

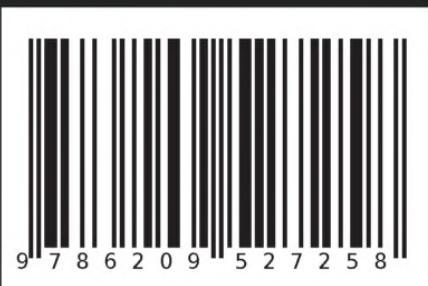
Multi-vector strategy

Belarus has adopted the Social and Economic Development Program for 2026-2030, which contains seven priorities for the five-year plan, including growth in competitiveness, acceleration of technological development, and digital transformation. Against the background of geopolitical instability and a slowdown in the global economy, the expected growth of the Belarusian economy will be at least three percent per year, and nearly 16 percent for the entire five-year period. By increasing the technological level of the economy, it is planned to ensure growth in exports of goods and services from Belarus by 1.2 times over the five-year period, with the share of high-tech and science-intensive products in the export of goods and services reaching 44 percent in 2030. In close conjunction with science, the task has been set to form new high-tech industries – the production of industrial robots, unmanned systems, manned aviation equipment and microelectronic products, pharmaceuticals and biotechnological products, and electric and hybrid passenger cars. Further diversification of foreign trade is envisaged by increasing the share of "far arc" countries to 30 percent by 2030. How these tasks are already being implemented in practice is discussed in this work.



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Belarus' multi-vector strategy

Boris Zalesskij



Multi-vector strategy

Current opportunities for Belarus's international cooperation in conditions of global change

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**Current opportunities for Belarus's international
cooperation in conditions of global change**

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Boris Zaleski

Multi-vector strategy

Current opportunities for Belarusian international cooperation
in the context of global change

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Eurasian Economic Union: Priority Areas for Integration

In January 2025, the Republic of Belarus assumed the chairmanship of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) for the third time. It should be recalled that during our republic's previous chairmanship of this international organization, the Strategic Directions for the Development of Eurasian Integration were adopted, which will be completed in 2025. This year, the foundation is being laid for the start of a new stage and the implementation of the Declaration on the Further Development of Economic Processes within the EAEU until 2030 and for the period until 2045, "The Eurasian Economic Path," which the heads of state of the Eurasian "five" signed at the end of 2023 and where they outlined "specific and clear goals: further construction of a common Eurasian market, ensuring its key goods and resources, development of cooperation, formation of a common transport and logistics space and a common financial market, active international positioning of the EAEU"¹.

In its address on Belarus' presidency of the EAEU in 2025, the Belarusian side identified nine key priorities that should be the focus of attention this year and whose consistent implementation will contribute to the further development of Eurasian integration and the expansion of mutually beneficial cooperation: 1) technological potential and cooperation; 2) food security; 3) a single transport space and logistics; 4) equal conditions and transparent competition; 5) protection of the domestic market; 6) digital transformation; 7) international cooperation; 8) social and humanitarian agenda; 9) information interaction. Let's take a closer look at some of them.

At the meeting of the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council (IGC) in December 2024, the Belarusian side emphasized that "one of the areas that should be the focus of close attention is **industrial cooperation and ensuring technological sovereignty**. Without solving this problem, there are no

¹ The leaders of the EAEU countries adopted a declaration on the further development of the union until 2030 and for the period until 2045 [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://belta.by/president/view/lidery-stran-eaes-priniali-deklaratsiju-o-dalneishem-razviti-i-sojuza-do-2030-go-i-na-period-do-2045-607074-2023/>

prospects for the development of our union"². For reference, in 2024, the EAEU celebrated its 10th anniversary. Over these years, the combined gross domestic product (GDP) of the "five" countries has grown by 12.5 percent. "Mutual trade within the EAEU has doubled over the 10-year period, and trade with third countries has grown by more than 60%."³. At the January (2025) meeting of the Intergovernmental Council, it was emphasized that trade, financial, and production ties within the union have demonstrated resilience, and that the economies have shown the ability to adapt to new and changing conditions. In particular, "the EAEU's aggregate GDP grew by 4% in 2024, which is higher than the global average growth rate (3.2%) and initial forecasts"⁴ and will reach almost \$100 billion by 2026. Nevertheless, the Belarusian side, as the chair of the union, will be even more active in promoting joint efforts to develop the technological potential of the EAEU and the formation of a common space for cooperation in all sectors of the economy.

Speaking of **food security**, it should be noted that at the aforementioned January (2025) meeting of the Intergovernmental Council, it was decided to work on expanding financial support mechanisms for joint cooperation projects to the agro-industrial complex and its infrastructure in order to promote cooperation in food production and the development of trade and logistics infrastructure. Among the most priority areas of cooperation are "the development of breeding and seed production of agricultural plants, animal husbandry, processing of agricultural products, and improvement of the agro-industrial complex infrastructure"⁵. The use of financial support

² Pivovarov, E. Golovchenko: without the development of industrial cooperation and technological sovereignty, the EAEU has no prospects for development / E. Pivovarov // [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/golovchenko-bez-razvitiia-promkoooperatsii-i-tehnologicheskogo-suvereniteta-u-eaes-net-perspektiv-682567-2024/>

³ Igor Petrishenko: Belarus has always been an active proponent of integration ideas in the Eurasian space [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://www.government.by/ru/content/11118>

⁴ EAEU economic growth rates exceed global average for second consecutive year [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/tempy-ekonomicheskogo-rosta-eaes-vtoroy-god-podrvad-vvshe-srednemirovkh/>

⁵ The EAEU is discussing the use of financial support mechanisms for cooperative projects in the agro-industrial complex [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/v-eaes-rasshirvaetsya-primenenie-mekhanizmov-finansovov-podderzhki-koooperatsionnykh-proektov/>

mechanisms in the agro-industrial complex will make it possible to develop proprietary technologies and build effective supply chains for products and resources.

A very important priority for Belarus' presidency of the EAEU in 2025 is a **single transport space and logistics**. The fact is that the Eurasian transport corridors are the basis of the transport infrastructure in the union, ensuring the formation of a single transport space and the development of the transit potential of the Eurasian "five". They account for "about 70% of transit traffic in the EAEU, which highlights the importance of synchronizing the development of national sections in each country"⁶. The Belarusian side believes that the effective functioning of the logistics complex and transport system is an important factor in the economic growth of the union and the promotion of Eurasian products to foreign markets, "This is the stable functioning of the transport and logistics system, adapted to the reorientation of commodity flows to friendly jurisdictions in the East, the Asia-Pacific region, and the Global South."⁷. For this reason, the EAEU needs to actively develop promising areas for joint industrial cooperation, such as new rolling stock for freight transport, sea vessels of various classes and purposes, cargo and passenger aircraft, and a modern fleet of passenger wheeled vehicles.

It should be recalled that in August 2022, the heads of government of the Eurasian "five" countries agreed on a list of priority EAEU transport integration projects, which includes seven projects from all participating countries, six of which concern the construction or reconstruction of international highways, and one concerns railways. In February 2024, at a meeting of the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council on Transport in Almaty, the heads of government of the EAEU countries approved the expansion of the list of priority integration infrastructure projects in the transport sector, which are designed to improve transport connectivity between the union's member states and promote transit and export-import transport. At that time, Kazakhstan presented projects aimed at developing the eastern international

⁶ EAEU develops Eurasian transport corridors [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://eec.eaunion.org/news/eaes-razvivaet-evraziyskie-transportnye-koridory/>

⁷ Pivovar, E. Golovchenko: The EAEU needs new aircraft, ships, and rolling stock / E. Pivovar // [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/golovchenko-eaes-nuzhny-novye-samolety-morskie-suda-zheleznodorozhnyi-podvizhnoj-sostav-682570-2024/>

North-South transport corridor with the introduction of new railway lines. These projects involve the modernization of existing railway infrastructure on the Orsk-Kandyagash-Makat-Beineu-Bolashak, Iletski-1-Aktobe, Chelyabinsk-Tobol-Nikeltau, and Aksarayskaya-Makat sections, Shalkar-Beineu-Mangystau, which are part of the North-South corridor, as well as the construction of the Darbaza-Maktaaral railway line and a second railway track on the Kazaly-Arys section. The Kyrgyz side then "proposed to include two projects: the reconstruction of the Bishkek bypass road and the construction of a railway from Balykchy to Jalal-Abad, connecting the railway infrastructure of the north and south of the republic. The implementation of these projects will create a unified internal railway network in the country and increase the capacity of transit routes through Kyrgyzstan"⁸. All these projects will make transit more comfortable and significantly reduce the costs of cargo owners when moving goods across the territory of the EAEU countries. For them, this is an opportunity to become a link between the markets of Europe, Asia, and the Middle East.

In this context, we can also mention the "**Eurasian Electric Bus**" interstate program developed by Belarus. The implementation of this pilot project has already begun"⁹. This cooperative project, like others, will also be developed. It is important that the products manufactured under this project will be considered as originating from an EAEU member state, which will ensure that such products have access to public procurement in the EAEU member states. For reference, we would like to add that in 2023, "Eurasian Agroexpress" increased exports of high-margin food products from EAEU countries by 6% <...>. The largest increase in exports was seen in legumes (more than 4 times) and oil and fat products (approximately 20%)¹⁰, as well as fruits and vegetables, canned goods, chicken, and beef. The total volume

⁸ Pivovarov, E. EAEU prime ministers expand list of priority transport projects / E. Pivovarov // [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/premier-ministry-eaes-rasshirili-perechen-prioritetnyh-transportnyh-proektov-613274-2024/>

⁹ Belarus counts on the development of the Eurasian Electric Bus project [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/belarus-rasschitvvaet-narazvitie-proekta-evrazijskij-ekstrobus-689054-2025/>

¹⁰ Pivovarov, E. EAEU countries to continue implementation of the Eurasian Agroexpress project [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/strany-eaes-prodolzhat-realizatsiju-proekta-evrazijskij-agroekspress-613290-2024/>

of shipments at that time exceeded 450,000 tons. The main destination for shipments under the project at that time was China. In 2023, container trains also made deliveries along the eastern branch of the North-South international transport corridor to India and Iran. A pilot delivery to Uzbekistan was completed, and shipments to the United Arab Emirates were being worked out. In March 2024, Iran joined the project. At that time, the focus was on supplying EAEU products to this country, as well as organizing large-scale shipments of Iranian vegetables and fruits to the markets of the "five" countries. "The relevant goods are on store shelves today. However, with the launch of the Eurasian Agro-Express, agricultural products will be delivered more quickly, with better quality and fewer intermediaries."¹¹

At the same time, in March 2024, the Belarusian logistics operator Beltamozhservice and the autonomous non-profit organization for the promotion of agro-industrial activities Eurasian Agrologistics signed a memorandum of strategic partnership and cooperation for the joint development of the Eurasian Agroexpress integration project for accelerated rail and multimodal transportation of food cargo. The cooperation involves attracting agricultural products and facilitating the organization of transportation of agricultural goods and food for export and counter-import in accelerated container and other freight trains, as well as by road, rail, and mixed transport. "The companies plan to cooperate in the field of foreign trade, transport, and logistics on the East-West and North-South international transport corridors, develop cooperation in the field of customs clearance of foreign trade cargo, and develop joint trade and logistics projects with the EAEU, CIS, SCO, BRICS, and other friendly countries,"¹². This project aims to develop the export of agricultural products from EAEU member states to China, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, and other countries in Southeast and Central

¹¹ Pivovarov, E. Iran joins the implementation of the EAEU project "Eurasian Agroexpress" [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/iran-podkljuchaetsja-k-realizatsii-proekta-aeas-evrazijskij-agroekspress-619975-2024/>

¹² Memorandum on the development of the Eurasian Agroexpress project signed at an exhibition in Moscow [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/memorandum-o-razvitanii-proekta-evrazijskij-agroekspress-podpisali-na-vystavke-v-moskve-622368-2024/>

Asia using the integration component. Therefore, Belarus, as the chair of the EAEU in 2025, attaches great importance to this pilot project.

As part of Belarus' chairmanship this year, the necessary conditions for **international cooperation between** the Eurasian "five" in all its formats will also be developed, creating additional conditions for the promotion of the union's goods to foreign markets. To this end, the potential of free trade agreements with third countries will be fully utilized. To date, agreements on free trade zones have been concluded with China, Vietnam, Singapore, Serbia, and Iran (provisional agreement). Negotiations are underway with Indonesia, the UAE, Tunisia, Morocco, Pakistan, and India. In total, more than 30 countries have expressed interest in concluding free trade agreements with EAEU member states.¹³ . And these contacts are only growing.

In particular, in 2025, the EAEU plans to discuss issues of industrial and technological cooperation, joint developments in the field of new technologies, and cooperation on the digitalization of economies with an integration association such as **BRICS**. After all, "it is industry, as a driver of economic growth, that concentrates high-tech and knowledge-intensive competencies."¹⁴ . In January 2025, the parties agreed to coordinate the preparation of a meeting of the ministers of industry of the BRICS and EAEU countries.

Another fact. The procedures necessary for the entry into force of the free trade agreement between the EAEU and **Iran** have already been completed. They will be completed in Iran in the near future. And then the document will come into force very soon. In order to realize the full potential of trade and economic cooperation, it is now necessary "not only to develop cooperation on issues of mutual interest at the intergovernmental level, but also to promote the strengthening of contacts between the business

¹³ Petrishenko: The EAEU must fully utilize the potential of free trade agreements [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/petrishenko-eaes-neobhodimo-v-polnoi-mere-zadeistvovat-potentsial-soglashenij-o-zonah-svobodnoi-689067-2025/>

¹⁴ Cooperation between the EEC and Brazil within the framework of BRICS opens up new opportunities [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/sotrudnichestvo-eek-i-brazilii-v-ramkakh-briks-otkrvaet-novve-vozmozhnosti/>

communities of the partner countries"¹⁵ . This will allow for the full implementation of existing agreements. In this context, it can only be added that at the end of February 2025, the Central Exhibition Complex in Tehran will host the 3rd International Exhibition "Eurasia", which "aims to strengthen economic relations between the countries of the Eurasian Economic Union, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, BRICS, and the Persian Gulf states to promote more effective cooperation in the fuel and energy, agro-industrial, machine-building, transport and logistics complexes, in the field of information technology, and in the sphere of tourism."¹⁶ . In 2023, the Eurasia exhibition was visited by about 14,000 people.

Again, in January 2025, the Council of the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) adopted a resolution to form a joint research group to study the feasibility of concluding a free trade agreement with **the Republic of Tunisia**. A preliminary analysis shows that "the transition to a preferential trade regime could allow the Eurasian Economic Union to increase supplies of grain, oilseeds, finished food products, metals, forestry products, and petrochemicals to the Tunisian market, while allowing its partner to increase exports of fresh fruits, nuts, and certain categories of industrial goods"¹⁷ .

And in early February 2025, detailed negotiations took place between the EEC and **Serbia**. "The parties agreed to promote the creation of optimal conditions for mutually beneficial trade and economic cooperation"¹⁸ and reviewed the progress of preparations for the first meeting of the Joint Committee, as well as other high-level events in 2025. It should be noted that

¹⁵ Andrey Slepnev: "The EAEU has completed the procedures necessary for the free trade agreement with Iran to enter into force" [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/andrey-slepnev-eaes-zavershil-neobkhodimye-dlva-vstupleniya-v-silu-soglasheniya-o-svobodnov-torgovle/>

¹⁶ The EEC invites business representatives to participate in the Eurasia International Exhibition in Tehran [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/EEK-priglasheet-predstavitelev-biznesa-privat-uchastie-v-mezhdunarodnov-vystavke-eyraziya-v-tegeran/>

¹⁷ The EEC Council approved the formation of a joint research group to study the feasibility of a free trade agreement with Tunisia [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: [https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/sovet-EEK-odobril-formirovanie-sovmestnoy-issledovatel'skov-gruppy-dlva-izucheniya-tselesoobraznosti-/](https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/sovet-EEK-odobril-formirovanie-sovmestnoy-issledovatel'skov-gruppy-dlva-izucheniya-tselesoobraznosti/)

¹⁸ Bakytzhan Sagintayev discussed joint activities for 2025 with Nenad Popovic [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/bakytzhan-sagintaev-obsudil-s-nenadom-popovichem-sovmestnye-meroprivatiya-na-2025-god/>

the Free Trade Agreement between the EAEU and this Balkan country was signed in October 2019 and entered into force in July 2021.

All these facts indicate that intensifying negotiations with promising partners of the Eurasian "five", including Belarus, is a key practical element in positioning the EAEU as a successfully functioning international regional organization on the continent. Let us hope that all these contacts and agreements will contribute to the growth of trade turnover, as well as to the intensification of cooperation and investment.

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Eurasian Economic Union: Cooperation vectors – Latin America and Africa

At the December (2024) meeting of the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council, the leaders of the Eurasian Economic Union countries approved the Main Directions of the Eurasian Economic Union's (EAEU) International Activities for 2025. Among the priority areas are "continuing dialogue on trade and economic issues with closest neighbors, developing cooperation with observer states to the Union, deepening interaction with key integration associations in Eurasia, Africa..."¹⁹. The EAEU countries are counting on the association's active international positioning with the states and integration associations of Latin America and the Caribbean in order to develop existing cooperation mechanisms, including within the framework of memoranda, declarations, and trade agreements. An important detail: "Currently, Latin American countries account for only 3% of the EAEU's trade turnover, although the potential for cooperation is enormous."²⁰.

It should be recalled that by the beginning of 2025, the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) had formed an extensive network of cooperation with the states and integration associations of Latin America and the Caribbean by concluding memoranda of cooperation. At the government level – with Chile, Peru, and Cuba; at the ministerial level – with Ecuador and Argentina; at the level of integration structures – with the Andean Community, the Latin American Economic System, the South American Common Market, the Pacific Alliance, and the Secretariat for Economic Integration in Central America (.). Let's take a look at some of them.

Back in 2018, the EEC signed a memorandum of understanding with **the Latin American Economic System (LAES)**, an intergovernmental regional organization founded in 1975 that brings together 25 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean: Argentina, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador,

¹⁹ Main directions of the EAEU's international activities for 2025 approved [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/utverzhdenny-osnovnye-napravleniya-mezhdunarodnoy-deyatelnosti-eaes-na-2025-god/>

²⁰ EEF-2023: EAEU and Latin America identify new priorities for cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/eeef-2023-eaes-i-latinskava-amerika-oboznachili-novye-prioritety-sotrudnichestva/>

Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, and Venezuela. LAES became the first regional intergovernmental structure in Latin America and the Caribbean with which the ECE adopted a memorandum of understanding aimed at "exchanging experience in the field of regional economic integration, promoting the sustainable and inclusive development of regional integration associations, and jointly developing a methodology for calculating integration indices"²¹, as well as cooperation on regional and interregional trade, the development of fair competition, the regional labor market, technical regulation and standardization, and consumer protection. Statistics confirm that "in 2021, the Union's foreign trade turnover with Latin American countries grew by 54.4% and amounted to \$16.9 billion, including a 2.2-fold increase in the Union's exports to \$8.7 billion while imports increased by 17.3% to \$8.3 billion."²²

In June 2024, the parties discussed their shared development goals and the potential for cooperation in a range of economic areas, and decided to start by holding joint thematic seminars. Six months later, in December, the first such meeting took place in under the title "EAEU–LAEU: Best Integration Practices," whose participants exchanged experiences "in areas such as transport and financial infrastructure, logistics, food security, technological cooperation in industry and agriculture, tourism, and healthcare"²³. In 2025, the practice of these seminars will continue.

Among the LAES countries that are actively developing cooperation with the EAEU, **Cuba** should be mentioned. In January 2024, the third meeting of the Joint Commission on Cooperation between the EEC and the Government of Cuba was held, during which "issues of promoting trade and

²¹ Eurasian Economic Commission signs Memorandum of Understanding with Latin American Economic System [Electronic resource]. – 2018. – URL: https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/29-05-18-3/?sphrase_id=350633

²² SPIEF-2022: Specific proposals developed to stimulate trade and investment cooperation between the EAEU and Latin America in the new economic reality [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/pmef-2022-vyrobotany-konkretnye-predlozheniya-po-stimulirovaniyu-torgovo-investitsionnogo-sotrudnich/>

²³ Representatives of the Commission and the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System discussed best practices [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/predstaviteli-komissii-i-latinoamerikano-karibskov-ekonomicheskoy-sistemy-obsudili-luchshie-praktiki/>

economic cooperation, interaction in the fields of agro-industrial complex, tourism, industry, technical regulation, circulation of medicines and medical devices" were discussed²⁴. The parties agreed to give their cooperation a practical focus by identifying and implementing joint projects, primarily in areas such as industry, agriculture, energy, and infrastructure. It should be added that cooperation between the EAEU and Cuba already "covers 34 areas of cooperation, including trade, banking, finance, biotechnology, agriculture, and information and communication technologies. Trade turnover between the EAEU and Cuba in 2023 amounted to \$290 million"²⁵.

And in September 2024, as part of the "EAEU-Cuba" business dialogue, opportunities were noted for the creation of joint ventures in Cuba to enter the consumer market of the entire Latin American region, which "could engage in the production of citrus fruits, pork, and poultry, the modernization of Cuban industrial production, digital transformation of the economy, production of organic fertilizers and other goods for export to both EAEU countries and third countries in the region, as well as electricity generation using solar panels."²⁶. However, this requires intensive work in areas such as legal relations in the field of land use and intellectual property, the functioning of mobile communications and payment systems in Cuba, the opening of bank branches, the improvement of logistics, including the entry of ships flying the flags of third countries into seaports, and the regulation of the Cuban labor market. So, in 2025, the systematic dialogue will continue on topical issues, including "questions of intensifying trade and economic cooperation, implementing agreements in priority areas of cooperation (pharmaceuticals, circulation of medicines and medical devices, technical regulation, logistics, industrial cooperation, informatization, tourism),

²⁴ The EAEU and Cuba intend to diversify trade and economic cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/eaes-i-kuba-namereny-diversifitsirovat-torgovo-ekonomicheskoe-vzaimodevstvie/>

²⁵ EAEU and Cuba intend to deepen cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/eaes-i-kuba-namereny-uglubit-vzaimodeistvie-640962-2024/>

²⁶ New opportunities for developing trade and economic cooperation were discussed during the EAEU-Cuba business dialogue [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/novye-vozmozhnosti-razvitiya-torgovo-ekonomicheskogo-sotrudnichestva-obsudili-v-khode-biznes-dialoga/>

strengthening cooperation between business circles and joint activities on international platforms"²⁷ .

Another country that is part of the LAES and intends to update its cooperation with the EAEU is **Nicaragua**. In January 2024, the parties signed a memorandum of cooperation, which defines key areas for cooperation, such as customs and technical regulation, industry, agro-industrial complex, SPS measures, and consumer protection. It should be noted that trade between the EAEU and Nicaragua is showing positive dynamics. From January to October 2023, exports from the Eurasian "five" to this country increased by 14%, while imports more than doubled. Exports are dominated by medicines, cars and car parts, nitrogen fertilizers, sunflower oil, and petroleum products; imports are dominated by peanuts, coffee, tobacco products and raw materials, knitwear, and textiles.²⁸ In December 2024, the first meeting of the joint working group on cooperation was held, where issues related to the intensification of trade and economic cooperation in the fields of pharmaceuticals, industry, and agriculture were discussed. The main focus was on establishing and developing direct contacts between business circles in such promising areas of cooperation as "the creation of digital platforms for e-commerce, the introduction of innovations, the processing of food raw materials, garment manufacturing, the chemical and furniture industries, as well as the agro-industrial complex and energy"²⁹ . It is planned that in the future the parties will sign a memorandum that will strengthen communication channels with key business associations in the EAEU countries and Nicaragua.

Now let's look at **the South American Common Market (MERCOSUR)**. It is a trade union of South American countries founded in 1991. Today, it includes Argentina, Brazil, Venezuela, Paraguay, and Uruguay. The total population of the union is over 300 million people, and its

²⁷ The EEC and Cuba discussed plans to deepen dialogue [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/EEK-I-Kuba-obsudili-plan-uglubleniya-dialoga/>

²⁸ EEC and Nicaraguan Government sign Memorandum of Cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/EEK-I-Pravitelstvo-Nikaragua-podpisali-memorandum-o-vzaimodeystvii/>

²⁹ EAEU and Nicaragua develop trade and economic cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/eaes-i-nikaragua-razvivayut-torgovo-ekonomicheskogo-sotrudnichestvo/>

combined gross domestic product exceeds three trillion dollars. The EEC and MERCOSUR signed a memorandum on trade and economic cooperation back in 2018. In the first eight months of 2024, trade between the parties grew by almost 17 percent. In November 2024, specific proposals for cooperation were discussed during negotiations between representatives of the EEC and MERCOSUR. Among the areas of cooperation of particular interest are studying the experience of organizing information exchange between and the customs services of MERCOSUR member countries, as well as the digitization of customs infrastructure. It should be noted that **Brazil** plays a leading role in this international organization. Suffice it to say that Brazil accounted for 87.9% of the total trade turnover between the EAEU and MERCOSUR in January-August [2023]. EAEU trade with Brazil in the first eight months of 2024 grew by 15.9% compared to the same period in 2023. EAEU exports to Brazil increased by 32.1%.³⁰ . And in 2025, it appears that there is a possibility of concluding a bilateral memorandum between the EEC and Brazil.

And finally. In 2021, a memorandum of understanding was signed between the EEC and **the Secretariat for Economic Integration in Central America (SICA)**, which aims to "intensify cooperation in areas such as mutual trade, technical regulation and standardization, industry and agro-industry, and macroeconomics."³¹ . This international organization was formed in October 1993. Its members are Guatemala, Honduras, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Panama, and El Salvador. The signing of the memorandum is the first step towards intensifying trade and investment cooperation and, in the long term, integration into global value chains³² . In May 2024, representatives of the EEC and SICA agreed to take a further step towards deepening cooperation by holding a joint seminar to exchange integration

³⁰ EEC and Brazil define vectors of customs cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://eec.eaunion.org/news/EEK-i-braziliva-opredelili-vektory-tamozhennogo-sotrudnichestva/>

³¹ EEC and Secretariat for Economic Integration in Central America sign memorandum of understanding [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://eec.eaunion.org/news/EEK-i-sekretariat-po-ekonomicheskoi-integratsii-v-tsentralnoj-amerike-podpisali-memorandum-o-vzaimoponimani/>

³² Zaleski, B. With an eye to the future. Features of multi-vector partnership in modern conditions / Boris Zaleski. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2021. – P. 21.

experiences, which will allow them to learn more about each other's economic opportunities. In the first half of 2025, **Costa Rica** became the chair of SICA and "will promote in every way possible the deepening of dialogue between the two integration structures"³³. So this joint seminar is in the immediate plans.

Assessing all these facts, we can say with confidence that the functioning of the EAEU as a pole of economic attraction in the international arena is already actively developing and will continue "with interested international integration associations and organizations, as well as countries seeking equal and constructive partnership"³⁴, which include partners from Latin America and the Caribbean who want to promote joint projects with all the states of the Eurasian Economic Union.

In 2025, the EAEU also intends to intensify the expansion of mutual cooperation, increase trade volumes, and establish an integration dialogue with the countries **of the African Union (AU)** and international regional organizations on the continent. This is especially true given that "trade and economic cooperation between the EAEU and the African Union is of mutual strategic interest to both parties, based on the similarity of many areas of competence and directions of integration"³⁵. The fact is that in November 2024, representatives of the EEC and the AU Commission (AUC) discussed the practical aspects of preparing a new memorandum of cooperation that will promote the trade and economic potential of the Eurasian "five" countries and Africa.

It should be recalled that the African Union was established in 2002, bringing together 55 states on the continent. Among the declared goals of the AU are the protection of the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and independence of member states, the strengthening of peace, security and

³³ EAEU and Costa Rica interested in developing economic cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/eaes-i-kosta-rika-zainteresovany-v-razvitii-ekonomicheskogo-sotrudnichestva/>

³⁴ Declaration on the further development of the economic processes of the Eurasian Economic Union until 2030 and for the period until 2045 "Eurasian Economic Path" [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: https://docs.eaeunion.org/docs/ru-ru/01443175/ms_26122023

³⁵ The EEC and the African Union Commission discussed issues related to the development of trade and economic cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/eeek-i-komissiya-afrikanskogo-sovuzza-obsudili-voprosy-razvitiya-torgovo-ekonomicheskogo-sotrudnichestv/>

stability, accelerating political and socio-economic integration on the continent, promoting democratic principles and institutions, promoting coordinated approaches by African countries on the world stage, and creating the necessary conditions for Africa to play a dignified role in the global economy. A memorandum of understanding between the EEC and the CAS was signed in October 2019. And already "in 2021, the EAEU's foreign trade turnover with African countries increased by 21.9% (to US\$18.9 billion), exports by 24% (to US\$15.4 billion), and imports by 13.7% (to US\$3.5 billion)"³⁶.

In November 2024, at the session "EAEU – Africa: Identifying Key Points of Interaction with Countries and Regional Integration Associations on the Continent," it was emphasized that the logic of the dialogue between the Eurasian "five" and their African partners is to promote the development of trade and economic cooperation, since "integration is a tool that makes the economy more stable, reveals competitive advantages, and makes a significant contribution to economic growth"³⁷. For this reason, it was proposed as a first step to take measures to reduce the information deficit on commercial opportunities and simplify market access procedures, to promote the establishment of direct contacts between business associations, to intensify cooperation with the participation of development institutions, as well as sectoral cooperation in areas of mutual interest, and to deepen dialogue with integration structures on the African continent, including the Economic Community of Central African States, the African Export-Import Bank, and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa.

At the aforementioned session in November 2024, representatives of the EAEU and **the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)** reached an agreement "to begin work on formalizing cooperation by developing a memorandum and a plan of joint activities for the coming

³⁶ EAEU and Africa intend to develop cooperation on food security issues [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: [https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/eaes-i-afrika-namereny-razvivat-sotrudnichestvo-v-voprosakh-prodovolstvennov-bezopasnosti-/](https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/eaes-i-afrika-namereny-razvivat-sotrudnichestvo-v-voprosakh-prodovolstvennov-bezopasnosti/)

³⁷ Eldar Alisherov: "The logic behind the EAEU's dialogue with its partners in Africa is to promote the development of trade and economic cooperation" [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/eldar-alisherov-logika-dialoga-eaes-s-partnerami-v-afrike-sodeystvovat-razvitiyu-torgovo-ekonomichesk/>

years"³⁸. The EAEU Business Council and the CEMAC business association will also work on the conclusion of a relevant joint document on cooperation. It should be added that this international organization, CEMAC, was formed in 1994 on the basis of the Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa. Member countries: Angola, Burundi, Gabon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cameroon, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Central African Republic, Chad, Equatorial Guinea. The stated goals of this structure are to develop integration processes, promote their comprehensive deepening based on their own economic strengths, and move towards the creation of a common market.

When it comes to the partnership between the Eurasian "five" and **the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank)**, it is a pan-African supranational multilateral financial institution authorized to finance and promote intra- and extra-African trade, as well as Africa's leading regional integration bank, which plays a decisive role in supporting the creation of the African Continental Free Trade Area. It was established in 1997 under the auspices of the African Development Bank and works with African and non-African export credit agencies, development finance institutions, commercial banks, and other multilateral institutions.

Back in late 2023, during negotiations between representatives of the EEC and Afreximbank, it was emphasized that "promising joint projects for companies from the EAEU states and African countries could include the production of chemical products, machinery and equipment, including agricultural machinery, the cultivation of agricultural crops and livestock products, their transportation, as well as areas such as exploration, extraction, and processing of minerals, energy, electronic services..."³⁹. However, the solution to these problems must begin with the elimination of "bottlenecks" that restrict trade between regions, including joint efforts to optimize logistics chains, certification and expertise, searching for mutually beneficial forms of

³⁸ The EEC is establishing direct cooperation with subregional integration structures in Africa [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/eeek-nalazhivaet-prvmoe-vzaimodevstvie-s-subregionalnymi-integratsionnymi-strukturami-afriki/>

³⁹ EEC and Afreximbank intend to develop trade and economic cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/eeek-i-afreksimbank-namereny-razvivat-torgovo-ekonomicheskoe-sotrudnichestvo/>

payment for trade operations using national currencies, including digital ones, and working out other issues related to the provision of financial services associated with foreign trade supplies, primarily in the field of freight and insurance, and establishing direct correspondent relations between financial organizations of the EAEU countries and African banks.

In order to attract entrepreneurs to implement joint projects, it is necessary to promote awareness of each other's trade and economic opportunities and the mechanisms for pricing basic exchange commodities by using information systems to search for potential partners and goods, mutual recognition of ratings, and joint Eurasian business missions to African countries. At the same time, the parties agreed to continue developing a constructive dialogue in the field of economic activity in the EAEU and the AU, including through joint events and information exchange, as well as to explore the possibility of deepening cooperation between the EEC and Afreximbank in order to achieve more effective and practical trade and economic cooperation at the level of the EAEU and African countries. And already in November 2024, the parties "agreed to work out issues related to the formation of a plan of joint activities, within the framework of which it will be possible to offer businesses platforms for direct communication"⁴⁰ in 2025.

Finally, in the new year, the EAEU hopes to promote partnership ties with **the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)**, which has 21 member states: Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Egypt, Kenya, Comoros, Libya, Mauritius, Madagascar, Malawi, Rwanda, Swaziland, Seychelles, Somalia, Sudan, Tunisia, Uganda, Eritrea, and Ethiopia. In July 2022, the EEC and the COMESA Competition Commission signed a Memorandum of Understanding on competition policy and enforcement, which "opens up new opportunities for closer cooperation between the agencies"⁴¹. In July 2024,

⁴⁰ EEC and African Export-Import Bank intensify cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/EEK-i-afrikanskiy-eksportno-importnyy-bank-aktiviziruyut-vzaimodevstvie/>

⁴¹ EEC and COMESA sign Memorandum of Understanding on competition policy and enforcement [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/EEK-i-komesa-podpisali-memorandum-o-vzaimoponimaniy-v-oblasti-konkurentnov-politiki-i-pravoprimeneni/>

the parties identified "a common goal of promoting the sustainable development of their regions through economic integration"⁴² and outlined prospects for cooperation in 2025.

Overall, the realization of the high potential for trade and economic cooperation between the EAEU and African countries shows that it is proceeding in the spirit of constructive dialogue, including through joint events and information exchange, and the elaboration of issues related to deepening and expanding cooperation between the parties.

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⁴² The EEC and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) will expand opportunities for dialogue between the parties [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/eek-i-obschij-rynok-vostochnoi-i-juzhnoj-afriki-komesa-rasshariat-vozmozhnosti-dlja-dialoga-storon-640960-2024/>

Eurasian Economic Union – Asia: developing reliable partnership schemes

As one of the key areas of promising integration development, the Declaration on the Further Development of Economic Processes within **the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU)** until 2030 and for the period up to 2045, "The Eurasian Economic Path," sets the task of positioning the EAEU as one of the centers for the formation of **the Greater Eurasian Partnership**, which involves the participation of all interested regional and global economies in trade, logistics, and economic cooperation in mutually beneficial formats, based on the unique competitive historical, geographical, and economic advantages of the participants. "Mutual benefit, voluntariness, respect for national sovereignty, transparency, and a combination of specific advantages are the essential principles of a new type of integration"⁴³. The Great Eurasian Partnership is becoming an effective means of protecting the common economic interests of Asian countries, a platform for their consolidation in the name of a stable and secure future for both the continent as a whole and any state in the region. Modern Asia consists of 45 independent countries that vary in terms of territory, population, and level and pace of development. At the same time, this continent is considered one of the most dynamic developing regions in the world. For this reason, the EAEU is finding new forms and ways of economic cooperation here, primarily in the financial, economic, transport, and logistics spheres, including with **Iran** and the countries of **the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)**.

In particular, in December 2024, the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council decided to grant **Iran** observer status with the EAEU. It should be noted that such status is granted to a state interested in mutually beneficial trade and economic cooperation with the EAEU and its members, as well as in the harmonization of legal regulations. "Currently, Cuba and Uzbekistan also have observer status with the EAEU"⁴⁴.

⁴³ Sergey Glazyev: "The Grand Partnership – a driver for the formation of a new world economic order" [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://eec.eaunion.org/news/sergev-glazev-bolshoe-evrazijskoe-partnerstvo-dravver-formirovaniya-novogo-mirokhozvaystvennogo-ukla/>

⁴⁴ Iran granted observer status in the EAEU [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/iran-poluchil-status-nabljudatelja-pri-caes-685429-2024/>

For reference, in 2018, the EAEU and Iran adopted their first joint document – a temporary free trade agreement, which was "local, covered few items and did not provide for zero tariffs..."⁴⁵. In December 2023, the parties signed a free trade agreement, which opened up a wide range of new opportunities and "will significantly increase the competitiveness of EAEU member states' goods and thereby increase exports to Iran"⁴⁶ and, in general, will contribute to the growth of trade turnover and the intensification of cooperation and investment.

In April 2024, the Council of the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) approved a plan of measures aimed at implementing this agreement, which provides for deepening cooperation between the business communities of the parties. In order to create a platform for business dialogue, amendments have been made to the existing memorandum of cooperation between the EAEU Business Council and the Iranian Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mining and Agriculture dated September 25, 2019. "Activities within this platform will be carried out taking into account such areas of industry cooperation as cooperation in the field of transport, the development of multimodal transport, joint projects in the field of research and development, the establishment of cooperative ties between enterprises, projects in the fuel and energy complex, as well as energy efficiency, energy conservation and renewable energy sources, education, medicine, and telecommunications."⁴⁷. In addition, the parties have prepared a plan of joint activities to promote trade, including business forums, exhibitions, and business missions. In addition, the Iranian side proposed to hold a presentation of the EAEU in 2025 in Tehran in order to "raise awareness among Iranian business circles about the Eurasian agenda, as well as the opportunities that are opening up for foreign business. This initiative is aimed at strengthening mutually beneficial

⁴⁵ Pivovar, E. EEC: a free trade zone between the EAEU and Iran may be created by the end of the year / E. Pivovar // [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/EEK-zona-svobodnoj-torgovli-mezhdu-eaes-i-iranom-mozhet-byt-sozdana-do-kontsa-goda-566030-2023/>

⁴⁶ EAEU agreement with Iran on free trade signed in St. Petersburg [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/soglashenie-eaes-s-iranom-o-svobodnoj-torgovle-podpisano-v-sankt-peterburge-607037-2023/>

⁴⁷ Pivovar, E. EEC Council approves plan to implement free trade agreement with Iran / E. Pivovar // [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/sovet-EEK-utverdil-plan-po-realizatsii-soglashenija-o-svobodnoj-torgovle-s-iranom-627572-2024/>

cooperation and expanding commercial ties between the EAEU countries and Iranian partners"⁴⁸.

Among the interesting initiatives on the part of the EAEU, which Iran is already joining, is the Eurasian Agro-Express project. Recall that the implementation of the joint project of the EAEU member states on the implementation of accelerated rail and multimodal transport "Eurasian Agro-Express" to develop regular mutual supplies of agricultural products and food, as well as export supplies to Asia and Europe, was supported by the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council in February 2022. And in February 2023, the project was scaled up to the North-South corridor routes. In this context, we are talking about the supply of products from the union countries to Iran, as well as the organization of large-scale transportation of Iranian vegetables and fruits to the markets of the Eurasian "five" countries. The fact is that with the help of this project, "agricultural products will be delivered more efficiently, with better quality and fewer intermediaries"⁴⁹. In this regard, it is planned to organize cooperation with a large Iranian holding company, which can either directly participate in the project or act as a "single window" for organizing the supply of agricultural products from the "five" countries to Iran and the export of Iranian products in the opposite direction.

All these facts show that Iran is gradually becoming one of the important partners of the EAEU. Suffice it to say that "over the past five years of the temporary trade agreement, trade turnover between the EAEU and Iran has more than doubled – from \$2.4 billion in 2019 to \$5.2 billion in 2023"⁵⁰. The most promising areas of cooperation between the parties are the development of transport and logistics infrastructure, the expansion of cooperative ties between enterprises, cooperation in the agro-industrial complex, the oil refining and petrochemical industries, and scientific research and development. In addition, statistics for 2024 show that in ten months,

⁴⁸ EEC and Iran discuss cooperation plans [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/eeek-i-iran-obsudili-planv-sotrudnichestva/>

⁴⁹ Pivovar, E. Iran joins the EAEU's Eurasian Agroexpress project / E. Pivovar // [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/iran-podkljucaetsja-k-realizatsii-proekta-eaes-evrazijskij-agroekspress-619975-2024/>

⁵⁰ Pivovar, E. The EEC is confident that trade between the EAEU and Iran will reach a new level / E. Pivovar // [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/v-eeek-uverenenv-v-vyhode-torogovli-eaes-i-irana-nanovvj-uroven-637183-2024/>

trade turnover "grew by 12.8%, exports of goods to Iran increased by 16%, and imports by 8%"⁵¹ .

And finally, Belarus ratified the free trade agreement between the EAEU and Iran in July 2024 to ensure the diversification of exports by removing tariff and non-tariff barriers to market access for a wide range of goods, as well as improving conditions for trade and economic cooperation. "The opening of the Iranian market through the elimination of customs duties will provide Belarusian exporters with more competitive conditions for the supply of goods"⁵² . By removing tariff barriers, Iran, whose population has already exceeded 80 million, can now successfully trade with Belarus. The Belarusian side has a great opportunity to promote its machine-building and food products, while enjoying favorable preferences.

Now let's look at the current issues of cooperation between the Eurasian Economic Union and **the Association of Southeast Asian Nations**. In November 2024, the Malaysian capital Kuala Lumpur hosted the EAEU-ASEAN Business Dialogue, which was attended by more than 350 representatives of the political, business, and academic circles of both sides. It was noted that trade between the two integration platforms is showing steady double-digit growth, which indicates great potential for the development of a multi-vector dialogue, both at the inter-integration and country levels. The key driver of this process is the business community, as "the joint expert and business platforms of the EAEU and ASEAN allow for direct communication between entrepreneurs, eliminate information barriers, and build trust. The key task facing the two associations today is to create transparent and understandable conditions for interaction between business circles"⁵³ .

⁵¹ Bakytzhan Sagintayev: "Dialogue with Iran has potential for development in a number of areas" [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/bakytzhan-sagintaev-dialog-s-iranom-imeet-potentsial-razvitiva-po-tselomu-rvadu-napravleniv/>

⁵² Belarus ratified the EAEU free trade agreement with Iran [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-ratifikirovala-soglashenie-o-svobodnoj-torgovle-eaes-s-iranom-645885-2024/>

⁵³ EAEU and ASEAN business dialogue held in Malaysia [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/biznes-dialog-eaes-i-asean-sostovalsya-v-malavzii/>

It should be noted that ASEAN is an economic association formed in 1967. The members of the association are Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines, Brunei Darussalam, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar, and Cambodia. Papua New Guinea and East Timor have observer status. It is one of the largest regional integration associations in Asia, with a combined gross domestic product exceeding two and a half trillion dollars and a population of about 625 million people. It should be added that the Memorandum of Understanding between the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) and ASEAN in the field of economic cooperation was signed in November 2018 in Singapore, which laid the foundation for the formation of a dialogue platform to discuss a wide range of issues related to the interaction of integration blocs across the Eurasian continent. To implement the memorandum, a Cooperation Program for 2020-2025 was adopted, which "covers areas such as customs legislation and enforcement practices, trade policy, business activities, technical and antitrust regulation, SPS measures, energy, and the functioning of domestic markets"⁵⁴.

