between the Belarusian capital region and the Chinese city continued in May 2024 in Chongqing, where several important events took place:

- 1) The 6th International Trade and Investment Fair of Western China;
- 2) Chongqing Sister Cities Economic Cooperation Forum;
- 3) Business forum "Belarus – Chongqing".

As for the trade and investment fair, the central platform was given to the guests of honor – the Minsk region and the China-Belarus Industrial Park "Great Stone", which is located in the Belarusian capital region. Minsk region enterprises producing meat and dairy products, bakery, confectionery, alcoholic beverages, and cosmetics were specially invited to participate in the fair. In addition, this pavilion was created to reveal the multifaceted tourism potential and modern educational opportunities of the Minsk region and the Republic of Belarus as a whole.

Speaking about the Chongqing Sister Cities Economic Cooperation Forum, it was attended by representatives from 48 cities from 31 countries with which this Chinese city has

¹³⁷ From medicine to economics and twinning. Minsk region and Chongqing signed a roadmap for cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://belta.by/regions/view/ot-meditsiny-do-ekonomiki-i-pobratimskih-svjazei-minskaja-oblast-i-chuntsin-podpisali-dorozhnyu-kartu-581301-2023/>

¹³⁸ Brantsevich spoke about positive dynamics in trade and economic cooperation between Belarus and Chongqing [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://belta.by/special/economics/view/brantsevich-zajavila-o-pozitivnoj-dinamike-v-torgovo-ekonomicheskom-sotrudnichestve-belarusi-i-581186-2023/>

established sister city relations. The motto of the forum this year is “Deepening regional cooperation and promoting common development.” Its participants discussed investment opportunities and new points of contact in economic and technological interregional cooperation, as well as green policy.

Finally, at the Belarus-Chongqing business forum, “13 cooperation agreements and commercial contracts for the supply of meat and dairy products, confectionery products worth a total of about \$31 million were signed ¹³⁹,” and mutual projects for investment cooperation in the areas of robotics, auto components and medical equipment production were outlined.

If we talk more specifically about these investment projects, we can name, for example, the Chongqing company Qiteng Robot , which produces wheeled and suspended inspection robots, machines for work in extreme conditions - at high temperatures, in toxic and flammable industries, in underground mining conditions. It was founded in 2010 by students of the Chongqing Engineering University, and now it has become a leader in the field of emergency safety in China. And today the company "is ready to invest in opening its own subsidiary in Belarus in the Great Stone with local assembly and creation of a server for storing electronic data for specific projects. The company is also ready to create a joint production with a Belarusian partner ¹⁴⁰. "

Another example: Chengju Company Chenghua Seating , which produces car seats. This Chinese plant "is considering the creation of joint production in Belarus to meet the requirements of our country [Belarus]" ¹⁴¹. It is possible that this manufacturer will enter into cooperation with the BELGEE plant. In May 2024, in Chongqing, the Belarusian side got acquainted with medical equipment from another Chinese manufacturer - Zybio , which "specializes in research and development of reagents and

¹³⁹ Belarus and Chongqing signed contracts for the supply of meat and dairy products worth about \$31 million [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-chuntsin-podpisali-kontraktv-na-postavku-mjasno-molochnoi-produktsii-na-summu-okolo-31-mln-637082-2024/>

¹⁴⁰ A robot manufacturing plant may appear in the Great Stone [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/v-velikom-kamne-mozhet-pojavitsja-predpriatie-po-proizvodstvu-robotov-636330-2024/>

¹⁴¹ Turchin got acquainted with the production of auto components in Chongqing [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/special/society/view/turchin-poznakomilsja-s-proizvodstvom-avtokomponentov-v-chuntsine-636362-2024/>

equipment for laboratory diagnostics, immunoassay and molecular diagnostics, hematology and microbiology" ¹⁴². As a result, the Minsk region will send specialists to Chongqing to thoroughly study the Zybio equipment and its operation in a hospital setting. And if the results are positive, then new Chinese medical equipment will appear in the hospitals of the Minsk region.

Returning to the plan for in-depth cooperation between the Minsk region and Chongqing, it should be noted that the Belarusian region has been actively increasing its trade turnover with China in recent years. In particular, according to the results of the first half of 2023, the volume of trade turnover between the parties exceeded 1.25 billion dollars. "The Minsk region exports poultry meat, dairy products, frozen beef, wood products, flax fiber to China <...>. Machines for automatic data processing and their units, auto parts, telephones, television receivers are imported from China ¹⁴³." With the advent of the new plan, interregional cooperation between the Minsk region and Chongqing, apparently, will soon be filled with new specific projects in order to develop production cooperation and attract high-tech competencies for the implementation of investment projects at enterprises of the Minsk region, establishing direct interaction with Chinese partners.

This summer, the Minsk region took a new step in cooperation with another region of China – **Guangdong Province** . signing a roadmap of cooperation with it, which marks a new period in relations between the two regions. The parties, who have been closely cooperating for more than ten years, believe that "signing a roadmap is an important signal for the business of our two countries" ¹⁴⁴. After all, today it is necessary to look for new points of contact. In particular, in the field of agriculture, automobile manufacturing, and medicine.

¹⁴² Minsk Region doctors are planned to be sent to Chongqing to study new equipment [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/society/view/medikov-minskoj-oblasti-planiruiut-napravit-v-chuntsin-dlia-izuchenija-novogo-oborudovanija-636079-2024/>

¹⁴³ Minsk Region and Chinese Chongqing to Determine Roadmap for Cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://belta.by/regions/view/minskaja-oblast-i-kitajskij-chuntsin-opredeliat-dorozhnuju-kartu-sotrudnichestva-580980-2023/>

¹⁴⁴ Turchin and the Governor of China's Guangdong Province Signed a Roadmap [Electronic Resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/regions/view/turchin-i-gubernator-kitajskoj-provintsii-guandun-podpisali-dorozhnuju-kartu-651136-2024/>

For example, interesting projects in this regard can be implemented in the Belarusian capital region with the Chinese agroholding Guangdong Agribusiness Group Corporation, which is engaged in large-scale trade, production of rubber, sugar cane. The holding's enterprises also specialize in livestock farming, meat and dairy production, grain cultivation, and oil production. "The corporation includes a vocational college, where students are taught construction specialties and technologies. The agroholding also has 38 hospitals, which provide services to, among other things, the company's employees ¹⁴⁵." So all these areas can become promising in terms of cooperation with Belarusian partners.

Among the possible partners of Minsk region enterprises from Guangdong province, one can also name the GAC electric car manufacturing plant Aion and Guangzhou company Baiyunshan Zhongyi Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. In the first case, production is carried out in a full cycle and includes research and development, as well as sales of products and after-sales service. In the second case, this manufacturer produces medicines to improve vision, drugs for diabetes, restorative tablets used for cerebral ischemia and the consequences of this disease. Representatives of the Minsk region have already discussed the prospects and options for cooperation with these Chinese partners. So let's hope that in the near future, these negotiations will be followed by specific actions.

The People's Republic of China is a strategic partner of another Belarusian region - **Mogilev**, with which the development of cooperation, thanks to systematic work, continues to deepen, reaching a new level of interaction. Suffice it to say that over the past ten years, the export of goods from this Belarusian region to China has increased 18 times. "The main export items from the Mogilev region to China remain beef and poultry, dairy products, wood products, carbon black, flax, chocolate, various waters,

¹⁴⁵ From electric cars to endocrine raw materials: Minsk region delegation visits Guangdong province [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/society/view/ot-elektrokarov-do-endokrinomogo-svrjia-delegatsija-minskoi-oblasti-poseschaet-provintsiju-guandun-651244-2024/>

strong alcoholic beverages ¹⁴⁶." In addition, today three enterprises of the Mogilev region have permission to supply products to China: open joint-stock companies "Babushkina krynka", Mogilev and Bobruisk meat-packing plants. The basis of Chinese imports this year are acrylic polymers, complex synthetic threads, glue and adhesives, molding boxes and pallets for metal foundry production, electrical transformers, household electrical appliances, cars. "In January-April 2024, the trade turnover between the Mogilev region and China amounted to \$57.4 million - a growth rate of 102.2% compared to the same period in 2023. The export of services for January-April 2024 amounted to \$867.5 thousand (a growth rate of over 193%). The bulk of exports were educational services, the share of which was almost 81% ¹⁴⁷."

At the interregional level, the Belarusian eastern region is currently actively interacting with such Chinese provinces as Henan, Jiangsu, Hunan, Shaanxi and the city of Tianjin. In addition, at the level of cities and districts of the Mogilev region, more than ten international documents have been concluded with regions of China. In 2019, **Tianjin**, one of the four cities of central subordination, became the youngest partner of the Mogilev region in the Celestial Empire. This is a major port hub in northern China, which has established communications and transport routes with more than 500 ports in other countries. The city, where an integrated production chain has been established in many industries, has extensive educational and scientific resources - more than 50 universities.

In March 2023, the parties signed the Action Plan for the Development of Cooperation for 2023-2025. And already in May of last year, the Mogilev Region Week was held in Tianjin. Then, participating in the forum "Tianjin - Gateway to China", more than twenty enterprises of the Mogilev region demonstrated their export potential. As a result of these negotiations, agreements were

¹⁴⁶ Export of goods from the Mogilev region to China has increased 18 times over the past ten years [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/regions/view/eksport-tovarov-iz-mogilevskoj-oblasti-v-kitaj-za-poslednie-desjat-let-vyros-v-18-raz-575841-2023>

¹⁴⁷ A platform for implementing joint projects: The Belarusian-Chinese business forum was held in Mogilev [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/regions/view/ploschadka-dlja-vyhoda-na-realizatsiju-obschih-proektov-belorusko-kitajskij-biznes-forum-proshel-v-643622-2024/>

reached on the supply of dairy and meat products, commercial offers were received for the export of Belarusian lumber, contacts were established for further cooperation in the import of goods from China to the retail chains of the Mogilev region. At the same time, "documents were signed on cooperation between Mogilev and the Binhai New District of Tianjin City, the Mogilev Economic Zone and the TEDA Economic Zone , the Mogilev Branch of the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade of Tianjin City. Agreements were also reached on the creation of a joint production facility for the processing of dry milk in Tianjin

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A little over a year later, in June 2024, a reciprocal action took place – Tianjin City Week in the Mogilev Region, within the framework of which the following took place:

- 1) exhibition of Chinese products from organizations in this city;
- 2) regional Belarusian-Chinese business forum “Mogilev region and the city of Tianjin: 5 years of cooperation”;
- 3) Mogilev-Tianjin Forum for Cooperation in the Field of Education.

In addition, the parties signed a "roadmap for the development of cooperation between Mogilev and the Binhai New Area in the fields of economy, trade, culture, education, and tourism for 2024-2025; an agreement between the administrative committee of the Tianjin Free Trade Port Zone of the People's Republic of China and the administration of the Mogilev Free Economic Zone; an agreement on cooperation between the Tianjin Museum and the Mogilev Regional Art Museum named after P.V. Maslennikov

149. "

During these events, the parties outlined their proposals for joint cooperation in various industries. For example, the Mogilev

¹⁴⁸ Mogilev region to present construction and industrial investment projects at exhibition in Shanghai [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://belta.by/regions/view/mogilevskaja-oblast-predstavit-stroitelnye-i-promyshlennye-investproekty-na-vystavke-v-shanhae-595292-2023/>

¹⁴⁹ Business forum, exhibitions and competitions. Tianjin City Week starts in Mogilev region [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/regions/view/biznes-forum-vystavki-i-sorevnovanija-nedelja-goroda-tjantszin-startuet-v-mogilevskoj-oblasti-643224-2024/>

region believes that at this stage of relations it is advisable to move from simple trade to deeper interaction and the creation of joint projects. If we take animal husbandry, the Chinese partners can create new meat complexes in the Mogilev region for subsequent processing of beef and delivery to the Chinese market. "The second area is minerals: [the Mogilev] region is rich in deposits of peat, sapropel, tripoli, the use of which in combination with mineral and organic fertilizers is an effective means of stimulating plant development, increasing the yield of agricultural crops ¹⁵⁰." After all, this natural mineral supplement is used to enrich the diet of cattle to replenish the missing macro- and microelements in feed. Taking into account this potential, the Mogilev residents are ready to propose a project for the production of feed additives, organic soils and fertilizers.

Another interesting proposal was made at the business forum "Mogilev Region and Tianjin City: 5 Years of Cooperation". The Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange (BUCE) will assist the enterprises of the parties in organizing interregional trade in industrial and agricultural goods. "For this purpose, it is planned to use the relevant elements of the BUCE electronic ecosystem, which will allow Belarusian and Chinese companies, taking into account the specifics of their sales and purchasing policies, to conclude transactions either during classic session trading or use the B2B platform of the exchange, which operates on the principle of a marketplace with an integrated exchange mechanism ¹⁵¹." At the same time, based on the profile of the Chinese partners, priority will be given to the export of Belarusian meat and dairy products and vegetable oils to Tianjin, and in the future, to other cities included in the Bohai economic zone. And polymer packaging materials, diesel generators, industrial paints, sheet metal, veterinary drugs and other products in demand in the industrial and agricultural sectors of the country

¹⁵⁰ "Find ways of interaction". Tianjin City Week is taking place in Mogilev [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/regions/view/najti-puti-vzaimodejstviya-v-mogileve-prohodit-nedelja-goroda-tiantszin-643563-2024/>

¹⁵¹ BUTB will help simplify trade between the Mogilev region and China's Tianjin [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-pomozhet-uprostit-torgovlju-mezhdu-mogilevskoj-oblastiju-i-kitajskim-tiantszinem-643724-2024/>

will be supplied to the Belarusian market. Apparently, cooperation in these areas will be very fruitful.

Another key region of Belarus in terms of developing cooperation with China, both in the economic and social spheres, is the **Gomel region**. Suffice it to say that over the past five years, the trade turnover of this southeastern Belarusian region with China has grown almost fourfold. "The basis of exports to the Celestial Empire is wood pulp, timber, meat, dairy and confectionery products. Transport, educational and tourist services are developing. According to the results of the past [2023] year, 44 enterprises of the Gomel region supplied their products to the PRC ¹⁵²." And in the future, there are good prospects for cooperation in industrial production, transport and logistics, and agriculture. For example, twenty enterprises of the Gomel region have already been accredited to supply food products to the Chinese market, "including 9 milk processing plants, 7 meat processing plants and 4 food industry enterprises ¹⁵³." And they are ready to increase supplies of beef, poultry meat and by-products, whole milk products, condensed milk and cream, and dry whey.

In addition, Gomel enterprises are ready to supply lumber and finished wood products to China. Other areas of cooperation are also opening up. In particular, on complex mineral fertilizers, as well as on other projects for possible joint implementation. These include a logistics hub based at the Gomel airport, the production of plywood furniture and other products based at Gomeldrev, and the creation of new production facilities in the areas of the Gomel-Raton free economic zone (FEZ). Moreover, there is an interesting example in the FEZ - the Alcopack production unitary enterprise, which produces medical products and which "has been interacting with Chinese manufacturers of equipment, spare parts, and technological tooling for more than 20 years. At the moment, 80-90% of injection molding machines are

¹⁵² Over five years, the trade turnover of the Gomel region with China has quadrupled [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/za-pjat-let-tovarooborot-gomelskoj-oblasti-s-kitaem-vvros-v-chetyre-raza-640488-2024/>

¹⁵³ 20 enterprises of the Gomel region have accreditation for the supply of food products to China [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/akkreditatsiju-na-postavki-pischevoi-produktsii-v-kitaj-imejut-20-predpriyatij-gomelskoj-oblasti-640508-2024/>

made in China. <...> The number of contacts, orders, and purchased equipment is increasing. Friendly relations have been established with Chinese manufacturing companies ¹⁵⁴. " So the time is coming for the first residents to appear in the SEZ from China, for whom attractive conditions have already been created.

The southeastern region of Belarus is actively developing relations with Chinese partners in the humanitarian sphere. For example, "more than 500 Chinese students are studying at universities in the Gomel region. They choose different specialties for themselves here and have already received a lot ¹⁵⁵." And the Gomel State University named after F. Skorina (GSU) cooperates with 17 Chinese universities. In addition, the Confucius Institute was created and successfully operates at GSU and joint educational programs are being implemented. In general, "332 students from China are currently studying at Gomel State University. An experimental project has also been implemented - students from the PRC are studying in English in four specialties ¹⁵⁶."

As for the cooperation of the Gomel region with specific partners from China, at the beginning of 2024 it "signed documents on bilateral cooperation with four Chinese regions – the autonomous regions of Inner Mongolia (2011) and Xinjiang Uyghur (2016), the provinces of Sichuan (2015) and Jiangsu (2016)" ¹⁵⁷, and also adopted ten agreements – at the city level.

In June 2024, another new partner of the Belarusian southeastern region emerged - **Hebei Province**. During the visit of the official delegation of the Gomel region to this province,

¹⁵⁴ Xie Xiaoyong: Attractive conditions for residents have been created in the Gomel-Raton FEZ [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/se-sjaojun-v-sez-gomel-raton-sozdany-privlekatelnye-uslovia-dlja-rezidentov-640651-2024/>

¹⁵⁵ Trade, education, tourism. Xie Xiaoyong on the potential for cooperation between the Gomel region and the regions of China [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/torgovlja-obrazovanie-turizm-se-sjaojun-o-potentsiale-sotrudnichestva-gomelskoj-oblasti-i-regionov-640506-2024/>

¹⁵⁶ Xie Xiaoyong on cooperation between Belarus and China in education: this is an intellectual base for all spheres [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/se-sjaojun-o-sotrudnichestve-belarusi-i-knr-v-obrazovanii-eto-intellektualnaja-baza-dlja-vseh-sfer-640698-2024/>

¹⁵⁷ Zaleski, B. Belarus – China: New Opportunities. Strategic Interaction in the Era of Exemplary Partnership Relations / Boris Zaleski. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2023. – P. 12.

contracts, memorandums and agreements with Chinese partners were signed, including a plan of events and exchanges for 2024-2025 between the region and the province. The Belarusian side, interested in the development of this interaction, outlined three steps towards increasing trade, economic and investment cooperation. "These are supplies of high-quality food products from Gomel producers to Hebei, the implementation of joint industrial projects with preferences of the Gomel-Raton free economic zone, as well as joint investment projects in agriculture¹⁵⁸." In turn, the Chinese region is interested in cooperation in the field of mechanical engineering, logistics, supplies of raw materials of traditional Chinese medicine, as well as purchasing Gomel agricultural products, chemical fertilizers, meat and dairy products.

Within the framework of the Langfang International Economic and Trade Fair, which was held these June days in Hebei Province, a number of enterprises from the Gomel region were presented at the Belarusian stand. And following the meetings and negotiations at this forum in Langfang, domestic exporters - Comintern, Gomel Chemical Plant, Rogachev Milk Canning Plant (MKK) - replenished their deal portfolios. In particular, "Rogachev MKK signed a memorandum for the supply of products worth about 1 million yuan and an agreement for more than 7 million yuan. The memorandum of the Gomel Chemical Plant was concluded for almost 12.5 million yuan, and the deal of Comintern - for 14.7 million yuan¹⁵⁹." In addition, at the headquarters of Great Wall Haval – a factory producing Haval brand cars – the possibility of assembling these cars on the premises of the Gomel-Raton FEZ was discussed.

Continuing the topic of participation of representatives of the Gomel region in exhibitions in the Celestial Empire, we recall that in November 2023, at the 6th China International Import Expo

¹⁵⁸ Trade, joint industrial projects, agro-industrial complex. Krupko on cooperation between the Gomel region and Hebei province [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/torgovlja-sovmestnye-promproektv-apk-krupko-o-sotrudnichestve-gomelskoj-oblasti-i-provintsii-hebei-641393-2024/>

¹⁵⁹ Gomel enterprises signed new contracts and agreements with Chinese partners [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/gomelskie-predpriyatija-podpisali-novye-dogovory-i-soglasheniya-s-kitajskimi-partnerami-641709-2024/>

in Shanghai during the Day of the Gomel Region, documents were signed on export deliveries worth \$85 million. In addition, an agreement on cooperation in attracting investments was adopted between the Gomel-Raton FEZ and the Sichuan Association for the Promotion of Economic and Trade Cooperation "One Belt - One Road", and "a document of intent was signed to establish sister city relations between the Zhlobin District of the Gomel Region and the city of Baotou of the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region ¹⁶⁰. "

All these facts show that the diversity of partnership and twinning relations of the Minsk, Mogilev and Gomel regions in China is only gaining momentum, developing intensively and fruitfully, emphasizing the enormous prospects for the entire Belarusian-Chinese interregional all-weather strategic partnership.

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¹⁶⁰ Documents for \$85 million signed by representatives of the Gomel region at the import exhibition in Shanghai [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/dokumenty-na-85-mln-podpisali-predstaviteli-gomelskoi-oblasti-na-vystavke-importa-v-shanhae-598283-2023/>

China: cooperation in the field of science, technology and innovation reaches a new level

In August 2024, during the official visit of the Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China (PRC) Li Qiang to Belarus, the governments of the two countries decided to declare 2024-2025 the Years of Cooperation between Belarus and China in Science, Technology and Innovation. On this occasion, an action plan was signed in Minsk, which covers a wide range of areas of bilateral cooperation and provides for joint scientific and technical events, the creation and development of Belarusian-Chinese cooperation platforms, the implementation of joint scientific and scientific and technical projects, which will strengthen industry ties in the field of industrial cooperation and will become an additional incentive for innovative development.

This plan contains 89 events, for the implementation of which 140 organizations will be involved - 59 Belarusian and 81 Chinese. These are the leading scientific centers of the two countries, industry departments and their subordinate organizations, large technology corporations. In particular, in the field of information and communication technologies, the plan provides for the development of cooperation between the Ministry of Communications and Informatization of Belarus with the Chinese corporations Huawei Technologies, ZTE and PhotonSpeak on issues of software development, expansion of cooperation in the field of information and communication technologies, including the use of 5G / 6G technologies. From the Belarusian side, the High-Tech Park, the Great Stone Industrial Park, Beltelecom and Promsvyaz enterprises will be involved in this work. In addition, in August 2024, the Ministry of Communications and Informatization of Belarus and the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology of China signed a memorandum of understanding on strategic cooperation in the field of information and communication technologies, which "provides for promoting cooperation in digital transformation, in the field of cloud technologies, artificial intelligence, digital

medicine, and training of personnel in the field of ICT ¹⁶¹. It is also planned to cooperate in the development of smart cities, the creation of joint production of high-tech products, as well as a Chinese-Belarusian platform for cooperation in the field of information and communication technologies.

The Ministry of Industry of Belarus, together with the Center for International Economic and Technical Cooperation of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology of the People's Republic of China, plans to create a joint platform for the implementation of Chinese-Belarusian industrial cooperation to find partners, transfer technologies, and develop cooperation with Chinese companies in the supply of technological equipment. Let us recall that "in March 2023, Belarus and China signed a comprehensive strategy for joint industrial development, and in November 2023 - a detailed plan for the alignment of the industrial policies of the two countries" ¹⁶² in order to develop industrial cooperation, including through joint production in Belarus and China, attracting high-tech competencies to implement investment projects at Belarusian enterprises and establishing direct interaction between the parties. This program already consists of 30 specific projects in machine tool manufacturing, automotive manufacturing, petrochemicals and woodworking. In particular, "the entire cluster of domestic machine tool enterprises is already involved in the implementation of joint industrial development projects with China - from the Gomel Machine Tool Plant to Krasny Borets in Orsha ¹⁶³. " The decisions taken will also allow the textile industry to be reformatted, since viscose, together with flax and chemical fibers, will create fabric for Belarusians that will become the foundation of the country's textile and clothing industry.

¹⁶¹ Belarus and China signed a memorandum of understanding in the field of ICT [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-kitaj-podpisali-memorandum-o-vzaimoponimani-i-v-oblasti-ikt-656109-2024/>

¹⁶² Ministries of Industry of Belarus and China: the cooperation plan may be updated, detailed and expanded [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/minpromv-belarusi-i-kitaja-plan-po-sotrudnichestvu-mozhet-byt-aktualizirovan-detalizirovan-i-rasshiren-644949-2024/>

¹⁶³ Machine tools, cellulose, automobile. What landmark projects are Belarus and China implementing [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/society/view/stanki-tselljuloza-avtomobil-kakie-znakovye-proekty-realizuiut-belarus-i-kitaj-671355-2024/>

In general, "15 new strategic investment projects worth up to three billion dollars are being actively developed with Chinese partners ¹⁶⁴." Among the most important are: the third stage of the project for deep grain processing of the Belarusian National Biotechnology Corporation, construction of plants for the production of bleached sulfate pulp and chipboard, organization of modern automated casting, production of engines, polypropylene, carbide, sodium chlorate, hydrogen peroxide, and soda ash.

As for existing Belarusian enterprises, for example, the Minsk Tractor Works (MTZ) is interested in creating joint ventures in China. In September 2024, a roadmap was signed for the development of a 350-horsepower tractor with an electric drive on permanent magnets. MTZ is ready to implement this project with the China-Belarus High-Tech Aerospace Research and Development Center. Another joint venture may also be created in China - for the assembly of BELARUS tracked tractors ¹⁶⁵. In addition, the Belarusian enterprise will purchase equipment in China for more than 840 million Belarusian rubles to modernize the melting system for the first foundry, an automatic continuous sandblasting chamber with rotary tables. "MTZ's workshops will be replenished with 15 lathes, 7 horizontal, 4 milling and centering and 3 horizontal milling machining centers with CNC. Over the past year and a half, the company has received eight CNC machines [from China] ¹⁶⁶."

Other mechanical engineering enterprises of the republic are also open to production cooperation with Chinese companies. In particular, for the organization of "joint production of engines for trucks and cars in Belarus". In this regard, mutually beneficial options for cooperation with the ¹⁶⁷Guangxi company are already

¹⁶⁴ Snopkov: \$3 billion strategic projects with China are calculated for the medium term [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/snopkov-strategicheskie-proekty-s-kitaem-na-3-mlrd-rasschitany-na-srednesrochnuiu-perspektivu-655954-2024/>

¹⁶⁵ MTZ is interested in creating joint ventures in China [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/mtz-zainteresovan-v-sozdanii-sovmestnyh-proizvodstv-v-kitae-662915-2024/>

¹⁶⁶ MTZ to purchase over 30 units of equipment from China [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/mtz-zakupit-bolee-30-edinit-oborudovaniia-iz-kitaia-662946-2024/>

¹⁶⁷ Naumovich: Belarusian mechanical engineering enterprises are open to cooperation with Chinese companies [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL :

being worked out Yuchai Machinery Group Co. , Ltd. to enter into a strategic bilateral project involving deep localization.

Another interesting example is Belshina JSC, which, together with the Belarusian State Technological University (BSTU), is strengthening its partnership with leading Chinese tire companies and scientific organizations of this country. Back in April of this year, Belshina and BSTU signed a memorandum of cooperation with Qingdao University of Science and Technology and the Chinese company MESNAC , a leading manufacturer of rubber equipment in China with a global geography of deliveries. In this document, the parties provide for cooperation in the field of education, as well as scientific research and development on improving the properties of elastomer compounds for tires and rubber products. The point is that the Belarusian tire manufacturer and one of the best universities in Belarus for training engineering personnel, including for the chemical industry, are working together to improve the quality of rubber compounds, produce new sizes of agricultural tires, and improve the performance characteristics of super-large tires for the purpose of effective import substitution. By signing the memorandum, the parties plan to implement joint projects related to "increasing the mileage of solid-steel cord super-large-size radial tires with a diameter of 57 inches, using original technologies and equipment from a leading Chinese manufacturer ¹⁶⁸." It is expected that thanks to the memorandum, the parties will reach a new level in cooperation. Given the prospective participation of Qingdao University of Science and Technology and the Belarusian State Technological University in the projects, the emphasis will also be on scientific research in the tire industry and the training of highly qualified personnel for production.

The adopted plans also "provide for the establishment in Minsk of a project office of the China Center for Technology Transfer of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Member

<https://belta.by/economics/view/naumovich-belorusskie-predpriyatija-mashinostroeniya-otkrtyty-k-kooperatsii-s-kitaiskimi-kompanijami-665797-2024/>

¹⁶⁸ "Belshina" together with BSTU strengthens partnership with leading Chinese tire companies [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/belshina-sovmestno-s-bgtu-ukrepljaet-partnerstvo-s-veduschimi-kitaiskimi-shimnyymi-kompanijami-627709-2024/>

States, the activities of which are supervised by the Ministry of Science and Technology of the PRC ¹⁶⁹." This will facilitate both the attraction of advanced foreign technologies to Belarus and the commercialization of the results of the activities of Belarusian scientific and innovative organizations abroad. In the field of medicine, the Ministry of Health of Belarus, together with the Center for International Exchange and Cooperation of the State Health Committee of China, will interact on the exchange of innovations and technologies . And the Belneftekhim concern, together with the Center for Oil and Gas Resources Research of the China Geological Survey, will cooperate in the field of exchanging technologies for geological research, exploration and development of oil and gas resources.

In addition, the parties will continue to develop the Great Stone Park as an international industrial and logistics cluster with an emphasis on investment, technology, and the development of traditional and innovative Chinese medicine. "Today, the park has 134 residents from 13 countries with an investment volume of \$1.5 billion. More than half of the residents are companies with Chinese capital ¹⁷⁰." Over the first seven months of 2024, 18 new companies have already joined the park. It should be noted that in July of this year, a meeting of the working group on the industrial park was held, at which priority areas for the further growth of the Great Stone were outlined. Among the main prospects is attracting new residents from China with their advanced experience and anchor projects that will be able to gather their partners around them. The second area is continuing the construction of the Great Stone infrastructure in order to prepare sites for new production facilities. Moreover, "it is necessary to begin construction of the first stage of infrastructure in the central part of the park, as well as create a multimodal railway terminal ¹⁷¹." Thirdly, this is the

¹⁶⁹ The Years of Cooperation between Belarus and China in Science, Technology and Innovation have been launched [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/society/view/dan-start-godam-sotrudnichestva-belarusi-i-knr-v-oblasti-nauki-tehnologii-i-innovatsij-656188-2024/>

¹⁷⁰ Roman Golovchenko: In conditions of instability in the world, Belarus and China continue to build mutually beneficial cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <http://pda.government.gov.by/ru/content/10994>

¹⁷¹ Chebotar: "The Great Stone" is one of the key priorities for the development of Belarusian-Chinese cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL :

development of a medical cluster in the industrial park. Suffice it to say that in the first half of 2024, five companies have already joined the Great Stone medical cluster, and new Chinese companies are already on the way.

Finally, in order to increase the economic efficiency of joint activities, the Belarusian State Committee for Science and Technology and the Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China will hold a competition of flagship scientific and technical projects. For this purpose, "20 projects for joint implementation in 2024-2026 in the field of ICT, biotechnology and medicine, mechanical engineering, new materials" have ¹⁷²been approved. Based on the results of this competition, it is planned to select three large-scale joint projects, the results of which should be the creation of advanced technologies and the organization of joint ventures or industrial technology centers. Based on the results of joint research and development, Belarus and China will "work on the creation of joint legal entities on the basis of which the production of products will be carried out to enter the Belarusian, Chinese, and perhaps third markets ¹⁷³. "

In line with this topic, a branch of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus (NAS) will be created in China, which will become a Chinese-Belarusian cooperation platform to promote interaction between universities, research institutes and enterprises of the two countries in the field of education, scientific research and implementation of achievements. "The main areas of cooperation within the branch are aerospace engineering and space sciences, materials science and composite materials, optics and optoelectronics, production of high-tech equipment and advanced devices, microelectronics and digital intelligence, biotechnology

<https://belta.by/economics/view/chebotar-velikij-kamen-odin-iz-kljuchevyh-prioritetov-razvitiia-belorussko-kitajskogo-sotrudnichestva-649217-2024/>

¹⁷² Belarus and China approved 20 joint scientific and technical projects for 2024-2026 [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-kitaj-utverdili-20-sovmestnyh-nauchno-tehnicheskikh-proektov-na-2024-2026-gody-656073-2024/>

¹⁷³ Belarus and China to create legal entities for manufacturing products based on joint developments [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-kitaj-budut-sozdavat-juritsa-dlja-proizvodstva-produktsii-na-osnove-sovmestnyh-razrabotok-656197-2024/>

and pharmacology ¹⁷⁴." In this regard, such cooperation mechanisms as the exchange of highly qualified Chinese and Belarusian experts, organization of training for highly qualified researchers, joint training of masters and doctoral students, organization of internships and training, initiation of joint research and development by organizations of the parties, promotion of mutual implementation of technologies and achievements, creation of joint laboratories within the framework of the Belt and Road initiative will be envisaged. For this purpose, in August of this year, a framework agreement on strategic cooperation was signed between the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the State Administration of Foreign Specialists of the People's Republic of China, which is aimed at attracting exports by organizing technical internships for Chinese researchers in the Great Stone Industrial Park and relevant research organizations of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus on a contract basis. The main areas for internships are: the use and exploration of space, new energy sources and advanced energy, optoelectronics and high-tech equipment, intelligent manufacturing, new materials, digitalization and artificial intelligence.

All these documents and the launch of several new industrial projects indicate that in the long term, the parties see the unification of Belarusian competencies and Chinese technologies as a key element in building a common future. It is clear that "the implementation of a comprehensive strategy for joint industrial development and the preparation of detailed plans for the conjugation of industrial policy <...> will fill the new status of relations between the two countries with concrete practical content – an all-weather and comprehensive strategic partnership ¹⁷⁵." For this reason, cooperation with China will allow Belarus to implement ambitious plans for modernization and technical re-equipment.

¹⁷⁴ A branch of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus will be created in China [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/society/view/filial-nan-belarusi-sozhdadut-v-kitae-656108-2024/>

¹⁷⁵ Roman Golovchenko: Trade turnover between Belarus and China has grown 140 times in 30 years [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <http://www.government.by/ru/content/10993>

Returning to the results of the official visit to Belarus of the Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China Li Qiang, we note that, in addition to the documents revealing the potential for developing and deepening industrial cooperation, scientific, technical and innovative interaction, agreements, memorandums and plans in other areas were signed in Minsk. For example, this is an intergovernmental agreement on trade in services and investment, which provides for the creation of a free trade zone in services between the two countries, a transparent, liberal and favorable investment regime to attract investment. Also, the Belarusian Ministry of Economy and the Chinese State Development and Reform Committee signed a "practice-oriented cooperation plan to strengthen the alignment of the Belt and Road initiative and the National Strategy for Sustainable Social and Economic Development of Belarus. The document contains about 60 events and projects for implementation between the competent departments of the two countries ... " ¹⁷⁶.

As for the Belarusian-Chinese regional dimension, "in-depth plans for joint development of Chinese provinces and Belarusian regions" were signed in Minsk ¹⁷⁷. Firstly, between the Minsk region and the city of Chongqing, where the following projects will be implemented: production of reagents and equipment for diagnostics, unmanned aerial vehicles, car seats, traditional Chinese medicine, assembly of industrial robots. Secondly, between the Mogilev region and the Shaanxi province, where the main areas of development in the trade, economic and investment spheres, education and culture were determined. Also in this context, seven more similar in-depth plans for joint development of Belarusian and Chinese regions were supported.

Thus, Belarus and China, continuing to build mutually beneficial cooperation, in these August days of 2024 defined further specific tasks, plans and promising directions, demonstrating the exemplary nature of all-weather and

¹⁷⁶ BNBC and Great Stone: Belarus and China agreed on new major investment projects [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/bnbk-i-velikij-kamen-belarus-i-kitaj-dogovorilis-o-novyyh-krupnyh-investproektah-656105-2024/>

¹⁷⁷ Zalesky, B. Dynamics of a successful partnership. Internal and external reserves of the progressive movement of the Belarusian economy / Boris Zalesky. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2024. – C. 43.

comprehensive strategic partnership in the new era, despite the general unstable situation in the global economy.

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Industrial Park “Great Stone”: Ten Years of Success

In 2024, the China-Belarus Industrial Park “Great Stone” ensured growth in all key performance indicators of its residents, including goods exports - by almost 14 percent, production volumes - by 1.2 times, and investments in fixed assets - by more than seven percent. At the same time, as of the second half of February 2025, there were “144 residents with a declared investment volume of \$1.5 billion and plans to create more than 15.5 thousand jobs. More than 50 organizations have started economic activity, which are beginning to reach full capacity utilization ¹⁷⁸.” Last year, about thirty new companies with capital from Belarus, China, Israel, Russia and Germany received resident status, which are implementing projects in the fields of integrated logistics, research and development, instrument making, medicine, biotechnology, storage and processing of big data. Let's get acquainted with some of them.

Already in January of last year, several residents were registered in the park. Firstly, the Chinese LLC **“Bel-Jinghe Medical Technologies”**, which “will implement a project for the production of biomedical materials and conduct scientific research” ¹⁷⁹. Secondly, the Belarusian LLC **“Servercom”**, which will design, manufacture and install server equipment and data storage systems. Thirdly, **the Eurasian Biotechnology Company LLC** from Belarus, which intends to produce enzyme preparations and other active substances of microbiological origin. The planned export destinations are the countries of the Eurasian Economic Union, “as well as the states of North Africa, the Middle East and Latin America. In the long term, the company plans to significantly expand the range of products thanks to scientific

¹⁷⁸ In 2024, 30 new residents were registered in the Great Stone [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/v-velikom-kamne-v-2024-godu-zaregistrirovali-30-novyh-rezidentov-697242-2025/>

¹⁷⁹ The new resident of the Great Stone will produce medical products [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/novyi-rezident-velikogo-kamnja-budet-proizvodit-meditsinskuju-produktsiju-610123-2024/>

research and development carried out by its own research center”

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In February 2024, two new residents and innovation entities were registered in the Great Stone. Firstly, the Belarusian **LeanGroupAlutub LLC** will create an import-substituting production of aluminum tubes for the pharmaceutical, cosmetic and other industries. Secondly, the Chinese **Battery Engineering LLC**, which “plans to develop highly efficient equipment and control systems for charging stations, including a software package ¹⁸¹.” Thirdly, the innovation entity **Dilaytek LLC** from Belarus plans to create programmable light installations and manage such projects.

Last spring, five more new residents from Belarus were registered in the industrial park. First, this is **Digna-NTR LLC**. This company will produce metal-ceramic housings for integrated circuits, which “ensure safety and ease of installation. The products are intended for the domestic market and will also be exported to the EAEU countries ¹⁸².” Second, this is **Gerknon Plant LLC**, which “plans to implement a project to produce automotive electrical and electronic systems ¹⁸³.” These products will be in demand by domestic flagships of mechanical engineering - the Minsk and Belarusian Automobile Plants, and the Minsk Tractor Plant. Third, this is **Investment Financing CJSC**, which is creating “a modern production facility for the production of composite materials for high-tech industrial sectors,

¹⁸⁰ The new resident of the Great Stone will implement a project in the field of biotechnology [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/novvi-rezident-velikogo-kamnja-budet-realizovvat-proekt-v-sfere-biotekhnologii-610997-2024/>

¹⁸¹ “Great Stone” registered two new residents and an innovative activity entity [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/special/economics/view/velikij-kamen-zaregistriroval-dvuh-novyh-rezidentov-i-subjekt-innovatsionnoj-deyatelnosti-613444-2024/>

¹⁸² The new resident of the Great Stone will implement a project in the field of electronics [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/novvi-rezident-velikogo-kamnja-budet-realizovvat-proekt-v-sfere-elektroniki-619654-2024/>

¹⁸³ “Great Stone” has paid more than \$120 million in taxes to the budget since the beginning of its operations [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/velikij-kamen-s-nachala-deyatelnosti-uplatil-v-byudzhet-bolee-120-mln-nalogov-619525-2024/>

in particular aircraft manufacturing¹⁸⁴, "which is intended both for the Belarusian market and for supplies to the countries of the Eurasian Economic Union. Fourthly, this is **OOO VostokTekhnogrupp**. "The company will organize the production of video endoscopic systems in the park. It is planned to produce such modifications as video gastroscopes, video colonoscopes, video bronchoscopes"¹⁸⁵, which are of import-substituting nature. Fifthly, this is a new subject of innovation activity - **OOO GVDIS GRUPP**, which will implement an innovative project for the development, design and creation of equipment for heat treatment of metals for industrial systems.

The summer of 2024 was marked by an influx of new residents of the industrial park. In particular, **Micrologistics LLC** intends to build a warehouse complex with an area of 13 thousand square meters based on modern technological and design solutions. At the same time, advanced technologies will be introduced, which "will improve the efficiency of warehouse operations. In addition, the company will provide a number of logistics services¹⁸⁶. " **The Transport Aviation Logistics company** will also create a modern transport and logistics center with a total area of 10,000 square meters in the Great Stone for handling cargo at the Minsk National Airport. The new resident of the park, **Doctor Med LLC**, which specializes in the production of medical products, will create a center for equipping medical institutions of various profiles. "3D modeling technologies will be used in the production process with the use of our own technological developments, as well as environmentally friendly materials¹⁸⁷." And the collection of subjects of innovative activity

¹⁸⁴ The new resident of the Great Stone will manufacture products from composite materials [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://industrialpark.by/novosti/2024/novyi-rezident-parka-budet-vypuskat-produkciju-iz-kompozitnyh-materialov/>

¹⁸⁵ A new resident and subject of innovation activity appeared in the "Great Stone" [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/society/view/novye-rezidenti-subiekt-innovatsionnoi-deyatelnosti-pojavilis-v-velikom-kamne-637930-2024/>

¹⁸⁶ The new resident of the Great Stone is implementing a project in the field of integrated logistics [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/novyi-rezident-velikogo-kamnya-realizuet-proekt-v-sfere-kompleksnoj-logistiki-641593-2024/>

¹⁸⁷ The new resident of the Great Stone will be engaged in the production of medical products [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL :

of the industrial park was replenished with the company **Plug Carbon LLC**, which “was accepted for incubation in the innovation center with a project related to biotechnology and developments in the field of artificial intelligence for the implementation of climate projects¹⁸⁸.” Finally, in August, a plant for the production of heating equipment was opened in the Great Stone. “The investment project was implemented by a resident of the park with Chinese capital - **SAS Industrial LLC**. The total area of the facility is 12.2 thousand square meters¹⁸⁹.” In addition, the Chinese **Bel Yanling Technology** will implement a project to create a center for integrated automation solutions for industrial robotics and intelligent equipment. “In the future, based on the results of the developments, it is planned to produce heavy-duty and explosion-proof industrial robots¹⁹⁰.”

In early autumn last year, three more residents from Belarus were registered in the Great Stone. **Strategic Technologies LLC** in the innovative center for commercialization of scientific and technical achievements of the industrial park “will implement a project for the production of multispectral electronic-optical night vision equipment for vehicles of any type¹⁹¹.” Another LLC, **Heprotrade**, a manufacturer of thermal paper in Belarus, opened an import-substituting production facility. The production capacity will be about 600 tons of thermal paper per month. The products can be used to produce thermal tape for cash registers, terminals, ATMs, and to manufacture thermal labels. “The products will be supplied both to the domestic market and beyond,

<https://belta.by/economics/view/novvi-rezident-velikogo-kamnja-zajmetsja-vypuskom-produktsii-mednaznachenija-646420-2024/>

¹⁸⁸ New resident and subject of innovation activity appeared in the “Great Stone” [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/novve-rezident-i-subjekt-innovatsionnoj-dejatelnosti-pojavilis-v-velikom-kamne-646714-2024/>

¹⁸⁹ A heating equipment manufacturing plant was opened in Great Stone [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/v-velikom-kamne-otkryli-zavod-po-proizvodstvu-otopitelnogo-oborudovanija-656417-2024/>

¹⁹⁰ The new resident of the Great Stone will create a center for integrated solutions for industrial robotics [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/novvi-rezident-velikogo-kamnja-sozdast-tsentr-integrirovannyh-reshenij-dlja-promyshlennoj-robototekhniki-657837-2024/>

¹⁹¹ The new resident of the Great Stone will produce night vision equipment [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/society/view/novvi-rezident-velikogo-kamnja-budet-proizvodit-oborudovanie-nochnogo-videnija-660454-2024/>

primarily to the EAEU countries ¹⁹²," since the company manufactures products using the latest automated equipment based on its own technological developments, and also carries out laboratory quality control, which ensures that the manufactured products meet the highest world standards. The third resident of the park, registered in September 2024, is **GammaComponent LLC**, which will create a modern production complex for the production of automotive components from composite materials, including parts for special civilian equipment. "The second area is the production of metal products and structures for trucks. The products are intended for the domestic market and will also be exported ¹⁹³." The project involves the implementation of innovative solutions, such as 3D printing for prototyping and small-scale production of complex parts, which will reduce production times and improve their quality.

It should be noted that over the three quarters of the past year, the residents of the industrial park ensured positive dynamics of key financial and economic indicators. "Based on the results of work for 9 months of 2024, the volume of investments in fixed assets increased by 1.5 times, revenue from product sales by 1.4 times, production volumes by 1.3 times, direct foreign investment on a net basis by 1.2 times, exports of goods and employee salaries by 1.1 times. A record growth in net profit of enterprises was formed - 19 times" ¹⁹⁴. By that time, more than 50 residents had already started economic activity on the territory of the "Great Stone". During this period, 21 new enterprises with capital from Belarus, China, Israel and Russia appeared in the park. New investors are implementing projects in the field of integrated logistics, instrument making, medicine, biotechnology, storage and processing of big data.

¹⁹² A new import-substituting production facility has been opened in Great Stone [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/society/view/v-velikom-kamne-otkryto-novoe-importozameschajuschee-proizvodstvo-664698-2024/>

¹⁹³ The new resident of the Great Stone is implementing an investment project in the field of mechanical engineering [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/special/economics/view/novyi-rezident-velikogo-kamnia-realizuet-investitsionnyi-proekt-v-sfere-mashinostroenija-664958-2024/>

¹⁹⁴ Ministry of Economy: the efficiency of the residents of the Great Stone is growing steadily [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/minekonomiki-effektivnost-raboty-rezidentov-velikogo-kamnia-stabilno-rastet-676502-2024/>

In the fourth quarter of 2024, about ten more residents were registered in the Great Stone. In November - four. **The company "People and Numbers"** - with a project to organize innovative production of dental scanners and medical furniture. "The startup project, implemented by the new subject of innovative activity, **Deviar AI LLC**, provides for the development and implementation of agents (online assistants using artificial intelligence, neural networks) for the purpose of optimizing the organization's business processes ¹⁹⁵." The idea of the new startup project of the **Vitaem company** is to create an interactive booking and management system for guests and owners of tourist facilities using artificial intelligence. And **HortSystems LLC** plans to organize the production of modular heating and cooling units and direct-flow air conversion equipment in the park. "Innovative developments are used in the production process, which allow for shorter production times and reduce their cost. Areas of application are housing and communal services, industrial production and other facilities ¹⁹⁶." The products will be supplied for export as well as to the domestic market.

In December, seven more new residents appeared. In particular, **Sanitary Defense CJSC** will implement a project for the production of active pharmaceutical ingredients, medical products, and new-generation disinfectants. The project of **KN-Logistics** is associated with the construction of a multi-temperature warehouse with an administrative and household complex. **Innovative Technological Solutions** will produce endoprostheses and orthopedic devices. "The new resident of the park, **Bel Xinhui Scientific and Technical Company for Assistive Devices**, will create a research and production center for intelligent prostheses, and **Eurasian Commercial, Trade, Cultural, Tourist, and Health Industrial Corporation LLC** will open an innovative Eurasian Health Center of Traditional

¹⁹⁵ A new resident and two entities of innovation activity have been registered in the Great Stone [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/special/economics/view/v-velikom-kamne-zaregistrirovany-novyi-rezident-i-dva-subiekta-innovatsionnoj-deyatelnosti-677811-2024/>

¹⁹⁶ The new resident of the Great Stone will produce industrial climate control equipment [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/novyi-rezident-velikogo-kamnja-budet-proizvodit-promyshlennoe-klimaticheskoe-oborudovanie-678919-2024/>

Chinese Medicine in the Great Stone . " ¹⁹⁷ And on the eve of 2025, it became known that **the enterprise "CNC Corporation"** will implement a project in the industrial park in the field of mechanical engineering - to produce "high-precision metalworking machines that meet modern standards, with the integration of advanced control and automation technologies. Production activities will be organized on the basis of a partnership with a Chinese company that specializes in the development and production of intelligent equipment ¹⁹⁸. " **The company "Biokhim Medtech"** will open a high-tech production of special filters for hemodialysis or bicarbonate cartridges for dialysis in "Great Stone". These medical products are widely used in the treatment of chronic and acute kidney diseases.

Already this year, two new residents were registered in the industrial park in January. Firstly, "the investment project of the company **"StanOk CN-Si"** is related to mechanical engineering. The enterprise will produce equipment with numerical control for the manufacturing industry ¹⁹⁹. " **The company "NICAET"** with Swiss capital will conduct research and development in the field of energy. It will create high-tech solutions for energy storage that can be used in the field of electric transport, conduct research on the production of graphene, as well as intelligent energy management.

In March, three more new residents appeared in the Great Stone. These are **Alsinor LLC**, which will create a high-tech production of aluminum industrial cooling radiators based on plate and bar technology. This innovative technology "is a multilayer system of alternating plates, which ensures high heat exchange efficiency, compactness and mechanical strength of the product

¹⁹⁷ Medicine, pharmaceuticals, logistics: five new residents registered in Great Stone [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/meditsina-farmatsevtika-logistika-v-velikom-kamne-zaregistrovany-pyat-novyh-rezidentov-680725-2024/>

¹⁹⁸ New residents of the Great Stone are implementing projects in the field of mechanical engineering and medicine [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/novye-rezidenty-velikogo-kamnja-realizujut-proekty-v-sfere-mashinostroeniia-i-medsiny-686162-2024/>

¹⁹⁹ Mechanical engineering and developments in the energy sector. What will the new residents of the Great Stone do? [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/mashinostroenie-i-razrabotki-v-energetike-cto-budut-delat-novye-rezidenty-velikogo-kamnja-692642-2025/>

²⁰⁰." The company's products will be intended for use in construction, agriculture, energy, oil and gas sectors and will be supplied primarily to the markets of the countries of the Eurasian Economic Union, as well as to the domestic market. This is **MotEra LLC**, which will implement an investment project in the field of mechanical engineering and "will produce ATVs based on modern solutions. The line includes six models for different age categories. They differ from analogues in higher engine power and greater load capacity ²⁰¹." The products will be supplied mainly for export, as well as to the domestic market of Belarus. This is the first resident with Turkish capital - **BelTurMed LLC**, which will create a modern production of medical consumables. "The products will be manufactured using advanced technologies, automated quality control processes. Modern polymeric materials that meet international standards will be used in production ²⁰²." This investment project has an import-substituting nature, since these products will be intended for the market of Belarus and other post-Soviet countries.

And in April, a new resident of the park was registered – the Belarusian **LLC Ingribel**, which will produce complex food additives, and will also "implement an innovative processing technology for the EAEU for the production of natural components that improve the texture and consistency of food products. Experimental workshops will allow developing and testing new recipes, and automated control systems will increase production efficiency ²⁰³." Renewable energy sources will be used

²⁰⁰ The new resident of the Great Stone will create a high-tech production of aluminum radiators [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/amp/economics/view/novyj-rezident-velikogo-kamnja-sozdast-vysokotekhnologichnoe-proizvodstvo-aluminievyh-radiatorov-703870-2025/>

²⁰¹ The new resident of the Great Stone is implementing a project in the field of mechanical engineering [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/novyj-rezident-velikogo-kamnja-realizuet-proekt-v-sfere-mashinostroenija-704576-2025/>

²⁰² The first resident with Turkish capital registered in the Great Stone [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/pervyj-rezident-s-turetskim-kapitalom-zaregistirovan-v-velikom-kamne-704373-2025/>

²⁰³ The new resident of the Great Stone will introduce innovative technologies for the production of food additives [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/novyj-rezident-velikogo-kamnja-vnedrit-innovatsionnye-tehnologii-proizvodstva-pischevnyh-dobavok-707627-2025/>

in the work of the new enterprise. The products of the new resident will be intended for the Belarusian market, as well as for export.

In total, by the beginning of April 2025, about 150 residents were already operating in the industrial park, which can be combined into four clusters. The mechanical engineering cluster includes about 30 manufacturers, including those producing truck cranes, excavators, loaders, gearboxes, diesel engines, machine tools, with a tendency to produce auto components for light automotive industry. The electronics cluster includes manufacturers of server and computer equipment, as well as monitors, all-in-ones, and plastic products. The logistics cluster houses the "distribution center of a large marketplace, which will be the largest in Belarus. The second largest is the warehouse facility of 53 thousand square meters of the China Corporation warehouses. Merchants Group, as well as a customs warehouse, two hotels and an exhibition center"²⁰⁴.

A special conversation is about the medical cluster, which already includes more than twenty manufacturers of medical products, equipment and medicines. The Belarusian side is interested in the participation of Chinese business in the development of this cluster, since "Belarus is the only state in the region where the conditions for the development of traditional Chinese medicine are enshrined in law"²⁰⁵. And today everything is being done to deepen Belarusian-Chinese cooperation in joint technological development, active creation of production in medicine, pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, participation in the modernization of Belarusian enterprises using innovations in the field of healthcare in order to double the number of residents of this cluster in the near future and bring new energy to joint initiatives. To be more specific, the medical cluster already "produces breathing circuits and catheters, one of the residents has

²⁰⁴ Koroteev, K. From the forest to a mini-city. With what achievements does the Great Stone celebrate its 10th anniversary / K. Koroteev // [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/interview/view/iz-lesa-v-mini-gorod-s-kakimi-dostizhenijami-velikii-kamen-vstrechaet-10-letie-9581/>

²⁰⁵ Belarus is interested in the participation of Chinese business in the development of a medical cluster in the Great Stone [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belarus.by/ru/business/business-news/belarus-zainteresovana-v-uchastii-kitajskogo-biznesa-v-razvitii-medklastera-v-velikom-kamne-i-177698.html>

built a plant for the production of medical products and equipment for operating rooms. In addition, a Belarusian-Russian company has launched its own production of test systems for the analysis and identification of blood glucose levels" ²⁰⁶. And in September 2024, an exhibition of Chinese medical equipment was held in the industrial park, which demonstrated new opportunities for localizing the production of this equipment in Belarus and creating joint ventures. Moreover, "the Great Stone industrial park is a platform where all this can be implemented. Thanks to this, the availability of Chinese technologies for the Belarusian healthcare system will significantly increase, and new jobs will be created... ²⁰⁷"

Let's sum it up. This year, the Great Stone Industrial Park turns ten years old. During this time, 85 buildings and structures have been built, 20 facilities are under construction, and 49 are still being designed. Last year, they moved on to the second stage of developing this territory in order to increase the number of people working there from three and a half to eleven thousand people by 2030. This suggests that "Great Stone, as an international industrial and logistics cluster with an emphasis on investment, technology, and the development of traditional and innovative Chinese medicine ²⁰⁸," which pays for itself in every sense, is confidently looking to the future in order to continue developing this Chinese-Belarusian project in all areas.

²⁰⁶ Production and provision of services: how the medical cluster is developing in the Great Stone [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/proizvodstvo-i-okazanie-uslug-kak-v-velikom-kamne-razvivaetsia-meditsinskij-klastor-662559-2024/>

²⁰⁷ You can get acquainted with the latest achievements of China in the field of medical technology at the exhibition in the "Great Stone" [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/society/view/poznakomitsia-s-poslednimi-dostizhenijami-kitaja-v-sfere-medtehnologii-mozhno-na-vvstavke-v-velikom-663544-2024/>

²⁰⁸ Zaleski, B. Belarusian-Chinese partnership in the context of unstable global economy / Boris Zaleski. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing , 2024. – P. 53–54.

Mongolia: To make relations strategic

Mongolia is a country located in East Asia, with which Belarus develops effective cooperation in a wide range of areas. Trade and economic cooperation is actively developing between the countries, partnerships are being built between the Belarusian and Mongolian regions, interparliamentary contacts are being strengthened, and joint projects in the field of education are being implemented. It should be noted that since the establishment of Belarusian-Mongolian diplomatic relations in January 1992, Belarusian exports have traditionally formed the basis of bilateral trade. In this context, promising areas of cooperation are "the mining sector (supplies of quarry and special equipment), transport (transit, supplies of passenger equipment, railway cars, equipment), road management (supplies of special equipment, equipment and technologies), agriculture (supplies of machinery, equipment, technologies, interaction in crop production, livestock farming, veterinary medicine), prevention of emergency situations (supplies of fire-fighting equipment)" ²⁰⁹.

At the end of 2018, with a total trade turnover of 19.5 million dollars, the value of exports from Belarus exceeded 19 million dollars with a positive balance for the Belarusian side - 18.8 million dollars. The main supplies of goods from Belarus to Mongolia were milk, condensed and dry cream, trucks, plastic containers, road and construction equipment, butter, medicines, bread and flour confectionery, synthetic uncombed fibers, shoes, sugar, engines and power plants. In the same 2018, the turnover of services between the two countries also increased by almost 1.8 times, exceeding six million dollars. Facts show that bilateral relations between Belarus and Mongolia have noticeably intensified in recent years after:

- 1) the creation in 2013 of the Joint Belarusian-Mongolian Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation;
- 2) the opening of the Belarusian embassy in Ulaanbaatar in June 2014;
- 3) the establishment in 2015 of the Joint Belarusian-Mongolian Commission on Cooperation in Science and

²⁰⁹ Mongolia [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://export.by/mongolia>

Technology and the bilateral interdepartmental Working Group on Cooperation in Agriculture.

In June 2018, on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit in the Chinese city of Qingdao, the leaders of the two countries stated during a bilateral meeting that "Belarus and Mongolia are located between large states or blocs, so it is important to be able to take advantage of this position and find advantages in terms of the economy ²¹⁰." The Belarusian side then voiced its readiness to create high-performance enterprises and equipment production facilities on Mongolian soil, and the Mongolian side expressed interest, first of all, in creating a dairy production facility using Belarusian technologies. In general, in recent years, in relations between Belarus and Mongolia, "the contractual and legal framework has been expanded, trade and economic cooperation has been strengthened. Interaction has begun in the agricultural and scientific and technical spheres. Bilateral ties have been restored in the field of education and sports ²¹¹." And in the long term, the Mongolian side is not only interested in more active cooperation with Belarus in the fields of agriculture, mechanical engineering, food industry, science, and education, but also sees great opportunities in the broad mutual use of each other's transit potential. According to the parties, "Belarus can become an outlet for Mongolia and its goods to Europe, and Mongolia can become a conduit to Asia for Belarusian products ²¹²."

In April 2019, **an intergovernmental general agreement on the provision of an export loan was adopted**, which made it possible to supply Belarusian equipment to Mongolia. In accordance with this document, "in the coming years, the parties will work out issues of supplying fire-fighting, agricultural,

²¹⁰ Negotiations with the President of Mongolia Khaltmagijn Battulga [Electronic resource]. – 2018. – URL : http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/vstrecha-s-prezidentom-mongolii-khaltmagijn-battulgoj-18894/

²¹¹ Transcript of the approach to the press by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belarus V. Makei following the talks with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia (June 4, 2018, Minsk) [Electronic resource]. – 2018. – URL : http://mfa.gov.by/press/news_mfa/d211839fb93936d7.html

²¹² Tsogtbaatar, D. Belarus can become an outlet for Mongolia and its goods to Europe / D. Tsogtbaatar // [Electronic resource]. - 2018. - URL : <https://www.belta.by/opinions/view/belarus-mozhet-stat-dlja-mongolii-i-ee-tovarov-vyhomom-v-evropu-6281/>

municipal, road-building and road-cleaning equipment, passenger elevators and railway cars ²¹³." It was also discussed that a dairy cluster consisting of a milk processing plant and dairy farms would be created in Mongolia using Belarusian technologies, and "opportunities for developing cooperation in the construction and mining industries, education, as well as expanding the bilateral legal framework" were worked out ²¹⁴. And in June 2019, **the fifth meeting of the joint Belarusian-Mongolian commission on trade and economic cooperation** was held in Ulaanbaatar, where issues of practical implementation of the intergovernmental general agreement on the provision of an export loan were considered, and **a Roadmap for the development of cooperation between the Republic of Belarus and Mongolia for 2019-2021 was signed**.

And already within the framework of this loan, several major projects were implemented in 2021. "More than 70 units of fire-fighting equipment on MAZ chassis were delivered for the needs of the State Emergency Situations Agency of Mongolia. <...> The supply of road cleaning and repair equipment on MAZ chassis for the needs of the Ministry of Road and Transport Development of Mongolia was in high demand. 42 units were delivered for all aimags of Mongolia" ²¹⁵. The Belarusian side also transferred road surface repair technology and assisted in creating in this country the production of the necessary components to ensure the operation of road repair vehicles. As for other results of 2021, "the turnover of food products and agricultural raw materials with Mongolia amounted to \$ 14.1 million (increased by 2.5 times compared to 2020). The main export items were milk and dairy

²¹³ Belarus to Provide Export Credit to Mongolia for Purchase of Its Equipment [Electronic Resource]. – 2019. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-predostavit-eksportnyj-kredit-mongolii-na-pokupku-svoej-tehniki-345020-2019/>

²¹⁴ The next meeting of the Belarusian-Mongolian Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation was held in Ulaanbaatar [Electronic resource]. – 2019. – URL : <http://mongolia.mfa.gov.by/ru/embassy/news/ddb45d27a11bdef0.html>

²¹⁵ Interview of the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Belarus to Mongolia D. Gorelik to the information portal "GOGO" (January 5, 2022) [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://mfa.gov.by/press/smi/bf44fc21553530dd.html>

products - 85.9%”²¹⁶. In the same year, the Mongolian side made a decision to purchase about nine thousand heads of highly productive breeding cattle of Belarusian selection from Belarus.

Interesting prospects have also opened up in **the Belarusian-Mongolian cooperation in the field of education**, the basic element of which is the intergovernmental agreement on cooperation in this area signed in 2013, providing for the possibility of an annual exchange of students to study at universities of the parties. Fulfilling the provisions of this document and within the framework of the Memorandum of Interaction and Cooperation between the Dalanzadgad soum of the Umnugovi aimag and the city of Zhodino, signed in 2016, “in the 2017/2018 academic year, six citizens of Mongolia were enrolled to study at the Branch of the Belarusian National Technical University “Zhodino State College”²¹⁷. And in 2021, more than 30 Mongolian students have already studied in Belarus. The most popular specialties among them were: general medicine, information technology software, information systems and technologies, mining machinery and equipment, agronomy, veterinary science, jurisprudence, transport logistics.

The sixth meeting of the joint Belarusian-Mongolian commission, which discussed topical issues of expanding mutually beneficial partnership, was held in February 2022 in the format of a video conference, where it was noted that “among the main goods exported from Belarus to Mongolia are food products and quarry equipment²¹⁸.” The parties then agreed to intensify projects to be implemented within the framework of the General Agreement on Export Credit (2019), including the replacement or reconstruction of elevators in residential buildings in Ulaanbaatar and the supply of agricultural machinery and equipment. And then “an agreement was reached on cooperation with Belarus within the

²¹⁶ Belarus and Mongolia intend to increase cooperation in agriculture [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-mongolija-namereny-naraschivat-sotrudnichestvo-v-selskom-hozjajstve-498561-2022/>

²¹⁷ Humanitarian cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2019. – URL : http://mongolia.mfa.gov.by/ru/bilateral_relations/cultural/e6d8f5ae8191d258.html

²¹⁸ Belarus and Mongolia held a meeting of the commission on trade and economic cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-mongolija-proveli-zasedanie-komissii-po-torgovo-ekonomicheskomu-sotrudnichestvu-487044-2022/>

framework of the national movement "Billion Trees"²¹⁹, initiated by the President of Mongolia U. Khurelsukh in 2021. In the same 2022, **interregional cooperation also began to develop more actively**.

Among the Belarusian regions that are seriously interested in developing trade and economic cooperation with Mongolian partners, one can name **the Brest region**. Suffice it to say that foreign trade turnover with Mongolia increased more than 2.5 times in 2021 and amounted to more than \$1.2 million. Positive dynamics continue in subsequent years, based on supplies of furniture, industrial equipment, and food products from the Brest region. And the parties have a good reason to expand partnerships. After all, Mongolia is a country with a developed mining industry, agriculture, where the livestock population is more than 70 million. And "more than half of the world's cashmere is of Mongolian origin"²²⁰.

The Mogilev region also has a high interest in cooperation with this East Asian country. After all, in 2020, the trade turnover of the Belarusian region with Mongolia amounted to only 179 thousand dollars, in 2021 - more than one and a half million dollars, and "according to the results of 9 months of the current [2022] year, this figure will amount to about \$ 2.7 million"²²¹. In October 2022, negotiations with a delegation of **the Bulgan aimag were held in Mogilev**. The main industry of the Mongolian region is agriculture, including livestock farming and farming. Among the issues discussed during the meeting was the experience of the Mogilev region in training highly professional specialists in these areas, as well as the development of cultural, educational, sports

²¹⁹ Battsetseg, G. Mongolia and Belarus held an online meeting of the commission on trade and economic cooperation / G. Battsetseg // [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL : <https://montsame.mn/ru/read/291038>

²²⁰ Brest Region and Mongolia are interested in developing cooperation [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/brestskaia-oblast-i-mongolija-zainteresovany-v-razvitii-sotrudnichestva-497468-2022/>

²²¹ Isachenko on cooperation with Mongolia: success depends on the desire to work together [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/isachenko-o-sotrudnichestve-s-mongoliei-uspeh-zavisit-ot-zhelaniia-sovmestno-rabotat-532389-2022/>

and tourism cooperation. And the parties have already agreed to work in these areas.

Finally, in January 2024, **the seventh meeting of the joint Belarusian-Mongolian intergovernmental commission (IGC)** on trade and economic cooperation was held in Minsk, where the state and prospects of cooperation in the fields of industry, agriculture, transport and logistics, finance, as well as education, culture and science were discussed. The parties agreed that "today's mutual trade turnover does not reflect the potential of the two countries; in previous periods, the volume of trade turnover was significantly higher. <...> But we must do everything to ensure that the relationship between the two countries acquires a strategic nature ²²². "

Among the priority areas of cooperation between Belarus and Mongolia, it is again worth noting topics related to agriculture. These are supplies of equipment for equipping dairy and livestock farms, potato seeds and other agricultural crops, veterinary drugs of Belarusian production, as well as issues of training and retraining Mongolian specialists in Belarusian agricultural universities. Within the framework of the IGC, at the third meeting of the Belarusian-Mongolian working group on agriculture, an agreement on cooperation in the field of pedigree livestock breeding was signed between **the Belarusian State Association "Belplemzhivobedinenie"** and **the State Agricultural Corporation of Mongolia**, which "provides for the supply of pedigree cattle of Belarusian selection to Mongolia ²²³. "

In addition, the parties discussed the issue of construction and operation of a multi-brand center in this East Asian country, where all Belarusian equipment will be presented - tractors, combines, trucks, quarry dump trucks. And already **JSC Gomselmash** signed a contract with the State Agricultural Corporation of Mongolia for the supply of 10 self-propelled mowers. Note that "this [Mongolian] market consumes up to 300

²²² Multi-brand center of Belarusian technology is planned to be opened in Mongolia [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/multibrendovyi-tsentr-belorusskoi-tehniki-planirujut-otkryt-v-mongolii-611362-2024/>

²²³ Belarus plans to expand the range of food supplies to Mongolia [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-planiruet-rasshirit-assortiment-postavok-prodovolstvija-v-mongoliju-611355-2024/>

units of self-propelled grain harvesting equipment annually ²²⁴." Gomel mowers were supplied to the Mongolian market until 2015. And today these supplies are already being resumed. For reference: Gomselmash took part in **the 48th international exhibition Ulaanbaatar in the fall of 2023 Partnership -2023 in Ulaanbaatar** , where it showed a wide range of manufactured products that can be modified taking into account the requirements of Mongolian specifics and the wishes of buyers based on the purposes of its use. Within the framework of this business forum, specialists from the Gomel enterprise held talks with representatives of **the Ministry of Agriculture of Mongolia and the Agricultural Corporation** , where "the main topic was the promotion of Belarusian combines to the Mongolian market ²²⁵." And already in 2024, supplies of equipment from Gomel, which is in demand, begin. **The Minsk Tractor Works is also interested in increasing the volume of BELARUS** equipment supplies to this country . Moreover, "the growth rate of MTZ exports to Mongolia in 2023 amounted to 163.3% compared to 2022. ²²⁶"

Returning to the 48th international exhibition in Ulaanbaatar, we recall that Ulaanbaatar Partnership -2023 is the largest multi-industry exhibition event in Mongolia, where hundreds of companies from such sectors as agriculture, mechanical engineering, oil refining, construction and light industry gather annually. In 2023, the collective exhibition of Made was also presented at this forum . in Belarus , where "six companies participated, covering sectors such as food industry, mechanical engineering, dual- use equipment and consumer goods" ²²⁷. Among them was **OJSC "Vitebsk Carpets"** , which showed new samples of carpet products made of polypropylene

²²⁴ Gomselmash resumes deliveries to Mongolia [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/gomselmash-vozobnovljaet-postavki-v-mongoliju-611342-2024/>

²²⁵ Gomselmash Establishes Business Ties with Mongolia [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/gomselmash-nalazhivaet-delovye-svjazi-s-mongoliej-591381-2023/>

²²⁶ MTZ is interested in expanding tractor supplies to Mongolia [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/mtz-zainteresovan-v-rasshirenii-postavok-traktorov-v-mongoliju-612157-2024/>

²²⁷ Made exhibition in Belarus presented at the exhibition in Mongolia [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/ekspozitsiju-made-in-belarus-predstavili-na-vystavke-v-mongolii-590845-2023/>

and classic carpet collections. A wide range of its products, including sterilized milk, cheese, dry skimmed milk, whey, sweet cream butter, glazed curd bars, milk shakes and lactose-free products, was presented by **Minsk Dairy Plant No. 1**. Optical-electronic devices and surveillance systems, including night vision devices, laser rangefinders and rangefinder modules, as well as thermal imaging surveillance devices, were demonstrated by **the Scientific and Technical Center "LEMT" of BelOMO**. Another exhibitor, **Zenit OJSC**, displayed a wide range of products and promising developments at its stand, including LED headlights and lanterns for heavy-duty use, electrical products for elevators, street and industrial LED lighting, a disinfection system for premises and elevator cabins. The company is interested in establishing business ties with Mongolian enterprises in the mining, utilities and construction sectors.