In November 2023, during the round table discussion "The Economic Agenda of the EAEU and ASEAN: Overlapping Interests," promising areas of cooperation were identified, such as the technological platforms being created in the countries of the Eurasian "five," food production, and information technology. And "the planned launch of a single energy market in the EAEU is potentially interesting for ASEAN countries that import oil and natural gas, while drug manufacturers from ASEAN countries have the opportunity to operate in the EAEU's single pharmaceutical market with a capacity of US\$10 billion"⁵⁵. Furthermore, considering that the EAEU aims to become a self-sufficient, secure, harmoniously developed, and attractive macro-region of a polycentric world by 2045, having achieved economic, technological and intellectual leadership with a high level of prosperity for its population, then such a goal, given the large territory, population, economic

⁵⁴ EAEU and ASEAN plan to develop trade and economic cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/caes-i-asean-planiruyut-razvivat-torgovo-ekonomicheskoe-sotrudnichestvo/>

⁵⁵ Sergey Glazyev: "The dialogue between the EAEU and ASEAN improves economic connectivity in Eurasia" [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/sergey-glazyev-dialog-caes-i-asean-uluchshaet-ekonomicheskuyu-svvazannost-v-evrazii/>

potential, and dense transport networks of these integration associations, opens up new prospects for economic cooperation and civilizational ties between the EAEU and ASEAN. Possible mechanisms for implementing promising areas of cooperation could include the creation of a global free trade zone between them, as well as technological partnerships.

In June 2024, during the EAEU-ASEAN business dialogue, participants noted that "the two associations need to create a new dimension of dialogue that will allow them to increase trade volumes exponentially and remove existing barriers. These include problems in international settlements and information barriers for business representatives"⁵⁶. The development of networked forms of interaction involving business and scientific circles on both sides will help take cooperation to a qualitatively new level. At the same time, more attention should be paid to diversifying trade and economic interaction, deepening dialogue and exchanging practical experience in the field of innovation, digital transformation, and increasing market transparency. This is all the more important given that the current areas of growth and mutual reinforcement of the economies of the member countries of the two associations are cooperation in energy efficiency, food security, transport, logistics, finance, and tourism.

Returning to the November (2024) EAEU-ASEAN business dialogue held in Malaysia, we note that its participants agreed to apply their experience of cooperation and best practices in areas such as artificial intelligence, the green economy, big data economy, and to focus the greatest potential for cooperation between business communities on issues of digitalization, industrial cooperation, food security, transport and logistics, and financial policy. All this can be seen in the examples of cooperation between a number of ASEAN countries – **Vietnam, Indonesia, Myanmar** – and the Eurasian "five".

In particular, 2025 will mark the 10th anniversary of the conclusion of the Free Trade Agreement between the EAEU countries and **Vietnam**. During this time, positive dynamics in this area have shown good growth.

⁵⁶ Sergey Glazyev at SPIEF-2024: "The EAEU and ASEAN can use network formats to intensify cooperation" [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/sergey-glazyev-na-pmf-2024-eaes-i-asean-mogut-ispolzovat-setevve-formatv-dlva-aktivizatsii-vzaimodev/>

Suffice it to say that "in 2023, trade turnover increased 1.6 times compared to 2016, and in the first half of 2024, this indicator increased by 17% compared to the same period in 2023"⁵⁷. At the same time, the agreements set out in this agreement currently provide preferences for around 90% of the product range, ensuring duty-free access for virtually all trade.

At the fifth meeting of the EAEU-Vietnam Joint Committee on the implementation of the free trade agreement, held in November 2023, the parties agreed to intensify work on major investment projects, which will undoubtedly provide prospects for further growth in mutual supplies of products. At the same time, they discussed "issues of further liberalization of access to each other's markets, protective measures, sanitary and phytosanitary regulations, the climate agenda, and the exchange of information in the field of investment"⁵⁸, as well as existing technical barriers to trade, issues of electronic exchange of customs information, and rules for determining the origin of goods. With regard to sanitary and phytosanitary regulations, the meeting participants discussed issues including access for meat products from Belarus to the Vietnamese market.

In July 2024, the first meeting of the regular "EAEU-Vietnam" dialogue on market access issues related to technical barriers to trade, pharmaceutical and automotive products was held in Hanoi. As a result of the dialogue, the parties "managed to significantly improve their understanding of Vietnam's regulatory systems on specific issues and identify possible further actions to improve the conditions for access of EAEU products to the Vietnamese market"⁵⁹. And in October 2024, during the negotiations, the parties noted the effectiveness of various tools for trade development and customs administration, including the introduction and application of digital

⁵⁷ Bakytzhan Sagintayev held talks with Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/bakytzhan-sagintaev-provel-peregovorv-s-premer-ministrom-vetnama-fam-min-finem/>

⁵⁸ Andrey Slepnev: "The implementation of joint investment projects will contribute to a further increase in trade volumes with Vietnam" [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/andrey-slepnev-dalneyshemu-uvelificheniyu-obemov-torgovli-s-vetnamom-budet-sposobstvovat-realizatsiya/>

⁵⁹ The EAEU discussed with Vietnam issues of access to the market for automotive and pharmaceutical products [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/eaes-obsudil-s-vetnamom-voprosv-dostupa-narvno-avtomobilnov-i-farmaceuticheskoy-produkcii/>

solutions. Joint work is currently underway to prepare a document on the electronic exchange of information on issued certificates between the EAEU and Vietnam. So, in 2025, this cooperation will undoubtedly reach new heights.

As for **Indonesia**, the EEC signed a memorandum of cooperation with it in October 2019 to address issues of trade facilitation, customs and technical regulation, and financial market development. And in September 2022, the EEC Council decided to start negotiations with this country on the conclusion of a free trade agreement. After all, "Indonesia is the largest economy in ASEAN and the fourth largest in the world in terms of population, so trade relations with this Asian country have significant potential"⁶⁰. From April 2023 to July 2024, five rounds of negotiations were held on the conclusion of a free trade agreement between the EAEU and Indonesia. In September 2024, during the Indonesia-EAEU dialogue on digital technologies, participants noted that "the future agreement lays the groundwork for strengthening cooperation and collaborative ties between businesses in our countries in the fields of telecommunications, innovation, digital technologies, and e-commerce"⁶¹ and will facilitate the establishment of links between digital companies for the exchange of solutions, technologies, expertise, and the exploration of new opportunities for cooperation. It appears that in 2025, the EAEU and Indonesia will enter the final stage of signing this important document.

Finally, **Myanmar** expressed interest in cooperating with the EAEU back in 2021, and in June 2023 signed a memorandum of cooperation with the Eurasian "five," which "provides for cooperation in areas such as customs, technical regulation, the application of sanitary, veterinary, and phytosanitary measures, financial markets, transport, energy, and the agro-industrial complex..."⁶². Based on this document, the parties are already beginning to

⁶⁰ Zaleski, B. Export Growth Strategy. Opportunities and Challenges of an Open Economy in Modern Conditions / Boris Zaleski. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2023. – C. 5.

⁶¹ . EEC supports cooperation between the business communities of the EAEU and Indonesia [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/EEK-podderzhivaet-vzaimodevstvie-biznes-soobshchestv-eaes-i-indonezii/>

⁶² EEC and Myanmar sign memorandum of cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/EEK-i-myanmar-podpisali-memorandum-o-vzaimodevstvii/>

address specific issues related to the removal of trade barriers, information exchange, and the development of cooperation mechanisms for the creation of new projects and investments. In April 2024, at the first meeting of the joint working group on cooperation, it was noted that "Myanmar has a geographically advantageous position – it neighbours such economically powerful countries as India and China and is located as a bridge connecting Southeast Asia and the Eurasian market"⁶³. For this reason, establishing direct, large-scale, and continuous cooperation between business circles will make it possible to intensify Myanmar's trade and economic interaction with the EAEU states, develop cooperation in the fields of construction and transport links, and create conditions for settlements in national currencies. The business community's idea of establishing trading houses to increase the supply of goods was also supported.

At the negotiations in June 2024, Myanmar representatives expressed interest in "expanding agricultural exports to the EAEU market in order to strengthen food security in the region"⁶⁴, as well as in cooperation in the field of drug production, pharmaceutical technologies, and interaction in the regulation of this sphere. And already at the first joint seminar of the EEC and Myanmar in December 2024, common approaches to unified customs regulation in the EAEU, issues of applying the "single window" mechanism, and the implementation of interstate electronic information exchange in the customs sphere were discussed. It should be noted that the rapid pace of dialogue between the parties within the framework of the memorandum of cooperation and the great potential of the joint seminar format "allows not only for the exchange of information, but also for the identification of areas of economic activity and the effective formulation of proposals for the draft agenda of the next meeting of the joint working group"⁶⁵. In 2025, the

⁶³ EAEU and Myanmar develop trade and economic cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://eec.eaunion.org/news/eaes-i-myanmar-zarvivavut-torgovo-ekonomicheskoe-sotrudnichestvo/>

⁶⁴ Sergey Glazev: "The key task of cooperation between the EAEU and Myanmar is to eliminate the problem of trade imbalance and involve business circles in sectoral dialogue" [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://eec.eaunion.org/news/sergey-glazev-klvuchevaya-zadacha-sotrudnichestva-eaes-i-mvanmy-ustranenie-problemy-torgovogo-disbal/>

⁶⁵ A series of joint seminars between the EEC and Myanmar has begun [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://eec.eaunion.org/news/startoval-tsrlk-sovmestnykh-seminarov-eeek-i-mvanmy/>

practice of joint seminars between the EEC and Myanmar on finance, the digital economy, and the agro-industrial complex will continue in order to promote deeper interaction in key areas of cooperation, increase trade turnover between the EAEU countries and Myanmar, and eliminate imbalances in mutual trade.

Let us return to the Greater Eurasian Partnership. As we can see, this project is designed to promote the creation of favorable conditions for steady sustainable development, increase the efficiency of production relations, and achieve confident and stable economic growth in the states of Eurasia. And the EAEU is already accumulating the potential of Eurasian states on the path to sustainable development in order to develop reliable, mutually beneficial, and equitable cooperation schemes with countries and associations in Asia.

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Belarus – Serbia: in search of new niches for cooperation

Serbia is Belarus' key economic partner in the Balkans. In November 2024, Minsk and Belgrade officially celebrated the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. After 2019, when the work of the Belarusian-Serbian Intergovernmental Commission (IGC) on trade and economic cooperation was put on hold, the parties nevertheless continued to interact quite actively in various areas, **including science, technology, and innovation, the export of Belarusian food products, agriculture, exchange and exhibition activities.**

It should be recalled that in December 2019, during an official visit by a Belarusian delegation to Belgrade, the leaders of Belarus and Serbia agreed to significantly intensify efforts to increase bilateral trade, implement initiatives to establish joint ventures, and launch mutual investment projects. At that time, following the negotiations, a package of eight documents on the development of bilateral cooperation in various sectors was signed. A notable detail: half of them concerned the scientific sphere. These included a memorandum of understanding on cooperation in the field of innovation and digital technology development, agreements on scientific and technical cooperation between the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, and the Ministry of Education, Science, and Technological Development of Serbia⁶⁶. These were complemented by an intergovernmental program of cooperation in the field of education for 2020, which was signed at the same time.

Overall, cooperation between the two countries in **the scientific, technical, and innovation spheres** has been developing since the signing of the relevant intergovernmental agreement in 1996 between Belarus and what was then Yugoslavia. In just five years – from 2015 to 2019 – “23 joint scientific and technical projects were implemented, including in the fields of agricultural biology, physics and mathematics, chemical sciences, and

⁶⁶ . Matievsky, M. Belarus and Serbia signed a package of documents after the meeting of the presidents, half of which are in the field of science / M. Matievsky // [Electronic resource]. – 2019. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-serbija-podpisali-posle-vstrechi-prezidentov-paket-dokumentov-polovina-v-sfere-nauki-371489-2019/>

information technology"⁶⁷. The State Committee for Science and Technology of the Republic of Belarus noted at the time that "Belarusian national priorities in the scientific, technical, and innovative spheres largely coincide with those of Serbia. These are, first and foremost, energy, medicine and pharmacy, information and communication technologies, bio- and nanotechnologies"⁶⁸.

The signing in December 2019 by the Belarusian State Committee for Science and Technology and the Serbian Ministry of Education, science and technological development. It envisaged the implementation of ten joint scientific and technical projects in areas such as agriculture and food, biotechnology, nanomaterials, laser and chemical technologies.

At the 9th meeting of the Belarusian-Serbian **Commission on Scientific and Technical Cooperation**, held in December 2019, the parties also agreed to move together towards new strategic goals in the fields of high technology, pharmacy, optics, and bioorganic chemistry. Moreover, in 2018, Belarusian and Serbian scientists also completed ten scientific and technical projects, including five in physical and mathematical sciences, three in agricultural and biological sciences, and two in chemical and earth sciences. "On the Belarusian side, seven projects are being implemented by organizations of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, and three projects by organizations of the Ministry of Education"⁶⁹.

It should be noted that **the working group on the development of cooperation in the field of agriculture and food**, whose fifth meeting was held in Belgrade in December 2019, also focuses on the development of scientific and innovative ties. At the meeting, the parties discussed issues of veterinary and phytosanitary control, crop production and seed production,

⁶⁷ Belarus and Serbia to sign a scientific and technical cooperation program for 2020-2021 in the fall [Electronic resource]. – 2019. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-serbija-oseniju-podpishut-programmu-nauchno-tehnicheskogo-sotrudnichestva-na-2020-2021-godv-359969-2019/>

⁶⁸ Belarus and Serbia discussed prospects for scientific, technical, and innovative cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2019. – URL: http://www.gknt.gov.by/news/2019/belarus_i_serbija_obsudili_perspektivy_nauchno_tehnicheskogo_i_innovatsionnogo_sotrudnichestva/

⁶⁹ Belarus and Serbia will implement 10 joint scientific and technical projects in 2020-2021 [Electronic resource]. – 2019. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-serbija-v-2020-2021-godah-vvpolniat-10-sovmestnyh-nauchno-tehnicheskikh-proektov-371346-2019/>

and cooperation between agricultural universities, and agreed to explore possible options and prospects for cooperation between research organizations of the two countries, including in the field of breeding and seed production of alfalfa and sugar beet. The focus on these topics is explained by the fact that cooperation in this area has been developing very intensively recently. Suffice it to say that in the first three quarters of 2019, "trade in agricultural products and foodstuffs between the two countries grew by more than 30% compared to the same period in 2018. Exports tripled to \$3.597 million. Belarus supplies Serbia with potatoes, seeds, butter, onions, shallots, leeks, and garlic.⁷⁰ .

In the field of education, the parties see priority areas for cooperation in expanding partnerships between specific educational institutions in the two countries, actively exchanging information on basic and supplementary education for adults, supplementary education for children and young people, as well as inclusive and vocational education. In particular, the Belarusian side is interested in Serbia's experience in "introducing international educational programs into the national education system"⁷¹ . The agreement on cooperation between Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno and the University of Belgrade, signed in December 2019 in the Serbian capital, will contribute to the achievement of this goal. This document provided for "cooperation between universities in the field of educational and scientific activities, as well as in the field of using best practices and introducing scientific developments into the educational process"⁷² . It should be noted that Belgrade University ranks first in the national ranking of Serbian universities.

And now, five years later, in November 2024, the 11th meeting of the Belarusian-Serbian Joint Commission **on Scientific and Technical Cooperation** was held in Minsk, at which it was noted that from 2014 to

⁷⁰ Serbia is interested in supplies of Belarusian milk [Electronic resource]. – 2019. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/serbija-zainteresovana-v-postavkakh-belorususkogo-moloka-371388-2019/>

⁷¹ Belarus – Serbia: priorities for cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2019. – URL: <https://edu.gov.by/news/belarus--serbiva-prioritetv-sotrudnichestva/>

⁷² Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno signed a cooperation agreement with the University of Belgrade [Electronic resource]. – 2019. – URL: <https://www.grsu.by/component/k2/item/31876-grgu-imeni-vanki-kupalv-zaklvuchen-dogovor-o-sotrudnichestve-s-belgradskim-universitetom.html>

2024, 57 Belarusian-Serbian scientific and technical projects were implemented in the fields of technical, physics and mathematics, agriculture and biology, chemistry, as well as in the field of nanomaterials, materials science, and information technology. According to the results of the first 10 months of 2024, "Belarus' exports of high-tech goods to Serbia have almost doubled, accounting for 34% of total exports."⁷³ . Back in 2021, a competition for joint scientific and technical projects for 2022-2024 was agreed upon and then successfully held. As a result, "12 joint projects in such areas as medicine, information technology, new materials, and biotechnology" were completed⁷⁴ . And as priority areas for joint activities for 2025-2026, the parties identified information and communication technologies, artificial intelligence, biotechnology, energy, mechanical engineering, and agriculture. In this regard, at the 11th meeting of the commission, a new competition for joint Belarusian-Serbian scientific and technical projects for the next two years was announced. It will be held in the following areas: "artificial intelligence, information and communication technologies, and interdisciplinary technologies based on their application; biotechnology; energy, renewable energy sources, ecology, and rational use of natural resources; mechanical engineering, mechanical engineering technologies, instrument engineering, and innovative materials; agriculture, agro-industrial and food technologies"⁷⁵ .

As for cooperation on **the export of Belarusian food products** to the Serbian market, the volume of supplies from Belarus is growing steadily. The main export items include dairy products, including cheese, milk powder, animal oil, as well as yeast and fresh potatoes. "Over the past four years, the turnover of food and agricultural raw materials between Belarus and Serbia

⁷³ Exports of high-tech goods from Belarus to Serbia have almost doubled [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/eksport-tovarov-vvsokogo-tehnologicheskogo-urovnja-iz-belarusi-v-serbiju-vyros-pochti-vdvoe-676446-2024/>

⁷⁴ Belarus and Serbia complete 12 joint projects in the fields of medicine, information technology, and biotechnology [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-serbija-zavershajut-12-sovmestnyh-proektov-v-sferah-meditsiny-informatiki-i-biotehnologii-654346-2024/>

⁷⁵ A competition for joint Belarusian-Serbian scientific and technical projects has been announced [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/objavljen-konkurs-sovmestnyh-belorussko-serbskih-nauchno-tehnicheskikh-proektov-680253-2024/>

has tripled, including exports of domestic food products to Serbia, which increased by 63.3% in the first 11 months of 2024⁷⁶. The parties believe that cooperation in **the agro-industrial sector** and food supplies should be intensified, including with the help of **the Belarusian-Serbian working group on cooperation** in this area. In January 2025, with a view to strengthening trade and economic ties and discussing topical issues of bilateral cooperation, the Belarusian side proposed to consider the possibility of holding in the near future the next, sixth meeting of the sectoral group on cooperation in the agro-industrial sphere in the near future in order to develop partnerships in the field of crop production, increase the supply of dairy products, and expand **exchange and exhibition activities**.

It should be noted that in 2024, Belarus and Serbia intensified their cooperation in **exchange trading**. In particular, "compared to 2023, the amount of transactions increased more than 37 times, mainly due to the supply of Belarusian dairy products to the Serbian market. Skimmed milk powder and whole milk powder were in the highest demand. These items accounted for 64% of Belarusian goods sold to Serbia"⁷⁷. In January 2025, the two countries expanded the range of goods traded on the exchange. Two new items appeared in the structure of exchange trade turnover: herbicides and seeds for sowing. Until then, Serbian companies had been operating on the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange (BUCX) exclusively as importers, purchasing Belarusian sawn timber, dry milk, butter, and cheese through it. The plans are to increase the volume and diversify the structure of Belarusian-Serbian exchange trade turnover by involving new commodity items that are in demand on the markets of both countries. Serbia, for example, is interested in purchasing Belarusian meat and dairy products, rapeseed oil, feed additives, semi-finished leather products, and scrap metal.

⁷⁶ Belarusian food exports to Serbia grew by 63% over the first 11 months of last year [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://www.belarus.by/ru/business/business-news/eksport-belorusskogo-prodovolstvija-v-serbiju-za-11-mesjatsev-proshlogo-goda-vvros-na-63-i-183993.html>

⁷⁷ Belarus and Serbia have expanded the range of goods traded on the exchange [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-serbija-rasshirili-tovarnuju-nomenklaturu-birzhevoi-torgovli-687941-2025/>

Belarus, in turn, is ready to import agricultural seeds, plant protection products, corn, polymers, technical oils, and non-ferrous metals from Serbia.

For reference, we note that "since the beginning of [2025], Serbian traders have already concluded exchange transactions totaling \$1.6 million. This includes exports of Belarusian dry milk, as well as supplies of beet seeds and herbicides to Belarus. Incidentally, last year, the exchange turnover between Belarus and Serbia increased more than 37 -fold, from \$110,000 in 2023 to \$4.1 million in 2024"⁷⁸. The partners intend to develop the exchange vector of cooperation by accrediting new trading participants from Serbia on the BUTB, and in the future, an exchange broker who will inform Serbian businesses about the advantages of exchange trading and assist in concluding transactions. With the support of the Serbian side, it is also planned to establish a partnership between the BSE and the Novi Sad Commodity Exchange, which will allow for joint efforts to promote exchange instruments among economic entities in Belarus and Serbia.

Speaking about the cooperation between Belarus and Serbia in **exhibition activities**, it should be noted that back in May 2023, the exhibition of Belarusian manufacturers **Made in Belarus** was presented at the International Agricultural **Trade Fair Novi Sad** in Novi Sad, the second largest city in Serbia. It has been held annually since 1957 and attracts approximately 150,000 visitors and over 1,500 exhibitors. "It is one of the five leading exhibitions in Europe and one of the ten leading exhibitions in the world. The aim of the event is to highlight the agricultural industry, introduce visitors to high-quality products and modern trends in the development of agribusiness"⁷⁹. The main sections of the exhibition include food and beverages, food industry equipment, agricultural machinery, technology and equipment, petroleum products, farming, livestock farming, vegetable and fruit growing, chemicals for the food industry, agricultural

⁷⁸ Increasing volume and diversifying structure: Belarus and Serbia intensify exchange trading [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/narastit-objem-i-raznoobrazit-strukturu-belarus-i-serbija-aktivizirujut-birzheviju-torgovlju-690582-2025/>

⁷⁹ Belarusian producers to take part in Serbia's largest agricultural exhibition [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/beloruskie-proizvoditeli-primut-uchastie-v-krupnejshej-selskohozjajstvennoj-vyvstavke-v-serbii-553678-2023/>

fertilizers and plant protection products, technologies and equipment for packaging, transportation, and storage of food products, design and construction in the agricultural and food industries.

Belarus was represented at the exhibition by scientific organizations and manufacturers of petrochemical and industrial products. Participants included the State Committee for Science and Technology (State Institution "Belarusian Institute of System Analysis and Information Support"), organizations of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, institutions of the Ministry of Education, as well as petrochemical enterprises "Grodno Azot," Mountain Wax Plant, "Belshina," Lakokraska, and Mogilevkhimvolokno,⁸⁰ . The open-air exhibition featured samples of agricultural machinery from the flagships of Belarusian industry: the Minsk Tractor Plant, Bobruiskagromash, and Lidagroprommash. As part of this exhibition, a Serbian-Belarusian business forum was held in Novi Sad, where it was emphasized that the parties have "significant potential for intensifying bilateral cooperation in areas such as logistics, veterinary medicine, wholesale trade, science, the food industry, and meat and dairy production."⁸¹ . In addition, a cooperation agreement was signed at the forum between the free economic zones "Grodnoinvest" and "Novi Sad." All this indicates that the parties have a real interest and specific proposals for developing cooperation and implementing joint projects.

In January 2025, at a meeting of the co-chairs of the Intergovernmental Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation in Minsk, A. Karpovich and N. Popovich, it was noted that the parties are ready to resume active cooperation between the two republics in a number of areas, primarily in the economy, and "agreed to hold a meeting of the intergovernmental commission in the first half of 2025"⁸² with the overall

⁸⁰ Belarus' national exhibition presented at agricultural exhibition in Serbia [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/natsionalnaja-ekspozitsija-belarusi-predstavlena-na-selhozvstavke-v-serbii-567630-2023/>

⁸¹ Belarus and Serbia discussed the development of trade and economic cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-serbija-obsudili-razvitie-torgovo-ekonomicheskogo-sotrudnichestva-567510-2023/>

⁸² Dairy products, timber, transport, tourism. Belarus and Serbia have identified areas of growth in mutual trade [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/molochka-lesomaterialy-transport-turizm-belarusi-serbija-onredelili-tochki-rosta-vo-vzaimnoj-torgovle-690546-2025/>

goal of increasing trade turnover. To ensure a systematic approach to joint work, a roadmap will be developed, which Belarus and Serbia will sign during the meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation. This document will become a reliable foundation for finding new niches in effective Belarusian-Serbian cooperation.

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Belarus – Hungary: The goal is to maintain a good pace in the bilateral agenda

In 2022, Belarus and Hungary celebrated the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. Even then, it was noted that in recent years Minsk and Budapest have been trying to intensify contacts and enhance the level of partnership relations. Thus, at the 10th meeting of the Belarusian-Hungarian Intergovernmental Commission (IGC) on Economic Cooperation, held in May 2020, the parties discussed pressing issues of trade interaction, as well as the state of partnership relations in agriculture, pharmaceuticals, energy, transport, science, education, and tourism. At that time, the participants of the meeting noted that "there is considerable potential for growth in cooperation between the two countries, which both Minsk and Budapest would like to put into action in the near future"⁸³. In 2021, Belarusian-Hungarian trade turnover exceeded \$230 million, increasing by a quarter since 2017. At the same time, Belarusian exports grew by 26 percent during this period and reached almost \$90 million. "The commodity structure of exports includes 170 commodity items. The most important of these are products of mechanical engineering, woodworking, and metallurgy."⁸⁴. But in 2022, for a number of reasons, trade turnover figures declined, so the parties, apparently, set about strengthening trade and economic ties.

At the end of January 2023, a meeting of the joint Belarusian-Hungarian working group on cooperation in the field of agriculture was held in Minsk, at which the parties discussed issues of intensifying cooperation in a number of areas. In particular, these include "priorities in the agricultural policies of both countries, experience in introducing innovations in agriculture and the development of organic farming, as well as the

⁸³ Zaleski, B.L. Belarus – Hungary: partnership vector – agriculture / B.L. Zaleski // Materials from the XVI International Scientific Practical Conference, Latest Achievements in European Science – 2020, June 15–22, 2020. Economics. : Sofia. "Bial GRAD–BG". – P. 38.

⁸⁴ Ulakhovich and representatives of the Hungarian business community discussed the prospects for trade and economic relations [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/ulahovich-i-predstaviteli-biznes-soobschestva-vengrii-obsudili-perspektivy-torgovo-ekonomicheskikh-497758-2022/>

development of the agricultural sector and food security issues⁸⁵. The meeting participants exchanged experiences in the field of business and sectoral cooperation, including partnerships on poultry farming, seed production, and breeding in cooperation with Hungarian companies Babolna TETRA, Agrofeed, and Woodstock. In April 2023, the first meeting of the Belarusian-Hungarian working group on cooperation in the fields of architecture, urban planning, and construction. Participants, who were representatives of relevant organizations and enterprises from both countries, discussed a number of issues and promising areas of cooperation in the construction sector as part of a detailed dialogue and "confirmed their interest in further joint work and agreed to develop mutually beneficial projects"⁸⁶.

In April 2023, the Hungarian capital also hosted the 11th meeting of the IPC, which addressed topical issues of practical cooperation in the economic and investment spheres. "The main focus was on the prospects for cooperation in agriculture, industry, energy, and water management"⁸⁷. Issues related to research, education, and the development of the legal framework for bilateral cooperation between Belarus and Hungary were also discussed. It should be noted that this base already included about 20 international agreements, the subjects of regulation of which include issues of trade, economic, scientific, and cultural cooperation in the fields of agriculture, sports, tourism, and education. During the 11th meeting of the JPC, the parties signed another document – a memorandum of understanding on the development of cooperation in the field of nuclear energy, which creates a good basis for future cooperation in this area. This is especially important given that energy security issues are of paramount importance for Hungary. After all, "regardless of the geopolitical situation, nuclear safety is

⁸⁵ The Ministry of Agriculture and Food discussed issues of intensifying cooperation with Hungary [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/v-minselhozprode-obsudili-voprosy-aktivizatsii-sotrudnichestva-s-vengrii-547587-2023/>

⁸⁶ Belarus and Hungary held the first meeting of the group on cooperation in the fields of architecture and construction [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-vengrija-proveli-pervoe-zasedanie-gruppy-po-sotrudnichestvu-v-arhitekturnoj-i-stroitelnoj-559326-2023/>

⁸⁷ Economy, investments, advanced technologies. The head of the Belarusian Foreign Ministry visited Hungary [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/politics/view/ekonomika-investitsii-peredovye-tehnologii-glava-beloruskogo-mid-posetil-vengriju-560951-2023/>

important for everyone. Without nuclear energy, it is impossible to achieve global climate goals"⁸⁸.

In April, on the sidelines of the 11th IPC meeting in Budapest, a Belarusian-Hungarian economic forum was held, attended by over 70 enterprises from various sectors of the economy and business structures from both countries, where it was noted that "Belarusian-Hungarian cooperation covers a wide range of industries: agriculture, construction, industrial cooperation, and medicine"⁸⁹. Several specific joint projects were discussed. First, "the Belarusian [tractor] plant has a representative office here [in Hungary], but in the near future there will also be an assembly plant"⁹⁰. Second, the parties intend to develop cooperation in the pharmaceutical industry, where a special role is assigned to the Hungarian pharmaceutical and biotechnology company Gedeon Richter.

Thirdly, the two countries are interested in expanding cooperation in the scientific and technical sphere and increasing mutual trade in high-tech products. It should be recalled that the basis for bilateral cooperation in science, technology, and innovation is a memorandum of understanding signed in 2013 between the Belarusian State Committee for Science and Technology and the Hungarian National Office for Research, Development, and Innovation. In 2016, a working group was set up to coordinate cooperation. In 2015-2022, organizations from Belarus and Hungary were partners in 13 projects, including in areas such as information and communication technologies, new materials, and instrument engineering. In addition, there are a number of cooperation agreements between Belarusian and Hungarian scientific organizations. In particular, these include the "agreement between academies of sciences, the agreement between Belarusian State University and the Institute of Geography of the Research

⁸⁸ Szijjártó: Hungary is interested in using Belarus' experience and knowledge in the field of nuclear energy [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/sijjarto-vengrija-zainteresovana-ispolzovat-opvt-i-znanija-belarusi-v-oblasti-atomnoj-energetiki-560927-2023>

⁸⁹ Belarus and Hungary discuss possible cooperation in agriculture and pharmacology [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-vengrija-obsuzhdajut-vozmozhnuju-kooperatsiju-v-selskom-hozjajstve-i-farmakologii-560940-2023>

⁹⁰ Hungary plans to open an assembly plant for Belarusian tractors [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/v-vengrii-planirujut-otkrvt-sborocnoe-proizvodstvo-belorusskih-tractorov-560949-2023>

Center for Astronomy and Earth Sciences of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences"⁹¹. At the 11th meeting of the IPC, an initiative was announced to hold the 3rd meeting of the working group on scientific and technical cooperation in the near future, as well as to organize a competition for Belarusian-Hungarian scientific and technical projects. All this testifies to the prospects for cooperation in this area.

A year later, in May 2024, the 12th meeting of the JPC was held in Minsk, where participants jointly determined the algorithm for cooperation in the short and medium term. The parties identified energy, agriculture, industry, healthcare, pharmaceuticals, construction, sports, tourism, education, and science as the most important areas of bilateral cooperation that will continue to be developed within the framework of Belarusian-Hungarian partnership relations. "There are plans to fill these areas with even more practical content"⁹². In this connection, the parties signed a new package of documents, including the Program of Cooperation between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belarus and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Hungary for 2024-2025, as well as a memorandum of understanding between the Ministry of Energy of Belarus and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary on deepening cooperation in the field of nuclear energy⁹³.

In addition, a roadmap for cooperation between the nuclear power plants of the two countries was signed, which defines the main areas of joint work between Belarusian and Hungarian nuclear scientists for 2024-2025, including in the field of personnel training, scheduled maintenance work, and radioactive waste management. Moreover, the Hungarian company MVM Paks NPP, as a nuclear power plant under construction, is interested in

⁹¹ Belarus is interested in expanding cooperation with Hungary in the scientific and technical sphere [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-zainteresovana-v-rasshirenii-sotrudnichestva-s-vengriji-v-nauchno-tehnicheskoi-sfere-561135-2023/>

⁹² Transcript of the press conference given by Belarusian Foreign Minister S. Aleimik following the meeting of the Belarusian-Hungarian Intergovernmental Commission on Economic Cooperation (May 29, 2024, Minsk) [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: https://www.mfa.gov.by/press/news_mfa/dceb9287fe611c94.html

⁹³ Belarus and Hungary signed a memorandum on deepening cooperation in nuclear energy [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-vengrija-uglubljajut-sotrudnichestvo-v-iademoj-energetike-637572-2024>

attracting Belarusian builders to work on the site. The relevant opportunities are currently being explored.⁹⁴ . It should be noted that the Paks Nuclear Power Plant is the only operating nuclear power plant in Hungary, built according to a Soviet design in the 1980s. It is located 100 kilometers from Budapest. Construction of Paks II was planned to begin in 2024 to strengthen the energy security of this European country, and it will also "be an important step in the development of Hungarian industry, create new jobs, and contribute to the resolution of social issues. It is planned that the construction of additional units will not only solve the republic's electricity shortage problem, but also allow exports to neighboring regions to be established."⁹⁵ .

Another interesting topic discussed at the 12th meeting of the JPC was Belarusian-Hungarian cooperation in joint scientific and technical projects. In this context, it should be noted that "at the end of 2023, Belarusian exports of high-tech goods to Hungary accounted for more than half of all deliveries from Belarus to this country. The largest volume was industrial equipment"⁹⁶ . To intensify bilateral cooperation, at the 12th meeting of the JPC, the Belarusian side proposed to hold a working group on scientific and technical cooperation in the near future to consider in detail options for cooperation in promising areas: in the field of research on energy issues, medicine, biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, chemical technologies, and new materials. As an effective mechanism for such cooperation, it was proposed to hold a competition of Belarusian-Hungarian scientific and technical projects in promising areas, with the details to be discussed at the working group meeting.

In addition to the 12th meeting of the JPC, a Belarusian-Hungarian business forum was held in Minsk with the support of the Belarusian National Center for Marketing and Price Conjuncture and the Hungarian Export

⁹⁴ Roadmap for cooperation between Belarusian and Hungarian nuclear power plants signed [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/podpisana-dorozhnaja-karta-sotrudnichestva-aes-belarusi-i-vengrii-637535-2024>

⁹⁵ Paks II Nuclear Power Plant [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://ioes.ru/ru/portfolio/item/21-aes-paksh>

⁹⁶ Belarus is interested in joint scientific and technical projects with Hungary [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-zainteresovana-v-sovmestnyh-nauchno-tehnicheskikh-proektah-s-vengrijei-637555-2024/>

Development Agency, which was attended by more than 20 Hungarian and 80 Belarusian companies "in such areas as agriculture and food industry, tourism, construction, utilities, medicine and pharmaceuticals"⁹⁷, as well as e-commerce. In particular, given the specialization of the forum participants, industrial goods and agricultural products were considered as priority areas for Belarusian-Hungarian stock exchange trading. In particular, the issue of supplying Belarusian rapeseed oil, beet pulp and molasses, as well as dry milk and whey to Hungary was discussed. These products are successfully sold through the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange (BUCX) to a number of European countries, with demand remaining high, which ensures regular transactions. "In January-April 2024, exchange exports of these commodities reached \$28.5 million, exceeding the same indicator for last year by 5.4 times. As for imports from Hungary, the Hungarian companies participating in the forum expressed their readiness to supply Belarus with agricultural seeds, as well as lighting fixtures and equipment for the energy sector, using the BUTB industrial and consumer goods platform"⁹⁸. In addition, BUTB discussed with the Hungarian Export Promotion Agency the prospects for cooperation in organizing joint information events on exchange trading for Hungarian producers.

Finally, in September 2025, the 13th meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission on Economic Cooperation was held in Minsk, at which the parties analyzed the results of their joint work over the past year and discussed the prospects and priority areas for further development of economic cooperation. As a result of this discussion, a number of agreements were reached on strengthening cooperation between Belarus and Hungary in specific areas, where relevant projects will be implemented and "steps for cooperation in the near future will be defined. They cover areas such as energy, agriculture, industry, healthcare, pharmaceuticals, sports, and

⁹⁷ Agriculture, tourism, medicine. More than 100 companies joined the Belarusian-Hungarian business forum [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/selskoe-hozjajstvo-turizm-meditsina-bolee-100-kompanij-objedinil-belorusko-vengerskii-biznes-forum-637709-2024>

⁹⁸ Belarus and Hungary intend to intensify stock exchange trading [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-venetrija-namereny-aktivizirovat-birzhevuiu-torgovlju-637694-2024>

tourism.⁹⁹ This shows that Minsk and Budapest have been able to maintain trade and economic cooperation at a fairly high level.

In particular, at this meeting of the JPC, the Hungarian side emphasized "its interest in developing cooperation in the field of nuclear energy."¹⁰⁰ . It should be recalled that back in May of this year, within the framework of a memorandum between the Ministry of Energy of Belarus and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Hungary on deepening partnership in the field of nuclear energy, the Department of Nuclear Energy of the Ministry of Energy, the Belarusian NPP, and the Hungarian NPP Paks signed a roadmap for cooperation in nuclear energy for 2025-2027, which "includes activities to exchange experience on the development of nuclear energy infrastructure, ensuring nuclear and radiation safety, radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel management, and scientific and technical support for the operation of nuclear power plants"¹⁰¹ .

And in September 2025, during the 13th session of the ICP, Ostrovets in Belarus and Paks in Hungary established sister city relations. The fact is that both cities are united by the presence of nuclear power plants. Belarus built and commissioned its own nuclear power plant in 2020. And in Paks, Hungary, as already noted, the nuclear power plant has been operating since 1983. "About ten years ago, the Hungarian authorities decided to build several additional power units <...>. But the country was unable to obtain the necessary permits from the EU for a long time, and the actual construction of Paks-2 began only in 2022"¹⁰² . Belarus is ready to share its experience and knowledge in the construction of nuclear power plants with its Hungarian partners. In October 2025, the 8th meeting of the Belarusian-Hungarian working group on cooperation in the field of nuclear energy took place.

⁹⁹ Transcript of the press conference given by Belarusian Foreign Minister M. Ryzhenkov following talks with his Hungarian counterpart [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: https://mfa.gov.by/press/news_mfa/b553275e041fc7eb.html

¹⁰⁰ Szijjártó: only dialogue and open diplomatic channels can prevent many problems [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/politics/view/sijjarto-tolko-dialog-i-otkrytye-diplkanaly-pozvoljajut-izbezhat-mnogih-bed-736468-2025/>

¹⁰¹ Belarus and Hungary sign roadmap for cooperation in nuclear energy for 2025-2027 [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-vengrija-podpisali-dorozhnuju-kartu-sotrudnichestva-v-atomnoi-energetike-na-2025-2027-gody-716500-2025/>

¹⁰² Belarusian Ostrovets and Hungarian Paks establish sister city relations [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/special/society/view/beloruskij-ostrovets-i-vengerskij-paksh-ustanovili-pobratimskie-svjazi-736484-2025/>

Belarusian experts shared best practices on improving safety culture and preventing occupational injuries. They also discussed "approaches to implementing relevant organizational and technical measures, advanced methods of occupational health and safety. They also talked about measures taken to ensure fire safety and environmental protection"¹⁰³.

At the 13th meeting of the JPC in Minsk, the Belarusian side also emphasized that it is ready to expand contacts with Hungary and implement new joint projects, especially since "there are good examples in agriculture, industry, medicine, pharmaceuticals..."¹⁰⁴. For this reason, a Belarusian-Hungarian business forum was held in parallel with the JPC meeting, during which representatives of 17 Hungarian companies, together with their Belarusian partners, outlined plans to fill specific areas of cooperation with substantial practical content.

In particular, Belarus and Hungary plan to expand the range of goods traded on the exchange between economic entities of the two countries. It should be noted that this year, Hungarian participants in exchange trading used the BUTB exclusively to purchase zinc-containing waste. At the same time, compared to the first eight months of 2024, the amount of contracts concluded increased two and a half times. It is expected that new growth points for the exchange turnover of Belarus and Hungary will be supplies of veterinary drugs and seeds for sowing to the Belarusian market. Both product groups are in high demand among domestic agricultural enterprises, which is reflected in the volume of transactions. "Thus, in January-August 2025, Belarusian residents purchased veterinary drugs on the exchange for a total of Br120 million, which is 24% more than in the same period of 2024. Exchange sales of seeds for sowing also showed a noticeable increase compared to last year – up 17% to Br241 million"¹⁰⁵. The most popular items

¹⁰³ Hungarian experts studied the experience of the Belarusian Nuclear Power Plant in the field of occupational safety [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/vengerskie-eksperty-izuchili-opvt-belorusskoi-aes-v-sfere-ohranv-truda-742087-2025/>

¹⁰⁴ Karankevich: Belarus is ready to share its experience and knowledge on nuclear power plant construction with Hungary [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/karankevich-belarus-gotova-delitsia-s-vengriji-opvtom-i-znaniiami-po-stroitelstvu-aes-736565-2025/>

¹⁰⁵ Belarus and Hungary to expand list of goods traded on the exchange [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-vengrija-rasshiriat-perechen-tovarov-birzhevoi-torgovli-736522-2025/>

were corn, rapeseed, beet, and perennial legume seeds. Both Belarusian and foreign suppliers from Belgium, Germany, Denmark, Serbia, and France acted as sellers. In order to increase the pool of Hungarian producers represented on the BUTB, an agreement on cooperation has been reached with the Hungarian Export Promotion Agency, which will facilitate the entry of Hungarian businesses onto the Belarusian electronic platform. Currently, 25 Hungarian residents are accredited on the BUTB.

Returning to the 13th meeting of the intergovernmental commission on economic cooperation, we would like to emphasize that "Belarus has been maintaining a very good pace in the bilateral agenda with Hungary for two years now. This applies to both contacts at the political level and trade and economic cooperation"¹⁰⁶. Minsk and Budapest, sharing a conviction that they have common economic interests, are maintaining a steady momentum in bilateral relations and strengthening trade, economic, and investment cooperation in order to more fully realize the potential of joint projects in industrial cooperation and agriculture. And there is every reason to believe that the two countries will continue to adhere to the principles of constructive dialogue and steady, systematic work for the benefit of the Belarusian and Hungarian peoples.

¹⁰⁶ Ryzenkov on Szijjártó's visit to Minsk: there are forces in Europe that objectively assess the situation [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/politics/view/rvzhenkov-pro-vizit-szijarto-v-minsk-v-evrone-est-silv-kotorve-objektivno-otsenivaint-obstanovku-736488-2025/>

Belarus – Asia: Systematic work brings results

Expanding contacts with Asian countries is a pressing task for the Republic of Belarus, as this continent represents a very large and rapidly expanding market. For this reason, Asian partners are important for Belarus in terms of promising cooperation in trade, economic, industrial, and scientific and technological relations. It should be recalled that back in 2021, the Belarus-Asia Forum noted that "there are still many opportunities to promote Belarusian trade and economic interests in Asia"¹⁰⁷. However, this requires systematic work, initiating new formats of contacts in cooperation with a number of Asian countries. Among Belarus's interesting partners on this continent are **Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Oman**.

As for **Iran**, in October 2023, the 16th meeting of the Belarusian-Iranian Joint Commission on Economic Cooperation was held in Tehran, during which the parties discussed issues of trade, economic, industrial, investment, banking, and petrochemical cooperation, as well as cooperation in the fields of healthcare and pharmaceuticals, transport, and air communication. 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 measures in the fields of industrial cooperation, agriculture and veterinary medicine, healthcare and pharmaceuticals, transport, and cooperation through chambers of commerce and industry"¹⁰⁸. In addition, meetings of the joint working group on oil cooperation, the joint Belarusian- Iranian committee on international road transport, and the "Iran-Belarus," during which "an agreement on cooperation between the Minsk branch of the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture was signed, which

¹⁰⁷ Zaleski, B. Vector of Cooperation – Asia. Collection of articles / B. Zaleski. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2022. – P. 3.

¹⁰⁸ Belarus and Iran have agreed on a plan for cooperation in 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/>

will give additional impetus to the development of Belarusian-Iranian business relations"¹⁰⁹.

It should be recalled that at the 15th meeting of the joint commission in July 2022, while discussing successful bilateral projects and promising joint 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. Therefore, <...> they intend to reach a trade turnover of \$500 million in a short period of time"¹¹⁰. In March 2023, marking the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations, Minsk and Tehran signed a roadmap for comprehensive cooperation for 2023-2026, which provided for cooperation on a wide range of issues, from politics and economics to the media and tourism. This systematic document allowed the parties to work through a list of specific practical measures, many of which have already been successfully implemented. "Intensive work at various levels has led to a significant increase in trade turnover. In 2022, trade turnover tripled compared to 2021. In the current [2023] year, it has increased by another 25% compared to the same period last year"¹¹¹.

Among Belarusian exporters that are successfully entering the Iranian market, the enterprises **of the Bellesbumprom concern** stand out. In the first eight months of 2023, they increased exports of products to Iran by more than 1.6 times. Belarus supplies "cellulose, plywood, and wood-based panels" to this country¹¹². At the same time, the concern plans to increase export volumes and expand cooperation ties with Iranian partners. In particular, **Svetlogorsk Pulp and Paper Mill** supplies bleached cellulose to Iran. In October 2023, the company's specialists visited the Islamic Republic to "reach

¹⁰⁹ The Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Minsk and Tehran signed a cooperation agreement [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/torgovo-promvshlennye-palaty-minska-i-tegerana-podpisali-soglashenie-o-sotrudnichestve-594460-2023/>

¹¹⁰ Zaleski, B. Route of cooperation – Asia. Intensification of Belarus' multifaceted ties with key economic partners on the continent / Boris Zaleski. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2023. – P. 65.

¹¹¹ Industrial cooperation and education. Roman Golovchenko outlined promising areas of cooperation with Iran [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/10714>

¹¹² Bellesbumprom enterprises increased exports to Iran by more than 1.6 times [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/predpriyatija-bellesbumproma-uvlechili-eksport-produktsii-v-iran-bolee-chem-v-16-raza-594471-2023/>

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 pulp production"¹¹³.

When it comes to Belarusian regions interested in actively developing trade and economic relations with Iran, **the Vitebsk region** stands out. The fact is that since 2022, there has been a multiple increase in the turnover of goods between Vitebsk and Iran, which is associated with the need to develop new logistics options for export cargo. At the same time, "among the new types of products that were not previously supplied to Iran are glass fabrics, wood-based panels, various types of acids and reagents. The Vitebsk region continues to supply sawn timber to Iran, which accounts for 49% of trade turnover. The region purchases fresh vegetables and fruits, which account for 98% of all purchases from this country, as well as medical equipment"¹¹⁴.

And in November 2023, the Belarusian region proposed to its 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, ranging from glass fiber to oil additives. The Vitebsk region can also offer food products, carpets, shoes, and linen products. The Iranian side also made some interesting proposals for cooperation. In particular, "Iran has many deposits and a developing mining industry, so we would like to cooperate with the Vitebsk region in this area"¹¹⁵. So the parties hope not only to continue old ties, but also to find new opportunities for building economic partnership.

Minsk and Tehran, which signed a memorandum of cooperation in 1995 and an agreement on establishing sister city relations in 2006, also

¹¹³ Bellesbumprom plans to increase export volumes and expand cooperation ties with Iran [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/bellesbumprom-planiruet-uvlichit-objemy-eksporta-i-rasshirit-koooperatsionnye-svjazi-s-iranom-594315-2023/>

¹¹⁴ Vitebsk Region has proposed cooperation with Iran in the pharmaceutical industry [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/vitebskaja-oblast-predlozila-iranu-rabotat-v-koooperatsii-v-farmatsevtike-600855-2023/>

¹¹⁵ Machine building, petrochemistry. Iranian ambassador on opportunities for cooperation with Vitebsk Region [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/mashinostroenie-neftehimija-posol-irana-o-vozmozhnostyah-sotrudnichestva-s-vitebskoi-oblastiju-600832-2023/>

intend to intensify their partnership ties in the near future. At the end of 2023, during a discussion on cooperation 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, and exchange of delegations to projects in culture and sports"¹¹⁶. Cooperation in tourism, healthcare, and the creation of joint ventures also looks promising. One of the proposals is to open an Iranian trading house in the Belarusian capital.

Cooperation in education is a separate topic. In July 2024, Belarusian State University (BSU) signed memoranda of understanding with two universities in Iran: the first with Amir Kabir University of Technology, and the second with Malek Ashtar University of Technology, 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 at all levels of education, teachers and scientists, develop and implement joint educational programs, carry out research and educational projects, exchange information and teaching materials, organize conferences, seminars, workshops and courses, and prepare joint publications."¹¹⁷. In addition, Malek Ashtar University of Technology is interested in developing scientific cooperation in the fields of optics, materials science and metallurgy, electrophysics, polymer physics, and composite materials. For reference, BSU cooperates with Iranian institutions under four open-ended agreements and memoranda. To promote Iranian culture and language, Persian has been taught since 2008 as part of the International Relations and Linguistics and Country Studies programs at the Faculty of International Relations, and the Center for Iranian Studies has been operating since 2010. Currently, there are three Farsi teachers working at the Department of Oriental Languages, and ten Iranian citizens are studying at BSU.

Speaking of **Saudi Arabia**, we would like to remind you that in May 2024, the third meeting of the Belarusian-Saudi Joint Cooperation Committee

¹¹⁶ 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/>

¹¹⁷ Memoranda of understanding signed by BSU with two Iranian universities [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/memorandumy-o-vzaimoponimanii-podpisal-bgu-s-dvumja-vuzami-irana-645726-2024/>

(JCC) was held in Riyadh, during which its participants identified practical steps to expand the legal framework, develop cooperation in the fields 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 complex of bilateral political, trade, economic, and humanitarian relations between Belarus and Saudi Arabia and agreed to promote the maintenance of high dynamics in bilateral contacts"¹¹⁸.

The first two meetings of the Joint Cooperation Council took place in 2015 and 2016. At the first meeting in Riyadh, the parties established the Belarusian-Saudi Business Council to "serve as a platform for fruitful interaction between representatives of the business communities of the two countries. At the same time, a contract was signed for the supply of soil mixtures from the Belarusian company EridGrow Production"¹¹⁹. During the second meeting in Minsk, a Belarusian-Saudi business forum and a contact and cooperation exchange were organized under the patronage of chambers of commerce and industry, attended by representatives of 63 enterprises and organizations from Belarus and 11 companies from Saudi Arabia, who discussed prospects for expanding cooperation "in the fields of construction, chemical industry, heavy industry, energy, telecommunications, information technology, real estate, trade and investment, food production, pharmaceuticals, and tourism"¹²⁰.

It should be noted that the decisions of the third meeting of the Joint Commission focused on expanding 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 have formed the legal basis for bilateral contacts. These include the General Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Belarus and the Government of

¹¹⁸ 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

¹¹⁹ Zaleski, B. Horizons of the Far Arc. The Potential for Cooperation between the Republic of Belarus and the Countries of Asia and Africa / Boris Zaleski. – Palmarium Academic Publishing, 2022. – P. 33.

¹²⁰ Business Forum "Belarus – Saudi Arabia" [Electronic resource]. – 2016. – URL: <https://www.cci.by/o-palate/novosti/biznes-forum-belarus-saudo-skava-araviva/#>

the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, signed in 2003, which "regulates issues of bilateral cooperation in the fields of trade, economy, investment, education, science and technology, culture, information, tourism, youth, and sports"¹²¹, as well as agreements signed in 2009 on the avoidance of double taxation and the mutual protection of investments.

In January 2024, during a visit to Saudi Arabia by a Belarusian delegation headed by Foreign Minister S. Aleinik, 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"¹²². In particular, agreements were reached on resuming joint work on a number of fundamental and applied projects, as well as on exchanges of visits by scientists and researchers from the two countries. In addition, discussions were held on Belarus' participation in Saudi Arabia's large-scale economic diversification program "Vision 2030," opportunities for industrial cooperation, supplies of Belarusian equipment, and prospects for 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 Marketing Center [NMC] and the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry [of Saudi Arabia]"¹²³. And recently, the following very important step was taken: in May, a Belarusian-Saudi business forum was held in Riyadh, co-organized by the NCM 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,

¹²¹ Saudi Arabia [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: https://export.bv/saudi_arabia

¹²² Prospects for new projects in science and economics. Aleinik's visit to Saudi Arabia has come to an end [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/politics/view/perspektivy-dlja-novyh-proektov-v-nauke-i-ekonomike-zavershen-vizit-aleinika-v-saudovskuiu-araviyu-608909-2024/>

¹²³ Belarus and Saudi Arabia to establish a coordinating structure to promote mutual trade [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-saudovskaia-aravija-sozdadut-koordiniruiuschuiu-strukturu-po-sodeistviyu-vzaimnoj-torgovle-609070-2024/>

Mogilevhimvolokno, Polotsk-Steklovolokno) and agricultural (Servolux, Vitebsk Broiler Poultry Farm) sectors"¹²⁴. In May 2024, Belarus and Saudi Arabia supplemented the legal framework and signed a draft agreement on air traffic, while the aviation administrations of the two countries adopted a memorandum of understanding.

Another topical issue of cooperation between the parties is the role of exhibitions in the development of trade and economic cooperation between Belarus and Saudi Arabia. During the first round of political consultations between the foreign ministries in the history of bilateral relations, held in December 2023 in the Saudi capital, it was noted that, by resuming the full range of bilateral contacts on the basis of developing economic partnership, the parties would "promote the intensification of direct interaction between the business communities of the two countries, the exchange of information, and encourage participation in exhibitions in their countries"¹²⁵. And already in March of this year, the Belarusian side invited Saudi partners to participate in the Belagro agricultural exhibition.

As for the participation of Belarusian exporters in Saudi exhibition forums, back in September 2023, Belarus presented a collective national exposition at the Foodex Saudi International Food Industry Exhibition in Riyadh, which was attended by 40 countries and more than 600 brands. ", the Belarusian stand featured leading dairy products: Minsk Milk Plant No. 1, Slutsk Cheese Factory, Glubokoe Milk Canning Plant, and Kalinkovichsky Milk Plant, a branch of Rogachevsky MKK OJSC"¹²⁶.

In May of this year, the Saudi capital hosted the 2nd International Food Industry Exhibition Saudi Food Show 2024, which brought together

¹²⁴ Belarus and Saudi Arabia intensify cooperation between trade institutions [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-saudovskaia-aravija-aktivizirujut-vzaimodejstvie-mezhdu-institutami-torgovli-633452-2024/>

¹²⁵ From tourism to investment. Belarusian delegation held intensive talks 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/>

¹²⁶ Belarus presented a national exhibition at the Foodex Saudi International Food Exhibition 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/>

more than a thousand major food industry companies from 97 countries at a single exhibition venue. The Belarusian stand Belarus. The Taste of Nature was presented for the first time at this exhibition forum, where domestic exporters demonstrated a wide range of dairy products, including 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 under the Kletskaya Krynachka and Yas Belous brands, as well as an innovative product – A2 milk, which contains A2 milk protein and no A1 beta-casein. One of the leaders in the Belarusian dairy industry, Molokny Mir, presented a wide range of products, including premium hard cheeses such as Parmesan, Maasdam, Goroden, cheese with black truffles, natural milk, natural cream and whipping cream, Goroden frozen cheese, dry and innovative products. "The company's share of exports to the international market is more than 65%, with a raw material processing volume of about 660 thousand tons per year"¹²⁷. Milkavita, a leading company in the industry with a product portfolio of more than 150 items, presented packaged liquid milk and cream with a long shelf life, butter, and dry milk products with improved solubility and heat treatment characteristics at the exhibition. In this regard, Saudi Arabia is one of the company's main partners.

Returning to the topic of the Belarusian-Saudi Joint Committee on Cooperation, we would like to emphasize that its third meeting clearly demonstrated the parties' commitment to achieving concrete results in renewing 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 more than 70 companies

¹²⁷ Belarusian companies showcase their potential at a food industry exhibition in Saudi Arabia [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/predpriatija-belarusi-prezentujut-potencial-na-vystavke-pischevoi-promyshlennosti-v-saudovskoj-aravii-635857-2024/>

from both countries discussed topical issues of cooperation in the fields of mechanical engineering, agriculture, food security, food industry, high technology, logistics, and tourism. During the meeting meeting, the parties stated that they are "counting on the intensification of Belarusian-Omani cooperation across the entire spectrum of areas"¹²⁸ and will 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 machine-building industries.

It should be noted that diplomatic relations with this sultanate on the Arabian Peninsula were established in July 1992. Over the past thirty years, the two countries have signed several agreements on trade and economic cooperation, mutual protection of investments, avoidance of double taxation, and the establishment of friendly relations between Minsk and Muscat. "In July 2023, an agreement on air traffic was signed between the Government of the Republic of Belarus and the Government of the Sultanate of Oman"¹²⁹. The legal framework was supplemented by memoranda of understanding between the ministries of foreign affairs, justice, education, culture, and chambers of commerce and industry.

Trade between the countries is mainly driven by Belarusian exports. For example, in 2020, Belarus exported to Oman "dairy products (skimmed milk powder and whole milk powder worth \$347,600, whey worth \$18,800), potash fertilizers (\$328,500), collectibles and antiques (\$57,700)",¹³⁰. However, Belarusian exports have declined slightly over the past three years. Despite the low level of mutual trade, Belarus considers the Sultanate of Oman to be its most important partner in the Middle East and is focusing "its

¹²⁸ Belarus is working on expanding exports to Oman [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-prorabatvvaet-rasshirenie-eksporta-v-oman-657416-2024/>

¹²⁹ Cooperation in the political sphere [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: https://egvpt.mfa.gov.by/ru/blr_oman/political/

¹³⁰ MART activities [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://www.mart.gov.by/activity/mezhdunarodnoe-sotrudnichestvo/sotrudnichestvo-s-zakreplennymi-stranami-i-regionami/sotrudnichestvo-s-sultanatom-oman/>

attention on the development of trade and economic relations and investment cooperation."¹³¹ .

It should be noted that Oman, with a population of just over five million, was ranked 66th in the world economy at the end of 2023. Today, the Vision 2040 development strategy is being implemented here – "a 20-year nationwide multisectoral document that is 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"¹³² , so that by 2040 the gross domestic product per capita will double. Moreover, Oman's geographical location provides it with significant opportunities to expand trade and economic ties with other countries around the world. And in the next few years, free economic zones will be actively expanding in this Persian 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 iron or non-alloy steel, polymer threads, paper and cardboard products, jams, fruit puree, radiators, pipe fittings, measuring and control instruments, and skincare cosmetics"¹³³ . However, the first Belarusian-Omani business forum noted significant potential in other export areas as well.

For example, the two countries plan to develop mutual trade through the exchange. The sale of agricultural products is considered a priority area. In particular, "it is planned to use the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange [BUTB] platform to supply Belarusian dairy products to the Omani market. To this end, the first Omani company has already been accredited on

¹³¹ Rachkov: Oman is Belarus' most important partner in the Middle East [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/rachkov-oman-vazhnejshij-partner-belarusi-na-blizhnem-vostoke-569090-2023/>

¹³² Borisovich, N. Belarus has serious potential for increasing food exports to Oman / N. Borisovich // [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://produkt.by/news/novosti-belarusi/u-belarusi-est-sereznyv-potencial-dlva-naraschivaniva-eksporta>

¹³³ Borisevich, N. The promising Middle East. We review the horizons of cooperation between Belarus and Oman / N. Borisevich // [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/comments/view/mnogoobeschajushij-blizhnij-vostok-obozrevaem-gorizonty-sotrudnichestva-belarusi-s-omanom-9338/>

the BUTB and intends to participate in exchange trading in the near future"¹³⁴. The Omani side is most interested in dry milk, which is widely used in the country's food industry. Therefore, it makes sense to start exchange trading with Oman with this particular commodity. In the future, in addition to dairy products, the range of Belarusian goods supplied to Oman through the BUTB may be expanded to include items such as rapeseed oil, beet pulp and molasses, sugar, amino acids, and feed additives.

It is establishing cooperation with Oman and the Belarusian High-Tech Park (HTP), which has identified areas of mutual interest for the development of joint initiatives with the 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 the ITHCA Group are to actively work on creating Oman's IT infrastructure and expanding the sultanate's networks and digital capabilities. It "scales data centers/cloud storage, creates cybersecurity infrastructure, and interacts with national and international organizations and foreign partners to implement strategic initiatives in the field of ICT"¹³⁵. In addition, the HTP signed a memorandum of understanding with the Oman National Engineering and Investment Company, which provides services to the country's utilities and engineering sectors. This document expresses practical interest in interacting 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 Conjuncture 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 announced. In addition, the Belarusian delegation visited the free economic zone and the port of Sohar in the province of North Al Batinah, where they discussed possible ways of cooperation and directions for its expansion, emphasizing the prospects for interaction in the transport and

¹³⁴ 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-torgovliu-cherez-birzhu-657057-2024>

¹³⁵ High-tech park establishes cooperation with Oman in the IT sector [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/tech/view/park-vvsokih-tehnologii-nalazhivaet-vzaimodejstvie-s-omanom-v-sfere-it-657529-2024/>

logistics sector and the creation of joint production enterprises, both in this province and throughout Oman.

Overall, 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"¹³⁶. This applies both to trade, economic, and investment cooperation and to the expansion of partnerships in the scientific, technical, and educational spheres.

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¹³⁶ Zaleski, B. The perimeter of the far arc. The potential for sustainable partnership in solving multi-vector interaction. / Boris Zaleski. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2023. – P. 20.

Belarus – Uzbekistan: Cooperation is developing on an upward trajectory

In August 2024, the second Uzbek-Belarusian Women's Business Forum was held in Tashkent, with about 100 representatives of the business community and government agencies participating from the Belarusian side alone. It should be noted that the first similar forum was held in September 2023 in Minsk and was dedicated to the topic "Women in business – potential for the development of business cooperation between Belarus and Uzbekistan", where "14 memoranda and agreements on cooperation, including an agreement on the creation of a joint leather and footwear production facility, and 15 contracts worth more than Br90 million, or 350 billion Uzbek soums"¹³⁷.

This time, the theme of the women's forum was "From Traditional Business to Green Business." In the context of this theme, it was noted that Belarus and Uzbekistan are approaching the issue of building a green economy responsibly, backing this up with real action. For example, they are increasing trade turnover every year, mutually ensuring the production of competitive products and developing production cooperation, localizing Belarusian and Uzbek production on each other's territory, and increasing the share of investments. Among the priorities for green economic growth, the parties consider joint activities in the development, implementation, and use of nature-saving technologies, the development of environmental services, ecotourism, and agroecotourism. It is also "advisable to consider the creation of a biodesign farm-laboratory, where new crop varieties, including agricultural ones, would be selected, and climate-adaptive technologies and approaches to increasing the resilience of territories to the negative impact of man-made and natural factors would be developed"¹³⁸. This was discussed in

¹³⁷ Kochanova: The Uzbek-Belarusian Women's Business Forum is fully in line with the spirit of the times [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/kochanova-uzbekska-belorusskij-zhenskij-biznes-forum-polnostiju-otvechat-duhu-vremeni-656964-2024/>

¹³⁸ Kochanova: Belarus and Uzbekistan are approaching the construction of a green economy in good faith [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/kochanova-belarus-i-uzbekistan-podhodiat-k-stroitelstvu-ekonomiki-zelenogo-tipa-dobrosovestno-656993-2024/>

six thematic sections of the forum, based on the main areas of cooperation between the two countries: mechanical engineering, light industry, agriculture, chemistry and woodworking, medical and educational services, and tourism. Here, interesting results of bilateral cooperation were noted, based on which it was planned to "sign more than 60 agreements and memoranda worth about \$50 million"¹³⁹.

In particular, the forum addressed such areas of mutual interest as education. At the plenary session, the parties announced their goal to expand mutual exchanges and internships for students, teachers, and specialists from various services and departments, as well as to intensify cooperation within the framework of joint educational programs. This is especially true given that Belarus is interested in increasing the number of Uzbek students in Belarusian universities, as well as in "attracting personnel from Uzbekistan to Belarusian enterprises, for example, in the light industry and mechanical engineering sectors, with the possibility of their rapid training and retraining for the green economy in a wide range of specialties"¹⁴⁰. In particular, 300 specialists from Uzbekistan are already working at the Minsk Automobile Plant.

Speaking specifically about cooperation between higher education institutions, it was noted at the second Forum of Regions of Belarus and Uzbekistan held in February 2024 that a few years ago only a few dozen Uzbek citizens were studying in our republic, and "today, about 5,000 students are receiving education at joint faculties. We are talking about expanding the areas of training and maximizing the potential of Belarusian universities"¹⁴¹. To date, more than 400 contracts and agreements have been

¹³⁹ Narbaeva: Following the results of the II Uzbek-Belarusian Women's Business Forum, it is planned to sign more than 60 agreements [Electronic resource]. – 2024.

– URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/narbaeva-po-itogam-ii-uzbeksko-belorusskogo-zhenskogo-biznes-foruma-planiruet-sia-podpisat-bolee-60-657064-2024/>

¹⁴⁰ Belarus is ready to assist in training specialists in demand in Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: [https://belta.by/society/view/belarus-gotova-sozdavat-v-uzbekistane-spetsialistov-656992-2024/](https://belta.by/society/view/belarus-gotova-okazat-pomosch-v-obuchenii-vostrebovannyh-v-uzbekistane-spetsialistov-656992-2024/)

¹⁴¹ Belarus is ready to establish enterprises in Uzbekistan for the commercialization of scientific developments [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/belarus-gotova-sozdavat-v-uzbekistane-predpriiatija-dlja-kommertsializatsii-nauchnyh-razrabotok-616330-2024/>

signed. A forum of rectors was held, and "the agenda includes the opening of a branch of Vitebsk State University, one of the country's leading universities, in Uzbekistan"¹⁴².

In this context, another telling example can be cited. Last summer, Grodno State University (GSU) held its first graduation ceremony for students who studied under a joint program between GSU and Tashkent Law University. For reference, these students were recruited for the 2+1+1 program back in 2020. "The students studied in Grodno for the first two years, then spent a year in Tashkent, and completed their studies at GSOU. In this way, they mastered all the disciplines of the Belarusian program and the necessary subjects of the Uzbek program. As a result, they received two diplomas in international law, which gives them the opportunity to work in their homeland, Uzbekistan, as well as in Belarus..."¹⁴³. Several people completed their studies with excellent results and received the corresponding diplomas. Some of them will continue their studies in master's programs. The implementation of this program will continue. We would like to add that GrSU is currently implementing eight joint educational programs, in which 216 people are enrolled: 144 students from Tashkent State Law University, 37 from Karshi State University, 32 from the Mukimi Kokand State Pedagogical Institute, and three master's students from the Tashkent Chemical Technology Institute.

Another topical issue raised at the second Uzbek-Belarusian Women's Business Forum was cooperation between the regions of the two countries. At the plenary session of the forum, it was emphasized that the parties need to more actively involve the scientific and expert-analytical community in the topic of green business, including "developing public diplomacy, initiating and monitoring the establishment of sister city relations between cities in Belarus and Uzbekistan. This approach will contribute to the development of

¹⁴² "Everything is in our power." Snopkov assessed the possibility of increasing trade turnover with Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/vse-v-nashih-silah-snopkov-otsenil-vozmognost-velicheniia-tovarooborota-s-uzbekistanom-657036-2024/>

¹⁴³ 54 graduates of GrSU and Tashkent Law University received diplomas from two universities at once [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/diplomy-srazu-dvuh-vuzov-poluchili-54-vypusknika-grgu-i-tashkentskogo-iuridicheskogo-universiteta-644190-2024/>

common promising business solutions, including the creation of new markets and the promotion of joint products to third-country markets"¹⁴⁴. Moreover, at the second Forum of Regions of Belarus and Uzbekistan, documents were adopted that develop multifaceted cooperation between the regions of the two countries on the implementation of projects in the agro-industrial complex, electrical engineering and textile sectors, healthcare and pharmaceuticals, urban development, and public utilities, and "roadmaps will be adopted and working groups will be created for each area"¹⁴⁵. And already after this February forum, a number of examples of effective cooperation between Belarusian and Uzbek regions could be noted.

In April 2024, the Gomel and Fergana regions signed a roadmap for cooperation and approved an action plan for 2024-2025, which "implies the deepening and expansion of bilateral trade, economic, scientific, technical, cultural, and humanitarian cooperation."¹⁴⁶. At the same time, a cooperation agreement was signed between the free economic zones "Kokand" and "Gomel-Raton" and contracts worth more than six and a half million Belarusian rubles were concluded. It should be noted that the two regions have been developing ties since 2019. During this time, "exports of Gomel products to the Fergana region have grown 4.5 times"¹⁴⁷. The parties have identified several key areas for future cooperation: the creation of a joint dairy enterprise, the supply of products from Gomel machine-building enterprises, furniture production, and the organization of trading houses in Gomel and Fergana.

As for the interaction between the two capitals, Minsk and Tashkent, in February 2024, they signed an agreement on establishing sister city relations and a plan of action for trade, economic, scientific, technical, and

¹⁴⁴ Kochanova: It is necessary to establish sister city relationships between cities in Belarus and Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/special/societv/view/kochanova-nuzhno-vvstrajivat-pobratimskie-svjazi-mezhdu-gorodami-belarusi-i-uzbekistana-657003-2024/>

¹⁴⁵ Zaleski, B. Realizing economic potential in conditions of global turbulence / Boris Zaleski. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2024. – P. 32.

¹⁴⁶ Leaders of Gomel and Fergana regions sign roadmap for cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/rukovoditeli-gomelskoi-i-ferganskoi-oblastej-podpisali-dorozhnuju-kartu-sotrudnichestva-629168-2024/>

¹⁴⁷ Gomel and Fergana regions have signed contracts worth more than Br6.5 million [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/gomelskaja-i-ferganskaja-oblasti-zakliuchili-kontrakty-bolee-chem-na-br65-mln-629575-2024/>

cultural cooperation for 2024-2025. And already in April, a delegation from Tashkent arrived in Minsk to study Minsk's experience in various areas of urban management. This is especially true given that "Uzbekistan is implementing a large-scale project called 'New Tashkent', which involves the construction of a city based on modern architectural achievements on an area of almost 20,000 hectares"¹⁴⁸. For this reason, the Uzbek partners were interested in everything: the width of the streets, the organization of traffic, the dispatching of traffic lights, and the operation of the "single window" system. The Belarusian capital also shared its experience in other areas: the 115 service, enterprises producing municipal and passenger vehicles. In addition, "the possibilities of industrial cooperation were discussed, in particular in the field of woodworking and furniture production, the supply of baby food, and the creation of an Uzbekistan trading house in Minsk"¹⁴⁹. So the sister city ties between the two capitals are beginning to develop on an upward trajectory. And that is only good news.

Finally, the second women's forum highlighted the topics of scientific, technical, and industrial cooperation. In particular, the Institute of Microbiology of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus (NAS) signed an agreement on scientific and technological cooperation with the Institute of Microbiology of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan and an agreement with the Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan on scientific cooperation in the field of studying peptide-based agents as an alternative to antibiotics. The Institute of Meat and Dairy Industry signed an agreement on scientific and technical cooperation and reached an agreement on the joint implementation of a number of scientific projects, including in the field of biochemistry of meat, dairy, and fish products.¹⁵⁰

¹⁴⁸ Kukharev: Minsk is ready to share its experience in housing and communal services, urban development, and digitalization with Tashkent [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/kuharev-minsk-gotov-podelitsja-s-tashkentom-opytom-rabotv-v-zhkh-gradostroitelstve-tsifrovizatsii-628286-2024/>

¹⁴⁹ Trade, industrial cooperation, exchange of experience. Kukharev outlined areas of cooperation with Tashkent [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/kuharev-na-vstreche-s-poslom-oboznachil-napravlenija-sotrudnichestva-s-regionami-uzbekistana-623983-2024/>

¹⁵⁰ Scientists from Belarus and Uzbekistan will cooperate in the field of microbiology and biochemistry [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL:

In addition, the forum featured a Made in Belarus exhibition and presentation, where more than 70 innovations by Belarusian scientists from the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the Ministry of Education were presented in the scientific and technical developments section. For example, the Institute of Meat and Dairy Industry of the National Academy of Sciences presented technologies for the production of low-lactose and lactose-free dairy and fermented milk products, as well as products based on them. The Institute of Microbiology of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus presented a number of microbiological preparations. One of them is designed for the comprehensive treatment of wastewater from poultry processing enterprises. The second is for treating seeds and vegetative plants of winter wheat; it stimulates growth and increases the productivity of grain crops. A unique microbial preparation for purifying aqueous solutions from a mixture of the most common solvents based on esters and alcohols was also presented.

Vitebsk State Technological University presented nanofibrous materials of various structures, obtained by electroforming and intended for use in medicine and cosmetology to create innovative preparations. Polotsk State University showed at the exhibition-presentation a protective wax for rubber, which is an ingredient in rubber compounds for the manufacture of car tires. Its properties correspond to those of imported protective wax. "The organization of production will eliminate imports to Belarus in the amount of 210 tons per year and reduce costs by 50% due to cheaper domestic raw materials"¹⁵¹. Yanki Kupala Grodno State University presented composite materials based on various polymer matrices for the production of industrial products. The Scientific Research Center of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus for Materials Science demonstrated artificial emeralds of jewelry quality, whose single crystals have characteristics close to those of precious natural stones.

<https://belta.by/societv/view/uchenve-belarusi-i-uzbekistana-budut-sotrudnichat-v-oblasti-mikrobiologii-i-biokhimi-656830-2024/>

¹⁵¹ Gavrilova, V. From biological products to medical devices: what Belarusian developments will be presented at the business forum in Tashkent / V. Gavrilova // [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/comments/view/ot-biopreparatov-do-medizdelij-kakie-belorusskie-razrabotki-prezentujut-na-biznes-forume-v-tashkente-9344/>

And Belarusian State University (BSU) showed "more than ten unique inventions in the fields of medicine, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, technological equipment..."¹⁵². In particular, the line of microbial biological products included agents that are widely used in the agro-industrial complex. For example, "Bactogen" was developed to protect vegetable crops from bacterial and fungal diseases. In addition, the stand presented plant growth and quality regulators to increase yields: Gulliver, Stimul, MaxImmun, and Korneplus, as well as the biological product Nemacid, which is designed to combat pests such as gall nematodes. This is the only product in Belarus against this parasite that is approved for use in private households. Another exhibit was the food product series "Food of the Smart City." It includes dry mixtures of pre-chopped or crushed dried vegetables, herbs, spices, salt, and other ingredients. These phytocomplexes have an immunomodulatory effect and help normalize the functions of the musculoskeletal, nervous, and immune systems. In addition, visitors to the exhibition-presentation were able to familiarize themselves with synthetic insect pheromones for controlling pests in forests and gardens, resource-saving technological equipment for the production of products from elastic, integral, and rigid polyurethane foams, and new functional materials based on secondary resources.

Ten enterprises of the Ministry of Industry of Belarus also presented their products at this exhibition. The open-air exhibition featured the MAZ-65012K three-axle dump truck, which runs on gas engine fuel and has a load capacity of 18.5 tons. The specialized engine is manufactured at a joint Belarusian-Chinese enterprise in the Great Stone Industrial Park. The latest models were also demonstrated at the closed site in the collective exhibition of the Ministry of Industry: medical products from OJSC Integral and the BelOMO holding, the largest TV in Belarus with a diagonal of 100 inches, as well as laptops and other products from OJSC N Holding, a large-scale model of the T811 tram (1:20 scale) from OJSC UKH BKM, and diesel generator sets from OJSC Minsk Motor Plant.¹⁵³

¹⁵² BSU to present innovative developments at an exhibition in Tashkent [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/bgu-predstavit-innovatsionnye-razrabotki-na-vystavke-v-tashkente-656636-2024/>

¹⁵³ Ten enterprises of the Ministry of Industry will present their products at the II Uzbek-Belarusian Women's Business Forum [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL:

This exhibition-presentation showed that Uzbekistan has been attracting numerous exporters from Belarus for several years now to demonstrate their capabilities at exhibition events in this Central Asian country. And 2024 is no exception in this regard. There are other examples that show how diverse the participation of Belarusian enterprises and organizations in Uzbek exhibition forums can be.

At the end of winter and beginning of spring this year, the 25th International Specialized Exhibition "Construction – UzBuild" was held at the Uzexpocenter exhibition complex, where a collective exhibition of Belarus was organized, represented by "five flagships of Belarusian industry: Mogilevliftmash, Energokomplekt, Bellesport, the Newsprint Paper Mill, and a branch of Gomeldrev OJSC, the Parquet Factory.¹⁵⁴ Belarusian companies showcased their products: elevators, lifting, electrical, and LED equipment, cable and wire products, sawn timber, round timber, fuel products (wood chips, pellets), glued laminated timber houses, frame-panel houses, solid laminated parquet, engineered flooring, and moldings. The exhibition also featured individual stands of Belarusian companies, including Keramin OJSC, <...> EnergoKomplekt PO, Portman LLC (UNIDOORS trademark), and Rechitsky Metalworks OJSC.¹⁵⁵

A month later, at the end of March 2024, Belarusian companies took part in the 23rd international exhibition UzFood 2024 in Tashkent, which was attended by more than 280 companies from 26 countries around the world. "The Belarus. The Taste of Nature" consisted of 15 Belarusian companies and their branches representing well-known domestic brands¹⁵⁶. They presented a product line of meat and dairy products, cheeses, juices, and desserts.

<https://belta.by/society/view/desiat-predpriyatij-minproma-prezentujut-produktsiju-na-ii-uzbekska-belorusskom-zhenskom-biznes-forume-655386-2024/>

¹⁵⁴ Belarus exhibition presented at the Uz-Build international construction exhibition in Tashkent [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/ekspozitsija-belarusi-predstavlena-na-mezhdunarodnoi-stroitelnoi-vystavke-uzbuild-v-tashkente-618287-2024/>

¹⁵⁵ Belarusian companies presented their products and services at the construction exhibition in Tashkent [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belorusskie-predpriyatija-predstavili-svoju-produktsiju-i-uslugi-na-stroitelnoi-vystavke-v-tashkente-618480-2024>

¹⁵⁶ Belarusian food products presented at an exhibition in Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belorusskie-produkty-pitanija-predstavleny-na-vystavke-v-uzbekistane-623805-2024/>

In April, three business events took place here at once. First, there was the 25th International Exhibition "Education and Profession – 2024," one of the largest in Uzbekistan, where this time "more than 100 universities from almost 20 countries, including Belarus, were represented"¹⁵⁷. The Belarusian National Technical University (BNTU) organized an information stand, presentations, master classes, and consultations at the exhibition. After all, the number of students from this Central Asian country is growing every year, not only at BNTU, but also at other Belarusian higher education institutions.

Secondly, this is the 28th International Exhibition "Healthcare - TINE 2024", which is a unique platform where specialists have the opportunity to get acquainted with the latest medical technologies. Since its inception, more than 3,000 companies have participated in the exhibition, with participants coming from virtually every continent, including Europe, Asia, America, and Africa. This year, more than 250 companies from 15 countries participated. Our republic was represented at this forum by BSU, whose stand showcased 20 scientific developments. The exhibition included the achievements of scientists and researchers in the fields of medicine and chemistry. Among them were medicines, medical equipment, and pharmaceutical substances. For example, hemostatic wipes to stop bleeding, which "are intended for use as an additional means during surgical interventions to stop capillary, venous, and small arterial bleeding, as well as for everyday bleeding. The pads are made of sterile absorbent fabric in white or yellowish-white, manufactured by controlled oxidation of cellulose"¹⁵⁸. Visitors to the exhibition were also able to learn about the innovative drug Foscellantan, which accelerates the regeneration of damaged tissues and speeds up the healing of wounds caused by boils, abscesses, carbuncles, fistulas, thermal burns, and trophic ulcers. The exhibits also included the drug Antispike for the prevention of adhesions during surgical interventions on the abdominal organs, the antitumor drugs

¹⁵⁷ Educational opportunities in Belarus presented at international exhibition in Tashkent [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/vozmozhnosti-obuchenija-v-belarusi-predstavleny-na-mezhdunarodnoj-vvstavke-v-tashkente-628698-2024/>

¹⁵⁸ About 20 scientific developments from BSU will be presented at an international healthcare exhibition in Tashkent [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/okolo-20-nauchnyh-razrabotok-bgu-predstavjat-na-mezhdunarodnoj-vvstavke-zdravoohranenija-v-tashkente-628163-2024/>

Cisplatcel, Prospidelong, and Temodex, as well as phytosols and mixtures based on natural spicy and aromatic raw materials intended for nutritional correction in preschool and school-age children, athletes, and the elderly.

Thirdly, there is the international specialized exhibition INNOPROM. Central Asia," which brought together more than 400 exhibitors and presented 28 collective expositions, including Made in Belarus, in which "more than 10 Belarusian enterprises and their branches representing well-known domestic industrial brands" participated¹⁵⁹. In particular, samples and developments from one of the flagships of Belarusian industry were presented – the quarry equipment manufacturer OJSC BELAZ, the managing company of the BELAZ-Holding holding company. The forum also featured the Gomselmash holding company, the largest manufacturer of agricultural machinery and one of the world leaders in the market for combine harvesters and other complex agricultural machinery. Minsk Tractor Works OJSC demonstrated modernized, updated, and special versions of tractor equipment, while a specialized enterprise for the design and manufacture of starters and generators for carburetor and diesel engines for trucks, passenger cars, buses, agricultural machinery, and special equipment, showcased products from a number of subsidiaries, including OJSC "Borisov Plant "Autogidrousilitel", OJSC "Belcard," OJSC "Rudensk," and OJSC "Vitebsk Plant of Electrical Measuring Instruments." BMZ OJSC presented a wide range of metal products, each of which combines innovation and the company's many years of development experience. Samples of metal-cutting machine tools and CNC machining centers, as well as universal console milling machines, were presented at the StancoGomel OJSC stand. Developments in the field of power distribution transformers and other electrical equipment were demonstrated by OJSC "METZ named after V.I. Kozlov". Zavod Sistemokhladeniya LLC presented radiators for cooling power systems and products successfully used in cooling systems for dump trucks, tractors, drilling rigs, diesel generators, block power stations, traction transformers for electric locomotives, and compressor stations. BKM

¹⁵⁹ Belarus presented industrial developments at the INNOPROM. Central Asia exhibition [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-predstavila-promyshlennye-razrabotki-na-vstavke-innoprom-tsentralnaja-azija-629623-2024/>

Holding, which specializes in the production of electric transport—electric buses, trolleybuses, trams, electric trucks, and charging infrastructure—demonstrated large-scale models of its products at the exhibition, including a low-floor single-section tram with two motor bogies. Minsk Watch Factory presented a range of wristwatches, alarm clocks, processing parts, and printed circuit boards. In addition, Belarusian participants held a series of meetings during the forum to strengthen partnerships.

As we can see, Belarus and Uzbekistan maintain a high level of bilateral relations in the field of exhibition activities, which is reflected in the trade and economic balance. For statistical purposes, we note that since 2016, trade turnover between the parties has increased 5.5 times and in 2022 exceeded the half-billion mark for the first time. The growth in mutual trade last year was 15%, and in January- nd September this year, it was almost 13%¹⁶⁰. At the same time, Minsk and Tashkent intend to further deepen this interaction in order to cover new promising areas of cooperation.

Returning to the decisions of the second Uzbek-Belarusian Women's Business Forum, we would like to emphasize that its work covered a wide range of areas: the real sector of the economy, mechanical engineering, tourism, and healthcare. The investment agenda is also gradually expanding. Suffice it to say that "Belarus has invested in the development of Uzbekistan many times over in the last five years. <...> Here in Uzbekistan alone, there are about 180 organizations with capital from Belarus"¹⁶¹. All this indicates that bilateral Belarusian-Uzbek economic cooperation is developing steadily and is aimed at reaching a new level of mutual trade.

¹⁶⁰ Ambassador: Belarusian-Uzbek relations are developing very dynamically [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://subs.belta.by/Republ.nsf/59e33ed42f57f8c5422569f8002b86f7/4142892f5e53f61843258bcd0069ee26!OpenDocument>

¹⁶¹ Chebotar: Belarus and Uzbekistan confirm interest in developing cooperation in all areas [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/chebotar-belarus-i-uzbekistan-podtverzhajut-interes-k-razvitiyu-sotrudnichestva-po-vsem-napravlenijam-657018-2024/>

Belarus – Uzbekistan: additional impetus to expanding cooperation

In June 2025, the 11th meeting of the Joint Intergovernmental Commission (JIC) on cooperation between Belarus and Uzbekistan was held in Minsk, where they talked about current issues of bilateral cooperation in areas like industrial cooperation, transport links, agriculture, interregional cooperation, healthcare, and cultural and humanitarian exchanges. Following the discussion, the parties expressed mutual interest in the further progressive development of trade and economic cooperation. It should be noted that trade turnover between the two countries in 2024 amounted to US\$620.1 million, which is 14.8% more than in the previous year¹⁶². Industrial goods, finished products, foodstuffs, and transport equipment dominated the structure of Uzbek exports to the Belarusian market. At the same time, the main volume of exports from Belarus to Uzbekistan consisted of food products, machine-building products, chemical products, and raw materials for industry. In this regard, we would like to note an interesting fact. "In 2024, Kamvol, Belarus' largest full-cycle textile manufacturer, increased its exports to Uzbekistan tenfold, including through the supply of new types of products to the Uzbek market"¹⁶³.

Last year, Belarus and Uzbekistan signed a roadmap for cooperation for 2024-2025, which sets the goal of bringing bilateral trade turnover to one billion dollars. At the 11th meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission, the parties agreed to intensify bilateral cooperation. In particular, Belarus expressed its readiness to supply high-quality food products, as well as products from the woodworking, petrochemical, and pharmaceutical industries, agricultural and freight equipment, medical supplies, and household appliances. On the other hand, our republic "continues to have a steady demand for supplies from Uzbekistan of raw materials necessary for

¹⁶² The 11th meeting of the Joint Uzbek-Belarusian Intergovernmental Commission was held in Minsk [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: https://eccis.org/news/29998/v_minske_sostoialos_11-e_zasedanie_sovmestnoj_uzbeksko-belorusskoj_mezhpravitelstvennoj_komissii

¹⁶³ Exports of fabrics by Kamvol OJSC to Uzbekistan increased tenfold in 2024 [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/eksport-tkanej-oao-kamvol-v-uzbekistan-v-2024-godu-vyros-v-10-raz-694868-2025/>

Belarusian industry, cotton yarn and knitwear, rolled metal products, and wine materials. Vegetables and fruits remain a traditional import item from Uzbekistan, as they do not grow in our country [Belarus] due to climatic conditions or have a later ripening period"¹⁶⁴.

In addition, Uzbekistan is interested in developing and expanding industrial cooperation with Belarus, "primarily by creating export-oriented joint ventures for the production of high value-added products"¹⁶⁵. In particular, there are already successful examples of cooperation in light industry. There are also successful projects in other industries. The Minsk Tractor Plant is working on organizing tractor assembly in Uzbekistan. The Minsk Motor Plant, together with Planeta servis LLC, is implementing a project to organize the assembly production of diesel generators. Also, "the issue of building a cable and wire production facility in Uzbekistan was discussed earlier, and there are already results; the parties expect to see joint finished products in the near future"¹⁶⁶.

As part of the 11th meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission in Minsk, the 6th meeting of the Belarusian-Uzbek working group on agriculture and the food industry was also held, at which it was noted that by the end of 2024, trade turnover "in the food and agricultural raw materials sector increased by 37.5% compared to the previous year. Exports of Belarusian products are growing at a particularly high rate, almost doubling by 140.4%"¹⁶⁷. Currently, Belarus supplies Uzbekistan with meat and meat products, dairy products, sugar, fish, and chocolate. In the opposite direction, fruits, berries, vegetables, and melons are supplied.