Finally, in Ulaanbaatar, visitors to the exhibition were able to get acquainted with the capabilities of **the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange (BUCE)**, which has established contacts with representatives of Mongolian business in order to attract them to trades as sellers or buyers. And among the promising product positions that BUCE considered at the exhibition, the main attention was paid to the export of Belarusian agricultural products and petrochemicals to Mongolia. In the future, "BUCE expects to use the potential of the industrial and consumer goods platform, where deals are already being concluded for the sale of Mongolian products ..." ²²⁸. To the above, it can be added that in September 2023, the first Mongolian exchange broker was accredited at BUCE - **the company "United Meres Machinery"**, which has been operating in the Belarusian market for quite a long time, has good experience in supplying raw materials for the metallurgical industry and is engaged in the sale of quarry and special equipment of the Belarusian Automobile Plant to mining enterprises in Mongolia. As a BUCE broker, the company intends to diversify its product portfolio and use all product groups presented on the Belarusian exchange platform.

²²⁸ The capabilities of the Belarusian stock exchange platform are presented at the international exhibition in Mongolia [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/vozmozhnosti-belorusskoj-birzhevoj-ploschadki-predstavleny-na-mezhdunarodnoj-vystavke-v-mongolii-590839-2023/>

After all, "Mongolia is a promising market for Belarusian enterprises, both in terms of purchasing raw materials and supplies, and selling finished products. Using the exchange platform as a link between Belarusian and Mongolian business entities will not only simplify the search for business partners, but will also remove the main risks associated with payment and delivery of goods ²²⁹." The new broker plans to start with high-demand goods - ferrous metals and coal. In addition, the possibility of supplying petrochemical and agro-industrial products to Mongolia is being worked out. And in January 2024, with the help of the first Mongolian broker, the first deal for the supply of white granulated sugar to this East Asian country was registered on BUCE. "The volume of the pilot purchase was 312 tons ²³⁰." Given the high demand for sugar in Mongolia, it can be assumed that this product line may become one of the promising ones for Asian markets. Moreover, after the successful execution of the first contract, Mongolian partners are already expecting an increase in the volume of exchange exports from Belarus.

As for the 7th meeting of the IGC, the parties also discussed current **issues of scientific and technical cooperation** and noted the significant potential for strengthening cooperation between Belarus and Mongolia in the field of science and education. In particular, within the framework of the IGC, at the fourth meeting of the Joint Belarusian-Mongolian Commission on Cooperation in Science and Technology, the parties agreed to announce a **competition of scientific and technical projects for 2024-2025 in the near future**. "Points of mutual interest are agriculture, agricultural and forestry machinery and equipment, intensive animal husbandry, reforestation and selection, crop production, as well as history and archeology ²³¹." And in the same January 2024, an agreement was reached to sign an updated agreement between

²²⁹ BUTB accredited the first broker in Mongolia [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/butb-akkreditovala-pervogo-brokera-v-mongolii-586995-2023/>

²³⁰ Belarusian sugar sold to Mongolia for the first time via BUTB [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/beloruskij-sahar-vpervye-prodan-v-mongoliju-cherez-butb-611445-2024/>

²³¹ The Belarusian-Mongolian competition of scientific and technical projects will be announced in the near future [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belorusko-mongolskij-konkurs-nauchno-tehnicheskikh-proektov-objavjat-v-blizhajshee-vremja-611318-2024/>

the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) of Belarus and the Academy of Sciences of Mongolia , supplemented by a **roadmap for cooperation for 2024-2025** , as well as "on studying the issue of signing a cooperation agreement between the NAS of Belarus and the Ministry of Education and Science of Mongolia ²³²." In addition, the parties will consider the possibility of organizing a **forum of young scientists** in the first half of 2024 and will work out the issue of training Mongolian specialists in the master's, postgraduate and doctoral programs **of the State Educational Institution "University of the NAS of Belarus"** .

Another interesting topic was in the focus of Belarusian-Mongolian cooperation at the 7th meeting of the IGC - **ecology** . The fact is that the Mongolian government does not have a separate Ministry of Forestry . For this reason, environmental issues are divided between several departments. We have already mentioned that in 2021, Mongolian President U. Khurelsukh announced an ambitious initiative - to plant at least one billion trees by 2030. In this regard, improving the technological efficiency of forestry is becoming a priority issue in Mongolia. In particular, this East Asian country is interested in the Belarusian experience of forestry and drew attention to several promising areas for expanding partnerships, including wooden housing construction. And the Belarusian side suggested that "Mongolia consider high-quality eco-friendly housing from Belarusian forestry enterprises ²³³ ." In addition, Mongolian partners initiated joint scientific research on the topic of reforestation in the context of climate change and desertification, growing planting material and training specialists with the possibility of opening an industry training center.

Summing up the 7th meeting of the intergovernmental commission on trade and economic cooperation, we note that today the traditionally friendly relations and cooperation between

²³² Belarus and Mongolia Consider Holding a Forum of Young Scientists This Year [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-mongolija-rassmatrivajut-vozmozhnost-provedenija-foruma-molodyh-uchenyh-v-etom-godu-612262-2024>

²³³ Mongolia is interested in studying the Belarusian experience of forestry management [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/mongolija-zainteresovana-v-izuchenii-belorusskogo-opyta-vedenija-lesnogo-hozjajstva-611197-2024/>

Belarus and Mongolia are actively developing in the areas of trade, economy, agriculture, light industry and other areas. As for further bilateral cooperation, it will only be filled with new innovative ideas and projects so that these partnerships acquire a truly strategic nature. After all, Belarus and Mongolia still have many untapped opportunities for cooperation. And the task of the governments of both states is not to miss these opportunities and create conditions for their implementation.

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Mongolia: A Year of Breakthrough Decisions

The past year, 2024, became a breakthrough in the development of interstate relations between Belarus and Mongolia, when in June, for the first time in history, a state visit of the leader of the Belarusian state to this East Asian country was made. Let us recall that since the establishment of Belarusian-Mongolian diplomatic relations in January 1992, trade and economic cooperation between Minsk and Ulaanbaatar has been actively developing, partnerships have been built between the Belarusian and Mongolian regions, inter-parliamentary contacts have been strengthened, and joint projects in the field of education have continued. Nevertheless, in January 2024, at **the 7th meeting of the joint Belarusian-Mongolian intergovernmental commission (IGC)** on trade and economic cooperation in Minsk, its participants noted that mutual trade turnover does not reflect the potential of Belarus and Mongolia. And for this reason, the task was set - it is necessary to do everything so that the relations between the two countries acquire a strategic nature.

In March 2024, an official visit of the Belarusian delegation headed by the head of the Foreign Ministry to Mongolia took place, during which an agreement was reached to bring the relations between Minsk and Ulaanbaatar to a higher level in order to specifically intensify the entire range of contacts between the parties at the level of industries and business entities, business circles. In fact, it was said that "a new stage is beginning in the relations between Belarus and Mongolia"²³⁴. In this regard, the two countries planned to develop a roadmap for cooperation until 2026, where the projects will include the supply of Belarusian agricultural machinery and equipment, municipal and road repair vehicles, emergency response equipment, elevator equipment, quarry equipment, a full cycle of creating high-class and highly efficient agricultural production complexes specially adapted to the needs and requirements of Mongolian customers. The fact is

²³⁴ Aleinik: A new stage begins in relations between Belarus and Mongolia [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/politics/view/aleinik-v-otnoshenijah-belarusi-i-mongolii-nachinaetsja-novyi-etap-621446-2024/>

that "Mongolia is actively developing, so the interest of Mongolian consumers in goods, including highly efficient equipment and food, is growing" ²³⁵. In this context, the parties have already discussed the possibility of opening specialized trading platforms both in Minsk and Ulaanbaatar.

But the most pressing issue for this East Asian country is the development of the agro-industrial sector, as they intend to modernize a lot in agriculture, especially in the livestock industry, so that it moves from an extensive-nomadic to an intensive state, as well as create joint production of agricultural machinery for the subsequent equipping of Mongolian farms. During this visit, it was noted that the industry ministries of the parties "have prepared a roadmap for the development of cooperation in agriculture, which sets out projects and steps for their implementation. This includes the construction of new and modernization of existing full-cycle dairy farms, the supply of cattle of Belarusian selection, veterinary drugs, seeds, specialized equipment, training and advanced training of Mongolian specialists and, of course, the supply of agricultural machinery" ²³⁶.

Let us recall that there are already several production facilities in Mongolia that cooperate with the Belarusian side. For example, the APU dairy, carbonated and alcoholic beverage plant, which uses powdered milk from Belarus to produce dairy products and Belarusian malt to produce beer. And in March 2024, the Minsk Tractor Plant signed a roadmap with the Ministry of Agriculture and Light Industry of Mongolia to organize the supply of 80-350 horsepower tractors and plows, which reflects the supply plan for 2024-2025 with the prospect of developing cooperation until 2027. In the same March, the Belarusian side held negotiations with the Mongolian state-owned Agricultural Corporation for the supply of breeding cattle, milking equipment,

²³⁵ Belarus and Mongolia to develop a roadmap for cooperation until 2026 [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/amp/politics/view/belarus-i-mongolija-razrabotajut-dorozhnyju-kartu-sotrudnichestva-do-2026-goda-621451-2024>

²³⁶ What are Belarus and Mongolia ready to offer each other? Details of Aleinik's negotiations in the government [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/politics/view/chto-belarus-i-mongolija-gotovv-predlozhit-drug-drugu-podrobnosti-peregovorov-aleinika-v-pravitelstve-621640-2024/>

as well as the construction of dairy production facilities for the needs of Mongolian farmers.

In addition, within the framework of this topic, following the meetings in March 2024 in Ulaanbaatar, the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange (BUCE) planned to diversify the commodity structure and increase the volume of exchange deliveries of Belarusian agro-industrial complex products to the Mongolian market. Moreover, "in September 2023, the first Mongolian exchange broker was accredited at BUCE - the company United Meres Machinery, which has been operating in the Belarusian market for quite a long time ..." ²³⁷. And the first deal with the participation of a resident from Mongolia was concluded in January 2024. But so far, only products of Belarusian sugar factories have been supplied to the Mongolian market. Almost one and a half thousand tons of this product were sold for a total of more than 770 thousand dollars. In the near future, work in this area will be continued. In addition, "Mongolia is interested in importing Belarusian dry milk and butter. An agreement on cooperation on these product items has already been reached with four potential buyers – large food industry enterprises" ²³⁸.

A separate topic is the interaction of Belarus and Mongolia in the field of emergency response. It is known that "thanks to the work of Belarusian equipment, more than 13 thousand people have already been saved and property damage worth over \$20 million has been prevented" ²³⁹. And the parties discussed several areas of promising cooperation in this area. Firstly, Mongolian partners are interested in purchasing special fire-fighting equipment from Pozhsnab LLC based on the chassis of MAZ OJSC, as well as other equipment and special clothing. The parties were preparing to sign a new contract. We are talking about the supply of more than 100 units of Belarusian fire-fighting equipment. Secondly,

²³⁷ Zalessky, B. Ideology of pragmatism. Peculiarities of partnership relations in the economy of Belarus: internal and external segments / Boris Zalessky. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2024. – C. 146.

²³⁸ BUTB plans to increase agricultural exports to Mongolia [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/butb-planiruet-uvlichit-eksport-belorusskoi-selhozproduksii-v-mongoliju-622030-2024/>

²³⁹ How Belarusian equipment helps save people in Mongolia and where our dry milk is used. New details about Aleinik's visit [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/politics/view/kak-belorusskaja-tehnika-pomogaet-spasat-liudej-v-mongolii-i-gde-ispolzujut-nashe-suhoe-moloko-novye-621781-2024/>

there is great interest in continuing training programs for specialists from Mongolia at specialized institutions in Belarus.

Among other promising areas of Belarusian-Mongolian cooperation in Ulaanbaatar, the following were discussed: cooperation in the mining industry; modernization of elevator infrastructure in residential buildings. In addition, "emphasis was placed on the issues of supplying municipal and passenger equipment for the needs of the city of Ulaanbaatar. The Mongolian side was also offered the possibilities of the Belarusian side to supply rolling stock for the metro ²⁴⁰." In the humanitarian area, Minsk and Ulaanbaatar outlined projects "in light of the large-scale state programs that are currently being implemented in Mongolia. Including the Billion Trees program, which requires special training of workers in the field of forestry ²⁴¹." In short, the parties agreed, expanding the legal framework for relations between Belarus and Mongolia, to accelerate work on signing about ten bilateral documents - in the field of agriculture, education, inter-university cooperation, emergency response, between law enforcement agencies and scientific institutions of the two countries.

And so, in June 2024, in Ulaanbaatar, as part of the state visit of the Belarusian delegation, the presidents of the two countries signed **the Treaty on Friendly Relations and Cooperation between the Republic of Belarus and Mongolia**. At the same time, the parties examined in detail the entire spectrum of bilateral relations and concluded 14 different documents on the development of cooperation in various areas, one of which was **the roadmap for cooperation between Belarus and Mongolia until 2026**. In addition, the following were adopted: a memorandum of cooperation between the State Secretariat of the Security Council of Belarus and the Office of the National Security Council of Mongolia; intergovernmental agreements on mutual recognition and exchange of driver's licenses, on mutual recognition of

²⁴⁰ Belarus plans to supply municipal and passenger vehicles to Mongolia [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-planiruet-postavljat-v-mongoliju-kommunalnuju-i-passazhirskuju-tehniku-621673-2024/>

²⁴¹ Transcript of the approach to the press by Minister S. Aleinik during the official visit to Mongolia (March 15, 2024, Ulaanbaatar) [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : https://mfa.gov.by/press/news_mfa/b1f3b3594a37a807.html

educational documents. **Two more cooperation roadmaps were also signed** : the first - **in the field of education** at the level of specialized ministries for 2024-2026; the second - **in the field of agro-industrial complex** for a similar three-year period. Finally, "an agreement on scientific and technical cooperation was concluded between the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the Ministry of Education and Science of Mongolia, and an agreement on scientific and technical cooperation was signed with the Academy of Sciences of Mongolia. A number of other memorandums were signed. They concern cooperation in the areas of justice, tourism, environmental protection, prevention and elimination of emergency situations, and protection of industrial property ²⁴². "

Speaking about **the roadmap for cooperation between the two countries** , we note that "it contains more than 50 events and projects in 16 sectors and areas of activity ²⁴³. " To implement it, in Ulaanbaatar, the Belarusian Ministry of Industry and the Mongolian Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry adopted an action plan for the implementation of the economic part of the map, which defined the areas of trade and economic cooperation - the main area of mutual interest of the two countries. "The purpose of the document is to systematize the Belarusian-Mongolian agreements on promising economic projects in one document and give impetus to their implementation in 2024 and subsequent years ²⁴⁴. " In particular, it provides for cooperation in the supply of Belarusian equipment in various areas, as well as other Belarusian and Mongolian products - food products, light industry goods, medicines, medical equipment. We are talking about the export of Belarusian equipment for the Mongolian

²⁴² The Presidents of Belarus and Mongolia signed a treaty on friendship and cooperation between the two countries [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/president/view/prezidenty-belarusi-i-mongolii-podpisali-dogovor-o-druzhbe-i-sotrudnichestve-dvuh-stran-638585-2024/>

²⁴³ The head of the Belarusian Foreign Ministry estimates the effect of Lukashenko's visit to Mongolia at tens of millions of dollars [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/politics/view/glava-mid-belarusi-otsenivaet-effekt-ot-vizita-lukashenko-v-mongoliju-v-desjatki-millionov-dollarov-639780-2024/>

²⁴⁴ Rogozhnik and Bolorchuluun signed an action plan for the implementation of the economic part of the roadmap [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/rogozhnik-i-bolorchuluun-podpisali-plan-meroprijatij-po-realizatsii-ekonomicheskoi-chasti-dorozhnoj-638692-2024/>

mining industry, agricultural machinery and equipment, vehicles for emergency response. The issues of creating joint assembly plants in Mongolia, including tractors, automobiles, elevators, and quarry dump trucks, were also discussed.

Speaking about **the roadmap for cooperation in the field of agro-industrial complex**, we have already indicated above that now the most urgent task for this country of East Asia is the development of the agro-industrial sector. " First of all, Mongolia plans to modernize the livestock industry. And this requires equipment, new farms and complexes ²⁴⁵. " To this end, the parties plan to create a joint production of agricultural machinery for the subsequent equipping of Mongolian farms. Let us recall that back in January 2024, at the 7th meeting of the IGC, it was noted that Belarus would open a specialized center in Mongolia. " This will be an assembly of agricultural machinery, a multi-brand center in Mongolia, where all the equipment and all the technology will be presented, from sowing to harvesting crops. This is a wide range of cooperation. This includes seed production, animal husbandry, light industry, quarry equipment ²⁴⁶. " The second area is meat and dairy. In Mongolia, it is planned to build a livestock farm using Belarusian technologies. It is designed for 600 heads of loose cattle. The third area is veterinary drugs. In this regard, there is potential for developing cooperation through the Belvitunifarm enterprise, which produces a wide range of vaccines and drugs.

Speaking about **the roadmap for cooperation in the field of education**, we note that direct interaction between universities of Belarus and Mongolia is currently being implemented within the framework of 12 inter-university agreements. In June, an agreement was adopted between the governments of the two countries on the mutual recognition of educational documents. In addition, " an agreement on cooperation was signed between the

²⁴⁵ Gorelik, D. Far, but close? Why is Lukashenko flying to Mongolia and what prospects are opening up between the countries / D. Gorelik // [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL : <https://belta.by/interview/view/dalekaia-no-blizkaia-zachem-lukashenko-letit-v-mongoliju-i-kakie-perspektivy-otkryvajutsja-mezhdu-stranami-9239/>

²⁴⁶ Belarus plans to open a multi-brand center in Mongolia and help build a farm [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL : <https://belta.by/society/view/belarus-planiruet-otkryt-v-mongolii-multibrendovyi-tsentr-i-pomoch-v-stroitelstve-fermy-638351-2024/>

Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno and the Mongolian University of Science and Technology. Both universities intend to create a working group and develop a roadmap ²⁴⁷. "

In general, promising scientific projects with Mongolian educational institutions are already being implemented by Vitebsk State Medical University, Belarusian State University, Belarusian National Technical University, Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radioelectronics (BSUIR) and Mozyr State Pedagogical University (MSPU) named after I.P. Shamyakin. In particular, BSUIR, together with the Mongolian University of Science and Technology, submitted a new scientific work to the competition of the Belarusian Republican Foundation for Fundamental Research and the Mongolian Foundation for Science and Technology. And MSPU named after I.P. Shamyakin, together with the Mongolian Academy of Sciences, are developing a project in the field of agronomy. There is also interest in cooperation with Mongolian partners from other universities - Belarusian State Agrarian Technical University (BSATU), Brest State University named after A.S. Pushkin, Vitebsk State University named after P.M. Masherov - in such areas as information and computer technology, physics and radiophysics, chemistry and chemical technology, ecology, biotechnology, medicine, pharmacy, agro-industrial and food technology, social and humanitarian sciences. "In March of this [2024] year, a group of executives and specialists from one of the Mongolian farms underwent training at BGATU under the advanced training program "Innovative Technologies in Livestock and Forage Production" ²⁴⁸. We add that the signed roadmap included a clause on the development of academic mobility of students and teachers. So, Belarusian educational institutions are ready to organize training in the preparatory department for foreign students in English or Russian. A distance learning format with a course of

²⁴⁷ Education departments of Belarus and Mongolia are stepping up training of personnel for pedagogy and science [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/society/view/obrazovatelnye-vedomstva-belarusi-i-mongolii-aktiviziruiut-podgotovku-kadrov-dlja-pedagogiki-i-nauki-638522-2024/>

²⁴⁸ Belarus and Mongolia signed an agreement on mutual recognition of educational documents [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-mongolija-podpisali-soglashenie-o-vzaimnom-priznanii-dokumentov-ob-obrazovanii-638719-2024/>

the program lasting from eight to ten months is possible. At the same time, professional personnel will be trained for specific enterprises.

During the state visit of the Belarusian delegation to Ulaanbaatar in June 2024, Belarus and Mongolia agreed to intensify cooperation in **the environmental protection sphere** in such areas as green economy, maximum use of waste by involving it in economic circulation, conservation of landscape and biological diversity, exploration and extraction of minerals. Earlier, in the interests of the Mongolian side, within the framework of an agreement with the Belarusian Republican Foundation for Fundamental Research, research work was carried out on the topic "Humic preparations based on peat, coal for green development of desert territories, environmental protection". "The purpose of the work was to theoretically and experimentally substantiate the composition of humic preparations as natural compounds for green development of desert territories of Mongolia ²⁴⁹. " In June, the Belarusian side submitted a report to Mongolian partners, which contained the theoretical results of the work, including a preliminary range of woody plants resistant to moisture deficiency, soil salinity and other unfavorable soil and climatic conditions close to those of Mongolia. And it proposed to continue work in this direction in order to test the developed range of salt- and drought-resistant plants directly in the specific natural and climatic conditions of the regions of this East Asian country.

In this context, it should be added that back in March of last year, the State Committee on Science and Technology of Belarus and the Ministry of Education and Science of Mongolia announced **a competition for joint scientific and technical projects for 2024-2025** , which will be held "in priority areas of Belarusian-Mongolian cooperation: agriculture, agricultural and forestry machinery and equipment, intensive livestock farming, reforestation and selection, crop production, history and

²⁴⁹ Belarus and Mongolia are interested in cooperating in the environmental sphere [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-mongolija-zainteresovany-sotrudnicat-v-prirodoohrannoj-sfere-638714-2024/>

archeology ²⁵⁰." So the scientific and technical ties between the two countries will receive an additional impetus for cooperation.

Returning to the state visit of the Belarusian delegation to Ulaanbaatar in June 2024, we note that **a joint Mongolian-Belarusian business forum was held on its sidelines**, where the prospects for cooperation between the business circles of the two countries were discussed. 40 Belarusian enterprises were represented at it, where "13 commercial documents were signed. The total amount is \$20 million. <...> For comparison: the entire trade turnover of Belarus and Mongolia at the end of 2023 amounted to about \$30 million" ²⁵¹. This package of commercial contracts and agreements included proposals, including those of Belarusian industrial enterprises. In particular, "a memorandum of intent was signed between BELAZ OJSC, its representative in the region - United Meres Machinery LLC and Ovoot Tolgoi Resources, and a memorandum of cooperation between Mogilevliftmash OJSC and the Mongolian elevator organization Best Fashion Elevators LLS" ²⁵². Also, a memorandum of cooperation was signed by OJSC UKH BobruiskAgromash and the Mongolian KOOGS Agricultural Corporation, since the main interest for the market of this East Asian country is in forage harvesting machines. And "since 2021, more than 250 units of forage harvesting agricultural machinery of Bobruiskagromash have been shipped to Mongolia ²⁵³." The same package included an agreement to sign a contract for approximately 14.5 million euros for the supply of fire and rescue equipment. The fact is that

²⁵⁰ A competition of Belarusian-Mongolian scientific and technical projects for 2024-2025 has been announced [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/societv/view/objavljen-konkurs-belorussko-mongolskih-nauchno-tehnicheskikh-proektov-na-2024-2025-gody-623638-2024/>

²⁵¹ The Mongolian-Belarusian business forum has already brought about \$20 million to the treasury of bilateral relations [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/mongolo-belorusskij-biznes-forum-uzhe-prines-okolo-20-mln-v-kopilku-dvustoronnih-otnoshenij-638654-2024/>

²⁵² Export potential of the enterprises of the Ministry of Industry and Trade presented at the Belarusian-Mongolian business forum [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/eksportnyi-potentsial-predpriyatij-minproma-prezentovan-na-belorussko-mongolskom-biznes-forume-638695-2024/>

²⁵³ "Bobruiskagromash" is working on deliveries to Zimbabwe and Mongolia [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/bobruiskagromash-prorabatyvaet-postavki-v-zimbabve-i-mongoliju-640079-2024/>

the Mongolian partners received "Belarusian equipment in 2020 for about 12 million euros. And it is successfully operated here, and in difficult conditions ²⁵⁴. "

It should be said that after this visit of the Belarusian delegation to the Mongolian capital, Belarus and Mongolia promptly began to implement agreements in a wide range of areas. Already in September 2024, the parties "agreed on the supply of Belarusian machinery and equipment for industry, agriculture, emergency response vehicles ²⁵⁵," and also discussed the purchase of special equipment in Belarus for eliminating fires and natural disasters. In the same September, the exposition of Belarusian manufacturers **Made in Belarus** was represented at the international multi-industry exhibition **Ulaanbaatar Partnership 2024** , held in Ulaanbaatar.

This exhibition forum covered a wide range of thematic sections - from the food industry to healthcare, construction and heavy industry. And Belarus is among the main traditional participants of this exhibition. This time, MAZ OJSC presented a production line of cargo, passenger, special, trailer vehicles. "The Made in Belarus exposition included one of the world market leaders in the production of agricultural machinery - Gomselmash OJSC, presenting developments and equipment, including grain harvesters GS12A1, GS400 and G5, self-propelled mowers CS100, CS200 ²⁵⁶." BKM Holding showed a large-scale model of the Olgerd 32100D trolleybus with an increased autonomous run of up to twenty kilometers. The sphere of design and production of professional machines, equipment for catering and trade facilities, the food industry was presented by a specialized enterprise - Torgmash OJSC. Among the exhibits of the Beltopgaz

²⁵⁴ Rogozhnik on Belarusian equipment in Mongolia: our advantage is reliability [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/rogozhnik-o-belorusskoj-tehnike-v-mongolii-nashe-preimuschestvo-v-nadezhnosti-638625-2024/>

²⁵⁵ Development Bank: ready to offer favorable terms for financing deliveries from Belarus to Mongolia [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/bank-razvitiija-gotovv-predlagat-komfortnye-uslovija-finansirovanija-postavok-iz-belarusi-v-mongoliju-662879-2024/>

²⁵⁶ Exposition Made in Belarus presented at a multi-industry exhibition in Mongolia [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/society/view/ekspozitsija-made-in-belarus-predstavlena-na-mnogootraslevoj-vystavke-v-mongolii-664105-2024/>

State Production Association were peat products for non-fuel purposes: high-moor peat of various fractions, peat nutrient soils and cover material for growing champignons based on peat. During the exhibition, Belarusian participants held effective business meetings and negotiations with representatives of large Mongolian trading companies, within the framework of which new projects of trade and economic cooperation were outlined.

All these facts show that "2024 has become a turning point in the development of Belarusian-Mongolian relations"²⁵⁷. Having signed an agreement on friendly relations and cooperation in June last year, Belarus and Mongolia are reaching a higher and qualitatively new level of bilateral relations, which opens up promising opportunities for creating more favorable conditions for the development of trade, economic and cooperation projects.

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²⁵⁷ Grishkevich, A. Mongolian cashmere and Belarusian milk. The Mongolian ambassador spoke about the exchange of goods and relations with Belarus / A. Grishkevich // [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL : <https://delta.by/economics/view/intervju-mongolskij-kashemir-i-belorusskoe-moloko-posol-mongolii-rasskazal-pro-obmen-tovarami-i-688751-2025/>

Pakistan: Potential for Sustainable Growth in Partnerships

Pakistan is one of the most important partners of Belarus in Asia, which fits into the Belarusian strategy of export diversification, development of cooperation with distant arc countries. Pakistan is a friendly state that has good industrial potential, sales market. The population of this country is more than 200 million people. Pakistan has developed agriculture, which allows organizing cooperation in the supply of engineering products and processing.

In 2024, Belarus and Pakistan celebrated the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. Over the years, this multilateral partnership has shown that the Belarusian side is committed to developing a full-fledged strategic partnership, thanks to numerous initiatives and cooperation between Minsk and Islamabad. Suffice it to say that to date, the parties have already adopted about 90 bilateral agreements and memorandums of understanding in such areas as trade, agriculture, science and technology, and education. The interaction between Belarus and Pakistan has been developing especially intensively over the past ten years, when the two countries adopted key bilateral documents - the Islamabad Declaration on Pakistan-Belarus Partnership (May 29, 2015), the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of Belarus (August 10, 2015), and the Joint Statement of the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the President of the Republic of Belarus (October 5, 2016).

As for the Belarusian-Pakistani trade and economic relations, "in recent years, the volume of trade between the Republic of Belarus and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan has fluctuated between 50 and 65 million dollars ²⁵⁸." But already in 2021, the trade turnover between them increased by more than 77 percent and exceeded 92 million dollars with a positive balance for the Belarusian side in the amount of 63.6 million dollars. The basis

²⁵⁸ Trade and economic relations between the Republic of Belarus and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : https://pakistan.mfa.gov.by/ru/trade_and_economic_bilateral_relations/

of Belarusian exports were "tractors and spare parts for them, potash fertilizers, specific goods, synthetic threads, cellulose, dairy products, medicines, diesel engines"²⁵⁹.

In the coming years, Minsk and Islamabad intend to make the necessary efforts to take their partnership to an even higher level. As for the Belarusian side, it intends to promote its goods and services on the Pakistani market in two ways. The first is to increase the volume of trade in traditional goods - automobile, quarry and construction equipment, instrument-making products, woodworking, meat and dairy, chemical, pharmaceutical and pulp and paper industries. The second way is to supply new goods - metal products, flax fiber and yarn, as well as "including consumer goods such as soft cheeses, perfumes and cosmetics, household appliances, children's goods and watches"²⁶⁰.

It should be added that over the past nine years, the parties have already held seven meetings of the joint Belarusian-Pakistani commission on trade and economic cooperation. In general, there are already "many mechanisms of bilateral contacts between the two states, including joint working groups (JWG) on cooperation in the field of industry, agriculture, healthcare and pharmaceuticals, as well as science and technology"²⁶¹. In addition, Minsk and Islamabad maintain close interaction between business communities in the form of joint platforms, including a business council, business and investment, textile and agricultural forums.

Speaking about trade and economic cooperation, we emphasize that the economies of Belarus and Pakistan complement each other. For example, in 2023, "the main items of Belarusian export to Pakistan are tractors, potash fertilizers, synthetic fibers, tires, synthetic yarn bundles, baby food (dry

²⁵⁹ Pakistani Ambassador: Agriculture and Industry Are Our Key Points of Interest in Belarus [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/posol-pakistana-selskoe-hozjajstvo-i-promyshlennost-nashi-kljuchevye-tochki-interesa-v-belarusi-494952-2022/>

²⁶⁰ National Marketing Center on the specifics of promoting Belarusian goods to the Pakistani market [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/comments/view/natsionalnyi-tsentr-marketinga-ob-osobennostjakh-prodvizhenija-belorusskih-tovarov-na-rynok-pakistana-8188/>

²⁶¹ Khan, S.Kh. Diversity of Pakistan / S.Kh. Khan // [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://belta.by/interview/view/mnogooobrazie-pakistana-posol-oniezavisimosti-i-sotrudnichestve-islamabada-s-minskom-8853/>

mixes)" ²⁶². As for Pakistani supplies to Belarus, these are rice, food products, leather goods, fabrics, and sports equipment.

In January 2023, the sixth meeting of the joint Belarusian-Pakistani commission on trade and economic cooperation was held in Minsk, at which the parties proposed to intensify bilateral cooperation, both in terms of increasing trade turnover and in the field of investment cooperation, since "the two countries have good prospects for the transition from simple trade to industrial cooperation, the creation of joint ventures in areas of mutual interest ²⁶³." In particular, the two countries reached an agreement to expand cooperation in a number of areas - mechanical engineering, agriculture, science, education, healthcare. Thus, Belarus is interested in increasing the supply of industrial products to this South Asian country - Belarusian passenger, municipal, agricultural, quarry equipment, textile products. "Partnership in agriculture is among the priorities. And this is not only a willingness to expand the supply of Belarusian food products, but also products for livestock farming: compound feed, protein supplements, veterinary drugs. The creation of a permanent exhibition center of Belarus in Pakistan will contribute to more active promotion of agricultural products..." ²⁶⁴ Another mutually beneficial area is pharmaceuticals, since Belarus is interested in exporting medicines to Pakistan and is already ready to consider the possibility of creating joint pharmaceutical production.

At the 6th meeting of the joint commission, the parties also specifically discussed the possibilities of cooperation in the field of science and high technology. These are nano- and biotechnology, laser optoelectronics, information and communication technologies, aerospace and geoinformation systems. In this regard, in March 2023, a national exposition of Belarus was organized in the Pakistani city of Karachi at the

²⁶² Belarus and Pakistan celebrate 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/politics/view/belarus-i-pakistan-otmechajut-30-letie-ustanovlenija-dipotnoshenij-613420-2024/>

²⁶³ Belarus is interested in supplying agricultural products and agricultural machinery to Pakistan [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-zainteresovana-v-postavkah-v-pakistan-produksii-apk-i-selhozehniki-544338-2023>

²⁶⁴ Belarus and Pakistan agreed to expand cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-pakistan-dogovorilis-o-rasshirenii-sotrudnichestva-544373-2023>

international industrial exhibition International Trade and Industry Fair . Let us recall that at a similar exhibition in November 2021 in Karachi, at the collective stand of the State Committee on Science and Technology, “about 60 scientific, technical and innovative developments were presented. Institutions of the Ministry of Education, as well as the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, showed their exhibits in the field of surface treatment and modification, chemical technologies and materials, physical materials science and new materials”²⁶⁵.

Finally, regional cooperation is gradually becoming another promising area of Belarusian-Pakistani partnership. The fact is that a number of agreements and memorandums between cities, provinces and regions of the two countries have already been signed. For example, of the Belarusian regions, the Grodno region has great potential for cooperation with Pakistan. “The province of Sindh and the city of Karachi, which is the industrial center of Pakistan, are very important strategic partners. A cooperation agreement was signed between the city of Karachi and the Grodno region in 2015.”²⁶⁶ And the parties are already ready to update the agreement and resume relations in all sectors: economics, business, culture, education. For example, baby food produced by Bellakt has already proven itself in Pakistan, and these supplies can be increased. And during the existence of the Grodno Medical University, 122 Pakistani students have already received an education here. So the parties will actively continue their work to develop common ground. After all, this is only the beginning.

Another interesting idea concerning Belarusian-Pakistani regional cooperation is that Pakistan plans to build nine special economic zones in the near future, four of which are at a high level of readiness. All of them are located in the Pakistan-China economic corridor and can be used to implement joint Pakistan-Belarus projects. So it can be predicted that in the near future,

²⁶⁵ Zaleski, B.L. For the promotion of domestic technologies / B.L. Zaleski // *Materiały XX Międzynarodowej science - practice conferences “Clubs” aspekty scientific działalności – 2023*”, Volume 1. Przemysł : Science i studia . – P. 24.

²⁶⁶ Ambassador: Grodno region has huge potential for cooperation with Pakistan [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/posol-grodnenskaia-oblast-imeet-ogromnyi-potentsial-dlja-sotrudnichestva-s-pakistanom-515738-2022>

partnership relations between the regions of Belarus and Pakistan may result in new promising projects.

And in 2024, the parties are already discussing a new roadmap for the development of Belarusian-Pakistani cooperation for 2025-2027, which will provide a comprehensive framework for strengthening bilateral ties and which focuses on providing “assistance in trade and investment, developing joint research and development, and expanding educational and cultural exchanges. The roadmap emphasizes the importance of cooperation in sectors such as agriculture, e-commerce, science and technology, and education ²⁶⁷.”

Among the planned activities of the new roadmap, emphasis will be placed on developing industrial cooperation between the two countries with a view to its further intensification. In this context, we recall that interaction with the Pakistani side in this area is developing within the framework of the memorandum of understanding signed in 2015 between the Ministry of Industry of the Republic of Belarus and the Ministry of Industry and Production of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. And now, “according to the results of January-June 2024, positive dynamics of trade turnover of enterprises of the Ministry of Industry [of Belarus] with Pakistan are noted. The growth rate of exports to this region exceeded 180% compared to the same period last year ²⁶⁸.” Belarusian exporters are ready to continue offering to supply a wide range of equipment – agricultural, cargo, municipal, road.

For example, the Minsk Tractor Works (MTZ) plans to increase the volume of sales of its machines to the Pakistani market. Let us recall that “the average annual sales volume to Pakistan is about 2-2.5 thousand tractors ²⁶⁹.” But recently, the tractor manufacturers, by agreement with partners from Pakistan,

²⁶⁷ Khan, S.H. Rapprochement between Minsk and Islamabad / S.Kh. Khan // [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/interview/view/sblizhenie-minska-i-islamabada-sadzhad-hajder-han-rasskazal-o-novyh-initsiativah-i-vizitah-9357/>

²⁶⁸ The Ministry of Industry and Trade is ready to provide all possible assistance in developing cooperation between Belarus and Pakistan [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/minprom-gotov-okazat-vsemernoe-sodejstvie-v-razvitii-sotrudnichestva-belarusi-i-pakistana-655788-2024/>

²⁶⁹ Minsk Tractor Plant plans to increase equipment supplies to Pakistan [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/minskij-traktornyi-zavod-planiruet-narastit-objemy-postavok-tehniki-v-pakistan-655685-2024/>

have begun modernizing the technical part exclusively according to the requirements of the end consumer. For this purpose, back in August of this year, MTZ signed agreements on strategic cooperation with the Pakistani companies Shahzad Trade Link and HBL Zarai Services, which secured "agreements on the organization of promotion, sales and service of BELARUS tractors with a capacity of over 100 horsepower in the Pakistani market" ²⁷⁰. There will also be created sites for demonstrating Belarusian tractors and mobile service of agricultural machinery in various provinces of Pakistan through the existing dealer network with the involvement of new companies. In addition, MTZ is working on the issue of creating an assembly production in this South Asian country, since "joint and assembly production is a global trend. Local legislative acts are being developed for this, which stimulate this process" ²⁷¹. And in the near future, apparently, the parties, having completed the appropriate formal procedures, will reach a final decision on this issue.

As for other relevant aspects of Belarusian-Pakistani cooperation, it can be noted that scientists from the two countries also plan to develop cooperation in priority areas. In August 2024, the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the Academy of Sciences of Pakistan announced the need to update the agreement on scientific and technical cooperation, which was signed in May 2015, in order to include the most relevant and priority areas for both countries. Moreover, "Pakistan is interested in developing cooperation with Belarusian scientists in such areas as artificial intelligence, laser technologies and agricultural technologies" ²⁷². The goal of these changes is one: to present specific results of joint innovative activities of representatives of the scientific and technological sphere of Belarus and Pakistan in the near future.

²⁷⁰ MTZ signed agreements on strategic cooperation with companies from Pakistan [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/mtz-podpisal-soglashenija-o-strategicheskom-sotrudnichestve-s-kompanijami-iz-pakistana-653533-2024/>

²⁷¹ MTZ is working on the issue of creating an assembly plant in Pakistan [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/mtz-prorabatvyaet-vopros-sozdanija-sborocnogo-proizvodstva-v-pakistane-655686-2024/>

²⁷² Academies of Sciences of Belarus and Pakistan to cooperate in the fields of technologies for the agro-industrial complex, lasers and AI [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/society/view/akademii-nauk-belarusi-i-pakistana-budut-sotrudnicat-v-sferah-tehnologii-dlja-apk-lazeroi-ii-655196-2024/>

At the 7th meeting of the joint commission on trade and economic cooperation in September this year, held in Islamabad, the parties confirmed their intentions to develop and intensify cooperation in various areas of the economy. The discussion concerned such areas as industry, agriculture, education, pharmaceuticals, trade and investment, as well as transport and communications. "A memorandum on cooperation in the textile industry was signed. At the intergovernmental level, the foundation was laid for cooperation in a number of areas - in the field of standardization, environmental protection, light industry, transport and communications, and combating natural disasters. The relevant bilateral documents will be signed in the near future

²⁷³ . "

Another area that will be continued in the partnership between Belarus and Pakistan is exhibition activities. We have already mentioned above that in March 2023, a national exposition of Belarus was organized in the Pakistani city of Karachi at the International Industrial Exhibition International Trade and Industry Fair . More than 350 companies from different countries of the world and more than 50 thousand visitors take part in this specialized exhibition forum in South Asia every year. The main sections of the exhibition are: agriculture, automobile manufacturing, machine tool manufacturing, energy, metallurgy and mining industry, construction, petrochemistry. The National Exposition of Belarus was organized at this exhibition, where "20 Belarusian companies took part, which produce industrial, petrochemical, diagnostic goods, materials and equipment, as well as provide educational services, carry out research and development work

²⁷⁴ . "

In particular, almost forty developments of Belarusian scientists from seven scientific and scientific-production organizations of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) of

²⁷³ Education, pharmaceuticals, industry. Belarus and Pakistan outline areas of cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/societv/view/obrazovanie-farmatsevtika-promyshlennost-belarus-i-pakistan-nametili-sfery-vzaimodejstva-663606-2024/>

²⁷⁴ The national exposition of Belarus opened at the industrial exhibition in Karachi, Pakistan [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/natsionalnaja-ekspozitsija-belarusi-otkrvas-na-promyshlennoj-vystavke-v-pakistanskom-karachi-554860-2023/>

Belarus and institutions of the Ministry of Education were presented. "Among the most interesting are electronic ceramics and products based on it from the NAS of Belarus Scientific and Production Center for Materials Science, including ceramic insulators and housings for microwave filters, dielectric resonators, resonators for antennas, products based on piezoceramics ²⁷⁵." In addition, the Scientific and Production Center for Materials Science presented a graphene-containing material and products based on it. It can be used in structural elements, energy storage devices, lubricants, sorbents, sensors.

The Institute of Meat and Dairy Industry of the National Academy of Sciences presented dry starters and a biopreservative at the exhibition. Bacterial starters for a balancing feed additive regulate microbiological processes in the forestomachs of cows. The biopreservative consists of a mixture of specially selected and lyophilized strains of lactic acid bacteria - lactococci. It is intended for silage of plant materials - annual and perennial cereals and legumes.

The exhibition also featured micro- and nanotechnologies of superfine magnetic-abrasive polishing from the Belarusian National Technical University (BNTU). Their purpose is ultrafine polishing of high-precision surfaces to nano-level roughness, correction of the surface shape of optical parts, increasing the radiation resistance of parts of optical and laser devices, cleaning surfaces before welding and applying coatings, increasing resistance to corrosion, wear and mechanical destruction of parts made of metal alloys, single crystals and ceramics. The developments surpass the best world analogues in technological capabilities, economic and environmental indicators. The technologies and equipment are of interest to mechanical engineering and instrument-making enterprises, including manufacturers of optics, lasers and electronics.

Among the active participants of this exhibition was the Belarusian State University (BSU), which presented about 20 developments. BSU innovations included "radio-absorbing

²⁷⁵ Belarus to Present Scientific, Technical and Innovative Developments at the International Trade and Industry Fair in Pakistan [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://edu.gov.by/vi-ru/news/belarus-predstavit-nauchnotekhnicheskie-i-innovatsionnye-razrabotki-na-mezhdunarodnoy-vystavke-inter/>

materials of the KUP series. They are designed to protect aircraft from the effects of electromagnetic radiation. In particular, the materials can be used to cover the internal niche of a weather radar in civil aircraft, as an absorber in the development of compact anechoic chambers, coordinated loads ... " ²⁷⁶. Also among the BSU developments is "Technology for the synthesis of new polyols from secondary and natural raw materials for the production of polyurethane foams", which is based on the processing and use of secondary raw materials to obtain polyols. They provide a reduction in the cost of a ton of polyurethane foam by five to ten percent due to a decrease in the cost of polyol by 15-20 percent. In addition, BSU presented liquid crystal materials, a multi-channel spectrometer, a mobile power source for charging supercapacitors and electric transport batteries, a B-590 PALTUS elevator equipment motion parameter recorder, and light-absorbing composite materials.

And the Belarusian State Technological University (BSTU) presented "heat-resistant ceramic materials for heating units. They are intended for thermal and electrical insulation of furnaces in foundries, thermal and forge shops ²⁷⁷." These materials have a number of advantages over their analogues. They have improved mechanical, thermal and electrophysical properties. In addition, BSTU showed glass-ceramic proppants - granular materials used in the oil industry to improve the efficiency of wells using hydraulic fracturing technology.

It should be noted that on the sidelines of the International exhibition Trade and Industrial Fair -2023, the Belarusian-Pakistani business forum was held, during which Belarusian participants presented their products to the Pakistani audience. Negotiations were also held on signing contracts for the supply of Belarusian goods and services to Pakistan.

And one more interesting fact: at the end of October 2024, the fifth International Textile and Leather Exhibition TEXPO -

²⁷⁶ BSU will present about 20 developments at the International Exhibition "International Trade and Industry Fair" [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://bsu.by/news/okolo-20-razrabotok-predstavit-bgu-na-mezhdunarodnyov-vystavke-international-trade-and-industry-fair--d/>

²⁷⁷ Belarus to Present Developments in Electronic Ceramics and Nanotechnology [Electronic Resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://e-cis.info/news/569/107455/>

2024 will be held in the same Pakistani city of Karachi, dedicated to the demonstration of textile and leather products made from environmentally friendly materials, where “more than 300 local manufacturers will present their textile and leather products, and about 50 participants from all over the world will present the latest technological achievements and environmentally friendly products. The largest Pakistani companies supplying fabrics and leather for world-famous brands will also participate ²⁷⁸.” The Pakistani side invited Belarusian companies interested in establishing contacts with top local manufacturers to take part in the event and will facilitate visits to Pakistani industrial enterprises of the textile and leather industry.

All this suggests that this South Asian country is an important trading partner of Belarus, where the basis of Belarusian exports is complex technical, chemical and food products with high added value: tractors, trucks, parts and accessories for them, tires, chemical fibers, cellulose. In general, the two countries have good potential for further sustainable growth and continue to carry out large-scale work to maintain the active dynamics of bilateral interaction in order to more fully utilize the existing opportunities for cooperation.

²⁷⁸ Eco-friendly textiles and leather. Belarusian companies invited to a specialized exhibition in Pakistan [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/society/view/ekologichieski-chistvj-tekstil-i-kozha-na-profilnuju-vystavku-v-pakistane-priglasili-belorusskie-656923-2024/>

Pakistan: Towards Regional Development economic integration

In 2024, diplomatic relations between **Belarus** and **Pakistan celebrated their 30th anniversary** . During this time, the interaction between official Minsk and Islamabad has grown into a strong, large-scale partnership. This is evidenced by **the roadmap for the development of comprehensive cooperation between the countries for 2025-2027** , signed in November last year, which will help promote bilateral cooperation. During this visit of the Belarusian leader to Pakistan, along with the roadmap, a dozen and a half agreements and memorandums were adopted that affect trade relations, the economy, cultural cooperation, education, and defense. In general, the legal framework of Belarusian-Pakistani relations already includes about 100 documents.

As one of the priority areas, the parties intend to develop **production cooperation** . In particular, the Belarusian side plans to organize two tractor assembly plants on Pakistani soil. "This will be a model range of up to 60 hp and over 100 hp, which are in high demand on the Pakistani market ²⁷⁹." It should be noted that in 2025, the Minsk Tractor Works (MTZ) will supply at least 2.7 thousand machines with a capacity of up to 60 horsepower. And "the growth rate of BELARUS tractor exports for the first nine months of 2024 amounted to 107.9% compared to the same period last year [2023] ²⁸⁰." In addition, in November, MTZ signed a memorandum of cooperation with the Pakistani companies Green Corporate Initiative Limited and Heavy Industries Taxila , which defines specific deadlines and an algorithm of actions for the implementation of the project for the assembly of more powerful Belarusian machines. After all, "tractors with a capacity of over 100 hp have not previously been supplied to Pakistan on a

²⁷⁹ Not just tractors. What Belarusian assembly plants may appear in Pakistan? [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/ne-tolkotraktory-kakie-sborochnye-proizvodstva-belarusi-mogut-pojavitsja-v-pakistane-678297-2024/>

²⁸⁰ MTZ to supply at least 2.7 thousand BELARUS tractors to Pakistan in 2025 [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/mtz-postavit-v-pakistan-ne-menee-27-tys-traktorov-belarus-v-2025-godu-679583-2024/>

permanent basis. And the organization of assembly production has long-term mutually beneficial prospects ²⁸¹. "

Pakistani partners were also offered to organize a joint venture for the production of trailers, mounted agricultural machines, which in combination will allow performing the entire range of technological work. And there are serious developments in the supply of cargo, quarry and road construction equipment, municipal vehicles. In Islamabad, an agreement was signed to begin assembly production of Belarusian engines for tractor assembly plants and supply to the secondary market of Pakistan. Pakistani partners are also very interested in passenger vehicles, especially Belarusian electric buses. In this country, they plan to eventually replace passenger transport with internal combustion engines with environmentally friendly transport. So in this part, it is possible to offer not only passenger topics in electric performance, but also the Belarusian network of charging infrastructure, organized according to the "smart city" principle.

In terms of **transport cooperation**, Belarus and Pakistan are working on the organization of so-called "seamless" cargo logistics. It is known that cargo deliveries from our republic to this country of South Asia are quite complicated. And "the parties are currently working to ensure that enterprises can reduce their costs of delivering goods to Pakistan and from Pakistan to Belarus ²⁸². " In November of last year, an intergovernmental agreement on international automobile communication was signed in Islamabad, which defines the procedure for carrying out transportation. It is planned that the two countries will actually halve the delivery time of goods. The calculation is as follows. "Yes, automobile transport is more expensive than by sea, but at the same time it moves at a much higher speed, i.e., actually half as fast as sea transport. In the future, Belarus and Pakistan would also like to establish railway

²⁸¹ Assembly production of BELARUS tractors is planned to be organized in Pakistan [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/sborochnoe-proizvodstvo-tractorov-belarus-planiruetsja-organizovat-v-pakistane-678120-2024/>

²⁸² Belarus and Pakistan are working on creating "seamless" cargo logistics [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-pakistan-rabotajut-nad-sozdaniem-besshovnoj-gruzovoj-logistiki-677983-2024/>

communication: in this case, logistics will become more profitable
283. ”

Returning to the Belarusian-Pakistani documents signed in November 2024, two more important agreements can be named: on scientific and technical cooperation - between the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) of Belarus and the Pakistan Academy of Sciences; on cooperation in science and technology - between the NAS and the Pakistan Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. And already in January 2025, a competition of joint Belarusian-Pakistani scientific and technical projects for 2025-2027 was announced, which "will be held in the following areas: new materials, nano- and biotechnology, renewable energy sources, industrial chemistry, mining, smart agriculture and precision farming, information and communication technologies, medicine and pharmaceuticals, food security, water resources management, environmental protection ²⁸⁴." This will be a concrete step towards deepening ties between Belarus and Pakistan in the field of science and technology.

Another topic related to the visit of the Belarusian delegation to Islamabad in November 2024 is **the Belarus-Pakistan business forum**, which was attended by more than 40 representatives of domestic enterprises who represented such areas of cooperation as mechanical engineering, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, veterinary drugs, and light industry. An interesting fact was noted at this forum. In 2023, Belarusian exports to Pakistan increased two and a half times. For the first half of 2024 - plus 13 percent or more than 17 million dollars. "The total trade turnover between the countries according to the results of 2023 amounted to almost \$ 50 million ²⁸⁵." And here is the result

²⁸³ Belarus and Pakistan to halve cargo delivery time [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-pakistan-vdvoe-sokratjat-srok-dostavki-gruzov-678276-2024/>

²⁸⁴ A competition of Belarusian-Pakistani scientific and technical projects for 2025-2027 has been announced [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/society/view/objavljen-konkurs-belorussko-pakistanskih-nauchno-tehnicheskikh-proektov-na-2025-2027-gody-689099-2025/>

²⁸⁵ Belarusian enterprises reached agreements worth \$17 million at a business forum in Pakistan [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/belorusskie-predpriiatiia-na-biznes-forume-v-pakistane-dostigli-dogovorennostej-na-17-mln-677972-2024/>

of this forum: eight documents were signed for a total of more than 17 million dollars.

Among the signed agreements is a five-year distribution cooperation agreement between Bellakt Open Joint-Stock Company and Nutrifood & Pharmaceuticals. Beltsvetmet OJSC and Raas International Trading logistics company signed a tinplate supply agreement for 2025. In the industrial sector, the following were signed: a memorandum of intent between Belshina OJSC and Shahzad Trade Links Company on the sale of Belshina products in the Pakistani market; a cooperation agreement between Minsk Motor Plant (MMZ) and the same Pakistani company on the supply of Belarusian products in 2025. In the medical sector, Belmedpreparaty RUE signed a memorandum of cooperation with Bio Medical System in the field of registration and supply of medicines. Business contacts have also been established in the field of veterinary drug supplies - Belvitunipharm OJSC and Mustafa Brothers Company signed a corresponding contract ²⁸⁶.

Within the framework of this forum, Pakistani business associations saw significant potential for the development of electronic exchange trading with Belarus in order to use the full range of opportunities of the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange (BUCE) to conclude import-export transactions, establish new business contacts and obtain up-to-date pricing and marketing information. At the same time, "the products of the Belarusian timber industry are of the greatest interest to Pakistani business circles. In this regard, it is planned to focus efforts on attracting large Pakistani timber importers to BUCE in order to organize their regular participation in exchange trades in sawn timber ²⁸⁷. " This work will be carried out with the support of the All Pakistan Timber Traders Association, which has expressed its readiness to assist in informing industry representatives about the possibilities and advantages of the exchange mechanism. Similar agreements have been reached by BUCE with the Federation of

²⁸⁶ Industry and medicine. What did the companies of Belarus and Pakistan agree on at the forum in Islamabad [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/promyshlennost-i-meditsina-o-chem-dogovorilis-kompanii-belarusi-i-pakistana-na-forume-v-islamabade-678090-2024/>

²⁸⁷ Pakistani business is ready to join exchange trade with Belarus [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/pakistanskij-biznes-gotov-vkljuchatsja-v-birzhevuju-torgovlju-s-belarusiju-678024-2024/>

Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Pakistan Commodity Exchange. For statistics, it should be noted that only two companies from Pakistan are currently accredited on the Belarusian exchange. So the most important task at this stage is to increase the number of Pakistani participants in the trades. And already at this forum, several Pakistani companies trading in this raw material announced their intention to sell ferrous metal products through BUTB.

In February 2025, **the 8th meeting of the Joint Belarusian-Pakistani Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation was held in Minsk**, where the prospects for bilateral cooperation in a wide range of areas were considered. During this meeting, the parties noted that Belarus and Pakistan "have extensive cooperation in the areas of agriculture, technology, industrial sector and growth in various sectors for the common mutual benefit of both countries ²⁸⁸." Let us recall that in November 2024, during the visit of the Belarusian leader to Pakistan, the task was set to translate all protocol agreements into a practical implementation format with the signing of relevant agreements and contracts aimed at increasing bilateral trade. For reference, we note that the trade turnover between Belarus and Pakistan in 2024 "increased by 4.6% and amounted to \$50.3 million. At the same time, 70% is <...> products of industrial enterprises ²⁸⁹."

At the 8th meeting of the commission, the Belarusian side declared its interest in increasing the supply of industrial products, developing options for "creating service centers and joint assembly plants" ²⁹⁰, including electric transport, as well as its readiness to exchange knowledge and experience in the field of

²⁸⁸ What areas of economic cooperation with Belarus does Pakistan plan to develop [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/kakie-napravlenija-ekonomicheskogo-sotrudnichestva-s-belarusiju-planiruet-razvivat-pakistan-694839-2025/>

²⁸⁹ Trade turnover between Belarus and Pakistan increased by 4.6% last year [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/tovarooborot-belarusi-i-pakistan-za-proshlyi-god-vvros-na-46-694826-2025/>

²⁹⁰ Joint production and agriculture. Kushnarenko on the prospects of cooperation with Pakistan [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/sovместnye-proizvodstva-i-selskoe-hozjajstvo-kushnarenko-o-perspektivah-sotrudnichestva-s-pakistanom-694824-2025/>

science and technology, education, and professional training with Pakistani partners. And already on the sidelines of the commission meeting, it was announced that "Pakistan is interested in supplying BELARUS tractors with a capacity of over 100 hp" ²⁹¹[4]. At MTZ, the delegation from this South Asian country discussed plans to organize an assembly plant for Belarusian machines on Pakistani soil and increase the supply of tractor equipment to the Pakistani market. In the same February of this year, MMZ also signed an agreement with the Pakistani company Shahzad Trade Link for the supply of spare parts and discussed issues of promoting, selling, and servicing the company's products in Pakistan, since "expanding interaction with Pakistani companies in industry provides excellent potential for further sustainable growth for both countries" ²⁹².

And in May 2025, Belarusian enterprises will participate in a collective exposition at the **International Trade and Industrial Fair** (ITIF) in the Pakistani city of Karachi, which "will help in finding new partners and developing initiatives with existing counterparties" ²⁹³." ITIF is considered the leading international specialized exhibition in the South Asian region. Its main sections include agriculture, automotive industry, machine tool industry, energy, metallurgy, construction, mining, and petrochemistry. More than 350 companies from China, Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Turkey, Belgium, and Germany participate in it annually, and the number of visitors exceeds 40 thousand.

At the 8th meeting of the commission, it was also noted that the priorities of cooperation between the two countries include interaction in the field of agriculture, which includes not only the supply of food products, but also products for livestock farming,

²⁹¹ Pakistan is interested in supplies of BELARUS tractors with a capacity of over 100 hp. [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/pakistan-zainteresovan-v-postavkah-tractorov-belarus-moschnostiju-bolee-100-ls-695124-2025/>

²⁹² Promotion, sales, service. What directions will the Minsk Motor Plant develop in Pakistan [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/regions/view/prodvizhenie-prodazhi-servis-kakie-napravleniya-budet-razvivat-minskii-motornyi-zavod-v-pakistane-696802-2025/>

²⁹³ "This is the leading industrial exhibition in South Asia." Belarusian enterprises present their products in Karachi [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/eto-veduschaja-promyshlennaja-vystavka-v-juzhnoj-azii-belorusskie-predpriyatija-prezentujut-697211-2025/>

seed production, additives and veterinary drugs. And the Pakistani side is interested in expanding bilateral partnerships in this area. Let us add that "in 2024, the trade turnover of food and agricultural raw materials between the states has already grown by 36.5% compared to the level of 2023."²⁹⁴ It is curious that the largest share in Belarusian exports to this country of South Asia was occupied by supplies of baby food, namely cereals from cereal grains. In 2024, there was also a threefold increase in the export of Belarusian milk and dairy products to Pakistan. We are talking about the supply of dry skim milk and whey. Domestic producers intend to increase export deliveries to this country and expand the range of goods in mutual trade. For this reason, active bilateral work is already underway on certification, production and supply of domestically produced veterinary vaccines. Opportunities for cooperation in animal husbandry and fisheries were also discussed. Having considered in detail the areas of interaction, the parties made a number of specific decisions.

A few days after the 8th meeting of the Joint Commission, **the 5th meeting of the Belarusian-Pakistani Commission on Cooperation in Science and Technology was held**, where the parties reviewed the current state and prospects for the development of scientific and technical cooperation between the two countries. It should be noted that "by 2025, three joint scientific and technical projects in the field of ecological farming, nanotechnology in electronics, new materials between the leading institutes of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, the Belarusian State University and the Pakistan Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, the National University of Science and Technology of Pakistan²⁹⁵ have been successfully implemented." And priority areas of joint activities for 2025-2026 have already been identified. These include artificial intelligence, medicine, biotechnology, energy, mechanical engineering and agriculture. In this regard, as already mentioned above, a competition of joint

²⁹⁴ Belarus increased dairy exports to Pakistan threefold in 2024 [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-v-2024-godu-narastila-eksport-molochki-v-pakistan-v-tri-raza-695200-2025/>

²⁹⁵ Medicine and biotechnology. Belarus and Pakistan have defined priorities for scientific and technical partnership [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/meditsina-i-biotehnologii-belarus-i-pakistan-opredelili-prioritety-nauchno-tehnicheskogo-partnerstva-695854-2025/>

Belarusian- Pakistani scientific and technical projects for 2025-2027 was announced in January 2025.

In conclusion, it should be added that over the past nine years, the parties have already held eight meetings of the joint Belarusian-Pakistani commission on trade and economic cooperation. In addition, there are already eight working groups between the countries that are developing cooperation in a wide range of interactions. All this should contribute to the expansion of trade and economic partnership, the implementation of a joint approach to regional economic integration.

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Vietnam: Commission decisions help grow interaction

Belarus and Vietnam have been maintaining diplomatic relations for over thirty years, built on the traditional values of friendship, trust and mutual understanding, which are developing in a constructive direction. During this time, this country has become one of the key partners of our republic in Southeast Asia, being one of the fastest growing economies among Asian states. Suffice it to say that in 2024 in Vietnam, “GDP growth was 7.09%, reaching \$476.3 billion. GDP per capita is estimated at \$4.7 thousand, which is \$377 more than in 2023. The total import and export turnover of goods reached \$786.29 billion (an increase of 15.4%)²⁹⁶.” It should also be noted that over the past few years, Minsk and Hanoi have done a lot for closer and more active interaction in order to bring trade, economic, scientific, technical and educational partnerships to a new level of cooperation. In this regard, it is necessary to particularly highlight the activities **of the Belarusian-Vietnamese Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation. (IPC)**, which coordinates the efforts of the parties on the most pressing issues of developing bilateral cooperation.

In **March 2022, the 15th meeting of the IGC** was held in the format of a video conference, within the framework of which specific areas of further cooperation for 2022-2023 were fixed in almost all areas of partnership, including **in the scientific and technical field**, where many interesting results have been achieved over the past almost 30 years. The fact is that scientific and technological cooperation between Belarus and Vietnam 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. And it continues to expand. In 2020, the National University of Economics in Hanoi conducted a study that showed that "scientific

²⁹⁶Nguy, N.V. Customs of the Tet holiday and visa-free travel with Belarus. The Ambassador of Vietnam spoke about the traditions and friendship of the two countries / N.V. Nguy // [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL : <https://belta.by/interview/view/obychai-prazdnika-tet-i-bezviz-s-belarusiju-posol-vietnama-rasskazal-o-traditsijah-i-druzhbе-dvuh-stran-9564/>

and technical organizations and enterprises of Vietnam are most interested in the following forms of cooperation with Belarus: exchange of scientific and technical information; exchange of specialists; implementation of joint scientific and technical projects; technology transfer" ²⁹⁷.

The seriousness with which Belarus assesses the importance of cooperation with this Southeast Asian country in the scientific and technological sphere is evidenced by the fact that in the scientific and technical section of the Belarusian exposition at **the 31st international exhibition Vietnam Expo**, held in Hanoi in April 2022, "more than a hundred innovative developments in the field of high-tech equipment were presented, about 30 of which were from the Belarusian State University - food additives, pharmaceuticals, technological equipment ²⁹⁸." It was BSU that became one of the founders of the university, created in 2012 together with Binh Duong University and the Vietnamese company Venture Capital & Equity Investment Holding Inc. Belarusian-Vietnamese Innovation and Educational Center, within the framework of which many joint projects have been implemented since then in priority areas of scientific and technical activity aimed at "expanding and deepening scientific knowledge, distinguished by novelty in the formulation and methods of conducting research that have scientific and practical significance" ²⁹⁹. Among them are "Creating a composition of cellulolytic strains effective for the degradation of plant residues", "Studying the possibilities of obtaining new fermented products from Vietnamese plant materials", "Cross-cultural differences in the perception of visual-figurative information between Belarusian and Vietnamese businessmen". The Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radioelectronics (BSUIR) also actively interacted

²⁹⁷ Potential partners of BSUIR in Vietnam [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://iti.bsuir.by/files/science/%D0%9F%D0%B0%D1%80%D1%82%D0%BD%D0%B5%D1%80%D1%8B%20%D0%B2%D0%BE%20%D0%92%D1%8C%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BD%D0%B0%D0%BC%D0%B5.pdf>

²⁹⁸ Zalesky, B. L. From trust And respect - to joint economic projects / B. L. Zalesky // Materials of the XVIII International scientific and practical conference "Cutting-edge science – 2022", April 30 – May 7, 2022: Sheffield. Science and education LTD. – P. 42.

²⁹⁹ Belarusian-Vietnamese Innovation, Education and Scientific-Technological Center [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : http://research.bsu.by/innovative-activity/int_sci_tech_cooperation/inter-innov-centre/belvietnam-centre/

with the Vietnamese side. Its partners include the Ho Chi Minh City Polytechnic University, the Le Quy Don National Technical University, the Hanoi University of Technology, the Hanoi Power Engineering University, the Vietnam Research Institute of Electronics, Informatics and Automation, the Institute of Tropical Technologies of the Vietnam Academy of Sciences, and Binh Duong University.

Active work on the creation of joint research centers and laboratories with Vietnamese partners in the most promising areas was also carried out at the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus (NASB), whose structures by the spring of 2022 "jointly implemented more than 100 projects, published about 150 scientific papers ³⁰⁰." In April 2022, NASB and the Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology (VAST) agreed to develop a roadmap for scientific and technical cooperation, which will include promising scientific areas of mutual interest. The first stage of this interaction was the intensification of the work of existing joint structures. These include a joint center for the development and implementation of technologies in the field of instrument and mechanical engineering, energy and chemical products, as well as a joint technology transfer center and a joint laboratory for laser physics, engineering and technology. The parties also discussed the possibility of creating new structures, one of which could be the Belarusian-Vietnamese Tropical Research and Technology Center, where the Central Botanical Garden of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus could act as a partner on the Belarusian side. And in the future, it is planned to begin work "on a dozen new projects - from the nanoindustry, composite materials and additive technologies, mechanical engineering, mechatronics and robotics to functional foods and targeted drugs, a wide range of bioproducts. A special role here should belong to new materials, which are the future in various sectors of the economy ³⁰¹."

³⁰⁰On the meeting at the Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology [Electronic resource]. — 2022. — URL : <https://vietnam.mfa.gov.by/ru/embassy/news/ceca12ba12b7979e.html>

³⁰¹Scientists from Belarus and Vietnam will develop a roadmap for scientific and technical cooperation [Electronic resource]. — 2022. — URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/uchenye-belarusi-i-vjetnama-razrabotajut-dorozhnyju-kartu-nauchno-tehnicheskogo-sotrudnichestva-497257-2022/>

An important role in enhancing cooperation between Belarus and Vietnam in the scientific and technological sphere is also played by the annual grant competitions for scientific projects. Thus, in 2020, three of them were held at once: Joint competition of fundamental research projects “NASB (BRFFI) – VANT – 2021”; Competition of joint Belarusian-Vietnamese scientific projects “BRFFI–VANT–2021”; Competition of Belarusian-Vietnamese scientific and technical projects for 2021-2022 under the auspices of the State Committee on Science and Technology of Belarus (SCST) and the Ministry of Science and Technology of Vietnam. And as part of the implementation of the agreements reached, the SCST and the Ministry of Science and Technology of Vietnam alone implemented six joint projects: two in the field of nanotechnology and one each in the field of medicine, construction technologies, multifunctional materials and rational nature management. In addition, there was interaction between scientific organizations, educational institutions of both countries, as well as between the Belarusian Republican Foundation for Fundamental Research (BRFFR) and VANT. Experience has shown that this format of partnership only needs to be developed in order to open up new opportunities for scientific research.

In terms of continuing interaction between higher education institutions of Belarus with Vietnamese partners, in June 2023, within the framework of **the Days of Belarusian Education in Vietnam** - the first in the history of modern relations between the two countries - an intergovernmental agreement on cooperation in the field of education was signed - with the aim of developing long-term constructive ties and a mechanism for organizing an annual exchange of students on a parity basis. One of the priorities was the development of joint scientific, scientific-technical and innovative projects in areas of mutual interest, primarily in the field of chemistry, physics, information and communication technologies. "A promising area is also the organization of short-term and long-term Russian language courses for Vietnamese citizens (including in a distance format), annual summer and winter schools based on Belarusian educational institutions, training of personnel for the SRV in specialties at all levels of

education (in English and Russian)" ³⁰². The following were also highlighted: promoting academic mobility of students and teaching staff of educational institutions of Belarus and Vietnam; preparation of joint scientific publications and organization of creative meetings and open lectures of representatives of educational institutions in an online format. In addition, within the framework of these Days of Belarusian Education, ten bilateral documents on cooperation were signed. At that time, in total, "more than 40 inter-university agreements were concluded, in addition, about 2 thousand specialists with higher education, including more than 150 candidates of science, were trained for the Vietnamese economy ³⁰³. "

Continuing the topic of Belarusian-Vietnamese scientific, technical and educational cooperation, we note that in September 2024, the NASB and VAST signed an agreement on scientific and technical cooperation, which is aimed at strengthening the scientific and technical potential of Belarus and Vietnam, developing and expanding relations between scientific institutions of the two countries, promoting scientific and technical cooperation in the practical implementation of joint scientific developments in areas of mutual interest. "The main objectives of cooperation between scientists of the two countries are to create favorable conditions for organizing joint research and development under agreed programs, commercializing the results of joint activities in Belarus, Vietnam and third countries, exchanging ideas, information and technologies, and sharing the scientific infrastructure of both countries ³⁰⁴. " The parties agreed to develop an updated roadmap for cooperation until 2030 in the near future, including new areas and projects that will be of interest to Belarus and Vietnam.

³⁰² Belarus and Vietnam have identified priority areas of cooperation in the field of education [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-vietnam-opredelili-prioritetnye-napravlenija-sotrudnichestva-v-sfere-obrazovanija-572390-2023/>

³⁰³ During the Days of Belarusian Education in Vietnam, 10 cooperation documents were signed [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://belta.by/society/view/vo-vremja-dnej-belorusskogo-obrazovanija-vo-vietname-podpisano-10-dokumentov-o-sotrudnichestve-572036-2023/>

³⁰⁴ The Academy of Sciences of Belarus and Vietnam signed a cooperation agreement [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/society/view/akademii-nauk-belarusi-i-vietnama-podpisali-soglasenie-o-sotrudnichestve-663302-2024/>

Two memorandums of understanding were also signed by BSU and VANT in September 2024. The first document envisages mutually beneficial international cooperation in the field of education, science and technology. The main forms of implementing these opportunities were named as the preparation of joint educational programs and publications, the implementation of research projects and events, the exchange of pedagogical experience, educational, scientific and lecture materials. The second document was adopted between the Research Institute of Physical and Chemical Problems of BSU and the Institute of Tropical Technologies of VANT. It envisages "the establishment of long-term cooperation in the development of technologies for protecting metals from corrosion and studying its electrochemical processes ³⁰⁵." The parties also discussed promising areas for the development of partnerships and cooperation in the fields of energy, nuclear safety, electronics, photonics, medicine, pharmaceuticals, aerospace and IT industries.