¹⁶⁴ Trade turnover between Belarus and Uzbekistan increased 2.3 times over five years [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/tovarooborot-belarusi-i-uzbekistana-za-pjat-let-velichilsja-v-23-raza-721650-2025/>

¹⁶⁵ Uzbekistan is interested in developing industrial cooperation with Belarus [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/uzbekistan-zainteresovan-v-razvitii-promkooperatsii-s-belarusiju-721670-2025/>

¹⁶⁶ Belarus is ready to increase food and equipment supplies to Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-gotova-naraschivat-postavki-v-uzbekistan-prodovolstvija-i-tehniki-721662-2025/>

¹⁶⁷ Belarus almost doubled its exports of agricultural products to Uzbekistan in 2024 [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-pochti-vdvoe-narastila-eksport-selhozproduktov-v-uzbekistan-v-2024-godu-718637-2025/>

At the same meeting, special attention was paid to joint projects. "For example, a poultry meat production complex is being developed in the Tashkent region. An experimental demonstration field for blueberries is being created in Uzbekistan, and cooperation between the Belarusian Institute of Flax and scientific institutions in Uzbekistan on the selection and cultivation of new flax varieties is continuing. In addition, work is underway to test Belarusian potato varieties in Uzbekistan,"¹⁶⁸. The Uzbek side expressed interest in our potato varieties suitable for the production of chips and French fries, as well as in increasing supplies of Belarusian beef and breeding cattle. The partners also agreed to expand cooperation in the field of agricultural machinery certification and the introduction of animal monitoring systems. Finally, the Belarusian side "announced plans to participate in a tender for the supply of peat and offered Uzbek specialists the opportunity to consider internships in our country"¹⁶⁹.

In this context, it should be added that in the first half of 2025, Belarusian exporters were very active in the Uzbek market through international exhibition forums. For example, in April of this year, at the UzExpoCenter national exhibition complex in Tashkent, at **the 24th international exhibition of food products, ingredients, and production technologies UzFood 2025**, where "more than 350 companies from about 30 countries around the world were represented, including Germany, the Netherlands, Jordan, Malaysia, the UAE, China, Russia, India, Sri Lanka, Turkey, and Austria"¹⁷⁰, an exhibition featuring Belarusian manufacturers **Belarus. The Taste of Nature** included four exhibition locations. The Belarusian state food industry concern "Belgospisheprom" presented confectionery products and pastille and marmalade products made from

¹⁶⁸ Blueberry experimental field and potato variety testing. What agricultural projects connect Belarus and Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/opytnoe-pole-golubiki-i-sortoispytaniija-kartosshki-kakie-agrarnye-proekty-svjazvvajut-belarus-i-719983-2025/>

¹⁶⁹ Uzbekistan is ready to increase supplies of Belarusian beef and breeding cattle [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/uzbekistan-gotov-naraschivat-postavki-belorusskoj-govjadiny-i-plemennogo-skota-721716-2025/>

¹⁷⁰ Belarus. The Taste of Nature exhibition presented at the largest food exhibition in Tashkent [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/ekspozitsija-belarushe-taste-of-nature-predstavlena-na-krupnejshei-piscevoj-vystavke-v-tashkente-707924-2025/>

natural raw materials. Sausage products, canned goods, beef products, cheeses, and skimmed milk powder were exhibited by the enterprises of the State Unitary Enterprise "Management Company of the Holding Concern Brestmyasomolprom." Halal-certified broiler chicken products were presented by one of the largest producers of high-quality chicken meat, OJSC Poultry Farm Druzhba. A wide range of sausage products and canned goods were presented by well-known domestic meat processing plants. Among the Belarusian companies participating in UzFood 2025 were also the flagships of the dairy industry – OJSC Babushkina Krynka and OJSC Molokhny Mir.

Belarusian industrial developments from well-known domestic brands were presented in April as part of the **Made in Belarus** collective exhibition at the **5th international specialized exhibition INNOPROM. Central Asia** in Tashkent. The main objective of this exhibition forum is to "expand industrial cooperation with countries in the region and establish contacts between industrial enterprises and government agencies in Uzbekistan and foreign countries"¹⁷¹. This time, the exhibition brought together more than 400 participating companies and over 10,000 professional visitors from about 40 countries, including Uzbekistan, Russia, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, and Azerbaijan. The Belarusian exhibition featured products from 17 Belarusian enterprises and their subsidiaries, including well-known domestic companies such as the Belarusian Automobile Plant, Gomselmash, BKM Holding, Belarusian Metallurgical Plant, and Integral, which presented unique industrial samples and comprehensive solutions.

In May, Belarusian companies were represented at the **international petrochemical exhibition Oil and Gas of Uzbekistan – OGU 2025**, which took place in the Uzbek capital and is a key event for representatives of the oil and gas industry, a platform for the exchange of experience among experts in the fuel and energy complex. This forum brought together "exhibitors from 20 countries, including experts from Russia, China, Japan, the UAE, and representatives of the European Union"¹⁷². The Belarusian exhibition

¹⁷¹ The INNOPROM. Central Asia exhibition welcomes Belarusian manufacturers to Tashkent [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/vystavka-innoprom-tsentralnaja-azija-prinamaet-ekspozitsiju-belorusskih-proizvoditelej-v-tashkente-711830-2025/>

¹⁷² Belarusian companies represented at petrochemical exhibition in Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belorusskie->

featured leading enterprises in the petrochemical industry. Oil refining and petroleum product manufacturing were demonstrated by OJSC Naftan and OJSC Mozyr Oil Refinery. Products based on polyamide-6 were presented by the Zavod Khimvolokno branch of OJSC Grodno Azot. As part of the Oil and Gas of Uzbekistan – OGU 2025 exhibition, bilateral meetings were held with representatives of foreign enterprises and companies, as well as thematic round tables and business events aimed at expanding areas of interaction and cooperation.

Returning to the 11th meeting of the JPC, we note that the parties agreed to give appropriate momentum to the work of the joint Belarusian-Uzbek commission on cooperation in science and technology. This is all the more so given that back in December 2024, the State Committee for Science and Technology of Belarus and the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation of Uzbekistan announced a competition for joint Belarusian-Uzbek scientific and technical projects for 2025-2026, which will be held in areas such as digital information and communication and interdisciplinary technologies, energy and energy conservation, medicine and medical technologies, pharmaceuticals and pharmacology, nano- and biotechnologies, chemical technologies, new materials, digital economy, food security, agro-industrial technologies, rational nature management, water resource management technologies, mineral extraction, laser technologies, and photonics¹⁷³.

As for education, a forum of university rectors from both countries was held in 2024, and to date, "a total of about 400 agreements in the field of education have been signed between educational institutions in Belarus and Uzbekistan"¹⁷⁴. Among the active participants in this partnership is **the Belarusian State Pedagogical University (BSPU) named after Maxim**

predpriiatia-predstavleny-na-neftehimicheskoi-vystavke-v-uzbekistane-714580-2025/

¹⁷³ A competition for Belarusian-Uzbek scientific and technical projects for 2025-2026 has been announced [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/objavljen-konkurs-belorusko-uzbekskh-nauchno-tehnicheskikh-proektov-na-2025-2026-godv-682523-2024/>

¹⁷⁴ Aleynyk: A unique model of multilevel cooperation has been established between Belarus and Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/politics/view/alejnik-mezhdu-belarusiju-i-uzbekistanom-vvstroena-unikalnaja-model-mnogourovnevnogo-sotrudnichestva-703094-2025/>

Tank, which has already signed ten agreements on interaction and cooperation with Uzbek universities. These educational ties are most actively implemented with **the Nizami Tashkent State Pedagogical University** and **the Kadyr Jizzakh State Pedagogical University**. In particular, Jizzakh University and BSPU are implementing programs in the fields of psychology, speech therapy, social and psychological-pedagogical assistance, and primary education. And since 2018, a joint faculty of "Innovative Pedagogy" has been established with Tashkent University, where programs are taught in the specialties of "speech therapy," "practical psychology," "preschool education," "primary education," "psychology," and "inclusive education."¹⁷⁵ Graduates receive a double degree from both universities. Since 2023, the faculty has been offering master's programs in inclusive education and practical psychology. "More than 360 graduates have completed the joint faculty, and now 120 people are studying for a bachelor's degree and about 70 for a master's degree"¹⁷⁶. And in November 2024, the Uzbek Culture Center was opened at BSPU to expand humanitarian cooperation between the two brotherly countries.

Another interesting example of educational ties between Belarus and Uzbekistan is **the Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno (GSU)**, which "has 20 agreements in place for the implementation of 38 joint educational programs with higher education institutions in the Republic of Uzbekistan."¹⁷⁷ Among the partners are a number of universities in the Uzbek capital – **Tashkent State Law University, State Economic University, Chemical Technology Institute, State University of Transport, University of Information Technologies**, as well as such prestigious universities as **Samarkand State University** and **Urgench**

¹⁷⁵ Vice-Rector of BSPU on programs with Uzbek universities: we strive to raise the prestige of teaching professions [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/special/societv/view/prorektor-bgpo-o-programmah-s-uzbekskimi-vuzami-stremimsia-povyisit-prestizh-pedagogicheskikh-professij-694367-2025/>

¹⁷⁶ "Expanding humanitarian cooperation." Uzbek Cultural Center opened at BSPU [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/societv/view/rasshirit-gumanitarnoe-sotrudnichestvo-tsentri-uzbekskoj-kulturny-otkryli-v-bgpo-676702-2024/>

¹⁷⁷ Projects, conferences, exchanges: GrSU and Namangan Pedagogical Institute outline plans for cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/proekty-konferentsii-obmenv-ergu-i-namanganskij-pedinstitut-nametili-planv-sotrudnichestva-679709-2024/>

Innovative University. In 2024, as part of the second Forum of Regions of the two countries, GrSU also signed a cooperation agreement with **the Namangan State Pedagogical Institute**. And already in 2025, joint scientific projects, conferences, student and teacher exchanges will be organized with the aim of strengthening mutually beneficial relations and exchanging experience in the field of education and science. Grodno's agricultural and medical universities and colleges – the I. Schastny Electrical Engineering College and the Medical College – are also actively cooperating with Uzbek partners. In general, **the Grodno region** interacts with four regions of Uzbekistan: **Samarkand, Andijan, Surkhandarya, and the Republic of Karakalpakstan**.

Here is another example. In 2025, **the P.O. Sukhoi Gomel State Technical University** signed a cooperation agreement with **the Fergana Polytechnic University**. This document "includes agreements on the exchange of students and teachers, the holding of joint seminars, training programs, the implementation of bilateral projects, and the transfer of experience within the framework of international programs"¹⁷⁸. Thus, in the field of education, Belarus and Uzbekistan are gradually expanding the scope of cooperation, including through the regions.

Incidentally, to date, 17 bilateral agreements have already been signed between the regions of Belarus and 14 regions of Uzbekistan. Plus, there is an agreement between the capitals – **Minsk and Tashkent**, which became sister cities in 2024. And in 2025, they have already outlined a number of specific areas of cooperation, including "waste processing and disposal, including the processing of construction waste, the possibility of creating a unified dispatch service in Tashkent (similar to the "115 service" in Minsk)"¹⁷⁹. Other areas include the replacement and installation of elevator equipment, the recycling of car tires, the creation of a furniture cluster, the

¹⁷⁸ Joint projects in manufacturing and education. Gomel and Fergana regions strengthen partnership [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/sovместnye-proekty-v-proizvodstve-obrazovanii-gomelskaja-i-ferganskaja-oblasti-ukrepljajut-partnerstvo-688538-2025/>

¹⁷⁹ Elevator equipment and waste disposal. Minsk and Tashkent determine vectors of cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/liftovoe-oborudovanie-i-utilizatsija-othodov-minsk-i-tashkent-opredelajut-vektory-vzaimodejstviia-702536-2025/>

improvement of the traffic management system, the production of specialized municipal equipment, the provision of baby food to the residents of Tashkent, and a number of other investment projects.

The Minsk region, which cooperates with the **Bukhara** and **Tashkent** regions, also has great opportunities for interregional cooperation. Last year, the main exports of the Belarusian capital region to the Uzbek market were timber, prepared or preserved meat products, offal, flour, cereals, potato flakes and granules, meat and edible offal, and poultry"¹⁸⁰. So in 2025, contacts between the regions of the two countries will only continue to develop. Moreover, there are still many areas where Belarusian and Uzbek partners could move forward more intensively.

Let's sum up. When the 10th meeting of the Belarusian-Uzbek Intergovernmental Commission (IGC) on bilateral cooperation was held in Samarkand in December 2023, the parties, discussed the state and prospects of trade and economic cooperation, paying "special attention to the spheres of industry, agriculture, and healthcare in order to fill the economic component of the partnership between Belarus and Uzbekistan with new practical content and ensure the timely implementation of investment projects and trade contracts"¹⁸¹. The very fact that the 11th meeting of the JPC was held shows that the parties are genuinely committed to developing a multifaceted and constructive dialogue that will help strengthen trade, economic, scientific, technical, and educational ties, which will serve as a basis for the further development of the entire spectrum of Belarusian-Uzbek relations.

¹⁸⁰ Turchin – Ambassador of Uzbekistan: there are many areas where we could move more intensively [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/turchin-poslu-uzbekistana-est-mnogo-napravlenij-gde-my-mogli-by-dvigatsja-bolee-intensivno-622866-2024/>

¹⁸¹ Zaleski, B. Address of partnership – Uzbekistan. Chronicle of cooperative interaction / Boris Zaleski. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2024. – P. 47.

Belarus – Kazakhstan: to ensure high dynamics of trade and industrial cooperation

Belarus and Kazakhstan are strategic partners and allies. Relations between Minsk and Astana are steadily moving forward, developing cooperation and taking it to a new level of interaction. In June 2024, during a working meeting between the heads of government of the two countries, R. Golovchenko and O. Bektanov, the parties agreed to make every effort to further increase the momentum of bilateral partnership and stated that "Belarus and Kazakhstan are capable of increasing trade turnover to \$1.5 billion"¹⁸². In November 2024, a new working visit of the Kazakh government delegation to Minsk took place, where the parties agreed to ensure positive dynamics in bilateral trade. After all, the economies of Belarus and Kazakhstan have significant potential for increasing and diversifying trade flows and expanding the range of goods supplied. Suffice it to say that Minsk and Astana "crossed the \$1 billion mark in mutual trade a few years ago. <...> In fact, today there are no areas left that are not covered by cooperation"¹⁸³.

One of the concrete results of this visit was the signing **of a roadmap between the governments of the two countries on the development of trade and economic cooperation for 2025-2029**, which provides for the intensification of cooperation in the areas of industrial cooperation, agriculture, transport, and communications, and will allow for the expansion of joint projects and the establishment of even closer ties between the business communities of the two countries, including in the construction industry, high technology, and transit. This program, which has been developed not for two years, as before, but for the entire five-year period, was discussed at the end

¹⁸² Golovchenko: Belarus and Kazakhstan are capable of increasing trade turnover to \$1.5 billion [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/golovchenko-belarusi-i-kazahstanu-po-silam-narastit-tovarooborot-do-15-mlrd-638669-2024/>

¹⁸³ Golovchenko: Belarus and Kazakhstan need to ensure positive dynamics in bilateral trade [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/golovchenko-belarusi-i-kazahstanu-nuzhno-obespechit-polozhitelnuju-dinamiku-dvustoronnej-torgovli-675371-2024/>

of May 2024 in Minsk at the 18th meeting of the Belarusian-Kazakh Intergovernmental Commission (IGC) on Trade and Economic Cooperation.

It should be noted that at the end of 2023, Belarusian-Kazakh trade turnover declined slightly for a number of reasons. For this reason, the parties formulated at a high level the main task for the near future – "to ensure the restoration of positive dynamics in bilateral trade and to take measures to replenish mutual supplies of goods that have fallen short. One of the key drivers of intensified trade and economic cooperation is interaction in the industrial sector"¹⁸⁴. An important detail: to date, Belarusian-Kazakh industrial cooperation already includes 14 projects totaling \$275 million. But this, as they say, is not the end of the story.

For reference, we note that "the trade turnover between the two countries at the end of 2023 amounted to \$1.1 billion, including Belarusian exports of \$867 million. Our country mainly supplies tractors, machines and mechanisms for harvesting and threshing agricultural crops, cheese and cottage cheese, milk and cream, sausages and meat products, furniture, and semi-finished products made of unalloyed steel"¹⁸⁵. In addition, there are 55 enterprises with Kazakh capital registered in Belarus, including 17 joint ventures and 38 foreign enterprises, while more than 170 entities of the domestic enterprises' distribution network operate in Kazakhstan. Cooperation projects are being implemented for the joint production of tractors, agricultural, automotive and trailer equipment, fire and rescue equipment, as well as elevator equipment.

In this context, it should be noted that one of the most important areas of cooperation between the two countries is agriculture. First and foremost, this concerns the supply of food products from Belarus to the Kazakh market. Figures show that "Belarusian agricultural and food exports to Kazakhstan in 2023 amounted to almost a quarter of a billion dollars"¹⁸⁶. The sales network

¹⁸⁴ Relations between Belarus and Kazakhstan have always been based on friendship, mutual trust, and respect – Roman Golovchenko [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/11054>

¹⁸⁵ Belarus and Kazakhstan to discuss the possibility of creating an industrial cooperation fund [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-kazahstan-obsudjat-vozmozhnost-sozdaniia-fonda-promyshlennoi-kooperatsii-619287-2024/>

¹⁸⁶ Golovchenko: We are counting on a transition to deeper cooperation with Kazakhstan in the agro-industrial complex [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL:

for Belarusian products is actively developing, with an increasing number of specialised shops and supermarket sections. "A total of 270 branded retail outlets selling Belarusian products are operating in Kazakhstan..."¹⁸⁷.

In addition, Belarus is ready to actively cooperate with Kazakhstan on the localization of agricultural machinery production. It should be recalled that "existing joint production facilities already allow Kazakhstan to produce up to 10,000 tractors and 1,000 combine harvesters per year"¹⁸⁸. A positive example is the creation of a full-cycle production facility for tractor cabs in the city of Kostanay. Back in March 2024, the Minsk Tractor Works opened a cab workshop and a new machine assembly line in this Kazakh city "based on the MTZ-Kazakhstan Machine-Building Plant." Today, there are three BELARUS tractor assembly plants operating in Kazakhstan¹⁸⁹. The cabs that will be manufactured in Kostanay will be used by the MTZ-Kazakhstan Machine-Building Plant both in its own production and for supply to other joint ventures – the Kazakhstan Agro Innovation Corporation and SemAZ. In Kostanay, "in the near future, there are plans to <...> organize a project to produce engines for the Minsk Motor Plant"¹⁹⁰. Given the large market for passenger vehicles and developments in this area in Kazakhstan, the Belarusian side proposes to further develop a project with Kazakh partners, including Belkommunmash, for the trolleybuses, trams, and electric buses that they manufacture.¹⁹¹ This naturally leads to the next topic – a network

<https://belta.by/economics/view/golovchenko-rasschityvaem-na-perehod-k-bolee-glubokomu-sotrudnicestvu-s-kazahstanom-v-apk-638683-2024/>

¹⁸⁷ Milk, clothing, confectionery. Which Belarusian products are popular in Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL:

<https://belta.by/economics/view/molochka-odezhda-konditerskie-izdelija-kakaja-belorusskaja-produktsija-populiarna-v-kazahstane-640064-2024/>

¹⁸⁸ Snoopkov: Belarus is ready to actively cooperate with Kazakhstan in the localization of agricultural machinery production [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/snopkov-belarus-gotova-aktivno-sotrudnicat-s-kazahstanom-v-lokalizatsii-proizvodstva-selhoztehnik-638115-2024/>

¹⁸⁹ A new BELARUS tractor assembly line will be opened in Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/v-kazahstane-otkrojut-novuiu-liniyu-sborki-tractorov-belarus-620534-2024/>

¹⁹⁰ Golovchenko: MMZ engine production planned for Kostanay, Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/golovchenko-proizvodstvo-dvigatelej-mmz-planiruetsia-organizovat-v-kazahstanskom-kostanae-638677-2024/>

¹⁹¹ Construction of machines, housing, farms. What are the prospects for cooperation between Belarus and Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/stroitelstvo-mashin-zhilija-ferm-kakie-perspektivy-sotrudnicestva-belarusi-i-kazahstana-640062-2024/>

of charging stations. After all, Belarus also has the necessary expertise in this area.

In November 2024, during a visit by a Kazakh government delegation to Minsk, the Belarusian side also proposed the creation of joint ventures for the production of firefighting and rescue equipment and agricultural loaders. "A well-known manufacturer, Pozhsnab, whose equipment has already proven itself in Kazakhstan, is ready to act as a partner on the Belarusian side. In addition, AMKODOR OJSC, together with a number of Kazakhstani enterprises, is working on the issue of organizing a new production of agricultural loaders in Kazakhstan,"¹⁹². Belarusian manufacturers have other proposals for the development of industrial cooperation, including the production of components for vehicles and tractor equipment. As for the supply of finished products, Belarusian enterprises are ready to meet Kazakhstan's needs for municipal, logging, road construction equipment, and grain drying complexes. They are ready to provide support for the commissioning of equipment, operator training, warranty and after-sales service.

As noted above, agriculture is an important area of cooperation between Belarus and Kazakhstan. In addition to the already traditional supplies of agricultural machinery and food products, during the November negotiations, the parties agreed to explore the possibility of cooperation in supplying Kazakhstan with essential amino acids and premixes produced by the Belarusian National Biotechnology Corporation. Cooperation in the areas of municipal waste sorting and processing, water purification, and water treatment is also promising. This is especially true given that the Belarusian company Sifania-Ekotehnika has already implemented projects in a number of cities in Kazakhstan to process solid household waste and produce sought-after goods from it, ranging from bags to paving slabs¹⁹³. And the Belarusian

¹⁹² Golovchenko proposed that Kazakhstan establish joint production of firefighting equipment and agricultural loaders [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/golovchenko-predlozhit-kazahstanu-sozdat-sovmestnye-proizvodstva-pozharnoj-tehniki-i-selhozpogruzchikov-675373-2024/>

¹⁹³ Golovchenko: Belarus is ready to supply amino acids to Kazakhstan and implement projects in the housing and utilities sector [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/golovchenko-belarus-gotova-postavliat-v-kazahstan-aminokisloty-i-realizovvat-proekt-v-zhkh-675377-2024/>

company Polymerkonstruktsiya, which operates successfully in various parts of the world, is ready to offer equipment and technologies for water treatment for various industries and in the housing and utilities sector.

During this visit, the distinguished guests from Kazakhstan also familiarized themselves with the capabilities of the Belarusian High-Tech Park (HTP) and the developments of its residents. Among them is Igrazuma Soft LLC, which manufactures professional digital simulators using virtual reality technologies for industry, education, and safety. The products include digital simulators for agricultural, logging, mining, and emergency rescue equipment for companies such as Gomselmash, Minsk Tractor and Automobile Plants, AMKODOR, and Belaruskali. The developers and operators of the new financial instruments ecosystem, Oplati LLC, presented the work of payment services through mobile and web solutions aimed at the use of electronic money in Belarus. "The unique payment system allows users to pay for utilities, transportation costs, and other purchases through a mobile application without the need to use physical cards"¹⁹⁴ and combines all the necessary banking services in one application. Another HTP resident, KometaRad LLC, presented 3D MeD, a software complex for processing, three-dimensional reconstruction, transmission, and storage of medical diagnostic images using 3D modeling technology based on artificial intelligence. In addition, developers from R-NOX LLC demonstrated innovative solutions for monitoring air quality using machine learning, Big Data, and the Internet of Things.

Returning to the decisions made in November in Minsk between Belarus and Kazakhstan, we would like to highlight two more documents: **the action plan for cooperation in the field of cultural and humanitarian cooperation for 2025-2026** and **the cooperation agreement between the Belarusian National Tourism Agency and the Kazakh National Company Kazakh Tourism**. In addition, "following the working visit of the

¹⁹⁴ High-level visit to the world of high technology. Heads of the Governments of Belarus and Kazakhstan visited the HTP [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: https://www.park.by/press/news/vvsokiy_vizit_v_mir_vvsokikh_tekhnologiy_pvt_posetili_glavy_pravitelstv_belarusi_i_kazahstana/

Kazakh government delegation to Belarus, contracts worth more than \$90 million were signed"¹⁹⁵. In total, the parties signed 20 documents.

And one more detail about the visit of the Kazakh government delegation to Minsk. The parties agreed that in the near future they would hold **the first Kazakhstan-Belarus Forum of Regions**, as this is "a very effective format that allows for significant progress in cooperation in various areas"¹⁹⁶. At the aforementioned 18th meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission, it was noted that the parties have all the necessary prerequisites and opportunities to significantly increase bilateral cooperation aimed at intensifying joint work in various areas of partnership. At the same time, the parties also agreed to activate interregional ties, the potential of which is not yet fully utilized. For reference, it should be noted that to date, about 25 cooperation agreements have already been signed between the regions of Belarus and Kazakhstan. Let's see how the Belarusian regions will approach this important upcoming event.

Let's start with **the Belarusian capital**. A number of important and landmark projects in the economic sphere are already being implemented in Kazakhstan within the framework of industrial cooperation with the active participation of such Minsk enterprises as the tractor and automobile plants, and AMKODOR. In particular, in May 2024, a new workshop for the production of cabs for BELARUS tractors was opened in the city of Kostanay at the site of MTZ-Kazakhstan Machine-Building Plant LLP. This is already the second stage of this project. Joint work began back in 2018. A total of four stages will be implemented by 2027. The opening of a new workshop for the production of cabs for BELARUS tractors means the emergence of another high-tech production facility and the creation of additional jobs in Kazakhstan. Thus, "150 jobs have already been created. Upon completion of

¹⁹⁵ Contracts worth more than \$90 million signed following the visit of the Kazakh delegation to Belarus [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/kontrakty-na-bolee-chem-90-mln-podpisany-poitogam-vizita-delegatsii-kazahstana-v-belarus-675470-2024/>

¹⁹⁶ Golovchenko: Belarus and Kazakhstan plan to hold a Forum of Regions [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/golovchenko-belarus-i-kazahstan-planirujut-provesti-forum-regionov-675354-2024/>

the fourth stage of the project, more than 500 jobs are expected to be created"¹⁹⁷.

Another interesting project in the development of interregional cooperation between **Minsk** and partners from this Central Asian country could be the construction of the so-called "Kazakhstan Quarter" in the Belarusian capital. A location for it has already been determined in Minsk within the boundaries of Zheleznodorozhnaya, Dubravinskaya, Grushevskaya, and Pryamaya streets. "The Committee for Architecture and Urban Planning has approved the architectural and planning concept for the project, which provides for the construction of more than 39,200 square meters of apartment buildings with an open-type parking garage for 300 cars,"¹⁹⁸. We would like to add that the Kazakh side has already approved the preliminary design. The design is expected to be completed by the end of 2024.

Kazakhstan is one of the most important economic partners of **the Mogilev region** and ranks second in foreign trade turnover and exports of the Belarusian region among the countries of the Eurasian Economic Union. The main items exported from Mogilev to this country are tires, dairy products, poultry meat, elevators, spare parts for cars and tractors, pumps, and chipboard. Fruitful cooperation has also been established at the level of large-scale production. In particular, "for OJSC Mogilevliftmash, Kazakhstan is one of the main sales markets, with two assembly plants operating there – in the cities of Aktobe and Almaty"¹⁹⁹. In 2023, about 350 elevators were delivered there. But the Mogilev enterprise has much greater potential: it is ready to participate more actively in the elevator equipment replacement program, as well as to supply its products for new construction. Bobruisk-

¹⁹⁷ A new workshop for the production of cabins for BELARUS tractors has appeared in Kostanay, Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/societv/view/novyi-tsel-po-proizvodstvu-kabin-k-tractoram-belarus-pojavilsia-v-kazahstanskom-kostanae-637069-2024/>

¹⁹⁸ Belarus and Kazakhstan plan to expand political and cultural cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/societv/view/belarus-i-kazahstan-planirujut-rasshirjat-politicheskoe-i-kulturnoe-vzaimodejstvie-663284-2024>

¹⁹⁹ Integration and joint production. Isachenko on cooperation between the Mogilev region and Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://belta.by/politics/view/integratsija-i-sovmestnve-proizvodstva-isachenko-o-sotrudnichestve-mogilevskoj-oblasti-s-kazahstanom-607349-2023/>

based Belshina is also ready for further cooperation. In 2023, despite a more than twofold drop in export prices, the company sold 51,000 more tires to Kazakhstan than in 2022. And there's more. To date, the Mogilev region has signed cooperation agreements with only two regions of Kazakhstan – Turkestan and East Kazakhstan. And there is confidence that at the first Forum of Regions of the two countries, these documents will take on new meaning.

The Gomel region also intends to expand cooperation with partners from Kazakhstan. In this regard, we would like to remind you that in September 2024, the 18th annual Gomel Economic Forum was held, and Kazakhstan was among the active participants from the Commonwealth of Independent States, "whose potential for cooperation with the south-eastern region of Belarus is simply enormous. This primarily concerns issues of industrial cooperation and agriculture"²⁰⁰. In particular, as part of this cooperation, an assembly plant for machinery has been set up in Kazakhstan in partnership with Gomselmash, which is developing successfully. During the economic forum, the parties agreed that the number of joint projects would increase. It appears that this dialogue between the interested parties will continue at the first Forum of Regions of Belarus and Kazakhstan.

The Brest region is also interested in closer cooperation with Kazakhstan in various areas. In particular, this involves increasing investment cooperation between Kazakhstan and Brest in the field of agricultural production and processing in order to "invest in the production of raw milk, given the considerable expertise and high potential that Belarus has in this area. Another interesting industry is the production of building materials, floor coverings, ceramic tiles, and sanitary ware"²⁰¹. The parties also have great potential in the areas of transit, tourism, travel, and health improvement. In short, there are still many areas for strengthening cooperation. So, it seems

²⁰⁰ Zaleski, B. From programs to specific projects. Features of positive trends in the Belarusian economy / Boris Zaleski. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2024. – P. 49.

²⁰¹ Investments, technologies, tourism. Brest Region and Kazakhstan aim for closer cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/investitsii-tehnologii-turizm-brestskaia-oblast-i-kazahstan-natselenv-na-bolee-tesnoe-sotrudnichestvo-680543-2024/>

that the Brest region will come to the first Forum of Regions of Belarus and Kazakhstan with new interesting projects and promising proposals.

Let's sum up. The working visit of the Kazakh government delegation to Belarus in November 2024 showed that the two post-Soviet countries have long established strong, friendly, and partnership ties. Today, they continue to implement promising areas included in the Roadmap of the governments of the two countries for the development of trade and economic cooperation for 2025-2029 in order to reach a qualitatively new level of interaction.

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Belarus – Kazakhstan: to embark on new projects, to derive mutual benefit

Belarus and Kazakhstan today demonstrate great potential for mutually beneficial cooperation in various sectors, from agriculture to high technology and innovative developments. Joint investment projects in mechanical engineering, chemical, and petrochemical industries are being successfully implemented. During the 18th meeting of the Belarusian-Kazakh Intergovernmental Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation, held in Minsk in May 2024, it was also noted that "it is necessary to continue and expand the practice of holding interregional business investment forums, exhibitions, fairs..."²⁰². In this context, it should be noted that our republic actively participates in many international exhibition events in this Central Asian country. For example, "the total exhibition space of Belarus at exhibitions in Kazakhstan in 2023 amounted to almost 1,000 square meters, with about 50 Belarusian enterprises participating"²⁰³. This has made a significant contribution to bilateral economic cooperation.

The most representative international event in Kazakhstan in 2023 in the exhibition sector was **the first international industrial forum "INNOPROM. Kazakhstan,"** held in September at the Expo Exhibition Center in the Kazakh capital, with participants from enterprises and companies from 20 countries, including Azerbaijan, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Hungary, Myanmar, Vietnam, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran, China, and Russia, represented in such thematic sections of the exhibition as mechanical engineering, metallurgy and materials, energy solutions, chemical industry technologies, information and telecommunications technologies, machine tool building, and infrastructure development. Thirty-two Belarusian enterprises and institutions of the Ministry of Industry, the

²⁰² Agriculture, culture, and education. In which areas will Belarus and Kazakhstan strengthen mutual cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/societv/view/apk-kultura-i-obrazovanie-v-kakih-sferah-belarus-i-kazahstana-budut-ukrepljat-vzaimnoe-sotrudnichestvo-638164-2024/>

²⁰³ From agriculture to high technology. Myatlikov named promising areas of cooperation with Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/ot-apk-do-vvsokih-tehnologij-myatlikov-nazval-perspektivnye-napravlenija-sotrudnichestva-s-kazahstanom-637976-2024/>

National Academy of Sciences (NAS) of Belarus, the State Committee for Science and Technology, and the Ministry of Education also presented their products and technologies. "The national exhibition of Belarus was located on an area of 742 square meters (210 square meters in the pavilion and 532 square meters on the outdoor platform"²⁰⁴ .

This exhibition was distinguished by its innovative nature. For this reason, the products presented by Belarusian participants in the forum included interesting technical and scientific innovations. In particular, 20 enterprises of the Belarusian Ministry of Industry showed samples of export equipment, and "the total amount of commercial documents (agreements, protocols, contracts) <...> amounted to about \$64 million"²⁰⁵ . For example, OJSC "Horizon Holding Management Company" demonstrated two areas of its production – consumer electronics and equipment, as well as professional equipment for transport, namely automotive and aviation electronics. In the first area, Horizon specialists "signed contracts worth \$25 million in two days. This involved the supply of consumer electronics to eight retail chains in Kazakhstan."²⁰⁶ . In the second area, the Belarusian company received an order to produce electronics for cars. This indicates that interest in Belarusian products on the Kazakh market remains traditionally high.

At this exhibition, Gomselmash also demonstrated equipment that is already being assembled in Kazakhstan. The fact is that, with the aim of developing industrial cooperation in this Central Asian country, joint assembly of Essil brand grain harvesters is already underway. "This is a very successful project; we are assembling 4,300 units. <...> Currently, the level of localization has already reached 40%. The reapers, inclined chambers, and

²⁰⁴ The INNOPROM. Kazakhstan International Industrial Forum has opened in Astana [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/v-astane-otkrvlsja-mezhdunarodnyi-promyshlennyi-forum-innoprom-kazahstan-590049-2023/>

²⁰⁵ Ministry of Industry enterprises at INNOPROM. Kazakhstan signed contracts worth \$64 million [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/predpriiatija-minprom-na-innoprom-kazahstan-zakluchili-kontraktv-na-64-mln-591102-2023/>

²⁰⁶ Predko: Horizon products will be sold through retail chains in Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/predko-produktsija-gorizonta-budet-realizovvatsja-torgovymi-setiami-kazahstana-590599-2023/>

hoppers are fully localized," said²⁰⁷. In the future, there are plans to supply updated 4th class combines.

Expanding its presence in Kazakhstan is also a goal for OJSC Mogilevliftmash, whose specialists participated in this exhibition. The Mogilev-based company already has "assembly production, dealers, and a distribution network, but this is still not enough..."²⁰⁸. Cooperation must be further developed, especially since the Kazakh market is very large. There is a lot of construction going on there, and many elevators need to be replaced. For this reason, Mogilevliftmash has set itself the goal of selling up to 700 elevators annually.

Another Belarusian exporter, Atlant CJSC, also intends to strengthen cooperation with Kazakhstan. The company presented household appliances at the INNOPROM. Kazakhstan forum. Important fact: Atlant has established contacts with all major retail chains. In particular, in 8 months [of 2023], 20,000 refrigerators and 3,000 washing machines were shipped to this country <...>²⁰⁹. The Belarusian supplier intends to further strengthen this cooperation. And Minsk Tractor Works showcased a wide range of its new equipment and "signed a commercial contract to supply 1,500 cab kits worth \$3 million to MTZ-Kazakhstan Machine Building Plant LLP"²¹⁰.

As for the enterprises of the Bellegprom concern, following the INNOPROM. Kazakhstan" forum, agreements were reached on increasing supplies of Belarusian fabrics for various purposes to the Kazakh market, as well as "on placing an "island" with Belarusian light industry goods in the Magnum hypermarket. It is planned that products from the Orsha Linen Mill, Vitebsk Carpets, Dobrush Porcelain Factory, and OJSC BPHO will be

²⁰⁷ Gomselmash to supply Kazakhstan with upgraded grain harvesters [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/gomselmash-postavit-v-kazahstan-obnovlennye-zernouborochnye-kombainy-590179-2023/>

²⁰⁸ Mogilevliftmash plans to sell up to 700 elevators per year to Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/mogilevliftmash-planiruet-prodavat-v-kazahstane-do-700-liftov-v-god-590005-2023/>

²⁰⁹ Atlant intends to increase cooperation with Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/atlant-nameren-naraschivat-sotrudnichestvo-s-kazahstanom-590085-2023/>

²¹⁰ MTZ to supply Kazakhstan with 1,500 cab kits worth \$3 million [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/mtz-postavit-v-kazahstan-15-tvs-edimits-kabinokomplektov-na-3-mln-590218-2023/>

presented there.²¹¹ . In addition, following the negotiations, a memorandum of cooperation was signed between the Belleprom concern, Global-Spetsodezhda LLP, and the Union of Kazakh Manufacturers of Personal Protective Equipment. It should be added that in the first three quarters of 2023, the concern's enterprises shipped \$9 million worth of goods to Kazakhstan. Export growth amounted to 131 percent.

Speaking about the joint stand of Belarusian scientific organizations and educational institutions at the INNOPROM. Kazakhstan exhibition, we note that six organizations subordinate to the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus were represented there: the Optron plant, the Optics, Optoelectronics and Laser Technology State Scientific and Production Association, the Joint Institute for Informatics Problems of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, the Minsk Research Institute of Radio Materials, Aviation Technologies and Complexes CJSC, the Center for System Analysis and Strategic Studies of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, as well as three universities – Belarusian State University, Belarusian State Technological University, Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radioelectronics , plus HTP residents Igrarazuma Soft LLC and Mogotex OJSC. They presented "several thematic blocks: unmanned aerial vehicles, electric transport and component base, industrial technologies, microelectronics, laser technology, artificial intelligence and IT technologies, biotechnology and pharmacology, technologies for space exploration"²¹² .

In particular, they demonstrated an ultralight aircraft, the Yastreb gyroplane, which is designed for border patrol, cargo transportation, aerial photography, forestry monitoring, and fire protection. "In the near future, it will be used as an air taxi"²¹³ . Compared to airplanes and helicopters, this

²¹¹ Since the beginning of the year, Belleprom enterprises have increased deliveries to Kazakhstan by more than a third [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/predpriyatija-belleproma-s-nachala-goda-uvlichili-postavki-v-kazahstan-bolee-chem-na-tret-590675-2023/>

²¹² Shakhnovich, A. For the first time in Kazakhstan. What Belarus will present at the INNOPROM. Kazakhstan exhibition in Astana / A. Shakhnovich // [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://belta.by/comments/view/vpervve-v-kazahstane-chto-belarus-predstavit-na-vystavke-innoprom-v-astane-8893/>

²¹³ Gavrilova, V. Scientific and technical developments of Belarus will be presented at the INNOPROM. Kazakhstan exhibition / V. Gavrilova // [Electronic resource]. –

gyroplane has a number of advantages: ease of control in all operating ranges, no vibrations or "wing drop," and a wide range of horizontal flight speeds. There is also no need for special preparation of the take-off site; the aircraft can land on unprepared dirt roads, soil, water, and snow.

Among other developments presented by Aviation Technologies and Complexes CJSC, visitors could see the A60-X agrodrome, a complex for spraying fields using ultra-low volume technology, which has a number of advantages over traditional methods of applying plant protection products. In total, the national exhibition of Belarus featured more than 70 developments from organizations of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and institutions of the Ministry of Education.

Now let's take a look at other interesting international exhibitions held in Kazakhstan over the past two years with Belarusian participation. For example, at the end of May 2023, Belarusian producers' exhibition under the brand Belarus – The Taste of Nature was presented at **the Kazakhstan international exhibition "Food, Beverages, Ingredients, Packaging and Equipment for the Food Industry" – InterFood Astana** in Astana. This forum is a traditional meeting place for specialists from different countries in the food, processing, and packaging industries. In 2023, more than 70 companies from Armenia, Belarus, Vietnam, Germany, Kazakhstan, China, Malaysia, Russia, and Uzbekistan presented new products, innovations in the food industry, beverages, ingredients, and modern packaging technologies at their stands. The Belarusian exhibition showcased "a variety of products from the Volkovysk, Grodno, and Slonim meat processing plants and the Spartak joint venture: sausages, semi-finished meat products, and confectionery products"²¹⁴. The exhibition included a business program with conferences, presentations, master classes, and product tastings.

A year later, at the end of May 2024, at the same international exhibition, **InterFood Astana**, food industry leaders from 15 countries showcased the products and services of more than 80 food manufacturers and

2023. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/nauchno-tehnicheskie-razrabotki-belarusi-predstavjat-na-vvstavke-innoprom-kazahstan-589784-2023/>

²¹⁴ Belarus – The Taste of Nature exhibition at InterFood Astana [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://www.cci.by/o-palate/novosti/ekspozitsiya-belarus-the-taste-of-nature-na-vvstavke-interfood-astana/#>

brands. The European Union was the guest of honor at the exhibition forum, presenting European products from 30 manufacturers from the countries participating in the union²¹⁵. And at the Belarus. The Taste of Nature, Belarusian meat and dairy companies presented a wide range of products: OJSC Slutsk Cheese Factory and OJSC Slonim Meat Processing Plant.

One of the most visited and widely covered agricultural events in Kazakhstan, **the KazFarm/KazAgro-2023 International Exhibition of Agriculture and Food Industry**, which took place in October in Astana. It was attended by 250 companies from 20 countries and showcased the best developments, ranging from seeds and embryos to finished products from crop and livestock farming and the processing industry. From our country, Agropolykhim LLC, RTIFlex LLC, Tekhmash POO, and the Minsk Motor Plant participated. The Belarusian State Association for Breeding Livestock Belplemzhivobedinenie and the Gomel State Breeding Enterprise organized an exhibition stand with video presentations that introduced guests and visitors to the exhibition to breeding livestock in the Republic of Belarus.²¹⁶ Negotiations were held with the heads of Kazakh breeding organizations and issues of mutually beneficial cooperation were discussed.

Finally, in early November 2023, Belarusian meat processing and dairy companies took part in Kazakhstan's largest specialized exhibition event – **the 25th Central Asian International Exhibition "Food Industry"**, which took place in Almaty and brought together over 300 companies from 33 countries. In addition to Belarus, collective country exhibitions were presented by Hungary, Indonesia, Poland, Russia, North Macedonia, the United States of America, Sri Lanka, and the Republic of Korea. The "Meat and Meat Products" section featured the Veles-Mit company, as well as the Volkovysk, Grodno, Pinsk, and Slonim meat processing plants. Belarusian producers introduced Kazakh consumers to a wide range of sausages,

²¹⁵ Belarusian companies are represented at the InterFood Astana international exhibition in Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/beloruskie-predpriatija-predstavleny-na-mezhdunarodnoi-vystavke-interfood-astana-v-kazahstane-637677-2024/>

²¹⁶ The KazFarm/KazAgro-2023 exhibition was held in Astana on October 19-21 [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://www.mshp.gov.by/printv/ru/news-ru/view/19-21-oktiabria-v-gastana-proshla-vystavka-kazfarm-kazagro-2023-9164-2023/>

delicacies, smoked meats, and canned goods. The Volkovysk meat processing plant showcased its popular meat products, including beef steaks and new types of semi-smoked sausages. The Grodno Meat Processing Plant offered beef sausage with prunes. The Pinsk Meat Processing Plant surprised visitors with game meat products. Among the new products were meat paste and an Italian sausage series from Veles-Mit. Visitors to the exhibition were particularly interested in boiled sausage with pistachios made according to an Italian recipe. Dairy companies – Bellakt, Molokhnye Gorki, and the Lida Milk Canning Plant – brought milk, cheese, butter, dry baby food, and powdered milk²¹⁷. Bellakt presented its new products on the Kazakh market: frozen cheese cakes, dessert paste with cocoa and hazelnuts, and a new line of glazed cheese curds. The Goretsky Food Factory brought its legendary Exponenta line of products, rich in protein and functional characteristics, to Kazakhstan for the first time. Molochnye Gorki presented not only its traditional line of whole milk products, but also a new series of lactose-free products, including cottage cheese, sour cream, and butter. Among the new products, we would like to highlight clarified butter, presented in glass packaging. Incidentally, at the professional tasting competition "Best Product of FoodExpo Qazaqstan-2023," which took place on the opening day of the exhibition, Molokochnye Gorki was awarded a diploma in the "Dairy Products" category, and the Goretsky Food Factory received an award in the "Best Fermented Milk Drinks" category. Traditionally, this exhibition was accompanied by a rich business program, participation in which gave representatives of Belarusian businesses the opportunity to exchange experiences and visions for the further development of the food industry. In particular, a business session on "Sustainable Development of Food Industry Enterprises" was held, and direct negotiations between retail chains and distributors took place in the retail center.

A year later, in mid-November, **the 26th Food Industry Exhibition, FoodExpo Qazaqstan-2024**, took place, at which Belarusian meat processing, dairy, and confectionery companies participated in the Belarus. They were represented by eight companies, including leading and well-

²¹⁷ Belarus presented an exhibition at a food exhibition in Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-predstavila-ekspozitsiju-na-prodovolstvennoj-vystavke-v-kazahstane-597496-2023/>

known brands such as the Volkovysk, Grodno, Oshmyany, Pinsk, and Slonim meat processing plants. The Turov Dairy Plant presented a line of cheeses for professional market consumers and chain retailers at the exhibition. Under the auspices of the enterprise, a themed Show-Kitchen location was organized, where pizza made with these cheeses was demonstrated. Minsk Dairy Plant No. 1 presented its new products for 2024: Edelweiss cheese in various spices, Imeruli cheeses, and cheeses with goat's milk. The company showcased a lactose-free product line, including milk, cottage cheese, sour cream, and butter. "Unique sugar-free cheeses were also presented, with two new varieties added to the range: sugar-free glazed cottage cheese with mango-orange-ginger and blueberry-blackberry fillings, with a fat content of 20%"²¹⁸. SP OAO Spartak presented a product line without added sugar: dark chocolate with collagen, strawberries, and hazelnuts, an assortment of mini muesli bars, wafer bars, No Sugar cookies with flax seeds and bran, and sugar-free Truffle candies.

Let's sum up. All these exhibitions in 2023-2024, organized in Kazakhstan, have shown that the participation of Belarusian companies in these business forums provides an opportunity not only to exchange experience with Kazakh partners and share their vision of further development in the most relevant sectors of the economy, but also ensures access to specific bilateral cooperation projects. Moreover, the parties see great potential for cooperation thanks to exhibition events, which have significant potential and unique opportunities to derive mutual benefit.

²¹⁸ Belarusian companies participated in a major food industry exhibition in Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/beloruskie-predpriyatija-stali-uchastnikami-krupnoj-vvstavki-pischevoi-promyshlennosti-v-kazahstane-675060-2024/>

Belarus – Kyrgyzstan: roadmap and strategic perspective

Kyrgyzstan is an important partner for Belarus in Central Asia, with relations developing positively in all areas. In November 2024, the 12th meeting of the Belarusian-Kyrgyz Intergovernmental Commission (IGC) on trade and economic cooperation was held in Bishkek, at which its participants paid special attention to the development of industrial cooperation, the creation of a favorable investment climate, and an increase in trade turnover between the countries through a large-scale increase in supplies of Belarusian products. For reference, we note that in the first three quarters of 2024, "trade turnover between Belarus and Kyrgyzstan grew by 14.1% compared to the same period in 2023 and amounted to almost \$135 million"²¹⁹. Among the successful domestic exporters that are dynamically increasing their supplies to the Kyrgyz market are the enterprises of the Belarusian Production and Trade Concern of Forestry, Woodworking, and Pulp and Paper Industry "Bellesbumprom." "Mainly, panel products and sawn timber are supplied to this Central Asian country. In the first seven months of 2024, exports to Kyrgyzstan increased 1.3 times"²²⁰.

It should be recalled that at the 11th meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission, held in August 2023 in the Belarusian capital, the parties noted a noticeable intensification of interaction and identified several important areas of cooperation: growth in trade turnover and the development of industrial cooperation. At that time, according to the results of 2022, "trade turnover exceeded \$160 million and increased by 56% compared to 2021 . <...> In the first half of the year, we added \$19 million..."²²¹. In terms of industrial cooperation, the organization of joint production of elevator

²¹⁹ Sivak: Trade turnover between Belarus and Kyrgyzstan grew by 14.1% in January-September [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/sivak-tovarooborot-belarusi-i-kyrgyzstana-za-ianvar-sentiabr-vvros-na-141-678763-2024/>

²²⁰ Belarus increases supplies of wood products to Kyrgyzstan [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-naraschivaet-postavki-produktsii-derevoobrotki-v-kyrgyzstan-664450-2024/>

²²¹ Sivak: Trade turnover between Belarus and Kyrgyzstan is growing, we plan to develop industrial cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/sivak-tovarooborot-mezhdu-belarusiju-i-kyrgyzstanom-rastet-planiruem-razvivat-i-promkoooperatsiju-584179-2023/>

equipment by OJSC "Mogilevliftmash" on Kyrgyz soil was noted. The degree of localization of production reached 25 percent in less than a year, with a production plan of 100 elevators.

At the same time, the parties identified significant untapped potential for cooperation in the industrial sector. In particular, Kyrgyzstan offered all the necessary conditions for the creation of joint cooperative industrial enterprises. Moreover, "mechanisms for special investment contracts of the Industry Development Fund, subsidiary support measures aimed at attracting private investment in industry, and an export support infrastructure have already been formed and implemented"²²². The foundation for any production is mineral and raw material reserves, and Kyrgyzstan has more than 100 raw materials, which allows for the opening of enterprises with a high level of localization of manufactured products. The country mainly has titanium, gold, copper, antimony, tin, and other minerals such as tungsten, silicon, uranium, and fuel and energy raw materials. There are prospects for organizing iron mining.

In addition, at the 11th meeting of the IPC, the possibility of organizing a textile cluster and implementing a project for the processing of leather and wool was announced. In this regard, a small remark should be made. "In 2022, Belarusian clothing exports to Kyrgyzstan reached a record \$5.1 million, which is 8.4 times higher than in 2021. The main sub-items supplied were women's and children's dresses made of machine- or hand-knit cotton, men's and children's trousers, overalls, shorts, and breeches made of cotton, and men's and children's shirts also made of cotton"²²³. For this reason, the Belarusian side will focus on these product categories when planning new export deliveries.

Returning to the 12th meeting of the JPC, we would like to emphasize that the Belarusian side also announced its proposals for the implementation

²²² Torobaev outlined what joint ventures Belarus and Kyrgyzstan could create [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/torobaev-oboznachil-kakie-sovmestnye-proizvodstva-mogli-by-sozdat-belarus-i-kyrgyzstan-584198-2023/>

²²³ Dresses, shirts, breeches – all made of cotton. What are the prospects for Belarusian clothing on the Kyrgyz market? [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/platija-rubashki-bridzhi-vse-iz-hlopka-kakie-perspektivy-u-belorusskoj-odezhdy-na-rynke-kyrgyzstana-640865-2024/>

of joint trade and economic projects and expressed its readiness to "increase supplies of agricultural, municipal, and other equipment, and develop industrial cooperation projects in other areas. There are good prospects for the creation of joint production of electrical products"²²⁴. To this end, within the framework of the JPC meeting, the banks of the two countries signed a basic agreement on the general conditions for the provision of export credits, which "provides for the creation of a universal financial infrastructure to support domestic exports"²²⁵. AMKODOR OJSC is already considering the possibility of implementing joint projects in Kyrgyzstan, including the creation of production facilities and service centers for AMKODOR equipment. "This step will strengthen industrial cooperation and expand opportunities for the development of economic ties between the countries"²²⁶

In addition, in 2025, Belarus and Kyrgyzstan also intend to intensify cooperation in the field of exchange trading by involving new items in mutual trade, expanding the circle of trading participants, and deepening inter-exchange cooperation. An important detail: in 2024, Kyrgyzstan expanded the range of goods traded on the exchange with Belarus. Thus, in June, the first transactions for the sale of dairy products to this Central Asian country were made on the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange (BUCX). Under the exchange contracts concluded, trial batches of Belarusian butter and skimmed milk powder, each weighing 20 tons, were delivered. These deals not only open up new export opportunities for Belarusian milk processing enterprises, but also confirm the interest of Kyrgyz business circles in more active work on the Belarusian commodity exchange market.

A characteristic feature of the development of cooperation between the two countries in the exchange sphere is the regular expansion of the range

²²⁴ Sivak: Belarus is ready to increase supplies of municipal and agricultural equipment to Kyrgyzstan [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/sivak-belarus-gotova-naraschivat-postavki-kommunalnoj-i-selhoztehniki-v-kyrgyzstan-678782-2024/>

²²⁵ Belarus and Kyrgyzstan sign agreement on export credits [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-kyrgyzstan-podpisali-soglashenie-ob-eksportnyh-kreditah-678790-2024/>

²²⁶ AMKODOR will consider the possibility of joint projects with Kyrgyzstan [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/amkodor-rassmotrit-vozmozhnost-sozdanija-sovmestnyh-proektov-s-kyrgyzstanom-666338-2024/>

of goods involved in mutual trade. "Initially, these were only supplies of sunflower seeds to Belarusian agricultural organizations, but over the past few years, a number of new items have appeared in the structure of exchange transactions"²²⁷. In particular, ferrous metal products manufactured in Kyrgyzstan began to be imported into Belarus through exchange trading, while Belarusian exporters began to successfully sell sawn timber, sugar, and now dairy products to Kyrgyz traders. And in October 2024, the first deal for the sale of textile raw materials by a Kyrgyzstan resident was concluded on the BUTB. "The counterparty to the transaction was one of the largest domestic light industry enterprises, and the subject of the purchase was coarse calico, an unprocessed cotton fabric"²²⁸.

In total, 30 Kyrgyz business entities are currently accredited on the exchange, five of which participated in exchange trading for the first time in 2024. "According to the results of the first 10 months of 2024, exchange trade turnover with Kyrgyzstan increased 2.4 times, to \$5.7 million. Almost 65% of this amount was provided by exports of Belarusian butter"²²⁹. At the 12th meeting of the IPC, it was decided to give additional impetus to the development of Belarusian-Kyrgyz stock exchange trading, including by 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 the BSE. In this regard, a preliminary agreement has been reached between the Belarusian and Kyrgyz stock exchanges to sign a cooperation agreement in 2025, which will form the basis for further joint work between the stock exchanges of the two countries.

All this suggests that the decisions of the 12th meeting of the Belarusian-Kyrgyz Intergovernmental Commission on Trade and Economic

²²⁷ Kyrgyzstan purchased its first batches of Belarusian dairy products at an auction [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/kvrgvzstan-zakupil-pervye-partii-belorusskoj-molochnoj-produktsii-na-birzhevyyh-torgah-641884-2024/>

²²⁸ Kyrgyzstan has expanded the range of goods traded on the exchange with Belarus [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/kvrgvzstan-rasshiril-tovarnuju-nomenklaturu-birzhevoj-torgovli-s-belarusiju-667300-2024/>

²²⁹ Belarus and Kyrgyzstan to strengthen exchange cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-kvrgvzstan-usiljat-birzhevoj-vektor-sotrudnichestva-678941-2024/>

Cooperation have shown that the parties have significant potential to achieve higher levels of cooperation in terms of both trade turnover growth and the implementation of significant initiatives in industrial cooperation and new infrastructure projects.

And in March 2025, Belarus and Kyrgyzstan signed a Roadmap for the Development of Cooperation for 2025-2027. This systematic document contains the most practical measures aimed at intensifying cooperation in the trade, economic, scientific, technical, and humanitarian spheres, and includes "77 measures, including the development of bilateral trade in goods and services, cooperation in the field of industrial cooperation, agriculture, pharmaceuticals and healthcare, food and light industry, and other areas"²³⁰. This plan is also intended to give additional impetus to the expansion of cooperation between Minsk and Bishkek. This is especially true given that the volume of mutual trade between the countries is growing. While in 2023, trade turnover between the countries amounted to more than \$160 million, an increase of almost 1% compared to 2022, "last year the figure grew by more than 15%, exceeding \$190 million"²³¹. At the 12th meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission, Belarus and Kyrgyzstan planned to increase the volume of mutual trade several times over, up to \$500 million. "This is the trade turnover we must achieve through joint efforts in the coming years"²³². The parties are currently implementing a number of successful joint projects.

In particular, a joint project in the field of elevator equipment is showing good development dynamics. Moreover, "given Kyrgyzstan's great need to replace and upgrade elevator equipment, this enterprise will have a

²³⁰ Belarus and Kyrgyzstan sign action plan for cooperation development for 2025-2027 [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-kyrgyzstan-podpisali-plan-meroprijatij-po-razvitiu-sotrudnichestva-na-2025-2027-godv-703746-2025/>

²³¹ Anatoly Sivak: Cooperation between Belarus and Kyrgyzstan is developing positively in all areas [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/11187>

²³² An ambitious figure of \$500 million. Belarus and Kyrgyzstan plan to increase trade turnover several times over [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/ambitsioznaja-tsifra-v-500-mln-belarus-i-kyrgyzstan-planirujut-kratno-udelichit-tovarooborot-701449-2025/>

larger order portfolio than it does now."²³³ . In March of this year, OJSC Mogilevliftmash completed the manufacture of the first batch of elevator equipment for a joint assembly plant in Kyrgyzstan. This equipment will soon be delivered to the production site of Kyrgyz Unaa Kurulush LLC in Osh. It should be recalled that an agreement on the launch of assembly production was reached in the summer of 2024 as part of the program to upgrade the elevator fleet in Bishkek. In September last year, the parties signed a general cooperation agreement, and in November they concluded a contract for the supply of 20 elevators worth more than \$200,000. "At the moment, a list of components and parts to be manufactured at the Kyrgyz partner's facilities is being agreed upon. The plan is to replace at least 100 elevators in residential buildings in Kyrgyzstan annually."²³⁴ We would like to add that since the beginning of 2025, the volume of Belarusian industrial goods exported to Kyrgyzstan has grown by 23 percent compared to the same period in 2024.

Another interesting and important topic of Belarusian-Kyrgyz cooperation is collaboration in the field of ecology, waste management, and recycling of secondary material resources. In August 2024, a waste processing complex was opened in the city of Karakol, Issyk-Kul region, which was built on a turnkey basis by a Belarusian company and cost 135 million soms from the republican budget. The plant is capable of processing 50-80 tons of solid household waste per day. The enterprise has created 22 jobs.²³⁵ . This will not only allow for compliance with high environmental standards, but also enable the production of valuable secondary material resources for the manufacture of new, in-demand products.

And there's more. In February 2024, speaking at the World Government Summit in Dubai, Kyrgyz President S. Zhaparov named three strategic directions for Kyrgyzstan's new economic policy: energy, mining,

²³³ From elevator manufacturing to waste processing. Golovchenko on successful joint projects in Kyrgyzstan [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/societv/view/ot-proizvodstva-liftov-do-musoropererabotki-golovchenko-ob-uspeshnyh-sovmestnyh-proektah-v-kyrgyzstane-692620-2025/>

²³⁴ Donis, I. Belarusian elevators will begin to be assembled in Osh – the first batch of equipment is ready for shipment / I. Donis // [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://economist.kg/novosti/2025/03/11/v-oshie-nachnut-sobirat-bielorusskie-liftv-piervaia-partiia-oborudovaniia-ghotova-k-otghruzkie/>

²³⁵ Waste sorting and asphalt concrete plants opened in Karakol [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://economist.kg/ekonomika/2024/08/30/v-karakolie-otkrvli-novvie-zavodv-dp-sortirovkie-musora-i-proizvodstvu-asfalta-2/>

and transport and transit industries – to make this Central Asian country a region "with an attractive investment climate, liberal foreign trade policy, and an open and trustworthy business environment"²³⁶ . Today, major strategic initiatives are being implemented there, including the construction of new hydroelectric power plants, two large railway projects, and the development of new deposits. More specifically, "in 2025, new hydroelectric power plants will begin operating in the Jalal-Abad, Osh, and Naryn regions. A textile factory will open in the Osh region, creating hundreds of jobs. In the Chui region, construction will begin on logistics centers for trade and export. Enterprises for the production of building materials will appear in the regions. A modern bus station and a renovated Osh market will open in Bishkek."²³⁷ . In total, 128 new enterprises are planned to be launched in Kyrgyzstan in 2025. Belarusian specialists with professional expertise in both the design and construction of such facilities, including engineering, supply of relevant equipment, and commissioning, are ready to provide any assistance in this matter if necessary. This is especially true given that the parties still have "untapped potential in trade, industrial cooperation, agriculture, and transport and logistics"²³⁸ .

Returning to the signed action plan for cooperation development for 2025-2027, Belarus and Kyrgyzstan agreed that in June this year, at the Belagro international exhibition in the Belarusian capital, the parties will hold a business forum for business circles of the two countries in order to "work out specific projects to fill the roadmap for cooperation until 2030"²³⁹ . And there is every reason for this document to become a concrete guide for the

²³⁶ The President of Kyrgyzstan outlined three areas of development for the country's economy [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://eurasiatoday.ru/prezident-kyrgyzstana-obo-znachil-tri-napravleniya-razvitiya-ekonomiki-strany/>

²³⁷ Sadyr Zhaparov: "Our ancestors saw a new beginning in Nowruz" [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://eurasiatoday.ru/sadyr-zhaparov-nashi-predki-videli-v-nooruze-novyi-etap-zhizni/>

²³⁸ Head of the Cabinet of Ministers of Kyrgyzstan: there is untapped potential in trade and industrial cooperation with Belarus [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/glava-kabmina-kyrgyzstana-v-torgovle-i-promkooperatsii-s-belarusiju-est-nerelizovannvi-potentsial-692631-2025/>

²³⁹ Sivak proposed holding a business forum between Belarus and Kyrgyzstan at the Belagro exhibition [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/sivak-predlozhit-provesti-biznes-forum-belarusi-i-kyrgyzstana-na-vystavke-belagro-703777-2025/>

development of bilateral Belarusian-Kyrgyz cooperation in the strategic perspective.

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Belarus – Tajikistan: growth dynamics and prospects in key areas

In September 2025, the 18th meeting of the Belarusian-Tajik Intergovernmental Commission (IGC) on trade and economic cooperation, which summarized the results of bilateral cooperation and discussed the prospects for partnership relations in key areas – the agro-industrial complex and food security, personnel training and the development of agricultural science, industrial cooperation, education, and interregional ties. Minsk and Dushanbe positively assessed the growth dynamics of trade turnover between the countries and noted significant potential for its expansion. Particular attention was paid to the diversification of supplies, increasing trade in agro-industrial products, and the prospects for "creating joint ventures and deepening industrial cooperation on the principles of mutual benefit. Such projects can become the basis for a sustainable economic partnership"²⁴⁰.

It should be recalled that at the 17th meeting of the IPC, held in June 2024 in Minsk, the prospects for trade, economic, and investment cooperation in the fields of transport and logistics, industrial cooperation, education, and medicine, as well as interregional partnerships, in order to take a new step in deepening trade and economic cooperation and to set a clear goal of improving joint Belarusian-Tajik production. At the same time, it was emphasized that "it is necessary to expand the production areas, the range of equipment manufactured, and the product range. The Tajik side is also interested in the assembly production of processing equipment, and motor transport and transport for housing and communal services will not be left aside"²⁴¹. In the same year, 2024, the level of trade between the two post-Soviet republics exceeded \$168 million. At the same time, the volume of trade in food products and agricultural raw materials increased by 1.5 times, and supplies from Belarus increased even more – by 1.6 times. Belarusian exports

²⁴⁰ Diversification of supplies, growth of trade turnover in the agro-industrial complex. Belarus and Tajikistan have identified prospects for cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/diversifikatsii-postavok-rost-tovarooborota-v-ank-belarus-i-tadzhikistan-opredelili-perspektivy-738086-2025/>

²⁴¹ Zaleski, B. Evolution of Belarus' partnership formats with friendly countries / Boris Zaleski. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2024. – P. 22.

to this Central Asian country consisted mainly of sugar, milk powder, chilled beef, canned meat, cattle, eggs, and meat and bone meal. Tajikistan mainly supplies Belarus with dried fruits, cotton yarn, fabric, and fiber.²⁴² . In January–July of this year, trade turnover between the two countries in the agro-industrial complex increased by 52 percent, and exports of Belarusian products increased by 54 percent. At the same time, supplies of meat and meat products from Belarus increased 7.2 times, and eggs 4 times. In addition, in the first half of 2025, "impressive contracts were signed for the supply of canned fish and chilled beef"²⁴³ .

At the 18th meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission, the parties identified mutual interests for further expansion of partnership ties. For example, Belarus is ready to increase supplies of food products, agricultural machinery, and breeding cattle. Belarusian producers also see potential in supplies from Tajikistan of fresh and canned fruits and vegetables, nuts, and fruit purees. Overall, at this meeting, Belarusian agro-industrial enterprises signed more than a dozen contracts totaling over \$16 million. Agreements and memoranda of cooperation were signed, opening up new prospects for long-term product supplies²⁴⁴ . The cooperation will cover not only trade, but also deep interaction in the scientific, educational, and industrial spheres. We are talking about joint projects in crop and livestock production, the exchange of experience in the field of veterinary medicine and breeding, and the training of specialists through the agricultural education system.

Let's take **production cooperation as an example**. Back in the summer of 2025, at a meeting of the prime ministers of the two countries in Dushanbe, it was noted that joint production is a key point for promoting the interests of both parties. So, "the creation of joint ventures both in Tajikistan and in Belarus is an important direction in which we need to move. This

²⁴² Trade turnover in agriculture between Belarus and Tajikistan grew by 34.8% in five months [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/tovarooborot-v-selskom-hozjajstve-mezhdu-belarusiju-i-tadzhikistanom-za-pjat-mesjatsev-vyros-na-348-729107-2025/>

²⁴³ Belarus and Tajikistan to develop cooperation in crop production and veterinary medicine [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/kooperatsiju-v-rastenievodstve-i-veterinarij-stanut-razvivat-belarus-i-tadzhikistan-718582-2025/>

²⁴⁴ Belarus and Tajikistan signed contracts worth more than \$16 million [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-tadzhikistan-podpisali-kontraktv-na-summu-bolee-16-mln-738238-2025/>

solves our common tasks"²⁴⁵ . A successful example of mutually beneficial cooperation is the Agrotechservice enterprise. This joint assembly plant in the Tajik city of Gissar was established in 2017. It assembles machines from the Minsk Tractor Plant, agricultural machinery from Gomselmash, and trailers from Bobruiskagromash. Currently, the production complex includes small and large assembly shops, a finished product warehouse, open and closed exhibition areas, and an administrative and training building where Tajik specialists are trained to service and operate Belarusian equipment. "In 2025, the assembly plant was allocated 1.5 hectares of land for expansion, and preparations are underway for the construction of new production facilities"²⁴⁶ .

Another interesting example of cooperation between the two countries is the Belarusian BKM Holding. The fact is that in Tajikistan , urban electric transport consists of trolleybuses and electric buses, which are operated in Dushanbe. "A total of 60 electric buses and about 105 trolleybuses are in service, 104 of which are manufactured by BKM. From April 2019 to January 2021, the holding company supplied 104 trolleybuses of the 32100D model of the "Syabar" series for the needs of Dushanbe"²⁴⁷ . At the international exhibition "Tajikistan-2025", which took place in November this year and where products were presented by more than 60 companies from Tajikistan, Belarus, Uzbekistan, Iran, India, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and China, BKM Holding's stand featured models of the 32100D Olgerd trolleybus, the E433 Vitovt electric bus, and the T811 tram. All this equipment can be supplied for the needs of Tajik settlements, as well as for the organization of joint production of electric buses in the territory and other countries in Central and South Asia.

²⁴⁵ Turchin: Joint ventures with Tajikistan are a starting point for promoting the interests of both countries [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/turchin-sovmestnye-proizvodstva-s-tadzhikistanom-opornaja-tochka-dlja-prodvizhenija-interesov-dvuh-718988-2025/>

²⁴⁶ "An example of mutually beneficial cooperation" Ministry of Industry on assembly production in Tajikistan [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/primer-vzaimovogdnogo-sotrudnichestva-minprom-o-sborochnom-proizvodstve-v-tadzhikistane-719085-2025/>

²⁴⁷ BKM Holding presented its equipment at an exhibition in Tajikistan [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/bkm-holding-prezentoval-tehniku-na-vstavke-v-tadzhikistane-748760-2025/>

Tajikistan sees broad prospects for cooperation with Belarus in **light industry**, namely in the textile sector, which is one of the priorities within the framework of the accelerated industrialization program of this Central Asian country. Here, "tasks have been set to create six cotton and textile clusters in the country, from the complete processing of cotton fiber to the production of finished products"²⁴⁸. In this regard, Tajik partners are interested in mutually beneficial cooperation to create these clusters, including through the acquisition of technological lines on a leasing basis or the use of other financial instruments. In addition, cooperation could be expanded in the processing of environmentally friendly agricultural products in the food industry.

Education occupies a special place in Tajik-Belarusian relations and has enormous potential for further growth. It should be noted that, thanks to joint exchange programs based on agreements between higher education institutions in the two countries, the number of students from Tajikistan already exceeds 500. "They study in such sought-after fields as engineering, technology, and medicine, and return to Tajikistan with modern knowledge, becoming valuable specialists"²⁴⁹. Incidentally, in November 2024, the 3rd International Forum of Rectors of Higher Education Institutions of Belarus and Tajikistan was held in Dushanbe, where joint educational programs, academic exchanges, and even the possibility of establishing branches of Belarusian universities in Tajikistan in order to take educational cooperation to a new level, increase the number of Tajik students in Belarus, and expand the range of joint educational programs. The forum was attended by the rectors of the Abuali ibn Sino Tajik State Medical University, the Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radioelectronics, the Tajik National University, the Belarusian National Technical University, the Technological

²⁴⁸ Rasulzoda: Tajikistan sees broad prospects for industrial cooperation with Belarus [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/rasulzoda-tadzhikistan-vidit-shirokie-perspektivy-v-promyshlennom-sotrudnichestve-s-belarusiju-740056-2025/>

²⁴⁹ Safarzoda, B. The cold of glaciers and the warmth of hearts. Tajikistan's ambassador on the prospects for friendship with Belarus and the priorities of the CIS chairmanship / B. Safarzoda // [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/interview/view/holod-lednikov-i-teplo-serdets-posol-tadzhikistana-gorizontah-druzhby-s-belarusiju-i-prioritetah-9510/>

University of Tajikistan, and the Brest State Technical University²⁵⁰, which signed 25 bilateral agreements between universities in the two countries. In particular, agreements were signed between the Tajik State University of Law, Business and Politics and the Brest State Technical University and the Belarusian-Russian University, between the Khujand State University named after Bobojon Gafurov and the Polotsk State University named after Euphrosyne of Polotsk. These agreements are aimed at supporting technical progress in both countries, training highly qualified specialists, conducting scientific research, and introducing scientific and technical achievements into production. "Within the framework of the agreements reached by the universities of Tajikistan and Belarus, it is planned to hold annual academic exchanges of students and teachers, organize scientific conferences, seminars, and round tables. These measures will allow for the development of educational and scientific projects, as well as contribute to strengthening ties between educational institutions"²⁵¹. The forum focused on expanding cooperation in education, science, and innovation, including projects in the green economy, digitalization, and teacher training.

In the same context, in February 2025, the Belarusian State University of Transport (BelsUT), the Belarusian and Tajik railways discussed the possibility of retraining specialists from Tajikistan "in railway transport specialties, as well as training workers in the professions of 'diesel locomotive engineer' 'Assistant diesel locomotive engineer'"²⁵² and organizing training courses or targeted courses for workers in other railway professions at the road center for training, retraining, and improving the qualifications of Belarusian railway personnel.

Finally, the decisions of the 18th meeting of the IPC noted the importance of developing **interregional cooperation** between the two

²⁵⁰ International forum of rectors of Belarusian and Tajik universities takes place in Dushanbe [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/mezhdunarodnyi-forum-rektorov-vuzov-belarusi-i-tadzhikistana-prohodit-v-dushanbe-678774-2024/>

²⁵¹ Forum of rectors of Tajikistan and Belarus: 25 cooperation agreements signed in Dushanbe [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://asia-today.news/29112024/5057/>

²⁵² Tajikistan is interested in training specialists at the Belarusian Railway Center [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/tadzhikistan-zainteresovan-v-podgotovke-spetsialistov-na-baze-tsentra-belorusskoj-zheleznodorogi-699159-2025/>

countries. In this regard, several Belarusian regions have been particularly active recently. Take **the Gomel region**, for example, whose trade turnover with Tajikistan has grown 5.5 times over the past five years. This indicates that the development of trade, economic, and investment cooperation with this Central Asian country is one of the priorities in the sphere of international cooperation for the Gomel region. The basis of mutual trade is represented by metal and woodworking products, food products, and agricultural machinery. Back in 2017, this Belarusian region signed an agreement on trade, economic, scientific, technical, cultural, and humanitarian cooperation with **the Khatlon region**. And in October 2024, the leaders of the two partner regions signed a roadmap for 2025-2026 to implement this agreement in order to increase mutual supplies of high-quality goods and implement joint projects. At the same time, the Gomel region concluded agreements with Tajik partners for a total amount of six million dollars. In particular, the issue of joint assembly of the main part of the combine harvester at Gomselmash and final assembly at Agrotechservice in Tajikistan was discussed. "And a contract has been signed for 40 units for 2025"²⁵³. The documents were also signed by Milkvita and Rogachevsky MKK. At the same time, new promising areas of cooperation were adopted. "These include the supply of food, furniture, woodworking products, agricultural machinery, and the design of dairy complexes."²⁵⁴. Tajikistan also wants to open a trading house in Gomel and supply it with dried fruits, early vegetables, cotton, and other products.

The Minsk region also has interesting areas of cooperation with Tajik partners. In particular, in May 2025, the Belarusian capital region signed an action plan for cooperation for 2025-2026 with **the Sughd region**, which ranks first in the country in terms of the number of industrial enterprises. "Thanks to its advantageous geographical location, the region is the northern trade gateway of Tajikistan. Favorable conditions have been created here to attract investment, and enterprises with foreign partners are regularly

²⁵³ Gomel Region signs \$6 million contracts with partners from Tajikistan [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/dogovory-na-6-mln-podpisala-gomelskaja-oblast-s-partnerami-iz-tadzhikistana-669667-2024/>

²⁵⁴ Trade turnover between the Gomel region and Tajikistan has grown 5.5 times over the past five years [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/tovarooborot-gomelskoi-oblasti-s-tadzhikistanom-vvros-v-55-raza-za-poslednie-piat-let-668993-2024/>

appearing²⁵⁵. The signed plan is aimed precisely at strengthening cooperation between the regions. Moreover, trade turnover between the Minsk and Sughd regions increased by 1.5 times in 2024 and by another 40% in the first five months of 2025. Minsk supplies its Tajik partners with sugar, beef, poultry, canned goods, and wood products, and in turn purchases dried fruits, nuts, and yarn. Thus, the prospects for regional partnerships between the two countries are on a growth trajectory and will only increase.

Returning to the 18th meeting of the Belarusian-Tajik Intergovernmental Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation, we would like to note once again that ten agreements on joint production and supply of products to the Tajik market were signed in Dushanbe. Among these documents are agreements between OJSC Slutsk Sugar Refinery and CJSC Obi Zulol, as well as between the state-owned Livestock Association Belplemzhivobedinenie and LLC Boboi Sharifbek on the supply of Belarusian breeding livestock to Tajikistan. A similar document was also signed between OJSC Slonim Meat Processing Plant and the unitary state enterprise for the production, purchase, storage, and sale of essential food products in Dushanbe²⁵⁶. Commercial contracts were agreed between OJSC Pruzhansky Milk Plant and LLC Lokhur Tijorat on the supply of dry milk and whey, as well as between OJSC Gluboksky Milk Canning Plant and the Agency for the Provision of Special Property under the Government of Tajikistan. All this indicates that cooperation between Minsk and Dushanbe goes beyond trade and now includes joint initiatives in various areas.

And finally, back in 2022, the leaders of the two countries signed a Roadmap for Bilateral Cooperation for 2022-2026, which identified the priority areas for this cooperation: "economy, transport, agriculture, light

²⁵⁵ Minsk and Sughd regions of Tajikistan signed an action plan for 2025-2026 [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/special/society/view/minskaja-i-sogdij-skaja-oblast-tadzhikistana-podpisali-plan-meropriyatij-na-2025-2026-gody-717348-2025/>

²⁵⁶ Tajikistan and Belarus signed 10 agreements on industrial cooperation and product supplies [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://www.asiaplusti.info/ru/news/tajikistan/economic/20250920/tadzhikistan-i-belarus-podpisali-10-soglashenii-o-promishlennoi-kooperatsii-i-postavkah-produktsii>

industry, and food industry²⁵⁷ . Today, we can see how this program document has already become the basis for a sustainable Belarusian-Tajik economic partnership, contributing to the development of these priority sectors in both countries.

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²⁵⁷ Relations between the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Belarus [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://mfa.tj/ru/main/view/136/otmosheniva-tadzhikistana-s-belarusi>

Belarus – China: University rectors' forum as a joint 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 on the creation of a Chinese-Belarusian association of universities, which included more than 80 universities in Belarus and China. At that time, there were more than 560 direct university agreements between the two countries. A plan for the implementation of flagship projects between universities was being prepared for signing. In July 2023, this plan had 35 items, and now there are more than 70. They are constantly being added and expanded. This fact indicates that the new association is truly a new qualitative level of Belarusian-Chinese relations in the field of education and scientific research. After all, the parties are ultimately moving towards "the creation of joint associations of universities with high-tech enterprises in our countries, which will commission scientific research, experimental design work, and the commercialization of our university scientists for the economy"²⁵⁸.

Speaking in general terms about humanitarian cooperation between Belarus and China, this association has already become a hallmark in areas such as inter-university cooperation, joint training of specialists, and joint scientific research. In addition, "such an association is of great importance for training even more Sinologists and Belarusologists who are well versed in the languages of our two countries and who understand Chinese and Belarusian culture"²⁵⁹ and opens up many opportunities for further development of cooperation between Belarus and China in the field of education. Many Belarusian universities that promote joint educational structures with Chinese partners are among the active members of the new association. In particular, at that time, seven joint projects were already in operation: three laboratories,

²⁵⁸ Belarus and China signed an agreement on the creation of a university association [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-kitaj-podpisali-soglashenie-o-sozdanii-assotsiatsii-universitetov-600861-2023/>

²⁵⁹ Se Xiaoyun: Chinese-Belarusian university association will become a hallmark of humanitarian cooperation between the two countries [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/se-siaojun-kitajsko-beloruskaja-assotsiatsija-vuzov-stanet-vizitnoi-kartochkoi-gumanitarnogo-600900-2023/>

two centers, and two institutes. Forty 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"²⁶⁰. In this context, we would like to highlight three Belarusian universities: Belarusian State University (BSU), Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno (GSU), and Brest State Technical University (BSTU).

Let's start with BSU: as of November 2023, "more than 80 cooperation agreements had been signed with 55 Chinese educational institutions, and 72% of the total number of foreign students at BSU are Chinese citizens"²⁶¹. Since 2007, Dalian Polytechnic University (DPU) has been a strategic partner of the Belarusian university. The most significant project in recent years has been the opening of joint DPU-BSU and BSU-DPU institutes. In June 2023, the parties considered the prospects of holding mirror summer schools at the two universities and opening a new specialization in "Photonics" at DPU-BSU in the 2024/2025 academic year.

In April 2023, Xi'an International Studies University became a new partner of BSU in China. 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"²⁶². The Chinese university began operating in 1952 as the Northwest College of Russian Language, one of the first institutions to teach foreign languages. It now comprises 23 faculties and educational institutes, with about 20,000 students, master's and doctoral students from 37 countries, teaching 20 foreign languages, including Belarusian.

In November 2023, BSU signed two more new documents with Chinese partners. First, it is a memorandum of understanding with Sichuan

²⁶⁰ Zaleski, B. Hope for a positive future. The dynamics of partnership relations in conditions of economic realism / Boris Zaleski. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2023. – P. 103.

²⁶¹ "Photonics" and summer schools. BSU and Dalian Polytechnic University develop cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/fotonika-i-letnie-shkoly-bgu-i-dalianskij-politehnicheskij-universitet-razvivajut-sotrudnichestvo-571808-2023/>

²⁶² BSU and Xi'an International Studies University sign memorandum of understanding [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/bgu-i-sianskij-universitet-inostranmyh-jazykov-podpisali-memorandum-o-vzaimoponimani-563650-2023/>

University of Foreign Languages, which provides for prospects for cooperation in the field of regional studies, linguistics, and Belarusian studies. After all, this Chinese university has had a Center for Belarusian Studies since 2019. Second, it is an agreement on student exchange with the Chinese University of Political Science and Law, which develops "partnership within the framework of the memorandum of understanding between the universities, effective since March 2023, and concerns the training of Chinese university graduates in legal specialties in the master's program at BSU, and the provision of grant support for the implementation of academic mobility programs"²⁶³. At the same time, the issue of the Chinese university joining the activities of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Research Center, created by BSU together with Qingdao University, was also considered.

Cooperation with China in the field of education is one of the strategic areas of international cooperation for another Belarusian university, Grodno State University, which signed its first agreement with Chinese partners back in 2001 with the South-Central University of Economics and Law. Today, the Grodno university has 14 partners from different provinces of China. Cooperation covers a wide range of areas: joint educational programs, academic exchanges, and joint research projects. , in October 2023, Grodno State University signed an international cooperation agreement with Shijiazhuang Engineering Vocational College, which provides for 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 and the development of online learning. It remains only to add that over the past five years, more than 500 Chinese citizens have received bachelor's and master's degrees at GSU, and two postgraduate students from China have successfully defended their doctoral dissertations. Today, more than 100 students from the PRC are studying at Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno."²⁶⁴. And one more thing. GSU is the first of the Belarusian regional

²⁶³ BSU expands partnership ties with China, two new agreements signed [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/bgu-rasshirjaet-partnerskie-svjazi-s-kitaem-podpisany-dva-novyh-soglashenija-598631-2023/>

²⁶⁴ GSU and Shijiazhuang Engineering College agree on cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/grgu-i->

universities to offer Chinese language courses with a three-year training program. Over the past five years, more than 600 people have completed the training.

As for Brest State Technical University, in November 2023, it signed a cooperation agreement with Anhui Wenda Institute of Information Engineering. This university, located in the Chinese city of Hefei, became the 15th Chinese educational institution to sign a cooperation agreement with BrSTU. The partners have outlined initial priorities for beneficial cooperation. In particular, graduates of the Chinese institute will be able to continue their studies in the master's program at Brest University. In addition, Belarusian and Chinese teachers will conduct joint research and develop teaching materials. A more distant prospect is the creation of joint educational programs. It should be noted that BrSTU has already signed 170 cooperation agreements with universities in 35 countries in Europe, Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Cooperation with China 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 Vocational Institute. Last year, a pilot program for training mechanical engineers was launched with Xinxing University"²⁶⁵. The Hebei Institute of International Business and Economics plans to create a joint program with BrSTU to train students in the field of e-business. In addition, the Brest university has undertaken scientific work in the field of information technology, which is funded by the Belarusian Republican Fund for Fundamental Research and the National Natural Science Foundation of China. All these facts show that the creation of the Chinese-Belarusian University Association has become an important step in the development of inter-university cooperation and serves the interests of the economies of both countries and the development of the peoples of 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 university leaders

[shitszjachzhuanskij-inzhenernyi-kolledzh-dogovorilis-o-sotrudnichestve-595101-2023/](https://www.belta.by/amp/regions/view/brestskij-tehnicheskij-universitet-budet-sotrudnicat-s-institutom-kitajskoj-provintsii-anhoi-602188-2023/)

²⁶⁵ Brest Technical University will cooperate with an institute in Anhui Province, China [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/amp/regions/view/brestskij-tehnicheskij-universitet-budet-sotrudnicat-s-institutom-kitajskoj-provintsii-anhoi-602188-2023>

from both countries, including 18 rectors of Chinese universities. They discussed the prospects for inter-university cooperation, primarily inter-university ties. This includes not only training personnel in innovative specialties, but also a wide range of scientific and technical cooperation and youth exchanges.

For reference, there are currently more than 700 bilateral agreements between universities in Belarus and China. More than 200 of these agreements have been signed in the last two years alone. Currently, 40 joint higher education programs are being implemented, 12 of which were launched in the current academic year. Another 20 joint educational programs are currently being developed, including programs for training personnel with higher scientific qualifications²⁶⁶. In addition, 13 joint educational and scientific structures are already operating on the basis of higher education institutions in the two countries: six laboratories, five biological centers, and two institutes.

Speaking about the second Forum of Rectors of Belarusian and Chinese Universities, we would like to note that the discussion of topical issues in the field of promising scientific research and the introduction of innovative teaching methods for training competitive and professional specialists in the context of current globalization took place within the framework of two sections: "Innovative models of cooperation between Chinese and Belarusian universities" and "Sino-Belarusian cooperation in the field of fundamental sciences." Eight documents were also signed at the forum, which "provide for assistance in organizing the exchange of scientific information and students, work on joint educational and research projects, as well as information about training programs, scientific and educational events..."²⁶⁷. These include agreements on academic and scientific cooperation between the Belarusian State Medical University and Peking University, on cooperation between Minsk State Linguistic University and

²⁶⁶ International Innovative Youth Forum to 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/>

²⁶⁷ Eight documents on cooperation between Belarusian and Chinese universities signed at the Rectors' Forum [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/vosem-dokumentov-o-sotrudnichestve-mezhdru-vuzami-belarusi-i-kitajia-podpisano-na-forume-rectorov-643857-2024/>

Shanghai International Studies University; memoranda of understanding between Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radioelectronics and Chongqing University of Technology, Belarusian State Technological University and Liaoning University, Belarusian State Economic University and Zhejiang University of Foreign Languages.

New opportunities for cooperation have also been achieved between Belarusian State University (BSU) and Peking University (PKU). Incidentally, this Chinese university was founded in 1898 and is a leader among universities in China. It ranks 12th in the world according to the QS international ranking. "Peking University's structure includes faculties of natural sciences, information and engineering, humanities, social sciences, economics and management, as well as the Center for Medical Sciences, Interdisciplinary Divisions, and Shenzhen Graduate School"²⁶⁸. In 2019, a memorandum of understanding was signed between BSU and PKU, and in May 2022, an agreement on cooperation on a joint educational program was signed.

As for BSU, it has already implemented 112 contracts and agreements with 73 Chinese partners – universities and research centers. Currently, more than 3,500 students, master's and doctoral students from China are studying at BSU. This is about 70 percent of all foreign students at BSU. Over the past year and a half, the Belarusian university has done a lot to strengthen its partnership ties with China. Here are a few interesting examples. First, in 2023, the Faculty of International Relations at BSU opened the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Research Center, a platform for conducting research in the fields of international activities, history, law, trade, economics, and culture. Second, in November last year, as part 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 Scientific and Research Cooperation (iUNRC). Third, a joint training program in biotechnology is being successfully implemented with PKU.

²⁶⁸ Interuniversity holiday established in Belarusian and Chinese universities [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/mezhuniversitetskij-prazdnik-uchrezhden-v-beloruskom-i-kitajskom-vuzah-643681-2024/>

Fourthly, in March 2024, BSU signed an agreement with the Hainan Center for International Education Excellence on the implementation of the Belarusian-Chinese project "Institute of Innovative Education" under the auspices of BSU in Sanya. It is planned to use this institute to train citizens of countries neighbouring China and states participating in the Belt and Road Initiative. "This is a unique ecosystem that involves not only training students and preparing specialists, but also developing business initiatives within the framework of Belarusian-Chinese economic and industrial relations through the creation of high-tech products,"²⁶⁹. This initiative has already received support from 14 leading Chinese universities. The new project will develop in several directions: the development of teaching and methodological documentation, the preparation of Chinese citizens for admission to BSU, career guidance events, and the organization of joint teaching of Russian as a foreign language and English using information and communication technologies. At the same time, BSU signed a memorandum of international cooperation with Sanya Yachou Bei Science and Technology City Development and Construction Co. This agreement was one of the first in the implementation of the "Institute of Innovative Education" project under the auspices of BSU and provides for scientific and scientific-technical cooperation between the parties in modern areas, including space.