Three years later, in **April 2025**, the **16th meeting of the IGC** was held in Hanoi, where the parties discussed current and future priority cooperation projects. In particular, the two countries planned to expand partnership ties in the **agro-industrial complex**. For example, the Belarusian side is increasing food supplies to the Vietnamese market. After all, dairy products from Belarus have been certified in Vietnam. The necessary procedures for beef supplies are also at the final stage. As a result, about twenty Belarusian enterprises will gain access to the market of this Southeast Asian country. "After completing the beef certification process, the Vietnamese partners expressed interest in organizing work on access to the Vietnamese market for Belarusian poultry and pork ³⁰⁶." In addition, Minsk and Hanoi are considering the possibility of **joint assembly of tractors**. A site has already been selected, several models for the local and

³⁰⁵BSU and the Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology signed memorandums of understanding [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/society/view/bgu-i-vjetnamskaja-akademija-nauk-i-tehnologii-podpisali-memorandumy-o-vzaimoponimanii-663334-2024/>

³⁰⁶Belarus 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/>

neighboring markets are under development. The release of a trial batch is planned for the near future ³⁰⁷. "

It should be noted that the assembly of Minsk Automobile Plant (MAZ) vehicles has already been organized in Vietnam. In early April 2025, MAZ took part in the International Multi-Industry Exhibition **Vietnam Expo** in Hanoi, where a wide range of thematic sections was presented, including "food industry, agriculture, mechanical engineering, energy, metallurgy, petrochemistry, construction, scientific and technical developments, medicine and pharmaceuticals" ³⁰⁸. More than 500 companies from different countries took part in this exhibition forum: China, India, South Korea, Laos, Cambodia, Russia. The collective exposition of Belarus included about ten enterprises, including MAZ, Polotsk-Steklovolokno, exporters from the processing industry. And Belshina from Bobruisk signed an "agreement of intent to supply tires for a total of \$ 1 million" at the exhibition ³⁰⁹. This enterprise had previously supplied tires to Vietnam for quarry equipment. And in 2024, it resumed its deliveries, only for military equipment. And here are new export deliveries.

Returning to the 16th meeting of the IGC, it should be noted that Belarus and Vietnam intend to expand cooperation in **the field of science and technology**. Let us recall that coordination in this regard is carried out by the joint Belarusian-Vietnamese commission on scientific and technical cooperation, the last meeting of which was held in September 2019. And as a result of the participation of scientific and technical developments of Belarus at the **Vietnam Expo exhibition** in 2023, "Belarusian and Vietnamese scientific organizations signed 14 cooperation agreements. As well as a commercial contract worth 500 thousand euros. According to the results of 2024, Belarusian exports of

³⁰⁷Belarus and Vietnam consider joint assembly of tractors [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-vietnam-rassmatrivajut-vozmozhnost-sovmestnoj-sborki-tractorov-706466-2025/>

³⁰⁸"Food industry, mechanical engineering, medicine: a collective exposition of Belarus will be organized at the exhibition in Hanoi [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/society/view/pisheprom-mashinostroenie-meditsina-kollektivnuju-ekspozitsiju-belarusi-organizujut-na-vystavke-v-692141-2025/>

³⁰⁹Belshina to Deliver 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/>

high-tech goods to Vietnam amounted to more than \$75 million, and its share in total exports to Vietnam is more than 85%”³¹⁰.

At the 16th meeting of the IGC, the parties agreed that the implementation of joint projects in such areas as agriculture, waste management, energy conservation, peaceful use of outer space, information and communication technologies, medicine, innovative mechanical engineering, and new materials will be a great potential for cooperation in the scientific and technical sphere. In order to intensify this interaction, **the 12th meeting of the joint Belarusian-Vietnamese commission on scientific and technical cooperation will be organized 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 - digital economy, IT, digital transformation and innovation³¹¹. " The Vietnamese side, in turn, invited Belarusian scientists and young specialists to cooperate with Vietnamese enterprises, especially in the field of digital technologies, in particular, artificial intelligence. And expressed a wish to intensify cooperation between the Vietnam Atomic Energy Institute and Belarusian partners in the field of nuclear energy. After all, the leading scientific research organization of Vietnam - the Atomic Energy Institute - specializes in the study and use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes. The Institute operates under the auspices of the Ministry of Science and Technology of Vietnam and performs the functions of public administration and coordination of scientific research in the field of nuclear technology. In the context of this topic, we add that in February of this year, BRFFR and VANT announced a

³¹⁰ Agriculture, energy saving, space. State Committee on Science and Technology on scientific and technical cooperation with Vietnam [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/selskoe-hoziajstvo-energoberezenie-kosmos-gknt-o-nauchno-tehnicheskoi-sotrudnichestve-s-vietnamom-706556-2025/>

³¹¹ The State Committee for Science and Technology has revealed in which areas Belarus is ready to strengthen cooperation with Vietnam [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/society/view/v-kakih-oblastiah-belarus-gotova-ukrepljat-sotrudnichestvo-s-vietnamom-rasskazali-v-gknt-707632-2025/>

competition of joint scientific projects "BRFFR-VANT-2026", which will be held "in the following scientific areas: modern materials and composites, nanotechnology, information technology, communications and communications, laser-optical equipment and technology, energy and environmental safety, bio- and medical technology"³¹². "

Another topic considered at the 16th IPC meeting was **cooperation in in the field of education, university science and youth policy** . During the discussion, the parties agreed to focus on increasing inter-university cooperation in joint training of personnel, conducting scientific research and exchanging best practices in commercializing their results. Now Belarusian universities are ready to develop cooperation with Vietnamese colleagues in such areas as developing joint educational programs in the field of biotechnology, information technology, biomechanics, and microbiology. Prospects are also seen in training personnel in specialties at all levels of education - in English and Russian, including organizing short-term and long-term Russian language courses. Of mutual interest is the development of joint scientific, scientific-technical and innovative projects in a wide range of areas. "In 2025, the implementation of two joint scientific projects in the field of materials science and biology will continue. They will be implemented at the level of BSUIR and the Hanoi University of Science and Technology, Baranovich State University and the Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology"³¹³. " Also, since February, three joint research projects have been launched in the fields of optics and microelectronics, materials science, energy and ecology. BSU, BSUIR, Belarusian National Technical University (BNTU) and VANT are involved in this work. In particular, this year, the Belarusian-Vietnamese project for 2025-2026 "Control of spin transfer and spin-dependent scattering mechanisms in spin-valve

³¹²A competition for joint scientific projects between Belarus and Vietnam has been announced [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/society/view/objjavlen-konkurs-sovmestnyh-nauchnyh-proektov-belarusi-i-vietnama-696351-2025/>

³¹³Belarus and Vietnam to Expand Cooperation in Education and University Science [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-vietnam-rasshirit-sotrudnichestvo-v-sfere-obrazovaniia-i-universitetskoi-nauki-706679-2025/>

structures based on multilayer thin films with perpendicular magnetic anisotropy for the implementation of field-free switching of magnetization in spintronics devices" was approved.

Speaking in more detail about the cooperation of Belarusian universities with Vietnamese partners this year, in March BSU intensified cooperation with the Vietnam National University in Hanoi, the leading and oldest university in its country. In 2023, the universities signed a cooperation agreement, and have now worked out the prospects for implementing joint educational programs, exchanging students and teachers, and conducting joint scientific research. For reference, we note that "there are currently 14 cooperation agreements in force between BSU and 10 educational and scientific institutions of Vietnam. Citizens of this country study at the faculties of philosophy and social sciences, mechanics and mathematics, philology, and at the BSU Institute of Business"³¹⁴. It is also worth noting in this context that BSU has been awarded the highest state award of Vietnam in relation to foreign countries - the Order of Friendship of Peoples - for its active contribution to the training of students and the development of friendly relations between states. And one more example. In the same March of this year, Polotsk State University named after Euphrosyne of Polotsk and the Vietnam University of Oil and Gas signed a memorandum of understanding³¹⁵ to strengthen the practical component, targeted training of specialists and cooperation with enterprises of the fuel and energy complex of the two countries.

Finally, at the 16th meeting of the IGC, as part of 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 addressed. In particular, in the case of logistics, we are talking about the fact that "for certain groups of goods, the delivery times

³¹⁴Science and student exchange. BSU and Vietnamese university to strengthen interuniversity cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/society/view/nauka-i-obmen-studentami-bgu-i-vjetnamskij-universitet-usiljat-mezhvuzovskoe-sotrudnichestvo-701574-2025/>

³¹⁵Internship exchange, joint conferences. Universities of Belarus and Vietnam have agreed on cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/society/view/obmen-stazhirovkami-sovmestnye-konferentsii-vuzv-belarusi-i-vietnama-dogovorilis-o-sotrudnichestve-700945-2025/>

from Belarus to Vietnam and back reach 90 days ³¹⁶." The relevant working group is already working on this issue in order to eliminate these obstacles in the near future. In general, the decisions of the **Belarusian-Vietnamese Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation** show that Belarus and Vietnam are experiencing a significant upswing, systematically and purposefully creating all the necessary conditions for even closer and more active cooperation in all areas.

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³¹⁶Belarus and Vietnam are working on issues of settlements in national currencies and the opening of a direct flight [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-vietnam-prorabatvvajut-voprosy-raschetov-v-natsvaljutah-i-otkrytie-priamogo-aviareisa-706536-2025/>

Vietnam: Steps Towards Multifaceted Cooperation

In 2025, Belarus and Vietnam will take new steps to develop multifaceted relations in trade, economic, scientific, technical and humanitarian cooperation. It has already been announced that General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam T. Lam will visit Belarus this year. It is emphasized that "there are many interesting ideas from Vietnam that are planned to be consolidated during such a visit"³¹⁷. "Let us recall that a high-level visit from the Belarusian side took place in December 2023, when an official government delegation came to Hanoi. Then, during numerous meetings with Vietnamese partners, positive trends in trade and economic cooperation were noted. For example, "according to the results of last [2022] year, the trade turnover between the two countries amounted to \$180 million. In January-September of this year, it has already exceeded \$200 million, and both Belarusian and Vietnamese exports are growing"³¹⁸.

At the same time, in December 2023, Belarus presented its products at the international multi-industry exhibition Vietnam in Ho Chi Minh City Expo. Within the framework of five country expositions, which were organized at this forum together with India, China, the Republic of Korea, Vietnam, "the Belarusian collective stand united 36 Belarusian enterprises and organizations from the fields of mechanical engineering, petrochemistry, electrical engineering, agriculture, food and beverage production, scientific and technical research and development, as well as the provision of educational and marketing services"³¹⁹.

It should be noted that this exhibition is held in Vietnam twice a year: in April in Hanoi, in December in Ho Chi Minh City.

³¹⁷ Transcript of the interview of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belarus M. Ryzhenkov to the TV channel "Belarus 1" (March 18, 2025, Minsk) [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : https://mfa.gov.by/press/news_mfa/cbbbcd73b50db337.html

³¹⁸ MAZs, dairy products and environmental issues. What Roman Golovchenko negotiates in Vietnam [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <http://www.government.by/ru/content/10746>

³¹⁹ Belarus presented its products at the largest exhibition in Southeast Asia [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-predstavila-svoju-produktsiju-na-krupnejšej-vystavke-v-jugo-vostochnoj-azii-603968-2023/>

In total, more than 1,200 companies from 20 countries have registered as exhibitors here in 2023. A wide range of products and services was presented at the 21st Vietnam Expo in Ho Chi Minh City, which made it comprehensive and multifaceted. The main sections of the exhibition: food industry; agriculture; mechanical engineering; electronics; metallurgy; petrochemistry; construction; scientific and technical developments; medicine and pharmaceuticals. At the Belarusian stand, in particular, petrochemical industry enterprises, including Belshina OJSC, demonstrated their capabilities, products and potential. Visitors and participants were presented with samples of tires for passenger cars, trucks and agricultural machinery, polyamide-6 and materials based on it, cord fabrics, acrylic fiber, high-density polyethylene, motor oils, nitrogen-phosphorus-potassium fertilizers. And at the stand of the Beltopgaz association, with the participation of the Vitebsktoftorft peat factories, the Vitebskoblgaz enterprise, the Glinka Peat Enterprise OJSC and the Turshovka OJSC, samples of professional peat substrates of Belarusian production were widely presented. After the negotiations, representatives of the Beltopgaz association signed a memorandum of cooperation with the Vietnam Coconut Association in the production of biofertilizers within the framework of the exhibition. The Vietnamese partner "will coordinate research on bioorganic fertilizers based on Belarusian peat for coconut palms in order to increase the yield and quality of coconuts throughout Vietnam, as well as support the development of the consumption market for such biofertilizers ³²⁰." In addition, the Vietnam Coconut Producers Association will coordinate its actions with the Beltopgaz State Production Association in organizing seminars on the introduction of bioorganic fertilizers based on Belarusian peat for coconuts in Vietnam to find a consumer market. The Belarusian side will select the optimal formulation of peat substrate for growing coconuts. The parties also reached agreements on experimental deliveries of Belarusian peat substrates to Vietnam for growing 500 trees with scientific

³²⁰ Beltopgaz will cooperate with the Vietnam Coconut Association in the production of fertilizers [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/beltopgaz-budet-sotrudnichat-s-vjetnamskoj-kokosovoj-assotsiatsiej-v-proizvodstve-udobrenij-605045-2023>

research to control the growth rate and quality of fruits and on the implementation of a counter-delivery of coconut tree planting material to Belarus to select the optimal substrate formulation.

The Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus presented about 30 innovative developments at this forum, including new products from the Belarusian National Technical University, the Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radioelectronics and the Belarusian State University (BSU). In particular, BSU showed more than 20 exhibits in Ho Chi Minh City, for which it was awarded diplomas of the VIETNAM E XPO International Exhibition . Among them are food additives, pharmaceuticals, and technological equipment. For example, "an innovative series of biopreparations "Tsipropig", "Biferon-MRS" and "Tsirkol" were presented. They are intended for the treatment and prevention of diseases of farm animals ³²¹." Also among the exhibits are heat-resistant heat-insulating composite materials based on phosphate and silicate binders, light-absorbing composite materials, technologies for applying a gradient anti-corrosion heat-resistant coating, metal corrosion inhibitors, and food complexes for normalizing the nervous system. As a result, at the exhibition, “ 15 documents, three framework agreements on partnerships and 12 contracts for a total of 26 million dollars were signed ³²². ”

In addition to the national exposition of Belarus within the framework of the international exhibition V IETNAM E XPO in Ho Chi Minh City, the Saigon Convention and Exhibition Center hosted a Belarusian-Vietnamese business forum, which was attended by "more than 30 Belarusian enterprises and organizations, including mechanical engineering giants of Belarus, the largest Belarusian educational institutions and research centers, as well as producers of food and dairy products"

³²¹ BSU and UNITECHPROM BSU were awarded diplomas of the International Exhibition "Vietnam Expo" [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://bsu.by/news/diplomov-mezhdunarodnoy-vystavki-vietnam-expo-udostoenv-bgu-i-unitekhprom-bgu-d/>

³²² Anufrieva, O. Belarusian companies signed contracts worth 26 million dollars at the Vietnam Expo 2023 / O. Anufrieva // [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL : <https://www.sb.by/articles/beloruskie-kompanii-na-vystavke-vietnam-ekspo-2023-zakluchili-kontraktv-na-26-millionov-dollarov.html>

³²³ and where the participants discussed the prospects for cooperation with Vietnamese partners. The fact is that today Belarus is striving to reach a new level of cooperation with Vietnam, which would be characterized by the presence of strong production and technological ties. In particular, we are talking about the creation of "joint ventures for the production of high-tech and competitive products to meet domestic demand and with subsequent entry into the markets of third countries" ³²⁴. "

In this context, several specific facts can be noted. Since 2019, the province of Hung Yen has been producing special equipment based on vehicles from the Minsk Automobile Plant. "Based on Belarusian-made vehicle kits, equipment is assembled, and previously delivered vehicles are also modernized. The enterprise can produce about 500 all-wheel drive vehicles of Vietnamese manufacture per year" ³²⁵. " And this assembly plant "MAZ Asia" opens up good prospects for working in the markets of other countries in the region - Indonesia, Malaysia, Cambodia, Laos. And in the same Vietnamese province, a project is already being considered to build a plant for the production of dairy products using Belarusian technologies and Belarusian dry milk, where yoghurts, ice cream, butter, and cheeses will be produced.

In addition, the Belarusian side proposed that Vietnamese partners cooperate in the environmental field, since the number of cars and motorcycles in this Southeast Asian country is rapidly growing and there is a great need for recycling used tires. In order to turn these tires into new products, it is possible to supply high-tech and efficient complexes from Belarus for the use of solid household waste with the production of secondary resources for the production of new products. As a result, "Vietnam can take confident steps towards building the so-called circular economy

³²³ Belarus and Vietnam discussed development of industrial ties at a joint business forum [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-vietnam-na-sovmestnom-biznes-forume-obsudili-razvitiye-proizvodstvennyh-svjazej-603969-2023/>

³²⁴ MFA: Belarus seeks to reach a new level of cooperation with Vietnam [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/mid-belarus-stremitsja-vviti-na-novyi-uroven-kooperatsii-s-vietnamom-603996-2023/>

³²⁵ Focus on industrial cooperation development. What Golovchenko discussed with the Prime Minister of Vietnam [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/stavka-na-razvitiye-promkooperatsii-o-chem-golovchenko-govoril-s-premierom-vietnama-604054-2023/>

based on the maximum use of all types of secondary resources³²⁶.
"

Another topic of joint cooperation between Belarus and Vietnam was discussed during the visit of the Belarusian delegation to Hanoi – medicine. The parties agreed “on accelerated registration of 25 new Belarusian medicines on the Vietnamese market, as well as re-registration of another 12 medicines”³²⁷. These medicines are used for oncology, colds, and pneumonia. A wide range of Belarusian medicines will increase exports and, accordingly, improve efficiency. There is also an agreement on localizing these medicines from Belarus on the territory of Vietnam and on purchasing Belarusian-made medical equipment.

When talking about the organization of joint ventures, one cannot ignore the topic of interregional cooperation between Belarus and Vietnam. After all, today Belarusian regions cooperate with 14 Vietnamese provinces and cities. During the visit of the government delegation of our republic to this country of Southeast Asia in December 2023, a Program for the Development of Trade, Economic and Humanitarian Cooperation between the Cities of Minsk and Hanoi for 2024-2026 was signed, which develops the provisions of the Agreement on Friendly Relations and Cooperation between the two capitals from 2004 – “a basic document that allows for the development of key areas of interaction, including in the trade, economic, cultural and educational spheres³²⁸. ”

There are also interesting prospects for cooperation between Minsk and Minsk With Ho Chi Minh City. These two sister cities signed the Agreement on Friendly Relations and Cooperation in 2008, and in September 2024, as part of the Days of Minsk in Ho Chi Minh City, they held the Belarusian-Vietnamese Business

³²⁶ Golovchenko: Belarus contributes to strengthening food security of Vietnam [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/golovchenko-belarus-vnosit-vklad-v-ukreplenie-prodovolstvennoj-bezopasnosti-vietnama-604073-2023/>

³²⁷ 25 new Belarusian medicines to undergo accelerated registration on Vietnamese market [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://belta.by/society/view/narynke-vietnama-proidut-uskorennyu-registratsiju-25-novyh-belorusskih-medpreparatov-604105-2023/>

³²⁸ Minsk and Hanoi signed a cooperation program for 2024-2026 [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/minsk-i-hanoi-podpisali-programmu-sotrudnichestva-na-2024-2026-gody-603833-2023/>

Forum, which brought together more than 150 companies specializing in the production, export, import and distribution of imported products in Vietnam. "The forum was attended by the management of 13 Belarusian companies representing the mechanical engineering, aviation, food, pharmaceutical and cosmetic sectors, as well as the tourism services sector³²⁹." Such increased interest on the part of Vietnamese business indicated the presence of serious potential for expanding trade and cooperation ties between the countries. Following the Days of Minsk in Ho Chi Minh City, the parties signed the Program for the Development of Trade, Economic and Humanitarian Cooperation for 2024-2026.

The main partner of the Minsk region in Vietnam is the province of Hung Yen, which specializes in growing rice, saffron, and tropical fruits. It is actively developing its own infrastructure. The province with a population of over one million people has a high demand for meat and dairy products, baby food, pharmaceutical, chemical and mechanical engineering products. "In 2022, the export of Minsk region enterprises to Vietnam amounted to more than \$2.2 million, which is 10.7% more than in 2021, in the first quarter [of 2023] - \$214.4 thousand. Dry milk products made up the bulk of supplies³³⁰." To increase export volumes, the milk processing enterprises of the Myasomolprom holding - Slutsk Cheese Factory and Minsk Dairy Plant No. 1 - regularly take part in the Vietnam International Exhibition Vietnam Expo, and Minsk Dairy Plant No. 1 also cooperates with Au Viet Food Import to supply its own products. Once, in August 2017, representatives of these regions noted the presence of significant potential for cooperation, primarily in industry and agriculture, and took a number of specific steps to implement it. Thus, "in the province since 2017, the implementation of Belarusian-Vietnamese projects on industrial assembly of MAZ trucks and the production of dairy products using Belarusian raw

³²⁹Over 150 local companies attended the Belarusian-Vietnamese business forum in Ho Chi Minh City [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belarus.by/ru/business/business-news/belorusko-vjetnamskij-biznes-forum-v-xoshimine-posetili-svvshe-150-mestnix-kompanij-i-177578.html>

³³⁰ Minsk region is interested in developing cooperation with the Vietnamese province of Hung Yen [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://belta.by/regions/view/minskaja-oblast-zainteresovana-v-razvicii-sotrudnichestva-s-vjetnamskoj-provintsiej-hvngjen-564954-2023/>

materials ³³¹has begun." In particular, it was assumed that the opening of a joint venture for the production of dairy products from Belarusian dry milk and the release of products in Vietnam under the Belarusian brand would make it possible to find new sales niches not only in the market of this country. And in December 2023, the Belarusian side informed its Vietnamese partners about the decision to build an enterprise for the production of dairy products from Belarusian raw materials and using Belarusian technologies in the province of Hung Yen.

Exporters from the Brest region are also actively developing the Vietnamese market. For example, "the foreign trade turnover in January-October 2023 between the Brest region and Vietnam amounted to \$20.6 million. The growth rate compared to the same period in 2022 is 176.6%. Enterprises of the southwestern region increased exports to this Asian country almost fourfold ³³²." Additional impetus to the development of Belarusian-Vietnamese interregional cooperation is certainly given by the cooperation agreement signed in July 2017 between the Brest region and the province of Lao Cai, which provides for the expansion of partnership ties in the trade, economic, scientific, technical and cultural spheres. And in December 2024, the intention to establish cooperation with this Belarusian region was announced in the province of Dien Bien, where "they see prospects for cooperation in the field of economy, agriculture, healthcare and tourism ³³³." Vietnamese partners are ready to import Belarusian fertilizers, agricultural products, and import coffee and macadamia to Belarus.

Another notable event for the Belarusian-Vietnamese interregional cooperation took place in March 2022, when the

³³¹ Minsk Region and Hung Yen Province Intend to Develop Cooperation in Industry and Agro-Industrial Complex [Electronic resource]. – 2017. – URL : <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/minskaja-oblast-i-provintsija-hyngien-namereny-razvivat-sotrudnichestvo-v-promyshlennosti-i-apk-260807-2017/>

³³² The Brest Region delegation plans to visit the Vietnamese province of Lao Cai in 2024 [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://belta.by/regions/view/delegatsija-brestskoj-oblasti-v-2024-godu-planiruet-posetit-vjetnamskuiu-provintsiuu-laokaj-606206-2023/>

³³³ Brest Region and Vietnamese Province of Dien Bien Aim to Cooperate in the Economy and Social Sphere [Electronic Resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/regions/view/brestskaja-oblast-i-vjetnamskaja-provintsija-dienbien-natselenv-sotrudnicvat-v-ekonomike-i-sotsialnoi-679595-2024/>

Consulate General of Belarus opened in Ho Chi Minh City to promote bilateral trade and economic cooperation with the regions of South Vietnam. This fact was dictated by the "colossal pace of development of the city [Ho Chi Minh City] and neighboring provinces. This is where the high potential for the implementation of joint projects can be seen³³⁴." For this reason, it is important to create reference points for increasing cooperation in the field of trade. After all, Belarus can make a significant contribution to this process through the supply of construction, cargo, municipal and passenger equipment, as well as participation in the implementation of infrastructure projects. The Vietnamese side is interested in the participation of Belarusian enterprises in the implementation of the government program to transition to zero carbon dioxide emissions into the atmosphere by 2050. Of particular interest are the supplies of Belarusian electric transport, as well as significant potential in the medical field.

For reference, we note that "Vietnam has four key economic regions: northern, central, southern and the Mekong Delta. The region where the Consulate General is located includes the last two³³⁵." The southern economic region includes the centrally subordinate city of Ho Chi Minh City, the provinces of Ba Ria-Vung Tau, Binh Duong, Binh Phuoc, Dong Nai, Long An, Tien Giang and Tay Ninh, and the Mekong Delta economic region includes the centrally subordinate city of Can Tho, the provinces of An Giang, Ca Mau and Kien Giang. Both regions play a leading role in the development of the Vietnamese economy.

And already in August 2024, the Belarusian Consulate General began work on establishing direct interaction between the business circles of Belarus and the province of Long An, which is the leading region in the Mekong Delta and "acts as the southwestern gateway to the Ho Chi Minh City agglomeration. The population of the province is about 1.8 million people, and

³³⁴ The Consulate General of Belarus opened in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL : <https://belta.by/politics/view/generalnoe-konsulstvo-belarusi-otkrylos-vo-vietnamskom-hoshimine-603983-2023/>

³³⁵ Varankov, R. Anchor projects, complementarity of economies and seaside resorts. Consul General of Belarus on relations with Ho Chi Minh City / R. Varankov // [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL : <https://belta.by/interview/view/iakornye-proekty-vzaimodopolnjaemost-ekonomik-i-morskije-kurorty-genkonsul-belarusi-osviaziah-s-hoshiminom-9349/>

about 215 thousand people live in the administrative center, the city of Tan An ³³⁶." More than half of the province's economy is formed by the industrial and construction sectors, the rest - by the service sector, agriculture, forestry and fisheries. This province sees trade, economic, investment and humanitarian tracks as key areas with the Belarusian regions.

And in October of last year, the Vietnamese province of Binh Thuan, located in the southeast of Vietnam, expressed interest in Belarus' experience in organizing a modern and effective healthcare system and is ready to supply tropical vegetables and fruits to the Belarusian market. The area of the province is about eight thousand square kilometers, "the population is about 1.3 million people. A significant share of the province's economy is made up of the processing industry, as well as the production and distribution of electricity ³³⁷." There are large reserves of minerals, including quartz sand, granite, titanium, zircon, oil and gas. Agriculture, forestry and fisheries are also widely developed. There are nine industrial parks in the province. So, Vietnamese partners are ready to interact with the business circles of Belarus in production and technological cooperation.

All these facts indicate that "Belarus and Vietnam are experiencing a significant upswing, systematically and purposefully creating all the necessary conditions for even closer and more active cooperation in all areas ³³⁸." And the expected visit to Belarus this year of the General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam T. Lam will certainly add new colors to the Belarusian-Vietnamese multifaceted partnership ties in order to realize the enormous potential for cooperation in the economy, agriculture, medicine, tourism, culture at all levels,

³³⁶ Direct interaction will be established between the business circles of Belarus and the Vietnamese province of Long An [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/politics/view/priamoe-vzaimodejstvie-budet-nalazheno-mezhdu-delovymi-krugami-belarusi-i-vietnamskoi-provintsii-longan-655987-2024/>

³³⁷ Vietnam's Binh Thuan Province Counts on Belarus's Assistance in Industrial Modernization [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/vietnamskaja-provintsija-binhthuan-rasschityvaet-na-sodejstvie-belarusi-v-modernizatsii-promyshlennosti-671258-2024/>

³³⁸ Zaleski, B. Time for breakthroughs. Dynamics of reliable interaction of Belarus with economic partners / Boris Zaleski. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing , 2025. – P. 32.

contributing to the strengthening and development of friendship between the two peoples.

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Iran: New Energy into Positive Dynamics of Cooperation

Iran is one of the most important partners of Belarus in Western Asia and the Islamic world. The countries established diplomatic relations in 1993. And to date, Belarusian-Iranian contacts are developing very intensively. "In 2021, the bilateral trade turnover of the two countries amounted to \$33.3 million, exceeding last year's figure by 34.7%, including Belarusian exports of \$14 million, the growth rate was 10.2%. <...> Export of services from Belarus to Iran last year reached \$3.35 million. The balance of trade in services for Belarus is positive at \$2.8 million ³³⁹." The key items of Belarusian export to Iran were equipment for the production of paper pulp products, specific goods, longitudinally sawn timber, newsprint in rolls or sheets, equipment for heat treatment of materials, piston internal combustion engines, bearings.

In July 2022, **the 15th meeting of the joint Belarusian-Iranian commission on economic cooperation was held**, where the parties discussed successful bilateral projects and reached certain agreements on the implementation of joint promising activities. Minsk and Tehran are interested in increasing the volume of trade between the two countries. In the best years, the parties reached 250-300 million dollars. "Therefore, we intend to reach a trade turnover of \$500 million in a short period of time. And there are all the prerequisites for this ³⁴⁰." And the Minister of Industry, Mines and Trade of Iran S. Amin even predicted even higher figures in the medium term and expressed confidence that "we plan to increase cooperation in various areas. All this will

³³⁹ NTSM on the specifics of doing business in the Iranian market and promoting the export of Belarusian goods and services [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/comments/view/ntsm-ob-osobennostyah-vedeniya-biznesa-narynke-irana-i-prodvizhenii-eksporta-belorusskih-tovarov-i-uslug-8226/>

³⁴⁰ Parkhomchik: Belarus and Iran are interested in increasing cooperation in industry [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/parhomchik-belarus-i-iran-zainteresovany-v-naraschivanii-sotrudnichestva-v-promyshlennosti-516021-2022/>

allow us to reach a trade turnover of \$1 billion in the near future
341 . "

Iran shows increased interest in Belarusian industrial goods, agricultural machinery, machine tools, passenger transport, electric transport, and household appliances. There are great opportunities to expand supplies of Belarusian equipment for the Iranian **mining industry**. Moreover, this sector is developing very quickly in Iran. In particular, Iran is interested in large supplies of quarry equipment from the Belarusian Automobile Plant (BELAZ). After all, the country has huge reserves of copper, which today is a strategic raw material for the production of electric transport. "Over the past ten years, BELAZ equipment has been in great demand on the Iranian market. It is reliable and has proven itself only on the good side ³⁴²." Since the Iranian side plans to increase production volumes in the mining industry, Iran would like to receive about 800 more quarry dump trucks. First of all, Iranian partners are interested in quarry dump trucks with a carrying capacity of 90-130 tons.

investment projects are of interest. In particular, in the free economic zone (FEZ) "Vitebsk", the first resident in 2022 "was BRR Arshie ECO Health LLC, an enterprise with Iranian capital for the production of biodegradable tableware and packaging" ³⁴³. And in July 2022, the Belarusian-Iranian Orie Galvametall LLC became another resident of the FEZ "Vitebsk". The enterprise was created for the construction of a hot-dip galvanizing plant near the village of Farinovo, Polotsk district. The site has good infrastructure equipment, and the founders are now starting pre-project preparation and design of the facility. It is planned to purchase Iranian equipment for production. It will take about 2-3 years to erect and commission the plant. The enterprise will be

³⁴¹ Iranian Industry Minister: Trade with Belarus May Reach \$1 Billion in the Near Future [Electronic Resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/ministr-promvshlennosti-irana-tovarooborot-s-belarusiju-v-blizhajshee-vremja-mozhet-dostich-1-mlrd-516242-2022/>

³⁴² Iran is interested in large supplies of BELAZ mining equipment [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/iran-zainteresovan-v-krupnyh-postavkah-kariernoi-tehniki-belaz-516134-2022/>

³⁴³ Zalesky, B.L. FEZ "Vitebsk": optimization with an eye on results / B.L. Zalesky // Materialy XVIII Mezinarodni vedecko - practical conference "Vedecky pokrok na pre-break thousand years – 2022". Volume 5: Prague . Publishing House "Education and Science". – P. 22.

built near the Novopolotsk plant of technological metal structures, whose products are also planned to be processed. "We are talking about cable-supporting structures, road barriers and other products used in road construction and operated in aggressive environments ³⁴⁴." It is also planned to process welded grating, the production of which the technological metal structures plant began in the first quarter of 2021.

One of the important areas of development of trade and economic cooperation in the coming years will be the interaction between Belarus and Iran in the field of **agriculture and food** . The Belarusian side believes that Iran can be considered as a promising direction for increasing domestic exports of dairy and meat products - beef, butter, chicken meat, chicken and quail eggs, as well as vegetable oil, compound feed and premixes for animals, complex technical products, innovative developments in the field of food industry and agriculture. "In 2021, mutual trade turnover of agricultural products and food products amounted to \$ 10.9 million, which is 22% more than in 2020. ³⁴⁵" The parties plan to further increase trade and economic cooperation in the field of agriculture and food, including organizing the supply of Belarusian crop, meat and dairy products, as well as animal feed and premixes to Iran, and counter-supplies of vegetables, fruits, fish and seafood from Iran to Belarus.

In November 2022, the Belarusian government delegation visited Iran, where various meetings and negotiations at the interstate level took place, during which it was noted that the interaction between the two countries today is characterized by high dynamics of development in almost all areas. In particular, this year Minsk and Tehran "significantly increased the volume of cooperation in many areas, from trade turnover to commodity

³⁴⁴ Belarusian-Iranian tandem of investors to build hot-dip galvanizing plant in Vitebsk FEZ [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/belorusko-iranskij-tandem-investorov-postroit-zavod-goriachego-tsinkovanija-v-sez-vitebsk-513958-2022/>

³⁴⁵ Belarus plans to supply Iran with crop, meat and dairy products [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-planiruet-postavljat-v-iran-rastenievodcheskiju-mjasnuju-i-molochnuju-produktsiju-492495-2022/>

flows and cargo turnover³⁴⁶." But, apparently, the parties still need to take a number of steps, conclude important documents, hold many new events in order to realize the full potential that Belarus and Iran have in the field of industry, science and technology, and agree on the approaches laid down in the draft roadmap for comprehensive cooperation for 2023-2026. It should be noted that over the first three quarters of 2022, trade turnover between the two countries "increased to \$63.6 million (a 2.9-fold increase compared to the same period in 2021), exports to \$48.6 million (4.4-fold increase), and imports to \$15 million (a 41.8-fold increase). The balance is positive – \$33.6 million³⁴⁷."

An important event in the relations between the two countries was **the Iran-Belarus Business Forum**, held in November 2022 in the Iranian capital, organized by the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BelCCI) and the Iranian Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture, "which has been the main partner of the BelCCI in Iran for 20 years³⁴⁸." More than 120 executives and representatives of Belarusian and Iranian companies took part in this forum. Exporters from industrial production and mechanical engineering, woodworking, light and food industries were represented from Belarus. The Iranian side proposed a number of measures to stimulate mutual trade. Including: empowering small and medium-sized enterprises of the two countries, strengthening banking and insurance cooperation, identifying new joint projects, developing and simplifying the issuance of visas for businessmen and tourists, creating the necessary infrastructure for the development of economic relations, especially in the commercial, industrial and technical sectors. In addition, it was announced "the opening of a credit line in the amount of 100 million dollars for Belarusian

³⁴⁶ Roman Golovchenko: Belarus and Iran can achieve more in trade, economic and investment cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <http://www.government.by/ru/content/10474>

³⁴⁷ Golovchenko: Belarus and Iran's positions coincide on the entire range of issues on the economic agenda [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/golovchenko-pozitsii-belarusi-i-irana-sovpadajut-po-vsemu-krugu-voprosov-ekonomicheskoi-povestki-dnja-536376-2022/>

³⁴⁸ Iran-Belarus Business Forum [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.cci.by/o-palate/novosti/iransko-belorusskiv-biznes-forum/#>

traders interested in purchasing Iranian products" ³⁴⁹. Following the business forum, the parties signed a number of joint documents. In particular, a cooperation agreement was adopted by the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Iranian Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture, which "will give new impetus to the development of relations between the two countries" ³⁵⁰.

As for cooperation between Minsk and Tehran in **the scientific sphere**, a number of treaties, agreements and memorandums have already been signed between the institutes of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) of Belarus and scientific organizations and universities of Iran. For example, "according to the agreement on scientific and technical cooperation between the NAS and the Islamic Azad University, 16 Iranian scientists completed their studies and defended their PhD dissertations in postgraduate programs of scientific organizations of the Academy of Sciences ³⁵¹." But the parties intend to expand their joint efforts to work on specific scientific areas and projects. To this end, in May 2022, the Belarusian side offered its Iranian partners a package of proposals on which they could work together to achieve effective results. Among them are new materials and technologies, the production of medicines and pharmaceutical products, technologies and equipment for the comprehensive purification of drinking water, mineral processing technologies, unmanned aerial vehicles, training and exchange of students, internships for scientists and teachers. It is planned that, at the initiative of the National Academy of Sciences, a draft roadmap for cooperation with scientific organizations of Iran will be developed, which will include promising areas of mutual interest.

³⁴⁹ Iran-Belarus Business Forum Held in Tehran [Electronic Resource]. – 2022. – URL : https://iran.ru/news/analytcs/121826/V_Tegerane_prohodit_irano_belorusskiy_biznes_forum

³⁵⁰ Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Belarus and Iran signed a cooperation agreement [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/torgovo-promyshlennye-palaty-belarusi-i-irana-podpisali-soglasenie-o-sotrudnichestve-536244-2022/>

³⁵¹ The National Academy of Sciences of Belarus will develop a draft roadmap for cooperation with scientific organizations of Iran [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/nan-belarusi-razrabotaet-proekt-dorozhnoj-karty-sotrudnichestva-s-nauchnymi-organizatsijami-irana-500275-2022/>

In March 2023, the two countries celebrated a significant date - the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. And in the same month, in Tehran, the presidents of Belarus and Iran signed a **roadmap for comprehensive cooperation** between the countries for 2023-2026, which provides for interaction between Minsk and Tehran on a wide range of issues - in the political, economic, consular, scientific and technical spheres, as well as in the fields of education, culture, art, media and tourism. This document has become one of the most important elements of the legal framework for cooperation between Belarus and Iran. For reference, we note that "the Belarusian-Iranian legal register includes more than 30 international treaties and more than 70 other documents ³⁵²." In March, eight more were added to their number, including: an intergovernmental agreement on cooperation in the field of quarantine and plant protection, as well as an agreement on the transfer of persons sentenced to imprisonment for further serving their sentences; memorandums of understanding between the Ministry of Culture of Belarus and the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance of Iran, as well as between the State Committee for Standardization of Belarus and the Iranian National Organization for Standardization.

Speaking about the memorandum on **standardization**, we emphasize that this document provides for the interaction of the parties in the field of conformity assessment procedures, standards and technical regulations for issuing halal certificates and their mutual recognition for products manufactured and mutually supplied by the countries. "At the same time, mutual recognition of the results of halal certification applies only to certificates issued by the relevant bodies of the parties: the Iranian National Organization for Standardization (INSO) and BelHalal LLC. The parties also plan to exchange experience and knowledge in the field of technology, competencies, infrastructure facilities, as well

³⁵² Koltsov: Belarusian-Iranian legal register includes more than 30 international treaties and 70 other documents [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/politics/view/koltsov-belorussko-iranskij-pravovoj-reestr-vkljuchaet-bolee-30-mezhdunarodnyh-dogovorov-i-70-drugih-554851-2023/>

as research and development related to halal products ³⁵³." In addition, the parties reached promising agreements in the field of industry, trade, transport, agriculture. This suggests that Iran is the most important partner in the Middle East for Belarus. And the parties are interested in mutually beneficial long-term cooperation in a number of areas.

Let us emphasize once again that relations between Belarus and Iran have demonstrated a major breakthrough over the past two years. "In 2021, trade turnover between the countries exceeded \$33 million, increasing by more than a third compared to 2020. But over the past year, the level of trade has increased even more significantly: in 2022, Belarus and Iran traded \$100 million, which is a threefold increase." ³⁵⁴**Economic cooperation** remains the key area of Belarusian-Iranian cooperation. And there is confidence that the potential for bilateral cooperation can significantly increase trade turnover in the coming years. In particular, "new deliveries of quarry equipment, trucks and passenger vehicles to Iran are currently being actively discussed. The details of the licensing agreement on the organization of joint assembly of tractors in Iran are being worked out ³⁵⁵." Another interesting fact: the enterprises of the Bellesbumprom concern increased exports to this Middle Eastern country by 2.3 times in 2022. "Positive dynamics were also noted in January of this year. The growth rate was 134% compared to January 2022. Pulp, paper and cardboard, and sawn timber are actively supplied to Iran ³⁵⁶."

Belarus and Iran are also developing cooperation in **the transport sector**. In March 2023, the two countries agreed on a

³⁵³ Belarus and Iran will mutually recognize the results of halal product certification [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-iran-budut-vzaimno-priznavat-rezultatv-sertifikatsii-haljalnoj-produktsii-555113-2023/>

³⁵⁴ Raisi: Relations between Iran and Belarus have demonstrated a breakthrough [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/politics/view/raisi-otnoshenija-mezhdu-iranom-i-belarusiju-prodemonstrirovali-proryv-555018-2023/>

³⁵⁵ Rogozhnik: Belarus and Iran's potential allows for a significant increase in mutual trade turnover [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/rogozhnik-potentsialv-belarusi-i-irana-pozvoliajut-znachitelno-uvlichit-vzaimnyi-tovarooborot-554952-2023/>

³⁵⁶ Last year, Bellesbumprom enterprises increased exports to Iran by 2.3 times [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/predprijatija-bellesbumproma-v-proshlom-godu-uvlichili-eksport-v-iran-v-23-raza-555029-2023/>

permit-free system for road freight transportation. Apparently, “as early as 2023, road carriers will be able to transport goods without permits <...>. Iranian airline Mahan Air from March 26 of this year, regular flights twice a week on the route Tehran-Minsk-Tehran are launched”³⁵⁷. The transport theme is continued by the fact that Belarus, together with Iran, will take part in the development of the international transport corridor North-South. After all, “the Iranian side today needs to build about 180 kilometers of railway. And the Iranian side has actively started this work in order to complete the North-South railway corridor in the direction of the port of Bandar Abbas”³⁵⁸. This project is very important for Belarus, since in this regard, Belarusian transit through Iran to distant countries is actualized.

Another important topic in the context of Belarusian-Iranian cooperation is the development of an active **interregional dialogue**. In this regard, we recall that “relations are developing between the Gomel Region and the province of Mazandaran, the Mogilev Region and East Azerbaijan, the Minsk Region and the capital region of Iran. Relations have been established between Minsk and Tehran, as well as between Mogilev and Tabriz”³⁵⁹. More specifically, for example, the Gomel Region already intends to resume and develop cooperation with the Iranian province of Mazandaran, “a document on trade, economic, scientific, technical and cultural cooperation with which was signed back in 2009”³⁶⁰. The Mogilev Region intends to expand trade and economic cooperation and intensify ties in the field of tourism, education and

³⁵⁷ Belarus and Iran agreed on a permit-free system for road freight transportation [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-iran-dogovorilis-o-bezrazreshitelnoj-sisteme-avtoperevozok-gruzov-555173-2023/>

³⁵⁸ Belarus to take part in development of North-South transport corridor via Iran [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-primet-uchastie-v-razviti-i-transportnogo-koridora-sever-jug-cherez-iran-555159-2023/>

³⁵⁹ Koltsov, D. Trade, cooperation and removal of barriers. How Belarus and Iran will celebrate the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations during Lukashenko's visit to Tehran / D. Koltsov // [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL : <https://www.belta.by/interview/view/torgovlja-kooperatsija-i-sniatie-barjerov-chem-belarus-i-iran-otmetiat-30-letie-diplochnoshenij-vo-vremja-8621/>

³⁶⁰ Zalesky, B.L. Priority – Restoration of Partnerships / B.L. Zalesky // Materiały XVII Międzynarodowej science - practice conferences “ Europejska science XXI powieka – 2021”, Volume 4. Przemysł : Nauka i studia . – P. 23.

culture with the province of East Azerbaijan, where the free economic zone “Aras” is located. In May 2022, constructive negotiations were held on the prospects for cooperation and development of relations between the Grodno region and the province of Khomozgan. "The parties confirmed their mutual interest in implementing joint projects in various fields. Priority activities aimed at forming long-term sustainable relations were identified ³⁶¹. "

Among the Belarusian regions that actively cooperated with Iranian partners in 2022, it is also worth noting **the Minsk region**, whose trade turnover with Iran increased by 10.5 times compared to 2021. Statistics say that "in January-December 2022, the trade turnover between the Minsk region and the Islamic Republic of Iran amounted to \$ 51,190.5 thousand (growth rate of 114.1%). Including exports - \$ 44,309.8 thousand (120%), imports - \$ 6,880.7 thousand (113.5%). There was a positive foreign trade balance of \$ 37,429.1 thousand ³⁶²." The basis of the export deliveries of the Minsk region last year was mainly sawn timber, glued plywood, veneered wooden panels, other engines and power plants, electric engines and generators. In turn, the Minsk region imports dates, figs, pineapples, avocados, guava, mango, mangosteen, lettuce, fresh and chilled chicory, other vegetables, fruits, and nuts from Iran. In addition, several successful Iranian projects are being implemented in the capital region. Such projects as AFTAB, the Bel Peka Paint paint production project, and the Eastern Sheep sheep breeding project can be noted ³⁶³. In the future, apparently, the parties have great prospects for development in a number of areas.

The Belarusian side is also paying close attention to other incoming proposals for cooperation between the regions. In 2022

³⁶¹ On the visit of the Ambassador of Belarus to Iran to Hormozgan Province [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://iran.mfa.gov.bv/ru/embassy/news/bdd91d54c2ef1c14.html>

³⁶² Narkevich, G. "We welcome Iranian investments in our economy." Turchin met with the country's ambassador / G. Narkevich // [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL : <https://mlvn.by/15022023/my-privetstvuiem-iranskie-investicii-v-nashu-ekonomiku-turchin-vstretitsya-s-poslom-strany/>

³⁶³ Trade turnover between Minsk region and Iran increased more than tenfold in 2022 [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/tovarooborot-minskoj-oblasti-i-irana-v-2022-godu-vvros-bolee-chem-v-desyat-raz-550380-2023/>

alone, direct interaction was established with the governors of the Iranian provinces of Hormozgan, Mazandaran, Isfahan, Gilan, as well as with the mayors of the cities of Bandar Abbas, Isfahan, Rasht and Astara. This suggests that new ties between the regions and cities of the two countries are, as they say, already on the way.

In general, Belarus and Iran in recent years have been finding the most effective and efficient ways to ensure positive dynamics in the long term, in order to jointly breathe new energy into bilateral cooperation, preserving and increasing all the positive aspects for the implementation of a multifaceted mutually beneficial partnership.

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Iran: Aiming for a New Level of Strategic Interaction

In January 2025, the 17th meeting of the mixed Belarusian-Iranian intergovernmental commission (IGC) on economic cooperation was held in Minsk, following which Belarus and Iran agreed on a plan for further cooperation in promising areas. "The document includes interaction in 2025 in a wide range of areas, including in the fields of trade and industry, agriculture, electric power, transport, healthcare, education, sports..."³⁶⁴

Let us recall that at the 16th meeting of the IGC, which took place in October 2023 in Tehran, the parties "agreed on a plan for further cooperation in promising areas of partnership"³⁶⁵, which included the implementation of about 40 events in the areas of industrial cooperation, agriculture and veterinary medicine, healthcare and pharmaceuticals, transport and cooperation through chambers of commerce and industry, of which more than 30 have already been completed or are in the final stages of implementation, and active cooperation is underway on the rest. And at the 17th meeting of the IGC, the parties again agreed "to find new growth points that will significantly increase trade turnover between the two states"³⁶⁶. The Belarusian side is interested not only in the supply of domestic goods in agricultural engineering - tractors, combines, trailers and mounted devices, but also seriously considers Iranian sites and Iranian partners in terms of organizing and transferring competencies in the production of high-tech products there, for example, in agricultural engineering. And Iran "has enormous opportunities and potential in the petrochemical industry, the production of agricultural, mining

³⁶⁴ Golovchenko: Belarus is set for a long-term and sustainable partnership with Iran [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/society/view/golovchenko-belarus-nastroena-na-dolgosrochnoe-i-ustoichivoe-partnerstvo-s-iranom-689041-2025/>

³⁶⁵ Zalessky, B. Dynamics of a successful partnership. Internal and external reserves of the progressive movement of the Belarusian economy / Boris Zalessky. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2024. – P. 15.

³⁶⁶ Establishment of production and trade. Efimov on the prospects for cooperation between Belarus and Iran [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/sozdanie-proizvodstv-i-torgovlja-efimov-o-perspektivah-sotrudnichestva-belarusi-i-irana-688902-2025/>

equipment, high-tech goods, pharmaceuticals, the production of medical equipment, and building materials ³⁶⁷." Engineering, construction, tourism services, as well as education and health services, are also highly developed in the country.

For example, in March of this year, "Iranian specialists achieved significant success in the treatment of leukemia, myelodysplastic syndrome, lymphoma, multiple myeloma, aplastic anemia, as well as some types of cancer and congenital diseases using bone marrow transplantation ³⁶⁸." The fact is that Iran is one of the leaders in the region in the number and quality of bone marrow transplant operations. This method of treating blood diseases has been used there for over 30 years. About 17 thousand such operations have been successfully performed in the country. Or here's an example. Iranian specialists have created a wound dressing that contains biodegradable polymers and nanocurcumin. It "not only accelerates healing, but also prevents scarring, and has antibacterial and anti-inflammatory properties ³⁶⁹." The dressing is designed to treat superficial wounds, first- and second-degree burns. Thanks to its biodegradable structure, the product helps new tissue cells grow. As the wound heals, the dressing gradually dissolves. The developer plans to produce about 500,000 units of this product per year. So Iran is ready to interact with Belarus in all these areas.

It should be noted that, starting in 2022, there has been a steady increase in the volume of mutual Belarusian-Iranian trade. In 2022, it increased threefold compared to 2021. In 2023, these volumes increased again. And "in 2024, trade turnover increased by 25% compared to the previous year" ³⁷⁰, amounting to about

³⁶⁷ Trading House and Visa Simplification. Iran Counts on Active Cooperation with Belarus [Electronic Resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/society/view/torgovyi-dom-i-uproschenie-vizovogo-rezhima-iran-rasschityvaet-na-aktivnoe-sotrudnichestvo-s-belarusju-688936-2025/>

³⁶⁸ Iranian specialists have achieved significant success in bone marrow transplantation [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/tech/view/iranskije-spetsialisty-dobilis-znachitelnyh-uspehov-v-transplantatsii-kostnogo-mozga-703570-2025/>

³⁶⁹ Iran has developed a biodegradable bandage for rapid wound healing [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/tech/view/v-irane-razrabotali-biorazlagaemuju-povjazku-dlja-bystrago-zazhivlenija-ran-700688-2025/>

³⁷⁰ Alireza Sanei: Political and economic relations between Iran and Belarus continue to develop dynamically [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL :

107 million dollars. And this dynamic can develop even further. Moreover, both Belarus and Iran demonstrate major achievements in the economy, science and technology. For example, Iran ranks second in the region in terms of production volumes in the petrochemical industry. It "can provide 85% of itself both in the production of equipment for the oil and gas and petrochemical industries, and in the production of catalysts that are exported to other countries" ³⁷¹. This state is also among the world leaders in the production of medical isotopes for the treatment of oncological and neurological diseases. There are about ten thousand innovative companies operating in Iran. It is the second Muslim country in the world in terms of scientific production, and more than three million students study in Iranian universities.

Returning to the 17th meeting of the IGC, we note that the parties discussed a number of specific projects. Firstly, Iran is ready to increase the volume of purchases of potash fertilizers from Belarus, which are in demand in the country's agriculture. "The importer is the Iranian Ministry of Agriculture, which buys these products and is ready to increase the volume of their purchases" ³⁷². In 2023, the parties already signed an agreement for the supply of 400 thousand tons of these fertilizers.

Secondly, the Iranian side is interested in supplying its cars to Belarus. Thirdly, "Iran is interested in creating a joint tractor production facility with Belarus" ³⁷³. And this issue is already in the initial stages of development. Fourthly, Iran and Belarus have already discussed the topic of activating contacts "in the pharmaceutical field, which is well developed in Iran - 97% of the

<https://belta.by/society/view/alireza-sanei-politicheskie-i-ekonomicheskie-otnoshenija-mezhdu-iranom-i-belarusiju-prodolzhajut-695226-2025/>

³⁷¹ Alireza Sanei: Iran, despite sanctions, demonstrates major achievements in the economy, science and technology [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/society/view/alireza-sanei-iran-vopreki-sanktsijam-demonstriruet-krupnye-dostizhenija-v-ekonomike-nauke-i-695223-2025/>

³⁷² Ambassador: Iran is ready to increase the volume of purchases of potash fertilizers from Belarus [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/posol-iran-gotov-narastit-objemv-zakupki-v-belarusi-kalinyh-udobrenij-694790-2025/>

³⁷³ Alireza Sanei: Iran is interested in creating a joint production of tractors with Belarus [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/alireza-sanei-iran-zainteresovan-v-sozdanii-sovmestnogo-s-belarusiju-proizvodstva-tractorov-694854-2025/>

necessary medicines are produced <...> in the country" ³⁷⁴. And they created a joint working group of the health ministries to discuss in detail the issues of cooperation in this regard.

Fifthly, the parties are interested in developing the transit potential of both countries. In particular, Iran is building a section of the Rasht-Astara railway and along the route towards the port of Chabahar. "This is one of the largest ports in the country and is a key element in the international transit corridor North-South ³⁷⁵." And Belarus is interested in opening a direct air link on the Tehran-Minsk-Tehran route. After all, Iran occupies an advantageous geographical position and for our country is a bridge connecting Belarus with the Persian Gulf states. In March of this year, in Minsk, during negotiations on expanding cooperation in the field of air transport, the relevant departments of the two countries signed a protocol of intent. "The parties also agreed to hold intrastate procedures required for signing an airworthiness agreement" ³⁷⁶. So, in the long term, the two countries' opportunities to facilitate transportation will only grow.

Sixth, in February 2025, an agreement to intensify the Belarusian-Iranian business agenda was reached during a series of meetings of the delegation of the National Marketing Center (NMC) with Iranian partners in Tehran in order to expand channels of bilateral cooperation. The partners agreed with the Trade Development Organization to exchange visits of expert delegations, which will lead to the development of joint steps to support exporters of both countries. In particular, the parties began to work out an agreement on the supply of cable and wire products. This was discussed between the business circles of Belarus and Iran at the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and

³⁷⁴ Sanei, A. Belarus and Iran have reached the medium of a four-year roadmap. What is in the asset and what are the plans? / A. Sanei // [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL : <https://belta.by/interview/view/belarus-i-iran-dobralis-do-mediuma-četvrehletnej-dorozhnoj-karty-čto-v-aktive-i-kakie-plany-9580/>

³⁷⁵ Belarus and Iran are interested in developing the transit potential of the two countries [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-iran-zajinteresovany-v-razvitii-tranzitnogo-potentsiala-dvuh-stran-688928-2025/>

³⁷⁶ Belarus and Iran are interested in expanding cooperation in the field of air transport [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-iran-zajinteresovany-rasshirit-sotrudnichestvo-v-oblasti-vozdushnogo-transporta-701359-2025/>

Agriculture. Belarusian business was represented in various industries during the business visit to Iran: from the production of confectionery and cable and wire products to logistics services and attracting investment. During the talks, the parties discussed a number of important issues aimed at strengthening economic ties, expanding opportunities for mutually beneficial cooperation between enterprises and diversifying sales markets.

Thus, agreements were reached on promoting Belarusian confectionery products to the Iranian market. "Active cooperation is underway in the direction of creating a joint project in the construction sector, in particular the production of high-tech equipment. Negotiations concerning the logistics sector were additionally held at the Federation of Transport and Logistics of Iran ³⁷⁷." Successful cooperation between companies of both countries will strengthen their positions in the international market, expand their geographic presence and increase the competitiveness of enterprises. The NCM signed a bilateral memorandum with the Tehran Chamber of Commerce and Industry, which secured the stated intentions and other plans of the parties. It was based on a number of successfully held joint events. In addition, the NCM signed a memorandum of understanding with the Assembly of Entrepreneurs of Iran, which "noted the readiness of both countries to help to further involve companies in business dialogue, including through participation in events for the business community ³⁷⁸."

And in May of this year, a major international exhibition Iran Agrofood will be held - one of the largest annual specialized exhibition events in the country, which will cover the entire chain of food production: from agricultural equipment to finished products. Among the main sections of the exhibition: food and drinks, food ingredients, equipment and technologies for the production of food and drinks, agricultural machinery, agricultural

³⁷⁷ Belarus and Iran are working on an agreement on the supply of cable and wire products [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-iran-prorabatyvajut-soglashenie-po-postavkam-kabelno-provodnikovoi-produktsii-698766-2025/>

³⁷⁸ Belarus and Iran agreed to expand business cooperation and intensify contacts along the SCO line [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-iran-dogovorilis-rasshirit-biznes-sotrudnichestvo-i-aktivizirovat-kontakty-po-linii-shos-696396-2025/>

technologies, accessories and equipment for the hotel business and catering establishments, packaging and more. "In 2024, 847 companies from 12 countries took part in the exhibition, namely Russia, China, Iran, the UAE, Turkey, India, Thailand, Spain, Italy, Austria, Germany and Denmark. The exposition occupied 22 pavilions, and the number of visitors exceeded 40 thousand."

³⁷⁹The participation of Belarusian enterprises in the collective exposition will certainly inform a wide range of potential foreign partners about the production and export potential of Belarus, establish direct contacts with foreign countries, laying the foundation for long-term mutually beneficial cooperation.

Finally, in terms of enhancing regional cooperation between the two countries, in April 2025, negotiations were held between the Chairman of the Brest Regional Executive Committee P. Parkhomchik and the head of the Iranian diplomatic mission in Belarus A. Sanei, during which it was noted that the results of the parties' work in 2024 in the field of foreign trade turnover have positive dynamics. And there are already new points of growth in cooperation between the Brest region and Iran. After all, the Belarusian southwestern region has great potential not only in the agro-industrial complex, but also in the production of road equipment, batteries, automotive industry, and the military-industrial complex. "Thus, one of the areas in which the parties are interested in cooperation is the supply of batteries produced in the Brest region for use in the automotive industry of Iran ³⁸⁰." The Iranian side, in turn, proposed signing a sister city agreement between the Belarusian region and one of the regions of Iran in order to further develop relations and present their capabilities. Thus, businessmen and enterprises will be able to interact more focused and specifically. Another promising area of cooperation was named the investment of Iranian investments in the implementation of projects in the Brest region. Moreover, in the

³⁷⁹ From Ingredients to Packaging. Potential of Belarus's Agriculture and Food Industry to be Presented in Tehran [Electronic Resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/ot-ingredientov-do-upakovki-potentsial-selskogo-hozjajstva-i-pischeproma-belarusi-prezentujut-v-699525-2025/>

³⁸⁰ A twinning agreement may link the Brest region with one of the regions of Iran [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/regions/view/pobratimskoe-soglasenie-mozhet-svjazat-brestskuju-oblast-s-odnim-iz-regionov-irana-706506-2025/>

free economic zone "Brest" there are many preferences, advantages are provided to businessmen, comfortable conditions are created for the implementation of projects. In addition, the parties have great potential for mutual cooperation in the field of tourism.

Let's sum it up. The 17th meeting of the joint intergovernmental commission on economic cooperation held in January of this year in Minsk showed that Belarus and Iran have enormous potential for further deepening of bilateral contacts and can reach a new level of strategic interaction. Moreover, new opportunities for effective partnerships are also opened by the membership of the two countries in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Iran's membership in BRICS and the status of Belarus as a partner country in this organization, Belarus's participation in the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) and Iran's status as an observer in the EAEU. After all, the EAEU itself plans to hold the first meeting of the joint committee with Iran in September 2025 in Minsk, where roadmaps will be approved for the development of cooperation in areas of mutual interest, which will "include such promising areas as simplification of border customs procedures, industrial cooperation, elimination of technical barriers to trade, cooperation in the field of SPS regulation, e-commerce, digital trade³⁸¹." This committee will act as an institutional platform for considering any issues related to the operation of the full-fledged free trade agreement between the EAEU and Iran, as well as the further development of relations between the parties in the context of the implementation of the recently granted observer status to Iran in the "Eurasian Five".

For reference: the full-scale free trade agreement between the EAEU and Iran will enter into force on May 15 this year. "The implementation of the new agreement will become an effective tool for developing trade between the countries and in the foreseeable future may bring mutual trade turnover to a record \$12

³⁸¹ Pivovar, E. The first meeting of the joint committee of the EAEU and Iran is planned to be held in September in Minsk / E. Pivovar // [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL : <https://belta.by/society/view/pervoe-zasedanie-sovmestnogo-komiteta-eaes-i-irana-planirujut-provesti-v-sentjabre-v-minske-698088-2025/>

billion, approximately doubling compared to current volumes ³⁸²." Recall that a temporary agreement has been in force between the EAEU and Iran since 2019, leading to the formation of a free trade zone for a limited number of goods. On December 25, 2023, a full-scale free trade agreement was signed in St. Petersburg, establishing a duty-free regime between the parties for almost 90 percent of the entire range of goods. And in March 2025, a seminar was held at the Eurasian Economic Commission site dedicated to the prospects for developing cooperation with Iran in the field of transport and logistics, with the participation of business associations and transport companies of the EAEU countries that are already working in the Iranian market or are just working out logistics for deliveries to this country. So it was stated there that the "Eurasian five" are interested in developing full-scale cooperation with Iran within the framework of the implementation of this full-scale agreement, including in the field of transport. Moreover, the Iranian "partners are ready to work out the possibilities of interaction within the framework of the North-South International Transport Corridor, intensifying sea transportation on the Caspian Sea, participating in the Eurasian Agroexpress project" ³⁸³, since the need to build supply chains in the direction of Iran, as well as the development of infrastructure for access to the region of the Caspian Sea basin, the Persian Gulf, Central Asia, Africa, India is of particular importance in the context of global changes and the construction of new transport and logistics routes. All this will certainly provide additional impetus and positive dynamics to Belarusian-Iranian cooperation.

³⁸² Pivovar, E. The full-scale free trade agreement between the EAEU and Iran will enter into force on May 15 / E. Pivovar // [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/polnoformatnoe-soglashenie-o-svobodnoj-torgovle-mezhdu-eaes-i-iranom-vstupit-v-silu-15-maja-703093-2025/>

³⁸³ The EEC held a seminar on developing cooperation with Iran in the field of transport and logistics [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/eeek-provela-seminar-po-razvitiyu-sotrudnichestva-s-iranom-v-oblasti-transporta-i-logistiki/>

United Arab Emirates: Opening up new economic opportunities

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is Belarus's most important partner in **the Middle East**. The two countries seek to strengthen cooperation in various fields. This is evidenced, **firstly**, by the existing legal framework of Belarusian-UAE relations. As of the end of November 2024, the parties had already "signed 14 agreements and 26 memorandums of understanding in the political, economic and cultural fields"³⁸⁴. **Secondly**, Belarus and the UAE seek to increase the volume of mutual trade. Among the documents already signed, there are a number of economic agreements aimed at promoting the development of trade turnover and opening up markets. In this regard, we note that "the volume of non-oil trade between the two countries in 2023 increased fivefold compared to 2022."³⁸⁵ **Thirdly, in recent years**, the volume of Emirati investments in the real sector of the Belarusian economy has increased, which allowed the UAE to take third place in terms of foreign investment. **Fourthly**, cooperation in the field of food security has been established between the parties. After all, "Belarus exports agricultural and food products to the UAE, which contributes to achieving the goals of the national food security strategy, which the UAE has identified as one of its priorities until 2051." **Fifthly**³⁸⁶, enterprises and businessmen of the two countries take part in economic forums and exhibitions held in both countries, which facilitate the establishment of contacts between businessmen and investors from the two countries, which strengthens trade turnover, increases its volume and has a positive

³⁸⁴ Grishkevich, A. Ambassador: the strategies of the UAE and Belarus are aimed at diversity, enhanced by scientific and technological progress / A. Grishkevich // [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL : <https://belta.by/society/view/posol-strategii-oae-i-belarusi-napravleny-na-raznoobrazie-usilivaemoe-nauchno-tehnicheskim-progressom-678974-2024/>

³⁸⁵ Grishkevich, A. UAE Ambassador: Belarus has economic potential and many investment opportunities / A. Grishkevich // [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/posol-oae-belarus-obladaet-ekonomicheskimi-potentsialom-i-mnozhestvom-investitsionnyh-vozmozhnostej-679014-2024/>

³⁸⁶ Grishkevich, A. UAE Ambassador: in recent years, the volume of Emirati investments in the real sector of the Belarusian economy has increased / A. Grishkevich // [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/posol-oae-v-poslednie-gody-objem-emiratskih-investitsij-v-realnyi-sektor-ekonomiki-belarusi-679016-2024/>

impact on the economy of both countries. In recent years, Belarusian exporters have been especially active in participating in two international exhibitions in the UAE - **Gulfood** and **IDEX**

Gulfood International Food & Beverage Exhibition is the world's largest and most influential annual industry event. The exhibition brings together food producers, importers, distributors, and restaurateurs. The exhibition is especially popular with visitors from the Gulf countries, as more than 95 percent of food products are imported here. In February 2023, this exhibition forum met for **the 28th time in Dubai**, where "more than 5,000 companies from 125 countries took part"³⁸⁷ and where the Belarusian exposition **Belarus - the Taste of Nature was presented**. The export potential of the Grodno region enterprises that are part of the Grodnomyasomolprom holding was presented on the largest scale. The exhibitors included dairy producers OAO Molochny Mir, OAO Lida Dairy Canning Plant and its branches – Smorgon Dairy Products and Novogrudok Gifts, as well as Volkovysk OAO Bellakt, OAO Babushkina Krynka – the management company of the holding Mogilev Dairy Company Babushkina Krynka and OAO Rogachev Dairy Canning Plant. The meat industry was represented by Slonim Meat Processing Plant and Volkovysk Meat Processing Plant. Confectionery products were demonstrated to the guests of the exhibition by OAO Kommunarka. ODO FIRMA ABC, the management company of the holding Grodnomyasomolprom, OAO Lidakhleboprodukt and Smorgon Bread Products Plant also brought their products to Dubai. In addition, JV OAO Santa Bremor and OAO "Savushkin product". Among the new products from Belarusian enterprises are dry milk mixtures for ice cream and yogurt from OJSC "Babushkina krynka", beef steaks from Volkovysk meat processing plant, protein candies from "Kommunarka".

Within the framework of this exhibition, domestic enterprises agreed on the supply of their products to distributors,

³⁸⁷ Belarusian exposition presented at the food industry exhibition in Dubai [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/beloruskaja-ekspozitsija-predstavlena-na-vystavke-pischevoj-promyshlennosti-v-dubae-551618-2023/>

wholesale buyers and food producers from various countries of the world. Rogachev Milk Canning Plant signed a letter of intent with a UAE resident company for the supply of a range of canned milk products for an estimated amount of 500 thousand dollars. The enterprise also held negotiations with companies from Singapore, Kenya, New Zealand, Libya and China. Possibilities of supplying condensed milk were discussed with Qatar networks. A company from Saudi Arabia expressed particular interest in condensed milk with the addition of natural coffee. OJSC Babushkina Krynka, the management company of the Mogilev Dairy Company Babushkina Krynka holding, held negotiations on the supply of dairy products to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, India, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Israel following the exhibition. The company also reached agreements with Indonesia on the shipment of powdered milk worth almost one million dollars. In addition, businesses in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Syria, Turkey, as well as entrepreneurs from Iraq and Ghana were interested in baby food from Volkovysk OJSC Bellakt. Preliminary agreements were reached on the supply of powdered milk to China worth about two million dollars. The Kommunarka confectionery factory agreed on the supply of products to Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, the UAE, Palestine, Pakistan, and India. The visitors to the exhibition were interested in the new product from the Belarusian factory – sugar-free protein candies. The Slonim meat-packing plant held negotiations with companies from Malaysia, the UAE, New Zealand, Uzbekistan, China, Azerbaijan and Egypt, and the Volkovysk Meat Processing Plant – with potential partners from China, Saudi Arabia, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Uzbekistan and Canada. “In total, Belarusian enterprises at the exhibition signed contracts worth more than \$4 million³⁸⁸.” We will add that Belarus has presented an exposition of domestic producers Belarus – The Taste of Nature for the eighth year in a row.

The 29th International Exhibition of Food and Beverages Gulfood 2024 in Dubai in February last year again brought together more than five thousand participants from 127

³⁸⁸ Belarusian enterprises signed contracts worth more than \$4 million at the exhibition in Dubai [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/beloruskie-predpriyatija-na-vystavke-v-dubae-zakljuchili-dogovorv-na-bolee-chem-4-mln-552857-2023/>

countries. And this time, Belarusian companies presented a wide range of dairy products, including those made from dry milk, assorted cheeses and desserts, to the guests of the exhibition. The Savushkin Product company presented a wide range of natural dairy products at the exhibition - both new products and products that are already familiar to buyers in the UAE. OJSC Minsk Dairy Plant No. 1 presented a lactose-free line of products, plant-based drinks, and for the first time - dry milkshakes. OJSC Lida Milk and Canned Food Plant and its branches exhibited a specialized line of products made from dry milk and other dry dairy products, butter, frozen cottage cheese, and assorted cheeses. Also, in addition to the classic product line, the company OJSC Molochny Mir presented new products: lactose-free cheese and whipping cream. At the stand of Volkovysk OJSC Bellakt, a line of products for the nutrition of young children, pregnant women and nursing mothers was demonstrated. The product line of cheeses, butter, dairy products with Belarusian condensed milk, beloved in many countries, was presented at the stand of the enterprise OJSC Rogachev MKK. The branch of the enterprise - Kalinkovich Dairy Plant - showed "instant dry skim milk and dry whole milk in new packages: PET cans of 1 kg and 400 g, as well as in stick packages of 25 g.³⁸⁹" The stand of Lidakhleboprodukt OJSC presented wheat and rye flour, pasta made from hard and soft wheat, and semi-finished flour products. Among the products presented were new items: vegetable fiber and wheat germ flakes. Slonim Meat-Processing Plant OJSC presented beef, sausages, canned meat and meat-and-vegetable products. During the Gulfood exhibition, representatives of Belarusian companies held meetings and negotiations with distributors and wholesale buyers from many countries around the world.

In February 2025, on **the 30th jubilee Gulfood 2025 International Food and Beverage Exhibition** in Dubai was presented already "more than 1 million items of products and goods from 5.5 thousand participants from 129 countries, over 130

³⁸⁹ Belarusian exposition presented at the food industry exhibition in Dubai [Electronic resource]. — 2024. — URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/belorussskaja-ekspozitsija-predstav>

thousand visitors from 195 countries" ³⁹⁰. For the tenth time, the exclusive partner and organizer of the participation of Belarusian enterprises in the international exhibition Gulfood presented an updated exposition **Belarus. The Taste of Nature**, made in the form of an openwork house, stylistically decorated with elements from the decorative and applied art of Belarusians - vytinanka, which, by decision of the Intergovernmental Committee, was included in the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage List in 2024. Its products 13 Belarusian enterprises were presented.