Fifth, in March of this year, BSU expanded its cooperation with China in the field of language training for students by signing two agreements with the Second Beijing Foreign Language Institute. The first regulates the launch of joint educational programs, the implementation of joint research and educational projects, the exchange of information and teaching materials, the organization of conferences, seminars, workshops, courses, and the preparation of joint publications. The second agreement provides for academic exchanges of students, master's and doctoral candidates. It is clear that these agreements will contribute to the development of partnerships in the field of education and science, as well as deepening and expanding existing cooperation. This is especially true given that Beijing Second

²⁶⁹ 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/>

Foreign Studies University has extensive potential for international cooperation. Suffice it to say that this university offers "14 faculties with 48 bachelor's degree programs. It also has master's and postgraduate programs and 15 research institutes"²⁷⁰. So, BSU came to the 2nd Forum of Rectors of Belarusian and Chinese Universities fully prepared to develop new multi-format ties with Chinese partners.

And at this forum, BSU and PKU established a joint initiative – "Days of Friendship and Unity," which will be celebrated annually on June 25 and 26 and "will demonstrate effective and reliable cooperation in various areas, including the involvement of students and teachers in various scientific, educational, and cultural exchange processes."²⁷¹. 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 in Belarus and China put forward an initiative to create a Belarusian-Chinese Center for Fundamental Research, which is a fundamentally new step in 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 innovation development, based on the in-depth development of industrial transformation, development, and artificial intelligence technology, requires the implementation of specific measures to strengthen scientific and technical cooperation between Belarus and China. In this regard, the Forum of Rectors of the two countries is becoming an effective platform for multilateral and bilateral interaction, directing efforts towards the further development of joint Belarusian-Chinese platforms for creating innovative developments and searching for new opportunities to increase the effectiveness of educational and scientific and technical approaches.

²⁷⁰ BSU to expand cooperation with China in language training for students [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/bgu-rasshirit-sotrudnichestvo-s-kitaem-v-jazykovo-podgotovke-studentov-622894-2024/>

²⁷¹ Forum of rectors of leading universities of Belarus and China begins work in Minsk [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/rukovoditelej-bolee-40-vuzov-belarusi-i-kitaj-a-obiedinil-forum-rectorov-veduschih-universitetov-643761-2024/>

Belarus – China: from in-depth plans – to project implementation

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

Among the participants in this interregional cooperation, **the Minsk region** and **the city of Chongqing** are particularly noteworthy. This city is one of the four largest Chinese cities under central government control, with a population of over 30 million. The in-depth plan includes projects such as "the production of reagents and equipment for diagnostics, unmanned aerial vehicles, car seats, traditional Chinese medicine preparations, industrial robot assembly, and integrated logistics"²⁷².

It should be recalled that the capital region of Belarus signed a cooperation agreement with this Chinese city back in 2002. In March 2017, the regions established sister city relations. In June last year, at the Great Stone Sino-Belarusian Industrial Park, during the opening of an exhibition of Chinese goods and services, where a thematic exhibition of the Chongqing Export Goods Exhibition Pavilion was held and where "more than 20 city enterprises displayed their engineering products, including cars, motorcycles, and accessories"²⁷³, covering an area of about 300 square meters, the parties reached an agreement to intensify cooperation in various fields.

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 promising area is the creation of a joint venture for the production of electric vehicles with any degree of

²⁷² From trade and investment to science and cinema. Belarus and China sign a significant package of cooperation documents [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/ot-torgovli-i-investitsij-do-nauki-i-kino-belarus-i-kitaj-podpisali-vesomvi-paket-dokumentov-o-656104-2024>

²⁷³ Zaleski, B. Potential for implementation of agreements reached / Boris Zaleski. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2023. – P. 36.

localization."²⁷⁴ . Moreover, Chongqing's powerful industrial base in the field of mechanical engineering is of interest to Belarusian enterprises in the context of modernizing production using modern Chinese technologies, creating new joint car assembly plants, and importing components and auto parts. "The parties identified cooperation in the field of healthcare development as an equally promising area, including the creation of a research center and production facilities in the field of traditional Chinese medicine at the Great Stone Industrial Park"²⁷⁵ , as well as cooperation at the level of medical institutions.

The development of sister city 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 Western China International Trade and Investment Fair;
- 2) Chongqing Sister Cities Economic Cooperation Forum;
- 3) Belarus-Chongqing Business Forum.

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

Speaking of the Chongqing Sister Cities Economic Cooperation Forum, it should be noted that it was attended by representatives of 48 cities from 31 countries with which this Chinese city has established sister city relations. The motto of this year's forum was "Deepening Regional Cooperation and Promoting Common Development." Participants discussed

²⁷⁴ From medicine to economics and sister city relations. Minsk Region and Chongqing sign a roadmap for cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/ot-meditsiny-do-ekonomiki-i-pobratimskih-svjazej-minskajja-oblast-i-chuntsin-podpisali-dorozhnuju-kartu-581301-2023/>

²⁷⁵ Brantskevich announced positive dynamics in trade and economic cooperation between Belarus and Chongqing [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://belta.by/special/economics/view/brantsevich-zaiavila-o-pozitivnoj-dinamike-v-torgovo-ekonomicheskom-sotrudnicestve-belarusi-i-581186-2023/>

investment opportunities and new areas of economic and technological interregional cooperation, as well as green policies.

Finally, at the Belarus-Chongqing Business Forum, "13 cooperation agreements and commercial contracts were signed for the supply of meat and dairy products, confectionery products worth a total of about \$31 million"²⁷⁶, and mutual projects on investment cooperation in the fields of robotics, auto components, and medical equipment were outlined.

To be more specific about these investment projects, we can mention, for example, Chongqing Qiteng Robot, a company that manufactures wheeled and suspended inspection robots, machines for working in extreme conditions – at high temperatures, in toxic and flammable environments, and in underground mining. It was founded in 2010 by students of Chongqing University of Engineering and is now a leader in emergency safety in China. Today, the company is ready to invest in opening its own subsidiary in Belarus in Veliki Kamen with local assembly and the creation of an electronic data storage server for specific projects. The company is also ready to establish joint production with a Belarusian partner.²⁷⁷

Another example is Chengju Chenghua Seating, a company that manufactures car seats. This Chinese factory "is considering establishing a joint production facility in Belarus to meet the requirements of our country [Belarus]"²⁷⁸. It is possible that this manufacturer will enter into cooperation with the BELJI factory. In May 2024, in Chongqing, the Belarusian side familiarized itself with medical equipment from another Chinese manufacturer, Zybio, which "specializes in the research and development of reagents and equipment for laboratory diagnostics, immunoassay and

²⁷⁶ 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-produksii-na-summu-okolo-31-mln-637082-2024/>

²⁷⁷ A robot manufacturing plant may appear in Veliki Kamen [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/v-velikom-kamme-mozhet-pojavitsia-predpriatie-po-proizvodstvu-robotov-636330-2024/>

²⁷⁸ Turchin familiarized himself 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/>

molecular diagnostics, hematology, and microbiology"²⁷⁹. As a result, the Minsk region will send specialists to Chongqing to thoroughly study Zybio's technology and its operation in hospital settings. If the results are positive, new Chinese medical equipment will appear in hospitals in 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, at the end of the first half of 2023, the volume of trade turnover between the parties exceeded \$1.25 billion. "The Minsk region exports poultry meat, dairy products, frozen beef, wood products, and flax fiber to China <...>. China imports automatic data processing machines and their components, auto parts, telephone sets, and television receivers from "²⁸⁰. With the advent of the new plan, interregional cooperation between the Minsk region and Chongqing will soon be filled with new concrete projects to develop industrial cooperation and attract high-tech expertise for the implementation of investment projects at enterprises in the Minsk region, establishing direct interaction with Chinese partners.

This summer, the Minsk region took a new step in cooperation with another Chinese region, **Guangdong Province**, by signing a roadmap for cooperation, which marks a new period in relations between the two regions. The parties, which have been working closely together for more than ten years, believe that "the signing of the roadmap is an important signal for business in our two countries"²⁸¹. After all, today it is necessary to look for new points of contact. In particular, in the fields of agriculture, automotive manufacturing, and medicine.

For example, interesting projects in this regard may be implemented in the Belarusian capital region with the Chinese agricultural holding

²⁷⁹ Medical professionals from the Minsk region are scheduled to be sent to Chongqing to study new equipment [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/medikov-minskoj-oblasti-planirujut-napravit-v-chuntsin-dlja-izuchenija-novogo-oborudovanija-636079-2024/>

²⁸⁰ Minsk Region and Chongqing, China, to define a roadmap for cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/minskaja-oblasti-kitajskij-chuntsin-opredeljat-dorozhnuju-kartu-sotrudnichestva-580980-2023/>

²⁸¹ Turchin and the governor of China's Guangdong province sign roadmap [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/turchin-i-gubernator-kitajskoj-provintsii-guandun-podpisali-dorozhnuju-kartu-651136-2024/>

Guangdong Agribusiness Group Corporation, which is engaged in large-scale trade and the production of rubber and sugar cane. The holding's enterprises also specialize in meat and dairy farming, grain cultivation, and oil production. "The corporation includes a vocational college where students are trained in construction specialties and technologies. The agricultural holding also has 38 hospitals that serve, among others, the company's employees"²⁸². So all these areas may become promising in terms of cooperation with Belarusian partners.

Among the possible partners for Minsk enterprises from Guangdong Province are the GAC Aion electric car factory and Guangzhou Baiyunshan Zhongyi Pharmaceutical Co. In the first case, production is carried out on a full cycle and includes research and development, as well as product sales and after-sales service. In the second case, this manufacturer produces medicines to improve vision, diabetes drugs, and 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 these negotiations will be followed by concrete actions in the near future.

The People's Republic of China is a strategic partner of another Belarusian region, **Mogilev**, with which cooperation continues to deepen thanks to systematic work, reaching a new level of interaction. Suffice it to say that over the past ten years, exports of goods from this Belarusian region to the PRC have grown 18-fold. "The main items exported from the Mogilev region to China remain beef and poultry, dairy products, wood products, technical carbon, flax, chocolate, various types of water, and strong alcoholic beverages"²⁸³. In addition, three enterprises in the Mogilev region currently have permission to supply products to China: the open joint-stock companies Babushkina Krynka, Mogilev Meat Processing Plant, and Bobruisk Meat

²⁸² From electric cars to endocrine raw materials: a delegation from the Minsk region visits Guangdong province [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/ot-elektrokarov-do-endokrimogogo-syrja-delegatsija-minskoi-oblasti-poseschaet-provintsiju-guandun-651244-2024/>

²⁸³ Exports of goods from the Mogilev region to China have grown 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-desiat-let-vyros-v-18-raz-575841-2023>

Processing Plant. The basis of Chinese imports this year is acrylic polymers, complex synthetic threads, glue and adhesives, molds and pallets for metal casting, electrical transformers, household electrical appliances, and passenger cars. "In January-April 2024, 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. Exports of services in January-April 2024 amounted to \$867,500 (a growth rate of over 193%). Education services accounted for the bulk of exports, with a share of almost 81%."²⁸⁴

At the interregional level, the eastern region of Belarus is currently actively cooperating with such Chinese provinces as Henan, Jiangsu, Hunan, Shaanxi, and the city of Tianjin. In addition, more than ten international agreements have been signed between cities and districts of the Mogilev region and regions of China. In 2019, **Tianjin**, one of the four cities under central government jurisdiction, became Mogilev Region's youngest partner in China. It is a major port hub in northern China with established communications and transport links to more than 500 ports in other countries. The city has a comprehensive production chain in many industries and extensive educational and scientific resources, with more than 50 universities.

In March 2023, the parties signed an Action Plan for Cooperation Development for 2023-2025. And in May last year, Tianjin hosted Mogilev Region Week. At that time, more than 20 enterprises from the Mogilev region demonstrated their export potential by participating in the "Tianjin – Gateway to China" forum. As a result of these negotiations, agreements were reached on the supply of dairy and meat products, commercial offers were received for the export of Belarusian sawn timber, and contacts were established for further cooperation on the import of goods from China to retail chains in the Mogilev region. At the same time, documents were signed on cooperation between Mogilev and the new Binhai district of Tianjin, the Mogilev SEZ and the TEDA economic zone, the Mogilev branch of the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the Tianjin Council for the Promotion of

²⁸⁴ A platform for the implementation of joint projects: Belarusian-Chinese business forum held in Mogilev [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/ploschadka-dlja-vyhoda-na-realizatsiju-obschih-proektov-belorussko-kitajskij-biznes-forum-proshel-v-643622-2024/>

International Trade. Agreements were also reached on the creation of a joint dry milk processing plant in Tianjin²⁸⁵.

A little over a year later, in June 2024, a reciprocal event took place – Tianjin City Week in the Mogilev Region, which included:

- 1) an exhibition of Chinese products from organizations in Tianjin;
- 2) a regional Belarusian-Chinese business forum entitled "Mogilev Region and Tianjin: 5 Years of Cooperation";
- 3) Mogilev-Tianjin Forum on Cooperation in Education.

In addition, the parties signed a roadmap for the development of cooperation between Mogilev and the new Binhai District 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 P.V. Maslennikov Mogilev Regional Art Museum.²⁸⁶

During these events, the parties outlined their proposals for joint cooperation in various sectors. For example, the Mogilev 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. In terms of livestock farming, Chinese partners could create new meat processing complexes in the Mogilev region for the subsequent processing of beef and supply to the Chinese market. "The second area is minerals: [the Mogilev] region is rich in deposits of peat, sapropel, and trepel, the use of which in combination with mineral and organic fertilizers is an effective means of stimulating plant growth and increasing crop yields"²⁸⁷. This natural mineral supplement is used to enrich the diet of cattle to compensate for the lack of macro- and microelements in

²⁸⁵ 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/>

²⁸⁶ Business forum, exhibitions, and competitions. Tianjin City Week kicks off in the Mogilev region [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/biznes-forum-vvstavki-i-sovnovnaniia-nedelja-goroda-tjantszin-startuet-v-mogilevskoj-oblasti-643224-2024/>

²⁸⁷ "Finding ways to interact." Tianjin City Week is being held in Mogilev [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/naiti-puti-vzaimodeistvija-v-mogileve-prohodit-nedelja-goroda-tjantszin-643563-2024/>

feed. Given this potential, the people of Mogilev 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 (BUTB) will assist enterprises of both sides in organizing interregional trade in industrial and agricultural goods. "To this end, it is planned to use the relevant elements of the BUTB electronic ecosystem, which will allow Belarusian and Chinese companies, taking into account the specifics of their sales and procurement policies, to conclude deals either during classic session trading or using the exchange's B2B platform, which operates on the principle of a marketplace with an integrated exchange mechanism"²⁸⁸. At the same time, based on the profile of 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 in the Bohai economic zone. The Belarusian market will be supplied with polymer packaging materials, diesel generators, industrial paints, sheet metal, veterinary drugs, and other products in demand in the country's industrial and agricultural sectors. Judging by all appearances, 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, trade turnover between this southeastern Belarusian region and China has grown almost fourfold. "Exports to China are based on wood pulp, timber, meat, dairy, and confectionery products. Transport, education, and tourism services are also developing. At the end of last year [2023], 44 enterprises in the Gomel region supplied their products to China"²⁸⁹. There are good prospects for further cooperation in industrial production, transport and logistics, and agriculture.

²⁸⁸ BUTB will help simplify trade between the Mogilev region and Tianjin, China [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-pomozhet-uprostit-torgovlju-mezhdu-mogilevskoj-oblastiju-i-kitajskim-tjantszinem-643724-2024/>

²⁸⁹ Over five years, trade turnover between the Gomel region and China has grown fourfold [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/za-pjat-let-tovarooborot-gomelskoj-oblasti-s-kitaem-vvros-v-chetvire-raza-640488-2024/>

For example, twenty enterprises in the Gomel region are already accredited to supply food products to the Chinese market, "including nine milk processing enterprises, seven meat processing enterprises, and four food industry enterprises."²⁹⁰ . They are ready to increase supplies of beef, poultry meat and by-products, whole milk products, condensed milk and cream, and dry milk whey.

In addition, Gomel enterprises are ready to supply China with sawn timber and finished wood products. Other areas of cooperation are also opening up. In particular, these include complex mineral fertilizers, as well as other projects for possible joint implementation. Among them are a logistics hub based at Gomel Airport, the production of plywood furniture and other products based at Gomeldrevo, and the creation of new production facilities in the Gomel-Raton Free Economic Zone (FEZ). , there is an interesting example in the FEZ: the unitary enterprise Alcopack, which manufactures medical products and has been cooperating with Chinese manufacturers of equipment, spare parts, and technological equipment for more than 20 years. Currently, 80-90% of thermoplastic injection molding machines are manufactured in China. <...> The number of contacts, orders, and equipment purchased is increasing. Friendly ties have been established with Chinese manufacturing companies."²⁹¹ . So, the time has come for the first residents from China to appear in the FEZ, for whom attractive conditions have already been created.

The southeastern region of Belarus is actively building 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 here and have already gained a lot"²⁹² . Gomel

²⁹⁰ Twenty enterprises in the Gomel region are accredited to supply food products to China [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/akkreditsiju-na-postavki-piscevoj-produktsii-v-kitaj-imejut-20-predpriyatij-gomelskoj-oblasti-640508-2024/>

²⁹¹ Se Xiaoyun: Attractive conditions for residents have been created in the Gomel-Raton SEZ [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/se-sjaojun-v-sez-gomel-ration-sozdany-privlekatelnye-uslovija-dlja-rezidentov-640651-2024/>

²⁹² Trade, education, tourism. Se Xiao Yun on the potential for cooperation between the Gomel region and 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/>

State University named after F. Skorina (GSU) cooperates with 17 Chinese universities. In addition, a Confucius Institute has been established and is successfully operating at GSU, and joint educational programs are being implemented. Overall, "332 students from China are currently studying at Gomel State University. An experimental project has been launched in which students from the PRC are taught in English in four specialties"²⁹³.

As for Gomel Region's cooperation with specific partners from China, as of early 2024, it has "signed bilateral cooperation agreements with four Chinese regions: the autonomous regions of Inner Mongolia (2011) and Xinjiang Uygur (2016), Sichuan (2015) and Jiangsu (2016) provinces"²⁹⁴, as well as ten agreements at the city level.

In June 2024, another new partner for the southeastern region of Belarus emerged – **Hebei Province**. During the visit of the official delegation of the Gomel region to this province, contracts, memoranda, and agreements were signed with Chinese partners, including an action and exchange plan for 2024-2025 between the region and the province. The Belarusian side, interested in developing this cooperation, 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 the field of agriculture"²⁹⁵. In turn, the Chinese region is interested in cooperating in the fields of mechanical engineering, logistics, and the supply of raw materials for traditional Chinese medicine, as well as purchasing agricultural products, chemical fertilizers, and meat and dairy products from Gomel.

As part of the Lanfang International Trade and Economic Fair, which took place in June in Hebei Province, a number of enterprises from the Gomel

²⁹³ Se Xiaoyun 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-siaojun-o-sotrudnichestve-belarusi-i-knr-v-obrazovanii-eto-intellektualnaja-baza-dlia-vseh-sfer-640698-2024/>

²⁹⁴ Zaleski, B. Belarus – China: new opportunities. Strategic cooperation in the era of exemplary partnership relations / Boris Zaleski. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2023. – P. 12.

²⁹⁵ 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-promproekty-apk-krupko-o-sotrudnichestve-gomelskoj-oblasti-i-provintsii-hebei-641393-2024/>

region were represented at the Belarusian stand. As a result of meetings and negotiations at this forum in Lanfang, domestic exporters – Komintern, Gomel Chemical Plant, and Rogachev Milk Canning Plant (MCC) – added to their portfolios of deals. In particular, Rogachevsky MCC 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 with Komintern – for 14.7 million yuan²⁹⁶. In addition, at the headquarters of Great Wall Haval, a factory producing Haval brand cars, the possibility of assembling these cars at the Gomel-Raton SEZ was discussed.

Continuing the theme of the participation of representatives of the Gomel region in exhibitions in China, we would like to remind you that in November 2023, at the 6th China International Import Expo in Shanghai, during the Gomel Region Day, documents were signed for export deliveries worth \$85 million. In addition, an agreement on cooperation in attracting investments was signed between the Gomel-Raton FEZ and the Sichuan Association for Economic and Trade Cooperation "One Belt, One Road," as well as a document of intent to establish sister city relations between the Zhlobin District of the Gomel Region and the city of Baotou in the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region²⁹⁷.

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

²⁹⁶ Gomel enterprises signed new contracts and agreements with Chinese partners [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/gomelskie-predpriatija-podpisali-novye-dogovory-i-soglasheniya-s-kitajskimi-partnerami-641709-2024/>

²⁹⁷ Documents worth \$85 million were signed by representatives of the Gomel region at an import exhibition in Shanghai [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/dokumenty-na-85-mln-podpisali-predstaviteli-gomelskoi-oblasti-na-vvstavke-importa-v-shanhae-598283-2023/>

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Belarus – China: Cooperation in science, technology, and innovation reaches a new level

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

The plan contains 89 measures, which will be implemented by 140 organizations – 59 Belarusian and 81 Chinese. These include leading scientific centers of the two countries, industry ministries and their subordinate organizations, and 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 and Chinese corporations Huawei Technologies, ZTE, and PhotonSpeak on software development, expansion of cooperation in the field of information and communication technologies, including the application of 5G/6G technologies. On the Belarusian side, the High-Tech Park, the Great Stone Industrial Park, and the companies Beltelecom and Promsvyaz will be involved in this work. In addition, in August 2024, a memorandum of understanding on strategic cooperation in the field of information and communication technologies was signed by the Ministry of Communications and Informatization of Belarus and the Ministry of Industry and Informatization of China, which "provides for the promotion of cooperation in digital transformation, cloud technologies, artificial

intelligence, digital medicine, and ICT training"²⁹⁸. Cooperation is also planned in the development of smart cities, the creation of joint high-tech production facilities, and 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 PRC, plans to create a joint platform for the implementation of Chinese-Belarusian industrial cooperation to search for partners, transfer technologies, and develop cooperation with Chinese companies on the supply of technological equipment. It should be recalled 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"²⁹⁹ to develop industrial cooperation, including through joint production in Belarus and China, attracting high-tech expertise 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 manufacturing enterprises, from the Gomel Machine Tool Plant to Krasny Borets in Orsha, is already involved in the implementation of joint industrial development projects with China"³⁰⁰. The decisions taken will also enable the textile industry to be reformatted, as viscose, together with flax and chemical fibers, will create a fabric for Belarusians that will become the foundation of the country's textile and clothing industry.

²⁹⁸ 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-vzaimoponimanii-v-oblasti-ikt-656109-2024/>

²⁹⁹ Ministries of Industry of Belarus and China: cooperation plan may be updated, detailed, and expanded [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/minpromv-belarusi-i-kitaja-plan-podtrudnichestvu-mozhet-bvt-aktualizirovan-detalizirovan-i-rasshiren-644949-2024/>

³⁰⁰ Machines, cellulose, cars. What landmark projects are Belarus and China implementing [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/stanki-tselliuloza-avtomobil-kakie-znakovye-proekty-realizuiut-belarusi-i-kitaj-671355-2024/>

In general, "15 new strategic investment projects worth up to three billion dollars are being actively developed with Chinese partners"³⁰¹. Among the most important are: the third stage of the Belarusian National Biotechnology Corporation's grain deep processing project, the construction of factories for the production of sulfate bleached pulp and wood chipboard, the organization of modern automated casting, the production of engines, polypropylene, carbide, sodium chlorate, hydrogen peroxide, and soda ash.

As for existing Belarusian enterprises, for example, the Minsk Tractor Plant (MTZ) is interested in establishing joint ventures in China. In September 2024, a roadmap was signed for the development of a 350-horsepower tractor with a permanent magnet electric drive. MTZ is ready to implement this project with the Chinese-Belarusian High-Tech Aerospace Research and Development Center. Another joint venture may also be established in China for the assembly of BELARUS crawler tractors.³⁰² In addition, the Belarusian company will purchase equipment worth more than 840 million Belarusian rubles in China to modernize the melting system for the first foundry shop and an automatic continuous sandblasting chamber with rotary tables. "The MTZ 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 enterprise has received eight CNC machines [from China]"³⁰³.

Other machine-building enterprises in the republic are also open to production cooperation with Chinese companies. In particular, for the organization of "joint production of engines for trucks and passenger cars in Belarus"³⁰⁴. In this regard, mutually beneficial options for cooperation with

³⁰¹ Snoopkov: Strategic projects with China worth \$3 billion are designed for the medium term [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/snoopkov-strategicheskie-proektv-s-kitaem-na-3-mlrd-rasschitany-na-srednesrochnuju-perspektivu-655954-2024/>

³⁰² MTZ is interested in establishing joint ventures in China [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/mtz-zainteresovan-v-sozdanii-sovmestnyh-proizvodstv-v-kitae-662915-2024/>

³⁰³ MTZ to purchase more than 30 pieces of equipment from China [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/mtz-zakupit-bolee-30-edinit-oborudovaniia-iz-kitaia-662946-2024/>

³⁰⁴ Naumovich: Belarusian machine-building enterprises are open to cooperation with Chinese companies [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/naumovich-beloruskie-predpriatija-mashinostroeniia-otkryty-k-kooperatsii-s-kitajskimi-kompanijami-665797-2024/>

Guangxi Yuchai Machinery Group Co., Ltd are already being worked out in order to launch a strategic bilateral project involving deep localization.

Another interesting example is OJSC Belshina, which, together with the Belarusian State Technological University (BSTU), is strengthening its partnership with leading Chinese tire companies and scientific organizations in that 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 processing equipment in China with a global supply network. 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 elastomeric compounds for tires and rubber products. The idea 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 extra-large tires with the aim of effective import substitution. By signing the memorandum, the parties plan to implement joint projects related to "improving the mileage of all-steel cord super-large radial tires with a diameter of 57 inches, using original technologies and equipment from a leading Chinese manufacturer"³⁰⁵. It is expected that thanks to the memorandum, the parties will reach a new level of cooperation. Taking into account the prospective participation in projects of Qingdao University of Science and Technology and Belarusian State Technological University, emphasis will also be placed 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 Chinese Center for Technology Transfer of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Member States, whose activities are supervised by the Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China"³⁰⁶

³⁰⁵ 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-kitajskimi-shinnymi-kompanijami-627709-2024/>

³⁰⁶ The Years of Cooperation between Belarus and China in Science, Technology, and Innovation have begun [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL:

. This will contribute to both attracting advanced foreign technologies to Belarus and commercializing the results 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 cooperate in the exchange of innovations and technologies. The Belneftekhim concern, together with the Oil and Gas Resources Research Center of the China Geological Survey, will cooperate in the exchange of 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 a focus on investment, technology, and the development of traditional and innovative Chinese medicine. "Today, the park has 134 residents from 13 countries with investments totaling \$1.5 billion. More than half of the residents are companies with Chinese capital,"³⁰⁷. In 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 industrial park issues was held, at which the priority areas for further growth of the "Big Stone" were identified. Among the main prospects is attracting new residents from China with their advanced experience and anchor projects that will be able to gather partners around them. The second area is the continued construction of the Great Stone infrastructure to prepare sites for new production facilities. This is especially important given that "construction of the first phase of the central part of the park's infrastructure is about to begin, as well as the creation of a multimodal railway terminal"³⁰⁸. Thirdly, it is the 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 on the way.

<https://belta.by/society/view/dan-start-godam-sotrudnichestva-belarusi-i-knr-v-oblasti-nauki-tehnologij-i-innovatsij-656188-2024/>

³⁰⁷ Roman Golovchenko: Amid global instability, Belarus and China continue to build mutually beneficial cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <http://pda.government.gov.by/ru/content/10994>

³⁰⁸ Chebotar: "Great Stone" is one of the key priorities for the development of Belarusian-Chinese cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/chebotar-velikij-kamen-odin-iz-kljuchevvyh-prioritetov-razvitija-belorussko-kitajskogo-sotrudnichestva-649217-2024/>

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 PRC will hold a competition for flagship scientific and technical projects. To this end, "20 projects for joint implementation in 2024-2026 in the fields of ICT, biotechnology and medicine, mechanical engineering, new materials" have been approved³⁰⁹. Based on the results of this competition, it is planned to select three large-scale joint projects, which should result in the creation of advanced technologies and the establishment 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 products will be manufactured for entry into the Belarusian, Chinese, and possibly third markets"³¹⁰.

In line with this theme, a branch of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus (NAS) will be established 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 fields of education, scientific research, and the implementation of achievements. "The main areas of cooperation within the branch are aerospace technology and space sciences, materials science and composite materials, optics and optoelectronics, the production of high-tech equipment and advanced devices, microelectronics and digital intelligence, biotechnology and pharmacology"³¹¹. In this regard, cooperation mechanisms will be provided for, such as the exchange of highly qualified Chinese and Belarusian experts, the organization of training for highly qualified research staff, joint training of master's and doctoral students, the organization of internships and training, the initiation of joint research and development by the parties' organizations,

³⁰⁹ Belarus and China have 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/>

³¹⁰ Belarus and China will establish legal entities for the production of products based on joint developments [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-kitaj-budut-sozdavat-iurlicsa-dlja-proizvodstva-produktsii-na-osnove-sovmestnyh-razrabotok-656197-2024/>

³¹¹ A branch of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus will be established in China [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/filial-nan-belarusi-sozhdadut-v-kitae-656108-2024/>

promoting the mutual introduction of technologies and achievements, and creating joint laboratories within the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative. To this end, in August this year, a framework agreement on strategic cooperation was signed between the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the State Administration of Foreign Experts Affairs of the People's Republic of China, which aims to attract experts 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: space utilization and research, new energy sources and advanced energy, optoelectronics and high-tech equipment, smart manufacturing, new materials, digitalization, and artificial intelligence.

All these documents and the launch of several new industrial projects indicate that the parties see the combination of Belarusian expertise and Chinese technologies as a key element in building a joint future. It is clear that "the implementation of a comprehensive strategy for joint industrial development and the preparation of detailed plans for the alignment of industrial policy <...> will fill the new status of relations between the two countries – an all-weather and comprehensive strategic partnership – with concrete practical content"³¹². For this reason, cooperation with China will allow Belarus to implement ambitious plans for modernization and technical re-equipment.

Returning to the results of the official visit to Belarus by Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China Li Qiang, we note that, in addition to documents revealing the potential for the development and deepening of industrial cooperation, scientific, technical, and innovative interaction, agreements, memoranda and plans in other areas. For example, there is an intergovernmental agreement on trade in services and investment, which provides for the creation of a free trade zone for services between the two countries, as well as a transparent, liberal and favourable investment regime to attract investment. The Belarusian Ministry of Economy and the Chinese National Development and Reform Commission also signed a

³¹² 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>

"practice-oriented cooperation plan to strengthen the alignment of the Belt and Road Initiative and the National Strategy for Sustainable Socio-Economic Development of Belarus. The document contains about 60 measures and projects to be implemented between the competent authorities of the two countries..."³¹³.

As for the Belarusian-Chinese regional dimension, "in-depth plans for the joint development of Chinese provinces and Belarusian regions" were signed in Minsk.³¹⁴ 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 preparations, and assembly of industrial robots. Second, between the Mogilev region and Shaanxi province, where the main areas of development in trade, economics, investment, education, and culture have been identified. In this context, seven more similar in-depth plans for the joint development of Belarusian and Chinese regions were also supported.

Thus, Belarus and China, continuing to build mutually beneficial cooperation, have defined further specific tasks, plans, and promising areas in August 2024, demonstrating the exemplary nature of an all-weather and comprehensive strategic partnership in a new era, despite the general instability in the global economy.

³¹³ BNBK and "Great Stone": Belarus and China agree on new major investment projects [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/bnbk-i-velikij-kamen-belarus-i-kitaj-dogovorilis-o-novvkh-krupnykh-investproektah-656105-2024/>

³¹⁴ Zaleski, B. Dynamics of a successful partnership. Internal and external reserves for the steady growth of the Belarusian economy / Boris Zaleski. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2024. – C/ 43.

Belarus – China: a project that confidently looks to the future

In 2024, the Great Stone China-Belarus Industrial Park ensured growth in all key performance indicators of its residents, including exports of goods (by almost 14 percent), production volumes (by 1.2 times), and investments in fixed capital (by more than seven percent). By 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 15,500 jobs. More than 50 organizations have started their economic activities and are beginning to reach full capacity.³¹⁵ . Last year, about thirty new companies with capital from Belarus, China, Israel, Russia, and Germany received resident status. They are implementing projects in the fields of integrated logistics, research and development, instrument engineering, medicine, biotechnology, and big data storage and processing. Let's get to know some of them.

Several residents were already registered in the park in January last year. First, **the Chinese company Bel-Jinghe Medical Technologies LLC**, which "will implement a project for the production of biomedical materials and conduct scientific research"³¹⁶ . Second, **the Belarusian LLC Servercom**, which will design, manufacture, and install server equipment and data storage systems. Third, **the LLC Eurasian Biotechnology Company** 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 countries of North Africa, the Middle East, and Latin America. In the long term, the company plans to significantly expand its product range thanks to scientific research and development carried out by its own research center"³¹⁷ .

³¹⁵ 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-zaregistririvali-30-novyh-rezidentov-697242-2025/>

³¹⁶ New resident of Veliki Kamen to manufacture medical products [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/novyi-rezident-velikogo-kamnja-budet-proizvodit-meditinskiju-produktsiju-610123-2024/>

³¹⁷ New resident of Veliki Kamen to implement biotechnology project [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/novyi-rezident-velikogo-kamnja-budet-realizovyvat-proekt-v-sfere-biotehnologii-610997-2024/>

In February 2024, two new residents and innovative entities were registered in the Great Stone. First, **the Belarusian LLC LeanGroupAlutub** will create import-substituting production of aluminum tubes for the pharmaceutical, cosmetic, and other industries. Second, **the Chinese company BatteryFly Engineering LLC**, which "plans to develop highly efficient equipment and charging station management systems, including a software package"³¹⁸. Thirdly, the innovative entity **Dilaytek LLC** from Belarus intends to create programmable lighting installations and manage such projects.

Last spring, five new residents from Belarus registered in the industrial park. First, there is **Digna-NTR LLC**. This company will produce metal-ceramic housings for integrated circuits, which "ensure the safety and convenience of their installation. The products are intended for the domestic market and will also be exported to EAEU countries"³¹⁹. Secondly, there is **Zavod Gerknon LLC**, which "plans to implement a project for the production of automotive electrical and electronic systems."³²⁰. These products will be in demand by the country's leading machine-building companies, namely the Minsk and Belarusian automobile plants and the Minsk tractor plant. Thirdly, there is **Investment Financing CJSC**, which is creating "a modern production facility for the manufacture of composite materials for high-tech industrial sectors, in particular aircraft construction"³²¹, which is intended both for the Belarusian market and for supplies to the countries of the Eurasian Economic Union. Fourthly, there is **VostokTechno Group LLC**. "The company is organizing the production of

³¹⁸ "Great Stone" has registered two new residents and an innovation entity [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/special/economics/view/velikij-kamen-zaregistroval-dvuh-novyh-rezidentov-i-subiekt-innovatsionnoj-dejatelnosti-613444-2024/>

³¹⁹ New resident of "Big Stone" to implement project in the field of electronics [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/novvi-rezident-velikogo-kammia-budet-realizovyvat-proekt-v-sfere-elektroniki-619654-2024/>

³²⁰ Since the beginning of its operations, Veliki Kamen has paid more than \$120 million in taxes to the budget [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/velikij-kamen-s-nachala-dejatelnosti-uplatil-v-bjuzhet-bolee-120-mln-nalogov-619525-2024/>

³²¹ New resident of "Big Stone" will produce composite materials [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://industrialpark.by/novosti/2024/novvi-rezident-parka-budet-vypuskat-produkcivu-iz-kompozitnyh-materialov/>

video endoscopic systems in the park. It plans to release such modifications as video gastroscopes, video colonoscopes, and video bronchoscopes³²², which are import-substituting in nature. Fifth, there is a new entity engaged in innovative activities, **Gvadis Group LLC**, which will implement an innovative project for the development, design, and creation of metal heat treatment equipment for industrial systems.

The summer of 2024 was marked by an influx of new residents to the industrial park. In particular, **Micrologistic LLC** intends to build a 13,000 square meter warehouse complex 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 range of logistics services.³²³ **Transport Aviation Logistics** will also create a modern transport and logistics center in Veliki Kamen with a total area of 10,000 square meters for cargo handling by Minsk National Airport. The park's new resident, **Doctor Med LLC**, which specializes in the production of medical products, will create a center for equipping medical institutions of various profiles. "The production process will use 3D modeling technologies with the application of proprietary technological developments, as well as environmentally friendly materials."³²⁴ The industrial park's collection of innovative entities has been expanded with the addition of **Plag Carbon LLC**, which "has been accepted for incubation at the innovation center with a project related to biotechnology and developments in the field of artificial intelligence for the implementation of climate projects."³²⁵ Finally, in August, a heating equipment manufacturing plant was opened in Veliki Kamen. "The investment project

³²² A new resident and innovation entity has appeared in Veliki Kamen [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/novve-rezident-i-subiekt-innovatsionnoi-deyatelnosti-pojavilis-v-velikom-kamne-637930-2024/>

³²³ A new resident of Veliki Kamen is implementing a project in the field of integrated logistics [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/novyi-rezident-velikogo-kamnia-realizuet-proekt-v-sfere-kompleksnoi-logistiki-641593-2024/>

³²⁴ New resident of Veliki Kamen to engage in the production of copper products [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/novyi-rezident-velikogo-kamnia-zajmetsja-vvpuskom-produktsii-mednaznachenija-646420-2024/>

³²⁵ New resident and innovative entity appear in Veliki Kamen [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/novve-rezident-i-subiekt-innovatsionnoi-deyatelnosti-pojavilis-v-velikom-kamne-646714-2024/>

was implemented by a resident of the park with Chinese capital, **SAS Industrial LLC**. The total area of the facility is 12,200 square meters³²⁶. In addition, the Chinese company **Bel Yanling Technology LLC** 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 release heavy and explosion-proof industrial robots."³²⁷

At the beginning of autumn last year, three more residents from Belarus registered in Veliki Kamen. **Strategic Technologies LLC**, located in the innovation center for the 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 all types of vehicles"³²⁸. Another **LLC**, "**Haprotech**," a manufacturer of thermal paper in Belarus, has launched import-substituting production. The production capacity will be about 600 tons of thermal paper per month. The product can be used to manufacture thermal tape for cash registers, terminals, ATMs, and thermal labels. "The products will be supplied both to the domestic market and abroad, mainly to the EAEU countries,"³²⁹, as 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 products manufactured meet the highest international standards. The third resident of the park, registered in September 2024, is **GammaComponent LLC**, which will create a modern production complex for the manufacture of automotive components from composite materials, including parts for special civilian equipment. "The second area is

³²⁶ A heating equipment manufacturing plant has opened in Veliki Kamen [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/v-velikom-kamne-otkryli-zavod-po-proizvodstvu-otopitelnogo-oborudovanija-656417-2024/>

³²⁷ New resident of Veliki Kamen to create a center for integrated solutions for industrial robotics [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/novyi-rezident-velikogo-kamnja-sozdast-tsentr-integrirrovannyh-reshenij-dlja-promyshlennoj-robototehniki-657837-2024/>

³²⁸ New resident of "Big Stone" will produce night vision equipment [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/novyi-rezident-velikogo-kamnja-budet-proizvodit-oborudovanie-nochnogo-videnija-660454-2024/>

³²⁹ New import substitution production facility opens in Veliki Kamen [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/v-velikom-kamne-otkryto-novoe-importozameshajuschee-proizvodstvo-664698-2024/>

the production of metal products and structures for trucks. The products are intended for the domestic market and will also be exported³³⁰. The project involves the introduction of innovative solutions, such as 3D printing for prototyping and small-batch production of complex parts, which will reduce production times and improve product quality.

It should be noted that over the first three quarters of last year, the residents of the industrial park achieved positive dynamics in key financial and economic indicators. "Based on the results of the first nine months of 2024, investments in fixed capital increased 1.5 times, revenues from product sales increased 1.4 times, production volumes increased 1.3 times, net foreign direct investment increased 1.2 times, and exports of goods and employee salaries increased 1.1 times. A record 19-fold increase in net profit was achieved."³³¹. By that time, more than 50 residents had already started their economic activities in the Great Stone territory. 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 fields of integrated logistics, instrument engineering, medicine, biotechnology, and big data storage and processing.

In the fourth quarter of 2024, about ten more residents were registered in Great Stone. In November, there were four. **The company People and Numbers** has a project to organize innovative production of dental scanners and medical furniture. "The startup project, implemented by the new innovative entity **Deviar AI LLC**, involves the development and implementation of agents (online assistants using artificial intelligence and neural networks) for the purpose of optimizing the organization's business processes"³³². The idea behind the new startup project by **Vitaem** is to create

³³⁰ New resident of Veliki Kamen implements investment project in the field of mechanical engineering [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/special/economics/view/novvi-rezident-velikogo-kamnja-realizuet-investitsionnyi-proekt-v-sfere-mashinostroenija-664958-2024/>

³³¹ Ministry of Economy: the efficiency of residents of the "Great Stone" is steadily growing [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/minekonomiki-effektivnost-rabotv-rezidentov-velikogo-kamnja-stabilno-rastet-676502-2024/>

³³² A new resident and two innovative entities have been registered in the Great Stone [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/special/economics/view/v-velikom-kamne-zaregistririvanv-novvi-rezident-i-dva-subjekta-innovatsionnoj-deiatelnosti-677811-2024/>

an interactive booking and management system for guests and owners of tourist facilities using artificial intelligence. And LLC "**HortSystems**" plans to organize the production of modular heating and cooling units and direct-flow air conversion equipment in the park. "The production process uses innovative developments that allow products to be manufactured in a shorter time and reduce their cost. Areas of application include housing and communal services, industrial and manufacturing facilities, and other facilities."³³³ . The products will be supplied for export as well as to the domestic market.

In December, seven new residents appeared. In particular, **ZAO Sanitary Defense** will implement a project for the production of active pharmaceutical ingredients, medical products, and new-generation disinfectants. **The KN-Logistics** project involves the construction of a multi-temperature warehouse with an administrative and amenity complex. **Innovative Technological Solutions** will produce endoprostheses and orthopedic devices. "The new resident of the park, **Bel Sinhui Scientific and Technical Company for Auxiliary Means**, will create a research and production center for intelligent prostheses, **while Eurasian Commercial, Trade, Cultural, Tourism, and Health Industrial Corporation LLC** will open an innovative Eurasian health center for traditional Chinese medicine in Veliki Kamen,"³³⁴ . On the eve of 2025, it became known that **the company "CNC Corporation"** will implement a project in the field of mechanical engineering in the industrial park – to produce "high-precision metal-cutting machine tools that meet modern standards, with the integration of advanced technologies for control and automation. 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"³³⁵ .

³³³ New resident of "Big Stone" will produce industrial climate control equipment [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/novvi-rezident-velikogo-kamnia-budet-proizvodit-promyshlennoe-klimaticheskoe-oborudovanie-678919-2024/>

³³⁴ Medicine, pharmaceuticals, logistics: five new residents registered in Veliki Kamen [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/meditsina-farmatsevtika-logistika-v-velikom-kamne-zaregistrirovany-piat-novvih-rezidentov-680725-2024/>

³³⁵ New residents of Veliki Kamen are implementing projects in the fields of mechanical engineering and medicine [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL:

Biochim Medtech will open a high-tech production facility in Veliki Kamen for special filters for hemodialysis or bicarbonate cartridges for dialysis. 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. First, **the investment project of StanOk CNC** is related to mechanical engineering. The company will produce numerically controlled equipment for the manufacturing industry³³⁶. **NICET**, a Swiss-owned **company**, will conduct research and development in the field of energy. It will create high-tech energy storage solutions that can be used in electric transport, conduct research on graphene production, and develop intelligent energy consumption management systems.

In March, three new residents appeared in Veliki Kamen. One of them is **Alsinor LLC**, which will establish a high-tech production facility for aluminum industrial cooling radiators based on plate and bar technology. This innovative technology "consists of a multilayer system of alternating plates, which ensures high heat transfer efficiency, compactness, and mechanical strength of the product"³³⁷. The company's products will be intended for use in construction, agriculture, energy, and the oil and gas sector and will be supplied primarily to the markets of the Eurasian Economic Union countries, 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 are distinguished from their counterparts by higher engine power and greater load capacity"³³⁸. The products will be

<https://belta.by/economics/view/novve-rezidenty-velikogo-kamnja-realizuiut-proektv-v-sfere-mashinostroenija-i-meditsiny-686162-2024/>

³³⁶ Mechanical engineering and developments in the energy sector. What will the new residents of "Big Stone" be doing [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/mashinostroenie-i-razrabotki-v-energetike-cto-budut-delat-novve-rezidenty-velikogo-kamnja-692642-2025/>

³³⁷ New resident of Veliki Kamen to create high-tech aluminum radiator production facility [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/amp/economics/view/novvi-rezident-velikogo-kamnja-sozdast-vysokotekhnologichnoe-proizvodstvo-aluminievyh-radiatorov-703870-2025/>

³³⁸ New resident of "Big Stone" implements project in the field of mechanical engineering [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/novvi-rezident-velikogo-kamnja-realizuet-proektv-sfere-mashinostroenija-704576-2025/>

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 facility for medical consumables. "The products will be manufactured using advanced technologies and automated quality control processes. Modern polymer materials that meet international standards will be used in production."³³⁹ . This investment project is import-substituting in nature, as these products will be intended for the market of Belarus and other post-Soviet countries.

In April, a new resident of the park was registered – **the Belarusian company Ingribel LLC**, which will produce complex food additives and "introduce 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 new recipes to be developed and tested, while automated control systems will increase production efficiency."³⁴⁰ Renewable energy sources will be used in the operation of the new enterprise. The new resident's products will be intended for the Belarusian market as well as for export.

As of early April 2025, the industrial park already had about 150 residents, which can be divided into four clusters. The machine-building cluster includes about 30 manufacturers producing, among other things, truck cranes, excavators, loaders, gearboxes, diesel engines, machine tools, with a tendency towards the production of auto components for light vehicle manufacturing. The electronics cluster includes manufacturers of server and computer equipment, as well as monitors, all-in-one computers, and plastic products. The logistics cluster includes "a distribution center for a large marketplace, which will be the largest in Belarus. The second largest is a 53,000 square meter warehouse complex owned by China Merchants Group, as well as a customs warehouse, two hotels, and an exhibition center"³⁴¹ .

³³⁹ First resident with Turkish capital registered in Veliki Kamen [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/pervyj-rezident-s-turetskim-kapitalom-zaregistirovan-v-velikom-kamne-704373-2025/>

³⁴⁰ New resident of Veliki Kamen to introduce innovative technologies for the production of food additives [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/novyi-rezident-velikogo-kamnja-vnedrit-innovatsionnye-tehnologii-proizvodstva-pishevnyh-dobavok-707627-2025/>

³⁴¹ Koroteev, K. From the forest to a mini-city. What achievements does Veliki Kamen have to show for its 10th anniversary / K. Koroteev // [Electronic resource].

The medical cluster, which already includes more than twenty manufacturers of medical products, equipment, and medicines, deserves special mention. The Belarusian side is interested in the participation of Chinese businesses in the development of this cluster, as "Belarus is the only country in the region where the conditions for the development of traditional Chinese medicine are enshrined in law."³⁴² . Today, every effort is being made to deepen Belarusian-Chinese cooperation in joint technological development, the active creation of production facilities in medicine, pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, and 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. More specifically, the medical cluster already "produces breathing circuits and catheters, and one of the residents has built a factory for the production of medical devices and equipment for operating rooms. In addition, a Belarusian-Russian company has launched its production of test systems for analyzing and identifying blood glucose levels"³⁴³ . 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 realized. This will significantly increase the availability of Chinese technologies for the Belarusian healthcare system and create new jobs..."³⁴⁴ .

– 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/interview/view/iz-lesa-v-mini-gorod-s-kakimi-dostizhenijami-velikij-kamen-vstrechaet-10-letie-9581/>

³⁴² Belarus is interested in Chinese businesses participating in the development of the medical cluster in 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>

³⁴³ Production and provision of services: how the medical cluster is developing in Veliki Kamen [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/proizvodstvo-i-okazanie-uslug-kak-v-velikom-kamne-razvivaetsia-meditsinskij-klaster-662559-2024/>

³⁴⁴ You can learn about China's latest achievements in medical technology at an exhibition in Great Stone [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/poznakomitsia-s-poslednimi-dostizhenijami-kitajja-v-sfere-medtehnologii-mozhno-na-vystavke-v-velikom-663544-2024/>

Let's sum up. This year, the Great Stone Industrial Park celebrates its tenth anniversary. During this time, 85 buildings and structures have been built, 20 facilities are under construction, and 49 are still being designed. Last year, the second stage of development of this territory began, with the aim of increasing the number of people working there from 3,500 to 11,000 by 2030. This indicates that "Great Stone, as an international industrial and logistics cluster with a focus on investment, technology, and the development of traditional and innovative Chinese medicine"³⁴⁵, which is profitable in every sense, is looking confidently to the future in order to continue developing this Chinese-Belarusian project in all areas.

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³⁴⁵ Zaleski, B. Belarusian-Chinese partnership in the context of an unstable global economy / Boris Zaleski. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2024. – P. 53–54.

Belarus – Vietnam: The commission's decisions help increase cooperation

Belarus and Vietnam have maintained diplomatic relations for more than thirty years, based on traditional values of friendship, trust, and mutual understanding, which are developing in a constructive manner. During this time, Vietnam has become one of our republic's key partners in Southeast Asia, being one of the fastest-growing economies among Asian countries. Suffice it to say that in 2024, Vietnam's GDP growth was 7.09%, reaching \$476.3 billion. GDP per capita is estimated at \$4,700, which is \$377 more than in 2023. Total import and export turnover of goods reached \$786.29 billion (an increase of 15.4%)³⁴⁶. It should also be noted that over the past few years, Minsk and Hanoi have done a lot to establish closer and more active interaction in order to take trade, economic, scientific, technical, and educational partnerships to a new level of cooperation. In this regard, it is important to highlight the activities of **the Belarusian-Vietnamese Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation (JCC)**, which coordinates the efforts of the parties on the most pressing issues of bilateral cooperation.

In March 2022, the 15th meeting of the JCC was held in the format of a videoconference, during which specific areas of further cooperation for 2022-2023 were agreed upon **in** virtually all areas of partnership, **including science and technology**, where many interesting results have been achieved over the past nearly 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 Economics University in Hanoi conducted a study which showed that "Vietnamese scientific and technical organizations and enterprises are most interested in

³⁴⁶ Nghi, N.V. Tet holiday customs and visa-free travel with Belarus. The Vietnamese ambassador spoke about the traditions and friendship between the two countries / N.V. Nghi // [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/interview/view/obychai-prazdnika-tet-i-bezviz-s-belarusiju-posol-vietnama-rasskazal-o-traditsijah-i-druzhbe-dvuh-stran-9564/>

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"³⁴⁷ .

The fact that Belarus attaches great importance to cooperation with this Southeast Asian country in the field of science and technology is evidenced by the fact that the scientific and technical section of the Belarusian exhibition at **the 31st Vietnam Expo**, held in Hanoi in April 2022, "more than 100 innovative developments in the field of high-tech equipment were presented, about 30 of which were from Belarusian State University – food additives, pharmaceuticals, and technological equipment"³⁴⁸ . It was BSU that became one of the founders of the Belarusian-Vietnamese Innovation and Education Center, established in 2012 together with Binh Duong University and the Vietnamese company Venture Capital & Equity Investment Holding Inc. which has since carried out numerous joint projects 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 of scientific and practical significance"³⁴⁹ . These include "Creation of a composition of cellulolytic strains effective for the degradation of plant residues," "Study of the possibilities of obtaining new fermented products from Vietnamese plant raw materials," "Cross-cultural differences in the perception of visual information between Belarusian and Vietnamese businessmen." The Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radioelectronics (BSUIR) has been actively cooperating with the Vietnamese side. Its partners include Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology, Le Quy Don University of Technology, Hanoi University of Technology, Hanoi University of Energy, the Vietnam Institute of Electronics, Informatics and

³⁴⁷ 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>

³⁴⁸ Zaleski, B.L. From trust and respect to joint economic projects / B.L. Zaleski // Materials of the XVIII International scientific and practical conference "Cutting-edge science – 2022", April 30 – May 7, 2022: Sheffield. Science and education LTD. – C. 42.

³⁴⁹ Belarusian-Vietnamese Innovation, Education, Science and Technology Center [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL: http://research.bsu.by/innovative-activity/int_sci_tech_cooperation/inter-innov-centre/belvietnam-centre/

Automation, the Institute of Tropical Technology 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 spring 2022 "jointly implemented more than 100 projects and published about 150 scientific papers"³⁵⁰. In April 2022, the 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 cooperation was to intensify the work of existing joint structures. These include a joint center for the development and industrialization of technologies in the fields of instrument and machine building, energy, and chemical products, as well as a joint technology transfer center and a joint laboratory for laser physics, engineering, and technologies. 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. In the future, it is planned to start work on "a dozen new projects – from nanoindustry, composite materials and additive technologies, mechanical engineering, mechatronics and robotics to functional foods and targeted medicines, and a wide range of bioproducts. New materials, which have a promising future in various sectors of the economy, should play a special role here"³⁵¹.

Annual grant competitions for scientific projects also play an important role in intensifying cooperation between Belarus and Vietnam in the field of science and technology. In 2020, there were three such competitions: the Joint Competition for Fundamental Research Projects "NASB (BRFFI) – VANT – 2021"; the Competition for Joint Belarusian-

³⁵⁰ About the meeting at the Vietnamese Academy of Science and Technology [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL: <https://vietnam.mfa.gov.by/ru/embassy/news/ceca12ba12b7979e.html>

³⁵¹ Scientists from Belarus and Vietnam to develop a roadmap for scientific and technical cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/uchenye-belarusi-i-vjetnama-razrabotajut-dorozhniyu-kartu-nauchno-tehnicheskogo-sotrudnichestva-497257-2022/>

Vietnamese Scientific Projects "BRFFI–VANT–2021"; The competition for Belarusian-Vietnamese scientific and technical projects for 2021-2022 under the auspices of the State Committee for 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 GST and the Ministry of Science and Technology of Vietnam alone have implemented six joint projects: two in the field of nanotechnology and one each in the fields of medicine, construction technologies, multifunctional materials, and rational nature management. In addition, there has been cooperation between scientific organizations and educational institutions of both countries, as well as between the Belarusian Republican Fund for Fundamental Research (BRFFI) and VANT. Experience has shown that this format of partnership should be developed in order to open up new opportunities for scientific research.

In terms of continuing cooperation between Belarusian higher education institutions and Vietnamese partners, in June 2023, as part of **the Belarusian Education Days 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 annual student exchanges 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 fields of chemistry, physics, information, and communication technologies. "Another promising area is the organization of short-term and long-term Russian language courses for Vietnamese citizens (including distance learning), annual summer and winter schools at Belarusian educational institutions, and training for the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in all levels of education (in English and Russian)."³⁵² . The following were also highlighted: promoting academic mobility of students and teaching staff of educational institutions in Belarus and Vietnam; preparing joint scientific publications and organizing creative meetings and

³⁵² Belarus and Vietnam have identified priority areas for cooperation in the field of education [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-vietnam-opredelili-prioritetnye-napravleniya-sotrudnichestva-v-sfere-obrazovaniia-572390-2023/>

open lectures by representatives of educational institutions in an online format. In addition, ten bilateral cooperation documents were signed during these Belarusian Education Days. At that time, "more than 40 inter-university agreements had been concluded, and about 2,000 specialists with higher education, including more than 150 candidates of sciences, had been trained for the Vietnamese economy"³⁵³.

Continuing the theme of Belarusian-Vietnamese scientific, technical, and educational cooperation, we note that in September 2024, the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology signed an agreement on scientific and technical cooperation aimed at strengthening the scientific and technical potential of Belarus and Vietnam, developing and expanding relations between scientific institutions of the two countries, and 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"³⁵⁴. 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.

Two memoranda of understanding were also signed in September 2024 by BSU and VANT. The first document provides for mutually beneficial international cooperation in the field of education, science, and technology. The main forms of implementation of these opportunities were identified as the preparation of joint educational programs and publications, the implementation of research projects and events, and the exchange of

³⁵³ During Belarusian Education Days in Vietnam, 10 cooperation agreements were signed [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://belta.by/societv/view/vo-vremja-dnej-belorussskogo-obrazovaniia-vo-vietname-podpisano-10-dokumentov-o-sotrudnichestve-572036-2023/>

³⁵⁴ The Academies of Sciences of Belarus and Vietnam signed a cooperation agreement [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/societv/view/akademii-nauk-belarusi-i-vietnama-podpisali-soglashenie-o-sotrudnichestve-663302-2024/>

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 provides for "the establishment of long-term cooperation in the development of technologies for protecting metals from corrosion and studying its electrochemical processes"³⁵⁵. 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.

Three years later, in **April 2025, the 16th meeting of the JPC** was held in Hanoi, where the parties discussed current and future priority cooperation projects. In particular, the two countries planned to expand their partnership in **the agro-industrial complex**. For example, Belarus is increasing food supplies to the Vietnamese market. Dairy products from Belarus have been certified in Vietnam. The necessary procedures for beef supplies are also in the final stages. As a result, about twenty Belarusian enterprises will gain access to the market of this Southeast Asian country. "After completing the beef certification process, our Vietnamese partners expressed interest in organizing access to the Vietnamese market for Belarusian poultry and pork."³⁵⁶. In addition, Minsk and Hanoi are considering the possibility of **joint tractor assembly**. "A site has been selected, and several models for the local and neighboring markets are under development. A trial batch is planned to be released in the near future."³⁵⁷.

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 **Vietnam Expo** international multi-sector exhibition in Hanoi, where a wide range of thematic sections were presented, including

³⁵⁵ BSU and the Vietnamese Academy of Science and Technology signed memoranda of understanding [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/bgu-i-vietnamskaja-akademija-nauk-i-tehnologii-podpisali-memorandumy-o-vzaimoponimanii-663334-2024/>

³⁵⁶ Belarus and Vietnam intend to expand cooperation in the field of agriculture [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-vietnam-namereny-rasshirit-sotrudnichestvo-v-sfere-apk-706233-2025/>

³⁵⁷ Belarus and Vietnam are considering the possibility of joint tractor assembly [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-vietnam-rassmatrivajut-vozmozhnost-sovmestnoj-sborki-tractorov-706466-2025/>

"food industry, agriculture, mechanical engineering, energy, metallurgy, petrochemicals, construction, scientific and technical developments, medicine, and pharmaceuticals"³⁵⁸. More than 500 companies from different countries participated in this exhibition forum: China, India, South Korea, Laos, Cambodia, and Russia. The Belarusian collective exhibition featured about ten companies, including MAZ, Polotsk-Steklovolokno, and exporters from the processing industry. Belshina from Bobruisk signed an agreement at the exhibition "on the intention to supply tires for a total amount of \$1 million"³⁵⁹. This company had previously supplied tires to Vietnam for quarry equipment. In 2024, it resumed its supplies, but this time for military equipment. And now there are new export deliveries.

Returning to the 16th meeting of the JPC, we note that Belarus and Vietnam also intend to expand cooperation in **the field of science and technology**. It should be recalled that coordination in this regard is carried out by the Belarusian-Vietnamese Joint Commission on Scientific and Technical Cooperation, whose last meeting was held in September 2019. As a result of Belarus' participation in **the Vietnam Expo** in 2023 with its scientific and technical developments, Belarusian and Vietnamese scientific organizations signed 14 cooperation agreements. They also signed a commercial contract worth €500,000. At the end of 2024, Belarusian exports of high-tech goods to Vietnam amounted to more than \$75 million, accounting for more than 85% of total exports to Vietnam.³⁶⁰

At the 16th meeting of the JPC, the parties agreed that the implementation of joint projects in areas such as agriculture, waste management, energy conservation, peaceful use of outer space, information and communication technologies, medicine, innovative engineering, and new materials. In order to intensify this cooperation, **the 12th meeting of the**

³⁵⁸ Food industry, mechanical engineering, medicine: Belarus to organize a collective exhibition at a trade fair in Hanoi [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/pischeprom-mashinostroenie-meditcina-kollektivnuju-ekspozitsiju-belarusi-organizujut-na-vystavke-v-692141-2025/>

³⁵⁹ Belshina to supply a large batch of its products to Vietnam [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belshina-postavit-krupnuju-partiju-svoej-produktsii-vo-vjetnam-706632-2025/>

³⁶⁰ Agriculture, energy saving, space. GKN on scientific and technical cooperation with Vietnam [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/selskoe-hozjajstvo-energoberezenie-kosmos-gknt-o-nauchno-tehnicheskoy-sotrudnichestve-s-vietnamom-706556-2025/>

Belarusian-Vietnamese Joint Commission on Scientific and Technical Cooperation will be held in Belarus in the fourth quarter of 2025, where specific proposals on the prospects for cooperation will be considered in detail, including the selection of mutually beneficial scientific and technical projects for implementation. The Belarusian side also proposed "to develop a cooperation program for 2025-2027 and focus on both traditional areas of cooperation and new ones – the digital economy, IT, digital transformation, and innovation"³⁶¹. 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. It also expressed its desire to intensify cooperation between the Vietnam Atomic Energy Institute and Belarusian partners in the field of nuclear energy. After all, Vietnam's leading research organization, the Atomic Energy Institute, specializes in the study and application of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. The Institute operates under the auspices of the Vietnamese Ministry of Science and Technology and performs the functions of state management and coordination of scientific research in the field of nuclear technology. In the context of this topic, we would like to add that in February of this year, BRFFI and VANT announced a competition for joint scientific projects, "BRFFI-VANT-2026," which will be conducted in the following scientific areas: modern materials and composites, nanotechnology, information technology, communications, laser-optical equipment and technology, energy and environmental safety, bio- and medical technology³⁶².

Another topic discussed at the 16th meeting of the JPC was **cooperation in the field of education, university science, and youth policy**. During the discussion, the parties agreed to focus on strengthening inter-university cooperation in joint training, conducting scientific research, and

³⁶¹ The State Committee for Science and Technology has announced the areas in which Belarus is ready to strengthen cooperation with Vietnam [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/v-kakih-oblastjakh-belarus-gotova-ukrepljat-sotrudnichestvo-s-vjetnamom-rasskazali-v-gknt-707632-2025/>

³⁶² A 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/>

exchanging best practices in commercializing their results. Belarusian universities are now ready to develop cooperation with their Vietnamese counterparts in areas such as the development of joint educational programs in biotechnology, information technology, biomechanics, and microbiology. There are also prospects for training personnel at all levels of education in English and Russian, including the organization of short-term and long-term Russian language courses. There is mutual interest in the development of joint scientific, scientific-technical, and innovative projects in a wide range of areas. "In 2025, two joint scientific projects in the field of materials science and biology will continue. They will be implemented at the level of BSUIR and Hanoi University of Science and Technology, Baranovich State University and the Vietnamese Academy of Science and Technology"³⁶³. In addition, three joint scientific projects in the fields of optics and microelectronics, materials science, energy, and ecology were launched in February. BSU, BSUIR, Belarusian National Technical University (BNTU), and VANT are involved in this work. In particular, a Belarusian-Vietnamese project for 2025-2026 has been approved this year "Control of spin transfer mechanisms and spin-dependent scattering in spin valve structures based on multilayer thin films with perpendicular magnetic anisotropy for the implementation of fieldless magnetization switching in spintronics devices."

Speaking in more detail about the cooperation between Belarusian universities and Vietnamese partners this year, in March, BSU intensified its cooperation with Vietnam National University in Hanoi, the leading and oldest university in the country. In 2023, the universities signed a cooperation agreement, and now they have already 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 between BSU and 10 educational and scientific institutions in Vietnam. Citizens of this country study at the faculties of philosophy and social sciences, mechanics and mathematics,

³⁶³ Belarus and Vietnam to expand cooperation in education and university science [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-vietnam-rasshiriat-sotrudnichestvo-v-sfere-obrazovaniia-i-universitetskoj-nauki-706679-2025/>

philology, and at the BSU Institute of Business"³⁶⁴. It is also worth noting that BSU has been awarded Vietnam's highest state award for foreign countries, the Order of Friendship of Peoples, for its active contribution to the training of students and the development of friendly relations between states. Here is another example. In March of this year, Polotsk State University named after Euphrosyne of Polotsk and Vietnam National University of Oil and Gas signed a memorandum of understanding³⁶⁵ to strengthen the practical component, targeted training of specialists, and cooperation with enterprises in the fuel and energy complex of the two countries.

Finally, at the 16th meeting of the JPC, 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 resolved. In particular, in the case of logistics, the issue is that "for certain groups of goods, delivery times from Belarus to Vietnam and vice versa reach 90 days"³⁶⁶. The relevant working group is already addressing this issue in order to remove these obstacles in the near future. Overall, 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.

³⁶⁴ Science and student exchange. BSU and Vietnamese university to strengthen inter-university cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/nauka-i-obmen-studentami-bgu-i-vjetnamskij-universitet-usiljat-mezhvuzovskoe-sotrudnichestvo-701574-2025/>

³⁶⁵ Internship exchanges, joint conferences. Belarusian and Vietnamese universities agree on cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/obmen-stazhirovkami-sovmestnye-konferentsii-vuzv-belarusi-i-vjetnama-dogovorilis-o-sotrudnichestve-700945-2025/>

³⁶⁶ Belarus and Vietnam are working on issues related to settlements in national currencies and the launch of a direct flight [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-vjetnam-prorabatvvajut-voprosy-raschetov-v-natsvaliutah-i-otkrytie-priamogo-aviarejsa-706536-2025/>

Belarus – 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 the General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, T. Lam, will visit Belarus this year. At the same time, it is emphasized that "there are many interesting ideas from Vietnam, which are planned to be finalized during this visit"³⁶⁷. It should be recalled that a high-level visit from the Belarusian side took place in December 2023, when an official government delegation visited Hanoi. At that time, numerous meetings with Vietnamese partners highlighted positive trends in trade and economic cooperation. For example, "at the end of last year [2022], trade turnover between the two countries amounted to \$180 million. In January-September this year, it already exceeded \$200 million, with both Belarusian and Vietnamese exports growing"³⁶⁸.

At the same time, in December 2023, Belarus presented its products at the Vietnam Expo international multi-sector exhibition in Ho Chi Minh City. As part of the five country exhibitions organized at this forum together with India, China, the Republic of Korea, and Vietnam, "the Belarusian collective stand brought together 36 Belarusian enterprises and organizations from the fields of mechanical engineering, petrochemicals, electrical engineering, agriculture, food and beverage production, scientific and technical research and development, as well as educational and marketing services"³⁶⁹.

It should be noted that this exhibition is held in Vietnam twice a year: in April in Hanoi and in December in Ho Chi Minh City. In total, more than 1,200 companies from 20 countries around the world registered as exhibitors

³⁶⁷ Transcript of an interview with Belarusian Foreign Minister M. Ryzhenkov on Belarus 1 TV channel (March 18, 2025, Minsk) [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: https://mfa.gov.by/press/news_mfa/cbbbcd73b50db337.html

³⁶⁸ MAZ trucks, dairy products, and environmental issues. What Roman Golovchenko is negotiating in Vietnam [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/10746>

³⁶⁹ 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-vvstavke-v-jugo-vostochnoj-azii-603968-2023/>

in 2023. The 21st Vietnam Expo in Ho Chi Minh City presented a wide range of products and services, making it comprehensive and multifaceted. The main sections of the exhibition were: food industry; agriculture; mechanical engineering; electronics; metallurgy; petrochemicals; construction; scientific and technical developments; medicine and pharmaceuticals. At the Belarusian stand, in particular, enterprises of the petrochemical industry, including OJSC Belshina, 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-pressure polyethylene, motor oils, and nitrogen-phosphorus-potassium fertilizers. The stand of the Beltopgaz association, with the participation of the Vitebsktoif peat factories of the Vitebskoblغاز enterprise, OJSC Torfopredpriyatiye Glinka, and OJSC Turzhovka, featured a wide range of samples of professional peat substrates produced in Belarus. Following negotiations, representatives of the Beltopgaz association signed a memorandum of cooperation with the Vietnam Coconut Association on the production of biofertilizers. The Vietnamese partner "will coordinate research on bio-organic 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 market for the consumption of such biofertilizers"³⁷⁰. In addition, the Vietnam Coconut Producers Association will coordinate its activities with the state-owned company Beltopgaz in organizing seminars on the introduction of Belarusian peat-based bio-organic fertilizers for coconuts in Vietnam in order to find a consumer market. The Belarusian side will select the optimal recipe for peat substrate for coconut cultivation. The parties also reached agreements on experimental deliveries of Belarusian peat substrates to Vietnam for the cultivation of 500 trees, with scientific research on growth rate and fruit quality control, and on the reciprocal delivery of coconut tree planting material to Belarus for the selection of the optimal substrate formula.

³⁷⁰ Beltopgaz to cooperate with the Vietnam Coconut Association in fertilizer production [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/beltopgaz-budet-sotrudnichat-s-vjetnamskoj-kokosovoj-assotsiatsiej-v-proizvodstve-udobrenij-605045-2023>

The Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus presented about 30 innovative developments at the 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 at the VIETNAM EXPO International Exhibition. Among them were food additives, pharmaceuticals, and technological equipment. For example, "an innovative series of biological products, Cipropig, Biferon-MRS, and Zircol, was presented. They are intended for the treatment and prevention of diseases in farm animals"³⁷¹. Also among the exhibits were heat-resistant thermal insulation composite materials based on phosphate and silicate binders, light-absorbing composite materials, technologies for applying gradient anti-corrosion heat-resistant coatings, metal corrosion inhibitors, and food complexes for normalizing the nervous system. As a result, 15 documents, three framework agreements on partnership relations, and 12 contracts totaling \$26 million were signed at the exhibition³⁷².

In addition to Belarus' national exhibition at the VIETNAM EXPO international exhibition in Ho Chi Minh City, a Belarusian-Vietnamese business forum was held at the Saigon Convention and Exhibition Center, in which "more than 30 Belarusian enterprises and organizations took part, including Belarusian machine-building giants, major Belarusian educational institutions and research centers, as well as food and dairy producers"³⁷³, where participants discussed prospects for cooperation with Vietnamese partners. The fact is that today Belarus is seeking to reach a new level of cooperation with Vietnam, which would be characterized by strong

³⁷¹ BSU and UNITECHPROM BSU awarded diplomas at the Vietnam Expo international exhibition [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://bsu.by/news/diplomov-mezhdunarodnov-vvstavki-vietnam-expo-udostoenv-bgu-i-unitekhprom-bgu-d/>

³⁷² Anufrieva, O. Belarusian companies at the Vietnam Expo 2023 exhibition signed contracts worth \$26 million / O. Anufrieva // [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://www.sb.by/articles/beloruskie-kompanii-na-vvstavke-vietnam-ekspo-2023-zakluchili-kontraktv-na-26-millionov-dollarov.html>

³⁷³ Belarus and Vietnam discussed the development of production ties at a joint business forum [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-vietnam-na-sovmestnom-biznes-forume-obsudili-razvitie-proizvodstvennyh-svjazei-603969-2023/>

production and technological ties. In particular, this involves the creation of "joint ventures to produce high-tech and competitive products to meet domestic demand and subsequently enter third-country markets"³⁷⁴ .

In this context, several specific facts can be noted. Since 2019, the province of Hung Yen has been producing special equipment based on machines from the Minsk Automobile Plant. "Belarusian-made machine kits are used to assemble equipment and modernize previously delivered vehicles. The enterprise can produce about 500 Vietnamese-made all-wheel-drive vehicles per year"³⁷⁵ . And this MAZ Asia assembly plant opens up good prospects for working in the markets of other countries in the region – Indonesia, Malaysia, Cambodia, and Laos. In the same Vietnamese province, a project is already being considered to build a dairy production plant using Belarusian technologies and Belarusian dry milk, where yogurt, ice cream, butter, and cheese will be produced.

In addition, the Belarusian side has proposed cooperation with its Vietnamese partners in the field of ecology, as the number of cars and motorcycles in this Southeast Asian country is growing rapidly and there is a great need for the recycling of used tires. To turn these tires into new products, high-tech and efficient complexes for the use of solid household waste can be supplied from Belarus, with secondary resources being obtained from them for the production of new products. As a result, "Vietnam can take confident steps towards building a so-called circular economy based on the maximum use of all types of secondary resources"³⁷⁶ .

Another topic of cooperation between Belarus and Vietnam was discussed during the Belarusian delegation's visit to Hanoi: medicine. The parties agreed "to expedite the registration of 25 new Belarusian medicines on the Vietnamese market, as well as the re-registration of 12 more

³⁷⁴ MFA: Belarus seeks to reach a new level of cooperation with Vietnam [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/mid-belarus-stremitsia-vvijti-na-novyj-uroven-koooperatsii-s-vietnamom-603996-2023/>

³⁷⁵ Focus on developing industrial cooperation. What Golovchenko discussed with the Prime Minister of Vietnam [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/stavka-na-razvitie-promkoooperatsii-o-chem-golovchenko-govoril-s-premjerom-vietnama-604054-2023/>

³⁷⁶ Golovchenko: Belarus contributes to strengthening Vietnam's food security [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/golovchenko-belarus-vnosit-vklad-v-ukreplenie-prodovolstvennoj-bezopasnosti-vietnama-604073-2023/>

medicines³⁷⁷. These drugs are used to treat cancer, colds, and pneumonia. A wide range of Belarusian medicines will boost exports and, accordingly, increase efficiency. There is also an agreement on the localization of these drugs from Belarus in Vietnam and on the purchase of Belarusian-made medical equipment.

When talking about the establishment of joint ventures, it is impossible to ignore the topic of interregional cooperation between Belarus and Vietnam. Today, Belarusian regions cooperate with 14 Vietnamese provinces and cities. During the visit of the government delegation of our republic to this Southeast Asian country 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. -2026, which develops the provisions of the 2004 Agreement on Friendly Relations and Cooperation between the two capitals – "a basic document that allows for the development of key areas of cooperation, including in the trade, economic, cultural, and educational spheres"³⁷⁸.

There are also interesting prospects for cooperation between Minsk and Ho Chi Minh City. These two sister cities signed an Agreement on Friendly Relations and Cooperation in 2008, and in September 2024, as part of Minsk Days in Ho Chi Minh City, they held a Belarusian-Vietnamese business 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 machine-building, aviation, food, pharmaceutical, and cosmetics sectors, as well as the tourism services sector"³⁷⁹. Such heightened interest on the part of Vietnamese businesses demonstrated the serious potential for expanding trade and cooperation ties

³⁷⁷ 25 new Belarusian medical products will undergo accelerated registration on the Vietnamese market [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/na-rvnye-vietnama-proidut-uskoremuiu-registratsiju-25-novyh-belorusskikh-medpreparatov-604105-2023/>

³⁷⁸ Minsk and Hanoi sign 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/>

³⁷⁹ Over 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-svyshe-150-mestnix-kompanij_i_177578.html

between the countries. Following the Minsk Days in Ho Chi Minh City, the parties signed a 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. They are actively developing their own infrastructure. In a province with a population of over one million, there is high demand for meat and dairy products, baby food, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, and machinery. "In 2022, exports from Minsk region enterprises to Vietnam amounted to more than \$2.2 million, which is 10.7% more than in 2021, and in the first quarter [of 2023] – \$214,400. Dry dairy products accounted for the bulk of supplies"³⁸⁰. To increase export volumes, the milk processing enterprises of the Myasomolprom holding – the Slutsk Cheese Factory and Minsk Dairy Plant No. 1 – regularly participate in the Vietnam Expo international exhibition, and Minsk Dairy Plant No. 1 also cooperates with Au Viet Food Import to supply its own products. Back in August 2017, representatives of these regions noted the significant potential for cooperation, primarily in industry and agriculture, and took a number of concrete steps to realize it. Thus, "since 2017, Belarusian-Vietnamese projects have been implemented in the province for the industrial assembly of MAZ trucks and the production of dairy products using Belarusian raw materials"³⁸¹. 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 allow new sales niches to be found not only in the market of that country. And in December 2023, the Belarusian side informed its Vietnamese partners of the decision to build a plant in Hung Yen province to produce dairy products from Belarusian raw materials and using Belarusian technologies.

³⁸⁰ 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-zajnteresovana-v-razviti-i-sotrudnichestva-s-vietnamskoj-provintsiej-hvngjen-564954-2023/>

³⁸¹ Minsk Region and Hung Yen Province intend to develop cooperation in industry and agriculture [Electronic resource]. – 2017. – URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/minskaja-oblast-i-provintsija-hvngjen-namereny-razvivat-sotrudnichestvo-v-promvshlennosti-i-apk-260807-2017/>

Exporters from the Brest region are also actively developing the Vietnamese market. For example, "foreign trade turnover between the Brest region and Vietnam in January-October 2023 amounted to \$20.6 million. The growth rate compared to the same period in 2022 was 176.6%. Enterprises in the southwestern region increased exports to this Asian country almost fourfold"³⁸². The agreement on cooperation between Brest Region and Lao Cai Province, signed in July 2017, which provides for the development of partnership relations in the trade, economic, scientific, technical, and cultural spheres, undoubtedly gives additional impetus to the development of Belarusian-Vietnamese interregional cooperation. And in December 2024, Dien Bien Province announced its intention to establish cooperation with this Belarusian region, where it "sees prospects for cooperation in the fields of economy, agriculture, healthcare, and tourism"³⁸³. Vietnamese partners are ready to import Belarusian fertilizers and agricultural products, and to import coffee and macadamia nuts to Belarus.

Another noteworthy event for Belarusian-Vietnamese interregional cooperation took place in March 2022, when the Consulate General of Belarus opened in Ho Chi Minh City to promote bilateral trade and economic cooperation with the regions of southern Vietnam. This was dictated by the "colossal pace of development of the city [Ho Chi Minh City] and neighboring provinces. It is here that we see high potential for the implementation of joint projects"³⁸⁴. For this reason, it is important to create footholds for building cooperation in the field of trade. After all, Belarus can make a significant contribution to this process by supplying construction, freight, municipal, and passenger equipment, as well as participating in infrastructure projects. The Vietnamese side is interested in the participation of Belarusian enterprises in the implementation of the government program

³⁸² A delegation from the Brest region plans to visit the Vietnamese province of Lao Cai in 2024 [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/delegatsija-brestskoi-oblasti-v-2024-godu-planiruet-posetit-vietnamskiju-provintsiju-laokaj-606206-2023/>

³⁸³ Brest Region and Dien Bien Province in Vietnam aim to cooperate in the economic and social spheres [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/brestskaja-oblast-i-vietnamskaja-provintsija-dienbien-natseleny-sotrudnichat-v-ekonomike-i-sotsialnoi-679595-2024/>

³⁸⁴ Consulate General of Belarus opens in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://belta.by/politics/view/generalnoe-konsulstvo-belarusi-otkrylos-vo-vietnamskom-hoshimine-603983-2023/>

to transition to zero carbon dioxide emissions by 2050. Of particular interest are the supply 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 latter two are located in the region where the Consulate General is located"³⁸⁵. The southern economic region includes the centrally administered 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, while the Mekong Delta economic region includes the centrally administered city of Can Tho and the provinces of An Giang, Ca Mau, and Kien Giang. Both regions play a leading role in the development of Vietnam's economy.

And in August 2024, the Belarusian Consulate General began work on establishing direct cooperation between the business circles of Belarus and Long An Province, which is the leading region in the Mekong Delta and "acts as the southwestern gateway to the Ho Chi Minh City agglomeration. The province has a population of about 1.8 million, and about 215,000 people live in the administrative center, the city of Tan An."³⁸⁶ More than half of the province's economy is generated by the industrial and construction sectors, with the rest coming from services, agriculture, forestry, and fisheries. The province sees trade, economic, investment, and humanitarian cooperation as key areas for cooperation with Belarusian regions.

³⁸⁷And in October last year, the Vietnamese province of Binh Thuan, located in the south-east of Vietnam, expressed interest in Belarus' experience in organising a modern and effective healthcare system and is ready to supply

³⁸⁵ Varanok, R. Anchor projects, economic complementarity, and seaside resorts. Belarusian Consul General on relations with Ho Chi Minh City / R. Varanok // [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/interview/view/iakornnye-proekty-vzaimodopolniaemost-ekonomik-i-morskie-kurorty-genkonsul-belarusi-0-svjaziah-s-hoshiminom-9349/>

³⁸⁶ 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/prjamoe-vzaimodejstvie-budet-nalazheno-mezhdu-delovymi-krugami-belarusi-i-vjetnamskoj-provintsii-longan-655987-2024/>

³⁸⁷ Vietnam's Binh Thuan Province counts on Belarus' assistance in modernizing its industry [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/vietnamskaja-provintsija-binhthuan-rasschitvvaet-na-sodejstvie-belarusi-v-modernizatsii-promyshlennosti-671258-2024/>

tropical vegetables and fruits to the Belarusian market. The province covers an area of about 8,000 square kilometers and has a population of about 1.3 million people. A significant part of the province's economy is made up of the processing industry, as well as the production and distribution of electricity. 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 cooperate with Belarusian business circles 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"³⁸⁸. And the visit to Belarus of the General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, T. Lama, which is expected to take place this year, will undoubtedly add new color to the multifaceted partnership between Belarus and Vietnam, helping to realize the enormous potential for cooperation in the economy, agriculture, medicine, tourism, and culture at all levels, thereby contributing to the strengthening and development of friendship between the two peoples.

³⁸⁸ Zaleski, B. Time for Breakthroughs: Dynamics of Reliable Cooperation between Belarus and Its Economic Partners / Boris Zaleski. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2025. – P. 32.

Belarus – Pakistan: Potential for sustainable growth of partnership ties

Pakistan is one of Belarus' most important partners in Asia, which fits into the Belarusian strategy of export diversification and development of cooperation with countries in the Far East. Pakistan is a friendly country with good industrial potential and a sales market. The population of this country is more than 200 million people. Pakistan has a developed agricultural sector, which allows for cooperation in the supply of machinery and processing products.

In 2024, Belarus and Pakistan celebrated the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. Over the years, this multilateral partnership has demonstrated 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 approximately 90 bilateral agreements and memoranda of understanding in areas such as trade, agriculture, science and technology, and education. Cooperation between Belarus and Pakistan has developed particularly 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 on Friendship and Cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of Belarus (August 10, 2015), and the Joint Statement by the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the President of the Republic of Belarus (October 5, 2016).

As for 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 million and \$65 million"³⁸⁹. But in 2021, trade between them increased by more than 77 percent at once and exceeded \$92 million, with a positive balance for the Belarusian side of \$63.6 million. The basis of Belarusian exports was "tractors and spare parts

³⁸⁹ 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/

for them, potash fertilizers, specific goods, synthetic threads, cellulose, dairy products, medicines, diesel engines"³⁹⁰.

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 plans to promote its goods and services on the Pakistani market in two ways. The first is to increase trade in traditional goods, such as automotive, quarrying, and construction equipment, instrument-making products, woodworking, meat and dairy products, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, and pulp and paper products. The second way is to supply new product categories, such as metal products, flax fiber and yarn, as well as "consumer goods, such as soft cheeses, perfumes and cosmetics, household appliances, children's goods, and watches"³⁹¹.

We would like to add 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 for bilateral contacts between the two countries, including joint working groups (JWG) on cooperation in the fields of industry, agriculture, health care and pharmaceuticals, as well as science and technology"³⁹². In addition, Minsk and Islamabad maintain close cooperation between business communities in the form of joint platforms, including a business council, business and investment, textile and agricultural forums.

Speaking of trade and economic cooperation, we would like to emphasize that the economies of Belarus and Pakistan complement each other. For example, in 2023, "the main items of Belarusian exports to Pakistan will be tractors, potash fertilizers, synthetic fibers, tires, synthetic yarn, and

³⁹⁰ Ambassador of Pakistan: agriculture and industry are our key areas of interest in Belarus [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/posol-pakistana-selskoe-hozjajstvo-i-promvshlennost-nashi-kljuhevve-tochki-interesa-v-belarusi-494952-2022/>

³⁹¹ 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-osobennostiah-prodvizhenija-belorusskih-tovarov-na-rynok-pakistana-8188/>

³⁹² Khan, S.H. The Diversity of Pakistan / S.H. Khan // [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://belta.by/interview/view/mnogobrazie-pakistana-posol-oznavezisimosti-i-sotrudnichestve-islamabada-s-minskom-8853/>

baby food (dry mixes)"³⁹³. As for Pakistani supplies to Belarus, these include rice, food products, leather goods, fabrics, and sports equipment.

In January 2023, the sixth meeting of the Belarusian-Pakistani Joint 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 moving from simple trade to industrial cooperation and the creation of joint ventures in areas of mutual interest"³⁹⁴. In particular, the two countries have agreed to expand cooperation in a number of areas, including mechanical engineering, agriculture, science, education, and healthcare. Belarus is interested in increasing supplies of industrial products to this South Asian country, including Belarusian passenger, municipal, agricultural, and quarrying equipment, as well as textile products. "Among the priorities is partnership in the field of agriculture. This includes not only the willingness to expand supplies of Belarusian food products, but also products for livestock farming: compound feed, protein supplements, and veterinary drugs. The creation of a permanent exhibition center for Belarus in Pakistan will contribute to the more active promotion of agricultural products..."³⁹⁵. Another mutually beneficial area is pharmaceuticals, as Belarus is interested in exporting medicines to Pakistan and is already ready to consider the possibility of establishing joint pharmaceutical production facilities.

At the 6th meeting of the joint commission, the parties also discussed specific opportunities for cooperation in the field of science and high technology. These include nano- and biotechnology, laser optoelectronics, information and communication technologies, aerospace and geoinformation systems. In this regard, in March 2023, a national exhibition of Belarus was

³⁹³ Belarus and Pakistan celebrate 30 years of diplomatic relations [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/politics/view/belarus-i-pakistan-otmechajut-30-letie-ustanovlenija-dipotnoshenij-613420-2024/>

³⁹⁴ Belarus is interested in supplying agricultural products and agricultural machinery to Pakistan [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-zainterosovana-v-postavkah-v-pakistan-produksii-ank-i-selhoztehniky-544338-2023>

³⁹⁵ Belarus and Pakistan agree to expand cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-pakistan-dogovorilis-o-rasshirenii-sotrudnichestva-544373-2023>

organized at the International Trade and Industry Fair in Karachi, Pakistan. It should be recalled that at a similar exhibition in November 2021 in Karachi, about 60 scientific, technical, and innovative developments were presented at the collective stand of the State Committee for Science and Technology. Institutions of the Ministry of Education, as well as the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus in a remote format, presented their exhibits in the field of surface treatment and modification, chemical technologies and materials, physical materials science, and new materials.³⁹⁶

Finally, regional cooperation is gradually becoming another promising area of Belarusian-Pakistani partnership. The fact is that a number of agreements and memoranda between cities, provinces, and regions of the two countries have already been signed. For example, among 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. An agreement on cooperation was signed between the city of Karachi and the Grodno region in 2015"³⁹⁷. Today, the parties are ready to renew the agreement and resume relations in all areas: economy, business, culture, and education. For example, baby food produced by Bellact 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 their education here. So the parties will actively continue their work to develop points of contact. 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 an advanced stage of readiness. All of them are located in the Pakistan-China economic corridor and can be used to implement joint Pakistan-Belarus projects. So, we can predict that in the near

³⁹⁶ Zaleski, B.L. To promote domestic technologies / B.L. Zaleski // Materials of the XX International Scientific and Practical Conference "Key Aspects of Scientific Activity – 2023", Volume I. Przemysl: Nauka i studia. – P. 24.

³⁹⁷ Ambassador: Grodno Region has enormous potential for cooperation with Pakistan [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/posol-grodnenskaia-oblasti-imeet-ogromnyi-potentsial-dlja-sotrudnichestva-s-pakistanom-515738-2022>

future, the partnership 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 basis for strengthening bilateral ties and which focuses on providing "assistance in the field of trade and investment, the development of joint research and development, as well as the expansion of educational and cultural exchanges. The roadmap emphasizes the importance of cooperation in sectors such as agriculture, e-commerce, science and technology, and education"³⁹⁸.