The exhibition presented a white mold cheese from the Minsk Dairy Plant No. 1 OJSC, the management company of the Perviy Molochny holding, which has just appeared on the Belarusian market. Among the company's exclusive new products are also blue mold cheeses. Perviy Molochny presented, among other things, dry dairy products from natural cow's milk, hard cheeses, butter, glazed curds, and a sterilized line of dairy products. An innovative dairy product - milk candies enriched with vitamin D3, as well as dry dairy products, classic cheeses - was shown by Babushkina Krynka OJSC. The company also demonstrated new products, including: cheese with paprika, girol with chanterelles, and Norwegian cheese. Especially for the exhibition, the company exhibited glazed curd cheeses with different flavors. Dairy products, liquid and dry baby food, desserts, including curds, cakes, chocolate sausage, popular dessert paste, were presented by the industry flagship - Volkovysk OJSC "Bellakt". In addition to well-known products, new products were presented: dry baby food, milk candies, coffee and cocoa drinks, as well as dry specialized drinks for middle-aged and elderly people, youth. Slonim Meat-Packing Plant showed a wide product line of sausages, semi-finished beef products, canned goods. The stand presented new finished products that meet the requirements of the voluntary certification system "Halal". The enterprise OJSC "Lidakhleboprodukt" presented flour, semi-finished flour products, compound feed and premixes, including a new product - ptitim from durum wheat; Smorgon Bread Products

³⁹⁰ Unique raw materials, dessert paste, exclusive flour. What Belarus presented at the Gulfood exhibition [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/society/view/unikalnye-syry-desertnaja-pasta-ekskluzivnaja-muka-chto-belarus-predstavila-na-vystavke-gulfood-696467-2025/>

Plant - oat flour, whole micronized wheat and rye flour, rapeseed oil, a range of instant cereals; Milkavita OJSC - a wide range of dry milk products, ultra-pasteurized milk and cream, butter, cheeses, including aged cheeses; Lida Dairy and Canned Food Plant - a product line of dry milk products, sweet cream butter, cottage cheese, a number of new cheese products from the branch - the Novogrudok Dairy company. Lactose-free milk and a number of products, including product cases of the Kalinkovich Dairy Plant, were shown by the holder of the State Quality Mark Rogachevsky Dairy Canned Food Plant. Slutsk Cheese Factory offered a wide range of dry milk products, glazed curds, sweet cream and chocolate butter, ultra-pasteurized milk, a lactose-free line - milk, butter, yoghurts, hard and extra-hard cheeses. The company OAO Molochny Mir paid special attention to a number of product offerings, including lactose-free sterilized milk, cheeses with original fillings, as well as dry milk in innovative packaging, developed specifically for ease of use in the retail segment.

Another interesting fact about the participation of the Belarusian side in the 30th International Food Exhibition Gulfood : following the participation of the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange (BUCE) in this exhibition forum, agreements were reached to increase the export of domestic agricultural products to the United Arab Emirates and other countries of the Middle East. To this end, negotiations were held on the sidelines of Gulfood with more than 30 companies distributing agricultural products, many of which expressed their readiness to use the BUCE electronic platform to purchase Belarusian dry milk, dry whey and frozen semi-finished meat products. Expanding the pool of Emirati importers accredited at BUCE will create the preconditions for increasing the volume of exchange exports to the UAE, which reached \$43 million in 2024. Last year, participants from the UAE entered the top five largest buyers of Belarusian goods in exchange trading. At the same time, the share of agricultural products in the total volume of transactions concluded by Emirati companies amounted to 80 percent, and the remaining 20 percent was provided by the export of sawn timber. If we talk about agricultural products, then “in 2024, mainly skimmed milk powder and amino acids were

supplied through the exchange to the UAE. In 2025, whole milk powder was added to these positions. Active work is underway to increase sales of amino acids of Belarusian production; since the beginning of the year, the amount of exchange transactions for their sale in the UAE has exceeded \$ 20.5 million”³⁹¹. It remains only to add that as of February 1, 2025, 33 residents from this Middle Eastern country were already accredited at BUCE. In addition, within the framework of the Gilfood exhibition, BUCE agreed to establish partnership relations with the Dubai Gold Commodity Exchange in order to create additional opportunities for attracting UAE business circles to the Belarusian exchange commodity market.

As for the **IDEX exhibition forum**, it is the **largest international exhibition of weapons and military equipment**. In February 2023, the Belarusian stand in Abu Dhabi displayed "modern and promising innovative developments of nine enterprises of the country's defense sector, as well as full-scale and mock-up samples of products from Belarusian manufacturers such as JSC AGAT - Control Systems, JSC KB Radar and JSC 140 Repair Plant".³⁹²

Two years later, in February 2025, at the **international exhibition of arms and military equipment IDEX 2025**, Belarus presented “more than 150 different types of weapons and military equipment that meet the most advanced global trends in weapons development”³⁹³. In particular, Belarusian arms manufacturers showed wheeled and tracked robots, as well as the Berserk robotic fire complex, which allows for effective fire at manpower or low-flying drones and helicopters. The complex is highly

³⁹¹ BUTB will help increase supplies of Belarusian agricultural products to the Middle East market [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-pomozhet-rostu-postavok-belorusskoi-selhozprodukcii-na-rynok-blizhnego-vostoka-696695-2025/>

³⁹² Belarusian innovative developments presented at the international exhibition IDEX -2023 in the UAE [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/belorusskie-innovatsionnye-razrabotki-predstavleny-na-mezhdunarodnoi-vystavke-index-2023-v-oae-551861-2023/>

³⁹³ More than 150 samples of weapons and equipment will be presented by the State Military Industrial Committee in the UAE at the IDEX exhibition [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/society/view/bolee-150-obraztsov-vooruzheniya-i-tehniki-predstavit-goskomvoenprom-v-oae-na-vystavke-index-695015-2025/>

maneuverable, with high cross-country ability. This allows the Berserk to be used, among other things, to protect the perimeter of an object. "The maximum distance of the robot from the operator's position is 5 km in direct visibility and 1 km in mixed urban areas. The aimed firing range is up to 1 km. But the UAV can recognize armored vehicles or a helicopter from a distance of 3 km. From 6 km and 10 km, respectively ³⁹⁴." Another Belarusian novelty at the exhibition IDEX 2025 is a rocket-propelled grenade launcher system "Sapphire", which has such advantages as "low weight, multifunctional warhead, programmable detonator, through which both contact and trajectory modes of operation are implemented. Another feature of "Sapphire" is the ability to combine products into a cluster and fire a salvo ³⁹⁵." In addition, there is a high potential for adapting the product to various carriers. Within the framework of this exhibition, the Belarusian State Military Industrial Committee held negotiations: with the independent Emirati state organization Tawazun Council, closely cooperating with the Ministry of Defense and security services of the UAE, within which "the emphasis was placed on the creation of joint high-tech products based on the existing competencies of the parties" ³⁹⁶, as well as with the Edge holding, where priority projects were identified and specific practical steps for their further implementation were developed.

All these facts indicate that cooperation between Belarus and the UAE has continued to develop steadily in recent years. "At the same time, bilateral contacts are characterized by trust, a wide

³⁹⁴ Belarusian arms manufacturers to present wheeled and tracked robots at UAE exhibition [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/society/view/beloruskie-oruzhejniki-predstavjat-na-vystavke-v-uae-kolesnyh-i-gusenichnyh-robotov-695184-2025/>

³⁹⁵ . The Belarusian grenade launcher complex "Sapfir" will be presented at the exhibition of military equipment in the UAE [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/beloruskij-granatometnvi-kompleks-sapfir-predstavjat-na-vystavke-voennoj-tehniki-v-uae-695383-2025/>

³⁹⁶ The State Military Industrial Committee and the Emirates Tawazun are interested in creating joint high-tech products [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/society/view/goskomvoenprom-i-emiratskij-tawazun-zainteresovany-v-sozdanii-sovmestnyh-vysokotekhnologichnyh-produktov-696935-2025/>

range of topics and areas, and active dynamics ³⁹⁷." In 2025, the two countries plan to hold another meeting of the Belarusian-UAE Business Council, and UAE Culture Days in Minsk are also planned. In addition, there is significant prospect for the development of bilateral interregional cooperation, further strengthening of interaction in the field of food security, and expansion of constructive interaction in the field of standardization and certification. So the parties are ready to implement joint initiatives and projects that open up new economic opportunities for Belarus and the United Arab Emirates.

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³⁹⁷ Belarus and the UAE plan to hold a meeting of the business council in 2025 [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-oae-planirujut-provesti-v-2025-godu-zasedanie-delovogo-soveta-679011-2024/>

Türkiye: Partnerships Focused on the Future

In 2023, the Republic of Turkey turned 100 years old. Today, it is a dynamic, future-focused state with achievements in a number of specific areas, and major projects in logistics and energy that link Asia and Europe. Belarus traditionally views Turkey as an important and promising partner and a reliable friend. Let us recall that it was this country that "became the first foreign state to recognize the state independence of the Republic of Belarus"³⁹⁸. In March 2022, Minsk and Ankara celebrated the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations. In 1996, during the first visit of the head of the Belarusian state to Turkey, a **Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation** between the two states was signed.

The first visit of Turkish President R.T. Erdogan to Belarus in the history of bilateral relations, which took place in November 2016, also became a milestone in Belarusian-Turkish relations. Firstly, within its framework, the task was set to achieve the volume of mutual trade turnover at the level of one billion dollars. Secondly, the parties decided to focus on the maximum use of the potential of trade and economic cooperation with an emphasis on the creation of "joint production of complex technical products in the regions of Belarus and Turkey, including for the purpose of promoting them to the markets of third countries"³⁹⁹ and the organization of joint industrial zones. And in April 2019, the President of the Republic of Belarus A. Lukashenko paid an official visit to Turkey, during which priority areas of Belarusian-Turkish cooperation in the field of trade and investment, implementation of joint projects in mechanical engineering, agriculture, construction, finance, chemical and light industry were identified, and specific steps were outlined to build up contacts in the areas of technology, innovation, education, intensification of interaction "in the field of joint scientific

³⁹⁸ Political relations [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : https://turkey.mfa.gov.by/ru/bilateral_relations/political/relations/

³⁹⁹ Official visit of the President of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan [Electronic resource]. – 2016. – URL : http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/ofitsialnyj-vizit-prezidenta-turtsii-redzhepa-tajipa-erdogana-14820/

developments, academic programs, exchange of students and teachers of higher educational institutions⁴⁰⁰. "

The seriousness of the parties' intentions to actively develop cooperation in **the scientific, technical and humanitarian areas** is evidenced by the fact that following the April (2019) negotiations between the leaders of Belarus and Turkey, a number of documents were signed - an intergovernmental agreement on cooperation in the field of education, a roadmap for the development of cooperation between the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus (NAS) and the Scientific Research Council of Turkey for 2019-2021, a memorandum on scientific and technical cooperation in Antarctica between the NAS of Belarus and the Ministry of Industry and Development of Turkey.

In particular, **the intergovernmental agreement on cooperation in the field of education** is aimed at establishing and developing direct contacts between higher education institutions and scientific organizations of the two countries, so that students and specialists from Belarus and Turkey have the opportunity to participate in events aimed at demonstrating the educational, scientific, technical and innovative potential of their countries. The parties intend to provide a place for obtaining higher and postgraduate education in the relevant institutions, inform each other about the mutual recognition of documents on training, education and academic degrees, and create all the necessary conditions "for expanding and deepening contacts between the countries across the entire spectrum of areas of educational activity, attracting Turkish citizens to study in Belarus"⁴⁰¹. "

If we talk about the interaction of the scientific circles of the two countries, its foundation was laid by the cooperation agreements signed by the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus: in 2002 - with the Turkish Research Council for Science and Technology; in 2009 - with the Turkish Academy of Sciences. In 2016, the governments of Belarus and Turkey signed **the**

⁴⁰⁰Official visit to Turkey [Electronic resource]. – 2019. – URL : http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/ofitsialnyi-vizit-v-turtsiju-20884/

⁴⁰¹Belarus and Turkey are interested in developing contacts between universities and scientific organizations [Electronic resource]. – 2019. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-turtsija-zainteresovany-v-razviti-i-kontaktov-mezhdu-vuzami-i-nauchnymi-organizatsijami-344261-2019/>

Agreement on Cooperation in Science and Technology . A year later, memorandums appeared: on mutual understanding - between the National Intellectual Property Center of the Republic of Belarus and the Turkish Patent and Trademark Agency; on cooperation - between the Belarusian Innovation Fund and the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey. And in November 2018, **the first meeting of the joint Belarusian-Turkish Commission on Cooperation in Science and Technology was held** , within the framework of which the parties agreed to "intensify bilateral cooperation through innovation structure entities, in particular between the technology parks of Belarus and Turkish science parks ⁴⁰². " At the same meeting of the commission, it was announced that "scientists from Belarus and Turkey intend to develop cooperation in the field of polar research ⁴⁰³. "

The roadmap for the development of cooperation for 2019-2021, adopted in April 2019, is designed to intensify the joint activities of Belarusian and Turkish scientists in the most promising areas of scientific and technical cooperation. "These include optics for space observation of the Earth's surface, unmanned aerial vehicles, batteries for electric vehicles and other vehicles, composite organomineral materials, enrichment of minerals, and the use of information technology to predict hazardous natural phenomena ⁴⁰⁴. "

In addition, the adopted roadmap provides for the organization of a joint competition of projects in priority areas of science and technology development in the areas that were identified during joint seminars: in 2018 - in Gebze; in 2019 - in Minsk. In particular, in March 2019, the State Committee on Science and Technology of Belarus, with the support of the

⁴⁰²Belarus and Turkey to hold a competition of joint innovation projects [Electronic resource]. – 2018. – URL : http://www.gknt.gov.by/news/2018/belarus_i_turtsiya_provedut_konkurs_sovmestnykh_innovatsionnykh_proektov/

⁴⁰³Belarus and Turkey intend to develop cooperation in the field of polar research [Electronic resource]. – 2018. – URL : <https://belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-turtsiya-namereny-razvivat-sotrudnichestvo-v-oblasti-poljarnykh-issledovani-324445-2018/>

⁴⁰⁴Belarus and Turkey signed a roadmap for scientific cooperation until 2021 [Electronic resource]. – 2019. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-turtsiya-podpisali-dorozhnyu-kartu-nauchnogo-sotrudnichestva-do-2021-goda-344282-2019/>

Belarusian Innovation Fund and the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey, announced a **competition of joint innovative scientific and technical projects for 2019-2020** in order to provide them with "direct financial support at an early stage of development" ⁴⁰⁵ in such priority areas of Belarusian-Turkish cooperation as information and communication technologies, optoelectronics, nanomaterials, unmanned aerial vehicles for various purposes. As for the roadmap, this document also contained measures to develop, improve the organization and increase the efficiency of joint scientific and technical activities and joint work of the Belarusian Republican Foundation for Fundamental Research and the Scientific Research Council of Turkey.

In early December 2020, **the second meeting of the joint Belarusian-Turkish commission on cooperation in science and technology was held**, during which the parties confirmed their mutual desire to develop scientific and technical cooperation in the fields of energy, information and communication technologies, medicine, chemical technologies, and new materials. It should be noted that these partnerships have intensified after the signing of the already mentioned intergovernmental agreement on cooperation in science and technology in November 2016. In this document, the parties agreed to provide comprehensive assistance to cooperation between organizations of both countries in such priority areas as "energy; agro-industrial technologies; industrial and construction technologies and production; medicine and medical technologies, pharmacy; chemical technologies; nano- and biotechnologies; information and communication technologies (electronic service, cybersecurity); aerospace technologies; new materials; rational use of natural resources; prevention and elimination of consequences of natural disasters; water use technologies; environmental protection; ocean research; laser technologies and photonics". ⁴⁰⁶

⁴⁰⁵ Belarus and Turkey announced a competition for joint scientific and technical projects [Electronic resource]. – 2019. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-turtsija-objavili-konkurs-sovmestnyh-nauchno-tehnicheskikh-proektov-338588-2019/>

⁴⁰⁶ Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Belarus and the Government of the Republic of Turkey on cooperation in the field of science and

At the same second meeting of the joint commission on cooperation in science and technology, it became known that a joint project of the United Institute of Informatics Problems of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the Turkish company Novosim Engineering Services has already been accepted for financing for the development of an autonomous multi-robotic warehouse system, which "will be designed to automatically move goods inside both designed and existing warehouses, logistics centers, taking into account information about their configuration"⁴⁰⁷. In addition, two more innovative projects of Belarusian scientists were under consideration by the Turkish side, which also received a positive expert assessment.

Another relevant area of Belarusian-Turkish scientific and technical cooperation, which was considered at the second meeting of the joint commission on cooperation in science and technology, is **the interaction of Turkish and Belarusian technology parks**. For the Belarusian side, this topic is relevant because "there are 25 entities of innovation infrastructure in Belarus: 16 technology parks (including 3 private ones), 8 technology transfer centers and the Belarusian Innovation Fund. The network of technology parks covers all regional centers"⁴⁰⁸. Technology parks also operated in Pinsk, Novopolotsk, Gorki, and the Lyakhovichichi district. The plans for 2020 included their opening in Baranovichi, Bobruisk, Borisov, Orsha and Molodechno. All this indicated that systemic measures were being implemented in Belarus to develop technology parks as regional innovation platforms for organizing high-tech production. That is why the development of advanced foreign experience in this area was especially relevant for the Belarusian side. And Türkiye, it must be said, had such experience.

technology [Electronic resource]. – 2016. – URL : <https://pravo.by/document/?guid=12551&p0=101600046&p1=1>

⁴⁰⁷ Belarus and Turkey plan to develop cooperation in the fields of energy, ICT and medicine [Electronic resource]. – 202-. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-turtsiia-planirujut-razvivat-sotrudnichestvo-v-sferah-energetiki-ikt-i-meditiny-418159-2020/>

⁴⁰⁸ Shumilin, A. Forecast until 2040 - on the prospects for the development of science and international cooperation / A. Shumilin // [Electronic resource]. - 2020. - URL : <https://www.belta.by/interview/view/prognoz-do-2040-goda-o-perspektivah-razvitiia-nauki-i-mezhdunarodnom-sotrudnichestve-7168/>

Technology parks or technopolises began to be created in this country in 2001. By mid-2019, their number had increased to 84, of which 63 were operational, and infrastructure work was underway in 21 more. "Currently, there are technology parks in 54 provinces of the country, with over 5,000 companies operating in the territories of technology development zones ⁴⁰⁹." Istanbul had the largest number of technology parks - 11. Next came: Ankara - 9, Kocaeli - 5, Izmir - 4. Their goal is to contribute to the development of high-tech production and services, to ensure cooperation between entrepreneurs, researchers and scientists. The following figures spoke eloquently about the scale of the activities of Turkish technology parks. As of mid-2019, almost 33 thousand projects had been implemented in them, and about ten thousand more were under development. And the number of jobs there exceeded 55 thousand. Finally, the export of resident companies of technology parks amounted to more than four billion dollars as of July 2019. And all this in less than twenty years. Needless to say, there is something for their Belarusian colleagues to learn from their Turkish partners.

Now let's turn to the most pressing events on the Belarusian-Turkish agenda this year. In November 2023, **the 11th meeting of the Belarusian-Turkish Joint Intergovernmental Commission (IGC) on Economic Cooperation was held in Ankara**, where the main attention was paid to systematizing the entire volume of bilateral trade and activating mechanisms in the field of logistics, transport, partnerships in the field of industrial cooperation and agriculture, and also examined in detail the state of the legal framework and outlined priority areas and specific steps to expand it. It should be noted that today "interaction with Turkey is carried out in the widest range of areas and is supported by political contacts and dialogue at the highest level, at the level of intergovernmental communication, interparliamentary communication and serious interdepartmental cooperation ⁴¹⁰." As a result, the parties noted that trade and economic cooperation

⁴⁰⁹ 84 technology parks created in Turkey [Electronic resource]. – 2019. – URL : <https://restproperty.ru/news/v-turtsii-sozdano-84-tekhnoparka/>

⁴¹⁰ On holding a meeting of the Belarusian-Turkish Joint Intergovernmental Commission on Economic Cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : https://mfa.gov.by/press/news_mfa/fd86a4d2dbb3f651.html

between Minsk and Ankara is developing very effectively. And there have already been significant successes in achieving the strategic goal of increasing mutual trade turnover to one and a half billion dollars and reducing the imbalance in mutual trade. "In the last two years, our trade turnover exceeded \$1 billion, but this year [2023] we expect to reach a historical maximum. According to Turkish statistics, in the first 10 months of this year, trade turnover has already amounted to \$1.6 billion ⁴¹¹. "

A separate discussion is about the participation of the Belarusian side in the work to **restore the Turkish regions** damaged in February 2023. Belarus paid "attention to the restoration of the infrastructure that was destroyed as a result of the devastating earthquake in 11 provinces of Turkey ⁴¹²." Over these nine months since the natural disaster, Belarus has increased the volume of supplies of building materials, which are used to restore primarily social infrastructure, threefold. The commission confirmed its readiness to further expand the volume of Belarusian supplies in demand in this country. The Turkish side was given a product catalog, additionally prepared by the ministries, departments and business entities of Belarus, which will be carefully reviewed by partners from Turkey. In addition, a project for the design and construction of a reinforced concrete plant in the Turkish city of Kilis is at the initial development stage, which "will also be a good contribution to the restoration of the regions of Turkey affected by earthquakes ⁴¹³. "

Among the main tasks for the development of bilateral cooperation is strengthening cooperation in the field of **agriculture** . In 2023, progress began in Belarusian supplies of dairy products to the Turkish market. And there are serious

⁴¹¹ Belarus and Turkey to reach historic maximum in trade turnover by the end of the year [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-turtsiia-po-itogam-goda-vyjdet-na-istoricheskii-maksimum-v-tovarooborote-599138-2023>

⁴¹² Aleinik spoke about serious prospects for increasing the supply of dairy products to Turkey [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/aleinik-zajavil-o-serieznih-perspektivah-dlja-uvelichenija-postavok-molochnoj-produktsii-v-turtsiju-599135-2023>

⁴¹³ Turkish corporation interested in cooperation with Belarus in food sector [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/turetskaja-korporatsija-zainteresovana-v-sotrudnichestve-s-belarusiju-v-prodovolstvennom-sektore-587699-2023/>

prospects for increasing the export of meat products and beef from Belarus. This year, a number of Turkish companies have already declared their readiness to cooperate with the Belarusian side in the food sector. For example, the Zirhlioglu Corporation Corporate Group expressed interest in establishing direct contacts with Belarusian enterprises on the supply of specific types of products and further cooperation with the National Marketing Center ⁴¹⁴. It is noteworthy that more than 30 Belarusian enterprises - producers and processors of food products - took part in a video conference on this topic in September 2023. Returning to the meeting of the intergovernmental commission, we note that the parties also reached an agreement - "by the end of 2024, to complete the procedures for the veterinary questionnaire sent by the Belarusian side, as well as the intention to hold the second meeting of the Working Group on Agriculture, without delay, at the beginning of next [2024] year ⁴¹⁵. "

In the field of **logistics and transport**, within the framework of the 11th meeting of the IGC, discussing the implementation of urgent new tasks, the parties in the format of the Mixed Commission on Automobile Communications determined the quota of permits for Belarusian carriers for 2024. In addition, "the possibility of creating an alternative certification center for digital tachograph cards in Turkey was considered, as well as extending the pilot project for permit-free implementation of bilateral and transit transportation across the territory of Belarus and Turkey for 2024." ⁴¹⁶ After all, from January 1, 2023, Belarusian carriers do not need permits for freight transportation between the two countries, as well as for transit through Turkey.

⁴¹⁴ Aleinik: Belarus is interested in supplying goods via Turkey to the countries of the Global South [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/aleinik-belarus-zainteresovana-postavljat-tovary-cherez-turtsiju-v-strany-globalnogo-juga-598312-2023/>

⁴¹⁵ Speech by the Minister of Foreign Affairs S. Aleinik at the plenary session of the Belarusian-Turkish Joint Intergovernmental Commission on Economic Cooperation (November 8, 2023, Ankara) [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : https://mfa.gov.by/press/news_mfa/d72f4b731323cb1d.html

⁴¹⁶ Belarus and Turkey discuss extension of simplified transport communication regime [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-turtsija-obsuzhdajut-prodlenie-uproschennogo-rezhima-transportnogo-soobschenija-598317-2023/>

This simplified regime is currently in effect as an experiment until the end of 2023.

Economic Relations Committee of Turkey, the Association of Independent Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, as well as other Turkish business associations, including exhibition companies, were named as important elements in the development of trade and economic relations between the two countries at the IGC meeting. In this regard, the parties "signed a Memorandum of Understanding between the National Center for Marketing and Price Study and the Turkish Businessmen's Association (ASRIAD), their representatives plan to take part in a joint business forum in Belarus in the first quarter of 2024." And in February next year, the International Yarn and Fiber Exhibition⁴¹⁷ Istanbul will be held in Istanbul . Yarn Fair , which will be of interest to Belarusian enterprises of the light industry, chemical and petrochemical sectors.

Let us recall that the high level of Belarusian products could be judged by the participation of exporters from Belarus at this exhibition forum – International Istanbul Yarn Fair , which took place in early June 2023 in Istanbul and featured 650 companies from different countries, including China, India, Uzbekistan, Germany, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, and the Republic of Korea. The Made exposition in Belarus was attended by Belarusian enterprises of the petrochemical industry, which demonstrated “a wide range of products manufactured using the best world technologies, including various types of fibers, threads and materials used in the textile, knitwear and clothing industries⁴¹⁸.”

Thus, OJSC Naftan demonstrated acrylic fibers used in the production of yarn and artificial fur, and OJSC Polotsk-Steklovolokno demonstrated fiberglass and fiber-based products. The Belarusian chemical company Mogilevkhimvolokno offered a wide range of polyester fibers and threads used in the production

⁴¹⁷ Belarus and Turkey intend to hold a joint business forum in the first quarter of 2024 [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-turtsiia-namerenv-provesti-sovmestnyj-biznes-forum-v-pervom-kvartale-2024-goda-598314-2023/>

⁴¹⁸ Belarusian enterprises presented their products at the international exhibition in Turkey [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/beloruskie-predpriiatija-predstavili-produktsiju-na-mezhdunarodnoj-vystavke-v-turtsii-569846-2023/>

of yarn, fillers and artificial fur, and also presented polyester fabrics that are indispensable in the production of roofing materials and carpets. The branch of the Khimvolokno Plant of OJSC Grodno Azot demonstrated cord fabrics for reinforcing tires, polyamide threads for the production of ropes and fishing gear, and polyamide-6. The company's stand also presented polymer composite materials that are widely used in the automotive, aviation, and oil industries. OJSC SvetlogorskKhimvolokno showed special fabrics, threads, and fibers intended for use in the automotive industry. As a result, Belarusian exporters held very productive negotiations not only with Turkish partners and contractors, but also with representatives of companies from other countries. So let's hope that the exhibition in Istanbul in February 2024 will be a continuation of new interesting joint projects.

Another important aspect of the partnership between Belarus and Turkey, which was noted at the 11th meeting of the IGC, is the further expansion of **the contractual and legal framework**. Statistics claim that to date, this framework already includes more than 40 intergovernmental and interdepartmental agreements. A new document in this regard was the protocol of the 11th meeting of the commission, which contains a list of eight agreements on which the parties agreed to accelerate joint work. In fact, this final protocol is "a new program of action, a kind of roadmap for the development of bilateral economic relations in the short and medium term, and will allow Belarus and Turkey to more fully utilize the existing opportunities for cooperation ⁴¹⁹. "

And already in November 2023, within the framework of this program, the Belarusian-Turkish Research Center was opened in Minsk at the Institute of Philosophy of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, which became another step towards the development of relations between the two countries. "Its main tasks are to coordinate and conduct joint research work, individual projects in the field of historical, cultural and philosophical heritage of Belarus and Turkey, improve the qualifications of scientific personnel by studying the Turkish language, as well as

⁴¹⁹ Belarus is developing new investment projects with Turkey [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-prorabatvvaet-s-turtsiej-novve-investitsionnye-proekty-598324-2023/>

translate the works of Turkish and Belarusian philosophers and scientists into Belarusian and Turkish⁴²⁰." At the moment, the new center is focused on the topic of "Philosophical and spiritual-cultural heritage of Belarus and Turkey: history and modernity." Turkish researchers are preparing an "Overview of the main achievements of Turkish philosophy", and their Belarusian colleagues are studying "The influence of the Belarusian-Muslim tradition on the formation of cultural and national identity." In addition, the center is expected to perform educational and popularization functions, since scientists from the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus will study the Turkish language on its basis, and it is also planned to hold various lectures and master classes.

Let's sum it up. Over the past three decades of diplomatic relations, Minsk and Ankara have not only defined priority areas of Belarusian-Turkish cooperation, but also clearly built a multi-level system of interstate, intergovernmental and interdepartmental interaction, which, through joint efforts, is moving towards the implementation of new strategic tasks. And in this regard, the decisions of the 11th meeting of the Belarusian-Turkish Joint Intergovernmental Commission on Economic Cooperation are another significant confirmation of partnership ties that are focused on the future.

⁴²⁰ Belarusian-Turkish research center opened at the National Academy of Sciences [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belorusko-turetskij-issledovatel'skij-tsentr-otkrvlsia-v-nan-597558-2023/>

AFRICA

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From targeted cooperation to full-scale partnership

The Republic of Belarus intends to increase supplies to distant arc countries. At a meeting of the Council of Ministers in July 2022, the task of reorienting export flows in the amount of at least 16 billion dollars was set. "The volumes of Belarusian exports to distant arc countries based on the results of 5 months are still quite modest. <...> A comprehensive strategy for cooperation with distant arc countries, plans for interaction between embassies and industries have been adopted..." In this context, such an actively developing continent as ⁴²¹Africa is currently of great interest to Belarus.

It should be noted that "by the beginning of 2022, the Republic of Belarus had established diplomatic relations with 51 countries on the African continent ⁴²²." Statistics say that in 2021, Belarus's trade turnover with African countries amounted to half a billion dollars, of which 480 million dollars were Belarusian exports. "First of all, our country supplies mechanical engineering products, agricultural, quarry, and cargo equipment. The products of the Belarusian Metallurgical Plant are also in demand now ⁴²³." This is understandable. For the Belarusian industry, the African market is one of the most promising for the supply of its products. Suffice it to say that "for the period January-November 2022, the export of products of the Ministry of Industry and Trade enterprises to the African continent increased by more than 1.5 times. <...> Agricultural machinery of Belarusian manufacture is very popular, having proven itself in the best possible way among African consumers, who note the high quality of Belarusian

⁴²¹ Roman Golovchenko: Belarus intends to increase supplies to distant arc countries [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <http://www.government.by/ru/content/10368>

⁴²² Zalessky, B. Perimeter of the Far Arc. Potential of Sustainable Partnership in Solving Multi-Vector Interaction. / Boris Zalessky. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2023. – P. 177.

⁴²³ Nikolaychik: Belarus is systematically and purposefully expanding its presence in Africa [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/nikolaichik-belarus-planomerno-i-selenapравlenno-rasshirjaet-svoe-prisutstvie-v-afrike-547784-2023/>

tractors and other agricultural machinery ⁴²⁴. " For reference, we note: from 60 to 80 percent of the population of African countries are employed in the agricultural sector, so its modernization, mechanization, food security, and technologies in this area play an important role for them. Another promising area of connections with African partners is educational services. "Currently, about 1.6 thousand students from African countries are studying in Belarus. <...> First of all, they are interested in training in medical, technical, and agricultural specialties ⁴²⁵. "

As for the diplomatic presence of the Belarusian side, at the moment there are five embassies of the Republic of Belarus in Africa, which generally cover the key regions of the continent. In West Africa - Nigeria, which is the economic leader in the region. In East Africa - Kenya, where there are also certain prospects for the Belarusian side to increase trade turnover and the entire spectrum of cooperation. In North Africa - Egypt, where we are talking about the Minsk Automobile Plant project to establish an assembly production. In South Africa - the Republic of South Africa (RSA), where a project to assemble cars of the Minsk Tractor Plant has been implemented since 2021, which will enter the market under a local brand. Finally, between South Africa and East Africa is Zimbabwe, where the Belarusian embassy opened in 2022. All these African regions have one important feature: they are "concentrated with a fairly large number of minerals, natural resources, including rare earth metals, which are of interest to large states and others. Countries such as Russia, China, and the USA are quite actively involved in the implementation of various projects in Africa ⁴²⁶." So, for Belarus, the presence on the African continent is also systemic. Moreover, a new capacious consumer

⁴²⁴ Industrial enterprises of Belarus signed a package of documents on cooperation in Zimbabwe [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/prompredpriiatija-belarusi-podpisali-v-zimbabve-paket-dokumentov-po-sotrudnichestvu-547368-2023/>

⁴²⁵ Together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, we are assessing the potential for cooperation with Africa. What are they interested in from us? [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/vmeste-s-mid-otsenivaem-potentsial-sotrudnichestva-s-afrikoj-chto-im-interesno-u-nas-547795-2023/>

⁴²⁶ MFA: Belarus missions cover key regions of Africa [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/societv/view/mid-predstavitelstva-belarusi-ohvatyvajut-kljuchevye-regiony-afriki-547191-2023/>

market is already being created there, including for the export of Belarusian goods and services.

For example, in 2022, the supply of a large batch of tractors and attachments from Bobruiskagromash, sprayers from Lidagroprommash and combines from Gomselmash to **Nigeria was being worked out**. The Belarusian side is "interested in the market of South Sudan, Zambia, Malawi, Egypt. Belarusian municipal and forestry equipment, as well as special-purpose equipment, are in demand here ⁴²⁷." An interesting promising area of cooperation with African countries is the construction of grain drying complexes, as well as the creation of assembly plants for agricultural, automotive and road equipment.

The markets of African countries are also systematically developed by the enterprises of the Bellesbumprom concern, which are actively expanding the geography of deliveries. In 2022, the organizations of the concern sent products to **Tunisia for the first time**. The development of African markets began in 2015 with **Egypt**. "The products of the concern's enterprises are also supplied to Algeria, Kenya, Morocco. Among the key commodity items are paper and cardboard. Exports in 2022, compared to 2021, in monetary terms increased by 20% ⁴²⁸."

Another interesting example is **Zimbabwe**. Several years ago, this country set a course for modernizing agriculture. And since 2020, the Belarusian side began supplying equipment as part of the agricultural mechanization program of this South African country. An enterprise has already been created here that not only sells, but also services the equipment. In 2022, "we [the Belarusian side] actually completed the second phase of this program. There is already an agreement that we will participate in the third phase. Again, for tens of millions of dollars. <...> The second direction of equipment supplies is related to the fact that in addition to the agricultural sector, the mining industry is also actively developing

⁴²⁷ Parkhomchik, P. Belarusian industry under sanctions / P. Parkhomchik // [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL : <https://www.belta.by/interview/view/beloruskaja-promvshlennost-v-uslovijah-sanktsij-ministr-o-borbe-s-novymi-vyzovami-planah-po-proizvodstvu-i-8121/>

⁴²⁸ The enterprises of the Bellesbumprom concern are systematically developing African markets [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/predpriiatija-kontserna-bellesbumprom-planomerno-osvaivajut-rynki-afriki-547390-2023/>

in Zimbabwe. The first BELAZ trucks were delivered more than five years ago and are still successfully operating in quarries ⁴²⁹. ”

A new stage of cooperation with this South African state began at the end of January 2023, when a state visit of the Belarusian delegation led by the President of Belarus took place in Zimbabwe, during which contracts were signed for the supply of about four thousand units of Belarusian tractor, agricultural and other equipment to this African country, and the total economic effect is estimated at 200 million dollars. As part of this visit, a package of important bilateral documents was also signed, which includes basic economic agreements designed to ensure the development of industrial cooperation and economic cooperation with this South African state. In particular, the intergovernmental agreement on the settlement of tax relations will help solve such problems as "the distribution of taxation rights between states, the elimination of double taxation, the exchange of information between tax services ⁴³⁰." To further expand cooperation, a bilateral joint standing commission has been created, and a coordinating body - a task force between the ministries of agriculture of the two countries - will begin its work.

At the same time, the second Belarusian-Zimbabwean business forum “Expanding Horizons: Dynamic Solutions for Economic Development” was held in the capital of Zimbabwe, Harare, where 33 Belarusian companies participated and where it was noted that the most promising areas for bilateral cooperation were seen as healthcare, food, light industry, mechanical engineering, metallurgy, fuel and energy, mining, chemical, and woodworking industries. For reference, we note that “trade turnover between Belarus and Zimbabwe has increased 7-fold since 2018 and reached \$39 million in January-November last year [2022]” ⁴³¹. Within the framework of the forum, industrial

⁴²⁹ Ambassador of Belarus on cooperation with southern Africa: we need to come here seriously and for a long time [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/posol-belarusi-o-sotrudnichestve-s-iugom-afriki-siuda-nado-prihodit-seriežno-i-nadolgo-547179-2023/>

⁴³⁰ Belarus and Zimbabwe agreed on cooperation in the tax sphere [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-zimbabwe-dogovorilis-o-sotrudnichestve-v-nalogovoi-sfere-547558-2023/>

⁴³¹ Transcontinental bridge, investments and Belarusian ice cream in Africa. Details of the business forum in Harare [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL :

enterprises of Belarus signed a package of documents with partners from Zimbabwe. In particular, to develop cooperation in the field of agriculture, memorandums and cooperation agreements were adopted between the official dealer – AFTRADE DMCC – and OAO Lidselmash, OAO Gomselmash, OAO Bobruiskagromash and OAO Managing Company of the Holding Minsk Motor Plant, in order to sell the products of these enterprises on the market of this country. Also, a document on strategic partnership was adopted by OAO MTZ and AFTRADE DMCC – to promote BELARUS equipment in Zimbabwe. For this purpose, in 2023-2024, the Minsk Tractor Works will supply 3,575 machines to the Zimbabwean market, and in the future, the number of machines and delivery dates will be determined based on the results of negotiations. It should be noted that “from 2018 to 2022, the Minsk Tractor Works supplied more than 1.8 thousand units of equipment to Zimbabwe”⁴³². And in Harare, a multifunctional service center with branches in Mutare and Bulawayo and a spare parts warehouse for servicing the supplied equipment was created. And MTZ, together with its partner, constantly trains consumers on the features of operating BELARUS tractors. Another interesting fact is “the signing of a memorandum of intent between BELAZ OJSC, SOHRA Overseas FZE and the diamond mining company Zimbabwe Consolidated Diamond Company Pvt Ltd with the aim of implementing agreements regarding the supply of Belarusian machinery and equipment for the mining industry of Zimbabwe”⁴³³.

Industrial cooperation with Zimbabwean partners has great potential in other areas as well. For example, a contract has been signed for the supply of Belarusian-made equipment for the construction and modernization of grain storage facilities in Zimbabwe. The fact is that the authorities of this country have

<https://www.belta.by/economics/view/transkontinentalnyj-most-investitsii-i-belorusskoe-morozhenoe-v-afrike-podrobnosti-biznes-foruma-v-547289-2023/>

⁴³² MTZ to supply over 3,500 BELARUS tractors to Zimbabwe within two years [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/mtz-postavit-v-zimbabve-bolee-35-tys-traktorov-belarus-v-techenie-dvuh-let-547284-2023/>

⁴³³ Industrial enterprises of Belarus signed a package of documents on cooperation in Zimbabwe [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/prompredpriyatija-belarusi-podpisali-v-zimbabve-paket-dokumentov-po-sotrudnichestvu-547368-2023/>

announced plans to allocate agricultural land to Belarusian state companies for agricultural complexes for growing wheat, soybeans, meat and dairy products, and poultry farming. And the Belarusian side has already received 10 thousand hectares of land "in the Mbire district for growing corn, soybeans, and building a meat and dairy farm. At the same time, a milk and meat processing line will be launched with subsequent sale of finished products through retail chains ⁴³⁴." It is planned that rice and wheat will be added to the list of cultivated crops, and Belarusian specialists will plant orchards. Another fact is that "a memorandum of understanding on cooperation in the framework of deliveries of Belarusian-made machinery and equipment for the forestry industry to the Republic of Zimbabwe has been signed ⁴³⁵." The two countries also have mutual interest in cooperation in the light industry. In particular, the Bellegprom concern will study the possibilities of cotton supplies from this African country, and "also on the sidelines of the Belarusian-Zimbabwean business forum in Harare, the possibilities of cooperation in the textile and leather sectors of the light industry were discussed ⁴³⁶."

As for the interaction between the regions of the two countries, within the framework of the state visit of the Belarusian delegation, the two capitals – Minsk and Harare – signed an agreement on the establishment of twinning relations, where promising areas "in the energy sector, in the areas of healthcare, education, water supply, water purification, and municipal equipment" have already been outlined ⁴³⁷. And, apparently, in the near future, in development of the agreement, plans of events will

⁴³⁴ Abukhovich, Yu. Trade, agriculture, mining. On the prospects for cooperation with Zimbabwe and the UAE / Yu. Abukhovich // [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL : <https://www.belta.by/comments/view/torgovlja-selskoe-hozjajstvo-dobycha-poleznyh-iskopaemyh-o-perspektivah-sotrudnichestva-s-zimbabve-i-oe-8585/>

⁴³⁵ Rogozhnik: Industrial cooperation with Zimbabwe has enormous potential [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/rogozhnik-sotrudnichestvo-v-promyshlennoi-sfere-s-zimbabve-imeet-ogromnyi-potentsial-547600-2023/>

⁴³⁶ Belarus and Zimbabwe are interested in cooperation in the light industry [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-zimbabve-zainteresovany-v-sotrudnichestve-v-sfere-legproma-547603-2023/>

⁴³⁷ Minsk and Harare have become sister cities. What next? [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/minsk-i-harare-stali-gorodami-pobratimami-cto-dalshe-547593-2023/>

be signed that will further strengthen bilateral Belarusian-Zimbabwean regional relations, including in trade and economic cooperation between the two capitals.

A separate conversation is about the interaction of the two countries in the field of education. At the end of January 2023, Belarus and Zimbabwe signed a memorandum of understanding between the parties on the mutual recognition of educational documents in Harare. And they see quite large prospects for cooperation in various areas of inter-university cooperation. "This also applies to the training of specialists with higher education in such areas as the agro-industrial complex, mechanical engineering, medical technology. Something that is in demand in any country. Considering that today Zimbabwe is a very dynamically developing country, first of all they need personnel⁴³⁸." As part of the visit of the Belarusian delegation to this African state, the parties discussed the training of specialists both for the scientific sphere and high technologies, and for mid-level workers in blue-collar jobs, as this is relevant for Zimbabwe given the supply of high-tech equipment from Belarus to this country and the development of industrial cooperation. Let us recall that at the initiative of the President of this country Emmerson Mnangagwa, "the Vision 2030 program is being implemented, which includes specific measures for the mechanization, industrialization of Zimbabwe, raising the educational level, the quality of medical services, and the standard of living of the population as a whole⁴³⁹." So Belarusian services in the field of education will be very useful in this country.

For example, a wide range of scientific and innovative cooperation with Zimbabwean partners was presented by the Belarusian State University (BSU) at the business forum "Expanding Horizons: Dynamic Solutions for Economic Development" in the capital of Zimbabwe. BSU cooperates with

⁴³⁸Ivanets sees great prospects for cooperation between Belarus and Zimbabwe in the field of education [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/ivanets-vidit-bolshie-perspektivy-dlja-sotrudnichestva-belarusi-i-zimbabwe-v-sfere-obrazovaniya-547599-2023/>

⁴³⁹ Nikolaychik: We have managed to significantly increase the intensity and effectiveness of contacts with Zimbabwe [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/nikolajchik-nam-udalos-znachitelno-narastit-intensivnost-i-effektivnost-kontaktov-s-zimbabwe-547791-2023/>

this African country within the framework of a memorandum of understanding signed in 2019 with the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education, Science and Technological Development. Today, this cooperation is intensifying. In Harare, BSU signed six memorandums of understanding with Zimbabwean universities at once: 1) University of Zimbabwe; 2) Open University of Zimbabwe; 3) Lupane State University; 4) National University of Technology and Science; 5) Harare Institute of Technology; 6) Chinhoyi University of Technology. In these documents, the parties plan to “develop academic exchange of students and specialists, participate in research and educational projects, exchange materials, plans, publications and other specialized information⁴⁴⁰.”

As for cooperation proposals, BSU has initiated more than 20, which concern the fields of medicine, pharmaceuticals, water management, water purification, geology, exploration of mineral deposits, biotechnology, ecology, and soil science. In particular, this concerns the production of medicines, ultrasonic gas meters, services for solving applied problems of the mining industry, and cleaning polluted water. "In the field of agriculture, joint projects to study the impact of soil salinization on plants and crops, and the impact of climate change on the environment may be promising. Cooperation in the field of education is seen in the training of Zimbabwean citizens at the Institute of Continuing Education, teaching in English in master's and postgraduate programs, and in adult education programs⁴⁴¹." The development and implementation of joint educational programs, participation in scientific conferences, organization of guest lectures, and internships for teachers and students from Zimbabwe have also been proposed.

The Belarusian National Technical University (BNTU) also signed memorandums with leading Zimbabwean universities. The fact is that the economy of this country needs specialists that

⁴⁴⁰ The first agreements between BSU and universities of Zimbabwe [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://bsu.by/news/pervye-dogovorennosti-bgu-i-vuzov-zimbabwe-d/>

⁴⁴¹ Cooperation is intensifying. BSU signed six memorandums with universities in Zimbabwe [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/sotrudnichestvo-aktiviziruetsja-bgu-podpisal-shest-memorandumov-s-vuzami-zimbabwe-547721-2023/>

BNTU trains, so the interest in the Belarusian university is especially high. The parties are interested in conducting joint scientific research, technology transfer and sharing experience in organizing the work of the BNTU technology park, in creating technology parks in Zimbabwean universities. In addition, "the implementation of joint educational programs is planned in such promising areas as architecture, civil engineering, mechanical engineering and robotics, and in the future, cooperation in other industries is possible ⁴⁴². "

Memorandums of cooperation with leading educational institutions of the Republic of Zimbabwe - the National University of Technology and Science, the Harare Institute of Technology, the Chinhoyi University of Technology, the University of Zimbabwe, the State Lupane University, Open University of Zimbabwe – signed in January 2023 and Belarusian State Technological University (BSTU). Interaction with these partners involves the development of such forms of cooperation as “exchange of experience in the field of education and promotion of exchange of students, master's students and postgraduates; development of exchange of faculty; development of joint research projects in areas of mutual interest; training of citizens of the Republic of Zimbabwe in joint educational programs; training in master's and postgraduate studies, doctoral studies; internships, advanced training and retraining of Zimbabwean specialists” ⁴⁴³.

All these facts indicate that Belarus is attractive to Zimbabwe due to its intellectual potential. So cooperation between educational institutions of the two countries can be multifaceted and have good results.

⁴⁴² Technology Transfer and Joint Research. How BNTU Plans to Cooperate with Zimbabwean Universities [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/transfer-tehnologii-i-sovmestnve-issledovanija-kak-bntu-planiruet-sotrudnicat-s-vuzami-zimbabve-547979-2023/>

⁴⁴³ Rector of BSTU Igor Voitov signed Memorandums of Cooperation with Universities of Zimbabwe [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belstu.by/news/university/university/rektor-bgtu-igor-vojtov-podpisal-memorandumvi-o-sotrudnichestve-s-universitetami-zimbabve>

The key to cooperation is specific projects

In September 2023, a meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus on the development of cooperation with African countries was held, at which the Belarusian government outlined the main areas on this continent: medicine, education, ensuring food security for African countries, supply of agricultural machinery, and industrial cooperation. Assessing the objective foreign trade situation, Belarusian Prime Minister R. Golovchenko emphasized that Africa has enormous development potential and is a driver of international growth, but Belarus's accumulated political capital has not yet been converted to the proper extent into successful trade and economic projects. "In 2022, the export of Belarusian goods to African countries amounted to just over \$200 million and shows a slight downward trend. The maximum export volume - over \$400 million - was reached in pre-COVID 2019..."⁴⁴⁴ Note that more than one and a half billion people live on this continent. For this reason, the government of Belarus has set a clear task - it is necessary to make every effort to find the necessary tools and formula to reverse the negative dynamics in cooperation with the countries of this continent. Among the tools - "to form roadmaps, to look for specific projects that can be implemented"⁴⁴⁵. And then a practical result will be obtained.

It is important to note that the Belarusian side is trying to come to African countries with its technologies, teaches them and provides service and support for the supplied equipment. In particular, especially large equipment from Belarus extracts various minerals, which this continent is rich in. For example, Belarusian quarry dump trucks operate in Zimbabwe, the Republic of South Africa, Angola, Algeria, Morocco. Among the new potential partners is Kenya, where the first agricultural machinery was delivered about six months ago. A serious dialogue is

⁴⁴⁴ Roman Golovchenko on cooperation with Africa: The potential is huge, it is necessary to ensure significant growth in exports [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <http://www.government.by/ru/content/10698>

⁴⁴⁵ MFA: It is necessary to create roadmaps for cooperation with African countries [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/mid-nuzhno-sformirovat-dorozhnve-kartv-sotrudnichestva-so-stranami-afriki-591013-2023/>

beginning and continues with such countries as Nigeria, Egypt, Algeria, Sudan. Even "the distant Republic of South Africa received our tractors from the Minsk Tractor Plant, they are now undergoing tests and there is confidence that the supply of our equipment there will increase sharply ⁴⁴⁶. "

The Ministry of Industry of the Republic of Belarus pays special attention to the development of deliveries to African countries, since the industry offers "the entire range of machinery for the machine-building complex – tractors, combines, trucks. This also includes household appliances – televisions produced by the Gozizont holding, refrigerators" ⁴⁴⁷. For example, Gomselmash plans to deliver a large batch of its machinery to these countries. Currently, 80 units of Gomel machinery are operating mainly in Zimbabwe and Kenya. And up to 80 more units will be shipped to the African region in the near future. Moreover, "a center for Belarusian machinery has been created in Africa, which accompanies and services all machinery supplied to the continent" ⁴⁴⁸. And the result is a contract for delivery to Zimbabwe. And contacts are being worked out in Togo and Malawi.

Another African country that is paying attention to Belarusian equipment is Ethiopia. In August 2023, it became known that the Minsk Automobile Plant could establish an assembly plant for trucks in this African country, since "there is a high demand for trucks in Ethiopia, which is currently not fully satisfied ⁴⁴⁹." And the Ethiopian company Ethio – Engineering Group is interested in organizing the assembly of Belarusian cars

⁴⁴⁶ Technology, training, export: Parkhomchik spoke about cooperation with African countries [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/tehnika-obuchenie-eksport-parhomchik-rasskazal-o-sotrudnichestve-s-afrikanskimi-stranami-587303-2023/>

⁴⁴⁷ Combines, tractors, televisions. Rogozhnik spoke about the range of industrial products for deliveries to Africa [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/kombainy-tractory-televizory-rogozhnik-rasskazal-ob-assortimente-promproduktsii-dlja-postavok-v-afriku-586805-2023/>

⁴⁴⁸ Gomselmash plans to deliver a large batch of equipment to the African region [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/gomselmash-planiruet-postavit-krupnuju-partiju-tehniki-v-afrikanskij-region-586884-2023/>

⁴⁴⁹ MAZ may establish an assembly plant for trucks in Ethiopia [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/maz-mozhet-sozdat-sborochnoe-proizvodstvo-gruzovoj-tehniki-v-efiopii-582045-2023/>

from supplied vehicle kits at the company's existing facilities. In the same August of this year, the prospects for cooperation and the possibility of joint production were discussed in Minsk by the Belarusian holding AMKODOR and the Ethiopian company Epitychia General Trading. During the talks, "it was decided to return to the discussion after a more in-depth analysis of the construction equipment market that can most effectively support the needs of projects in Ethiopia ⁴⁵⁰. "

The African region is one of the promising and fairly familiar directions for the export of food and agricultural products from Belarus. Suffice it to say that "in January-April of this [2023] year, Belarusian products were supplied to such African countries as Ghana, Egypt, Côte d'Ivoire, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal and Uganda. The range of export supplies includes dry milk products, horn and hoof raw materials, offal, beef, poultry, alcoholic beverages and other products ⁴⁵¹." This year, the Belarusian side continues to discuss promising areas of cooperation in agriculture with African partners. At the same time, this concerns not only mutual trade, but also issues of mechanization, irrigation, fertilizers, cooperation in the field of education and science, including the training of students from African countries in Belarus.

In particular, in June 2023, a communiqué was signed between the Ministry of Agriculture and Food of Belarus and the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Investment of Kenya, in which the parties agreed on further cooperation in the field of agriculture. The fact is that this African country has no problems with food, but there are problems with its storage. They also have many small farmers, but no large farms. In addition, "another problem is the small percentage of cultivated land ⁴⁵²." That is why Kenyan

⁴⁵⁰ AMKODOR and Ethiopian representatives discussed joint production opportunities [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/amkodor-i-predstaviteli-efiopii-obsudili-vozmozhnosti-sovmestnogo-proizvodstva-581985-2023/>

⁴⁵¹Export of products, cooperation in education. The Ministry of Agriculture and Food on work with African regions [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/eksport-produktsii-sotrudnichestvo-v-obrazovanii-minselkhozprod-o-rabote-s-regionami-afriki-573991-2023/>

⁴⁵²The supply of tractors and potash fertilizers from Belarus to Kenya was discussed at the Ministry of Agriculture [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL :

partners are interested in the mechanization of the country's agriculture and, accordingly, in increasing its efficiency, as well as in Belarus's experience in the mechanization of agriculture and training of personnel in order to "equip the industry with machine systems, carry out mechanization and provide our [Belarusian] agricultural technologies"⁴⁵³, create enterprises for processing and storing products. Apparently, in the near future, representatives of the country's leading regions will arrive from Kenya to further build trade and economic relations.

Zimbabwe has also become a new market for the Belarusian side. In June 2023, at the first meeting of the Belarusian-Zimbabwean working group on cooperation in agriculture in Minsk, the leadership of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food of Belarus stated that it counts on long-term cooperation with Zimbabwean partners. In particular, "another important area of cooperation is the development of dairy farming"⁴⁵⁴ in Zimbabwe, as well as the supply of Belarusian agricultural machinery and equipment, the use of advanced Belarusian experience and technologies in the creation of agro-industrial enterprises on Zimbabwean soil. In addition, "the Zimbabwean side was particularly interested in grain dump trucks, as well as tractor units with grain semi-trailers"⁴⁵⁵.

In order to expand the geography of supplies from Belarus, domestic exporters continue to work to ensure access of agricultural products, machinery and equipment to the promising markets of the countries of the "black" continent. In February 2023, OJSC "Management Company of the Holding" Bobruiskagromash "signed a contract with Bemaco from

<https://www.belta.by/economics/view/postavku-traktorov-i-kalijnvh-udobrenij-iz-belarusi-v-keniju-obsudili-v-minskelhozprode-570585-2023/>

⁴⁵³ Agricultural mechanization, processing plants. What Kenya is interested in from Belarus [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL :

<https://www.belta.by/economics/view/mehanizatsija-selskogo-hozjaistva-pererabatyvajushchie-zavody-chem-v-belarusi-zainteresovalas-kenija-570564-2023/>

⁴⁵⁴ Brylo: Belarus expects long-term cooperation with Zimbabwe in the agro-industrial complex [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL :

<https://www.belta.by/economics/view/brylo-belarus-rasschitvvaet-na-dolgosrochnoe-sotrudnichestvo-s-zimbabve-v-sfere-apk-571063-2023/>

⁴⁵⁵ Zimbabwe interested in grain trucks and MAZ tractor units [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/zimbabve-zainteresovano-v-samosvalah-zernovozah-i-sedelnyh-tjagachah-maz-571222-2023/>

Madagascar for the supply of 24 units of equipment of the Belarusian enterprise - mounted plows, disc harrows, universal pneumatic seeders. And "in the near future, it is planned to expand the range of Belarusian equipment supplied to the Republic of Madagascar, including new models of plows, seeders, trailers and harrows ⁴⁵⁶." At the same time, Bemaco was awarded a certificate to extend the status of the official dealer of Bobruiskagromash for 2023.

Another African country that is interested in expanding trade and economic cooperation with Belarus is Ghana. In June 2023, the two states celebrated the 31st anniversary of the establishment of Belarusian-Ghanaian diplomatic relations. And the parties expressed a common commitment to intensive work to expand contacts at all levels. Let us recall that Ghana is the largest producer of high-quality fruits and cocoa and is ready to supply them to the Belarusian market in any volumes. As for Belarus, it is "ready to participate in the mechanization programs of Ghana's agriculture, supply this country with a wide range of municipal and municipal equipment, medicines, introduce the latest technologies in the agro-industrial complex, and train Ghanaian students in Belarusian universities in various specialties ⁴⁵⁷."

And one more interesting point. At the end of November 2023, an exposition of Belarusian manufacturers Made will be organized in West Africa – in the city of Accra (Ghana). in Belarus within the framework of the 6th international exhibition Agrofood Ghana , where exporters "in the fields of agriculture, food processing and packaging, ingredients, bakery and confectionery, food and hospitality in West Africa" will be presented ⁴⁵⁸. Last year, 98 exhibitors from 22 countries took part in this forum, namely Belgium, Burkina Faso, Egypt, France, Germany, Ghana,

⁴⁵⁶ "Bobruiskagromash" will supply more than 20 units of equipment to Madagascar [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/bobruiskagromash-postavit-bolee-20-edinitstehniki-na-madagaskar-549344-2023/>

⁴⁵⁷ Pivovar, E. Belarus is ready to participate in agricultural mechanization programs in Ghana / E. Pivovar // [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-gotova-uchastvovat-v-programmah-mehanizatsii-selskogo-hozjajstva-gany-570335-2023/>

⁴⁵⁸ Belarus to Present Exposition at Agricultural Exhibition in Ghana [Electronic Resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-predstavit-ekspozitsiju-na-selskohozjajstvennoj-vystavke-v-gane-587952-2023/>

Hungary, India, Iran, Italy, Côte d'Ivoire, Morocco, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Poland, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates and the United States of America. This time, suppliers from Belarus will also show their "goods face" in Accra, who, we hope, will get good practical results from this exhibition forum.

In short, Belarusian supplies in this direction are growing. It is believed that over the next two to three years, with the help of African countries, it is possible to achieve food exports in the range of ten billion dollars. For reference, we note that "according to the results of work for nine months [of 2023], the export of Belarusian agricultural products amounted to about \$5 billion"⁴⁵⁹.

Finally, another African country that appeared on the map of Belarus' business partners in 2023 is Equatorial Guinea. The fact is that in June 2023, a very important event took place in the Belarusian-African theme: this was the first ever visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belarus S. Aleinik to this country. Following this visit, a Joint Statement was signed on the development of political dialogue, as well as "cooperation in trade, economics and investment, cooperation, food security, healthcare, medicine, maternal and child health, education, science and technology, mining and petrochemical sector, security and defense"⁴⁶⁰. The parties outlined practical steps to expand the legal framework of bilateral relations, where agreements on cooperation in agriculture and the agro-industrial complex will also be developed. And in September 2023, the first visit to Belarus of the President of Equatorial Guinea Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo took place, during which seven documents were signed aimed at developing relations across a wide range of topics - from economics to the humanitarian sphere, including the creation of a Joint Permanent Commission between the two states.

⁴⁵⁹ Hare: Belarusian agricultural exports amounted to about \$5 billion in nine months [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/zajats-eksport-belorusskoi-selhozproduksii-za-deviat-mesjatsev-sostavil-okolo-5-mlrd-597077-2023/>

⁴⁶⁰ On the visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belarus S. Aleinik to Equatorial Guinea [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : https://www.mfa.gov.by/press/news_mfa/fa2023a57e9ef156.html

At the first meeting of the commission in October 2023, where "more than 20 representatives of almost all key ministries and departments, including 8 heads of ministries", arrived from the African side ⁴⁶¹, the participants in the discussion decided to create a number of subcommissions or working groups to quickly achieve results in the main sectors of Belarusian-Equatorial Guinean cooperation. "These are the areas of industry, agriculture, science and technology, healthcare and pharmacology. These four priority areas have been defined and highlighted separately ⁴⁶²." The parties agreed to ensure a steady increase in trade turnover in order to bring it in line with the potential of the two countries, as well as to promote specific projects in the fields of industry, technological development, agriculture, healthcare, science, technology, education, culture, and construction. Minsk and Malabo identified the following priority areas of cooperation, including "agriculture; healthcare; industry; construction; woodworking and forestry; cooperation in the oil and gas sector; cooperation in the banking, financial and tax spheres; digitalization of the economy; cooperation in the field of culture, including museum, archival, and library affairs; cooperation in the field of tourism; cooperation in the field of sports; environmental protection" ⁴⁶³.

In particular, as regards industry, the Belarusian side is already working on deliveries of cargo, passenger, trailer, special equipment, quarry dump trucks for the needs of the growing economy of Equatorial Guinea, since the task in this country should be transferred from the raw materials sector to a more technological, science-intensive, innovative path of development. Belarus is also ready to "supply optical-electronic products,

⁴⁶¹ "A good start has been given to cooperation." Aleinik on the first meeting of the intergovernmental commission with Equatorial Guinea [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/politics/view/dan-horoshii-start-sotrudnichestvu-aleinik-o-pervom-zasedanii-mezhpravkomissii-s-ekvatorialnoi-gvinei-594724-2023/>

⁴⁶² Transcript of the approach to the press by the Minister of Foreign Affairs S. Aleinik following the meeting of the Permanent Joint Commission of Belarus and Equatorial Guinea (October 19, 2023, Minsk) [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : https://www.mfa.gov.by/press/news_mfa/ed7ba0f461785b44.html

⁴⁶³ Joint Communique on the Results of the First Meeting of the Permanent Joint Commission on Cooperation between Belarus and Equatorial Guinea (October 19, 2023) [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : https://mfa.gov.by/press/news_mfa/cba05c3a89729e69.html

multifunctional unmanned aircraft, robotic complexes, create closed-loop enterprises for the production and processing of meat and dairy products ⁴⁶⁴. "

African partners are interested in the Belarusian experience of efficient livestock farming, issues of improving veterinary services and food quality control, developing crops with the greatest resource-forming potential, and creating a high-quality and efficient personnel training system. Moreover, "Equatorial Guinea has a great need for dairy and meat products, which we [Belarus] produce in sufficient quantities ⁴⁶⁵." In addition, this country is very promising for the enterprises of the Belgospischeprom concern. For example, in mid-September 2023, "the first batch of products [malt] was shipped to Equatorial Guinea. This is a trial batch, for us this market is new and interesting ⁴⁶⁶. "

As for medicine, in accordance with the agreement on cooperation in the field of healthcare signed in Minsk during the first meeting of the commission, it is planned to create a training center in the near future on the basis of one of the medical universities of Belarus for training students from Equatorial Guinea and other African countries, as well as for improving the qualifications of doctors. And as one of the new areas, the parties identified cooperation in the field of forestry and environmental protection.

In addition, in this African country, "it is planned to create a production and logistics hub for Belarusian products" ⁴⁶⁷, which

⁴⁶⁴ Speech by Minister S. Aleinik at the opening of the meeting of the Joint Commission on Cooperation between Belarus and Equatorial Guinea (October 18, 2023, Minsk) [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : https://www.mfa.gov.by/press/news_mfa/c32017cdfb25123b.html

⁴⁶⁵ Belarus is ready to help Equatorial Guinea in developing the agro-industrial complex and training agricultural specialists [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-gotova-pomoch-ekvatorialnoj-gvinee-v-razvitii-apk-i-podgotovke-selhozspetsialistov-586755-2023/>

⁴⁶⁶ Zhidkov: The African continent is promising for the export of Belarusian food products [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/zhidkov-afrikanskij-kontinent-perspektiven-dlja-eksporta-belorusskoj-pischevoj-produktsii-588012-2023/>

⁴⁶⁷ Aleinik: the issue of creating a hub of Belarusian products in Equatorial Guinea is being worked out [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/aleinik-prorabatvyaetsja-vopros-sozdaniia-v-ekvatorialnoj-gvinee-haba-belorusskoj-produktsii-594535-2023/>

will be used, among other things, for the supply and promotion of products from Belarus to neighboring countries of Central and West Africa. After all, Equatorial Guinea is one of the leading economies in Africa, which ranks third in oil production on the continent, and has a developed port infrastructure. Over the past quarter century, the gross domestic product of this country has increased more than 52 times and occupies one of the leading places in Africa per capita. In addition, "Equatorial Guinea is part of the African Continental Free Trade Area, which unites 54 states, as well as the Economic Community of Central African States, which includes 11 states" ⁴⁶⁸.

In short, the first meeting of the Belarusian-Equatoguinean commission on trade and economic cooperation showed that the parties intend to expand long-term cooperation and develop and adopt a Roadmap to 2030 by the end of this year. In addition, plans have been outlined to develop the contractual and legal framework and sign new bilateral agreements in order to reach a level of trade turnover of at least 100 million dollars by 2030 in terms of economic activity.

⁴⁶⁸ Mechanical engineering, roadmap, opening of embassies. Minsk and Malabo defined prospects for cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/mashinostroenie-dorozhnaja-karta-otkrytie-posolstv-minsk-i-malabo-opredelili-perspektivy-594759-2023/>

To build mutually beneficial cooperation

Africa is a promising partner with which Belarus should build long-term mutually beneficial cooperation. In 2025, the Belarusian side intends to significantly intensify partnerships with African countries in a number of areas. After all, this continent has enormous resources and opportunities. Suffice it to say that "half of the 50 fastest growing countries in the world in 2022 are from Africa. The Republic of Belarus has something to offer the rapidly developing market of this region, which is confirmed by multi-million dollar contracts and agreements reached recently"⁴⁶⁹. "

At the international legal forum "Africa: Legal Subtleties of Doing Business", which took place in the Belarusian capital in October 2024 and brought together more than 240 participants, it was noted that today the African market generates a stable demand for food, machinery, equipment, agricultural machinery, mineral products, chemical goods, and metals. And Belarus has great potential for its development. Suffice it to say that "according to the results of January-August 2024, Belarusian exports increased 4-fold and amounted to almost half a billion dollars"⁴⁷⁰. At the same time, Belarus is ready for more advanced forms of interaction, offering a comprehensive approach to developing cooperation, working for the future, and a gradual shift "from simple trade to investment cooperation and industrial cooperation"⁴⁷¹.

In this context, the desire of the Belarusian side to maximally facilitate domestic suppliers of export products to demonstrate their potential at international exhibitions in the countries of the African continent, which are one of the effective ways to develop trade and economic relations between states,

⁴⁶⁹ Belinterexpo told which exhibitions Belarusian exporters will attend in 2024 [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/v-belinterekspo-rasskazali-na-kakie-vystavki-otpravjatsja-belorusskie-eksportery-v-2024-godu-598179-2023/>

⁴⁷⁰ Belarus has exceeded the peak level of 2019 in exports to African countries [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-prevzoshla-uroven-pikovogo-2019-goda-po-eksportu-v-sotrudnichestve-s-afrikoi-671648-2024/>

⁴⁷¹ Myatlikov: Africa is a promising partner for long-term cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/myatlikov-afrika-perspektivnyj-partner-dlja-dolgosrochnogo-sotrudnichestva-671631-2024/>

comes to the fore. Moreover, “for Belarusian enterprises, Africa is a priority region for developing cooperation and establishing business communication. In addition, the interest of African enterprises in Belarusian products is obvious ⁴⁷².” This can be judged by looking at how economic entities from Belarus participated in a number of international exhibition forums on the African continent in 2023-2024.

For example, in April 2023, Belarusian enterprises showcased their products and services at **the multi-industry exhibition Zimbabwe International Trade Fair in Zimbabwe**. The Belarusian exposition *Made in Belarus* was presented by such companies as Bellakt, Lidakhleboprodukt, Smorgon Bread Products Plant, BELAZ - the management company of the BELAZ-HOLDING holding, Sokhra, AMKODOR - the holding management company, Afrade, Minskintercaps, Borisov Plant of Medical Preparations, Kamvol and Mogotex. For example, the Bellakt company showed milk porridges, dry milk mixtures for children at the multi-profile exhibition, and Lidakhleboprodukt - its flour products and semi-finished flour products. Smorgon Bread Products Plant - oat flour and flakes. The mechanical engineering industry was represented at the exhibition by the Belarusian Automobile Plant and Sokhra - a group of companies that services Belarusian quarry equipment in various countries around the world. Also within the framework of the *Made in Belarus* exposition, the authorized supplier of Belarusian At the collective stand, Aftreyd demonstrated equipment from such well-known Belarusian brands as the Minsk Tractor Works and AMKODOR, in particular, the energy-saturated Belarus-2022.3 tractor, the supply of which began to the Zimbabwe market in 2022. Belarusian light industry enterprises brought a wide range of fabrics to southern Africa. Kamvol introduced visitors to the exhibition to fabrics for school and women's products, and Mogotex - to textile fabrics of the highest class, "which can be an excellent alternative to fabrics from China, India, Malaysia. The company also manufactures both workwear and clothing for law

⁴⁷² Kurash, N. Namibia, Tanzania, DPRK: which countries does Belinterexpo plan to open for exhibitors this year / N. Kurash // [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/interview/view/namibija-tanzanija-kndr-kakie-strany-belinterekspo-planiruet-otkrvt-dlja-ekspontov-v-etom-godu-9259/>

enforcement agencies ⁴⁷³." Minskintercaps and the Borisov Plant of Medical Preparations presented new medicines at the exhibition.

And in North Africa - in **Algeria** - in June 2023, **the 54th International FIA Exhibition was held**, where about a thousand companies from 40 countries took part. The National Exposition of Belarus was attended by 11 enterprises representing various industries. OJSC MAZ - the management company of the BELAVTOMAZ holding demonstrated at the exhibition a catalog of its trucks, distinguished by reliability, efficiency and innovative solutions. OJSC "Belarusian Metallurgical Plant - the management company of the holding "BMK" (BMZ) presented advanced metallurgical technologies and high-quality rolled metal products. OJSC "Slutsk Cheese Factory" and OJSC "Minsk Dairy Plant No. 1" showed their high-quality dairy products. And at the collective stand of the State Committee on Science and Technology, developments of institutions of the Ministry of Education and organizations of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus were presented, which demonstrated "more than 30 scientific, technical and innovative developments" ⁴⁷⁴. Organizations and institutes were interested in the possibility of establishing business contacts with industrial enterprises of various industries, educational institutions, technology parks.

In particular, the exposition of the Belarusian State University included products developed in the laboratories of research institutes and faculties of the university. "This is a multifunctional complex "Alma Meter-2", synthesized carbon materials, heat-resistant composite materials based on solid phosphate binders, nanoscale technology of diamond processing of structural composite materials, non-ferrous metals and alloys

⁴⁷³ Belarus presents its products and services at the exhibition in Zimbabwe [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-predstavljaet-svoi-produkty-i-uslugi-na-vystavke-v-zimbabve-563849-2023/>

⁴⁷⁴ The FIA exhibition became a platform for negotiations and meetings between Belarusian and Algerian companies [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/vystavka-fia-stala-ploschadkoj-dlja-peregovorov-i-vstrech-mezhdu-belorusskimi-i-alzhirskimi-kompanijami-573076-2023/>

...".⁴⁷⁵ "Smart Windows" were shown as a natural exhibit. The invention has no analogues in the post-Soviet space. They can be used as an alternative to conventional glass structures. The innovative development protects the room from sunlight, ultraviolet radiation and partially blocks infrared rays. This allows the user to refuse curtains and blinds. The innovation can also be used as an information board, allowing you to replace paper price tags in shopping centers. Changing the cost and name of the goods throughout the entire outlet from a centralized control unit on a computer is carried out remotely. Also, radio-absorbing materials of the "KUP" series were presented to visitors of the exhibition. They are designed to protect aircraft from the effects of electromagnetic radiation, have low density, high elasticity, have thermal resistance up to 400-450 degrees and chemical resistance to acids, alkalis, and solvents.

In April 2024, the **International Food Industry Exhibition** was held in the same **Algeria DJAZAGRO**, on which Participants of the exposition of Belarusian producers Belarus. The Taste of Nature presented a wide range of goods and services, offering products taking into account the specifics of the region. Among the Belarusian companies, "well-known domestic enterprises and companies of the food industry were represented: OJSC Babushkina Krynka - the management company of the holding "Mogilev Dairy Company "Babushkina Krynka", Volkovysk OJSC Bellakt, OJSC Lida Milk and Canned Food Plant, OJSC Soligorsk Poultry Farm"⁴⁷⁶. The largest spot exchange in Eastern Europe and the only commodity exchange in Belarus - the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange - was also presented within the framework of the exposition. The exhibition data showed that Algeria is of interest to Belarus as a proven partner with a huge market. After all, more than 40 million people live in this country. In this regard, "Belarusian producers

⁴⁷⁵ Scientific and technical developments of BSU will be presented at the 54th International Industrial Exhibition " FIA -2023" [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://bsu.by/news/nauchno-tehnicheskie-razrabotki-bgu-predstavlyat-na-54-v-mezhdunarodnov-promyshlennov-vystavke-fia-2-d/>

⁴⁷⁶ Belarusian enterprises presented their potential at the food industry exhibition in Algeria [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/belorusskie-predpriyatija-predstavili-potentsial-na-vystavke-pischevoj-promyshlennosti-v-alzhire-629938-2024/>

of dairy products and other types of food have good prospects in Algeria. Special plans - with regard to cooperation in the field of industry. Issues of creating joint production of trucks and agricultural machinery are currently being worked out" ⁴⁷⁷.

And in **Kenya** in June last year at the **25th International Exhibition “ BUILDEXPO AFRICA 2024”** “in the section of engineering equipment and goods, the Republic of Belarus [was] represented by the stand of Mashkhimprom LLC and UMKA Company LLC” ⁴⁷⁸. In the same June, Belarusian enterprises presented their potential at two major forums in the **Republic of South Africa – Africa's Big 7** and **SAITEX 2024**. An interesting detail is that “in 2013 and 2015, the national exposition of Belarus was demonstrated at the Africa's Big 7 and SAITEX exhibitions” ⁴⁷⁹. Given the active interaction of Belarus with the BRICS member countries and the expansion of business partnerships within this organization, the Made in Belarus exposition is becoming a key link in the promotion of domestic products and goods in South Africa and the region as a whole.

As for the first exhibition – **Africa's Big 7**, it is the leading specialized international forum in the food and beverage industry in the region, defining the possibilities of coordination and building new business ties between food producers, retailers and the catering industry. Africa's Big 7 brought together about four thousand participants, 170 exhibitors from 20 countries. The main thematic sections of the exhibition were raw materials for food production, production and sale of food products, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages for trade and catering, catering, technological solutions in retail and catering, agriculture and fertilizers. From Belarus, the largest holding company Minsk

⁴⁷⁷ Terentyev, S. Milk, technology and scientific developments / S. Terentyev // [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/comments/view/moloko-tehnika-i-nauchnye-razrabotki-posol-belarusi-o-prorve-belorusskih-tovarov-v-alzhir-8770/>

⁴⁷⁸ Belarusian companies participate in the International Exhibition “ BUILDEXPO AFRICA 2024” in Kenya [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/belorusskie-kompanii-uchastvujut-v-mezhdunarodnoj-vystavke-buildexpo-africa-2024-v-kenii-639801-2024/>

⁴⁷⁹ Belarusian enterprises present potential at two largest exhibitions in South Africa [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/belorusskie-predprijatija-prezentujut-potentsial-na-dvuh-krupnejshih-vystavkah-v-juar-619553-2024/>

Crystal OJSC - the management company of the Minsk Crystal Group holding and the flagship of the wine industry of Belarus, Minsk Sparkling Wines Plant OJSC, were represented, presenting an assortment line of dessert drinks and liqueurs and vodka products⁴⁸⁰.

SAITEX is a multi-industry exhibition, which serves as a platform for business negotiations and business interaction of foreign and local manufacturers, wholesale organizations, suppliers and buyers to establish import and export relations in the region. The thematic sections of the SAITEX exhibition included industrial production, light industry, production of electronics and household appliances, care and decorative cosmetics, tools and equipment for construction and repair, IT technologies, tourism services, insurance, financial, investment, logistics and business services, agency support for import and export operations. This forum was attended by "more than 160 exhibitors and 4.3 thousand visitors from several dozen countries. Belarus is represented by the brands "Naftan", "Belshina", Gomel Chemical Plant, "Grodno Azot", "PO Energokomplekt"⁴⁸¹.

In July 2024, Belarusian enterprises took part in the international exhibition **FILDA in Angola** – an important event in the economic life of South Africa. This multi-industry project is designed for a wide range of exhibitors. The exhibition brought together “more than 1.3 thousand companies from 18 countries in Africa, Europe, America and Asia”⁴⁸². Even before the exhibition, the organizers paid special attention to the flagship of the domestic mechanical engineering industry, OJSC BELAZ, the management company of the BELAZ-HOLDING holding, and its sales

⁴⁸⁰ Belarusian enterprises participate in the largest international exhibition of South Africa Africa's Big 7 [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/beloruskie-predpriyatija-uchastvujut-v-krupnejšej-mezhdunarodnoj-vystavke-juar-africas-big-7-640514-2024/>

⁴⁸¹ Industrial giants of Belarus present potential at the multi-industry exhibition SAITEX in South Africa [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/promyshlennye-giganty-belarusi-prezentujut-potentsial-na-mnogootraslevoj-vystavke-saitex-v-juar-640602-2024/>

⁴⁸² More than 1.3 thousand companies, 18 countries. Made exposition in Belarus at the exhibition in Angola attracted business interest [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/bole-13-tyis-kompanij-18-stran-ekspozitsija-made-in-belarus-na-vystavke-v-angole-zainteresovala-biznes-650112-2024/>

representatives, as the equipment from the renowned domestic plant has been time-tested in Angolan mining quarries. After all, the development, production and sale of Belarusian dump trucks with large and extra-large lifting capacity, special and specialized equipment, as well as other heavy transport equipment used in mining, construction, metallurgy and other industries, are among the most popular and confidently hold leading positions in the world. As a result, the BELAZ delegation carried out active work on "establishing new business ties, replenishing the order portfolio, studying the requests of mining enterprises of the Republic of Angola and other states of southern Africa"⁴⁸³.

Among the Belarusian goods presented at this exhibition, there were also products by OOO CHEFI, a leading manufacturer of medical products for first aid in emergency situations, disaster medicine, and tactical medicine. OOO Beldekorkosmetiks presented beauty products - a line of the Belarusian brand of decorative cosmetics and cosmetics for face and body care LiLo, founded in 2017. One of the highlights of the Belarusian exposition Made in Belarus was the products of representatives of the domestic food industry. Thus, the product line was presented by the enterprise OAO Lidakhleboprodukt - a leading manufacturer of flour, pasta and feed products in Belarus with more than 30 years of successful development. The company has experience in cooperation with partners around the world and delivery of products to the port/warehouse of the buyer. The Made in Belarus exhibition offered "a wide range of products and product solutions (cereals that do not require cooking, flakes, cereals, flour, rapeseed oil) from one of the largest Belarusian producers of flour and grain, feed and oil and fat products – the unitary production enterprise "Smorgon Bread Products Plant"

⁴⁸⁴.

⁴⁸³ Study of requests and business connections: BELAZ presents industrial potential at the exhibition in Angola [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/izuchenie-zaprosov-i-delovye-svjazi-belaz-prezentuet-promyshlennyy-potentsial-na-vystavke-v-angole-650150-2024/>

⁴⁸⁴ Belarusian enterprises presented their potential at a multi-industry exhibition in Angola [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/belorusskie-predpriiia-predstavili-potentsial-na-mnogootraslevoj-vystavke-v-angole-649948-2024/>

Already in September 2024, the **International Exhibition of the latest technologies in the field of mining and processing of minerals MINEXPO** was held in the largest city of Tanzania - Dar es Salaam **AFRICA**, where the Belarusian Automobile Plant stand was presented and the most significant innovative developments for the mining industry were shown. It should be noted that this industry is one of the most rapidly developing sectors of the country's economy today. After all, "Tanzania ranks 4th in gold production in Africa after South Africa, Ghana and Mali, plus, according to experts, there is great potential for exploration and development of minerals, especially diamonds, nickel and coal ⁴⁸⁵." So there were many people at the exhibition interested in Belarusian new technology, equipment, services and modern transport solutions in the field of development of deposits and extraction of mineral resources.

Finally, in December last year, the Belarus. The Taste of Nature exposition was presented in **Egypt** as part of the largest **International Trade Exhibition of Food and Beverages Food Africa Cairo – 2024**, which was held in Cairo and brought together about one thousand exhibitors from more than 30 countries, including Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, China, Russia, Turkey, Italy, Greece, France, Spain, Switzerland, Japan. It should be said that over the years, this exhibition forum has deservedly received the status of a well-known exhibition brand, which is an effective business platform that brings together representatives of Egypt, the Middle East, North Africa and foreign world-class partners. This suggests that Egypt is a major regional player interested in purchasing Belarusian goods and services.

In this case, the Belarus. The Taste of Nature exposition brought together a number of well-known enterprises of the Grodnomyasmolprom holding and flagships of the Belarusian food industry. The exhibition featured the largest manufacturer of baby food and dry specialized products for pregnant women and nursing mothers, athletes, middle-aged and elderly people, and

⁴⁸⁵ BELAZ presented the Belarusian industrial potential at the exhibition in Tanzania [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/belaz-predstavil-belorusskij-promyshlennyi-potentsial-na-vystavke-v-tanzanii-661272-2024/>

students – the Bellakt company. As part of Food Africa Cairo, the company presented a wide range of products, including infant formula, instant cereals, dry skim and dry whole milk, butter, coffee and cocoa drinks, and milk candies. Porridge, instant flakes, cereals and rapeseed products, feed products, and compound feed were shown by the Smorgon Bread Products Plant. Lidakhleboprodukt OJSC demonstrated bakery semi-finished products, complex bakery mixes, flour and cereals, pasta, premixes, and compound feed. A wide range of products, including beef, cuts and beef offal, canned goods were presented by one of the leaders of the meat processing industry of Belarus – Volkovysk Meat Processing Plant. One of the leaders in the sphere of dairy production, Minsk Dairy Plant No. 1 OJSC – the management company of the First Dairy holding in Cairo exhibited dry skim milk, dry whole milk, dry whey. Whole dry milk, dry whey, dry casein, as well as a range of cottage cheese, cheese and butter were offered by Lida Dairy and Canned Food Plant. A wide range of products, including ice cream and dry mixes for ice cream, butter, were presented by Slutsk Cheese Factory. In addition, on the first day of the Cairo exhibition, "a number of agreements and contracts were signed with the participation of the Lida Milk Canning Plant and Minsk Dairy Plant No. 1. For example, Perviy Molochny signed a contract with a large Egyptian company for the supply of skim milk powder and whole milk powder to the markets of Egypt, Kuwait and Yemen in the amount of \$1 million ⁴⁸⁶."

All these facts indicate that the Belarus. The Taste of Nature exposition has already proven itself well on the African continent. And in 2025, Belarusian exporters, apparently, will visit various exhibition venues in African countries. After all, "Belarus has every chance of exceeding \$1 billion in exports to Africa by next year [2025] ⁴⁸⁷." For reference, we note that this year the

⁴⁸⁶ Famous dairy products and million-dollar contracts: Belarusian food products conquer the African market [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/znamenitaja-molochka-i-millionnye-kontrakty-belorusskoe-prodovolstvie-pokoriaet-afrikanskij-rynok-680216-2024/>

⁴⁸⁷ Ministry of Economy: We have every chance to exceed \$1 billion in exports to Africa by next year [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/society/view/minekonomiki-u-nas-est-vse-shansy-prevysit-1-mlrd-eksporta-v-afriku-k-sledujuschemu-godu-673839-2024/>

Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry intends to organize national expositions in 25 countries, including "eight international exhibitions in Africa"⁴⁸⁸, including Egypt, South Africa, Ethiopia, and Kenya. There are plans for Belarusian exporters to participate in exhibitions in Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Namibia, and Tanzania. "The possibility of <...> participation in the second half of the year is also being discussed with the organizers of the exhibition in Uganda⁴⁸⁹. " Let us hope that cooperation between Belarus and its African partners will receive a significant boost this year, including thanks to Belarusian exhibits, which create good preconditions for the development of trade and economic relations.

As for Africa itself, it is worth noting the deepening integration of the continent. Since the beginning of 2021, the African Continental Free Trade Area has been in operation, which is the largest in the world and unites 55 countries of the African Union and eight regional economic communities. It is "designed to stimulate pan-African industrialization processes both at the national and regional levels, create and develop competitive industries"⁴⁹⁰ and is aimed at creating a single market with a population of about 1.3 billion people and a total gross domestic product of about 3.4 trillion dollars. It is expected that by 2050, the functioning of the African Continental Free Trade Area will increase the size of the African economy to 29 trillion dollars. This suggests that interaction with this association can have a noticeable impact on the dynamics of trade and cooperation between Belarus and partners on this continent. To this we can only add that in 2024, "an action program for the development of cooperation between Belarus and African countries for 2024-2026

⁴⁸⁸ The Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry plans to organize exhibitions in 25 countries this year [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/beltp-planiruet-v-etom-godu-organizovat-ekspozitsii-v-25-stranah-688338-2025/>

⁴⁸⁹ "Belinterexpo" plans to organize about 40 expositions at international exhibitions in 2025 [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/belinterekspo-planiruet-organizovat-okolo-40-ekspozitsij-na-mezhdunarodnyh-vystavkah-v-2025-godu-688738-2025/>

⁴⁹⁰ Cooperation with the African Union receives additional impetus [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : https://eec.eaeunion.org/comission/department/dep_razv_integr/novosti/sotrudnich_estvo-s-afrikanskim-sovuzom-poluchaet-dopolnitelnyy-impuls/

was approved, as well as a roadmap for cooperation with all support countries ⁴⁹¹.” This suggests that Belarus and Africa are serious and for the long term.

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⁴⁹¹ Belarusian exports to African countries have grown almost fourfold since the beginning of the year [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/beloruskij-eksport-v-strany-afriki-s-nachala-goda-vvros-pochti-v-chetvye-raza-669953-2024/>

The goal is sustainable development dynamics

The African vector of Belarus's foreign policy today demonstrates sustainable development dynamics. At the same time, the Belarusian side in this interaction focuses on pragmatic and mutually beneficial cooperation, offering partners specific solutions in such areas as agriculture, education, healthcare, and mechanical engineering. As for exports from Belarus to Africa, since the beginning of 2025, they have continued to steadily gain momentum. The results of two months show that for the same mechanical engineering products, all contracts are being fulfilled and even increasing. "If we compare with the previous period, the growth of exports is somewhere 3-3.5 times ..." ⁴⁹². These supplies almost completely replaced all the lost export volumes to the European Union. All these facts show that the successful implementation of joint economic projects and cooperation on the principles of sovereign equality attract many African countries to Belarus. Among them are **Algeria**, **Libya**, **Guinea-Bissau**, **Uganda**, which intensified relations with Belarus in 2025.

Let's start with **Algeria**. 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, where priority areas of mutual interest were identified. Let us recall that diplomatic relations between the two countries were established back in October 1995. Over these three decades, the legal framework of Belarus and Algeria has developed very fragmentarily. 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, the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and

⁴⁹²Kartun: 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/>

Industry and the Algerian Chamber of Commerce and Industry" have been signed ⁴⁹³.

This country, located in North Africa, is the fourth largest producer of crude oil on the continent, as well as the sixth largest producer of natural gas in the world. There is a developed mining industry there - oil, gas, phosphates, iron, lead, zinc, copper, marble, mercury. And the main items of Algerian import are cars, equipment, metals, chemical and mineral products, food products, 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 equipment, woodworking products, metal products on the Algerian market ⁴⁹⁴. "

In April 2024, the head of the Belarusian Foreign Ministry S. Aleinik visited Algiers. During the negotiations at the highest and high levels, 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 of independent states" were noted ⁴⁹⁵. At the same time, agreements were reached to expand the legal framework for bilateral cooperation with the transition from framework to sectoral agreements. At the same time, a number of topics of bilateral cooperation and projects for production and technical cooperation in the agro-industrial, food, mechanical engineering and utilities sectors were discussed, as well as issues of interaction in the fields of education, science, technology, healthcare and pharmaceuticals, and tourism.

And already at the first meeting of the IPC it was noted that the trade turnover between the two countries in 2024 amounted to about 50 million dollars, having increased by 16 (!) times compared to 2023. Last year, skim milk powder, whey, soybean oil, and potato flakes were supplied from Belarus to Algeria. It should be noted that this North African country is the second

⁴⁹³ Cooperation in the political sphere [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : https://egypt.mfa.gov.by/ru/blr_algeria/political/

⁴⁹⁴ Algeria [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://export.by/articles/alzhir>

⁴⁹⁵ On the meeting of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belarus S. Aleinik with the President of Algeria [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : https://mfa.gov.by/press/news_mfa/e049817def98777b.html

largest importer of dairy products in the world, purchasing these products annually for tens of billions of dollars. "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 purchasing dairy products⁴⁹⁶." Belarusian meat and meat products, sugar, and confectionery also have great potential in trade with Algeria. It can be added that in 2025 Belarus has already received certificates for the supply of beef to this country, which will become an additional export direction in bilateral trade. This suggests that "trade and economic relations between Belarus and Algeria are quite promising and can develop in various new directions⁴⁹⁷."

For example, our country is ready to organize an 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. More than 500 tractor assemblies were delivered to this country by 2015. Then the work was suspended. And now the Minsk Tractor Plant is extremely interested in organizing assembly again, in particular of small-sized BELARUS-152 machines. "Such equipment is needed for farmers, household plots. The organization of assembly of tractors of the 800th series and higher is also being considered. This may include energy-intensive equipment"⁴⁹⁸[6]. In addition, assembly production in Algeria is planned, including with the prospect of delivering BELARUS equipment to third countries.

Algerian partners are also interested in the supply of equipment from AMKODOR. Of particular interest were "silos as an element of integrated solutions for grain storage and processing. Possible formats of cooperation in equipment supplies were

⁴⁹⁶ Zalessky, B. In conditions of turbulence. Potential of interstate interaction in the era of globalization / Boris Zalessky. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing , 2019. – P. 104.

⁴⁹⁷Yuri Shuleiko: Belarus is extremely interested in strengthening trade and economic relations with Algeria [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://www.government.by/news/yuriv-shulevko-belarus-krayne-zainteresovana-v-ukreplenii-torgovo-ekonomicheskikh-otnosheniy-s>

⁴⁹⁸ MTZ is developing the possibility of assembling small-sized tractors in Algeria [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/mtz-prorabatyvaet-vozmozhnosti-sborki-malogabaritnykh-tractorov-v-alzhire-709669-2025/>

discussed ⁴⁹⁹." At the Belarusian Automobile Plant, specialists from this African country expressed their readiness for joint production of front loaders. In addition, at the first meeting of the IPC, the issue of "organizing the assembly production of the Minsk Automobile Plant in Algeria" was discussed ⁵⁰⁰. The parties also considered issues of possible cooperation between the two countries in the field of pharmaceuticals, and "agreements were reached on studying pharmaceutical products manufactured in the Republic of Belarus and Algeria in order to identify promising areas of cooperation ⁵⁰¹."

Apparently, the active participation of Belarusian exporters in Algerian international exhibition forums is gradually emerging as a promising topic in bilateral trade and economic cooperation. In particular, in April last year in Algeria, as part of the food industry exhibition D jazagro 2024, participants in the exposition of Belarusian manufacturers Belarus. The Taste of Nature presented a wide range of goods and services, offering products taking into account the specifics of the region. Among the Belarusian companies, "well-known domestic enterprises and companies in the food industry were represented: OJSC Babushkina Krynka - the management company of the holding Mogilev Dairy Company Babushkina Krynka, Volkovysk OJSC Bellakt, OJSC Lida Milk and Canned Food Plant, OJSC Soligorsk Poultry Farm" ⁵⁰². 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, as part of the food industry exhibition Djazagro 2025 "there were about 600 exhibitors and

⁴⁹⁹ New Horizons of Partnership. AMKODOR Intends to Supply Equipment to Algeria [Electronic Resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/novve-gorizonty-partnerstva-amkodor-nameren-postavljat-oborudovanie-v-alzhir-709828-2025/>

⁵⁰⁰ MAZ assembly plant may be created in Algeria [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/sborочноe-proizvodstvo-maz-mogut-sozdat-v-alzhire-709604-2025/>

⁵⁰¹ The first meeting of the Belarusian-Algerian Intergovernmental Joint Commission [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belpharmprom.by/news/pervoe-zasedanie-belorussko-alzhirskov-mezhpravitelstvennov-sovmestnov-komissii/>

⁵⁰² Belarusian enterprises presented their potential at the food industry exhibition in Algeria [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/belorusskie-predpriiatiia-predstavili-potentsial-na-vystavke-pischevoj-promyshlennosti-v-alzhire-629938-2024/>

108 unique brands from 36 countries, including Italy, Germany, Belgium, Portugal, Russia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Japan..."⁵⁰³ There, the participants of the national exposition Belarus. The Taste of Nature presented a new wide range of goods, offering products taking into account regional specifics and demand. Among them were well-known exporters: Volkovysk OJSC "Bellakt", OJSC "Lida Dairy Canning Plant", KUP "Mozyr Dairy Products", OJSC "Slutsk Cheese Factory". The presented Belarusian products included the most popular and in-demand list: a line of dry dairy products, butter, frozen cottage cheese, assorted cheeses.

Let us return to the 1st meeting of the IGC. This fact shows that the parties are ready to actively develop the entire spectrum of relations: from supplies of Belarusian agricultural products to ensure food security in Algeria to the development of joint assembly production on Algerian soil with the aim of entering broad African markets. So specific priorities and areas of joint activity for the near future have already been defined. Now the next step is expected - the implementation of the planned initiatives of Belarusian-Algerian cooperation.

Now about **Libya**. In February 2025, Field Marshal and Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Libyan National Army H.B. Haftar came to Minsk and expressed interest in developing cooperation with the Belarusian side in various areas. Especially in Belarusian equipment and technologies in the agro-industrial complex, in order to "adopt Belarusian experience in the agricultural sector. Your tractors, other agricultural machinery – we can use all this for the agricultural development of Libya. This will allow us to get a large harvest of grain crops. We will even be able to export to third countries"⁵⁰⁴.

A month later, a Belarusian government delegation went to Libya to identify the main tasks that would need to be quickly

⁵⁰³ Belarusian producers present the best food products at the Djazagro exhibition in Algeria [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/belorusskie-proizvoditeli-prezentujut-luchshie-produkty-pitanija-na-vystavke-djazagro-v-alzhire-707659-2025/>

⁵⁰⁴Haftar: Libya is interested in Belarusian equipment and technologies in the agro-industrial complex [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/komandujuschij-livijskoj-natsionalnoj-armiei-livija-zainteresovana-v-belorusskoi-tehnike-i-696755-2025/>

implemented in the fields of agriculture, food security, industry, healthcare and pharmaceuticals. In addition to assistance in implementing modern technologies for the extraction of natural resources, Belarus will also supply modern equipment for the mining industry. "In the field of healthcare and pharmaceuticals, medicines, equipment and consumables will be supplied. It is also envisaged to exchange experience in the field of medicine and treatment of patients from Libya in Belarus ⁵⁰⁵." Within the framework of industrial cooperation, issues of supplying Belarusian equipment - trucks, fire engines, garbage trucks and buses - were discussed. And in Benghazi, it is planned to create a number of assembly plants and service centers.

Two months later, in May, the Belarusian government delegation visited Libya again to "intensify work in key areas that will ensure the unconditional implementation of agreements <...> in the areas of industry, agriculture and healthcare ⁵⁰⁶." In particular, they discussed the agro-industrial complex. The Belarusian side intends to implement wheat cultivation in Libya in order to "obtain products that will subsequently be processed into compound feed, but primarily this will be the flour milling industry and flour production ⁵⁰⁷." Moreover, there are enterprises in Belarus that are ready to organize the construction of a compound feed plant with a flour production workshop. And the House of Belarus was opened in Benghazi, which will become a place of attraction for business entities, business circles, where "there will be an opportunity to hold meetings, discuss specific contracts and conclude them ⁵⁰⁸," where the parties will move from

⁵⁰⁵ Belarus to help Libya implement modern technologies for natural resource extraction [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-pomozhet-livii-s-vnedreniem-sovremennyh-tehnologij-dlja-dobychi-prirodnih-resursov-701761-2025/>

⁵⁰⁶ 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-livija-obsudiat-napravlenija-sotrudnichestva-716915-2025/>

⁵⁰⁷ The Ministry of Agriculture and Food explained which joint projects in the agricultural sector Belarus and Libya can implement [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/society/view/kakie-sovmestnye-proekty-v-agrosfere-mogut-realizovat-belarus-i-livija-poiasnili-v-minselhozprode-717025-2025/>

⁵⁰⁸ Place of attraction for business circles. The House of Belarus opened in Libya [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/mesto-priitiazhenija-biznes-krugov-dom-belarusi-otkrylsja-v-livii-716988-2025/>

words directly to deeds. As we can see, in just four months, Belarus and Libya have taken on the implementation of ambitious plans for cooperation in the most important areas. And this is impressive.

As for **Guinea-Bissau**, the first visit of the President of this country from West Africa, U.S. Embalo, to Belarus took place quite recently - in May 2025, within the framework of which the areas where Minsk and Bissau can work together and mutually beneficially were identified. Firstly, in the industrial sector. 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, the supply of industrial goods between the countries, and support joint investments in industrial projects. It is also envisaged to strengthen cooperation in the field of scientific research and the development of new industries ⁵⁰⁹." This document opens a new export market for enterprises in the industry. For example, Minsk Tractor Plant OJSC is already considering the possibility of supplying small-sized equipment from the Smorgon Aggregate Plant and the Bobruisk Plant of Tractor Parts and Units "to increase labor productivity in the agricultural sector and the yield of cultivated crops" ⁵¹⁰ in this West African state.

Secondly, during the first visit of the President of Guinea-Bissau to Minsk, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food of Belarus also adopted a memorandum of cooperation with its African partners. The fact is that "the economy of Guinea-Bissau is based on agriculture and fisheries, the country is among the five largest producers of cashew nuts. In 2024, trade turnover between Belarus

⁵⁰⁹Efimov: Memorandum with Guinea-Bissau opens a 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/>

⁵¹⁰MTZ 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/>

and Guinea-Bissau was represented by malt exports ⁵¹¹." The fact of signing the memorandum opens up new horizons for expanding cooperation in the agricultural sector between the two countries. After all, 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 only remains to add that, in addition to the already mentioned memoranda, other documents aimed at strengthening bilateral cooperation were also signed in Minsk. Among them are the " intergovernmental agreement on the abolition of visas for holders of diplomatic, official and service passports" ⁵¹², as well as a memorandum on cooperation between the ministries of justice. In general, the visit of the President of Guinea-Bissau to Belarus showed that the diplomatic relations between the two countries, established more than twenty years ago, are developing and moving to a qualitatively new level - from episodic contacts to the formation of an institutional basis for partnership.

Finally, **Uganda** is one of the least developed countries in East Africa, which has an ambitious goal of achieving a medium level of economic development in the near future. At the beginning of 2021, the population of this country exceeded 44 million people. The main sector of the economy is agriculture, where 82 percent of workers are employed, and natural resources are "copper, cobalt, niobium, gold, tungsten, hydropower, fertile lands ⁵¹³." Back in 2013, it adopted the national development program "Vision 2040", which outlined a course for modernization and the attraction of technology. And now this country is making specific efforts to improve the socio-economic situation. One of the factors in the growth of the Ugandan economy is foreign economic activity, primarily trade. "The country managed not only to

⁵¹¹Agrarian education, product supplies. What was agreed in the agro-industrial complex of Belarus and Guinea-Bissau [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/agnarnoe-obrazovanie-postavki-produktsii-o-chem-dogovorilis-v-apk-belarus-i-gvineja-bisau-713415-2025/>

⁵¹²Visa abolition, agro-industrial complex, industry. Belarus and Guinea-Bissau signed memorandums on strengthening cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/society/view/otmena-viz-apk-promyshlennosti-belarus-i-gvineja-bisau-podpisali-memorandumy-po-ukrepleniiu-713383-2025/>

⁵¹³ Brief characteristics of the economy of Uganda [Electronic resource]. – 2021. – URL : https://kenya.mfa.gov.by/ru/export_uganda/

increase, but also to diversify its exports, intensify regional economic cooperation, and enter new regional markets ⁵¹⁴." In addition, the roadmap of this program identifies eight key projects that define the main directions of science and technology development. Including:

1) creation of "smart cities" based on the development of high technologies and related infrastructure,

2) development of large irrigation systems in different parts of the country;

3) modernization of the phosphate industry in the city of Tororo and the iron ore industry in the cities of Muko and Kabale;

4) creation of modern urban and industrial infrastructure in five regional cities – Gulu, Mbale, Kampala, Mbarara, Arua, as well as in five strategic cities – Hoima, Nakasongola, Fortportal, Moroto, Jinja;

5) Developing projects with the introduction of modern transport management and logistics technologies to create four international airports, a standard gauge railway network with high-speed trains, an oil refinery and associated pipeline infrastructure, a multi-level paved national highway network linking major cities and other strategic locations;

6) the establishment of globally competitive skill development centres to improve the quality of human resources;

7) construction of nuclear and hydroelectric power stations in Ayago, Isimba, Karume and Murchison Bay;

8) creation of scientific and technical parks in each regional city.

For Belarus, this country is a potential and promising partner in East Africa. Official Minsk and Kampala established diplomatic relations in 1998. In February 2025, the Belarusian delegation headed by Prime Minister R. Golovchenko visited Uganda to discuss a fairly wide range of issues of bilateral cooperation with an emphasis on promising opportunities in agriculture, pharmaceuticals, information technology, education and to achieve the desired results. And in Kampala, several

⁵¹⁴ Byasharova, A.R. Uganda: socio-economic development, trade, international regional cooperation / A.R. Byasharova, L.V. Achalova // International trade and trade policy. - 2021. - Vol. 7. - No. 3 (27). - P. 40.

important documents were signed in order, first of all, to promote the existing great potential for the development of bilateral economic cooperation.

Firstly, the governments of Belarus and Uganda agreed to coordinate trade and economic partnership relations and concluded a corresponding agreement in order to "create a strong, efficient intergovernmental committee to discuss and support projects in the economic sphere" ⁵¹⁵. Secondly, an intergovernmental memorandum on cooperation in the field of food security was signed. The fact is that cooperation between the two countries in the field of agriculture can lead to a significant increase in food production and exports. After all, "Uganda has excellent conditions for agriculture - a suitable climate and fertile soils" ⁵¹⁶. At the same time, this country faces problems typical for African countries. The population is growing rapidly, and it needs to be fed, treated, and educated. "The country's land resources are underused, intensive mechanization of agriculture, industrialization of the economy, extraction and purification of water resources, and waste recycling are required" ⁵¹⁷. For this reason, for example, during the visit of the Belarusian delegation to the Ugandan capital, the parties discussed the possibility of organizing the production of Belarusian tractors here. "One of the topics was cooperation in agriculture. They also talked about dairy products" ⁵¹⁸. "

Among other documents signed in Kampala, one can name a number of interdepartmental memorandums, including: on political consultations – between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs

⁵¹⁵ Golovchenko to pay official visits to Uganda and Qatar [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/society/view/golovchenko-posetit-s-ofitsialnymi-vizitami-ugandu-i-katar-697115-2025/>

⁵¹⁶ Golovchenko: It is important for Belarus and Uganda to create an intergovernmental committee to support joint projects [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/politics/view/golovchenko-belarusi-i-ugande-vazhno-sozdat-mezhpravkomitet-dlja-soprovozhdenija-sovmestnyh-proektov-697750-2025/>

⁵¹⁷ Cooperation in agriculture. What Golovchenko proposed to the President of Uganda [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/kooperatsija-v-selskom-hozjajstve-cto-golovchenko-predlozhit-prezidentu-ugandy-697642-2025/>

⁵¹⁸ Production of Belarusian tractors may be organized in Uganda [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/proizvodstvo-belorusskih-tractorov-mogut-organizovat-v-ugande-697763-2025/>

of Belarus and Uganda; on military-technical cooperation – between the State Military-Industrial Committee of Belarus and the Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs of Uganda; on cooperation in the field of peaceful use of atomic energy – between the Ministry of Energy of Belarus and the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development of Uganda; on mutual understanding – between the Ministries of Education of Belarus and Uganda.

In addition, this East African country has adopted a digital development program. And "the experience of the Republic of Belarus can really be in great demand here in terms of both infrastructure development and provision of telecommunications services, because our Belarusian communications satellite "Belintersat" has good coverage in Africa, in particular Uganda⁵¹⁹." The experience of the Belarusian High-Tech Park will also be in demand in this country. So the two countries are gaining a lot of opportunities to implement all the existing developments and find new solutions in order to implement new joint projects.

Let's sum it up. All these facts indicate that Africa is one of the priorities of Belarus's foreign policy. Interaction with the countries of this continent looks promising and effective for our republic. Moreover, today a new legal framework is being formed and the current one is being improved, which allows us to take bilateral relations with African states to a qualitatively new level. The Belarusian policy of trust and cooperation in Africa creates favorable conditions and prerequisites for mutually beneficial partnerships in the long term.

⁵¹⁹ Ministry of Communications: Belarusian experience in digital development may be in great demand in Uganda [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/society/view/minsvjazi-belorusskij-opyt-tsifrovogo-razvitiia-mozhet-byt-ochen-vostrebovan-v-ugande-697664-2025/>

Zimbabwe: From Economy to Education

The Republic of Zimbabwe is an African country with which the Republic of Belarus established diplomatic relations back in April 1992. The new stage of cooperation with this South African state dates back to January 2023, when the state visit of the Belarusian delegation to Zimbabwe took place. Then "a package of important bilateral documents was signed, which includes basic economic agreements designed to ensure the development of industrial cooperation and economic cooperation ..." ⁵²⁰. Then the governments of the two countries approved a roadmap for the implementation of the agreements reached. "The document includes 65 events in various areas: political and diplomatic, trade and economic, agricultural, military-technical, healthcare and medical science, investment, energy, supply and maintenance of equipment. In addition, Belarus will continue to participate in the program for the modernization and mechanization of agriculture in Zimbabwe" ⁵²¹.

If we talk about the economic component of this partnership, then "the trade turnover between Belarus and Zimbabwe has increased eightfold since 2018." ⁵²² At the same time, the parties have significantly expanded trade and economic cooperation, established humanitarian cooperation and strengthened the legal framework of bilateral relations. As for the 2022 indicators, "Belarus and Zimbabwe traded more than \$39 million, which is almost 57% more than the 2021 level. At the same time, Belarusian exports amounted to almost \$30 million. Belarus supplied tractors and truck tractors, machines and mechanisms for harvesting and threshing agricultural crops, parts

⁵²⁰ Zalessky, B. Strategy of export growth. Opportunities and challenges of an open economy in modern conditions / Boris Zalessky. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2023. – P. 30.

⁵²¹ Frederik Shava: Zimbabwe has achieved a lot in terms of food security thanks to Belarus [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/frederik-shava-zimbabwe-mnogogo-dostiglo-v-plane-prodovolstvennoj-bezopasnosti-blagodarja-belarusi-557640-2023/>

⁵²² Parkhomchik: Belarus-Zimbabwe trade turnover has grown eightfold since 2018, it is important to maintain momentum [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/parkhomchik-tovarooborot-belarusi-i-zimbabwe-s-2018-goda-vyros-v-vosem-raz-vazhno-sohranit-dinamiku-586362-2023/>

and accessories for cars and tractors to Zimbabwe⁵²³. " In addition, during this time, a single center of Belarusian enterprises has been created on Zimbabwean soil, providing a whole range of services for all types of equipment supplied from Belarus, and where one can receive education in the field of vehicle management, necessary recommendations, purchase spare parts, and services for performing routine maintenance on Belarusian equipment.

In March 2023, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of the Republic of Zimbabwe, F. Shava, visited the Belarusian capital. During the official visit, he stated that the Zimbabwean side was interested in identifying additional opportunities for economic cooperation with Belarus. As for official Minsk, it "wants to bring relations with Zimbabwe to the level of a comprehensive strategic partnership⁵²⁴." Following the talks at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus, the parties adopted a joint statement and reviewed the implementation of agreements in the trade and economic sphere, in particular, the progress of contracts for the supply of agricultural and fire-fighting equipment to Zimbabwe, the construction and modernization of grain storage facilities, and also discussed cooperation in the fields of industry, agriculture, energy, mining, and light industry. In particular, Belarus will continue to make its significant contribution to the achievement by the Zimbabwean government of the goals of the long-term development strategy of this southern African country, Vision 2030.

In addition, the parties continued to work on expanding the contractual and legal framework of Belarusian-Zimbabwean bilateral relations, which already includes more than twenty intergovernmental and interdepartmental agreements. And in March 2023, this list of documents was supplemented by a Memorandum of Understanding between the National Center for Marketing and Price Study of the Republic of Belarus and the National Organization for the Promotion and Development of

⁵²³ The meeting of the foreign ministers of Belarus and Zimbabwe was held in Minsk [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/politics/view/vstrecha-ministrov-inostrannv-h-del-belarusi-i-zimbabve-prohodit-v-minske-557558-2023/>

⁵²⁴ Belarus wants to raise relations with Zimbabwe to the level of a comprehensive strategic partnership [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/politics/view/belarus-hochet-vyvesti-otnosheniia-s-zimbabve-na-uroven-vseobijmljuschego-strategicheskogo-partnerstva-557622-2023>

Trade of Zimbabwe "Zim Trade", which "will become an additional incentive and support for enhancing interaction between business circles, enterprises and business entities of the two countries"⁵²⁵. "

Speaking about the immediate plans, more than 130 fire engines will be delivered by the end of 2023, "they are currently at different stages of delivery. Contracts were signed for the supply of 3,161 tractors, 80 combines, by the end of the year we [the Belarusian side] will begin fulfilling these contracts, and in 2023-2025 we will try to resolve these issues. We also reached agreements on the supply of grain drying complexes there"⁵²⁶. " If we talk about the medium term, Belarusian exporters are only ready to increase their supplies to the Zimbabwean market. For example, the Belarusian Automobile Plant is interested in developing fruitful cooperation with mining companies in Zimbabwe, since the country's mining industry, which has large reserves of minerals, including coal, copper, gold, diamonds, is developing at an active pace. After all, only 55- and 130-ton dump trucks from Belarus are currently used for coal and diamond mining in Zimbabwean quarries, and Belarusian special equipment is also in operation - bulldozers, loaders, tractors and water sprinklers. And "BELAZ is ready to offer the mining industry of Zimbabwe not only efficient quarry equipment, but also ready-made comprehensive solutions for the supply of machines with all the necessary infrastructure, equipment and software on a turnkey basis"⁵²⁷. "

Belarusian manufacturers of agricultural machinery also have interesting plans for export to this South African country. After all, increased attention is currently being paid to the

⁵²⁵ Transcript of the approach to the press by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belarus S. Aleinik following the talks with the head of the Zimbabwean Foreign Ministry (March 27, 2023, Minsk) [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : https://www.mfa.gov.by/press/news_mfa/fd375850144e9b08.html

⁵²⁶ Parkhomchik: Belarusian goods export to Zimbabwe increased eightfold [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/parkhomchik-eksport-belorusskih-tovarov-v-zimbabwe-uvelichilsja-v-vosem-raz-587300-2023/>

⁵²⁷ BELAZ is interested in developing cooperation with mining companies in Zimbabwe [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belaz-zainteresovan-v-razvitijsotrudnichestva-s-dobyvajuschimi-kompanijami-zimbabwe-581975-2023/>

mechanization of agriculture in this region of Africa. Suffice it to say that “last year [2022], Zimbabwe harvested a record wheat crop in the last 25 years thanks to agricultural machinery made in Belarus ⁵²⁸.” And the plans include promoting joint projects to provide agricultural machinery from Belarus, including tillage units, cotton-growing machines, and tractor trailers. Note that the Minsk Tractor Plant alone “plans to deliver 3,575 tractors to Zimbabwe in 2023-2024, and their shipment has already begun ⁵²⁹.” In addition, this year, the use of improved agricultural machinery from Belarus has made the harvesting season in this country trouble-free. The fact is that Zimbabwe is expected to have a record grain harvest in 2023, which will exceed 440 thousand tons. By the beginning of November, the wheat harvest was almost complete throughout the country. “To quickly collect the harvest before the rainy season, the government deployed 249 newest Belarusian combines. The flagship grain harvester GS 12 processes at least 40 hectares per day ⁵³⁰.” So the purchase of equipment from Belarus was a success.

Another topical issue of Belarusian-Zimbabwean cooperation is the creation of joint ventures for the production of food products. Back in May 2023, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food of the Republic of Belarus and partners from Zimbabwe discussed issues of organizing the supply of Belarusian food products, as well as “the creation of joint ventures for the processing of dry milk into whole milk products ⁵³¹.” In addition, issues of processing beef and poultry were discussed. And in the Grodno region last spring, the issue of cooperation in the field of

⁵²⁸ “Bobruiskagromash” and the Ambassador of Zimbabwe discussed projects to provide the region with Belarusian agricultural machinery [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/bobruiskagromash-i-posol-zimbabwe-obsudili-proektv-po-obespecheniju-regiona-belorusskoj-selhoztekhniki-582296-2023/>

⁵²⁹ MTZ intends to continue cooperation with partners from Zimbabwe [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/mtz-nameren-prodolzit-sotrudnichestvo-s-partnerami-iz-zimbabwe-581256-2023/>

⁵³⁰ Belarusian equipment helps harvest record crops in Zimbabwe [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belorusskaja-tehnika-pomogaet-ubirat-rekordnyj-urozhaj-v-zimbabwe-597984-2023>

⁵³¹ The Ministry of Agriculture and Food will discuss with Zimbabwe the creation of joint ventures for processing dry milk [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/minselhozprod-obsudit-s-zimbabwe-sozdanie-sovmestnyh-predpriatij-po-pererabotke-suhogo-moloka-566042-2023/>

baby food was discussed with Zimbabwean partners. "At the first stage, this could be the supply of ready-made baby food with the subsequent transfer of part of the technological operations to the territory of Zimbabwe with the subsequent possibility of building a full-fledged production and performing the entire range of work⁵³²." And taking into account the capacity of the Grodno plant "Bellakt", the geographical location of Zimbabwe and active interaction with its neighbors, it would be possible to consider the possibility of joint production, which will cover not only the needs of Zimbabwe, but also other African countries.

Another example. In June-July 2023, the first deliveries of Zimbabwean cotton fiber arrived in Belarus. Partners from South Africa are ready to cooperate on other issues as well. For example, "Zimbabwe has a school curriculum and about 2 million schoolchildren dress in business style. Zimbabwe imports fabrics only from China, so we [Belarusian specialists] demonstrated a number of samples of polyviscose fabric and fabric with a wool content of 20-30% to the Zimbabwean representative⁵³³."

Another interesting idea in cooperation between the two countries, which may well be implemented in the near future, is that "Zimbabwe can become a major hub in South Africa for the trade of Belarusian products"⁵³⁴. For this purpose, a Belarusian-Zimbabwean initiative can be implemented with the participation of another state in Southeast Africa - Mozambique. This is a country washed by the Indian Ocean. "The most promising direction of Belarusian exports to the markets of Mozambique could be the mechanization of the agricultural complex of this country with subsequent servicing of Belarusian equipment"⁵³⁵.

⁵³² Bellakt plans to establish production of dry baby formula in Zimbabwe [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/bellakt-planiruet-sozdat-proizvodstvo-suhih-detskikh-smesej-na-territorii-zimbabve-560414-2023/>

⁵³³ The first deliveries of Zimbabwean cotton to Belarus are expected in June-July 2023 [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/pervye-postavki-v-belarus-zimbabvijskogo-lopka-ozhidajutsja-v-ijune-ijule-2023-goda-557867-2023/>

⁵³⁴ Frederik Shava: Zimbabwe could become a major hub for the supply of Belarusian equipment in South Africa [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/frederik-shava-zimbabve-mozhet-stat-krupnym-habom-po-postavke-belorusskoj-tehniki-v-juzhnoj-afrike-557809-2023/>

⁵³⁵ Mozambique [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://export.by/mozambique>

The reference points on the path to diversification of Belarusian exports to Mozambique can also be the introduction of high-tech technologies, electrification and improvement of railway lines, creation of the necessary logistics infrastructure, promotion of renewable energy sources. Given the high demand for medicines in the country, niches for the promotion of pharmaceutical products remain. In short, the market of the countries of Southern Africa is very promising for Belarusian exports and can further increase activity in various areas.

A special conversation is about the interaction between Minsk and Harare in the educational sphere. In May 2023, Belarus and Zimbabwe signed a roadmap for 2023-2025 in the field of higher education and university science, which identified the development of joint educational programs and training of Zimbabweans in Belarusian universities in in-demand specialties as promising areas of Belarusian-Zimbabwean cooperation. "Also among the promising areas is the organization of resource centers for vocational education and training, the expansion of joint scientific, scientific-technical and innovative projects, including in the field of geomechanics, biotechnology, biomechanics ⁵³⁶. "

In addition to the roadmap, the Belarusian and Zimbabwean sides also signed more than 40 bilateral agreements in the field of education in those May days. It should be noted that "this is a very serious legal basis for training specialists for a wide range of specialties in the field of industry, agro-industrial complex, health care, and energy ⁵³⁷. " It is assumed that in this regard, a program for training specialists not only at the level of higher education, but also for the creation of competence centers in Zimbabwe for training specialists in blue-collar jobs will be implemented between educational institutions of the two countries. For this purpose, a center for the study of Russian as a foreign language is

⁵³⁶Belarus and Zimbabwe signed a roadmap for 2023-2025 in the field of higher education and science [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-zimbabwe-podpisali-dorozhniyu-kartu-na-2023-2025-gody-v-sfere-vysshego-obrazovanija-i-nauki-565748-2023/>

⁵³⁷More than 40 bilateral agreements in the field of education will be signed following the visit of the delegation from Zimbabwe to Belarus [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/bolee-40-dvustoronnih-soglashenij-v-oblasti-obrazovanija-budet-podpisano-po-itogam-vizita-v-belarus-566871-2023/>

being created, where Zimbabwean citizens will be able to undergo training in order to work in joint ventures in Zimbabwe and continue their education in Belarus.

An active participant in interaction with Zimbabwean partners is the Belarusian State University (BSU), which in 2019 signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education, Science and Technological Development of Zimbabwe. In February 2023, BSU became a partner of six universities in this country at once. And in May of this year, it expanded the range of existing agreements. In particular, a Cooperation Agreement with the Harare Institute of Technology and a Memorandum of Understanding with the Midlands State University were signed, which will allow for the development of academic exchanges, fundamental and applied scientific research, joint scientific conferences, exhibitions, symposia, and seminars. In addition, "initiatives were voiced on interaction in the field of ecology, soil science, and biology. The possibility of developing modern digital technologies, geographic information systems, soil conservation measures and technologies on lands subject to erosion processes was considered ⁵³⁸. " The opening of a distance learning centre of BSU in Zimbabwe will also be a serious step towards strong cooperation.

In the same May 2023, Brest State Technical University (BSTU) signed cooperation agreements with five Zimbabwean universities, which will develop interaction with the Harare Institute of Technology, Chinhoyi University of Technology, Lupane State University, Midlands State University and the University of Zimbabwe. Brest University will implement joint educational programs, engage in joint scientific research, which will be carried out in the field of Industry 4.0, digital industry and agriculture, IT technologies, on issues related to the creation of various engineering systems. In short, "cooperation can be established in all areas in which Brest residents specialize. Three students from Zimbabwe are currently studying at BSTU: two

⁵³⁸BSU intensifies cooperation with universities in Zimbabwe [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/bgu-aktiviziruetsotrudnichestvo-s-vuzami-zimbabwe-566857-2023/>

guys and a girl ⁵³⁹." It must be assumed that in the near future, many more students from this South African country will appear in Brest.

And in Minsk, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Belarusian State Technological University and the Midlands State University. This document provides for cooperation in exchanging experience in the field of education and facilitating the exchange of students, postgraduates and graduate students, faculty, as well as the development of joint research projects in areas of mutual interest. In particular, "in the field of forestry, woodworking, industrial ecology, energy-efficient technologies, and mineral fertilizer technology ⁵⁴⁰." The Belarusian National Technical University also signed several international documents with its Zimbabwean partners this spring. First, an agreement on cooperation with the Harare Polytechnic College. Second, with the Midlands State University. Third, "a roadmap was signed between the Belarusian National Technical University and the University of Zimbabwe ⁵⁴¹," and eight joint educational programs were approved with various universities in this country, including in Harare, Chinhoyi, and Lupane. And in October 2023, the Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno and the Harare Polytechnic College agreed on cooperation, outlining mutual interests "in the areas of joint scientific, innovative and educational activities, as well as in the field of monitoring natural resources ⁵⁴²." Finally, the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Education,

⁵³⁹Brest Technical University has concluded cooperation agreements with five universities in Zimbabwe [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/brestskij-tehnicheskij-universitet-zakljuchil-soglashenija-o-sotrudnichestve-s-piatju-vuzami-zimbabve-566589-2023/>

⁵⁴⁰Discussion of cooperation, signing of a memorandum: Zimbabwean delegation to visit BSTU [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/obsuzhdenie-sotrudnichestva-podpisanie-memoranduma-bgtu-posetit-delegatsija-zimbabve-566182-2023/>

⁵⁴¹BNTU signed agreements on cooperation and implementation of joint educational programs with universities of Zimbabwe [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://times.bntu.by/news/13451-v-bntu-podpisany-soglasheniya-s-universitetami-zimbabve>

⁵⁴²Scientists from Grodno State University and Harare Polytechnic College agreed on cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/uchenye-grgu-i-politehnicheskogo-kolledzha-harare-dogovorilis-o-sotrudnichestve-592885-2023/>

Science and Technological Development of Zimbabwe agreed to sign a memorandum of intent and "identified a number of promising areas for cooperation: space technologies, new materials, technologies and complexes for processing mineral raw materials and ores, the agro-industrial complex, training of scientific personnel ..." ⁵⁴³.

Let us recall that in January 2023, Belarus and Zimbabwe signed a memorandum of understanding between the parties on the mutual recognition of educational documents in Harare. "And they see quite large prospects for cooperation in various areas of inter-university cooperation. This also applies to the training of specialists with higher education in such areas as the agro-industrial complex, mechanical engineering, and medical technology ⁵⁴⁴." So, with the signing of the roadmap for 2023-2025 in the field of higher education and university science, educational services of Belarus in Zimbabwe, apparently, will be in demand in all areas that develop the economy of this South African country, and will become the most important element of Belarusian-Zimbabwean relations. As for the prospects for bilateral trade and economic, production and cooperation, and scientific and educational cooperation, they are visible for quite a long time. And not only in these areas, but also in other areas.

⁵⁴³Space technologies and new materials: cooperation with Zimbabwe discussed at the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/kosmicheskie-tehnologii-i-novye-materialy-v-nan-belarusi-obsudili-sotrudnichestvo-s-zimbabve-566338-2023/>

⁵⁴⁴ Zaleski, B. Window of Opportunity and New Ideas. Implementation of Features of Economic Multifaceted Cooperation / Boris Zaleski. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing , 2023. – C. 23.

Zimbabwe: Boost trade and create joint ventures

Belarus and **Zimbabwe** established diplomatic relations more than thirty years ago. A decisive step in the development of bilateral cooperation between Minsk and Harare was made in early 2023, when the Belarusian leader paid a state visit to this southern African country. At that time, agreements were adopted in the fields of industry, trade, agriculture, energy, transport and mining. And then the governments of the two countries approved a roadmap for the implementation of the agreements reached, which included "65 events in various areas: political and diplomatic, trade and economic, agricultural, military-technical, healthcare and medical science, investment, energy, supply and maintenance of equipment. In addition, Belarus will continue to participate in the program for the modernization and mechanization of agriculture in Zimbabwe ⁵⁴⁵." And already in the two following years, a number of important events were noted in the relations between the parties.

Firstly, a year later, in February 2024, **the first meeting of the Joint Permanent Commission on Cooperation between Belarus and Zimbabwe was held in Harare**, where practical steps to develop cooperation between the two countries in the political, economic, social and security spheres were considered, and promising areas and cooperation projects for implementation in the medium and long term and increasing bilateral trade turnover were identified. In particular, "the intention to continue the third phase of the comprehensive project for the mechanization of Zimbabwe's agriculture was confirmed, and agreements were reached on the supply of passenger and special equipment ⁵⁴⁶."

Let us recall that the first meeting of the commission took place against the background of significant progress in many areas by the two countries. For example, the increase in Belarusian

⁵⁴⁵ Zalessky, B. Potential for the implementation of the agreements reached / Boris Zalessky. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2023. – P. 55.

⁵⁴⁶ On the first meeting of the Joint Standing Commission on Cooperation between Belarus and Zimbabwe [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : https://mfa.gov.by/press/news_mfa/c39b1509985063cc.html

exports by the end of 2023 was 103 percent. The parties are successfully implementing tasks, primarily in the field of agricultural mechanization. Two phases of this project have already been implemented, "which allowed Zimbabwe to achieve self-sufficiency in wheat production. By the end of 2023, Zimbabwe began exporting wheat to third countries for the first time in its history ⁵⁴⁷." And new promising projects in various areas were outlined, which will be implemented in the near future.

In particular, Belarus and Zimbabwe will reach a new level of cooperation in the industrial sector in 2024. This was stated in the memorandum of cooperation signed in late January by two ministries - the Ministry of Industry of Belarus and the Ministry of Industry and Trade of Zimbabwe - to raise bilateral relations to a higher level and "implement measures to develop international specialization and cooperation in production, determine priorities in industrial sectors, and facilitate the development and implementation of joint projects and programs ⁵⁴⁸."

Earlier, as part of the mechanization program launched in 2020, the Belarusian side delivered more than 1,800 tractors and about 80 grain harvesters to Zimbabwean farms. "In addition to agricultural machinery, domestic fire trucks (more than a hundred in 2023) and BELAZ trucks (more than fifty such vehicles operate in Zimbabwean quarries) are supplied to this country ⁵⁴⁹." And in January 2024, more than 30 tractors purchased in Belarus were put into operation in the Zimbabwean capital, Harare, which were sent to all areas of the city to help collect garbage and perform any other tasks in which they can be used. Moreover, "in Zimbabwe there are people trained to service these tractors, and there are also workshops if the equipment needs repair ⁵⁵⁰." During the first

⁵⁴⁷ Transcript of the approach to the press by the Minister of Foreign Affairs S. Aleinik following the visit to Zimbabwe (February 23, 2024, Harare) [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://mfa.gov.by/press/smi/b0f6472abc0e46d5.html>

⁵⁴⁸ The Ministries of Industry of Belarus and Zimbabwe signed a Memorandum of Cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://minprom.gov.by/18605-2/>

⁵⁴⁹ Belarus begins to supply tractor equipment and combines to Zimbabwe [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-nachinaet-postavljat-traktornuju-tehniku-i-kombainy-v-zimbabve-616746-2024/>

⁵⁵⁰ In the capital of Zimbabwe, 31 tractors purchased in Belarus were put into operation [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL :

meeting of the joint commission, the parties agreed to attract the necessary resources to fully implement the third phase of the mechanization program, “which includes the delivery of more than 3,000 MTZ tractors and 80 Gomselmash combines to Zimbabwe⁵⁵¹.”

On the sidelines of the first meeting of the commission in Harare, a Zimbabwean-Belarusian business forum “Building a strong partnership: using a common vision for a sustainable future” was also held, within the framework of which, for example, negotiations were held on a wide range of issues of economic and investment cooperation in medicine and pharmaceuticals, and their result “was the signing of a memorandum between the management company of the holding “Belpharmprom” and the Zimbabwean company Graniteside Chemicals (PVT) Ltd . The document provides for the development of cooperation in the registration and supply of Belarusian medicines⁵⁵².” In addition, Belarus and Zimbabwe want to jointly enter the markets of southern African countries - Mozambique and Botswana. For this purpose, Minsk and Harare, moving along an upward trajectory, have outlined new projects. “This is the joint assembly of Belarusian buses, cooperation in the gas industry, the supply of Belarusian dairy products and baby food to Zimbabwe⁵⁵³.”

Also at this forum, information was voiced that in April 2024, Belarus intends to organize a national stand at the multi-industry international exhibition Zimbabwe International Trade Fair 2024, which will be held in the city of Bulawayo and will showcase the industrial potential of Belarusian exporters. In 2023,

<https://www.belta.by/economics/view/v-stolitse-zimbabwe-vveli-v-ekspluatatsiju-31-aktor-zakuplennij-v-belarusi-612817-2024/>

⁵⁵¹ Aleinik: Belarus is ready to organize a joint business forum with Zimbabwe in Minsk [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.beltaby.ru/business/business-news/aleinik-belarus-gotova-organizovat-v-minske-sovmestnyj-s-zimbabwe-biznes-forum-i-167916.html>

⁵⁵² The Ministries of Health of Belarus and Zimbabwe have identified ways of cooperation in medicine [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/minzdravv-belarusi-i-zimbabwe-opredelili-puti-sotrudnichestva-v-medsine-617370-2024/>

⁵⁵³ Belarus and Zimbabwe want to enter the markets of southern African countries together [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/politics/view/belarus-i-zimbabwe-hotjat-vmeste-vyhodit-na-rynki-izuzhnhv-stran-afriki-617255-2024/>

the Made exposition in Belarus was represented by a range of products from 11 Belarusian companies. This time, products from the Minsk Tractor Plant, Gomselmash, Minsk Automobile Plant, AMKODOR OJSC, Bobruiskagromash, Lidselmash, and Pozhsnab OJSC will be demonstrated. "Also at the exhibition, BELAZ OJSC will present a line of quarry dump trucks and offer a range of services for further support and maintenance of its products⁵⁵⁴. "

A new element of interaction between Minsk and Harare in the trade and economic sphere in 2024 was the integration of the exchange mechanism into mutual trade between the two countries, which will open up new opportunities for Belarusian and Zimbabwean business entities. In February, the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange (BUCE) held talks with representatives of this African country, during which the parties emphasized that cooperation between Belarusian and Zimbabwean companies through the BUCE platform will not only ensure the growth of mutual trade turnover, but also simplify the access of Belarusian producers to the markets of third countries. And agricultural and metallurgical products have been identified among the promising commodity areas. For example, "the possibility of using exchange trading for the export of Belarusian dairy products, rapeseed oil and sugar to Zimbabwe is being considered. As for import transactions, Zimbabwean suppliers of non-ferrous metals, cotton and fruit and vegetable products will be attracted to BUCE for this purpose⁵⁵⁵. "

And another example in the context of interaction between Belarus and Zimbabwe. An interesting continuation of cooperation between the two countries in the field of emergency response took place at the end of 2023. In November, in Harare, about 60 specialists from 22 Zimbabwean regions participated in training courses on two main programs - "Training of operators of fire-fighting emergency rescue equipment, equipment and tools

⁵⁵⁴ Belarus to Present Large-Scale Exposition at Multi-Industry Exhibition in Zimbabwe [Electronic Resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-predstavit-masshtabnuiju-ekspozitsiju-na-mnogootraslevoj-vystavke-v-zimbabwe-616800-2024/>

⁵⁵⁵ Zimbabwe is interested in developing exchange trade with Belarus [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/zimbabwe-zainteresovano-v-razvitii-birzhevoj-torgovli-s-belarusiju-617283-2024/>

for extinguishing fires” and “Training of squad leaders for organizing fire extinguishing and conducting emergency rescue operations” - at the Belarusian technical center Bison Agro Machinery and fire department Fire Brigade City of Harare . Participants in the course "practised fire-fighting equipment skills and learned emergency rescue techniques, including fire fighting in buildings and structures, casualty recovery, upper-story evacuation, road accident response and first aid ⁵⁵⁶." The training provided valuable experience in enhancing the skills and preparedness of Zimbabwe's emergency response personnel.

Secondly, in April 2025, **the 2nd meeting of the Belarusian-Zimbabwean Joint Standing Commission on Cooperation was held in Harare** , where new areas of further cooperation between the two countries, promising projects in the field of agriculture, cooperation and expansion of the legal framework of bilateral relations were considered, and where documents were already signed "providing for the expansion of cooperation in agriculture, industry, education, healthcare, disaster management and the mining industry" ⁵⁵⁷ . An agreement was also reached to develop 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 inconsistent for many years. The trade imbalance in favor of Belarus underlines the need for Zimbabwe to increase competitiveness and expand the market for its export products ⁵⁵⁸ ." Nevertheless, the Belarusian side considers this African country a

⁵⁵⁶ Special course in 35 days. Teachers of the University of Civil Defense of the Ministry of Emergency Situations trained specialists in Zimbabwe [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/spetskurs-za-35-dnei-prepodavateli-universiteta-grazhdanskoi-zaschity-mchs-obuchili-spetsialistov-v-600251-2023/>

⁵⁵⁷ Belarus and Zimbabwe to develop comprehensive cooperation roadmap until 2030 [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/politics/view/belarus-i-zimbabwe-razrabotajut-vseobsemijuschuju-dorozhnuju-kartu-sotrudnichestva-do-2030-goda-709475-2025/>

⁵⁵⁸ Mudzimba, I.G. Distance is not a hindrance to friendship and cooperation / I.G. Mudzimba // [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL : <https://belta.by/special/interview/view/posol-zimbabwe-rasstojanie-ne-pomeha-dlja-druzby-i-sotrudnichestva-9640/>

reliable strategic partner on the continent. This was stated at the 2nd meeting of the standing commission.

In particular, cooperation between the two countries has already proven its effectiveness 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 thousand 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 thousand tons ⁵⁵⁹." At the 2nd meeting of the standing commission on cooperation, new Belarusian agricultural machinery was handed over to the Zimbabwean side: seven Gomselmash combines and 189 BELARUS tractors. And "as part of the implementation of the third stage of the Zimbabwean agricultural mechanization program, it is planned to supply 80 grain harvesters, 3,491 tractors, 30 grain trucks with trailers ⁵⁶⁰." All this equipment will be provided with warranty and post-warranty service, repair and supply of spare parts. Local specialists work and will work on this equipment. And they must receive the appropriate training in operating equipment from Belarus. For this purpose, the Bison service center was opened in this country earlier. Agro Machinery is the exclusive representative of Belarusian agricultural machinery in the region. About 80 percent of the employees are Zimbabwean citizens who have professional education in the field of training, operation of machinery and repair. "A warehouse of spare parts has also been formed here for rapid response both in the framework of technical maintenance and restoration of machinery, primarily that which works in the fields during the hot season. This once again proves that the approach is high-quality and is aimed at further progressive development of the center ⁵⁶¹." An important area remains the

⁵⁵⁹Karankevich: Belarus-Zimbabwe cooperation in agriculture has proven its effectiveness [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/karankevich-sotrudnichestvo-belarusi-i-zimbabwe-v-selskom-hoziajstve-dokazalo-svoiu-effektivnost-709306-2025/>

⁵⁶⁰Belarus and Zimbabwe plan to develop industrial cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-zimbabwe-planirujut-razvivat-promkkooperatsiju-709565-2025/>

⁵⁶¹The government delegation noted the 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/>

construction of grain drying complexes: in this country, it is planned to build four of them, as well as modernize two. This will also improve the efficiency of the country's agriculture.

At the 2nd meeting of the standing commission on cooperation, it was also announced that the Belgospischeprom concern is working on deliveries of food products to Zimbabwe. And "in terms of cooperation in the field of deliveries of fruit concentrates and purees for use in the food industry, interest was expressed in working on the purchase of certain types of semi-finished products from raw materials that do not grow in Belarus, which are in demand by Belarusian canning enterprises, on the site of the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange ⁵⁶²." Finally, one of the results 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 ⁵⁶³."

A week after the 2nd meeting of the joint commission in Harare, Belarusian enterprises were presented at the international multi-industry exhibition Zimbabwe International Trade Fair 2025 (ZITF) in the Zimbabwean city of Bulawayo, where over 20 countries were represented, including China, Japan, Great Britain, the United States of America, representatives of the European Union and regions of the African continent. More than 430 exhibitors showed their products and goods at the Zimbabwe International Exhibition Centre. "The Made in Belarus exposition stands presented a wide range of goods and services from the mechanical engineering, food industry, and education sectors ⁵⁶⁴."

Thus, exclusively within the framework of the Belarusian location, developments in the line of quarry dump trucks and related services for the support and maintenance of heavy

⁵⁶²"Belgospischeprom" is developing food supplies to Zimbabwe [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/belgospischeprom-prorabatyvaet-postavki-pischevoj-produktsii-v-zimbabwe-709216-2025/>

⁵⁶³Belarus 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/>

⁵⁶⁴Belarusian enterprises are represented at a multi-industry exhibition in Zimbabwe [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/belorusskie-predpriyatija-predstavleny-na-mnogootraslevoj-vystavke-v-zimbabwe-710492-2025/>

equipment were presented. In addition, OAO UKH BobruiskAgromash showed trailed and mounted machines, primarily soil-cultivating equipment, as well as equipment for harvesting forages. Zimbabwean partners of the Belarusian enterprise expressed "interest in purchasing machines for the application of liquid organic fertilizers of the MZhT series. A number of projects are being developed for the supply of agricultural machinery to the African region, the implementation of which will begin in the second half of 2025."⁵⁶⁵Note that BobruiskAgromash equipment is already working in the fields of Zimbabwe - heavy disc harrows and fire extinguishing machines.

The exhibition also featured a range of products from the food sector of Belarus with the participation of Orsha Meat-Canning Plant, Grodno Meat-Packing Plant, Kobrin Butter and Cheese Factory, Luninetsky Dairy Plant, and Berezovsky Meat-Canning Plant. The Belarusian State University demonstrated its educational potential, training programs, and industry-specific scientific and practical projects for foreign students. The Integral Association demonstrated medical equipment for intensive care and diagnostics, air purifiers.

Thirdly, in May 2025, **the President of Zimbabwe E. Mnangagwa visited Belarus**, during which a roadmap for strategic cooperation and partnership between the two countries for 2026-2030 was signed, which took into account all key joint initiatives in various areas of interaction and identified 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 relevant ministries on cooperation in the field of prevention and elimination of natural disasters and man-made accidents, memorandums of cooperation in the field of tourism, information and the press, on intentions to strengthen partnership in healthcare and reconstruction of the hospital in Harare, on promoting the development of micro, small and medium

⁵⁶⁵"Bobruiskagromash" will increase equipment supplies to Zimbabwe [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/bobruiskagromash-uvlechit-postavki-tehniki-v-zimbabwe-711570-2025/>

enterprises, on strengthening partnership in the field of waste management and water purification ⁵⁶⁶. "

In particular, Zimbabwe is interested not only in the supply of finished Belarusian products, but also in the exchange of production technologies, the construction of infrastructure for the agro-industrial complex by specialists from Belarus, and joint educational projects. Let us recall that "agriculture plays a key role in the economy of Zimbabwe - a significant part of the working population is employed in this industry. The main crops grown in the country are corn, sorghum, peanuts, round nuts and beans" ⁵⁶⁷. The necessary prerequisites have already been created to increase the export of Belarusian products to Zimbabwe. In 2024, skim milk powder was supplied from Belarus to this African country, and citrus fruits and flowers were imported. At the beginning of 2025, the trade turnover was replenished with supplies of meat and bone meal. And already in June of this year, at the international specialized exhibition "Belagro-2025", the Zimbabwean side indicated its interest in the supply of sunflower oil.

An important step was the approval of the form of the veterinary certificate and obtaining permits for the relevant economic entities of Belarus to supply dairy products to this African country. And already "in March 2024, the Zimbabwean side conducted an inspection of Belarusian milk processing plants, following which Belarusian enterprises began to export dairy products to Zimbabwe. The form of the veterinary certificate for such supplies was also agreed upon ⁵⁶⁸." At the moment, 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

⁵⁶⁶ Belarus and Zimbabwe signed a package of documents following the talks between Lukashenko and Mnangagwa [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/politics/view/belarus-i-zimbabwe-podpisi-paket-dokumentov-poitogam-peregovorov-lukashenko-i-mnangagvy-714764>

⁵⁶⁷ Technologies, infrastructure, personnel 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/>

⁵⁶⁸ Sunflower oil, milk. What other goods from Belarus is 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/>

participate in the training of specialists for the agricultural sector of Zimbabwe by accepting students at specialized universities. For reference, we note that more than 60 students from this country "are already studying at Belarusian universities in various specialties of agricultural, medical and technical profiles ⁵⁶⁹. "

The negotiations focused on the construction of grain storage facilities. After the successful use of Belarusian equipment, which allowed achieving record wheat harvests in recent seasons, the African partners stated the need to provide conditions for storing the harvested crop. In this regard, the Belarusian side offered its partners a number of projects in the livestock and poultry industries, and the construction of grain drying complexes. The Zimbabwean side is interested in building these grain storage facilities. Moreover, in Belarus "there are companies that are ready to go there, design and build these facilities on a turnkey basis ⁵⁷⁰. "

Another important issue is production cooperation. Note that "Zimbabwe is defined as one of the key countries on the African continent according to the strategy for export diversification and development of export deliveries ⁵⁷¹." There are quite a few plans there, and they are being implemented quite successfully. In this regard, Belarus plans to organize the production of tractor equipment in Zimbabwe by 2027 and, a little later, trucks and passenger vehicles, so that the jointly produced products can be supplied not only to the domestic Zimbabwean market, but also, in the future, to neighboring countries. And Belarusian specialists are already ready for long trips to transfer high-quality competencies to African partners.

⁵⁶⁹ Target of \$100 million. Lukashenko announced tangible practical results in cooperation with Zimbabwe [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/president/view/lukashenko-zajavil-ob-oschutimyh-prakticheskikh-rezultatah-v-sotrudnichestve-s-zimbabve-714735-2025/>

⁵⁷⁰ 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-kompleksoy-i-zernoohranilischa-v-zimbabve-714729-2025/>

⁵⁷¹ Belarus plans to organize production of tractor equipment in Zimbabwe by 2027 [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-k-2027-godu-planiruet-organizovat-v-zimbabve-proizvodstvo-traktornoy-tehniki-714713-2025/>

The next interesting topic is cooperation in the field of mineral resources extraction. It should be noted that "Zimbabwe is engaged in the extraction of minerals, mineral resources, and gold. Over 10 years, gold production has grown to 40 tons per year, which is definitely a success ⁵⁷²." In this regard, partners from South Africa proposed that Belarus "develop a serious basis for investment that will ensure productivity growth in this sector and allow our economies to prosper ⁵⁷³." They are also ready to consider new opportunities for expanding cooperation in the field of waste processing and management, water purification. In this regard, "the field of interest of the Zimbabwean side is garbage trucks, dump trucks, water trucks ⁵⁷⁴." Minsk Automobile Plant (MAZ) is being considered as a supplier. For now, MAZ's partner from Zimbabwe operates in the capital of the country - Harare, but after the completion of the construction of a large waste processing plant, it will expand its activities to ten more provinces of the country. Therefore, the immediate plans include a significant increase in the vehicle fleet.

As for humanitarian cooperation between the two countries, a memorandum of cooperation was signed between the Belarusian Telegraph Agency and the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation during the visit of Zimbabwean President E. Mnangagwa to Minsk. "The parties agreed to exchange journalists, photographers and other specialists to share experience. The document will also allow for prompt and regular sharing of information on events in Belarus and Zimbabwe in English ⁵⁷⁵." The Belarusian and

⁵⁷² Agricultural machinery, dairy products and cotton. In what areas does Zimbabwe want to cooperate with Belarus [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/selhoztehnika-molochnaja-produktsija-i-hlopok-po-kakim-napraavljenijam-v-zimbabwe-hotjat-sotrudnicchat-s-714434-2025/>

⁵⁷³ Zimbabwe proposes Belarus to engage in joint extraction of mineral resources [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/zimbabwe-predlagaet-belarusi-zanjatsija-sovmestnoj-dobychej-mineralnyh-resursov-714772-2025/>

⁵⁷⁴ Dump trucks, garbage trucks, water trucks. What Zimbabwean companies are ready to buy from MAZ [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/samosvaly-musorovozv-vodovozv-cto-kompanii-iz-zimbabwe-gotovy-zakupat-u-maza-714537-2025/>

⁵⁷⁵ BELTA and the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation signed a memorandum of cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/society/view/belta-i-zimbabvijskaja-teleradijoveshchatelnaja-korporatsija-podpisali-memorandum-o-sotrudnichestve-714588-2025/>

Zimbabwean media will exchange not only text materials, but also photo and video content.

Assessing the results of the visit of the Zimbabwean President to Belarus in May 2025, it should be noted that the high-level talks held in Minsk yielded tangible practical results, taking the political relations of the two countries to a new level, expanding trade and economic cooperation and continuing to form a legal framework for cooperation. Moreover, Belarus and Zimbabwe agreed to create a commission at the level of heads of state, which "will become a high-level strategic mechanism to coordinate the work of existing joint commissions and committees" in order to reach a sustainable mutual trade turnover approaching one hundred ⁵⁷⁶million dollars by 2030 . As for the current year, 2025, given the fact that Belarus chairs the Eurasian Economic Union and Zimbabwe chairs the Southern African Development Community, the parties agreed to intensify cooperation between these integration platforms in order to "increase trade turnover, create joint promising production, and open new markets both in Africa and Eurasia ⁵⁷⁷." By strengthening each other's capabilities in this way, Belarus and Zimbabwe send an additional powerful impetus to other participants in these integration blocs in terms of strategy and a model of mutually beneficial cooperation.

⁵⁷⁶ Belarus and Zimbabwe agreed to create a commission at the level of heads of state [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/president/view/belarus-i-zimbabwe-dogovorilis-sozdat-komissiju-na-urovne-glav-gosudarstv-714768-2025/>

⁵⁷⁷ New joint projects defined at negotiations between the presidents of Belarus and Zimbabwe [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/president/view/novve-sovmestnye-proekty-opredelenv-na-peregovorah-prezidentov-belarusi-i-zimbabwe-714763-2025/>

Equatorial Guinea: Promoting partnerships as effectively as possible

Equatorial Guinea, a country on the west coast of Central Africa, and Belarus signed a Roadmap for the Development of Cooperation for 2024-2026 in December 2023 in the capital of this African state, Malabo. This document was developed taking into account the Equatoguinean side and was comprehensive. "The document covers 15 key areas of interaction, including cooperation projects, supplies of Belarusian equipment and the organization of its maintenance, agriculture, healthcare, pharmaceuticals and the sale of medical equipment, and forestry⁵⁷⁸." In total, over the next three years, the parties agreed to implement 74 specific promising projects, including: the construction of an agro-town with the necessary infrastructure; the construction of one hundred social residential buildings; the creation of a plant for the production of ceramic bricks with a capacity of up to forty million pieces per year; the supply of fire trucks, construction and other equipment, including for the implementation of a joint project on logging and the creation of new farmland; carrying out work on the electrification of remote areas. In addition to the roadmap, more than fifteen bilateral agreements were adopted, including: on the promotion and mutual protection of investments, on the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of tax evasion on profits and property, on cooperation and mutual assistance in customs matters; on cooperation in the field of tourism; on mutual recognition of educational documents; on cooperation in the field of science and technology. In addition, a number of documents were concluded at the interdepartmental level, including memorandums of cooperation and mutual understanding.

Let us recall that in October 2023, the first meeting of the Joint Permanent Belarusian-Equatoguinean Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation was held in Minsk, at which the parties

⁵⁷⁸ The Presidents of Belarus and Equatorial Guinea signed a roadmap for developing cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : https://www.belta.by/president/view/prezidenty-belarusi-i-ekvatorialnoj-gvinei-podpisali-dorozhnyu-kartu-po-razvitiyu-sotrudnichestva-604377-2023/?utm_source=belta&utm_medium=news&utm_campaign=accent

"agreed to ensure a constant increase in trade turnover in order to bring it in line with the potential of the two countries, as well as to promote specific projects in the fields of industry, technological development, agriculture, healthcare, science, technology, education, culture, and construction ⁵⁷⁹." In addition, bilateral sectoral working groups were created to quickly achieve results in the main sectors of bilateral cooperation. "The focus is on industrial cooperation, agricultural mechanization, Belarus' experience in ensuring food security, and the development of cooperation in the energy sector, healthcare, pharmaceuticals, petrochemicals, and education ⁵⁸⁰." And already in November 2023, at the first meetings of these working groups, the prospects for implementing projects for the joint construction of poultry farms, energy infrastructure facilities, social housing, enterprises for the production of building materials, the possibility of joint activities in fish processing, the creation of agricultural clusters and a production and logistics hub for Belarusian products were discussed.

In particular, at a meeting of the working group in the field of industry, the Belarusian side voiced proposals in terms of agricultural mechanization, the construction of grain drying complexes for storing and drying grain, the supply of various automotive and road construction equipment, Belarusian quarry dump trucks, diesel generator and compressor stations, industrial diesel engines. At the same time, Belarusian manufacturers offer not only comprehensive projects, but also "adhere to a comprehensive approach, which includes not only the supply of equipment, but also the provision of spare parts, service and warranty service, training for local specialists in the operation and repair of equipment, if necessary, sending their technical specialists to put the equipment into operation and teach the rules

⁵⁷⁹ Zalesky, B. L. The goal is promotion specific projects / B. L. Zalesky // Materials of the XX International scientific and practical conference "Fundamental and applied science – 2023", October 30 – November 7, 2023: Sheffield. Science and education LTD. – P. 11.

⁵⁸⁰ On the visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belarus S. Aleinik to Equatorial Guinea [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : https://mfa.gov.bv/press/news_mfa/ddb586f041dd247f.html

for its use ⁵⁸¹." In addition, the talk is also about the construction of a waste processing plant, the subsequent processing of this waste into finished products and the generation of electricity. This contract is preliminarily estimated at 100 million dollars. And also: "Equatorial Guinea in the future will become a kind of hub for the supply of Belarusian equipment to neighboring African countries. In the future, we may also talk about creating production facilities here ⁵⁸²."

As for the working group on agriculture, at the first meeting in November the parties agreed on the supply of agricultural machinery and food products, Belarusian seeds of corn, potatoes and other crops, based on their interest, as well as on the implementation of joint projects in the field of poultry farming and vegetable growing, plant protection products from our country. The fact is that the Belarusian side intends to seriously join in the actual creation and development of a modern agricultural sector in Equatorial Guinea, which "currently imports almost the entire volume of food consumed in the country, with the exception of literally a few items traditionally grown in the country ⁵⁸³." So Belarus proposed comprehensive solutions in this regard. In particular, Belarusian specialists have already begun studying the soils in this African country both on the islands and on the mainland. A laboratory will be created here, where, after training, local specialists will determine the soil composition. After that, the implementation of priority plans will begin. Firstly, to tidy up the territory where there is suitable soil. Secondly, to teach local workers to grow crops with the application of mineral fertilizers. Thirdly, to help build poultry farms – for a population of 20 thousand and for egg production. Fourthly, to assist in the

⁵⁸¹ The Ministry of Industry of Belarus discussed areas of bilateral cooperation with Equatorial Guinea [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/minprom-belarusi-obsudil-napravlenija-dvustoronnego-sotrudnichestva-s-ekvatorialnoi-gvineei-599714-2023/>

⁵⁸² Rogozhnik: Equatorial Guinea can become a hub for the supply of Belarusian equipment to neighboring countries [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/rogozhnik-ekvatorialnaja-gvineia-mozhet-stat-habom-dlja-postavki-belorusskoi-tehniki-v-sosednie-strany-604414-2023/>

⁵⁸³ Belarus to help feed people in Equatorial Guinea. Bartosh shared ambitious plans [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-pomozhet-nakormit-ljudej-v-ekvatorialnoi-gvinee-bartosh-podelilsia-ambitsioznyimi-planami-604413-2023>

construction of an agro-town. Fifthly, to create a center for training Equatoguinean specialists. Sixthly, “cooperation in the field of fisheries (delivery from Belarus and fish processing) will be established, as well as training specialists from Equatorial Guinea in the fields of mechanization, processing and fish farming in agricultural universities of Belarus” ⁵⁸⁴. So the program of the working group on agriculture turns out to be quite intense.

The working group on cooperation in the field of healthcare and pharmaceuticals also has its own plan for building a national healthcare system in this African state. This plan is comprehensive and covers almost all activities in order to quickly solve the tasks set in three to five years. But for this, first of all, it is necessary to solve the problem of medical personnel in Equatorial Guinea, since “there are a number of medical buildings that were built and relatively put into operation. But they do not function, <...> there are no professional personnel, including specialists who can service this medical complex” ⁵⁸⁵. For this reason, the Belarusian side will help organize training in medical schools and faculties in Equatorial Guinea itself, but at the first stage - in Belarus. As for the treatment process, it will be organized using Belarusian drugs and medical products. The logistics of new projects have already been determined. For example, the Equatoguinean side proposed that specialists from Belarus open an oncology department in the La Paz clinic in the city of Bata. And also to resolve “the issue of the operation of a logistics center for the delivery of medical equipment and medicines to African countries” ⁵⁸⁶.

Finally, at the first meeting of the working groups on cooperation in the scientific and technical sphere and in the field of education, the parties identified the most priority areas of

⁵⁸⁴ Belarus plans to supply agricultural machinery, seeds and food to Equatorial Guinea [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-planiruet-postavljat-v-ekvatorialnuiu-gvineju-selhoztehniku-semena-i-prodovolstvie-599940-2023/>

⁵⁸⁵ It is proposed to build the healthcare system in Equatorial Guinea according to Belarusian models [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/sistemu-zdravoohranenija-v-ekvatorialnoj-gvinee-predlagajut-postroit-po-belorusskim-lekalam-604422-2023>

⁵⁸⁶ Equatorial Guinea is interested in joint projects with Belarus in the field of healthcare [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/ekvatorialnaja-gvineja-zainteresovana-v-sovmestnyh-proektah-s-belarusiju-v-sfere-zdravoohranenija-604276-2023>

interaction. In the first case, these are issues of "supplies of high-tech science-intensive products and cooperation between scientific organizations, the possibility of participating in scientific and technical events and holding a joint Belarusian-Equatorial Guinean competition of scientific and technical projects"⁵⁸⁷. In the second case, these are issues of "training personnel in engineering, engineering and technical, engineering and pedagogical, technological, agricultural specialties of higher education, in specialties of vocational and secondary specialized education, as well as in the field of teaching Equatorial Guinean citizens the Russian language"⁵⁸⁸.

And already in 2024, the two countries were able to make significant progress in developing this cooperation. In April, at a meeting of the first session of the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of Belarus of the eighth convocation, deputies adopted the draft law "On 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 is aimed at creating a legal basis for bilateral relations in the field of investment cooperation, strengthening guarantees for the protection of capital investments. "Ratification of the agreement will make it possible to use effective mechanisms to protect Belarusian investors in the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, which will contribute to the development of trade and economic cooperation"⁵⁸⁹. In particular, the agreement provides for: creating favorable conditions for investment, providing investors with a regime in accordance with the minimum standard of treatment of foreigners stipulated by international law, including fair and equal treatment, full

⁵⁸⁷ Belarus and Equatorial Guinea will develop cooperation in the scientific and technical sphere [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-ekvatorialnaja-gvineja-budut-razvivat-sotrudnichestvo-v-nauchno-tehnicheskoi-sfere-599740-2023/>

⁵⁸⁸ Belarus and Equatorial Guinea to Establish Cooperation in Personnel Training [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-ekvatorialnaja-gvineja-naladiat-sotrudnichestvo-v-podgotovke-kadrov-599731-2023/>

⁵⁸⁹ Belarus and Equatorial Guinea Strengthen Guarantees for Mutual Investment Protection [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-ekvatorialnaja-gvineja-ukrepiajut-garantii-po-vzaimnoj-zaschite-investitsij-628593-2024/>

protection and security, protection from forced seizure of property equivalent in consequences to expropriation or nationalization, the possibility of applying to an international arbitration court to protect their rights and interests.

And in 2024, the Ministry of Industry of Belarus took on the implementation of six comprehensive projects in this African country. "We are talking about the supply of Belarusian machinery and equipment for the mechanization of agriculture, the electrification of remote agricultural areas, landscaping and cleaning of territories, waste disposal, construction, and ensuring fire safety in the country ⁵⁹⁰." For this purpose, the Ministry of Industry of Belarus signed two memorandums of cooperation: the first - with the Ministry of Social and Housing Construction and Urban Planning; the second - with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Local Corporations of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea. These documents provide for the development of interaction between the ministries in the field of supply of Belarusian municipal and road construction equipment, as well as garbage trucks and special fire-fighting equipment. In this regard, we note that the possibility of a comprehensive solution, when, along with the supply of various types of machinery and equipment, industry enterprises provide a full range of services - provision of spare parts, service and warranty service, training in the operation and repair of equipment for local specialists, if necessary, sending their technical specialists to put the equipment into operation and teach the rules for its use - is an important advantage of Belarusian manufacturers. This approach has already been successfully tested in the implementation of large projects for the supply of Belarusian equipment to the markets of African countries.

The next issue is cooperation between Belarus and Equatorial Guinea in the field of construction. Speaking about this topic, we note 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 that stimulate economic growth. In this regard, there is "growing

⁵⁹⁰ The Ministry of Industry and Trade intends to implement 6 complex projects with Equatorial Guinea [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/minprom-nameren-realizovat-6-kompleksnyh-proektov-s-ekvatorialnoj-gvineej-607364-2023/>

interest from foreign companies in investing in the country's construction industry." ⁵⁹¹ In June 2024, negotiations were held in Minsk between the heads of the ministries of architecture and construction of Belarus and social, housing and urban planning of Equatorial Guinea, where they discussed the construction of a ceramic brick factory by Belarusian specialists in the territory of the African state and "the possibility of organizing advisory assistance from Belarusian specialists in Equatorial Guinea and training specialists in construction professions using Belarusian methodology was discussed" ⁵⁹². "

And in August 2024, 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 signed a cooperation agreement to develop and strengthen mutually beneficial relations between the two countries. After all, cooperation in the field of education contributes to the deepening of relations and better understanding between peoples. In this regard, the parties will promote "the establishment and development of direct ties between educational institutions of the two countries, participation in educational events held in the states, the exchange of educational literature and scientific publications in accordance with the legislation of the states" ⁵⁹³. " And already in September of last year, students from Equatorial Guinea came to Belarus to study at universities. And in 2025, the first admission of citizens from this country to study at Belarusian medical higher educational institutions will take place : "20 people will come to study in Belarus on a grant" ⁵⁹⁴. "

⁵⁹¹ Review of the construction market of Equatorial Guinea [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://budexport.by/equatorial-guinea/>

⁵⁹² Belarus and Equatorial Guinea to Give Impetus to Cooperation in the Construction Sector [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-ekvatorialnaja-gvineja-pridatut-impuls-sotrudnichestvu-v-stroitelnoj-sfere-644244-2024/>

⁵⁹³ The Ministry of Education of Belarus and Equatorial Guinea signed a cooperation agreement [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/society/view/minobrazovanija-belarusi-i-ekvatorialnoj-gvinei-zakljuchili-soglasenie-o-sotrudnichestve-658002-2024/>

⁵⁹⁴ Citizens of Equatorial Guinea will come to study at Belarusian medical universities for the first time this year [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/society/view/grazhdane-ekvatorialnoj-gvinei-v-etom-godu-vpervye-priidut-na-obuchenie-v-belorusskie-medvuzvy-720328-2025/>

All these facts show that the Roadmap for the Development of Cooperation between Belarus and Equatorial Guinea for 2024-2026 is already starting to accelerate, moving along an upward trajectory and increasing interaction in various areas. The parties are going to carry out a very large amount of work to implement the main provisions of this document, which will, on a multi-level basis, most effectively promote partnerships to implement the planned bilateral agreements.

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LATIN AMERICA

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The most concrete trade and economic interaction

Latin America is one of the political and economic centers of the emerging multipolar world, where more than 650 million people live. "Many countries in this region are aimed at pursuing an independent foreign policy and are striving to move away from the historically established raw material nature of their economies through accelerated innovative development ⁵⁹⁵." And the Republic of Belarus can provide effective assistance to these states by developing the most specific trade and economic cooperation.

In June 2022, the Belarusian-Latin American Forum was held in Moscow at the Business and Cultural Complex of the Belarusian Embassy in Russia. The forum brought together representatives of the embassies of Latin American countries in Belarus and Russia from 15 countries. The event was attended by ambassadors, heads of diplomatic missions and diplomats from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Venezuela, Guatemala, Honduras, Dominican Republic, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Chile, Ecuador and El Salvador.

The Latin American and Caribbean region is of interest to Belarus as an important platform for integration into global trade and economic relations. In 2021, the total volume of imports of the countries of the region from Belarus "amounted to \$715.5 million, an increase of 3.5% compared to 2020. The product range of Belarusian exports to this region includes potash fertilizers, land transport vehicles, ferrous metal products, chemical and petrochemical products, tools and optical devices, dairy products ⁵⁹⁶." At the end of 2021, Belarus' trade turnover with the Latin American region amounted to about \$1.5 billion.

⁵⁹⁵ Aleinik explained why Belarus is interested in cooperation with Latin American countries [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/politics/view/aleinik-rasskazal-chem-belarusi-interesno-sotrudnichestvo-so-stranami-latinskoj-ameriki-567456-2023/>

⁵⁹⁶ NSM on the prospects for promoting Belarusian goods and services in Latin America [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/comments/view/ntsm-o-perspektivah-prodvizhenija-belorusskih-tovarov-i-uslug-v-latinskoj-ameriki-8247//>

Belarus already has positive experience of work in the region. "This includes the participation of Belarusian companies in geological and seismic exploration, mining in Venezuela and Ecuador, construction projects in Venezuela, Ecuador and Peru, supplies of Belarusian agricultural, automotive and passenger equipment to Venezuela, Cuba, Argentina, Colombia, Nicaragua and Bolivia, export of quarry equipment to Venezuela and Chile⁵⁹⁷." Work in these areas is being carried out quite actively. It is planned to further increase the volume of trade and investment, first of all, through the implementation of joint cooperation projects. Belarus aims to move from simple trade to the creation of joint ventures and assembly plants in cooperation with Latin America.

For example, the dynamically developing agricultural sector of Latin American countries needs the appropriate equipment. Reliable and competitive in price tractors, combines and other Belarusian equipment can take a worthy place here. "The range of modern products manufactured in Belarus, and this is primarily agricultural machinery, quarry dump trucks, trucks, road construction equipment, public electric transport, tire products and much more, can be of direct interest for meeting the needs of Latin American producers of agricultural products, the mining industry and the transport sector⁵⁹⁸."

Belarus is interested not only in trade in goods, but also in the export of services, which are mainly transport, computer, construction services, as well as services in the field of mining. "At the end of 2021, the volume of trade in services with Latin American countries increased to \$ 200 million (58.3% of 2020). Belarusian exports reached \$ 178.9 million (97.9%)⁵⁹⁹."

⁵⁹⁷ Shestakov: Belarus is ready to strengthen cooperation with Latin American countries in all areas [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/politics/view/shestakov-belarus-gotova-k-ukrepleniju-sotrudnichestva-so-stranami-latinskoj-ameriki-po-vsem-510548-2022/>

⁵⁹⁸ Pivovar, E. Belarus in cooperation with Latin America aims to transition to the creation of joint ventures and assembly plants / E. Pivovar // [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-v-sotrudnichestve-s-latinskoj-amerikoj-natselena-na-perehod-k-sozdaniyu-sp-i-sborochnyh-510550-2022/>

⁵⁹⁹ Pivovar, E. MFA of Belarus: Trade with Latin America Demonstrates Steady Growth / E. Pivovar // [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL :

Nevertheless, the dynamics in mutual trade in goods and services, as well as the current level of trade and economic relations between Belarus and many Latin American countries do not fully correspond to the real capabilities of the parties. Of course, exporters are most interested in promoting Belarusian "complex technical products - products of mechanical engineering, the scientific sector, ranging from tomographs to spare parts and engines for existing automotive and tractor equipment ⁶⁰⁰." A promising area of cooperation is the expansion of contacts in the field of education. Universities in Belarus are ready to accept applicants for training in various specialties that are in demand in Latin American countries, including training specialists in industry, agriculture, and healthcare.

In recent years, Latin American countries have maintained their role as growth points and foreign trade activity for Belarus. Among them are Brazil, Argentina, Colombia, Venezuela, Cuba and Nicaragua.

The Brazilian market is of great interest to the Belarusian mechanical engineering and chemical industries. This is due to Brazil's constantly growing needs for agricultural and other machinery, fertilizers, tires and other goods produced by Belarusian enterprises. In 2021, the volume of bilateral trade amounted to about \$800 million, exports - \$585 million. Commodity items such as cord materials - threads and fabrics - for the production of car tires, brewer's malt and electric vehicles have significant potential in the context of increasing supplies to the Brazilian market.

Argentina is an important trade and economic partner for Belarus. In 2021, the trade turnover between the countries amounted to 136 million dollars. Promising areas of trade and economic cooperation with this country include the organization of supplies of Belarusian complex technical products: agricultural

<https://www.belta.by/economics/view/mid-belarusi-torgovlja-s-latinskoj-amerikoi-demonstriruet-ustoichivyi-rost-510549-2022/>

⁶⁰⁰ Pivovar, E. Shestakov: Belarus can sell a wide range of products to Latin America / E. Pivovar // [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/shestakov-belarus-mozhet-prodavat-v-latinskuju-ameriku-shirokij-spektr-produktsii-510577-2022/>

and logging equipment, forage and grain harvesters, quarry dump trucks, passenger cars and electric transport.

In 2021, trade turnover between Belarus and **Colombia** amounted to \$90 million, Belarusian exports - \$80 million. New product items that may be in demand on the Colombian market include agricultural machinery, buses, food products, and the IT sector may also become a factor.

There are also points of interaction for intensifying trade and economic relations between Belarus and **Venezuela**. In 2021, Belarusian goods worth almost \$2 million were delivered to Venezuela, an increase of 82 percent. Among the most promising commodity items of Belarusian exports for deliveries to Venezuela are condensed and dry milk and cream, printed books, brochures, pipes, tubes, hoses and fittings made of plastic, and whey.

Belarus and **Cuba** are also working on new joint projects in the trade and economic sphere. The basis of Belarusian supplies to Cuba are tractors and tractor units, condensed and dry milk and cream, parts for receiving and transmitting equipment, parts and accessories for cars, tractors, devices and equipment used in medicine, piston internal combustion engines. A promising direction for Belarusian exports may also be the supply of medicines and medical equipment.

In September 2022, the Belarusian-Cuban Business Forum was held, the participants of which considered promising areas of trade and economic cooperation between the two countries and current issues of doing business. More than 90 representatives from 65 enterprises in areas of interest to Belarus for promotion to the Cuban market, and 18 representatives of Cuban businesses held talks on the development of "mutually beneficial cooperation and the implementation of joint projects in the field of molecular immunology, scientific and technological developments, education, metallurgy, agricultural engineering, trade, coffee production, rum and other areas"⁶⁰¹.

⁶⁰¹ Belarus and Cuba to discuss prospects for trade and economic cooperation at business forum on September 27 [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-kuba-obsudiat-perspektivy-torgovo-ekonomicheskogo-sotrudnichestva-na-biznes-forume-27-525866-2022>

It should be noted that this is the first meeting of business representatives of the two countries in a long time. In addition, for Belarus, Cuba is a partner in export-import operations, an independent and self-sufficient country, and is also considered as a platform for entering the large Latin American market - Venezuela, Bolivia and other large countries in this region. "The trade turnover between Belarus and Cuba in 2021 amounted to \$ 22.9 million, more than \$ 20 million of which accounted for by Belarusian exports ⁶⁰²." The participants of the business forum showed that the potential of the two countries has not yet been exhausted. Moreover, the establishment of business contacts between representatives of the business community of Belarus and Cuba will spur the further development of trade and economic relations.

The Cuban side is ready to cooperate with partners from Belarus, in particular, in mechanical engineering. For reference, we note: currently, more than 20 thousand Belarusian-made tractors are working in the fields of Cuba. At the same time, cooperation can be "not only in the acquisition of new models, but also in the purchase of spare parts for the restoration of equipment that is already in Cuba. We are interested in the supply of spare parts for the repair and restoration of tractors, MAZ and AMKODOR trucks, buses. We can engage in assembly, as well as create projects for the supply of this equipment to the Latin American market. Belarus and Cuba also have great potential in the field of digital economy and tourism ⁶⁰³."

But the greatest interest for Cuban partners is in the medical field. In particular, in November 2022, the first Belarusian medicines were registered in this Latin American country. "This step became possible thanks to long-term joint work between the Belarusian (Center for Expertise and Testing in Healthcare, Management Company of the Belpharmprom Holding) and Cuban

⁶⁰² Businesses of Belarus and Cuba intend to develop cooperation in medicine, mechanical engineering and logistics [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/biznes-belarusi-i-kubv-nameren-razvivat-sotrudnichestvo-v-meditsine-mashinostroenii-i-logistike-525975-2022/>

⁶⁰³ Medicine, mechanical engineering, tourism. The Cuban Ambassador spoke about areas of cooperation with Belarus [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/meditsina-mashinostroenie-turizm-posol-kubv-rasskazal-o-napravlenijah-sotrudnichestva-s-belarusiju-525993-2022/>

(Center for State Control of Medicines, Equipment and Medical Devices (CECMED)) parties. We are talking about medicines produced by UP Minskintercaps ⁶⁰⁴." In addition, the Center for Expertise and Testing in Healthcare and CECMED signed an agreement on conducting interlaboratory comparisons, which will help increase the level of trust between testing laboratories of Belarus and Cuba, the qualifications of specialists in the field of laboratory research, promote the harmonization of requirements for drug quality control and, as a result, increase the effectiveness and safety of medicines for patients of the two countries.

In November 2022, a cooperation agreement was also signed by the Belarusian Medical Academy of Postgraduate Education (BelMAPO) and the Medical University of Havana. At the Cuban Center for Immunological Research, Belarusian specialists agreed on cooperation in the field of prenatal diagnostics, neonatal screening, oncology and diabetology, as well as on the possibility of using Cuban reagents as an adequate replacement for those currently used in various types of screening studies. "At the Cuban Center for Molecular Immunology, representatives of BelMAPO agreed to open joint research projects in the field of therapy of neurological diseases and in the field of ophthalmology, as well as combustiology using stem cell technologies ⁶⁰⁵."

In the same November 2022, the legal framework of Belarusian-Cuban relations was supplemented by an intergovernmental agreement on mutual recognition of educational documents, which considers the following as promising areas of cooperation: "conducting joint research to create drugs and pharmaceutical substances; development and manufacture of medical products and devices for the diagnosis and treatment of diseases in the field of cardiac surgery, traumatology and orthopedics, oncology, dentistry; development and production of computer-oriented measuring systems and measuring

⁶⁰⁴ Belarusian medicines registered in Cuba [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belorusskie-lekarstva-zaregistrirrovany-na-kube-536206-2022/>

⁶⁰⁵ BelMAPO and the Medical University of Havana signed a cooperation agreement [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belmapo-i-meduniversitet-gavany-podpisali-dogovor-o-sotrudnichestve-536529-2022/>

instruments; research into the problems of electromagnetic safety of the population and electromagnetic ecology of the habitat in the context of the intensive development of new-generation mobile communication systems and services”⁶⁰⁶. The parties will cooperate both within the framework of science and technology parks, which are actively developing in Belarus and Cuba, and will consider the possibility of creating joint ventures, including in Cuba. In addition, other proposals are being discussed: the possibility of participation of higher education institutions of the two countries in competitions of Belarusian-Cuban scientific and technical projects in priority areas of cooperation; implementation of joint educational programs for training bachelors and masters in a number of areas - pharmaceuticals, information technology, engineering and technical specialties. Currently, 10 direct agreements are in effect between universities in our countries. So a good foundation for the further development of Belarusian-Cuban bilateral relations has already been laid.

Nicaragua should also be mentioned among the important political and economic partners of Belarus in Latin America . Moreover, in May 2024, the two countries will celebrate the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. And in May 2023, Minsk and Managua announced that they aim to seriously intensify trade, economic and humanitarian ties in order to constantly support and promote the bilateral agenda, filling it with new projects and cooperation programs. It should be noted that trade relations between Belarus and Nicaragua are still relatively small. They are based on deliveries of Belarusian products. And the legal framework is in the process of formation.

In May 2023, a government delegation of this Latin American country visited Minsk. This visit showed that Belarus and Nicaragua intend to actively develop the legal foundation of bilateral relations. In particular, several important documents were signed in the Belarusian capital. Firstly, the General Agreement between the governments of the two countries on the provision of export loans, which will strengthen the position of exporters from

⁶⁰⁶ Belarus and Cuba signed an agreement on the recognition of educational documents [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-kuba-podpisali-soglashenie-o-priznanii-dokumentov-ob-obrazovanii-535587-2022/>

Belarus. "The Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure of Nicaragua, the Municipal Institute for Transport Regulation of Managua, and the Nicaraguan Institute for Municipal Development will act as buyers of Belarusian equipment. Lending will be carried out using credit funds from the Development Bank of the Republic of Belarus ⁶⁰⁷. "

Secondly, a basic agreement that opens up opportunities for industrial cooperation and will allow "in the long term to significantly increase supplies of Belarusian equipment in demand in Nicaragua. This will undoubtedly have a positive effect on increasing joint trade ⁶⁰⁸." Thirdly, an agreement on cooperation in the field of education, which will provide a legal basis for interaction between the parties and the establishment of working contacts between educational institutions of the two countries, the implementation of "training of specialists in the specialties most in demand in Nicaragua ⁶⁰⁹," and will also facilitate the exchange of specialized information and develop scientific and technical cooperation, which is part of this work. In addition, Minsk and Managua are working on draft agreements on trade and economic cooperation, promotion and mutual protection of investments, the creation of a joint committee on trade and economic cooperation, as well as the abolition of the visa regime.

Belarus and Nicaragua also decided to take a comprehensive approach to trade and economic cooperation with an emphasis on industrial cooperation and investment cooperation. At the same time, the parties focused on the implementation of joint projects in agriculture and in the field of supplies of Belarusian passenger, road construction and agricultural equipment to the Nicaraguan market. In particular, "in economic terms, first of all, we are

⁶⁰⁷ Ministry of Industry: Agreement with Nicaragua on Providing Export Credits Will Strengthen Positions of Belarusian Exporters [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/minprom-soglashenie-s-nikaragua-o-predostavlenii-eksportnyh-kreditov-ukrept-pozitsii-belorusskih-567470-2023/>

⁶⁰⁸ Transcript of the approach to the press by the Minister of Foreign Affairs S. Aleinik following the talks with the head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nicaragua (May 19, 2023, Minsk) [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://mfa.gov.by/press/smi/b1045153bb04077c.html>

⁶⁰⁹ Belarus signed an agreement with Nicaragua on the provision of export credits [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-podpisala-s-nikaragua-soglashenie-o-predostavlenii-eksportnyh-kreditov-567453-2023/>

talking about the development of industrial cooperation, the use of Belarusian agricultural technologies in the development of agriculture in Nicaragua ..." ⁶¹⁰. Back in June 2022, at the talks in Minsk between the Ministries of Agriculture and Food of Belarus and Agriculture and Livestock of Nicaragua, the parties considered the prospects for cooperation in the field of agriculture. They agreed on cooperation in the field of animal husbandry, veterinary medicine, agricultural education, and the exchange of experience in crop production. In addition, "Belarus is interested in supplies of raw cane sugar, coffee, cocoa beans and semi-finished fruit products for the production of baby food from Nicaragua" ⁶¹¹.

Another interesting topic that may become promising in the Belarusian-Nicaraguan economic agenda is the possibility of Belarus' participation in the construction of the Nicaraguan Canal. The fact is that back in 2012, the National Assembly of Nicaragua approved the project for the construction of the "Great Transoceanic Canal of Nicaragua", which "if completed, will connect the waters of the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans. It is assumed that the new interoceanic canal will become a longer, wider and deeper alternative to the Panama Canal (opened in 1920) and will seriously relieve maritime traffic" ⁶¹². So, despite the geographical remoteness, distance is not an obstacle to establishing cooperation when partners have respect, trust and friendship.

⁶¹⁰ Aleinik: Belarus and Nicaragua aim to seriously intensify trade and economic cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/politics/view/aleinik-belarus-i-nikaragua-natseleny-na-serieznuiu-aktivizatsiiu-torgovo-ekonomicheskogo-567428-2023/>

⁶¹¹ Belarus and Nicaragua intend to cooperate in animal husbandry and agricultural education [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-nikaragua-namereny-sotrudnichat-v-zhivotnovodstve-i-agrarnom-obrazovanii-506979-2022/>

⁶¹² Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Does Not Rule Out Possibility of Belarus Participation in Construction of Nicaraguan Canal [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/glava-mid-nikaragua-ne-iskljuchaet-vozmozhnosti-uchastija-belarusi-v-stroitelstve-nikaraguanskogo-567406-2023/>

An important integration platform

The Republic of Belarus currently maintains diplomatic relations with all 33 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. This region of the globe is of interest to our country as an important platform for integration into global trade and economic ties. And this contributes to the rapprochement of the Belarusian side with a number of Latin American countries. For example, "with some countries of the region, relations have already reached the level of strategic partnership, while with others, the expansion of interaction in the political, trade and economic, educational, scientific and technical and other spheres is becoming increasingly progressive ⁶¹³." Let us recall that the embassies of Belarus operate in Argentina, Brazil, Venezuela, Colombia and Cuba. In 2023, many interesting and significant events took place in the relations of our republic with a number of countries in the region.

Let's start with **the Republic of Nicaragua**. In October 2023, the third meeting of the Belarusian-Nicaraguan Joint Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation was held in Minsk, where the current state of interaction between Minsk and Managua was discussed and further steps to expand bilateral partnership ties were outlined. In particular, the opportunities and prospects "in the field of housing and industrial construction, increasing bilateral trade, cooperation in the areas of investment, food, light industry, pharmaceuticals, culture, strengthening business contacts between the two countries, establishing ties between the capital authorities of Belarus and Nicaragua" were considered ⁶¹⁴.

Let us recall that the first two meetings of the commission were held: in September 2014 - in Minsk; in September 2015 - in Managua. During this time, Belarusian exports mainly consisted of agricultural machinery and components, "horticulture and forestry equipment, parts for internal combustion engines, bearings. In the commodity structure of imports, the largest share

⁶¹³ Belarus and the Countries of Latin America [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : https://www.mfa.gov.by/bilateral/america/latin_america/

⁶¹⁴ On the meeting of the Belarusian-Nicaraguan joint commission on trade and economic cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : https://www.mfa.gov.by/press/news_mfa/b2665dfb1e8ad9b4.html

was occupied by deliveries of bananas, coffee and strong alcoholic beverages ⁶¹⁵. " And in May 2023, the parties announced that they were aimed at seriously intensifying trade, economic and humanitarian ties in order to constantly fill them with new projects and cooperation programs. At the same time, a number of important bilateral documents were signed in Minsk: the General Agreement between the Governments of Belarus and Nicaragua on the provision of export loans; a basic agreement on the supply of Belarusian equipment to the Nicaraguan market; "an agreement on cooperation in the field of education, which will provide a legal basis for interaction between the parties and the establishment of working contacts between educational institutions of the two countries" ⁶¹⁶. " In June 2023, the parties discussed the possibilities of cooperation in agriculture and agreed to work out the prospects for organizing cooperation in such areas as "exchange of genetic material of agricultural crops, animal husbandry, internships for scientists and specialists, training of Nicaraguan specialists in master's and postgraduate programs of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus" ⁶¹⁷.

And in July 2023, a visit of the Belarusian delegation headed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs S. Aleinik to Nicaragua took place, where at the highest and high levels "investment projects, contracts for the supply of Belarusian equipment, prospects for Belarus' participation in large infrastructure projects in Nicaragua, cooperation in agriculture, logistics and the possibility of using port infrastructure, the credit and financial sector and options for joint work in the markets of Latin American countries" were discussed ⁶¹⁸. Following this visit, Belarus and Nicaragua adopted

⁶¹⁵ Trade and economic relations between the Republic of Belarus and the Republic of Nicaragua [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : https://cuba.mfa.gov.by/ru/bilateral_relations/N/trade/

⁶¹⁶ Zaleski, B.L. When partners have respect, trust and friendship / B.L. Zaleski // Materiały XX We are dzynarodowej science - practice conferences , " Current problems nowoczesnych nauk – 2023". Volume 1. Przemysł : Nauka i studia . – P. 41.

⁶¹⁷ Belarus and Nicaragua discussed areas of cooperation in agriculture [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-nikaragua-obsudili-naprawlenija-sotrudnichestva-v-selskom-hozjajstve-573073-2023/>

⁶¹⁸ The Belarusian delegation held extended talks with the economic bloc of the Nicaraguan government [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/beloruskaja-delegatsija-provela->

another package of bilateral agreements and contracts. In particular, intergovernmental agreements were signed - on the mutual abolition of visas and on the resumption of the work of the joint Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation, and the Roadmap for Cooperation in Agriculture was approved. In addition, "JSC MTZ signed a framework contract for the supply of products of the Belarusian plant to Nicaragua for a two-year period. <...> OJSC MAZ and the mayor's office of the capital Managua also signed a contract for the supply of Belarusian equipment. An agreement was reached on the supply of 236 units of equipment of JSC AMKODOR for the construction industry and public utilities of Nicaragua ⁶¹⁹. And in the cultural sphere, the Bolshoi Theater of Belarus, the Ruben Dario National Theater and the Nicaraguan cultural foundation Incanto signed a memorandum of cooperation.

During the 3rd meeting of the joint commission, the Belarusian side emphasized that it considers Nicaragua as an important political and trade-economic partner in the Latin American region, a reliable ally in the international arena. And in terms of supplies of Belarusian equipment to the Nicaraguan market, further steps have already been outlined. Products of the Minsk Automobile Plant, Amkodor, Minsk Tractor Plant and other giants of the domestic industry will be in demand in the Latin American country "in the implementation of ambitious infrastructure projects planned by the current government. There are serious developments in the field of agriculture, in particular regarding the use of Belarusian agricultural technologies in Nicaragua ⁶²⁰. "

It should be noted that Nicaraguan land is very fertile. But only less than half of it is cultivated. "That is, 50% of fertile land is not cultivated because there is not enough equipment and not

rasshirennye-peregovory-s-ekonomicheskim-blokom-pravitelstva-nikaragua-577785-2023/

⁶¹⁹ . On the visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belarus S. Aleinik to Nicaragua [Electronic resource]. — 2023. — URL : https://mfa.gov.by/press/news_mfa/a423b01505b9ac36.html

⁶²⁰ Transcript of the approach to the press by Deputy Minister E. Shestakov following the meeting of the Belarusian-Nicaraguan Joint Commission (October 4, 2023, Minsk) [Electronic resource]. — 2023. — URL : https://www.mfa.gov.by/press/news_mfa/ab8c63a09ebb1fec.html

enough people. The government of the country <...> is moving in the right direction. We have built 4 thousand km of roads ⁶²¹." In this regard, the Nicaraguan side expressed interest in organizing the supply of a large batch of equipment from enterprises of the Ministry of Industry of Belarus for various purposes - road construction, agricultural, passenger - "for municipal needs, as well as for the implementation of large infrastructure, transport and logistics projects ⁶²²." Following the negotiations, the parties agreed to form a list of the necessary types of equipment for the preparation of commercial proposals and delivery dates. And in general, the successful implementation of the agreements will allow the relations between Belarus and Nicaragua to reach a new, higher level of development.

Another strategic and very important partner of Belarus in Latin America is **the Bolivarian Republic Venezuela**. Let us recall that the two countries established diplomatic relations back in February 1997. Six years ago, in October 2017, official negotiations between the presidents of Belarus and Venezuela were held in Minsk, during which the parties declared their desire to increase cooperation in all areas in the coming years, despite the fact that this country has recently been going through a rather difficult period. As for interaction with the Belarusian side, "due to the difficult situation in the world, the pace of implementation of joint projects has slowed down ⁶²³."

It should be noted that the parties established long-term trade, economic and cooperation ties back in 2007. Since then, Belarus has built four plants in Venezuela – for the production of ceramic blocks, tractors, municipal and road-building equipment. And in this country, the "JV "MAZVEN" for the assembly of trucks of the "MAZ" brand, the JV "VeneMinsk Tractores" for the

⁶²¹ Powdered milk to Cuba and equipment to Nicaragua. The ambassador spoke about the directions of Belarusian exports [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/suhoe-moloko-na-kubu-i-tehnika-v-nikaragua-posol-rasskazal-o-napravlenijah-belorusskogo-eksporta-579482-2023/>

⁶²² Rogozhnik and the Nicaraguan delegation discussed the issues of intensifying the supply of Belarusian equipment [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/rogozhnik-s-delegatsiej-nikaragua-obsudil-voprosy-intensifikatsii-postavok-belorusskoj-tehniki-591732-2023/>

⁶²³ Negotiations with the President of Venezuela Nicolas Maduro [Electronic resource]. – 2017. – URL : http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/peregovory-c-prezidentom-bolivarianskoj-respubliki-venesuela-nikolasom-maduro-17221/

assembly of tractors “Belarus”, the plant for the assembly of heavy road-building equipment “Maquinarnas Barinas” operated ⁶²⁴. Since the same 2007, the joint venture for oil and gas production “Petrolera BeloVenesolana” operated in Venezuela, focusing on seven oil and six gas fields, four of which are located in the west of the country – on Lake Maracaibo, the rest – in the Venezuelan east. During the operation of this joint venture, the financial effect for the Belarusian side amounted to about 70 million dollars. “Over 8.4 million tons of oil and 6.4 billion cubic meters of gas were produced between 2008 and 2016. ⁶²⁵”

As for the construction sector, in addition to opening the largest brick factory in Latin America, the Belarusian JSC Belzarubezhstroy has been involved in the construction of housing on Venezuelan soil since 2007, where they have implemented three contracts for the construction of 19,968 apartments. Finally, in the agricultural sector, during the construction of the first agro-industrial town in Venezuela, Belarusian specialists “erected 176 residential buildings and a warehouse for mineral fertilizers, laid more than 20 km of roads and cleared 2.5 thousand hectares of shrub territory. More than 400 units of specialized equipment from Belarus were delivered, and 1.2 thousand hectares of territory were sown ⁶²⁶.” It was believed that all this would make up only a fifth of what the Belarusian side still needed to do in Venezuela’s agriculture.

As we can see, the two countries really did not have to start from scratch, renewing the agreements already reached both in the field of industry and construction, and in the field of agriculture and hydrocarbon production. Moreover, Venezuela then adopted a

⁶²⁴Matveyev, V. Belarus and Venezuela agree to intensify the work of assembly plants through the supply of raw materials / V. Matveyev // [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL : <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-venesuela-dogovarivajutsja-ob-aktivizatsii-raboty-sborochnyh-proizvodstv-za-schet-postavok-269845-2017/>

⁶²⁵Matveyev, V. Additional investments are needed for the development of the joint venture Petrolera BeloVenezolana – General Director of Belorusneft / V. Matveyev // [Electronic resource]. – 2017. – URL : <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/dlja-razvitiia-sp-petrolera-belovenesolana-nuzhny-dopolnitelnye-investitsii-gendirektor-belorusnefti-269858-2017/>

⁶²⁶Venezuela asks to build five more agro-towns according to the Belarusian model [Electronic resource]. – 2017. – URL : <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/venesuela-prosit-postroit-esche-pjat-agrogorodkov-po-belorusskoj-modeli-269901-2017/>

national program of Bolivarian development of the post-oil economy, which included 15 areas, from food production to the most modern technology, "including projects in industry and agriculture. Belarus can provide assistance in their implementation ⁶²⁷." That is why at the meeting of the two presidents in Minsk, a decision was made to significantly intensify the activities of the joint intergovernmental commission and hold its 7th meeting in the very near future in order to outline a specific action plan for the implementation of both promising and currently implemented joint projects.

In the sphere of industrial cooperation, the discussion was about bringing the existing joint ventures to full capacity so that at least half of the products they produce would be sold on the domestic market of Venezuela, and the other half would be exported. As for the oil and gas industry, "Belarus is interested in increasing oil production in Venezuela to 2-3 million tons per year ⁶²⁸." To do this, it would be necessary to significantly intensify cooperation between the joint venture "Petrolera BeloVenesolana" and the Belarusian industry research and design institute BelNIPIneft, whose strategic task in this Latin American country was "increasing the efficiency of oil and gas deposit development through the introduction of new production technologies and rational selection of geological and technical measures ⁶²⁹." In agriculture, and Venezuela annually imports food for 10 billion dollars, it was planned to build dairy complexes, poultry farms, a slaughterhouse, a meat processing plant, and milk processing enterprises with the help of Belarusian specialists. Finally, in the field of construction, "agreements were reached on the allocation of new microdistricts for the construction of housing in Venezuela

⁶²⁷Belarus plans to build new plants in Venezuela and increase production volumes of existing ones [Electronic resource]. – 2017. – URL : <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-planiruet-postroit-v-venesuele-novve-zavody-i-uvelichit-obiemy-proizvodstva-deistvujuschih-270308-2017/>

⁶²⁸Belarus is interested in increasing oil production in Venezuela to 2-3 million tons per year [Electronic resource]. – 2017. – URL : <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-zainteresovana-v-uvelichenii-dobychi-nefti-v-venesuele-do-2-3-mlnt-v-god-270309-2017/>

⁶²⁹Venezuela plans to expand cooperation with Belarus in the oil sector [Electronic resource]. – 2017. – URL : <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/venesuela-planiruet-rasshirit-sotrudnichestvo-s-belarusiju-v-neftjanoi-sfere-269908-2017/>

by Belarusian specialists ⁶³⁰." All these facts indicated that Minsk and Caracas, both then and now, intend to focus attention in the development of partnership, first of all, on the most important issues in order to fully realize the existing potential for cooperation.

Now let's get back to the present day. In November 2023, the 8th meeting of the Belarusian-Venezuelan Joint Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation was held in Minsk, where the parties discussed the most important aspects of developing promising areas of cooperation, found compromise solutions to existing problematic issues and outlined specific steps for the further implementation of projects in industry, construction, agriculture, food, transport, petrochemicals, healthcare, pharmaceuticals, science and technology, education and tourism. Let us clarify that in November 2017, at the 7th meeting of the joint commission, the parties adopted a roadmap for bilateral cooperation in the medium and long term, which, unfortunately, was not implemented due to global events. Nevertheless, as of mid-October 2023, 32 interstate, intergovernmental and interdepartmental agreements were signed between Belarus and Venezuela. And at the 8th meeting of the joint commission, the parties outlined the task of the current moment, "to return with joint efforts to the main line of strategic interaction between our fraternal states, despite all the obstacles and difficulties, and to realize the enormous potential that exists in the relations between the Republic of Belarus and Venezuela ⁶³¹." And for this reason, 13 more documents were signed in Minsk on the implementation of projects in various areas.

In particular, the parties adopted an important document on the creation of a high-level group for strategic planning of the activities of the joint commission to monitor the implementation of "new structural mechanisms in bilateral relations that will

⁶³⁰Matveyev, V. Cherny: there are agreements on the allocation of new microdistricts for housing construction in Venezuela / V. Matveyev // [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL : <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/chernyi-est-dogovorenosti-potvodu-novyyh-mikrorajonov-dlja-stroitelstva-zhilija-v-venesuele-269871-2017/>

⁶³¹Parkhomchik: Belarus and Venezuela are political and economic partners, as well as close friends and allies [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/parkhomchik-belarus-i-venesuela-politicheskie-i-ekonomicheskie-partnery-a-takzhe-blizkie-druzija-i-602138-2023/>

increase trade turnover between our countries, organize effective logistics and production chains ⁶³²." In addition, an agreement was signed in the scientific field, which provides for the exchange of experience between the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the Venezuelan Institute of Geography in the field of geography, sealants, geodata, as well as documents in the field of tourism and health care, in the industrial sector.

All these facts indicate that the 8th meeting of the joint commission may become a new starting point for preparing an updated draft roadmap for the short, medium and long term. Moreover, the parties have already identified eight of the most pressing issues that must be resolved as quickly as possible:

- 1) resumption of work at assembly plants for Belarusian equipment in Venezuela;
- 2) activation of projects in the construction sector;
- 3) discussion of options for cooperation in the field of forestry and wood processing industry;
- 4) consideration of the possibilities of implementing joint projects in the mining industry;
- 5) interaction of the parties in the area of agriculture and food supplies;
- 6) cooperation in the field of petrochemicals and fertilizer supplies;
- 7) interaction in the field of air transportation and transportation of goods by sea;
- 8) strengthening cooperation in the fields of education, healthcare, science and technology, as well as interaction in the field of tourism.

Of course, one of the most important topics on this list is the resumption of work in Venezuela at factories for the assembly of tractors and trucks. It should be noted that the Venezuelan side has purchased over 1,300 vehicle kits in Belarus over the past few years, "which were assembled in Venezuela and are used in the national economy. More than 3,000 Belarusian tractors are working in the fields of our country [in Venezuela], and trucks are

⁶³²Vice President of Venezuela: Our countries are bound by friendship, we need to continue to stick together [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/politics/view/vitse-prezident-venesuely-nashi-strany-svjazyvajut-uzvy-druzhyby-nam-i-dalshe-nuzhno-derzhatsja-drug-602296-2023/>

driving on the roads ⁶³³.” The current task of these factories is to reach their design capacity of 10,000 tractors and 5,000 trucks, and to sell them in the markets of neighboring Latin American countries. A multi-brand center for supporting the equipment that will be manufactured there is to be created on the basis of these enterprises. And “specialists from MTZ and MAZ will work in this center. They will perform tasks related to training, preparation, support, and service. On the basis of this center, warehouses of spare parts for the production and repair of manufactured equipment will also be created ⁶³⁴.” In addition, a very important issue is in the field of mining industry, since Belarus is interested in the supply of quarry equipment to Venezuela, especially since this equipment has already been supplied to this country. For this reason, the parties agreed to “additionally create a narrow working group that would develop a plan of interaction in this area ⁶³⁵.”

As for the topic of the agro-industrial complex, the first meeting of the Belarusian-Venezuelan working group on agriculture and food was held within the framework of the joint commission in Minsk, where the prospects for cooperation in the field of crop production, livestock farming, veterinary medicine and agricultural education were discussed. For reference, we note that “over the first 9 months of this year, Belarus’s trade turnover with Venezuela increased by 27.9% compared to the same period last year [2022]. The main export item is dry whey, and the main suppliers are OJSC Slutsk Cheese Factory and OJSC Molochny Mir. The main import item is ethyl alcohol ⁶³⁶.” As a result, the parties agreed to exchange experience in the field of agricultural

⁶³³Vice-President of Venezuela: Belarus' participation in the life of our country is of great importance and weight [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/politics/view/vitse-prezident-venesuelv-uchastie-belarusi-v-zhizni-nashej-strany-meet-bolshoe-znachenie-i-ves-602178-2023/>

⁶³⁴It is planned to create a multi-brand center on the basis of Belarusian-Venezuelan enterprises [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/na-baze-belorussko-venesuelskih-predpriyatij-planiruetsia-sozdat-multibrendovyi-tsentr-602259-2023/>

⁶³⁵Belarus is interested in supplying mining equipment to Venezuela [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-zainteresovana-v-postavkah-zaiteressovana-v-postavkah-602262-2023/>

⁶³⁶Belarus is interested in supplying a wide range of food products to Venezuela [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-zainteresovana-v-postavkah-shirokogo-assortimenta-prodovolstvennoj-produktsii-v-venesuelu-602273-2023/>

education, exchange visits of technical specialists for the purpose of internships, advanced training and retraining in the field of agriculture, livestock farming and fish farming.

Speaking about the intention to expand cooperation in the field of education and science, the Venezuelan side outlined the main areas in this interaction. "These include artificial intelligence, bio- and information technologies, as well as the field of social sciences ⁶³⁷." On the Belarusian side, the Belarusian State University is already actively participating in these partnerships, having signed a cooperation agreement with the Simon Rodriguez National Experimental University back in 2007.

During the plenary session of the joint Belarusian-Venezuelan commission in November 2023, the parties emphasized that the organization of effective transport links is also of primary importance for the two countries. In this regard, a proposal was made on "the possibility of direct air links between our countries and joint steps to organize the transportation of goods by sea ⁶³⁸." In general, the two countries see great opportunities for developing cooperation in other areas - in construction, forestry, woodworking, healthcare, pharmaceuticals, and tourism. And this gives Belarus and Venezuela a reason to plan interaction not only for the next three to five years, but also for the long term.

The Federative Republic of Brazil is the main partner of the Republic of Belarus in foreign trade with Latin American countries and is among the top ten partners of the Belarusian state in the world. Again, let us make a short excursion into the past, when in November 2017 the first meeting of the Belarusian-Brazilian Joint Commission on Economic Cooperation was held. This fact very eloquently illustrated the state of relations between the two countries, the essence of which was that, "despite the geographical remoteness, Brazil was and remains the most important trade and economic partner for Belarus in Latin

⁶³⁷ Belarus and Venezuela intend to expand cooperation in education and science [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-venesuela-namereny-rasshirit-sotrudnichestvo-v-oblasti-obrazovanija-i-nauki-594268-2023/>

⁶³⁸ Belarus proposes to establish direct flights to Venezuela [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-predlagaet-naladit-priamoe-aviasoobschenie-s-venesueloj-602159-2023/>

America" ⁶³⁹, therefore the Belarusian side was very interested in a significant intensification of contacts with Brazilian partners in the economic, political, scientific, technical and cultural spheres. After all, Belarus, on the one hand, is a major importer of Brazilian sugar, iron, tobacco, leather and fruit, and, on the other hand, exports a lot of fertilizers, textiles and equipment to this Latin American country. Suffice it to say that in 2016, the Belarusian-Brazilian trade turnover exceeded half a billion dollars. But, according to the parties, "the economic potential of our countries indicates that we can significantly increase mutually beneficial cooperation in trade, scientific, technical, educational and other spheres ⁶⁴⁰." That is why in July 2017, the foreign policy departments of the two countries signed a memorandum on the establishment of the Joint Belarusian-Brazilian Commission on Economic Cooperation, which was to become one of the most important instruments for implementing mutually beneficial economic projects aimed at intensifying and further expanding trade and economic cooperation, more fully realizing the potential available in bilateral relations, which would allow increasing and diversifying the mutual trade turnover of goods and services.

Three main areas can be identified that at that time looked the most promising in Belarusian-Brazilian cooperation: firstly, increasing mutual trade turnover in goods and services; secondly, using more complex forms of cooperation between Belarusian and Brazilian business entities; thirdly, moving towards creating joint ventures in areas of mutual interest – mechanical engineering and agriculture, oil and gas, as well as in the high-tech sector. In this regard, the first meeting of the Belarusian-Brazilian Joint Commission on Economic Cooperation can be considered quite productive.

Firstly, the parties agreed to locate the assembly production of Belarusian tractors at one of the sites in the agro-industrial

⁶³⁹Congratulations to the President of the Federative Republic of Brazil Michel Temer [Electronic resource]. – 2017. – URL : http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/pozdravlenie-prezidentu-federativnoj-respubliki-braziliia-mishelu-temeru-17019/

⁶⁴⁰Interview of the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus E. Shestakov to the publication " Brasilia in Foco " (July 8, 2017, Brazil) [Electronic resource]. – 2017. – URL : http://mfa.gov.by/press/smi/c_98_f377693514952.html

region of Anapolis in the state of Goiás. To this end, the Minsk Tractor Plant, the Ministry of Industry of Belarus and the Secretariat for Economic Development of the state of Goiás signed a corresponding memorandum of intent. Secondly, “a number of commercial contracts worth over 40 million US dollars” were concluded ⁶⁴¹. In particular, the Orsha Flax Mill and the Baranovich Cotton Association alone will supply fabrics to Brazil for almost one and a half million dollars. In addition, the interaction of Belarusian exporters with Brazilian partners was expected to be interesting and mutually beneficial in such areas as “supplies to the Brazilian market of blended fabrics with viscose; resumption of cooperation with Belarusian manufacturers in the production and supply of men's shirts; expansion of the range of linen fabrics supplied to Brazil. It is also planned to supply blackout fabrics, bed linen and towels to the Brazilian market” ⁶⁴². In particular, a trial batch of its product from the Brazilian company Viner Brazil Technology Ltd was supposed to supply Mogilevkhimvolokno OJSC. And from Brazil it was supposed to establish deliveries of wet-blue tannery semi-finished product to Belarus to ensure the capacity utilization of Belarusian tanneries.

As for other promising areas of cooperation, the following looked very promising: firstly, the desire of one of the world's largest Brazilian aircraft manufacturing companies, Embraer, to open its service center in Belarus; secondly, the signed agreement on technical cooperation between PO Belorusneft and the Viner company. Brazil Technology Ltd ; thirdly, the accepted contract for the supply of potash fertilizers between the Belarusian Potash Company and Camporico ; fourthly, the concluded “tripartite memorandum of intent between MTZ, Bobruiskagromash and Geoterra regarding the study of the issue of entering the Brazilian market of Belarusian tractor equipment, mounted and trailed

⁶⁴¹Anatoly Kalinin made a working visit to the Federative Republic of Brazil [Electronic resource]. – 2017. – URL : <http://www.government.by/ru/content/7680>

⁶⁴²Orsha Flax Mill and BPHO to supply \$1.4 million worth of fabrics to Brazil [Electronic resource]. – 2017. – URL : <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/orshanskij-lnokombinat-i-bpho-postavjat-v-braziliu-tkanej-na-14-mln-279290-2017/>

equipment”⁶⁴³; fifthly, the agreed memorandum of cooperation between the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Belarus-Brazil Chamber of Commerce and Industry. All these specific steps to strengthen Belarusian-Brazilian cooperation should have yielded positive results in the near future.

Now let's look at today. Note that "in 2021, the volume of bilateral trade amounted to USD 782.9 million (a growth rate of 108.9%). Exports amounted to USD 585.1 million (108.3%)⁶⁴⁴." At that time, the bulk of Belarusian supplies were petrochemical goods and products of the Belarusian Metallurgical Plant. In 2022, due to a number of limiting factors, the figures for Belarusian-Brazilian trade turnover decreased slightly. But since January 1, 2023, significant changes have taken place in Brazil: a new president of the country has taken office and a new government is already functioning. These changes have to some extent affected the relations between Belarus and Brazil, which were established more than 30 years ago - in February 1992. We can say that today the two states, separated by 14 thousand kilometers, "have every reason for the progressive development of bilateral cooperation in both the political and economic spheres⁶⁴⁵." The dynamics of 2022-2023 demonstrate the recovery of foreign trade volumes. In particular, "trade turnover for the first nine months of the current [2023] year amounted to almost \$700 million. This is twice as much as last year's figures⁶⁴⁶." Judging by the available facts, two areas of cooperation stand out in the interaction between the two countries today - agriculture and education.

As for the first area, let us recall that “there are about 5 million agricultural enterprises in Brazil, 70% of which are small

⁶⁴³Contracts worth over \$40 million were signed during the visit of the Belarusian delegation to Brazil [Electronic resource]. – 2017. – URL : <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/kontraktv-na-summu-bolee-40-mln-zaključenno-vo-vremja-vizita-belorusskoj-delegatsii-v-braziliu-278631-2017/>

⁶⁴⁴Trade and economic relations [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://brazil.mfa.gov.by/ru/exportby/tev/>

⁶⁴⁵Lukashevich: Belarus's trade volume with Brazil is hundreds of times higher than with some neighboring countries [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/luksashevich-obiem-torgovli-belarusi-s-braziliej-v-sotni-raz-vyshe-chem-s-nekotorymi-sosednimi-stranami-555506-2023/>

⁶⁴⁶Trade turnover between Belarus and Brazil amounted to almost \$700 million in nine months [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/tovarooborot-belarusi-i-brazilii-za-devjat-mesiatsev-sostavil-pochti-700-mln-600698-2023/>

businesses. They need equipment, tractors <...>. For example, the BELARUS -152 and BELARUS -622 models, which are just right for such farms”⁶⁴⁷. The Brazilian side believes that the machines of the Minsk Tractor Plant (MTZ) are of high quality, easy to operate, and contribute to increased productivity. This can be judged, for example, by the results of the International Agricultural Exhibition and Fair AgriShow, which was held in May 2023 in the Brazilian city of Ribeirão Preto. This business forum is “the largest event in the field of agriculture in South America, which is attended by all representatives of agribusiness on the continent without exception. In its characteristics, the exhibition is more reminiscent of a district or even regional center: the number of participants and visitors exceeds 200 thousand people, and the exhibition areas and pavilions occupy an area of 520 thousand square meters”⁶⁴⁸.

In 2023, AgriShow had a record number of participants - from more than 90 countries. And at this agro-industrial summit, Belarus presented MTZ tractors for the first time: not only small and maneuverable models for individual farmers, but also large multifunctional machines for large farms. Specialists from the Minsk Tractor and Smorgon Aggregate Plants, the Bobruisk Plant of Tractor Parts and Units, and the Borisov Metallist Plant worked at the exhibition. And then a "niche for Belarusian agricultural machinery was identified: low-power basic tractors with a capacity of up to 20-25 horsepower, which can become an indispensable assistant for family farming, which is the basis of Brazilian agriculture”⁶⁴⁹.

Back in March 2023, Belarus and Brazil agreed to build two factories for the production of MTZ tractors in this country. The consent has already been received from the governors of two Brazilian states - Ceara and Goias, "project activities are

⁶⁴⁷ Ambassador: Brazil has a high interest in Belarusian equipment [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/posol-brazilii-v-nashej-strane-est-vysokij-interes-k-belorusskoj-tehnike-582274-2023/>

⁶⁴⁸ Belarus presented its tractors at the largest agricultural exhibition in South America [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-predstavila-svoi-tractorv-na-krupnejšej-agrovystavke-v-juzhnoj-amerike-564485-2023/>

⁶⁴⁹ Belarus plans to help Brazil create its own new tractor [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-planiruet-pomoch-brazilii-sozdat-svoi-narodnyi-tractor-564487-2023/>

underway. <...> specialists have already begun discussing these nuances, there are positive signals ⁶⁵⁰." And in July of this year, a roadmap for the project to create joint Belarusian-Brazilian assembly plants was already signed, including small tractor equipment aimed at family farms. And this interesting initiative in the field of industrial cooperation can have an impressive result.

Speaking about the development of cooperation between Belarus and Brazil in the field of education, we recall that the Agreement on cooperation in this area was signed in August 2015. But even earlier, Belarusian universities began to develop ties with Brazilian partners. For example, the Belarusian State University (BSU) adopted relevant documents on cooperation with the universities of Brasilia (2012) and Uberlandia (2014). In 2015, the Belarusian State Agricultural Academy signed a Cooperation Agreement with the same University of Uberlandia. And in 2020, the Memorandum of Cooperation was adopted by the Vitebsk State University named after P.M. Masherov and the Federal University of Parana.

In 2023, the Federal University of Minas Gerais (FUMG), which was founded in 1927 and today ranks 10th in the ranking of the best universities in Latin America, also joined the partnership with Belarusian universities. More than 40 thousand students study there and over three thousand teachers work there. The structure of the university includes 20 academic departments and 25 libraries. In September of this year, BSU and FUMG signed a memorandum, which provides for educational and scientific cooperation, the development of academic mobility, and "the parties plan to cooperate in the field of preparing joint educational programs, publications, implementing research projects, holding conferences, seminars, workshops, <...> exchange students and teachers, educational and scientific materials ⁶⁵¹."

⁶⁵⁰ Belarus and Brazil agreed to build two plants for assembling MTZ tractors [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-brazilija-dogovorilis-o-stroitelstve-dvuh-zavodov-po-sborke-tractorov-mtz-555498-2023/>

⁶⁵¹ A memorandum of understanding was signed between BSU and the Federal University of Minas Gerais in Brazil [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/memorandum-o-vzaimoponimanii-podpisan-mezhdu-bgu-i-federalnym-universitetom-minas-zherajs-v-brazilii-588360-2023/>

In September 2023, the Belarusian State University of Economics (BSEU) and the Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radioelectronics (BSUIR) also became partners of the Brazilian university. They adopted the corresponding memorandums with the FUMJ, which became the first step towards fruitful Belarusian-Brazilian cooperation in this area. In particular, BSEU and the FUMJ have already identified specific areas of partnership. Firstly, "the focus is on teaching Portuguese for Belarusian students and Russian for Brazilian students" ⁶⁵². Secondly, this is the creation of joint programs in English in the specialty "World Economy". In addition, the Center for Latin American Studies has already been "created and is successfully operating at the Faculty of International Business Communications of BSEU, where scientists from both universities are conducting joint projects. The center for studying the Portuguese language will also be developed" ⁶⁵³. All these joint projects, which are interesting to both parties and are already being implemented in the near future, will, of course, serve to bring the two peoples – Belarusian and Brazilian – closer together. A rapprochement that will only deepen.

⁶⁵² A memorandum of understanding was signed between BGEU and the Brazilian Federal University of Minas Gerais [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/memorandum-o-vzaimoponimanii-podpisan-mezhdu-bgeu-i-brazilskim-federalnym-universitetom-minas-zherajs-588101-2023/>

⁶⁵³ Rector of Brazilian University: Cooperation in Education Will Bring Our Countries Closer Together [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/rektor-brazilskogo-universiteta-sotrudnichestvo-v-obrazovanii-posluzhit-sblizheniju-nashih-stran-588136-2023/>

Cuba: New Partnership Tools and Approaches

In June 2024, the 11th meeting of the Belarusian-Cuban joint commission on trade and economic cooperation was held in Minsk, during which the parties discussed the main issues of developing relations, including expanding mutual trade in goods, cooperation in the financial and banking sector, implementing projects in agriculture, food, industry, pharmaceuticals and biotechnology, science and tourism, updated plans and identified the most promising projects that could be implemented as quickly as possible.

Let us recall that the 10th meeting of the commission took place just over two years ago in Havana. Considering then complex and problematic issues, including the breakdown of logistics chains and financial schemes of Belarusian exports, rising prices for agricultural and industrial products, energy resources that negatively affect Belarusian-Cuban trade turnover, the parties firmly stated that "Belarus and Cuba must maintain the positive dynamics of economic cooperation development ⁶⁵⁴." And already in 2023, Minsk and Havana jointly increased bilateral trade more than twofold. Increasing trade turnover became the main topic of the 11th meeting of the commission.

One of the results of this Belarusian-Cuban meeting in Minsk was the establishment of a new bar for mutual trade volumes – “up to \$15 million for each side over 5 years” ⁶⁵⁵. To achieve this goal, the parties adopted new tools and approaches. In particular, they created four temporary working groups, which will include technical specialists from both sides. The first group is devoted to cooperation in the field of agriculture. The second will oversee issues of healthcare, the medical and pharmaceutical industry, and biotechnology. The third will deal with partnerships

⁶⁵⁴ Shestakov: Belarus and Cuba must maintain the positive dynamics of economic cooperation development [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/shestakov-belarus-i-kuba-dolzhnv-sohranit-polozhitelnuju-dinamiku-razvitiia-ekonomicheskogo-640232-2024/>

⁶⁵⁵ Belarus and Cuba expect to increase mutual supplies [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-kuba-rasschityvajut-narastit-objemy-vzaimnyh-postavok-640626-2024/>

in the banking and financial sector and will help business circles. Finally, "the fourth working group will be devoted to cooperation in the field of industry. It will consider not only issues of cooperation in agricultural machinery, but also in the food industry" ⁶⁵⁶.

Within the framework of these new approaches, for example, the Minsk Tractor Plant is preparing to deliver the first batch of 12 tractor sets to Cuba to organize assembly production. "The delivery is expected to be made in the third quarter of this [2024] year ⁶⁵⁷." In addition, the possibility of Belarusian specialists participating in the restoration of dairy production is being considered - the joint production of whole milk products from Belarusian raw materials at a dairy complex near Havana. Moreover, during the 11th meeting of the commission, the parties "agreed to take all necessary measures to increase exports of <...> fixed volumes (8 thousand tons) of dry milk ⁶⁵⁸."

Speaking about cooperation in the healthcare sector, the participants of the 11th meeting of the commission agreed that successful cooperation in this area - from drug registration to the release of joint products - could accelerate the penetration of Belarusian drugs into the markets of Latin American countries and facilitate the consolidation of Cuban drugs in the markets of the Eurasian Economic Union states. For reference, we note that "in November 2022, the first Belarusian drugs were registered in this Latin American country ⁶⁵⁹." In addition, the parties then signed an agreement on interlaboratory comparisons to increase the level of trust between the testing laboratories of the two countries, as

⁶⁵⁶ Deputy Prime Minister of Cuba: Our countries have great potential and groundwork for further development of relations [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/vitse-premier-kuby-u-nashih-stran-est-bolshoj-potentsial-i-zadel-dlja-dalneishego-razvitiia-otnoshenii-640769-2024/>

⁶⁵⁷ MTZ is preparing to deliver the first batch of tractor kits to Cuba to organize production [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/mtz-gotovitsia-postavit-na-kubu-pervuiu-partiiu-tractorokomplektov-dlja-organizatsii-proizvodstva-640644-2024/>

⁶⁵⁸ From drug registration to joint product release. Belarus and Cuba to expand healthcare ties [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/ot-registratsii-preparatov-do-vypuska-sovmestnoj-produktsii-belarus-i-kuba-rasshirjat-svazi-v-640655-2024/>

⁶⁵⁹ Zaleski, B. With an emphasis on results. Prospects for an integrated approach to new opportunities for partnerships / Boris Zaleski. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2023. – C. 18.

well as the degree of effectiveness and safety of drugs for Belarusian and Cuban patients. And in June 2024, already within the framework of the 11th commission, "an agreement of intent to create a joint venture was concluded between the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the Cuban State Organization of the Biotechnology and Pharmaceutical Industry "BioCubaPharma"⁶⁶⁰. "

Let's sum it up. At the 11th meeting of the joint commission on trade and economic cooperation in June of this year, Belarus and Cuba demonstrated that the bilateral dialogue between Minsk and Havana has recently intensified at all levels. And the parties outlined specific steps to increase cooperation, highlighting two areas on which they will primarily focus. "The first is the expansion of volumes and mechanisms of countertrade, and the second is projects related to joint investments in the production sector"⁶⁶¹. " And then there will be new areas of partnership, which will become the foundation for future relations between Belarus and Cuba.

And already in July 2024, during the visit of the Belarusian government delegation to the Island of Freedom, it was stated that the two countries had already established a strategic partnership based on equality and respect for each other's interests. Speaking about the economy, Belarus and Cuba, as mentioned above, more than doubled their trade turnover in 2023. "And over the five months of this year <...> we increased the volume of bilateral trade by another 20%"⁶⁶². " In Havana, the parties concluded two more individual loan agreements worth more than two million euros to pay for the supply of powdered milk. "In total, more than 1,000

⁶⁶⁰ Belarus and Cuba signed an agreement of intent to create a joint pharmaceutical enterprise [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-kuba-podpisali-soglasenie-o-namereniiakh-po-sozdaniyu-sovmestnogo-farmpredpriiatiia-640638-2024/>

⁶⁶¹ Countertrade and investment in production. Golovchenko on the prospects for cooperation between Belarus and Cuba [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/vstrechnaja-torgovlja-i-investitsii-v-proizvodstvo-golovchenko-o-perspektivah-sotrudnichestva-belarusi-640502-2024/>

⁶⁶² Golovchenko: Belarus and Cuba doubled trade turnover in 2023 [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/golovchenko-belarus-i-kuba-v-2023-godu-uvelichili-tovarooborot-v-dva-raza-648415-2024/>

tons of this product will be delivered to Cuba in 2024." ⁶⁶³ And also signed further contracts for the supply of products of the Belarusian industry. For example, in accordance with the contract with the CES company Co. LTD " Minsk Tractor Plant will deliver 15 units of BELARUS equipment to Cuba ⁶⁶⁴ by the end of 2024 "

In addition, following the meeting of the Prime Ministers of Belarus and Cuba, a number of agreements were adopted, including on the mutual protection of classified information, cooperation and mutual assistance in customs matters. "A program of bilateral trade, economic, scientific and technical cooperation between the governments of Belarus and Cuba for the period 2024-2030 was also signed ⁶⁶⁵." And the Health Ministries of the two countries adopted an updated agreement on cooperation, which will facilitate the development of cooperation between the departments. In particular, we are talking about expanding partnerships in the field of medical science, between organizations in this field for the training of medical personnel. "An important interest for both parties is the registration of medicines and medical devices, the supply of pharmaceutical products, and the joint production of medicines ⁶⁶⁶." By the way, the creation of a joint pharmaceutical venture between the Belarusian Akademfarm and a Cuban company is almost at the finish line. And recently, the registration of one of the innovative Cuban oncology drugs was completed in Belarus.

All these facts indicate that cooperation between the two countries in the field of scientific activity plays an important role in the interaction between Belarus and Cuba at the present stage. Moreover, in Minsk and Havana today they are already finding

⁶⁶³ Belarus and Cuba have concluded credit agreements for settlements for the supply of dry milk [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-kuba-zakljuchili-kreditnye-soglasheniia-dlja-raschetov-za-postavku-suhogo-moloka-648606-2024/>

⁶⁶⁴ Agro-industrial complex, pharmaceuticals, industry. Prime Minister of Cuba named key areas of cooperation with Belarus [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/apk-farmatsevtika-promyshlennost-premier-ministr-kubv-nazval-kluchevye-sfery-sotrudnichestva-s-648501-2024/>

⁶⁶⁵ Ibid.

⁶⁶⁶ The Ministries of Health of Belarus and Cuba are updating cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/society/view/minzdravy-belarusi-i-kubv-aktualiziruiut-sotrudnichestvo-648831-2024/>

opportunities for the gradual implementation of a single Belarusian-Cuban scientific space without barriers. For this purpose, back in August 2023, the Belarusian National Academy of Sciences (NAS) adopted memorandums of understanding with the Cuban ministries of agriculture and food industry. Also, "an agreement on scientific and technical cooperation was signed between the Scientific and Practical Center of the NAS of Belarus for Animal Husbandry and the Cuba company Ron S. A. in the field of using rum production waste in the technology of feeding farm animals" ⁶⁶⁷. In addition, cooperation agreements were concluded: between the Belarusian Institute of Meat and Dairy Industry and the Cuban company Labiofam ; between the Cuban Research Institute of Food Industry and the Institute of Meat and Dairy Industry of the National Academy of Sciences and the Scientific and Practical Center of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus for Food. And at the international conference in Havana "Macroprogram for science, technology and innovation of the National Plan for the socio-economic development of Cuba until 2030: its role in managing science, technology and innovation", a representative of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus made a report "Strategy for the development of the agro-industrial complex of the Republic of Belarus: scientific support and implementation mechanisms" to the heads of organizations and officials of the agricultural and food sector of Cuba.

In the context of this topic, we recall that the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus "is currently considering 20 joint projects in various fields ⁶⁶⁸," including physics, chemistry, and computer science. In addition, Cuban scientists have recently developed and implemented a large number of biotechnological products for the benefit of medicine and agriculture. In 2023 alone, "as a result of bilateral visits <...> of delegations, 66 agreements

⁶⁶⁷ Organizations of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus signed cooperation agreements with Cuban partners [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – ULR : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/organizatsii-nan-belarusi-podpisali-soglasheniia-o-sotrudnichestve-s-kubinskimi-partnerami-579830-2023/>

⁶⁶⁸ Belarus has proposed to Cuba to create a joint pharmaceutical enterprise on the basis of Akademfarm [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – ULR : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-predlozila-kube-sozdat-sovmestnoe-farmatsevticheskoe-predpriatie-na-baze-akademfarm-599036-2023/>

were signed, work on which is currently being actively implemented [in Belarus and Cuba] ⁶⁶⁹.” In addition, two drugs were transferred to the Cuban side for registration, and two more are being considered for registration in Belarus. And ten such drugs have been prepared for mutual exchange. And the parties are already ready to cooperate in other areas of scientific research - space, microelectronics, mechanical engineering, agricultural, bio- and medical technologies.

Finally, in December 2023, the start of the implementation of joint Belarusian-Cuban projects selected within the framework of the competition of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment of Cuba, which is being held for the first time, was officially announced. As a result, in 2024-2025, 18 joint scientific projects will be implemented that have a high level of novelty and will allow solving important issues of scientific development in various fields. For example, in materials science, this is the production of materials with improved physical and mechanical properties, the development of biodegradable lubricants and coatings with increased wear and corrosion resistance. If we talk about biotechnology, this is "research and development of nanovaccines, the search for multipurpose compounds for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease ⁶⁷⁰." And in economic research, we are talking about the development of methodological approaches to identifying unrealized export potential and assessing the economic benefits and risks of Belarusian-Cuban cooperation and their testing, studying an additional list of commodity items of interstate trade. Thus, new opportunities for cooperation in the scientific sphere between Belarus and Cuba are opening up quite broadly, both in fundamental and theoretical areas, as well as in the practical plane.

Another relevant area of Belarusian-Cuban partnership is the educational sphere. Let us recall that in September 2023, the

⁶⁶⁹ Gusakov: Belarus is open to cooperation with Cuba in all areas of scientific activity [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – ULR : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/gusakov-belarus-otkryta-dlja-sotrudnichestva-s-kuboi-vo-vseh-sferah-nauchnoj-deyatelnosti-599022-2023/>

⁶⁷⁰ Belarus and Cuba to implement 18 joint scientific projects [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – ULR : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-kuba-budut-realizovyvat-18-sovmestnyh-nauchnyh-proektov-603581-2023/>

first Forum of Belarusian and Cuban Rectors of Higher Education Institutions was held in Minsk, where the ways of deepening bilateral cooperation in the field of education, expanding partnerships between the educational community of Belarus and Cuba, inter-university contacts in the interests of training faculty, student exchanges, as well as the implementation of specific scientific projects and joint research were discussed. "The Cuban side is particularly interested in the potential of Belarusian universities in the field of high technology, ensuring cybersecurity and protecting personal data, as well as development in the field of artificial intelligence ⁶⁷¹." The participants of this event emphasized that today it is necessary to focus on a specific result that should give an economic return. And the result of the first Forum of Belarusian and Cuban Rectors was the signing of bilateral cooperation agreements between universities of the two countries.

The Belarusian State University (BSU) was among the active participants of this forum. Let us recall that back in April 2023, BSU intensified cooperation with Cuban partners in the field of education, science and innovation. In particular, a cooperation program was signed with the country's leading and oldest university, the University of Havana, regulating joint work "in the field of biology, geography, chemistry, mathematics, tourism, studying Spanish and Russian languages" ⁶⁷², as well as a memorandum on the development of a joint master's educational program. The immediate plans include academic mobility, organizing internships, guest lectures, conducting scientific research, as well as joint training of specialists. And with the Pedagogical University Enrique Jose Varona, BSU intends to develop cooperation in the field of pedagogy with the introduction of innovative methods in the educational process. In the signed cooperation agreement, the parties secured the exchange of

⁶⁷¹ Deputy Minister of Education of Cuba expressed interest in implementing scientific projects with Belarus [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/zamministra-obrazovaniya-kubv-zajavil-o-zainteresovanosti-v-realizatsii-nauchnyh-proektov-s-belarusiju-589322-2023/>

⁶⁷² Mathematics, Spanish and Tourism. BSU Activates Cooperation with Cuban Universities [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/matematika-ispanskij-jazyk-i-turizm-bgu-aktiviziruet-sotrudnichestvo-s-vuzami-kubv-562131-2023/>

students, postgraduates, invitation of teachers and researchers for joint work on research and educational projects, as well as the exchange of information, educational materials, and joint holding of scientific and educational events. In addition, "the universities plan to develop joint educational programs in the field of humanities with the issuance of two diplomas⁶⁷³. "

And in September 2023, BSU acquired several more partners: the University of Guantanamo, the Technological University of Havana named after Jose Antonio Echeverria, the University of Camaguey. It should be noted that "taking into account the signed agreements, BSU is developing educational and scientific contacts with eight Cuban institutions"⁶⁷⁴, with which it is promising to cooperate in the fields of pharmaceuticals and biotechnology, and develop joint educational projects. For example, after the April (2023) negotiations, BSU and the Higher Institute of International Relations named after Raul Roa Garcia drew up a detailed cooperation program and have already worked out a project for the virtual platform "Russian language for Cubans / Spanish language for Belarusians".

Within the framework of the first Forum of Belarusian and Cuban Rectors of Higher Education Institutions, the Belarusian National Technical University (BNTU) also signed cooperation agreements with partners from Cuba – the University of Guantanamo and the Mao University named after Antonio Nies Jimenez. These documents “provide for the exchange of experience in the educational and methodological work of universities, the exchange of textbooks and educational materials (curricula, teaching aids), joint scientific research in various areas of science and technology, as well as the exchange of scientific

⁶⁷³ BSU and the Pedagogical University of Cuba will develop cooperation in the field of pedagogy [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/bgu-i-peduniversitet-kuby-budut-razvivat-sotrudnichestvo-v-oblasti-pedagogiki-562339-2023/>

⁶⁷⁴ Student exchange and joint research. Cooperation agreements signed by BSU and Cuban universities [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/obmen-studentami-i-sovmestnye-issledovaniya-soglasheniya-o-sotrudnichestve-podpisali-bgu-i-vuzy-kuby-589103-2023/>

and technical information, experience in scientific work, and the search for various forms of scientific cooperation⁶⁷⁵. ”

It should be noted that the signing of the agreement was the result of a meeting of university leaders, which took place in the BNTU Polytechnic Science and Technology Park. The event was also attended by representatives of Baranovichi State University, Belarusian State Agrarian Technical University, Brest State Technical University, Belarusian State University of Food and Chemical Technologies, Belarusian-Russian University, Gomel State Technical University named after P.O. Sukhoi and Polotsk State University named after Euphrosyne of Polotsk. The Cuban side expressed interest in cooperation in such areas as geology, ecology, mining and electromechanics. Colleagues from other Belarusian universities also signed a number of cooperation agreements with Cuban universities.

And one more thing: in September 2023, the Memorandum of Cooperation in the Field of Higher Medical Education and Science was signed by Gomel State Medical University (GSMU) and the University of Medical Sciences of Havana. Let us recall that this is not the first experience of cooperation with the Cuban side for the Gomel university. After all, “as a result of the Belarusian-Cuban cooperation and with the active participation of GSMU specialists in the field of vaccinology, the Soberana Plus vaccine was approved and authorized by the Ministry of Health of Belarus in 2022 for booster vaccination in our country”⁶⁷⁶. Today, clinical trials of the Cuban vaccine are already underway at the research laboratory of GSMU. So the partner universities will do a lot more on this research topic.

Speaking about the results of the first Forum of Belarusian and Cuban Rectors, we emphasize that back in “November 2022, the legal framework of Belarusian-Cuban relations was supplemented by an intergovernmental agreement on the mutual

⁶⁷⁵ BNTU signed a cooperation agreement with two Cuban universities [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/bntu-podpisal-soglashenie-o-sotrudnichestve-s-dvumja-kubinskimi-universitetami-589060-2023/>

⁶⁷⁶ Gomel State Medical University has signed a cooperation agreement with the University of Medical Sciences of Havana [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/gomelskij-gmu-zakljuchil-dogovor-o-sotrudnichestve-s-universitetom-medsitsinskikh-nauk-gavan-589137-2023/>

recognition of educational documents..."⁶⁷⁷. And today, the participants of this forum are already beginning the practical implementation of this document so that universities in Belarus and Cuba achieve specific results and receive economic benefits in many areas of cooperation.

In short, the implementation of joint Belarusian-Cuban initiatives has made significant progress over the past year or two. The parties are confident that the development of mutually beneficial ties between Minsk and Havana will only continue to grow for the benefit of the Belarusian and Cuban peoples.

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⁶⁷⁷ Zalessky, B. Priority – Export Growth. New Opportunities in the Context of Multi-vector Foreign Economic Activity of Belarus / Boris Zalessky. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2023. – P. 106.

Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange

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To ensure high dynamics of growth in volumes and number of transactions

In 2023, the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange (BUCE) very effectively interacted with foreign companies, both from the "far arc" countries and neighboring countries. In particular, 660 exporters and importers from **Asian countries were already operating on the Belarusian exchange platform last year. China** was the leader in the number of trading participants and transaction volumes on this continent. Suffice it to say that during this period, 46 new Chinese residents came to BUCE, and the amount of exchange transactions increased by 2.7 times and amounted to more than 80 million dollars. In 2024, BUCE is expected to see a new wave of activity from participants from Asian countries, including **South Korea, Singapore, Mongolia, Turkey, Pakistan, and the United Arab Emirates**.

For example, at the end of 2023, the first deal for the sale of sawn timber to **the Republic of Korea was concluded** at BUCE, when an importing company from this Asian country purchased a trial batch of edged hardwood lumber with a volume of 400 cubic meters from one of the Belarusian forestry enterprises. And the geography of exchange exports of this product of the domestic woodworking industry has expanded to 17 countries. In this regard, the entry of the Republic of Korea into BUCE trading opens up new opportunities for Belarusian manufacturers. "At the same time, we are talking not only about sawn timber, but also about dairy products, which are in high demand in this country. In particular, the import of dry milk and butter is estimated at hundreds of millions of dollars⁶⁷⁸." So the pilot deal for the purchase of sawn timber can become the starting point for regular transactions of Korean businessmen at BUCE for a wide range of goods.

Another participant in interaction with the Belarusian stock exchange is **Singapore**. To the beginning In 2023, nine companies

⁶⁷⁸ Deliveries of sawn timber to the Republic of Korea have begun via BUTB [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/cherez-butb-nachalis-postavki-pilomaterialov-v-respubliku-koreja-602882-2023/>

from this Southeast Asian country were accredited at BUCE. Previously, Singaporean firms participated in exchange trading exclusively as buyers. Basically, Singaporean companies bought Belarusian skim milk powder; recently, there has also been an increased demand for wood processing products. In particular, "in 2022, exchange exports of sawn timber to Singapore amounted to \$9.3 million, which is an order of magnitude more than the 2021 figure ⁶⁷⁹." In 2023, special attention began to be paid to the development of the Singaporean direction. At the end of January, goods from Singaporean manufacturers were presented at BUCE trading for the first time. It was about the sale of high-tech industrial equipment on the BUCE import substitution platform. Manufacturers of laser equipment from Singapore interested in working on the domestic market were attracted to the purchase application placed by one of the Belarusian industrial flagships. For this purpose, two new Singaporean companies were accredited on the exchange. And then the first applications for sale were submitted. It was already expected then that the placement of applications for sale of import-substituting goods produced in Singapore in the BUCE trading system would contribute to the formation of a favorable competitive environment and a reduction in the costs of Belarusian enterprises making purchases at exchange trades. In the future, this allowed for even more active development of exchange trade with this state, which is a member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

And already by the end of 2023, Singapore was included in the list of eight countries that began to use the mechanism of exchange-directed transactions, which became available on BUCE from June 22, 2023. "The main feature of such transactions is that they can be concluded directly with foreign buyers, but the selling price of goods must not be lower than the current exchange quotation for this product, formed based on the results of exchange trading. In addition, since address transactions are registered on the exchange, their participants have the right to use all the risk

⁶⁷⁹ Products of Singaporean manufacturers will be presented for the first time at the BUCE auctions [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/tovary-singapurskih-proizvoditelej-budut-vpervve-predstavleny-na-torgah-butb-547522-2023/>

insurance tools available on BUCE ⁶⁸⁰." It remains to add that Singapore, along with China, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan and Russia, entered the top five largest buyers of Belarusian sawn timber in 2023 on BUCE, increasing the purchase of this product by almost two and a half times and was able to reach the mark of 120 thousand cubic meters. And already in February 2024, the first Singaporean brokerage company, Vooking Pro Pte. Ltd., was accredited on the Belarusian exchange platform. Before that, it had been working on BUCE as a trading visitor for more than two years. As a professional participant, the new broker "plans to attract buyers of forest products from the Asian region to the exchange platform, contributing to the further expansion of the geography of exchange exports" ⁶⁸¹. After all, the accreditation of a broker in Singapore is the next stage in the development of exchange trading with this country, in order to help increase the pool of buyers from Asian countries, including from the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Korea, where exchange deliveries of Belarusian sawn timber have already been organized. In addition, the broker usually takes on the solution of transport and logistics issues, which, of course, helps to increase the attractiveness of the exchange mechanism for foreign companies. This is especially true for the countries of the "far arc".

Speaking about **Mongolia**, the first broker from this country, United Meres Machinery, was accredited at BUCE in September 2023 and planned to start its activities with high-demand goods - ferrous metals and coal, as well as with petrochemical and agro-industrial products. And in January 2024, with the help of the first Mongolian broker, the first deal for the supply of white granulated sugar was concluded - 312 tons. "Considering the high demand for sugar in Mongolia, it can be assumed that this product line can become one of the promising ones for the Asian markets. Moreover, after the successful

⁶⁸⁰ Address transactions on BUCE are concluded by companies from eight countries [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/adresnye-sdelki-na-butb-zakljuchajut-kompanii-iz-vosmi-stran-599332-2023/>

⁶⁸¹ BUTB accredited the first broker in Singapore [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/amp/economics/view/butb-akkreditovala-pervogo-brokera-v-singapore-613819-2024>

execution of the first contract, Mongolian partners are already expecting an increase in export volumes from Belarus ⁶⁸². "

Turkey in 2023. In particular, "the amount of transactions concluded by Turkish participants in the trades in January-August was 31% higher than for the whole of 2022. The key growth drivers were active purchases of Belarusian sawn timber, including using the targeted mechanism, as well as the export of ferrous and non-ferrous scrap metal to Turkey ⁶⁸³." Last year, 18 new Turkish residents came to BUCE. And as of mid-September 2023, 50 companies from this country were already represented at the auction, including one stockbroker. And in the same September, a large Turkish manufacturer of synthetic and natural yarn, threads and fiber sold its products for the first time - 40 tons of viscose yarn - to a Belarusian textile enterprise on the BUCE industrial and consumer goods platform. This fact allowed to expand the geography of foreign suppliers of textile raw materials using this trading platform to work on the Belarusian market to four countries. The first three are Moldova, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

The priority areas of cooperation between BUCE and **Pakistan** in 2024 are: from the Pakistani side - import of sawn timber, dry milk, sugar, vegetable oils; from the Belarusian side - purchase of rice, grain, yarn and non-ferrous metals. In addition, this is logistics, which "will optimize transportation costs and make products sold by Belarusian participants in exchange trading more attractive in price for Pakistani buyers ⁶⁸⁴." BUCE also plans to expand the geography of manufacturers of import-substituting products presented on the exchange platform, due to Pakistani companies interested in creating a trading or manufacturing business in Belarus. In particular, the Pakistani holding Afil

⁶⁸² Zaleski, B. On the Course of Cooperation. Specifics of Belarus's Interaction with Asian Countries / Boris Zaleski. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing , 2024. – C. 38.

⁶⁸³ Supplies of textile raw materials from Turkey began to be implemented through the BUTB platform [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/postavki-tekstilnogo-svrjia-iz-turtsii-nachali-realizovvatsja-cherez-ploschadku-butb-588124-2023/>

⁶⁸⁴ BUTB intends to increase the number of accredited companies from Pakistan [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/butb-namerena-uvlechit-kolichestvo-akkreditovannyh-kompanij-iz-pakistana-578951-2023/>

Industries "is studying the possibility of implementing an investment project in Belarus for the production of food products, and also intends to establish regular wholesale supplies of Pakistani products in demand on the Belarusian market ⁶⁸⁵." This primarily concerns specific products - various types of rice, footballs, gloves, belts, as well as such a specific product as Himalayan salt.

Finally, this year, BUCE plans to intensify cooperation with **the United Arab Emirates (UAE)**, an international trade hub with a powerful transport, logistics and financial infrastructure. For reference, we note that "as of April 1, 2023, 14 companies from the UAE were accredited at BUCE. The bulk of transactions in 2022-2023 were for wood processing and petrochemical products ⁶⁸⁶." The Emirati side believes that BUCE's interaction with UAE companies will open up broad opportunities for promoting Belarusian goods to North Africa and Asia, since this export direction is very promising for traders from Belarus. And in the near future, the parties intend to take new specific steps to attract representatives of Emirati businesses to the Belarusian exchange platform to establish long-term trade relations.

Now let's focus on the development of cooperation between the Belarusian exchange platform and **African countries**. First, let's note that in general our republic plans to increase exports to this continent by at least 2.5 times in 2024. At the same time, it is necessary to "focus on products that are less dependent on the situation on world markets. <...> And focus on promotion, actively use effective merchandising tools, quality service, as well as e-commerce opportunities ⁶⁸⁷." So, for BUCE, clear tasks have already been formulated for using the exchange mechanism to

⁶⁸⁵ BUTB expects to attract suppliers from Pakistan to the import substitution platform [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/butb-rasschitvvaet-privlechn-na-ploschadku-importozameschenija-postavschikov-iz-pakistana-571569-2023/>

⁶⁸⁶ The UAE Embassy will assist BUCE in developing exchange trade with the Middle East countries [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/posolstvo-uae-okazhet-sodejstvие-butb-v-razvitii-birzhevoj-torgovli-so-stranami-blizhnego-vostoka-559908-2023/>

⁶⁸⁷ Belarus plans to increase exports to African countries by at least 2.5 times in 2024 [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-planiruet-v-2024-godu-narastit-eksport-v-strany-afriki-ne-menee-chem-v-25-raza-602900-2023/>

intensify mutual trade and increase trade turnover this year with African partners, including from **Egypt, Nigeria, and Ethiopia**.

In particular, back in August 2021, BUCE signed a memorandum of understanding with the Egyptian Commodity Exchange (EMX), which was established by the Ministry of Supply and Internal Trade **of Egypt** in 2020. In November last year, the parties considered issues of improving e-commerce technologies, exchanging analytical data, organizing trade in new commodity items and ensuring favorable conditions for an effective trade partnership between business entities of Belarus and Egypt. "The main efforts are planned to be focused on events that will contribute to the growth of bilateral trade volumes and the expansion of the use of the exchange mechanism in export-import activities. In this regard, BUCE and EMX intend to explore the possibility of mutual participation of Belarusian and Egyptian companies in exchange trading on both platforms⁶⁸⁸." All this will not only give impetus to the development of exchange trading between the two countries, but also increase the efficiency of the implementation of joint projects in other areas. In particular, the entry of Egyptian enterprises into the BUCE industrial and consumer goods platform will facilitate industrial cooperation between the two countries, as well as resolve issues of import substitution.

As for **Nigeria**, in February 2024, Minsk hosted the business forum "Belarus-Nigeria: Direct Dialogue", which discussed promising areas of cooperation between BUCE and the business community of this country interested in purchasing Belarusian products, including rapeseed oil and dry milk. For reference: products of the oil and fat and dairy industries are among the most popular commodity items among foreign participants of the Belarusian exchange platform, "and the Nigerian market, given its capacity and purchasing power, is of significant interest to Belarusian exporters"⁶⁸⁹. So, the

⁶⁸⁸ Commodity exchanges of Belarus and Egypt agreed to develop cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/tovarnye-birzhi-belarusi-i-egipta-dogovorilis-razvivat-sotrudnichestvo-599879-2023/>

⁶⁸⁹ BUTB plans to establish supplies of Belarusian agricultural products to Nigeria [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/butb-planiruet-naladit-postavki-belorusskoj-selhozprodukcii-v-nigeriju-615084-2024/>

accreditation of Nigerian companies at BUCE, apparently, will allow Belarusian producers to expand the geography of exports without additional costs in the near future and establish regular deliveries to this promising market.

Speaking about the partnership relations of BUCE with **Ethiopia**, we recall that back in 2023 the parties outlined promising commodity positions that could be traded on the exchange in 2024 as part of export-import operations between Belarusian and Ethiopian companies. "If we talk about imports from Ethiopia, then first of all, of course, these are agricultural products - coffee, soybeans and grain crops. <...> From the point of view of exporting Belarusian goods to Ethiopia, it is advisable to focus on dairy products - dry milk and whey ⁶⁹⁰." It remains only to add that Ethiopian residents are not yet participating in exchange trading on BUCE, but African partners have a business interest in this topic. And this will definitely manifest itself this year.

In 2023, among the foreign participants of BUCE from **the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)**, which significantly increased interest in Belarusian exchange trading and showed high dynamics of growth in volumes and the number of transactions, it is necessary to note enterprises **of Uzbekistan**. If in 2022 only six Uzbek companies regularly participated in exchange trading sessions, then in 2023 there were already 29 of them. And the amount of transactions at the end of last year increased 17 times - "from just over \$ 1 million in 2022 to almost \$ 18 million in 2023" ⁶⁹¹. At the same time, the product range of mutual trade has expanded. In particular, now, in addition to sawn timber, residents of Uzbekistan also began to buy Belarusian sugar on the exchange. This happened in May 2023, when the first such transaction was registered on BUCE. "The seller was one of the domestic sugar factories, and the buyer was a brokerage company

⁶⁹⁰ BUCE presented exchange trading opportunities to Ethiopian business circles [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/buth-predstavila-vozmozhnosti-birzhevoj-torgovli-delovym-krugam-efiopii-575836-2023/>

⁶⁹¹ Exchange trade turnover between Belarus and Uzbekistan increased 17 times in 2023 Korea [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/birzhevoj-tovarooborot-belarusi-i-uzbekistana-v-2023-godu-vyros-v-17-raz-611161-2024/>

accredited at BUCE and the Uzbek Republican Commodity and Raw Materials Exchange (UZEX). The volume of the pilot purchase was 134 tons ⁶⁹²." This fact is interesting for another reason. After all, this is how the first practical result of the joint project of BUCE and UZEX on mutual accreditation of brokers was obtained. The fact is that back in April 2023, within the framework of the agreement on strategic partnership between the two exchanges, after the appropriate certification, seven brokerage organizations from each side received mutual access to the exchange trading platforms of Belarus and Uzbekistan. On the Belarusian side, the following companies acted as stockbrokers: JSC Belresursy - the management company of the Belresursy holding, ChUP Belresursbrok, RUP Beltamozhservis, CJSC BirZheks, Sokol Lyubov Leontyevna Individual Entrepreneur, StatusBrok LLC, and also Center for Brokerage Services LLC ⁶⁹³, which together with Uzbek partners will allow for a much faster expansion of the circle of trading participants.

As for the plans for the development of exchange trade between Belarus and Uzbekistan in 2024, the main areas include woodworking, agriculture, metallurgy and light industry, which will be able to take the partnership between the two countries to a qualitatively new level. For this purpose, the exchange mechanism will be more actively used to supply Uzbek goods to Belarus. In this regard, the capabilities of the BUCE industrial and consumer goods platform will be used. Let us recall that in 2023, Uzbek manufacturers first used the Belarusian import substitution platform to sell cotton yarn. In August last year, "two trial transactions with a total volume of 140 tons were made. In both cases, the buyer was one of the leading domestic textile industry enterprises ⁶⁹⁴." Thus , the exchange platform provided the

⁶⁹² BUTB registered the first transaction for the sale of sugar to Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/butb-zaregistrovala-pervuiu-sdelku-po-realizatsii-sahara-v-uzbekistan-566927-2023/>

⁶⁹³ Seven BUCE brokers accredited at the Uzbek Republican Commodity and Raw Materials Exchange [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/sem-brokerov-butb-akkreditovalis-na-uzbekskej-respublikanskaj-tovarno-syrievoj-birzhe-561922-2023/>

⁶⁹⁴ Uzbek yarn producers concluded their first deals on the BUCE platform [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/uzbekske-proizvoditeli-prjazhi-zakljuchili-pervye-sdelki-na-ploschadke-butb-585558-2023/>

Belarusian enterprise with direct access to direct producers of the raw materials it needed and provided full support for the procurement procedure. The total amount of transactions amounted to more than one million dollars. As part of the development of exchange imports in 2024, it is planned not only to increase sales volumes for this commodity item, but also to introduce other types of import-substituting products manufactured in this country to trading. To the above, we add that "as of February 1, 2024, 101 companies from Uzbekistan were accredited at BUCE <...>. In January, the amount of transactions of Uzbek participants amounted to \$5.2 million. In January 2023, this figure was \$60 thousand.⁶⁹⁵"

In 2024, the Belarusian exchange platform plans to significantly intensify joint events on trade topics for business representatives from **Kyrgyzstan**. The fact is that by the end of 2023, "the amount of transactions of exchange trade participants from Kyrgyzstan increased by almost one and a half times, mainly due to a significant increase in purchases of Belarusian sugar and sawn timber⁶⁹⁶." At the same time, Kyrgyz companies almost did not use the exchange's export opportunities, although this Central Asian country has a well-developed agricultural sector and can expand the geography of agricultural exports, including to Belarus. In January of this year, BUCE agreed on cooperation with the National Investment Agency under the President of the Kyrgyz Republic. The parties specifically identified priority commodity positions for the development of mutual exchange trade. For this purpose, suppliers of raw materials and cotton yarn from Kyrgyzstan will be attracted to Belarus. After all, these products are in demand among Belarusian traders, and the growth in their sales volumes will have a positive effect on the dynamics of the Belarusian-Kyrgyz exchange trade turnover. As for Belarusian supplies, "the main focus will be on the products of the sugar industry and the forestry complex. In 2023, these groups of goods

⁶⁹⁵ Metallurgy, agriculture and light industry. BUTB outlined areas of cooperation with Uzbek business [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/metallurgija-selskoe-hozjajstvo-i-legprom-butb-oznachila-napravlenija-sotrudnichestva-s-uzbekskim-614003-2024>

⁶⁹⁶ BUTB and the Embassies of Kyrgyzstan agreed on cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/butb-i-posolstvo-kyrgyzstana-dogovorilis-o-sotrudnichestve-609545-2024/>

accounted for almost the entire volume of Belarusian exports to Kyrgyzstan through BUCE. In addition, the National Investment Agency expressed its readiness to assist in accrediting the first broker from Kyrgyzstan at BUCE"⁶⁹⁷, which will expand the pool of Kyrgyz exchange clients, the number of which reached 25 by the beginning of this year.

As for BUCE's cooperation with **Azerbaijan**, we recall that in 2023, this country in the South Caucasus entered the top 3 markets for Belarusian goods, and in terms of timber purchases, it ranked second, second only to China. In addition, the transactions were regular, and their amount gradually increased. "As a result, compared to January-September of last year [2022], the supply of wood products to Azerbaijan increased in kind by 4.3 times to 218 thousand cubic meters"⁶⁹⁸. Thus, Azerbaijani companies accounted for about a quarter of the total volume of sawn timber exports through BUCE. At the BakuBuild international exhibition, held in October 2023 in the Azerbaijani capital, the Belarusian exchange platform attracted potential buyers from Azerbaijan interested in importing products for the construction industry. And there is every reason to believe that in 2024 new interesting opportunities will appear for continuing interaction with the business of this post-Soviet country.

Speaking about the partnership relations of BUCE with **Moldova**, we note that in 2023, the first exchange transactions for the sale of white granulated sugar and material for the textile sector were made. In the first case, the volume of the trial purchase was 210 tons, which was purchased by a company that is the largest importer of sugar to Moldova. And there is a possibility that "the pilot transaction will become the starting point for regular supplies of Belarusian sugar to this country, since work with Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, which are the main buyers of Belarusian sugar at

⁶⁹⁷ BUTB and the National Investment Agency of Kyrgyzstan agreed on cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/butb-i-natsionalnoe-agentstvo-po-investitsijam-kyrgyzstana-dogovorilis-o-sotrudnichestve-612497-2024/>

⁶⁹⁸ Export opportunities of BUTB presented at the international construction exhibition in Azerbaijan [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/eksportnye-vozmozhnosti-butb-predstavleny-na-mezhdunarodnoj-stroitelnoj-vystavke-v-azerbajdzhane-594979-2023/>

exchange trades, was previously built according to the same algorithm ⁶⁹⁹." Moreover, the Moldovan market is promising for the export of sugar factories from Belarus, since this country annually consumes more than 80 thousand tons of this product, and the exchange platform provides direct access to manufacturing enterprises along with low risks and transparent market pricing. In the second case, the transaction between business entities of Belarus and Moldova was registered on the BUCE industrial and consumer goods platform, within the framework of which the import substitution service operates. "The subject of the purchase, made by one of the domestic textile industry enterprises, was a membrane for laminating fabric worth Br 845 thousand." ⁷⁰⁰This indicates that the circle of countries whose residents use this exchange platform to sell goods on the Belarusian market has been expanded by Moldova. And it must be assumed that this transaction with Moldovan partners will be the beginning of a new interesting experience in Belarusian-Moldovan e-commerce.

In the same 2023, the first deal for the purchase of products from a resident company of **Tajikistan was registered on the BUCE import substitution platform**, when "during exchange trading, a domestic light industry enterprise purchased 40 tons of carded yarn from a Tajik trading organization - one of the most popular types of raw materials in the knitwear industry" ⁷⁰¹. And in this case, the exchange also helped the Belarusian enterprise satisfy the need for foreign raw materials. It is curious that the last time companies from this Central Asian country used the exchange mechanism to work on the Belarusian market was 16 years ago - in 2008. Let's hope that new deals with Tajik businessmen on BUCE are just around the corner.

⁶⁹⁹ Belarusian sugar sold to Moldova via the exchange for the first time [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/beloruskij-sahar-vpervve-prodan-v-moldovu-cherez-birzhu-573850-2023/>

⁷⁰⁰ A company from Moldova has concluded a deal on the industrial and consumer goods platform of BUTB for the first time [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/kompanija-iz-moldovv-vpervve-zakljuchila-sdelku-na-ploschadke-promyshlennih-i-potrebitelskih-tovarov-578041-2023/>

⁷⁰¹ The purchase of import-substituting products in Tajikistan was carried out for the first time through BUTB [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/zakupku-importozameschajuschej-produktsii-v-tadzhikistane-vpervve-proveli-cherez-butb-560416-2023/>

And one more interesting fact of cooperation of the Belarusian exchange platform with partners from the CIS. In November last year, BUCE agreed to develop cooperation in 2024 with one of the leading electronic trading platforms of **Kazakhstan** - ETS -Tender - in the field of corporate procurement. It is planned that "the interaction between the parties will be of a purely practical nature and will contribute to the increased participation of manufacturers and suppliers from Kazakhstan in the procurement procedures of Belarusian enterprises, as well as ensure an increase in the share of Belarusian-made products in the purchases of Kazakhstani companies in the public and private sectors ⁷⁰²." Partners from Kazakhstan were very interested in BUCE's experience in organizing exchange trades in industrial and consumer goods. In particular, we are talking about a separate digital platform that allows for round-the-clock procurement of a wide range of products in demand in various sectors of the economy: from light industry and agriculture to energy and mechanical engineering. In addition, in 2022, an import substitution service was introduced at BUCE, thanks to which Belarusian enterprises were able to quickly purchase analogues of imported goods and increase sales of their own products. So, with the assistance of ETS-Tender, it is planned to attract many more manufacturers from Kazakhstan to BUCE auctions in 2024.

⁷⁰² BUTB and the Kazakhstani platform ETS -Tender intend to cooperate in the field of electronic procurement [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/butb-i-kazahstanskaja-ploschadka-ets-tender-namerenv-sotrudnicat-v-sfere-elektronnyh-zakupok-602493-2023/>

From Europe to Asia and Africa

Since the beginning of 2024, the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange (BUCE) has been showing impressive sales rates of domestic goods to foreign companies. The reasons for the successful operation of the exchange platform include an increase in the number of non-resident buyers, the opening of new markets, the introduction of additional product positions, as well as the opening of an exchange representative office in Shanghai, the expansion of the network of exchange brokers in Central Asian countries, the introduction of a mechanism for exchange address transactions and the intensification of cooperation with Belarusian diplomatic missions abroad. As a result, "in January-February 2024, foreign participants in exchange trading concluded more than 1.5 thousand transactions for the purchase of Belarusian goods for a total of \$170 million. For the same period last year, the number of transactions was 155, and their amount was \$14 million

703. "

Today, the products of domestic agriculture and woodworking industry are among the leaders of foreign clients of the Belarusian exchange platform. For example, China, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan actively import sawn timber, and Kazakhstan is in first place in sugar purchases. At the same time, as of March 1, 2024, 167 companies from China, 116 from Kazakhstan, 108 from Uzbekistan have already been accredited at BUCE. 100 from Azerbaijan. And in **Europe** - in the Baltic countries and Switzerland - rapeseed oil, beet pulp and molasses are traditionally in demand. And in 2024, a number of European countries plan to intensify cooperation with BUCE.

In particular, in January of this year, BUCE agreed on cooperation with **the Belarus-Italy Chamber of Commerce** in the field of electronic exchange trading in order to facilitate the export of Belarusian agricultural products to the **Italian market**, as well as to establish supplies of Italian-made goods in demand in Belarus, including industrial equipment, special machinery,

⁷⁰³ Companies from 23 countries buy Belarusian goods at BUTB [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/kompanii-iz-23-stran-pokupajut-belorusskie-tovary-na-butb-620798-2024>

spare parts and components, since "Italian business is interested in working with Belarusian enterprises, and the BUCE platform is exactly the tool that will allow us to intensify business contacts and realize the potential of mutual trade ⁷⁰⁴." It should be noted that as of January 1, 2024, 22 Italian companies were already accredited on the Belarusian exchange platform. Last year, their exchange transactions actually consisted only of purchases of wet blue leather from Belarusian tanneries. This year, Belarusian rapeseed oil, beet pulp and molasses will also be in demand from partners from Italy.

Beet molasses, which is produced by Belarusian sugar factories, is also in high demand on the Hungarian market. For this reason, organizing its deliveries through BUCE can significantly increase the exchange turnover between the two countries. So, companies from **Hungary** are already ready to be accredited on the Belarusian exchange platform and participate in trades as sellers and buyers of agricultural products. "As for exports from Hungary, these could be seeds of agricultural crops, which <...> are in high demand among Belarusian participants in exchange trades ⁷⁰⁵."

Another interesting partner of BUCE in Europe is **Serbia**. As of December 1, 2023, three companies from this country were accredited on the Belarusian exchange platform, which, as a rule, limited themselves to the purchase of sawn timber at trades. But at the end of last year, the first transaction for the sale of butter to Serbia was registered at BUCE. "The volume of the trial batch was 20 tons, and the buyer was a Serbian food importer accredited in November 2023." ⁷⁰⁶It must be assumed that after the entire scheme for purchasing this product has been worked out, deliveries of butter to the Serbian market will become regular.

⁷⁰⁴ BUTB will cooperate with the Belarus-Italy Chamber of Commerce [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/butb-budet-sotrudnichat-s-torgovoi-palatoj-belarus-italija-611942-2024/>

⁷⁰⁵ Hungarian business is interested in exchange trade of agricultural products with Belarus [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/vengerskij-biznes-zainteresovan-v-birzhevoj-torgovle-selhozproduksiej-s-belarusiju-615721-2024/>

⁷⁰⁶ Belarusian butter sold to Serbia for the first time through BUTB [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/beloruskoe-slivochnoe-maslo-vpervye-realizovano-v-serbiju-cherez-butb-604633-2023/>

Turkey in 2024 , we recall that last year the number of Turkish companies accredited to participate in exchange trading increased from 32 to 70, which increased the amount of transactions during this period by 2.7 times. At the same time, the greatest demand among Turkish business entities was for wood processing products and scrap metal, which provided over 90 percent of the Belarusian-Turkish exchange trade turnover. And imports accounted for only about two percent. These were mainly supplies of viscose yarn for Belarusian textile industry enterprises. In March 2024, at a business forum organized by the National Marketing Center jointly with **the Turkish Businessmen Association** , the primary task was set to expand the range of goods involved in exchange trade with this country in order to "attract Turkish enterprises from such areas as agriculture, mechanical engineering, and the chemical industry to BUCE, which will contribute to the growth of Belarusian-Turkish exchange trade turnover ⁷⁰⁷." In the agro-industrial complex segment, supplies of Belarusian vegetable oils, dry milk, beet pulp, and molasses to Turkey are already being worked out . And in Belarus, Turkish spare parts and components for cars and equipment, industrial equipment may be in demand. As a result, within the framework of this business forum, agreements were reached on accreditation at BUCE of importers of meat products and processed oilseeds from Turkey. In addition, suppliers of spare parts for construction equipment, plumbing equipment and polymeric materials from this country expressed interest in participating in these tenders.

In 2024, companies from **China traditionally trade powerfully on the Belarusian exchange platform from Asian countries** . And BUCE plans to further increase both the export of Belarusian agricultural products and Chinese import of metals and metal products by participating in international exhibition events in China. In particular, in March and April of this year, BUCE specialists visited three authoritative forums at once. Firstly, at one of the largest exhibitions on food topics in China – **China**

⁷⁰⁷ The amount of transactions of Turkish companies on BUCE in 2023 increased almost threefold [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/summa-sdelok-turetskih-kompanij-na-butb-v-2023-godu-vvroslo-pochti-v-tri-raza-619661-2024/>

International Allfood Expo in Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, where more than one and a half thousand manufacturers from all over the world participated. As a result of meetings with more than 50 Chinese companies, "agreements were reached on accreditation of buyers of dry skim milk, dry whey and beef at BUCE. In addition, Chinese manufacturers of packaging lines, freezers, pasteurizers and beverage filling systems showed interest in the Belarusian exchange platform ⁷⁰⁸. "

Secondly, at the **Qingdao International Specialized Exhibition of Metallurgy and Metalworking International Metal Processing Equipment Expo** , where "major suppliers of sheet steel, rolled pipes, casting alloys and cable and wire products declared their readiness to participate in exchange trading" ⁷⁰⁹. And already in March, the first exchange transaction for the sale of import-substituting products by a Chinese resident was concluded at BUCE. The subject of the transaction was a trial batch of cutting discs for cutting pipes. The seller "was a major supplier of equipment, spare parts and components for the steel, cement and electric power industries from Qingdao (Shandong Province), and the buyer was a Belarusian metallurgical enterprise" ⁷¹⁰. This fact indicates that the list of states whose residents supply their products to Belarus using the import substitution service available on the BUCE industrial and consumer goods platform has expanded to eight.

Thirdly, at **the 135th Canton Fair** , which took place in April in Guangzhou, where BUCE specialists held "substantive negotiations with a number of large manufacturers of lighting fixtures, video equipment, special equipment and electronics interested in entering the Belarusian market through exchange

⁷⁰⁸ BUTB took part in the food exhibition in China [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/butb-priniala-uchastie-v-prodovolstvennoj-vystavke-v-kitae-619317-2024/>

⁷⁰⁹ BUTB plans to increase supplies of metals and metal products from China [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/butb-planiruet-uvelichit-postavki-metallov-i-metalloizdelij-iz-kitaia-620557-2024/>

⁷¹⁰ Chinese enterprise sells products through BUTB import substitution service for the first time [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/kitajskoe-predpriatie-vpervye-realizovalo-produktsiju-cherez-servis-importozameshenija-butb-622959-2024/>

trading”⁷¹¹. The fact is that, despite the shift in emphasis towards imports and domestic consumption, which has been observed in China in recent years, a significant portion of Chinese companies are still export-oriented and are ready to use any opportunities to reach potential buyers, including with the help of BUCE, considering not only exports, but also concluding transit exchange transactions with companies from third countries, in particular, Central Asia – Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

And in the same April, a second resident broker from China appeared, accredited by BUCE in 2024 as part of a set of measures to develop exchange trading with China and other Asian countries – the **VIA company. Technology Import and Export Limited**, which "intends to assist importing organizations from distant arc countries in matters of purchasing Belarusian goods at exchange trades⁷¹²." At the initial stage, the new broker plans to focus on the countries of South and Southeast Asia - India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Cambodia. Previously, this company has already cooperated with buyers of sawn timber from China, and now plans to extend its experience of cooperation with BUCE to other commodity items, providing logistics and, if necessary, helping with settlements. In general, as a result of the work carried out, the amount of transactions of Chinese companies on BUCE "in the first quarter [of 2024] increased 7.5 times to \$56.3 million⁷¹³." At the same time, the entire volume of export sales was provided by products of the woodworking industry.

Among the East **Asian countries, BUCE's cooperation with Mongolia** is of interest. Firstly, in 2024, it is planned to increase the export of Belarusian sugar through exchange trading, which is currently in high demand among Mongolian producers of

⁷¹¹ The BUTB platform attracted the interest of machinery and equipment manufacturers from China [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/ploschadka-butb-zainteresovala-proizvoditelej-tehniki-i-oborudovanija-iz-kitaja-630456-2024/>

⁷¹² New broker BUTB will facilitate the export of Belarusian goods to the Far East countries [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/novvi-broker-butb-posodejstvuet-eksportu-belorusskih-tovarov-v-strany-dalnej-dugi-625415-2024/>

⁷¹³ The amount of transactions of Chinese companies on BUCE in the first quarter increased by 7.5 times to \$56.3 million [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/summa-sdelok-kitajskih-kompanij-na-butb-vi-kvartale-vozrosla-v-75-raz-do-563-mln-630224-2024/>

soft drinks. "In the first quarter of this year alone, 2.7 thousand tons of Belarusian sugar were sold to Mongolia. The next stage is organizing the purchase of dairy products and flour ⁷¹⁴." In particular, the issue of supplying domestic butter, dry skim milk and wheat flour to the Mongolian market is being worked out. And relevant agreements have already been reached with potential buyers of these goods - large retail chains and distributors.

As for the **Central Asian countries**, in 2024 BUCE plans to significantly increase trade turnover by realizing the export potential of the exchange platform with **Turkmenistan**. In particular, the focus is on such items in demand on the Turkmen market as sawn timber, dairy products and sugar. "Currently, 14 residents of Turkmenistan are accredited on the exchange, who use the exchange mechanism primarily to purchase softwood sawn timber ⁷¹⁵." In order to expand the pool of buyers of these products, as well as to develop other promising areas of interaction with the country's business circles, in March of this year BUCE specialists visited Ashgabat, where they held a number of meetings with potential importers of forestry products and food industry enterprises of Turkmenistan interested in purchasing dry skim milk and white granulated sugar in Belarus. In addition, following the results of negotiations with **the State Commodity and Raw Materials Exchange of Turkmenistan (SCRBT)**, an agreement was reached on the exchange of experience, technologies and methodological developments in the field of electronic exchange trading, and the possibility of mutual accreditation of exchange brokers of BUCE and SCRBT for participation in trading on both platforms is being considered.

In **Kyrgyzstan**, BUCE will join forces to develop exchange trading with **the Chamber of Commerce and Industry** of this country. Back in February 2024, the parties identified promising areas of cooperation, the implementation of which will increase the number of Kyrgyz companies using the exchange mechanism

⁷¹⁴ Mongolia is interested in importing Belarusian flour and dairy products [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/mongolija-zainteresovana-v-importe-belorusskoj-muki-i-molochnoj-produktsii-624977-2024/>

⁷¹⁵ BUCE expects to intensify exchange trading with Turkmenistan [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/buth-rasschityvaet-na-aktivizatsiju-birzhevoj-torgovli-s-turkmenistanom-622734-2024/>

and multiply the volume of transactions concluded by residents of this Central Asian country on the BUCE platform. In particular, the CCI of Kyrgyzstan expressed its readiness to assist in attracting new participants to exchange trading from among the members of the chamber, as well as to help find a company that would become a BUCE broker in this country. As for commodity items of interest for mutual exchange trading, it is advisable to export sawn timber, processed sugar beet products, dry milk and steel reinforcement to Kyrgyzstan through the exchange platform, while food raw materials, groceries and cotton fiber will be in demand on the Belarusian market. Let us add that as of mid-February of this year, “25 residents of Kyrgyzstan are accredited at BUCE. According to the results of 2023, the amount of transactions of exchange traders from this country increased by 34% due to purchases of Belarusian sawn timber and sugar ⁷¹⁶. ”

And in February 2024, BUCE accredited a new broker in **Kazakhstan - Profit Standard LLP**, which will focus on organizing regular deliveries of products of the Belarusian forest industry complex to the Kazakhstan market. The fact is that in 2023, the share of sawn timber in the structure of transactions with residents of Kazakhstan was relatively small, so with the assistance of a Kazakhstani broker, it is planned to increase this key indicator, as well as attract new participants to the exchange who are ready to work as sellers or buyers. Note that “last [2023] year, the amount of exchange transactions of Kazakhstani companies increased by 13%. At the same time, the lion's share of the turnover was provided by the import of Belarusian sugar, and purchases of forest products were irregular. As a result, they accounted for only about 3% of the total sales of Belarusian goods to Kazakhstan ⁷¹⁷. ” For comparison: in trade with Kazakhstan's neighboring countries, such as Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan, wood processing products account for a significantly larger share.

⁷¹⁶ The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Kyrgyzstan will promote the development of exchange trade with Belarus [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/torgovo-promvshlennaja-palata-kyrgyzstana-budet-sodejstvovat-razvitiiju-birzhevoj-torgovli-s-belarusiju-617034-2024/>

⁷¹⁷ BUTB accredited a broker in Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/butb-akkreditovala-brokera-v-kazahstane-615531-2024/>

Finally, let's look at the development of cooperation between the Belarusian exchange platform and **African countries**. BUCE plans to promote effective e-commerce opportunities on this continent and has already formulated "clear tasks for using the exchange mechanism to intensify mutual trade and increase trade turnover this year with African partners"⁷¹⁸, including from **Egypt**. And already in May 2024, the Egyptian company **International Co. for Industry & Projects** became the first BUCE broker in this African country. After all, it "has a wide network of business contacts in Egypt and beyond, as well as its own warehouse and office space in Cairo, which can be provided to Belarusian exporters working at BUCE"⁷¹⁹. The new BUCE partner plans not to limit itself to the Egyptian market, but to ensure the supply of Belarusian goods to Algeria, Morocco, Sudan and Tunisia, where there is also a high demand for products manufactured in Belarus. It is planned that the exchange trade between Belarus and Egypt will be developed both in already developed commodity areas and by using new liquid positions, which include dairy products, sugar and potato starch. "In the past, Egyptian companies have already bought wood processing products on the exchange, so this area is certainly one of the priorities. However, <...> agricultural products of Belarusian manufacture are also in great demand in Egypt. In this regard, the launch of supplies of dry milk and whey, beet sugar and potato starch to the Egyptian market will allow a significant increase in exchange trade turnover with Belarus"⁷²⁰. In the future, the new broker intends to establish exports of Belarusian goods to states neighboring Egypt, and this is a completely different scale and opportunity.

Another business entity from Egypt interested in accreditation at BUCE to carry out export-import activities on the Belarusian market is the **KATO holding Investment**, which

⁷¹⁸ Zalessky, B. Realization of economic potential in the conditions of global turbulence / Boris Zalessky. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2024. – C. 70.

⁷¹⁹ BUTB is considering the possibility of accrediting a broker in Egypt [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/butb-rassmatrivaet-vozmozhnost-akkreditatsii-brokera-v-egipte-615805-2024/>

⁷²⁰ Broker BUTB in Egypt will supply Belarusian goods to North Africa [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/broker-butb-v-egipte-budet-postavljat-belorusskie-tovary-v-severnuju-afriku-631847-2024/>

plans to supply Belarusian sawn timber, dairy products, sugar, vegetable oils and synthetic fiber to Egypt, and Egyptian polymer products, cotton yarn and fruit and vegetable products to Belarus. And "this is only the foundation on which further interaction between the Egyptian holding and the exchange will be built, since the range of mutual interests of Belarus and Egypt is much wider⁷²¹." It remains only to add that as of February 1, 2024, five residents from this African country have already been accredited on the Belarusian exchange platform, in the structure of whose transactions imports of wood products from Belarus prevail. But in the near future, the situation in this matter, one must assume, will change significantly for the better. Both in the number of residents and in the variety of transactions.

Another potential partner on the African continent, where BUCE intends to develop exchange trade, is **Algeria**, since the market of this country is interesting for Belarusian exporters for a number of reasons. Firstly, due to the high solvent demand from local consumers. Secondly, there is an opportunity to enter the markets of neighboring countries through Algeria. So, using the mechanism of exchange trades for the supply of meat, dairy and oil and fat products, which are in high demand here, trading these goods through the exchange platform will provide an additional sales channel for exporting enterprises from Belarus, and Algerian importers will have the opportunity to make purchases directly from Belarusian producers. At the international food industry exhibition DJAZAGRO , which was held in April this year in Algeria, BUCE specialists attracted to the exchange Algerian companies that are ready to import agricultural products from Belarus, as well as partner organizations that can assist in the development of Belarusian-Algerian exchange trade. Including the Algerian Association of Employers, which has already expressed interest in cooperation with BUCE in terms of informing the business community of this country about the potential and advantages of using the Belarusian exchange platform in mutual trade. As a result of these negotiations, "agreements were reached

⁷²¹ BUTB will simplify access of Egyptian business to the Belarusian market [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/butb-uprostit-dostup-egipetskogo-biznesa-na-rynok-belarusi-618011-2024/>

on the sale of Belarusian dry milk and rapeseed oil to the Algerian market, which are now actively supplied to countries in Europe and Asia ⁷²². "

In 2024, BUCE also plans to take joint steps with another African country, **Tanzania**, to organize the participation of Tanzanian companies in exchange trading in agricultural products and industrial goods. To this end, a plan of activities will be drawn up to inform Tanzanian businesses. **The Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture will be involved in this work** , "which unites about 9 thousand companies from various sectors of industry and agriculture. Many of them are actively engaged in export-import activities ..." ⁷²³. The parties also formed a preliminary list of commodity items for organizing mutually beneficial exchange trade between Belarusian and Tanzanian enterprises. Thus, plant protection products, microfertilizers, feed additives and petrochemical products are included in the list of promising goods for export to Tanzania, and seeds for sowing, groceries, raw materials for the food industry and cotton yarn for deliveries to Belarus.

Let's sum it up. As of May 1, 2024, 7,192 non-resident companies from 70 countries were accredited at BUCE. This indicates that since the beginning of this year, 345 new trading participants from 36 countries have joined the exchange. And over four months, the amount of export transactions concluded at BUCE "exceeded the amount of import contracts by \$138 million. At the same time, compared to January-April 2023, the volume of exchange exports increased in value terms by 10 times ..." ⁷²⁴. All these facts show that BUCE is developing exchange trading on different continents and in different countries, both in developed

⁷²² BUCE intends to develop exchange trade in agricultural products with Algeria [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/butb-namerena-razvivat-birzhevuiu-torgovliu-selhozproduktsei-s-alzhirom-630079-2024/>

⁷²³ BUTB is working on the participation of companies from Tanzania in exchange trading [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/butb-prorabatvvaet-uchastie-kompanij-iz-tanzanii-v-birzhevnyh-torgah-622486-2024/>

⁷²⁴ The positive balance of foreign trade of BUCE since the beginning of the year amounted to \$138 million [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/polozhitelnoe-saldo-vneshnej-torgovli-butb-s-nachala-goda-sostavilo-138-mln-632116-2024>

commodity areas, and promotes the emergence of new export-import positions that will significantly increase the exchange turnover of Belarus with partners - from Europe to Asia and Africa - in the near future.

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Develop partnerships in both known areas and new positions

In 2024, the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange (BUCE) continues its active work in the market of the People's Republic of China (PRC) to develop export-import opportunities and increase exchange trade turnover between the two countries. This is evidenced by the figures: at the beginning of October of this year, 224 residents from the PRC were already accredited at BUCE, three of whom have the status of exchange brokers. And "for seven months of 2024, the amount of transactions of Chinese business entities reached \$ 84 million, which is 2.6 times more than for the same period in 2023."⁷²⁵ At the same time, on the Belarusian exchange platform, residents of the Celestial Empire bought and sold mainly timber, meat and dairy products, ferrous metal products, and industrial equipment. Among the effective tools for promoting BUCE on the Chinese market is the participation of this exchange platform in international exhibitions held in different regions of the PRC.

For example, in June this year, BUCE took part for the first time in **the international exhibition EXPO China-Eurasia**, which was held in Urumqi, the administrative center of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. Given the theme of the exhibition, the main focus at the BUCE stand was on agricultural products and industrial goods. Visitors were offered to get acquainted with the product range and export-import capabilities of the Belarusian exchange platform, as well as consult on issues of accreditation on the exchange and participation in trading. In addition, at the BUCE stand, it was possible to view current purchase and sale applications placed on the exchange by Belarusian enterprises, which made it possible to conduct substantive negotiations with Chinese importers and exporters. It should be noted that participation in this exhibition forum helped attract manufacturing and trading enterprises from all over the

⁷²⁵ BUTB will help Chinese synthetic fiber producers enter the Belarusian market [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-pomozhet-kitajskim-proizvoditeljam-sinteticheskogo-voлокna-vyjti-na-belorusskij-rynok-652563-2024>

Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region to BUCE. Through the exchange, they can trade with Belarusian companies without intermediaries on a wide range of goods: from cotton fiber and oilseeds to industrial equipment and special machinery. And one more important detail: in 2024, the trend towards diversification of the structure of Belarusian-Chinese exchange trade turnover became more clearly evident. Thus, "according to the results of January-May, the amount of transactions with goods not related to wood processing products increased more than 8 times. The exchange platform, in particular, was used by Chinese manufacturers to supply Belarus with products made of ferrous and non-ferrous metals, spare parts and components for machines and equipment, raw materials for the food industry ⁷²⁶." BUCE expects that as new participants from the regions of the PRC join the trading, the share of products of the agro-industrial complex, metallurgy and light industry in the total volume of exchange trade between Belarus and China will grow.

In July 2024, thanks to the participation of BUTB in **the international exhibition of the aluminum industry Aluminium China 2024**, held in Shanghai, more than twenty Chinese metal producers announced their readiness to enter the Belarusian commodity exchange market. Through BUCE, "it is planned to supply aluminum pipes, profiles, sheets, foil and other popular products to the Belarusian market ⁷²⁷." Thus, the range of foreign suppliers of rolled aluminum using the Belarusian platform will expand, and consumers from Belarus will be able to make purchases on more favorable terms. The appearance of new aluminum producers from China at the auctions should not only have a positive effect on the volume of sales of products, but also increase the economic effect of the use of the exchange mechanism for Belarusian enterprises of the real sector.

In August of this year, in the same Shanghai, the BUTB delegation participated in **the international exhibition of**

⁷²⁶ Electronic instruments of BUTB presented at the EXPO "China-Eurasia" [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/elektronnye-instrumenty-butb-predstavleny-na-ekspo-kitaj-evrazija-643984-2024/>

⁷²⁷ Chinese aluminum producers are ready to enter the Belarusian stock market [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/kitajskie-proizvoditeli-aljuminija-gotovy-vyiti-na-birzhevoj-rynok-belarusi-645865-2024/>

thermal insulation materials and energy-saving technologies TIM Expo Shanghai , where it held negotiations on cooperation with leading Chinese manufacturers of synthetic fibers on the issue of selling their products at exchange trades. And "a number of Chinese companies expressed their readiness to place applications for the sale of the most popular types of fibers in Belarus on the BUCE industrial and consumer goods platform. Thus, Belarusian light industry enterprises will be able to purchase the raw materials they need from suppliers from China verified by the exchange without intermediaries ⁷²⁸." This will not only improve the efficiency of procurement activities of Belarusian participants in the trades, but will also contribute to the further strengthening of trade and economic relations between Belarus and China.

It should be noted that this year BUCE is paying special attention to involving non-residents of Belarus in exchange trading of industrial and consumer goods. In January-July 2024, transactions with such goods were concluded by companies from eight countries, including China, which has recently become noticeably more active. Transactions have become more frequent, and for some commodity items have become regular. For example, this year, spare parts and components for machinery, industrial tools and technological equipment were supplied from China to Belarus. Moreover, these were mainly import-substituting products.

A separate topic in this context is the activities of the BUCE representative office in Shanghai, which opened in 2023. Its specialists are already regularly participating in the largest industry exhibitions, forums, conferences and other business events in the PRC. Direct contact with representatives of Chinese business provides additional opportunities for informing potential bidders about BUCE instruments and services, and also simplifies interaction with already accredited companies.

Finally, in early September 2024, the possibilities of purchasing products of the woodworking industry of Belarus at BUCE auctions were presented at **the International Conference**

⁷²⁸ BUTB will help Chinese synthetic fiber producers enter the Belarusian market [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-pomozhet-kitajskim-proizvoditeljam-sinteticheskogo-voлокna-vyjti-na-belorusskij-rynok-652563-2024>

on Cooperation in the Production of Household Goods and Building Materials of China and Central Asia, which was held in Xi'an, the administrative center of Shaanxi Province. The event, organized by the International Chamber of Commerce for Furniture and Decoration of China and the Furniture Chamber of Commerce of this province, was attended by about 400 business entities engaged in the production and sale of furniture, building materials and interior items. By involving these companies in exchange trading, BUCE plans to expand the pool of Chinese importers of Belarusian sawn timber products, as well as establish supplies to China of wood boards, which are especially in demand in the country's furniture industry.

It is known that this year, residents of the PRC are the largest buyers of wood processing products on the exchange platform, but the potential for cooperation in this area is far from exhausted. "Over 9 months of 2024, Chinese participants purchased almost 672 thousand cubic meters of sawn timber at exchange trades, 2.4 times exceeding the figure achieved in January-September 2023. The growth in sales is due to a reduction in sawn timber stocks on the domestic market of China, which stimulates demand for imports from Belarus ⁷²⁹." Traditionally, edged softwood boards were in the greatest demand among Chinese participants. At the same time, other types of forest industry products that could be of interest to the Chinese side are also presented at the trades. In particular, the exchange is ready to assist furniture companies from China in purchasing Belarusian chipboard and fiberboard. After all, leading manufacturers of these goods are accredited on the Belarusian exchange platform, which will significantly simplify the entry of Chinese exporters into the Belarusian market.

All these facts demonstrate that BUCE "plans to further increase both the export of Belarusian agricultural products and Chinese import of metals and metal products, through participation in international exhibition events in China" ⁷³⁰ in

⁷²⁹ A large batch of Belarusian cellulose is planned to be sold for export through BUTB [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/krupnuju-partiju-belorusskoj-tselljulozy-planiruetsia-realizovat-na-eksport-cherez-butb-667638-2024/>

⁷³⁰ Zaleski, B. Growth points of the Belarusian economy in the dynamics of global challenges / Boris Zaleski. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2024. – P. 6.

order to develop exchange trade in different regions of China, both in developed commodity areas and in new positions, which will significantly increase the overall volume of Belarusian-Chinese trade turnover.

In the second half of 2024, BUCE will expand cooperation with other countries of the Asian continent, including **Mongolia, South Korea, Vietnam, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Jordan, and Turkey.**

For example, back in June of this year, BUCE signed a memorandum of cooperation with **the Mongolian Commodity Exchange** to combine the resources, technologies and experience of the two exchange platforms and give a new impetus to trade and economic cooperation between Belarus and Mongolia. The parties will focus their attention on agricultural products. At the same time, "based on the range of goods currently presented on the Belarusian and Mongolian exchanges, the most promising items for deliveries to Mongolia are sugar and dairy products, while it is advisable to import raw materials for the textile industry to Belarus - primarily wool and cashmere"⁷³¹.

Let us recall that until recently, only Belarusian sugar was exported to Mongolia using the exchange mechanism. Over the four months of 2024, slightly less than four thousand tons of this product were sold to the Mongolian market for about two and a half million dollars. And already in May of this year, the first two deals for the supply of dry skim milk to this East Asian country were concluded at BUCE. "The buyer was a well-known Mongolian manufacturer of dairy and fermented milk products. The total volume of the trial purchase was 73 tons. Assistance in attracting the first Mongolian importer of Belarusian dairy products to exchange trading was provided by the accredited broker of BUCE in Mongolia - the company "United Meres Machinery"⁷³².

⁷³¹ Commodity exchanges of Belarus and Mongolia plan to cooperate in trade of agricultural products [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/tovarnye-birzhi-belarusi-i-mongolii-planirujut-sotrudnichestvo-v-torgovle-selhozproduktami-635733-2024/>

⁷³² Mongolia has started buying Belarusian dairy products at exchange trading [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/mongolija-nachala-pokupat-belorusskuyu-molochnuyu-produktsiyu-na-birzhevyh-torgah-634389-2024/>

This fact can be considered a landmark event in the development of Belarusian-Mongolian exchange trade, especially considering that the expansion of the product range has a positive effect on the volume of exchange trade turnover and contributes to the growth of business activity of both sellers from Belarus and buyers from Mongolia. In addition, the parties plan to work out the issue of supplying Belarusian sawn timber to the Mongolian market, which is in high demand in the country's construction sector. It remains only to add that six residents of Mongolia have already been accredited at BUCE, one of whom has the status of an exchange broker. In January-May 2024, the amount of exchange transactions of Mongolian traders reached \$2.5 million

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Another East Asian country, **the Republic of Korea**, is a very promising sales market for Belarusian forestry enterprises. Korean residents of BUCE have been participating in exchange trades in forest products since November 2023, gradually increasing the volume of transactions. In the first half of this year, they purchased almost six thousand cubic meters of softwood lumber there. At the end of July 2024, “two companies from the Republic of Korea, specializing in the import, production and distribution of wood products, announced their readiness to make regular purchases of edged boards on the exchange platform⁷³⁴.” In addition, the issue of supplying wood fuel pellets or pellets to this East Asian country is being worked out. We are talking about the so-called “gray granules” used for industrial purposes. And this issue, apparently, will soon move into the practical plane.

From the countries of Southeast Asia, **Vietnam has joined the list of BUCE partners since the beginning of this autumn**. In early September, the pool of foreign buyers of Belarusian dry milk was replenished by a Vietnamese trading company, which concluded the first exchange transaction using the address mechanism, which has been in effect at BUCE since August 9,

⁷³³ BUTB to expand cooperation with Mongolian business [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-rasshirit-sotrudnichestvo-s-mongolskim-biznesom-638715-2024/>

⁷³⁴ Importers of forest products from the Republic of Korea are interested in cooperation with BUTB [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/juzhnokorejskie-importery-lesoproduktov-zainteresovany-v-sotrudnichestve-s-butb-650959-2024/>

with a milk processing plant in Belarus. "The purchase volume amounted to 52 tons ⁷³⁵." It should be noted that in August, buyers from seven new countries came to BUCE to purchase dry milk and other domestically produced dairy products.

Now let's move on to the Middle East, where the countries using the domestic exchange platform to import Belarusian-made goods include Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Oman, Saudi Arabia and Syria. As of early October 2024, 26 business entities from the UAE, 6 from Lebanon and Egypt, 5 from Syria, 3 from Jordan, 2 from Iraq, 1 from Oman and 1 from Saudi Arabia were accredited at BUCE. The UAE and Lebanon are in the lead in terms of the amount of transactions over the three quarters. Moreover, the dynamics are positive in both cases. In particular, "compared to January-September last year, the trade turnover of Emirati participants increased in monetary terms by 96 times, and that of Lebanese participants by 1.5 times. Based on the structure of exchange sales, domestic lumber and dry milk are in the greatest demand among Middle Eastern companies. Their share in the total volume of transactions is more than 70% ⁷³⁶."

If we talk about significant events in this context, we can note a number of interesting observations. For example, in early July of this year, a **UAE resident company** purchased feed additives produced in Belarus through BUCE for the first time. The fact is that companies from the Middle East have not previously concluded exchange transactions for the purchase of domestic feed additives. And these first exchange transactions for the purchase of amino acids, concluded by a UAE company, open a new page in the development of exchange trade between Belarus and this Middle Eastern state. After all, until now, UAE residents purchased only sawn timber on the exchange. In particular, "for the first half of 2024, the volume of purchases amounted to 29 thousand cubic meters, which is 5.3 times more than for the whole

⁷³⁵ Vietnam has joined the list of buyers of Belarusian dry milk via BUTB [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/vietnam-popolnil-spisok-pokupatelei-belorusskogo-suhogo-moloka-cherez-butb-658614-2024/>

⁷³⁶ Belarusian dairy products were sold to Jordan for the first time through BUTB [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/belorusskuju-molochnuju-produktsiju-vpervye-prodali-v-jordaniju-cherez-butb-668653-2024/>

of 2023. The entry of Emirati companies into the exchange market of agricultural products will undoubtedly give an additional impetus to cooperation between Belarus and the UAE in the exchange sphere and create the prerequisites for further growth of mutual trade turnover⁷³⁷. "

Another interesting fact. In September of this year, a major distributor of dairy products headquartered in Dubai (UAE), serving the Middle East and North Africa, intends to significantly increase purchases of skimmed milk powder at BUCE by the end of the year. In addition to increasing imports of skimmed milk powder through the exchange platform, the Emirati company is considering the possibility of cooperation with the Belarusian side on other commodity items. In particular, the issue of purchasing butter and meat products is being worked out, as well as organizing the supply of palm oil from Southeast Asian countries for the Belarusian food industry. It remains only to add that "according to the results of January - August 2024, the turnover of residents of the United Arab Emirates at BUCE exceeded \$ 25.5 million. About 77% of this amount came from the export of Belarusian agricultural products⁷³⁸. "

They also plan to use the BUCE platform to supply dairy products produced in Belarus to **Oman** and **Jordan**. In the first case, the first Omani company has already been accredited for this purpose on the domestic exchange platform, which intends to participate in exchange trading in the near future. "In the future, in addition to dairy products, the range of Belarusian goods supplied to Oman via BUCE may be expanded to include such items as rapeseed oil, beet pulp and molasses, sugar, amino acids, and feed additives⁷³⁹." In the second case, in October of this year, the first transactions for the sale of dairy products to the Jordanian market

⁷³⁷ UAE company buys Belarusian feed additives at BUTB for the first time [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/kompanija-iz-uae-vpervye-kupila-belorusskie-kormovye-dobavki-na-butb-644906-2024/>

⁷³⁸ UAE business is ready to increase purchases of dry milk at BUTB [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/biznes-uae-gotov-naraschivat-zakupki-suhogo-moloka-na-butb-662372-2024/>

⁷³⁹ Zalessky, B. Potential for increasing economic cooperation between Belarus and the distant arc countries / Boris Zalessky. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing , 2024. – C. 37.

were already registered on BUCE. The subject of the trial purchase was dry skim milk and dry whey in a total volume of 26 tons.

Finally, speaking about **Turkey**, we recall that as of June 1, 2024, 85 Turkish residents were accredited at BUCE, 19 of which began participating in exchange trading only this year. Until recently, the structure of the Belarusian-Turkish exchange trade turnover was dominated by the export of forest products from Belarus, as well as ferrous scrap metal and artificial fibers. But already in June 2024, a deal for the purchase of sugar was concluded at BUCE for the first time. The volume of the trial purchase was 136 tons. This fact suggests that "Turkey, as a country with a developed confectionery industry, is certainly of significant interest in terms of the export of Belarusian sugar and other processed sugar beet products ⁷⁴⁰." And there is confidence that the first deal concluded by a resident company from Turkey will serve as a positive signal for other representatives of Turkish business, including chocolate and soft drink manufacturers, for whom the exchange can become a reliable source of in-demand raw materials.

⁷⁴⁰ At BUCE, a Turkish resident company concluded a deal for the purchase of Belarusian sugar for the first time [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/na-butb-kompanija-rezident-turtsii-vpervye-zakljuchila-sdelku-na-pokupku-belorusskogo-sahara-640235-2024/>

Asian-African vector of cooperation

In 2024, the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange (BUCE) increased its activity on different continents, where it showed good sales rates of export goods from Belarus to foreign business partners. "Among the reasons for the successful operation of the exchange platform, one can note the increase in the number of non-resident buyers, the opening of new markets, the introduction of additional commodity items..."⁷⁴¹.

Positive trends in this context have been noted in **East Asia**. In particular, cooperation with **the People's Republic of China (PRC)** is one of the priority tasks of BUCE. This is evidenced by the high positive dynamics of trade turnover and a significant number of Chinese companies using the capabilities of the Belarusian exchange platform. As of January 1, 2025, 247 residents of this country were accredited at BUCE, including three exchange brokers. In 2024, the volume of transactions of Chinese traders amounted to about 135 million dollars, which is 1.7 times more than the figure for 2023. This level was achieved largely due to factors that contribute to the increase in Belarusian-Chinese exchange trade:

- 1) successful operation of the BUTB representative office in Shanghai;
- 2) active interaction with Chinese regions,
- 3) the transition of exchange trade between Belarus and China to a wide range of multi-commodity products.

As for the BUCE representative office in Shanghai, it was established in 2023. And today, "its specialists are already constantly participating in the largest industry exhibitions, forums, conferences and other business events in the PRC"⁷⁴², providing direct contact with representatives of Chinese businesses, additional opportunities to inform potential bidders about BUCE tools and services, and simplifying interaction with already

⁷⁴¹ Zalesky, B. Priorities of multi-vector approach. Chronicle of international economic cooperation of Belarus with interested partners on different continents / Boris Zalesky. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2024. – P. 573.

⁷⁴² Zaleski, B. Geography of stock exchange trade in Belarus. Chronicle of international cooperation / Boris Zaleski. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2024. – C. 51–52.

accredited companies. During the first year of the representative office, the Chinese direction of BUCE has become significantly more active - "almost 90 new bidders, <...> export transactions worth \$2-3 million weekly" ⁷⁴³. In November 2024, at the 7th China International Import Expo in Shanghai, the representative office specialists held numerous meetings with Chinese companies interested in purchasing meat and dairy products and oil and fat industries, as well as sawn timber and cellulose of Belarusian production at exchange trades. And there is no doubt that in 2025 we will see new effective results of this BUTB structure.

Speaking about the interaction of BUCE with Chinese regions, we can cite several relevant facts on this topic. In November 2024, BUCE signed a memorandum of understanding with the Investment Attraction Center of Enshi Prefecture of Hubei Province. By adopting this document, the parties "intend to combine efforts to popularize exchange trading among representatives of the business community of this region of the PRC and take measures to facilitate the entry of Chinese business entities into the BUCE electronic platform" ⁷⁴⁴. Let us recall that agriculture, metallurgy, mechanical engineering, and the textile industry are developing well in this province, and an extensive transport and logistics infrastructure allows for prompt delivery of goods to other regions of China. All this creates the preconditions for mutually beneficial cooperation between the Belarusian exchange platform and the business community of Hubei Province.

An agreement on organizing mutual exchange trade in agricultural products and industrial goods in November 2024 was reached following negotiations between BUCE and business circles of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region (XUAR). At the same time, the main focus was planned to be on attracting enterprises of the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps

⁷⁴³ During the operation of the BUCE representative office in Shanghai, the number of Chinese bidders increased by 1.6 times [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/za-vremja-raboty-predstavitelstva-butb-v-shanhae-chislo-kitajskih-uchastnikov-torgov-vyroslo-v-16-raza-673733-2024/>

⁷⁴⁴ BUCE intends to develop exchange trading with the Chinese province of Hubei [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-namerena-razvivat-birzhevuyu-torgovlju-s-kitajskoj-provintsiej-hubej-673638-2024/>

(SPCC) to the Belarusian exchange platform, which not only plays an important role in the economy of the XUAR, but also makes a significant contribution to the development of China's foreign trade potential as a whole. Negotiations have already been held with a number of large SPCC companies interested in purchasing Belarusian meat and dairy products and rapeseed oil through BUCE. Also, "the possibility of selling industrial chemicals, workwear and electronics produced in the XUAR on the domestic market of Belarus is being worked out. For this purpose, the exchange platform of industrial and consumer goods will be used, which has been regularly used by Chinese manufacturers of spare parts and components for industrial equipment since 2024.⁷⁴⁵" Interesting fact: last year China moved up to sixth place in the number of companies accredited at BUCE and second in the volume of exchange trade turnover with Belarusian participants in trades. Further growth of the indicators is planned to be ensured by even more active interaction with the regions of the PRC.

Recently, BUCE has been paying special attention to establishing contacts with producers of ferrous and non-ferrous rolled metal products, which account for about 85 percent of the turnover of the metal products section. At the end of October 2024, "following the results of meetings with Chinese metallurgists, it is planned to organize their participation in exchange trading for the domestic market of Belarus, which will increase the volume of metal supply on the exchange platform, increase the level of competition among foreign suppliers and create more favorable purchasing conditions for Belarusian enterprises of the real sector of the economy⁷⁴⁶." Speaking about the import of metal products from China, taking into account the structure of exchange transactions in 2024, rolled steel is of the greatest interest to Belarusian consumers. This is hot-rolled sheet, reinforcement, round bar, electric-welded pipe, angle, channel. As for the metals

⁷⁴⁵ Trade through BUCE will be established by Belarus and the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/torgovlju-cherez-butb-naladjat-belarus-i-sintszjan-ujgurskij-avtonomvi-raion-676369-2024/>

⁷⁴⁶ BUTB will provide additional opportunities for importing metal products from China [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-obespechit-dopolnitelnye-vozmozhnosti-dlja-importa-metalloproduksii-iz-kitajja-671737-2024/>

themselves, these are, first of all, aluminum, tin, nickel, zinc, as well as ferroalloys such as ferromanganese, ferromolybdenum and ferrochrome. From January to September last year, the amount of transactions in this area amounted to almost 23 million Belarusian rubles.

In general, for ten months of 2024, the amount of exchange transactions in the Industrial and Consumer Goods section of BUCE "exceeded Br967 million, which is 35% more than for the same period in 2023. The largest sales volumes were provided by vehicles, special equipment, spare parts and components for industrial equipment, industrial tools, electronics and equipment for video and audio recording ⁷⁴⁷." Also in this area, namely the textile industry, already in early November 2024, the pool of foreign sellers using this BUCE platform was replenished with another Asian country, when a Chinese manufacturer of raw materials and materials sold its products on BUCE for the first time. The amount of the transaction for the supply of a polyurethane membrane with a knitted mesh to one of the Belarusian enterprises of the textile industry amounted to about one and a half million Belarusian rubles. The entry of suppliers from China into the exchange, of course, contributes to an increase in the concentration of supply at auctions and in the long term will have a positive impact on the dynamics of Belarusian-Chinese trade turnover.

But it must be admitted that in the structure of BUCE's trade turnover with Chinese partners in 2024, Belarusian-made timber products still prevailed, with a share of 95 percent. At the same time, importers of woodworking products from China are ready to increase the volume of lumber purchases, since they are attracted to BUCE by the opportunity to purchase these products directly from Belarusian manufacturers at transparently formed market prices, as well as a number of related services that simplify doing business in Belarus. For this reason, for example, a large trading company from Shandong Province, specializing in the import and distribution of raw wood and wood products in China, in 2024

⁷⁴⁷ The geography of raw material suppliers for the Belarusian textile industry has expanded to BUTB [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/geografija-postavschikov-svrjia-dlja-belorusskoi-tekstilnoi-promyshlennosti-rasshirilas-na-butb-677213-2024/>

"concluded exchange transactions for the purchase of edged softwood lumber in a total volume of 11 thousand cubic meters. m, and from 2025 plans to participate in the trades even more actively" ⁷⁴⁸; in order to reach even higher figures, including by expanding the size range of sawn timber. In general, according to the results of 11 months of 2024, Chinese residents headed the top five largest importers of Belarusian wood products at BUCE. During this period, they purchased one and a half times more of these products than during the same period in 2023. And at the beginning of 2025, the pool of buyers of sawn timber from China, regularly participating in export trading sessions, already includes about 85 companies.

Another interesting observation: in 2024, the key trend in exchange trade between Belarus and China was a pronounced transition to multi-commodity trading. For example, "if a year ago almost the entire volume of exchange trade with China was provided by the export of Belarusian sawn timber, now the structure of transactions has become more diversified. In particular, the share of agricultural products is gradually growing - mainly due to the sale of domestic dairy products to China ⁷⁴⁹." Literally at the end of November 2024, the first 23 tons of Belarusian butter were sold with the help of BUCE to a Chinese importer of dairy products in Qingdao, in Shandong Province. Previously, this company had already purchased dry milk and dry whey at BUCE auctions. Taking into account the successful experience of using the Belarusian exchange platform, it decided to expand the range of purchased goods. And in December 2024, the first deal for the sale of meat products to China was concluded at BUCE, when a Chinese importer purchased 25 tons of semi-finished beef products at exchange trades, and the seller was a large meat processing plant from the Brest region. In general, in 2024, the Chinese direction of agricultural exports developed both

⁷⁴⁸ Chinese business is ready to increase purchases of Belarusian sawn timber products at exchange auctions [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/kitaiskij-biznes-gotov-naraschivat-zakupki-belorusskoj-piloproductsij-na-birzhevyh-torgah-679946-2024/>

⁷⁴⁹ Transition to multi-commodity: China has started buying Belarusian butter at BUTB [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/perehod-k-multitovarnosti-kitaj-nachal-pokupat-na-butb-belorusskoe-slivochnoe-maslo-679094-2024/>

in quantitative and qualitative terms. "Thus, the amount of transactions increased sixfold compared to 2023, to \$2.1 million, and the product portfolio was supplemented with butter, dry whey and meat products⁷⁵⁰."

In turn, Chinese manufacturers have begun to more actively supply Belarus with not only ferrous rolled metal products, but also various components and spare parts for industrial equipment and electrical engineering. In January 2025, the first exchange transaction was concluded at BUCE for the purchase of components for electric vehicle charging stations directly from a Chinese manufacturer. The cost of the equipment was 893 thousand Belarusian rubles. The fact is that the electric transport sector, including charging infrastructure for electric vehicles, is currently actively developing in Belarus. This involves the purchase of appropriate equipment, and China, as you know, is the world leader in this area. Therefore, in order to assist Belarusian enterprises in organizing the import of charging stations and components for them from China, a number of Chinese manufacturers were accredited to participate in the auctions. This transaction became "part of a set of measures to develop the industrial and consumer direction of exchange trade between Belarus and China, which successfully started in mid-2024 and is gradually gaining momentum. Thus, according to the results of last year, the amount of exchange transactions on import of equipment, spare parts and components from China reached \$1 million⁷⁵¹." So in 2025, the interaction of the Belarusian exchange platform with Chinese partners, apparently, will traditionally develop along an upward trajectory. All this indicates an increase in the interest of Chinese business in the Belarusian exchange market, which has a positive effect on the dynamics of mutual trade. Currently, the share of the Chinese market in the total volume of exchange exports is eleven percent, which puts China in second place in this indicator. And this is not the limit.

⁷⁵⁰ Belarusian meat products sold to China for the first time via BUTB [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/beloruskie-mjasoprodukty-vpervve-prodany-v-kitaj-cherez-butb-685396-2024/>

⁷⁵¹ Chinese manufacturer of charging equipment for electric vehicles sold its products at BUTB for the first time [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/kitajskij-proizvoditel-zarjadnogo-oborudovanija-dlja-elektromobilej-vpervve-prodal-produktsiju-na-butb-688167-2025/>

In another **East Asian country** , BUCE acquired a new partner in 2024 – **the Mongolian Commodity Exchange (MCE)**), with which it signed a memorandum of cooperation in order to exchange experience, information and technologies, facilitate the establishment of direct contacts between business entities of the two countries, conduct business events, create favorable conditions for participation in exchange trading for Belarusian and Mongolian companies, and implement joint projects aimed at strengthening trade and economic relations between the two countries. The parties plan to "develop a roadmap for cooperation with a list of specific events, which will become the basis for further interaction between the commodity exchanges of Belarus and Mongolia ⁷⁵². "

In 2024, BUCE stepped up cooperation with two **South Asian countries - India and Pakistan** . In particular, in November last year, the Belarusian exchange platform agreed on a preliminary list of areas of cooperation with **the Indian Chamber of International Business (ICIB)** in order to focus on attracting Indian business circles to make import and export transactions with goods on BUCE. "For India, these are sawn timber, flax fiber, synthetic threads and plastic products, and for Belarus - rice, food raw materials, fruits and vegetables and cotton yarn ⁷⁵³." In addition, in December last year, BUCE and ICIB agreed on the accreditation of an exchange broker in order not only to attract new trading participants from India to the Belarusian platform, but also to simplify the activities of four Indian companies already accredited there.

By the way, one of them concluded its first deal for the purchase of sawn timber in early November 2024. A manufacturer of lining and flooring from Delhi concluded a contract for three thousand cubic meters using the mechanism of exchange address transactions. Before this, wood processing products were not sold

⁷⁵² Commodity exchanges of Belarus and Mongolia signed a memorandum of cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/tovarnye-birzhi-belarusi-i-mongolii-zakljuchili-memorandum-o-sotrudnichestve-639163-2024/>

⁷⁵³ BUTB and the Indian Chamber of International Business agreed on areas of cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-i-indijskaja-palata-mezhdunarodnogo-biznesa-soglasovali-napravlenija-sotrudnichestva-678777-2024/>

to the Indian market through exchange trading, although India is certainly an attractive export destination for Belarusian enterprises in the wood processing industry. "Every year, this South Asian country imports about 30 million cubic meters of timber from abroad. <...> Coniferous wood species common in Belarus are especially in demand, which opens up wide opportunities for the supply of domestic sawn timber to the Indian market ⁷⁵⁴." It is noteworthy that the address mechanism was used to conclude the first deal with the importer from India, which involves a simplified accreditation procedure on the exchange and a symbolic exchange fee from the buyer in the amount of one Belarusian ruble. Overall, the volume of transactions on BUCE with Indian companies "at the end of 11 months [of 2024] amounted to \$1.6 million. <...> Accordingly, the potential for expanding the circle of trading participants and increasing trade turnover is colossal ⁷⁵⁵." So in 2025, the parties plan to achieve much higher results.

BUCE intends to intensify cooperation in the field of exchange trading in the new year with two new partners from **Pakistan**. Firstly, with the **Pakistan Mercantile Exchange (PMEX)**. In November 2024, the parties discussed the possibility of implementing mutually beneficial joint projects, as well as "the issue of settlements on exchange transactions, including the use of various financial mechanisms for securing obligations ⁷⁵⁶." For further cooperation, a memorandum of understanding will be signed, which will define the key tasks, principles, directions and forms of joint work of the two exchanges.

Secondly, with the **Pakistan Timber Traders Association (APTTA)**. In December last year, BUCE and ARTTA agreed to assist in informing Pakistani business circles about the possibilities of using exchange instruments. The Pakistani side believes that "the import of Belarusian sawn timber, given its high

⁷⁵⁴ India has started buying Belarusian sawn timber through BUTB [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/indija-nachala-pokupat-belorusskie-pilomaterialy-cherez-butb-673332-2024/>

⁷⁵⁵ BUTB plans to accredit a stockbroker in India [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-planiruet-akkreditovat-v-indii-birzhevoego-brokera-683642-2024/>

⁷⁵⁶ BUCE and Pakistan Commodity Exchange agreed to intensify cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-i-pakistanskaja-tovarnaja-birzha-dogovorilis-ob-aktivizatsii-sotrudnichestva-674954-2024/>

demand in Pakistan, can become a starting point for long-term mutually beneficial cooperation between Belarusian and Pakistani businesses in the exchange sphere ⁷⁵⁷." So this agreement will give the necessary impetus to the development of trade and economic contacts between the two countries.

Now let's move on to **Central Asia**. The development of exchange trade between Belarus and Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan in 2024 was marked by high dynamics. In the first eight months of last year alone, the total amount of transactions by traders from these "five" amounted to 56 million dollars, which is almost four times more than in the same period of 2023. Moreover, the growth of exchange turnover was observed in all countries of the region. For example, "the volume of transactions with **Tajikistan** increased in value terms by 6 times. In Belarus, Tajik companies mainly bought edged softwood lumber, and sold cotton yarn for export. In addition, in September, the first exchange contracts were concluded for the supply of Belarusian dry milk and whey to Tajikistan ⁷⁵⁸." In the same September, the BUCE accredited the first Tajik non-resident exchange broker. This will attract importers of sawn timber and agricultural products from this Central Asian country.

The growth of exchange trade turnover was noted in BUCE transactions with **Uzbek enterprises** in 2024: 55 million dollars, which is three times more than in 2023. It is interesting that "in January 2024, 97 Uzbek companies were accredited on the exchange, and by the end of December there were already 177. The increased interest in exchange trading is the result of comprehensive information work with the business community of Uzbekistan ⁷⁵⁹." As a result, last year the range of goods that Uzbek enterprises bought and sold on BUCE also expanded. In particular, since mid-2024, the sale of Belarusian dry skim and whole milk to the Uzbek market began. The amount of transactions for August -

⁷⁵⁷ BUTB will cooperate with the Pakistan Timber Traders Association [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-budet-sotrudniczat-s-assotsiatsiej-torgovtsev-lesoproductsiej-pakistana-684173-2024/>

⁷⁵⁸BUTB accredited the first stockbroker in Tajikistan [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-akkreditovala-pervogo-birzhevogo-brokera-v-tadzhikistane-660324-2024/>

⁷⁵⁹The volume of exchange trade between Belarus and Uzbekistan has increased threefold [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/objem-birzhevoi-torgovli-belarusi-i-uzbekistana-velichilsja-v-tri-raza-688691-2025/>

December exceeded four million dollars. As for imports, last year raw materials for the textile industry - cotton carded yarn and raw fabric - were actively supplied from Uzbekistan to Belarus. The amount of transactions for these positions increased by one and a half times by 2023.

As for **Kazakhstan**, it is the largest buyer of sugar at BUCE. In particular, only "in January-May 2024, Kazakhstani participants in exchange trading purchased 29 thousand tons of white granulated sugar, which is 4.7 times more than in the same period of 2023."⁷⁶⁰ Within the framework of the 24th Kazakhstan International Exhibition "Food, Beverages, Ingredients, Packaging and Equipment for the Food Industry" - InterFood Astana 2024, which was held in May in Astana, BUCE representatives held negotiations on cooperation with a number of Kazakhstani enterprises interested in purchasing agricultural products at exchange trading. We are talking about the import of dairy products and sugar, and in the future, other food products of Belarusian origin. For reference, we note that as of May 1, 2024, 122 residents of Kazakhstan were accredited at BUCE, including one brokerage company.

In 2025, BUTB intends to intensify business relations with partners from **Kyrgyzstan as well**, although and last year The exchange trading indicators were not bad. According to the results of 10 months of 2024, the exchange trade turnover with this Central Asian country "increased by 2.4 times, to \$5.7 million. Almost 65% of this amount was provided by export deliveries of Belarusian butter. The number of popular commodity items imported to Kyrgyzstan through the exchange also included granulated sugar, dry skim milk and rennet cheese"⁷⁶¹. As of the beginning of November 2024, 30 residents of Kyrgyzstan were accredited at BUCE, five of which took part in exchange trading for the first time last year. It is planned to give additional impetus to the development of Belarusian-Kyrgyz exchange trading by involving new liquid positions in mutual trade, expanding the

⁷⁶⁰BUTB expects to increase exports of Belarusian agricultural products to Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-rasschityvaet-uvelichit-eksport-belorusskoi-selhozproduktsii-v-kazahstan-637599-2024/>

⁷⁶¹Belarus and Kyrgyzstan to Strengthen Exchange Vector of Cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-kyrgyzstan-usiljat-birzhevoi-vektor-sotrudnichestva-678941-2024/>

circle of Kyrgyz trading participants and deepening inter-exchange cooperation. The issue is about joining forces with the Kyrgyz Stock Exchange, which is considering the possibility of launching trading on the commodity market and is interested in studying the experience and technologies of BUCE. In this regard, a preliminary agreement has been reached between the Belarusian and Kyrgyz exchanges to sign a cooperation agreement in 2025, which will become the basis for further joint work of the exchange platforms of the two countries.

Among the active partners of BUCE in **the South Caucasus**, we would like to highlight **Azerbaijan**. "Over 10 months of 2024, companies from this country concluded exchange transactions for more than \$91 million, exceeding the figure for January-October last year by two and a half times. Moreover, all of this was the export of Belarusian goods - mainly products of the woodworking industry, which accounted for 90% of deliveries⁷⁶²." The growth in sales at BUCE is primarily due to the expansion of the circle of regular customers from Azerbaijan. After all, their number has increased almost one and a half times. As of the beginning of November 2024, 132 residents from this country were accredited here. Thus, since the beginning of the year, the number of trading participants from Azerbaijan has increased by 41 companies. Another detail: previously, Azerbaijani participants mainly bought sawn timber and dairy products on the exchange platform. But in November of last year, the first transactions for the export of meat by-products were registered at BUCE. The seller was one of the leading meat processing enterprises of the Brest region, and the buyer was an Azerbaijani trading organization specializing in the import of meat and meat products for the food industry. The total purchase volume for the two transactions was 18 tons. Thus, the expansion of the product range in the meat and meat products segment opens up new opportunities for the development of exchange trade between Belarus and Azerbaijan in 2025.

⁷⁶²Belarusian meat products sold to Azerbaijan for the first time through BUTB [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/beloruskaja-mjasoproduktsijavpervve-realizovana-v-azerbajdzhan-cherez-butb-673064-2024/>

Turkey can be noted among the promising partners of BUCE in the **Middle East**. Suffice it to say that as of November 1, 2024, 102 residents of this country were accredited on the Belarusian exchange platform. And in January - October of last year, "the exchange turnover of Turkish companies exceeded the \$ 17 million mark. This is 2.5 times more than for the same period in 2023, and the growth driver was not one, but several commodity areas at once. Thus, Belarusian sawn timber, sugar, wheat gluten, dry milk, ferrous scrap metal and flax fiber were supplied to Turkey, and polyester yarn and threads in demand in the textile industry of Belarus were purchased by import ⁷⁶³. "

In November 2024, the **Istanbul Commodity Exchange (ISTIB)** confirmed its interest in working together with BUCE on all relevant aspects of the bilateral and multilateral agenda, planning to supplement the list of bilateral areas of cooperation with new promising positions, especially in the agro-industrial complex segment. And in the same November, the first successful trades in flax products for export were held at BUCE. During the trading session, a **Turkish textile company** purchased two lots of cottonized flax fiber with a total volume of more than 35 tons, and the seller was one of the leading Belarusian enterprises in the flax industry. Note that the last time this product was traded on the foreign market at BUCE was back in 2005. Now, "with the help of the exchange mechanism, it is planned to expand the export capabilities of Belarusian flax processors and ensure more efficient pricing of their products. The first trading session for the sale of flax fiber for export demonstrated the demand for Belarusian products and the willingness of foreign importers to work through the exchange ⁷⁶⁴." It remains to add that further work on the development of export exchange trade in flax fiber will be carried out in two directions: expanding the pool of foreign buyers and attracting Belarusian flax mills to the exchange platform.

⁷⁶³ BUCE and Istanbul Commodity Exchange to Develop Cooperation in BRICS [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-istambulskaia-tovarnaja-birzha-budut-razvivat-sotrudnichestvo-v-briks-678324-2024/>

⁷⁶⁴ Belarusian flax fiber sold for export for the first time through BUTB [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/belorussskoe-lnjanoe-volokno-vpervye-prodano-na-eksport-cherez-butb-676512-2024/>

Finally, let's get acquainted with BUCE's partners on the African continent. Back in July 2024, three companies from **Kenya** , located in **East Africa** , successfully passed the accreditation procedure at BUCE. Until that moment, residents of this country did not participate in exchange trading. Now, it is planned to send meat and dairy products and other domestically produced food products to East African countries through the Belarusian electronic platform, while deliveries of Kenyan coffee, vegetables and fruits will be organized to the Belarusian market. The fact is that it is advisable to start exchange trading with a new country with highly liquid products that can already at the start ensure a stable flow of goods in both directions. "In the case of Belarus and Kenya, this is, of course, agricultural products, both raw materials and goods with higher added value ⁷⁶⁵. " Kenyan companies in Belarus are interested primarily in dry dairy products, frozen semi-finished meat products and cereals, and from Kenya they are ready to supply grain coffee and fruit and vegetable products, including avocados and mangoes

In **West Africa**, in the fall of 2024, BUCE established partnerships with interesting partners from **Nigeria** and **Ghana** . In the first case, this is **the Nigerian Commodity Exchange (NCX)** , with which the Belarusian platform will initially exchange information, experience and best practices. These include, in particular, the organization and conduct of spot exchange trading in agricultural products, metals, mineral raw materials and industrial goods on the domestic market and for export. Let us recall that "the Nigerian exchange platform mainly trades raw materials such as cocoa beans, coffee beans, wheat, corn, cotton, millet and rice, while BUCE also widely represents highly processed products ⁷⁶⁶." In addition, BUCE and NCX intend to assist Belarusian and Nigerian companies interested in purchasing or selling goods using the exchange mechanism. It is clear that this activity will contribute to strengthening trade and economic ties

⁷⁶⁵ The first companies from Kenya are accredited at BUTB [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/pervve-kompanii-iz-kenii-akkreditovany-na-butb-648277-2024/>

⁷⁶⁶ BUCE to cooperate with Nigerian Commodity Exchange [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-budet-sotrudnicat-s-nigerijskoj-tovarnoi-birzhei-672175-2024/>

between Belarus and Nigeria and create preconditions for the growth of mutual trade turnover.

And in November 2024, BUCE and **the Ghana Commodity Exchange (GCX)** identified promising areas of interaction between the two electronic platforms in terms of developing mutual exchange trade and technology transfer. Taking into account the range of goods currently presented on the BUCE and GCX platforms, the parties intend to focus on agricultural products, since "this product group provides a wide field for cooperation in both export and import directions, which fully meets the interests of the two countries ⁷⁶⁷." Moreover, the Ghanaian side expressed its readiness to assist in attracting to BUCE auctions producers of such in-demand items in Belarus as soybeans, corn and rice, while it is planned to supply Belarusian meat products, flour products and wheat gluten to Ghana. So, in the near future, the partners intend to take new specific steps to implement joint projects in order to open new markets and reliable sources of import supplies on the African continent.

⁷⁶⁷ Commodity exchanges of Belarus and Ghana have identified promising areas of cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/tovarnye-birzhi-belarusi-i-gany-opredelili-perspektivnye-oblasti-vzaimodejstviya-674690-2024/>

Steady expansion of participants trading brings success

A stable influx of foreign participants in the Belarusian exchange market has shown that 2024 has become one of the most successful years in the activities of the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange (BUCE). This is evidenced by the figures. Firstly, active work to expand the presence of foreign companies on the Belarusian exchange platform attracted residents from eight new countries that were not previously represented at the auctions. These are manufacturing and trading enterprises from Venezuela, Vietnam, Iraq, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Oman and Saudi Arabia. Secondly, the total number of foreign business entities accredited at BUCE increased by almost 1,100 companies and reached 7,945 by the end of 2024. Thirdly, positive dynamics in this context continue this year. In January 2025, 75 new participants from abroad came to the Belarusian exchange trading. And at the beginning of February, the first company from Indonesia was accredited at BUCE. The new participant of exchange trading plans to use the capabilities of the Belarusian trading platform to purchase sawn timber and dairy products ⁷⁶⁸." Thus, the geography of foreign clients of BUCE has once again expanded and currently covers 79 countries. And in general, as of February 1 of this year, 35,513 companies have already been accredited on the Belarusian exchange platform, including 8,020 foreign participants.

One of the key areas of BUCE's work on the external circuit is the development of exchange trading within **the Eurasian Economic Union** (EAEU). This is evidenced, in particular, by the number of companies from the union countries accredited on the exchange, as well as the constant increase in the volume of exchange trade turnover. At the beginning of 2025, BUCE had "4,258 participants from Russia, 146 from Kazakhstan, 48 from Armenia and 30 from Kyrgyzstan accredited. At the same time, positive dynamics in the volume of mutual exchange trade was achieved with almost all EAEU countries. In particular, trade

⁷⁶⁸ BUTB accredited the first company from Indonesia [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-akkreditovala-pervuju-kompaniju-iz-indonezii-695107-2025/>

turnover with Russia increased by 3.5 times, with Kazakhstan - by 4.2 times, with Kyrgyzstan - by 2.4 times ⁷⁶⁹. " In general, in 2024, the amount of exchange transactions between Belarusian enterprises and business entities of other EAEU countries amounted to more than one billion dollars, which is 3.3 times more than the same indicator in 2023 and is a record result in the entire history of the BUCE. Nevertheless, the Belarusian exchange platform in 2025 will continue to increase the turnover of cooperation with the countries of the Eurasian "five".

For example, with **Kazakhstan** . According to exchange trading statistics, in 2024, imports of Kazakh products accounted for less than one percent of the total exchange trade turnover of the two countries. At the same time, "as of February 24, 2025, 154 residents of Kazakhstan were accredited at BUCE. In 2024, the amount of transactions concluded by Kazakh participants in exchange trading amounted to \$29 million, which is four times more than in 2023." In this context ⁷⁷⁰, it is planned to work out in detail the list of export-oriented goods of Kazakh production in order to identify the most promising items that it is advisable to supply to Belarus through exchange trading. After all, grain, flour, products made of ferrous and non-ferrous metals, coal - all this will be in demand among Belarusian consumers, and BUCE will help cut off unnecessary intermediary links and contribute to strengthening trade and cooperation ties between enterprises of Kazakhstan and Belarus. To achieve this, it is necessary to intensify efforts to inform small and medium-sized businesses in Kazakhstan about the opportunities for trading on the Belarusian exchange platform.

And already in March of this year, BUCE signed two documents in Astana with two leading exchange platforms of Kazakhstan - JSC Commodity Exchange "Eurasian Trading System" (ETS) and JSC Commodity Exchange "Caspian". In the first case - a cooperation agreement, in the second - a

⁷⁶⁹ Belarus's exchange trade turnover with the EAEU countries has grown more than threefold [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/birzhevoj-tovarooborot-belarusi-so-stranami-eaes-vyros-bolee-chem-v-tri-raza-689299-2025/>

⁷⁷⁰ Belarus and Kazakhstan intend to increase exchange trade volumes [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-kazahstan-namereny-naraschivat-objemy-birzhevoj-torgovli-698367-2025/>

memorandum of interaction. These documents "will serve as a legal foundation for the development of mutually beneficial inter-exchange cooperation between Belarus and Kazakhstan, aimed at expanding the practice of using electronic exchange instruments, involving business entities of the two countries in exchange trading and increasing mutual exchange turnover ⁷⁷¹." This suggests that this interaction is reaching a qualitatively new level, which will result in a multiple increase in exchange trading volumes, strengthening of bilateral trade and economic relations and broader opportunities for doing business. In the near future, the parties intend to form working groups to draw up roadmaps with lists of specific activities for the implementation of the cooperation agreement and the memorandum of interaction. The priority is to simplify mutual access of Belarusian and Kazakh companies to the commodity exchange markets of both countries.

In the same March, the Belarusian-Kazakh seminar in Astana discussed the role of exchange trading in the development and strengthening of trade and economic cooperation between Belarus and Kazakhstan. Over 50 representatives of Kazakhstani businesses interested in working at BUCE took part in the event, where all key aspects of organizing and conducting exchange trading were discussed and current commodity positions for mutual electronic trade between the two countries were identified. Thus, "in terms of exports, the main efforts are planned to be focused on increasing the supply of Belarusian sawn timber, meat and dairy products and feed additives, and in terms of imports - on the purchase of Kazakhstani metal products, coal, grain, meals and oilseeds for industrial processing ⁷⁷²." It should be noted that according to the results of January-February 2025, the amount of transactions of Kazakhstani traders increased by 36 percent. The structure of the exchange trade turnover of Belarus and

⁷⁷¹ BUCE signed cooperation documents with two leading exchange platforms of Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-podpisala-dokumenty-o-sotrudnichestve-s-dvumja-veduschimi-birzhevymi-platformami-kazahstana-700392-2025/>

⁷⁷² Belarus and Kazakhstan to Strengthen Exchange Direction of Trade and Economic Cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-kazahstan-usiljat-birzhevoe-napravlenie-torgovo-ekonomicheskogo-sotrudnichestva-700133-2025/>

Kazakhstan was dominated by imports of Belarusian dry milk, butter, sugar and sawn timber.

If we talk about other countries **of the Commonwealth of Independent States** (CIS), it is necessary to single out **Uzbekistan**. As of the end of February 2025, 188 residents from this Central Asian country have already been accredited at BUCE, three of which have the status of stock brokers. "Last year, Uzbek participants in exchange trading concluded transactions for a total of \$54.8 million, which is three times more than the same figure in 2023. In 2025, there has already been an almost twofold increase in trade turnover: \$9.6 million in January of this year versus \$5.2 million in January 2024." ⁷⁷³In February of this year, the BUCE delegation took part in the 26th international construction exhibition UzBuild in Tashkent and the 4th international specialized exhibition AGROPRO EXPO in Samarkand, where agreements were reached to increase the supply of Belarusian sawn timber and agricultural products to the Uzbek market. There, significant interest was noted among Uzbek business circles in using exchange trading tools to purchase and sell a wide range of raw materials and non-raw materials. In particular, in addition to importing wood products, representatives of Uzbek businesses expressed their readiness to purchase meat products and feed additives on BUCE and place orders for the sale of food raw materials, including nuts and dried fruits. And the plans include not only increasing the number of participants in exchange trades from this country, but also diversifying the structure of Belarusian-Uzbek exchange trade turnover, which will ensure its sustainable positive dynamics in the long term. Indeed, in 2024, Uzbekistan took fourth place after Russia, China and Azerbaijan in terms of the amount of exchange transactions concluded on BUCE. Over 90 percent of all transactions were for the purchase of Belarusian sawn timber, dry milk and sugar. And mainly cotton yarn, which is in high demand among textile industry enterprises, was supplied to Belarus through the

⁷⁷³Uzbek business to expand presence on Belarusian stock exchange [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/biznes-uzbekistana-rasshirit-prisutstvie-na-belorusskoi-birzhevoi-ploschadke-698799-2025/>

exchange. The issue of expanding the range of goods involved in exchange trade between the two countries, both in the direction of export and import, is relevant.

As for **Moldova**, 62 residents from this CIS country are currently accredited at BUCE. Moldova is certainly a promising sales area for Belarusian products, and the range of goods supplied to this country through exchange trades is expanding annually. For example, in 2023, the first transactions for the purchase of Belarusian sugar were concluded, in 2024, a trial batch of dry skim milk was sold to the Moldovan market. In February 2025, "during a trading session for the sale of dairy products for export, a Moldovan participant concluded two trial transactions with a total volume of 20 tons. The seller was a large milk processing enterprise from the Grodno region ⁷⁷⁴." The appearance of such an item as butter in the structure of the exchange turnover of Belarus and Moldova will have a positive effect on the dynamics of mutual trade volumes and will attract more representatives of Moldovan businesses specializing in the import and distribution of agricultural products to the exchange platform.

Among the main partner countries of BUCE from the "far arc", which in 2024 showed high results on the Belarusian exchange platform, it is necessary to highlight **China**. After all, the export of products from Belarus to the Celestial Empire through BUCE increased by 1.6 times at the end of last year - to almost 130 million dollars. "The largest volume of transactions was for products of the forestry complex, namely, sawn timber from coniferous wood species. In addition, during the past year, dry milk, butter, dry milk cream and semi-finished beef products were actively supplied to the Chinese market through exchange trading" ⁷⁷⁵. And this year, Chinese business continues to show increased interest in goods of Belarusian production: in the first two weeks of January, exchange transactions have already been concluded for a total of more than three and a half million dollars.

⁷⁷⁴ Belarusian butter sold to Moldova for the first time through BUTB [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/belorussskoe-slivochnoe-maslo-vpervye-prodano-v-moldovu-cherez-butb-696416-2025/>

⁷⁷⁵ Belarus increased exchange exports to China by 1.6 times in 2024 [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-v-16-raza-velichila-birzhevoi-eksport-v-kitaj-za-2024-god-691039-2025/>

And in February 2025, in order to expand the range of Chinese metallurgical enterprises selling products in demand in Belarus at exchange trading, BUCE accredited a new exchange broker from Zhejiang Province - Wenzhou Ruijun Steel Co. Ltd. This company has been cooperating with the commodity exchange since 2021 and has significant experience in using the exchange mechanism in the supply of rolled metal products to the market of our republic. It is assumed that, as a broker, Wenzhou Ruijun Steel will focus on attracting Chinese manufacturers of rolled steel to the exchange platform, which will contribute to an increase in the supply of these products at exchange trading and, as a result, will provide more favorable purchasing conditions for domestic consumers. The fact is that against the background of a decline in global demand for products of the metallurgical industry, Chinese manufacturers have begun to actively take an interest in the Belarusian market, and use exchange trading as an entry point. And only "in 2024, 90 new companies from the Celestial Empire entered the auction, while the exchange import of Chinese metal to Belarus increased in value terms by almost six times compared to 2023. The structure of transactions was dominated by pipe and sheet metal products ⁷⁷⁶." Of course, the emergence of a broker specializing in metal products will have a positive effect not only on the sales of Chinese metal in Belarus, but will also give additional impetus to the development of cooperation between our countries in the exchange sector.

And in March of this year, the first transaction for the sale of technical casein to the Chinese market with the help of BUCE took place. The purchase volume was 21 tons. "The seller was one of the leading milk processing enterprises of the Minsk region, and the buyer was a trading company from Beijing specializing in the import and distribution of dairy products ⁷⁷⁷." The expansion of the product range of exchange exports to China is associated with a stable increase in traders from this country. Thus, since the

⁷⁷⁶ BUTB expands cooperation with Chinese metal producers and accredits a new broker [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-rasshirjaet-sotrudnichestvo-s-kitajskimi-metalloproizvoditeljami-i-akkreditovala-novogo-brokera-693325-2025/>

⁷⁷⁷ Belarusian casein sold to China via exchange for the first time [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/belorusckij-kazein-pervvye-prodan-v-kitaj-cherez-birzhu-700342-2025/>

beginning of 2025, 12 new residents have already been accredited at BUCE. Such interest of Chinese business in the Belarusian exchange platform not only contributes to an increase in the level of competition during trading, but also creates favorable conditions for the emergence of additional product items supplied to China through the exchange. This year, the development of exchange trade between Belarus and China continues, and the appearance of technical casein in the sales structure is one of the practical results of this work. For reference, we add that as of March 1, 2025, 259 residents of the PRC were accredited at BUCE, including four with the status of stockbrokers.

Continuing the topic of Belarusian-Chinese cooperation in exchange trading, we note that in February of this year, BUCE agreed on cooperation with the Association of Organizations of Chinese Compatriots "Huaqiao". This is a "non-profit organization established under the leadership of the Embassy of the PRC in Belarus. Members of the association are citizens of China permanently residing in Belarus, as well as legal entities with Chinese capital"⁷⁷⁸. It will assist BUCE in expanding the circle of participants in exchange trading from China, and in accordance with its competence, inform Chinese businesses about the opportunities and advantages of the exchange platform. BUCE, in turn, is ready to take on the entire range of issues related to the organization and support of export-import activities of residents from China in Belarus, including consulting, marketing support, finding business partners, training in the basics of exchange trading and assistance in concluding transactions.

In 2025, BUCE, apparently, intends to intensify interaction in exchange trading with another foreign country - **India**. At the beginning of this year, 8 Indian companies were accredited on the Belarusian electronic platform, 6 of which came to the exchange in 2024. The total amount of exchange transactions concluded by residents of India last year amounted to \$ 1.6 million. At the same time, since the beginning of this year, the Belarusian-Indian trade turnover has already approached \$ 1 million. The entire volume of

⁷⁷⁸ BUTB will cooperate with the Association of Organizations of Chinese Compatriots [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-budet-sotrudnichat-s-assotsiatsiej-organizatsij-kitajskih-sootechestvennikov-694280-2025/>

exchange sales was provided by export deliveries of Belarusian sawn timber⁷⁷⁹. In January 2025, a large Indian importer of sawn timber - Singla Timbers - announced its readiness to deepen cooperation with BUCE. This is not only about increasing the volume of purchases of Belarusian sawn timber, but also about developing other promising segments of the commodity market in order to conclude import and export transactions. The company began participating in exchange trading about a year ago. And based on the 11 concluded deals, it has already managed to fully assess the potential of BUTB as a tool for interaction with Belarusian enterprises. In this regard, the Indian importer is ready to take the next step and plans to purchase pallet boards from 2025. Now this position is mainly imported to India from Australia in the amount of 50-60 thousand cubic meters per month. In addition, the company would like to engage in export and supply goods to Belarus from India and neighboring countries. In particular, it has extensive experience in cross-border trade in nuts. So this product will be in high demand on the Belarusian market.

And in February 2025, the first deal for the sale of textile raw materials from India on the domestic market of Belarus was concluded at BUCE. "A pilot purchase of 20 tons of combed tape (tops) was made by one of the domestic light industry enterprises, and the seller was a large manufacturer of wool and acrylic yarn from the Indian state of Punjab⁷⁸⁰." This deal showed how the use of the exchange mechanism helped the Belarusian enterprise to promptly purchase the necessary raw materials directly from a foreign manufacturer. And secondly, this is a significant step in the development of Belarusian-Indian exchange trade, since until now the basis of exchange trade between our countries was sawn timber, which has been supplied to the Indian market since November last year. It must be assumed that the emergence of a new promising commodity position will give an additional impetus to cooperation between Belarus and India in the exchange

⁷⁷⁹ Indian business is interested in expanding activities with BUTB [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/indijskij-biznes-zainteresovan-v-rasshirenii-dejatelnosti-s-butb-690860-2025/>

⁷⁸⁰ Indian textile raw material manufacturer sold its products at BUCE for the first time [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/indijskij-proizvoditel-tekstilnogo-svrjja-vpervve-prodal-svoju-produktsiju-na-butb-699298-2025/>

sphere and will have a positive impact on the dynamics of the volume of transactions concluded by Indian traders.

In the same February of this year, the BUCE Center for Exchange Education held a practical seminar on exchange trading for representatives of Indian business for the first time, thereby expanding the geography of export of educational services. The event was held online in English, with traders of a textile manufacturer from the state of West Bengal acting as listeners. This Indian company plans to supply its products to the Belarusian market through the exchange platform. So one of the BUCE tasks for this year is already being implemented: the Indian direction of exchange trading is reaching a qualitatively new level, which "implies an increase in the number of accredited companies, ensuring positive dynamics of trade turnover and expanding the list of goods purchased and sold by Indian participants ⁷⁸¹." Conducting specialized training events for residents of India not only helps to obtain a more significant economic effect from their participation in exchange trading, but also makes a significant contribution to the popularization of the exchange mechanism in the context of the development of trade and economic cooperation between the countries.

In 2024, BUCE was able to actively promote cooperation with another foreign country - **Turkey**. "Firstly, the turnover of Turkish traders doubled: from \$9.6 million in 2023 to \$20.8 million in 2024. Secondly, the range of goods involved in exchange trading has become more diversified ⁷⁸²." At present, 107 residents of Turkey are accredited at BUCE. And in the first two months of this year, the amount of transactions of Turkish companies on the Belarusian exchange increased by one and a half times compared to the same period in 2024, reaching almost five million dollars. Coniferous sawn timber, flax fiber and ferrous scrap prevailed in exports from Belarus, while carded yarn, which is in demand in the Belarusian textile industry, was mainly

⁷⁸¹ BUTB expands the geography of export of educational services [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://www.butb.by/news/2025/butb-rasshirila-geografiju-eksporta-obrazovatelnykh-uslug/>

⁷⁸² Exchange trade turnover between Belarus and Turkey has grown by one and a half times since the beginning of 2025 [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/birzhevoj-tovarooborot-belarusi-i-turtsii-vyros-v-poltora-raza-s-nachala-2025-goda-701676-2025/>

imported from Turkey. In addition to wood processing products, Belarusian sugar, wheat gluten, skim milk powder and flax fiber began to be supplied to the Turkish market, and the import direction was strengthened by the purchase of textile raw materials by Belarusian light industry enterprises. In 2024, the pool of BUCE users was replenished with 38 new companies from Turkey, which also had a positive effect on the dynamics of the exchange trade turnover of the two countries. To ensure high growth rates of Belarusian-Turkish exchange trade in the long term, it is planned to establish closer cooperation with the MÜSIAD Association, which unites over 60 thousand Turkish companies, which will open up new opportunities for business entities of Belarus and Turkey, providing them with a convenient platform for doing joint business.

In short, positive trends in expanding the presence of foreign companies on the Belarusian stock exchange platform in 2024 show that this year, participants in exchange trading at BUCE will not only increase sales volumes to traditional markets, but also open new supply routes.

From East Asia to West Africa

In 2025, the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange (BUCE) took a new major step in the development of exchange trade in our country. In the first quarter of this year, the total amount of export exchange transactions on BUCE increased almost one and a half times and amounted to 1.3 billion Belarusian rubles. The most popular Belarusian goods abroad were sawn timber, dry milk, meat, butter and feed additives. At the same time, in the first three months of 2025, 774 new companies (470 residents and 304 non-residents) were accredited to participate in exchange trading on BUCE. In total, as of March 31, 2025, more than 36 thousand companies were accredited, of which more than 8 thousand are non-residents from 81 foreign countries ⁷⁸³.

If we talk about specific countries that actively participate in the work of BUCE, then, of course, the leader in this list is **Russia**, which not only ranks first in terms of trade volumes among all countries represented on the Belarusian exchange platform, but is also the largest destination for exchange exports. According to the results of the first quarter of this year, supplies of Belarusian goods to the Russian market increased in value terms by more than 40 percent, exceeding two hundred million dollars. Russian companies mainly buy meat products, dry milk, butter, cheese and feed additives at the auctions. Grain, plant protection products, veterinary drugs and food raw materials are in the greatest demand among Belarusian participants. The growth rate of the transaction amount in this segment of the commodity market was 135 percent. In addition to agricultural products, high liquidity at exchange trades over three months was demonstrated by: metallurgy and woodworking products, building materials, lubricants, polymer products, as well as a wide range of industrial and consumer goods. "In particular, export sales of Belarusian gas silicate blocks to Russia increased by 26%, ferrous and non-ferrous scrap metal by 12%, and industrial products by 3%. In turn,

⁷⁸³ The number of transactions at BUCE auctions 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-vvroslo-na-tret-712291-2025/>

Russian enterprises increased sales of polymers and polymer packaging by 63%, ferroalloys by 22%, and ferrous rolled metal by 6%⁷⁸⁴.

And according to the results of January-April, the Russian direction grew by another 20 percent compared to the same period in 2024, exceeding 310 million dollars, which is significantly more than China and Uzbekistan, which are in second and third places, respectively. This indicates a stable interest of Russian business in the instruments offered by BUCE, 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 of this year, "4,522 residents of Russia, including seven exchange brokers, are accredited at BUCE. Thus, since the beginning of the year, the number of Russian trading participants has increased by 264 companies⁷⁸⁵."

In May of this year, the NatsProektSroy group of companies, which is one of the largest construction holdings in Russia, expressed interest in cooperation with BUTB. We are talking about the possible use of exchange trades for the purchase of materials, equipment and machinery for the construction of transport and energy infrastructure facilities. At the same time, not only Belarusian and Russian enterprises, but also companies from other countries accredited at BUTB can act as suppliers. In particular, one of the areas of interaction with the NatsProektSroy Group of Companies may be the purchase of aerated concrete blocks produced by the Belarusian Cement Company. Since export exchange trades of these products are held at BUTB on a regular basis, and the seller is the direct manufacturer, working through the exchange will guarantee the rhythm of deliveries and proper quality of the goods. Note that "in January - April 2025, 257 thousand cubic meters were sold abroad. m of wall blocks made of cellular concrete, which is 32% more than for the same

⁷⁸⁴ Exchange trade turnover between Belarus and Russia increased by 17% [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/birzhevoi-tovarooborot-belarusi-i-rossii-vvros-na-17-706573-2025/>

⁷⁸⁵ BUTB: Russian companies still lead in terms of the amount of exchange transactions [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-rossijskie-kompanii-po-prezhnemu-lidirujut-po-summe-birzhevnyh-sdelok-715396-2025/>

period in 2024. The entire volume was purchased by residents of Russia⁷⁸⁶. "

Recently, there has been an increase in exchange trade between BUCE and other countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). For example, with **Azerbaijan**. In 2024, transactions concluded by Azerbaijani companies on the Belarusian exchange platform "provided more than 20% of the total trade volume between Belarus and Azerbaijan, while compared to 2023, the exchange turnover of the two countries increased by almost 2.5 times⁷⁸⁷." As of the beginning of May of this year, 156 business entities from this country of the South Caucasus have already been accredited at BUCE, of which about a third regularly participate in trading. Lumber is in the greatest demand among Azerbaijani importers. This position accounts for over 90 percent of the exchange turnover of our countries. However, the situation is gradually changing and, based on the statistics of 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 the current year, 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 broker of BUCE in Azerbaijan, SAMA-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, a memorandum of cooperation was signed between BUCE and the Small and Medium Business Development Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan to intensify interaction with the business community of Azerbaijan. The combined efforts of

⁷⁸⁶ One of the largest construction holdings in Russia 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/>

⁷⁸⁷ Exchange trade provided more than 20% of trade turnover between Belarus and Azerbaijan [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/birzhevaia-torgovlja-obespechila-bolee-20-tovarooborota-belarusi-i-azerbaidzhana-712981-2025>

the agency and the exchange will allow more effective informing of Azerbaijani entrepreneurs about the opportunities of working on the Belarusian trading platform and will contribute to an increase in 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 trade turnover, expand the product range and increase the number of users of the BUCE trading platform in 2025 is **Turkmenistan**. "Based on the results of last year [2024], the amount of exchange transactions of Turkmen participants increased 25 times - from \$ 80 thousand to almost \$ 2 million. Moreover, all of this was Belarusian export, namely sawn timber and dry milk ⁷⁸⁸." In May of this year, at the International Trade and Services Exhibition and Fair (ITSE -2025) in Ashgabat, BUCE representatives 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. Moreover, "compared to January-April last year, the amount of exchange transactions of Turkmen trading participants increased more than five times - primarily due to an increase in the export of Belarusian products ⁷⁸⁹." As for imports from this Central Asian country, the most promising product groups are textiles and fruit and vegetable products. In this regard, on the sidelines of the ITSE 2025 forum, negotiations were held 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, where the possibilities of intensifying cooperation were discussed, including in the field of analytics and technology exchange, which will help increase 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 at BUCE, six of whom came last

⁷⁸⁸ BUTB and the Embassy of Turkmenistan agreed on cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-i-posolstvo-turkmenistana-dogovorilis-o-sotrudnichestve-707495-2025/>

⁷⁸⁹ BUTB will assist Turkmen enterprises in entering the Belarusian market [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-posodejstvuet-turkenskimi-predpriatijam-v-vyhode-na-belorusskij-rynok-712486-2025/>

year to purchase products from the woodworking and dairy industries.

As for **Georgia**, in 2024, the volume of exchange trade with this country of the South Caucasus increased almost fourfold on the BUCE - to almost 13 million dollars, and 27 new Georgian companies began to use the exchange mechanism. "Until now, the Georgian market was mainly supplied with forestry products, including sawn timber, sleepers, poles and stakes, as well as dry whole and skim milk. In turn, Georgian companies sold raw materials and semi-finished products from poultry, pork and beef at exchange trades ⁷⁹⁰." And in March of this year, the first transaction for the sale of butter to the Georgian market was registered on the BUCE. The purchase volume was eight tons. It is expected that the expansion of the range of exchange exports to Georgia will serve as an incentive for new buyers from this country to come to the Belarusian exchange platform and will create preconditions for a further increase in mutual trade turnover.

In the same March 2025, the first transaction for the sale of Belarusian-made meat by-products to ⁷⁹¹**Uzbekistan was registered. "The Uzbek importer who made the purchase was accredited at BUCE in February 2025 as part of a set of measures to diversify sales markets for domestic meat industry products ."** This suggests that the volume of meat and meat product exports through the Belarusian exchange platform are demonstrating stable positive dynamics, and the circle of foreign buyers is constantly expanding. In particular, in January-February of this year, foreign companies purchased almost nine thousand tons of meat and semi-finished meat products at BUCE, which is more than half of the total sales volume last year. In monetary terms, the export of meat industry products exceeded 40 million dollars. At the same time, compared to 2024, the geography of buyers has become wider and currently Belarusian

⁷⁹⁰ Belarus and Georgia have expanded the range of commodities on exchange trade [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-gruzija-rasshirili-tovarnuiu-nomenklaturu-birzhevoj-torgovli-704568-2025/>

⁷⁹¹ Belarus has expanded the range of exchange exports of meat products to Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-rasshirila-nomenklaturu-birzhevogo-eksporta-mjasnoj-produktsii-v-uzbekistan-702458-2025/>

meat products are supplied through the exchange to Azerbaijan, China, Russia, and also to Uzbekistan.

Now let's move to **East Asia** - to **China**. As of mid-May of this year, 274 residents from this country were already accredited at BUCE, "four of which have the status of stockbrokers. Since the beginning of the year, the pool of Chinese users of the exchange platform has been replenished with 27 new companies ⁷⁹²." In the same month, Belarusian flax fiber began to be sold to China through BUCE. "A total of five exchange transactions were concluded with a total volume of 102 tons. The sellers were two leading flax fiber producers from the Vitebsk and Mogilev regions, and the buyer was a Chinese trading company from Jiangsu Province, specializing in the import of textile products ⁷⁹³." This event is important for three reasons. Firstly, it is an additional incentive for Belarusian flax mills to put more products up for exchange trading. Secondly, this is a positive signal for Chinese importers who are interested in the Belarusian market, but until now for one reason or another have not dared to enter the exchange platform. Thirdly, the expansion of the pool of foreign buyers increases the level of competition during BUCE trading sessions, allowing domestic exporters to conclude deals on more favorable terms. Thus, now the geography of flax fiber sales through the exchange already covers four countries - China, Latvia, Russia and Turkey. Cottonized and short fiber, as well as combed tow, are supplied for export. Since the launch of exchange trading in flax fiber, 570 tons of this product have been sold to foreign markets.

Speaking about China, we note that Chinese regions are also actively contributing to increasing trade turnover with the help of BUCE. For example, **the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR)** plans to widely apply the exchange mechanism in mutual trade with Belarus with an emphasis on products with high added value. In May of this year, a business delegation from the city of Karamay, which is located in the XUAR, agreed at BUCE to

⁷⁹² A major manufacturer from the Chinese city of Karamay will be accredited at BUTB. What will they sell and buy [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/na-butb-akkreditujut-krupnogo-proizvoditelja-iz-kitajskogo-goroda-karamaj-cto-stanut-prodavati-714542-2025/>

⁷⁹³ Belarusian flax fiber began to be sold to China through the exchange [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/belorussskoe-inovolokno-nachali-prodavati-v-kitaj-cherez-birzhu-715888-2025/>

develop exchange trade in non-commodity goods, which will facilitate the establishment of direct contact between producers and consumers of goods in Belarus and the XUAR. The fact is that due to the specifics of the Karamay economy, based on oil production and refining, the Chinese side was especially interested in the regular exchange trades in polymer products, petrochemicals and lubricants on the domestic market held at BUCE. Over the four months of 2025, the total amount of transactions in these product groups has already exceeded one hundred million Belarusian rubles, which is a third more than the same figure for January - April 2024. At the same time, demand from Belarusian traders is demonstrating steady growth, and the presence of suppliers from this city at the trades would have a positive impact on the level of competition. Karamay, as one of the centers of the oil industry in China, can play a key role here. As for promising areas of cooperation in the exchange sphere, the parties noted such items as polymer packaging, plastic containers, polyethylene film, technical oils and additives. And from Belarus, this could be agricultural products, direct supplies from leading Belarusian milk processing plants, meat processing plants and oil extraction plants. Following these negotiations, the parties agreed to accredit a large Karamay manufacturer of polymer products at BUCE for the purpose of selling plastic containers used for food and non-food products and polyester granules on the Belarusian exchange platform.

As for the countries of **Southeast Asia** (SEA), by the end of the first quarter of 2025, 13 companies from four countries were registered on the BUCE - Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore. On the last day of March, the first company from **Myanmar**, which plans to buy Belarusian dairy products on the exchange, successfully passed the accreditation procedure. Almost all companies from these five countries have been accredited on the exchange platform over the past six months in order to purchase dairy products. Participants from **Singapore are the most active in trading**. "At the end of 2024, the amount of transactions they concluded increased by 1.6 times, to \$ 28 million. The entire sales volume was provided by the import of Belarusian sawn timber, cellulose and dry skim milk. This year,

the Singapore direction of exchange trading continues to develop dynamically. Thus, in January-March, the exchange trade turnover between Belarus and Singapore amounted to \$13.6 million, which is 5.2 times more than in the first quarter of 2024." ⁷⁹⁴In 2025, the predominance of Belarusian exports in the structure of exchange trade with Southeast Asian countries will, of course, remain, as this is due to the high level of demand for the main export commodity items sold through BUCE. We are talking, first of all, about softwood lumber and dry dairy products. It is expected that in the short and medium term, these groups of goods will become the key drivers of growth in the volume of exchange transactions between enterprises of the Republic of Belarus and residents of Southeast Asian countries.

Speaking about **the Middle East countries**, which were among the leaders in the first quarter of 2025 in terms of the amount of exchange transactions with residents of Belarus, we note **the United Arab Emirates (UAE)** - one of the key markets for Belarusian goods in this region. "In January - March, Emirati companies concluded exchange transactions for the purchase of Belarusian products worth about \$ 24 million. This is 9 times more than in the first quarter of last year. Belarusian sawn timber, dry milk and amino acids were in the greatest demand among traders from the UAE ⁷⁹⁵." In April of this year, BUCE agreed to establish cooperation with the Dubai Gold and Commodity Exchange (DGCX) in the field of clearing, which will improve the efficiency of settlements and reduce the risks of Belarusian traders, especially when making cross-border transactions. It is expected that the introduction of clearing with the assistance of DGCX will help attract large Emirati importers to BUCE and will contribute to further growth of exchange trade turnover between the two countries. And in May 2025, the list of goods involved in exchange trade between Belarus and the UAE expanded again. Now, in addition to sawn timber, dry milk and feed additives, business

⁷⁹⁴ Another Southeast Asian country will trade at BUCE [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/na-butb-budet-torgovat-esche-odna-strana-jugo-vostochnoj-azii-706041-2025/>

⁷⁹⁵ BUCE and the Dubai Gold and Commodities Exchange to cooperate in the field of clearing [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-i-dubaiskaja-birzha-zolota-i-tovarov-budut-sotrudnicat-v-sfere-kliringa-707027-2025/>

entities of the two countries began to trade in textile products, when the first deal was concluded for the sale of Belarusian-made cottonized flax fiber to the UAE market. The buyer was an Emirati product and service holding, one of whose activities is the manufacture of textiles - workwear, bed linen, kitchen towels and other flax products. Let us recall that "as of May 22, 2025, 35 companies from the UAE are accredited at BUCE"⁷⁹⁶.

Another Middle Eastern country, **Syria**, began using the BUCE platform in May of this year to trade with Belarusian dairy enterprises, 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 of the Vitebsk region, and the buyer was an importer and distributor of food products from the Syrian province of Idlib, accredited at BUCE in late April. In addition to Syria, the pool of Middle Eastern buyers of domestic dairy products at exchange trades is also represented by such countries as Jordan, Lebanon, the UAE, Oman and Saudi Arabia. "Over the four months of this year, exchange exports of dairy products reached \$205 million, which is 29% more than for the same period last year. The sales leader is dry milk, with a share of 61% in the total volume of export transactions"⁷⁹⁷.

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

⁷⁹⁸This year, the structure of exchange transactions is still dominated by purchases of Belarusian sawn timber with a share of

⁷⁹⁶ Belarus and the UAE have expanded the range of exchange trading [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-oae-rasshirili-nomenklaturu-birzhevoj-torgovli-716548-2025/>

⁷⁹⁷ Belarusian dairy products were sold to Syria for the first time through BUTB [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/beloruskiju-molochku-vpervye-prodali-v-siriju-cherez-butb-712882-2025/>

⁷⁹⁸ The digital infrastructure of BUTB is in demand by Turkish businesses in trade with Belarusian enterprises [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/tsifrovaja-infrastruktura-butb-vostrebovana-turetskim-biznesom-v-torgovle-s-predpriyatijami-belarusi-715310-2025/>

almost 90 percent. At the same time, new product items with great potential for scaling up supplies are gradually being added. Thus, last year, sales of Belarusian flax fiber, sugar, wheat gluten and skim milk powder to the Turkish market began, and in 2025, the first exchange contracts were concluded for the supply of wet blue leather semi-finished product to Turkey. In addition, Turkish participants regularly buy ferrous and non-ferrous scrap metal at exchange trades, supply domestic textile manufacturers with raw materials, and sell equipment for the food industry of our country. To this, we can only add that as of mid-May of this year, 112 residents of Turkey have already been accredited at BUCE, more than half of them came to the Belarusian exchange platform during 2023-2025.

Serbia, a key trade and economic partner of Belarus in the Balkans, ⁷⁹⁹can be noted in terms of cooperation with BUCE. "Over the past year, the exchange trade turnover of Belarus and Serbia increased 37 times." And over the four months of this year, Serbian companies concluded transactions at exchange trades for a total amount exceeding three million dollars, which is ten times more than for the same period last year. At the same time, the commodity structure of the exchange trade turnover of Belarus and Serbia was replenished with new items. In particular, "if in January - April 2024 these were only deliveries of Belarusian butter to Serbia, then this year Serbian participants in exchange trades actively bought dry skim and whole milk in Belarus, and also sold herbicides and sugar beet seeds ⁸⁰⁰." In May 2025, at the business forum "Logistics, Trade, Investments. Belarus – a Key Point of Entry to the EAEU Market" within the framework of the international agricultural exhibition and fair Novi Sad International Agricultural Fair in the Serbian city of Novi Sad, BUCE representatives focused the attention of Serbian small and medium-sized enterprises operating in the agricultural sector on expanding trade in sugar and rapeseed oil. Activation of

⁷⁹⁹ 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/>

⁸⁰⁰ The turnover of Serbian companies at BUCE has increased 10-fold [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/tovarooborot-serbskih-kompanij-na-butb-vyros-v-10-raz-716218-2025/>

cooperation with Serbian businesses will open up additional purchasing opportunities for Belarusian participants in exchange trades, who will be able to purchase the locally produced goods they need without intermediaries, including seeds, plant protection products and food raw materials. So far, as of the second half of May, eight residents of Serbia have been accredited at BUCE. Now, in the near future, there are plans to accredit a brokerage company in this Balkan country, which will represent the interests of BUCE and assist in attracting Serbian business circles in order to bring exchange trade in Belarus and Serbia to a qualitatively new level.

Africa develop in 2025. As of mid-May of this year, 15 companies from six countries of this continent have already been accredited at BUCE, including Egypt, Kenya, Côte d'Ivoire, Seychelles, Senegal, and South Africa. It is believed that in terms of capacity, purchasing power, and demand for Belarusian products, the African market is one of the most promising areas for the development of cross-border exchange trade for Belarus, so BUCE 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 in exporting sawn timber and dry milk to the African market ⁸⁰¹." Sugar can also be considered as a promising export commodity item. As for imports to Belarus from Africa, it appears that soy and cocoa beans, textile raw materials, mango puree and other exotic fruits will be in demand.

Senegal was registered at BUCE in March of this year . "The subject of the transaction was a batch of dry whole milk in the amount of 125 tons. The seller was a large domestic milk processing plant from the Grodno region, and the buyer was a Senegalese food importer with headquarters in Dakar, accredited the day before ⁸⁰²." This fact indicates that this country in **West**

⁸⁰¹ BUCE assessed the prospects for expanding exchange cooperation with African countries [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-otsenila-perspektivy-rasshireniia-birzhevo-gosotrudnichestva-so-stranami-afriki-714267-2025/>

⁸⁰² Belarus plans to supply dry milk to West Africa via BUTB [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-planiruet-postavljat-suhomoloko-v-zapadnuju-afriku-cherez-butb-703207-2025/>

Africa is of significant interest to Belarusian dairy producers. Firstly, Senegal itself is a large consumer of dry milk and regularly needs supplies from abroad to meet domestic demand. "Last year, this country imported almost 34 thousand tons of dairy products worth \$106 million ⁸⁰³. " Secondly, for Belarusian milk processing enterprises this is not only a promising sales market, but also an opportunity to strengthen their positions in the region as a whole, for example, using Senegal as an access point to potential buyers from Guinea, Mauritania and Mali.

And the last thing. As of mid-May 2025, 8,350 foreign companies were accredited at BUCE. This fact alone convincingly shows that foreign firms "on the Belarusian exchange platform <...> will not only increase sales volumes to traditional markets, but also open new supply routes ⁸⁰⁴." Both in the Commonwealth of Independent States, and in East Asia, the Middle East and the Balkans, and West Africa.

⁸⁰³ Belarus plans to supply dry milk to West Africa via BUTB [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-planiruet-postavljat-suhoe-moloko-v-zapadnuju-afriku-cherez-butb-703207-2025/>

⁸⁰⁴ Zaleski, B. Challenges of Turbulence. The Trajectory of International Economic Cooperation of Belarus / Boris Zaleski. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing , 2025. – C. 41.

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