Among the planned activities of the new roadmap, emphasis will be placed on developing industrial cooperation between the two countries with a view to further intensifying it. In this context, it should be recalled that cooperation with Pakistan 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 Manufacturing of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. And now, "based on the results of January-June 2024, there is a positive trend in the trade turnover of enterprises of the Ministry of Industry [of Belarus] with Pakistan. The growth rate of exports to this region exceeded 180% compared to the same period last year"³⁹⁹. Belarusian exporters are ready to offer and continue to supply a wide range of equipment – agricultural, freight, municipal, and road.

For example, the Minsk Tractor Works (MTZ) plans to increase sales of its machines to the Pakistani market. It should be noted that "the average annual sales volume in Pakistan is about 2-2.5 thousand tractors"⁴⁰⁰. However, recently, tractor manufacturers, in agreement with their Pakistani

³⁹⁸ Khan, S.H. Rapprochement between Minsk and Islamabad / S.H. Khan // [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/interview/view/sblizhenie-minska-i-islamabada-sadzhad-hajder-han-rasskazal-o-novyh-initsiativah-i-vizitah-9357/>

³⁹⁹ Ministry of Industry ready to provide all-round assistance in developing cooperation between Belarus and Pakistan [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/minprom-gotov-okazat-vsemernoe-sodejstvie-v-razvii-sotrudnichestva-belarusi-i-pakistan-655788-2024/>

⁴⁰⁰ Minsk Tractor Works plans to increase deliveries of equipment to Pakistan [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/minskij-traktornyi-zavod-planiruet-narastit-objemy-postavok-tehniki-v-pakistan-655685-2024/>

partners, have begun to modernize the technical aspects of their products exclusively in accordance with the requirements of the end user. To this end, in August of this year, MTZ signed strategic cooperation agreements with Pakistani companies Shahzad Trade Link and HBL Zarai Services, which confirmed "agreements on the promotion, sale, and servicing of BELARUS tractors with a capacity of more than 100 horsepower in the Pakistani market"⁴⁰¹. There'll also be places to show off Belarusian tractors and mobile agricultural equipment service in different provinces of Pakistan through the existing dealer network, bringing in new companies. In addition, MTZ is considering the possibility of establishing an assembly plant in this South Asian country, as "joint ventures and assembly plants are a global trend. Local legislation is being developed to stimulate this process"⁴⁰². In the near future, it appears that the parties will finalize this issue after completing the relevant formal procedures.

As for other relevant aspects of Belarusian-Pakistani cooperation, it should be noted that scientists from both 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, to include the most relevant and priority areas for both countries. Moreover, "Pakistan is interested in developing cooperation with Belarusian scientists in areas such as artificial intelligence, laser technologies, and technologies for agriculture"⁴⁰³. The goal of these changes is to present concrete results of joint innovation activities between representatives of the scientific and technological spheres of Belarus and Pakistan in the near future.

⁴⁰¹ MTZ signed strategic cooperation agreements 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/>

⁴⁰² MTZ is considering setting up an assembly plant in Pakistan [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/mtz-prorabatvvaet-vopros-sozdaniia-sborochnogo-proizvodstva-v-pakistane-655686-2024/>

⁴⁰³ The Academies of Sciences of Belarus and Pakistan will 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-lazerov-i-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. These areas included industry, agriculture, education, pharmaceuticals, trade and investment, as well as transport and communications. "A memorandum of cooperation in the textile industry was signed. At the intergovernmental level, the foundation has been laid for cooperation in a number of areas, including standardization, environmental protection, light industry, transport and communications, and disaster management. The relevant bilateral documents will be signed in the near future,"⁴⁰⁴.

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 exhibition of Belarus was organized in the Pakistani city of Karachi at the International Trade and Industry Fair. This specialized exhibition forum in South Asia is attended annually by more than 350 companies from around the world and more than 50,000 visitors. The main sections of the exhibition are agriculture, automotive, machine tool manufacturing, energy, metallurgy and mining, construction, and petrochemicals. A national exhibition of Belarus was organized at this exhibition, where "20 Belarusian companies that produce industrial, petrochemical, and diagnostic goods, materials, and equipment, as well as provide educational services and carry out research and development work, took part"⁴⁰⁵.

In particular, almost forty developments by Belarusian scientists from seven scientific and scientific-production organizations of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) of Belarus and institutions of the Ministry of Education were presented. "Among the most interesting are electronic

⁴⁰⁴ Education, pharmaceuticals, industry. Belarus and Pakistan have outlined areas of cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/societv/view/obrazovanie-farmatsevtika-promyshlennost-belarusi-i-pakistan-nameili-sfery-vzaimodejstviya-663606-2024/>

⁴⁰⁵ Belarus' national exhibition opened at an industrial exhibition in Karachi, Pakistan [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/natsionalnaja-ekspozitsija-belarusi-otkrylas-na-promyshlennoj-vystavke-v-pakistanskom-karachi-554860-2023/>

ceramics and products based on them from the Scientific Research Center of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus for Materials Science, including ceramic insulators and housings for microwave filters, dielectric resonators, resonators for antennas, and products based on piezoceramics⁴⁰⁶. In addition, the Research Center for Materials Science presented graphene-containing material and products based on it. It can be used in structural elements, energy storage devices, lubricants, sorbents, and 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 balancing feed additives regulate microbiological processes in the forestomachs of cows. The biopreservative consists of a mixture of specially selected and freeze-dried strains of lactic acid bacteria – lactococci. It is intended for silage of plant raw materials – annual and perennial cereal and legume crops.

The exhibition also featured micro- and nanotechnologies for ultra-thin magnetic-abrasive polishing developed by the Belarusian National Technical University (BNTU). Their purpose is ultra-thin polishing of high-precision surfaces to nano-level roughness, correcting the shape of optical parts, increasing the radiation resistance of optical and laser device parts, cleaning surfaces before welding and coating, and increasing the resistance to corrosion, wear, and mechanical damage of parts made of metal alloys, single crystals, and ceramics. The developments surpass the best global analogues in terms of technological capabilities, economic and environmental indicators. The technologies and equipment are of interest to machine and instrument manufacturing enterprises, including manufacturers of optics, lasers, and electronics.

The Belarusian State University (BSU) was among the active participants in this exhibition, presenting about 20 developments. BSU's innovations included "KUP series radio-absorbing materials. They are designed to protect aircraft from electromagnetic radiation. In particular, the materials can be used to cover the internal niche of weather radars in civil

⁴⁰⁶ Belarus will 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-mezhdunarodnov-vvstavke-inter/>

aircraft, as an absorber in the development of compact anechoic chambers, matched loads..."⁴⁰⁷. Another BSU development is the "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 reduce the cost of a ton of polyurethane foam by five to ten percent by reducing 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.

The Belarusian State Technological University (BSTU) presented "heat-resistant ceramic materials for thermal units. They are designed for thermal and electrical insulation of furnaces in foundries, thermal and forging shops"⁴⁰⁸. These materials have a number of advantages over their counterparts. They have improved mechanical, thermal, and electrophysical properties. In addition, BSTU showed glass-ceramic proppants, granular materials used in the oil industry to increase the efficiency of wells using hydraulic fracturing technology.

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

And here's another interesting fact: at the end of October 2024, the same Pakistani city of Karachi will host the fifth International Textile and Leather Exhibition TEXPO-2024, dedicated to showcasing 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 around the world will present the latest technological achievements and environmentally friendly products. The

⁴⁰⁷ BSU will present about 20 developments at the International Trade and Industry Fair [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://bsu.by/news/okolo-20-razrabotok-predstavit-bgu-na-mezhdunarodnoy-vystavke-international-trade-and-industry-fair-d/>

⁴⁰⁸ Belarus will present developments in the field of electronic ceramics and nanotechnologies [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://e-cis.info/news/569/107455/>

largest Pakistani companies supplying fabrics and leather to world-famous brands are also participating⁴⁰⁹. The Pakistani side has invited Belarusian companies interested in establishing contacts with top local manufacturers to participate in the event and will facilitate visits to Pakistani industrial enterprises in the textile and leather industry.

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

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⁴⁰⁹ Environmentally friendly textiles and leather. Belarusian companies invited to a specialized exhibition in Pakistan [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/ekologicheski-chistvj-tekstil-i-kozha-na-profifilnuju-vstavku-v-pakistane-priglasili-belorusskie-656923-2024/>

Belarus – Pakistan: on the path to regional economic integration

In 2024, diplomatic relations between **Belarus** and **Pakistan** celebrated their 30th anniversary. During this time, the interaction between the 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 promote bilateral interaction. During the Belarusian leader's visit to Pakistan, along with the roadmap, a dozen and a half agreements and memoranda were signed covering trade relations, the economy, cultural cooperation, education, and defense. In total, the legal framework for Belarusian-Pakistani relations now includes about 100 documents.

The parties intend to develop **industrial cooperation** as one of their priority areas. In particular, the Belarusian side plans to set up two tractor assembly plants in Pakistan. "This will be a model range of up to 60 hp and over 100 hp, which are in high demand on the Pakistani market,"⁴¹⁰. It should be noted that in 2025, the Minsk Tractor Works (MTZ) will supply at least 2,700 machines with a capacity of up to 60 horsepower. And "the growth rate of BELARUS tractor exports for the nine months of 2024 was 107.9% compared to the same period last year [2023]"⁴¹¹. In addition, in November, MTZ signed a memorandum of cooperation with Pakistani companies Green Corporate Initiative Limited and Heavy Industries Taxila, which sets out specific deadlines and an algorithm of actions for the implementation of a project for the assembly production of more powerful Belarusian machines. After all, "tractors with a capacity of over 100 hp were not previously supplied

⁴¹⁰ Not just tractors. What Belarusian assembly plants could appear in Pakistan? [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/ne-tolkotraktorov-kakie-sborochnye-proizvodstva-belarusi-mogut-pojavitsja-v-pakistan-678297-2024/>

⁴¹¹ MTZ to supply at least 2,700 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/>

to Pakistan on a regular basis. And the organization of assembly production has long-term mutually beneficial prospects"⁴¹².

Pakistani partners have also been offered to set up a joint venture for the production of trailed and mounted agricultural machines, which together will enable the entire range of technological operations to be carried out. There are also serious developments in the supply of freight, quarry and road construction equipment, as well as municipal machines. An agreement was signed in Islamabad to start assembling Belarusian engines for tractor assembly plants and supplying them to the secondary market in Pakistan. Pakistani partners are also very interested in passenger vehicles, especially Belarusian electric buses. The country plans to eventually replace passenger transport with internal combustion engines with environmentally friendly transport. So, in this area, it is possible to offer not only electric passenger vehicles, but also the Belarusian charging infrastructure network, organized according to the "smart city" principle.

In terms of **transport cooperation**, Belarus and Pakistan are working on the organization of so-called "seamless" freight logistics. It is well known that deliveries of goods from our republic to this South Asian country are quite complicated. And "the parties are currently working to enable companies to reduce their costs of delivering goods to Pakistan and from Pakistan to Belarus"⁴¹³. In November last year, an intergovernmental agreement on international road transport was signed in Islamabad, which defines the procedure for carrying out transport operations. It is planned that the two countries will effectively halve the delivery time for goods. The calculation is as follows. "Yes, road transport is more expensive than sea transport, but at the same time it moves much faster, i.e. actually half as fast as sea transport. In the future, Belarus and Pakistan would also like to

⁴¹² 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/>

⁴¹³ Belarus and Pakistan are working to create "seamless" freight logistics [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-pakistan-robotajut-nad-sozdaniem-besshovnoj-gruzovoj-logistiki-677983-2024/>

establish rail transport: in this case, logistics will become more profitable"⁴¹⁴

Returning to the Belarusian-Pakistani documents signed in November 2024, two other important agreements can be mentioned: 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 in January 2025, a competition was announced for joint Belarusian-Pakistani scientific and technical projects for 2025-2027, which "will cover the following areas: new materials, nano- and biotechnologies, renewable energy sources, industrial chemistry, mineral extraction, smart agriculture and precision farming, information and communication technologies, medicine and pharmaceuticals, food security, water management, and environmental protection"⁴¹⁵. This will be a concrete step towards deepening Belarus' ties with 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 representing such areas of cooperation as mechanical engineering, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, veterinary drugs, light , and industry. An interesting fact was noted at this forum. In 2023, Belarusian exports to Pakistan increased two and a half times. In the first half of 2024, they increased by 13 percent, or more than \$17 million. "The total trade turnover between the countries in 2023 amounted to almost \$50 million"⁴¹⁶. And here is the result of this forum: eight documents were signed for a total amount of more than \$17 million.

⁴¹⁴ Belarus and Pakistan to halve cargo delivery times [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-pakistan-vdvoe-sokratjat-srok-dostavki-gruzov-678276-2024/>

⁴¹⁵ Competition announced for Belarusian-Pakistani scientific and technical projects for 2025-2027 [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/objavljen-konkurs-belorusko-pakistanskih-nauchno-tehnicheskikh-proektov-na-2025-2027-godv-689099-2025/>

⁴¹⁶ Belarusian companies reached agreements worth \$17 million at a business forum in Pakistan [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/beloruskie-predpriyatija-na-biznes-forume-v-pakistane-dostigli-dogovorennostej-na-17-mln-677972-2024/>

Among those signed was a five-year distribution agreement between the open joint-stock company Bellakt and Nutrifood & Pharmaceuticals. OJSC Beltsvetmet and the logistics company Raas International Trading signed a contract for the supply of tinplate for 2025. In the industrial sector, the following agreements were signed: a memorandum of intent between OJSC Belshina and Shahzad Trade Links on the sale of Belshina products on the Pakistani market; an agreement on cooperation between Minsk Motor Plant (MMP) and the same Pakistani company on the supply of Belarusian products in 2025. In the medical sector, RUE Belmedpreparaty 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 – Belvitunifarm OJSC and Mustafa Brothers have signed a contract to this effect.⁴¹⁷

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 offered by the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange (BUTB) to conclude import and export deals, establish new business contacts, and obtain up-to-date pricing and marketing information. At the forum, "Pakistani business circles are most interested in the products of the Belarusian timber industry. In this regard, it is planned to focus efforts on attracting large Pakistani timber importers to the BUE with the aim of organizing their regular participation in exchange trading in sawn timber."⁴¹⁸ This work will be carried out with the support of the All Pakistan Timber Merchants Association, which has expressed its willingness to assist in informing industry representatives about the opportunities and advantages of the exchange mechanism. Similar agreements have been reached by the BUTB with the Federation of Pakistani Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the Pakistan Commodity Exchange. For statistical

⁴¹⁷ Industry and medicine. What Belarusian and Pakistani companies agreed on at the forum in Islamabad [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/promvshlennost-i-meditsina-o-chem-dogovorilis-kompanii-belarusi-i-pakistana-na-forume-v-islamabade-678090-2024/>

⁴¹⁸ Pakistani businesses are ready to engage in stock trading with Belarus [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/pakistanskij-biznes-gotov-vkljuchatsja-v-birzhevuiu-torgovlju-s-belarusiju-678024-2024/>

purposes, 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 trading participants. Already at this forum, several Pakistani companies trading in ferrous metals announced their intention to sell their products through the BUTB.

In February 2025, **the 8th meeting of the Belarusian-Pakistani Joint Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation** was held in Minsk, where the prospects for bilateral cooperation in a wide range of areas were discussed. During the meeting, the parties noted that Belarus and Pakistan "have extensive cooperation in the fields of agriculture, technology, industry, and growth in various sectors for the mutual benefit of both countries"⁴¹⁹. It should be recalled that in November 2024, during the Belarusian leader's visit to Pakistan, the task was set to translate all protocol agreements into practical implementation 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 "grew by 4.6% and amounted to \$50.3 million. At the same time, 70% of this amount is <...> industrial products"⁴²⁰.

At the 8th meeting of the commission, the Belarusian side expressed its interest in increasing supplies of industrial products, exploring options for "creating service centers and joint assembly plants"⁴²¹, including electric transport, as well as its readiness to exchange knowledge and experience in 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 supplies of BELARUS tractors with

⁴¹⁹ 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/>

⁴²⁰ Trade turnover between Belarus and Pakistan grew by 4.6% last year [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/tovarooborot-belarusi-i-pakistan-za-proshlvi-god-vvros-na-46-694826-2025/>

⁴²¹ Joint production and agriculture. Kushnarenko on the prospects for cooperation with Pakistan [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/sovmestnye-proizvodstva-i-selskoe-hoziaistvo-kushnarenko-o-perspektivah-sotrudnichestva-s-pakistanom-694824-2025/>

a capacity of over 100 hp."⁴²² [4]. At MTZ, the delegation from this South Asian country discussed plans to organize the assembly production of Belarusian machines on Pakistani soil and to increase the supply of tractor equipment to the Pakistani market. In February of this year, MMZ signed an agreement with the Pakistani company Shahzad Trade Link for the supply of spare parts and discussed issues related to the promotion, sales, and servicing of the company's products in Pakistan, as "expanding cooperation with Pakistani companies in industry provides excellent potential for further sustainable growth in both countries."⁴²³ .

And in May 2025, Belarusian companies will participate in a collective exhibition at **the International Trade and Industrial Fair (ITIF)** in Karachi, Pakistan, which "will help in finding new partners and developing initiatives with existing contractors"⁴²⁴ . ITIF is considered the leading international specialized exhibition in the South Asian region. Its main sections include agriculture, automotive, machine tool manufacturing, energy, metallurgy, construction, mining, and petrochemicals. Every year, more than 350 companies from China, Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Turkey, Belgium, and Germany participate in the exhibition, and the number of visitors exceeds 40,000.

The 8th meeting of the commission also noted that one of the priorities for cooperation between the two countries is collaboration in the field of agriculture, which includes not only the supply of food products, but also products for livestock breeding, seed production, additives, and veterinary drugs. The Pakistani side is also interested in expanding bilateral partnerships in this area. We would like to add that "in 2024, trade in food and agricultural raw materials between the two countries has already grown by 36.5%

⁴²² Pakistan is interested in supplying BELARUS tractors with a capacity of more than 100 hp [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/pakistan-zainteresovan-v-postavkah-tractorov-belarus-moschnostiju-bolee-100-Is-695124-2025/>

⁴²³ Promotion, sales, service. What areas will the Minsk Motor Plant develop in Pakistan [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/prodvi-zhenie-prodazhi-servis-kakie-napravlenija-budet-razvivat-minskij-motornyj-zavod-v-pakistane-696802-2025/>

⁴²⁴ "This is the leading industrial exhibition in South Asia." Belarusian companies present their products in Karachi [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/eto-veduschaja-promyshlennaja-vystavka-v-juzhnoj-azii-belorusskie-predpriatija-prezentujut-697211-2025/>

compared to 2023⁴²⁵. It is interesting to note that the largest share of Belarusian exports to this South Asian country was accounted for by baby food, namely cereal porridge. In 2024, exports of Belarusian milk and dairy products to Pakistan also increased threefold. This refers to supplies of skimmed milk powder and whey. Domestic producers intend to increase exports to this country and expand the range of goods in mutual trade. For this reason, active bilateral work is already underway on the certification, manufacture, and supply of domestically produced veterinary vaccines. Opportunities for cooperation in animal husbandry and fisheries were also discussed. After considering the areas of cooperation in detail, 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 agriculture, nanotechnology in electronics, and new materials had been successfully implemented between leading institutions of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, Belarusian State University, and the Pakistan Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, the National University of Science and Technology of Pakistan"⁴²⁶. Priority areas for joint activities for 2025-2026 have already been identified. These include artificial intelligence, medicine, biotechnology, energy, mechanical engineering, and agriculture. In this regard, as mentioned above, a competition for joint 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

⁴²⁵ Belarus tripled its dairy exports to Pakistan 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/>

⁴²⁶ Medicine and biotechnology. Belarus and Pakistan have identified 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/>

commission on trade and economic cooperation. In addition, there are already eight working groups between the countries that are developing cooperation across a wide range of areas. All of this should contribute to the expansion of trade and economic partnership and the implementation of a joint approach to regional economic integration.

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Belarus – Mongolia: A year of breakthrough decisions

The past year, 2024, marked a breakthrough in the development of interstate relations between Belarus and Mongolia, when in June, for the first time in history, the Belarusian head of state paid a state visit to this East Asian country. It should be recalled that since the establishment of Belarusian-Mongolian diplomatic relations in January 1992, trade and economic cooperation has been actively developing between Minsk and Ulaanbaatar, partnership ties have been established between Belarusian and Mongolian regions, interparliamentary contacts have been strengthened, and joint projects in the field of education have continued to be implemented. Nevertheless, in January 2024, at **the 7th meeting of the Belarusian-Mongolian Intergovernmental Commission (IGC)** on Trade and Economic Cooperation in Minsk, its participants noted that mutual trade turnover did not reflect the potential of Belarus and Mongolia. For this reason, the task was set to do everything possible to ensure that relations between the two countries take on a strategic character.

In March 2024, a Belarusian delegation headed by the foreign minister paid an official visit to Mongolia, during which an agreement was reached to take relations between Minsk and Ulaanbaatar to a higher level in order to substantially intensify the entire range of contacts between the parties at the level of industries and economic entities, and business circles. In fact, it was stated that "a new stage is beginning in relations between Belarus and Mongolia"⁴²⁷. In this regard, the two countries planned to develop a roadmap for cooperation until 2026, which will include projects for the supply of Belarusian agricultural machinery and equipment, municipal and road repair machines, emergency response equipment, elevator equipment, quarry machinery, and the full cycle of creating high-quality and highly efficient agricultural production complexes specially adapted to the needs and requirements of Mongolian customers. The fact is that "Mongolia is actively developing, so Mongolian consumers are increasingly interested in goods,

⁴²⁷ Aleynyk: A new stage begins in relations between Belarus and Mongolia [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/politics/view/alejnik-v-otnoshenijah-belarusi-i-mongolij-nachinaetsja-novyj-etap-621446-2024/>

including highly efficient equipment and food"⁴²⁸. In this context, the parties have already discussed the possibility of opening specialized trading platforms in both Minsk and Ulaanbaatar.

However, the most pressing issue for this East Asian country is the development of the agro-industrial sector, as there are plans to modernize agriculture, especially in the livestock industry, in order to transition from extensive nomadic farming to intensive farming, as well as to create joint agricultural machinery production facilities to subsequently equip Mongolian farms. During this visit, it was noted that the relevant ministries of the parties "have prepared a roadmap for the development of cooperation in agriculture, which outlines projects and steps for their implementation. This includes the construction of new and modernization of existing full-cycle dairy farms, the supply of Belarusian cattle, veterinary drugs, seeds, specialized equipment, training and professional development of Mongolian specialists, and, of course, the supply of agricultural machinery"⁴²⁹.

It should be noted that there are already several production facilities in Mongolia that cooperate with the Belarusian side. For example, the APU plant for the production of dairy, carbonated, and alcoholic beverages, which uses dry milk from Belarus for the production of dairy products and Belarusian malt for beer production. 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 tractors with a capacity of 80-350 horsepower and plows, which reflects the supply plan for 2024-2025 with the prospect of developing cooperation until 2027. In the same month, the Belarusian side held negotiations with the Mongolian state-owned Agricultural Corporation for the supply of breeding livestock, milking equipment, and the construction of dairy production facilities for the needs of Mongolian farmers.

⁴²⁸ 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-dorozhnuju-kartu-sotrudnichestva-do-2026-goda-621451-2024>

⁴²⁹ What can Belarus and Mongolia offer each other? Details of Aleinik's negotiations with 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/>

In addition, as part of this topic, following the meetings in March 2024 in Ulaanbaatar, the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange (BUTB) planned to diversify its commodity structure and increase the volume of exchange deliveries of Belarusian agricultural products to the Mongolian market. This is especially true given that "in September 2023, the first Mongolian exchange broker, United Meres Machinery, which has been operating on the Belarusian market for quite some time, was accredited on the BSE..."⁴³⁰. The first deal involving a resident of Mongolia was concluded in January 2024. However, only products from Belarusian sugar factories have been supplied to the Mongolian market so far. Almost 1,500 tons of this product were sold for a total of more than \$770,000. Work in this area will continue in the near future. In addition, "Mongolia is interested in importing Belarusian dry milk and butter. An agreement on cooperation on these commodity items has already been reached with four potential buyers – large food industry enterprises"⁴³¹.

A separate topic is the interaction between Belarus and Mongolia in the field of emergency response. It is known that "thanks to the work of Belarusian equipment, more than 13,000 people have already been rescued and property damage amounting to more than \$20 million has been prevented"⁴³². The parties discussed several areas of promising cooperation in this field. First, Mongolian partners are interested in purchasing special firefighting 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. It concerns the supply of more than 100 units of Belarusian firefighting equipment. Secondly, there is great interest in continuing training programs for specialists from Mongolia at specialized institutions in Belarus.

⁴³⁰ Zaleski, B. The ideology of pragmatism. Features of partnerships in the Belarusian economy: internal and external segments / Boris Zaleski. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2024. – P. 146.

⁴³¹ BUTB plans to increase agricultural exports to Mongolia [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/butb-planiruet-velichit-eksport-belorusskoi-selhozproduksii-v-mongoliju-622030-2024/>

⁴³² 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-ludej-v-mongolii-i-gde-ispolzuiut-nashe-suhoe-moloko-novye-621781-2024/>

Other promising areas of Belarusian-Mongolian cooperation discussed in Ulaanbaatar included cooperation in the mining industry and the modernization of elevator infrastructure in residential buildings. In addition, emphasis was placed on the supply of municipal and passenger vehicles for the needs of the city of Ulaanbaatar. The Mongolian side was also offered opportunities from the Belarusian side to supply rolling stock for the metro.⁴³³ In the humanitarian sphere, Minsk and Ulaanbaatar outlined projects "in light of the large-scale state programs currently being implemented in Mongolia. These include the "Billion Trees" program, which requires special training for workers in the field of forestry"⁴³⁴. In short, the parties agreed to expand the legal framework for relations between Belarus and Mongolia and to accelerate work on the signing of about ten bilateral documents in the fields of agriculture, education, inter-university cooperation, emergency response, and cooperation between law enforcement agencies and scientific institutions of the two countries.

And so, in June 2024, in Ulaanbaatar, as part of a state visit by a Belarusian delegation, the presidents of the two countries signed a **Treaty on Friendly Relations and Cooperation between the Republic of Belarus and Mongolia**. At the same time, the parties reviewed in detail the entire spectrum of bilateral relations and signed 14 different documents on the development of cooperation in various fields, one of which was a **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 driving licenses, and on mutual recognition of educational documents. **Two more roadmaps for cooperation** were also signed: the first **in the field of education** at the level of relevant ministries for 2024-2026; the second **in the field of agro-industrial complex** for the same three-year period. Finally, "an agreement on scientific and technical

⁴³³ 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/>

⁴³⁴ Transcript of Minister S. Aleinik's press conference during his official visit to Mongolia (March 15, 2024, Ulaanbaatar) [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: https://mfa.gov.by/press/news_mfa/b1f3b3594a37a807.html

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 memoranda were also signed. They concern cooperation in the fields of justice, tourism, environmental protection, emergency prevention and response, and industrial property protection"⁴³⁵.

Speaking about **the roadmap for cooperation between the two countries**, it should be noted that "it contains more than 50 measures and projects in 16 sectors and areas of activity"⁴³⁶. 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 roadmap, which defined the areas of trade and economic cooperation – the main sphere of mutual interest for the two countries. "The purpose of the document is to systematize Belarusian-Mongolian agreements on promising economic projects in a single document and to give impetus to their implementation in 2024 and beyond"⁴³⁷. In particular, it provides for cooperation in the supply of Belarusian equipment in various areas, as well as other Belarusian and Mongolian products – foodstuffs, light industry goods, medicines, and medical equipment. This involves the export of Belarusian equipment for the Mongolian mining industry, agricultural machinery and equipment, and emergency response vehicles. The creation of joint assembly plants in Mongolia, including for tractors, cars, elevators, and dump trucks, was also discussed.

Speaking about **the roadmap for cooperation in the agro-industrial complex**, we have already pointed out above that the most pressing task for

⁴³⁵ 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/prezidentv-belarusi-i-mongolii-podpisali-dogovor-o-druzhe-i-sotrudnicestve-dvuh-stran-638585-2024/>

⁴³⁶ Belarusian Foreign Minister 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-desiatki-millionov-dollarov-639780-2024/>

⁴³⁷ Rogozhnik and Bolorchuluun signed an action plan to implement 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-dorozhnoi-638692-2024/>

this East Asian country is the development of the agro-industrial sector. "First and foremost, Mongolia plans to modernize its livestock industry. This requires equipment, new farms, and complexes"⁴³⁸. To this end, the parties plan to establish joint production of agricultural machinery to subsequently equip Mongolian farms. Recall that back in January 2024, at the 7th meeting of the IPC, it was noted that Belarus would open a specialized center in Mongolia. "It will be an agricultural machinery assembly plant, a multi-brand center in Mongolia, where all the equipment and technology will be presented, from sowing to harvesting. This is a wide range of cooperation. It includes seed production, animal husbandry, light industry, and quarry equipment"⁴³⁹. The second area is meat and dairy production. There are plans to build a livestock farm in Mongolia using Belarusian technology. It will be designed for 600 head of cattle in loose housing. The third area is veterinary drugs. In this regard, there is potential for cooperation with Belvitunifarm, 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 in Belarus and Mongolia is currently being implemented within the framework of 12 inter-university agreements. In June, an agreement was signed between the governments of the two countries on the mutual recognition of educational documents. In addition, "an agreement on cooperation has been signed between Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno and the Mongolian University of Science and Technology. Both universities intend to set up a working group and develop a roadmap"⁴⁴⁰.

⁴³⁸ Gorelik, D. Far away, but close? Why Lukashenko is flying to Mongolia and what prospects are opening up between the countries / D. Gorelik // [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/interview/view/dalekaja-no-blizkaja-zachem-lukashenko-letit-v-mongoliju-i-kakie-perspektivy-otkrvajujsja-mezhdu-stranami-9239/>

⁴³⁹ Belarus plans to open a multi-brand center in Mongolia and assist in the construction of 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/>

⁴⁴⁰ The education departments of Belarus and Mongolia are stepping up training for teaching 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/>

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 named after I.P. Shamyakin. In particular, BSUIE, together with the Mongolian University of Science and Technology, submitted a new scientific paper to the competition of the Belarusian Republican Fund for Fundamental Research and the Mongolian Science and Technology Fund. And MGPU named after I.P. Shamyakin, together with the Academy of Sciences of Mongolia, are developing a project in the field of agronomy. Other universities are also interested in cooperation with Mongolian partners, including the 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 technologies, physics and radiophysics, chemistry and chemical technologies, ecology, biotechnology, medicine, pharmacy, agro-industrial and food technologies, social sciences and humanities. "In March of this year [2024], a group of managers and specialists from one of Mongolia's farms underwent training at BGATU as part of the advanced training program 'Innovative Technologies in Animal Husbandry and Feed Production'."⁴⁴¹ . We would like to add that the signed roadmap includes a clause on the development of academic mobility for students and teachers. Belarusian educational institutions are ready to organize training for foreign students in English or Russian at the preparatory department. A distance learning format is possible, with the program lasting from eight to ten months. At the same time, professional personnel will be trained for specific enterprises.

During the Belarusian delegation's state visit to Ulaanbaatar in June 2024, Belarus and Mongolia agreed to intensify cooperation in **the field of environmental protection** in areas such as the green economy, maximizing the use of waste by incorporating it into economic circulation, preserving

⁴⁴¹ Belarus and Mongolia sign 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/>

landscape and biological diversity, and exploring and extracting minerals. Earlier, in the interests of the Mongolian side, research work was carried out under an agreement with the Belarusian Republican Fund for Fundamental Research on the topic "Humic preparations based on peat and coal for the green development of desert areas and environmental protection." "The aim of the work was to provide theoretical and experimental justification for the composition of humic preparations as natural compounds for the greening of desert areas in Mongolia"⁴⁴². In June, the Belarusian side submitted a report to its Mongolian partners containing the theoretical results of the work, including a preliminary assortment of woody plants resistant to moisture deficiency, soil salinization, and other adverse soil and climatic conditions similar to those in Mongolia. It proposed continuing work in this direction in order to test the developed assortment 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 last year, the State Committee for 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 the priority areas of Belarusian-Mongolian cooperation: agriculture, agricultural and forestry machinery and equipment, intensive livestock farming, reforestation and breeding, crop production, history, and archaeology"⁴⁴³. Thus, 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 the sidelines of the visit, at which the prospects for cooperation between the business communities of the two countries were discussed. Forty

⁴⁴² Belarus and Mongolia are interested in cooperating in the field of environmental protection [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-mongolija-zainteresovany-sotrudnichat-v-prirodoohrannoj-sfere-638714-2024/>

⁴⁴³ A competition for Belarusian-Mongolian scientific and technical projects for 2024-2025 has been announced [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/objjavlen-konkurs-belorusko-mongolskih-nauchno-tehnicheskikh-proektov-na-2024-2025-gody-623638-2024/>

Belarusian companies were represented at the forum, where 13 commercial documents were signed. The total amount is \$20 million. <...> For comparison: the total trade turnover between Belarus and Mongolia at the end of 2023 amounted to about \$30 million"⁴⁴⁴. This package of commercial contracts and agreements included proposals from Belarusian industrial enterprises. In particular, "a memorandum of intent was signed between OJSC BELAZ, its representative in the region, United Meres Machinery LLC, and Ovoot Tolgoi Resources, and a memorandum of cooperation was signed between OJSC Mogilevliftmash and the Mongolian elevator organization Best Fashion Elevators LLS."⁴⁴⁵. A memorandum of cooperation was also signed between OJSC UKH BobruiskAgromash and the Mongolian KOGS Agricultural Corporation, as feed harvesting machines are of primary interest to the market of this East Asian country. And "since 2021, more than 250 units of Bobruiskagromash feed harvesting agricultural machinery have been shipped to Mongolia"⁴⁴⁶. The same package included an agreement to sign a contract worth approximately €14.5 million for the supply of fire and rescue equipment. The fact is that Mongolian partners received "Belarusian equipment worth approximately €12 million in 2020. And it is being successfully operated here, even in difficult conditions."⁴⁴⁷.

It should be noted that following this visit by the Belarusian delegation to the Mongolian capital, Belarus and Mongolia promptly began implementing agreements across a wide range of areas. Already in September 2024, the parties "agreed on the supply of Belarusian machinery and

⁴⁴⁴ The Mongolian-Belarusian Business Forum has already brought in about \$20 million to the bilateral relations fund [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/mongolo-belorusskij-biznes-forum-uzhe-prines-okolo-20-mln-v-kopilku-dvustoronnih-otnoshenij-638654-2024/>

⁴⁴⁵ The export potential of the Ministry of Industry's enterprises was 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/>

⁴⁴⁶ Bobruiskagromash is working on deliveries to Zimbabwe and Mongolia [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/bobruiskagromash-prorabatyvvaet-postavki-v-zimbabve-i-mongoliju-640079-2024/>

⁴⁴⁷ Rogozhnik on Belarusian equipment in Mongolia: our advantage is reliability [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/rogozhnik-o-belorusskoi-tehnike-v-mongolii-nashe-preimuschestvo-v-nadezhnosti-638625-2024/>

equipment for industry, agriculture, and emergency response vehicles"⁴⁴⁸ , and also discussed the purchase of special equipment in Belarus for firefighting and natural disaster response. In the same month, Belarusian manufacturers presented **their products** at the international multi-sector exhibition **Ulaanbaatar Partnership 2024**, held in Ulaanbaatar.

This exhibition forum covered a wide range of topics, from food to healthcare, construction, and heavy industry. Belarus is one of the main traditional participants in this exhibition. This time, OJSC MAZ presented its production line of freight, passenger, special, and trailer vehicles. "The Made in Belarus exhibition included one of the world market leaders in the production of agricultural machinery, OJSC Gomselmash, which presented its developments and equipment, including the GS12A1, GS400, and G5 grain harvesters and the CS100 and CS200 self-propelled mowers"⁴⁴⁹ . BKM Holding showed a large-scale model of the Olgerd 32100D trolleybus with an increased range of up to twenty kilometers. The field of design and production of professional machines, equipment for public catering and trade, and the food industry was represented by the specialized enterprise OJSC Torgmash. Among the exhibits of GPO Beltopgaz were non-fuel peat products: high-moor peat of various fractions, peat nutrient soils, and peat-based covering material for growing champignons. During the exhibition, Belarusian participants held effective business meetings and negotiations with representatives of large trading companies in Mongolia, during which new projects for trade and economic cooperation were outlined.

All these facts show that "2024 has become a turning point in the development of Belarusian-Mongolian relations"⁴⁵⁰ . By signing a treaty on

⁴⁴⁸ Development Bank: ready to offer favorable financing terms for supplies from Belarus to Mongolia [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/bank-razvitiija-gotovy-predlagat-komfortnye-usloviija-finansirovanija-postavok-iz-belarusi-v-mongoliju-662879-2024/>

⁴⁴⁹ Made in Belarus exhibition presented at a multi-sector exhibition in Mongolia [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/ekspozitsiija-made-in-belarus-predstavlena-na-mnogootraslevoi-vystavke-v-mongolii-664105-2024/>

⁴⁵⁰ Grishkevich, A. Mongolian cashmere and Belarusian milk. Mongolian ambassador talks about trade and relations with Belarus / A. Grishkevich // [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/intervju-mongolskij-kashemir-i-belorusskoe-moloko-posol-mongolii-rasskazal-pro-obmen-tovarami-i-688751-2025/>

friendly relations and cooperation in June last year, Belarus and Mongolia are entering 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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Belarus – United Arab Emirates: United Arab Emirates: opening up new economic opportunities

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is Belarus' most important partner in the **Middle East**. The two countries are seeking to strengthen cooperation in various areas. This is evidenced, **first of all**, by the existing legal framework for Belarusian-Emirati relations. By the end of November 2024, the parties had already signed 14 agreements and 26 memoranda of understanding in the political, economic, and cultural spheres⁴⁵¹. **Secondly**, Belarus and the UAE are seeking to increase the volume of mutual trade. Among the documents already signed are a number of economic agreements aimed at promoting trade and opening markets. In this regard, it should be noted that "the volume of trade in non-oil goods between the two countries in 2023 increased fivefold compared to 2022"⁴⁵². **Thirdly**, in recent years, the volume of Emirati investments in the real sector of the Belarusian economy has increased, allowing 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 the achievement of the goals of the national food security strategy, which the UAE has identified as one of its priorities until 2051"⁴⁵³. **Fifth**, enterprises and businessmen from both countries participate in economic forums and exhibitions held in both countries, which facilitate the establishment of contacts between businessmen and investors from both countries, strengthening trade, increasing its volume,

⁴⁵¹ Grishkevich, A. Ambassador: The strategies of the UAE and Belarus are aimed at diversity, reinforced 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/>

⁴⁵² 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/>

⁴⁵³ 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/>

and positively affecting the economies of both countries. In recent years, Belarusian exporters have been particularly active in two international exhibitions in the UAE – **Gulfood** and **IDEX**.

The **Gulfood International Food and 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 particularly popular with visitors from the Persian Gulf countries, as more than 95 percent of food products there are imported. In February 2023, this exhibition forum was held for **the 28th time** in Dubai, where "more than 5,000 companies from 125 countries"⁴⁵⁴ took part and where the Belarusian exhibition **Belarus – the Taste of Nature** was presented. The export potential of enterprises in the Grodno region that are part of the Grodnomyasomolprom holding company was presented on the largest scale. Among the participants in the exhibition were dairy producers OJSC Molokny Mir, OJSC Lida Dairy Canning Plant and its subsidiaries Smorgon Dairy Products and Novogrudsk Gifts, as well as Volkovysk OJSC Bellakt, OJSC Babushkina Krynka, the managing company of the Mogilev Dairy Company Babushkina Krynka holding, and OJSC Rogachevsky Milk Canning Plant. The meat industry was represented by the Slonim Meat Processing Plant and the Volkovysk Meat Processing Plant. Confectionery products were demonstrated to the guests of the exhibition by SOAO "Kommunarka". ODO "FIRMA ABC", the managing company of the holding "Grodnomyasomolprom", OAO "Lidahleboprodukt" and Smorgon Bread Products Plant also brought their products to Dubai. In addition, Santa Bremor and Savushkin Product also participated with separate exhibition stands. Among the new products from Belarusian enterprises were dry milk mixtures for ice cream and yogurt from OJSC Babushkina Krynka, beef steaks from the Volkovysk Meat Processing Plant, and protein candies from Kommunarka.

As part of this exhibition, domestic companies agreed to supply their products to distributors, wholesale buyers, and food manufacturers from

⁴⁵⁴ Belarusian exposition presented at food industry exhibition in Dubai [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/beloruskaja-ekspozitsija-predstavlena-na-vystavke-pischevoi-promyshlennosti-v-dubae-551618-2023/>

various countries around the world. The Rogachevsky Milk Canning Plant signed a letter of intent with a UAE-based company to supply a range of canned milk products worth an estimated \$500,000. The company also held negotiations with companies from Singapore, Kenya, New Zealand, Libya, and China. The possibility of supplying condensed milk was discussed with chains in Qatar. A company from Saudi Arabia expressed particular interest in condensed milk with added natural coffee. OJSC Babushkina Krynka, the managing 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 dry milk worth almost one million dollars. In addition, businesses in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Syria, Turkey, as well as entrepreneurs in Iraq and Ghana, expressed interest in baby food from Volkovysk OJSC "Bellakt". Preliminary agreements have been reached on the supply of dry milk to China with a total value of about two million dollars. The Kommunarka confectionery factory has agreed to supply products to Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, the UAE, Palestine, Pakistan, and India. Visitors to the exhibition were interested in a new product from a Belarusian factory – sugar-free protein candies. The Slonim meat processing plant held talks with companies from Malaysia, the UAE, New Zealand, Uzbekistan, China, Azerbaijan, and Egypt, while the Volkovysk Meat Processing Plant held talks with potential partners from China, Saudi Arabia, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Uzbekistan, and Canada. "In total, Belarusian companies signed contracts worth more than \$4 million at the exhibition"⁴⁵⁵. We would like to add that Belarus has represented the exhibition of domestic producers Belarus – The Taste of Nature for the eighth year in a row.

The 29th Gulfood 2024 International Food and Beverage Exhibition in Dubai in February last year once again brought together more than 5,000 participants from 127 countries. This time, Belarusian companies presented a wide range of dairy products, including dry milk, assorted

⁴⁵⁵ Belarusian companies 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-dogovory-na-bolee-chem-4-mln-552857-2023/>

cheeses, and desserts to the exhibition guests. The Savushkin Product company presented a wide range of natural dairy products at the exhibition, including both new products and products already familiar to buyers in the UAE. Minsk Milk Plant No. 1 presented a lactose-free product line, plant-based beverages, and, for the first time, dry milk shakes. Lidsky Milk Canning Plant OJSC and its subsidiaries exhibited a specialized line of products made from dry milk and other dry dairy products, butter, frozen cottage cheese, and an assortment of cheeses. In addition to its classic product line, OJSC Molokny Mir presented new products: lactose-free cheese and whipping cream. The stand of OJSC Bellakt in Volkovysk showcased a line of products for young children, pregnant women, and nursing mothers. Rogachevsky MKK OJSC presented an assortment of cheeses, butter, and canned dairy products, including Belarusian condensed milk, which is popular in many countries. The company's subsidiary, Kalinkovichsky Milk Plant, showcased "instant skimmed milk powder and whole milk powder in new packaging: PET-, 1 kg and 400 g cans, as well as 25 g stick packs."⁴⁵⁶ . The Lida Bread Product stand presented wheat and rye flour, pasta made from durum and soft wheat varieties, and semi-finished flour products. Among the products presented were new items: vegetable fiber and wheat germ flakes. Slonimsky Meat Processing Plant 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, **the 30th anniversary Gulfood 2025 International Food and Beverage Exhibition** in Dubai featured "more than 1 million products and goods from 5,500 participants from 129 countries and over 130,000 visitors from 195 countries"⁴⁵⁷ . For the tenth time, **Belarus** was represented by an updated exhibition as the exclusive partner and organizer of Belarusian companies' participation in the Gulfood international

⁴⁵⁶ Belarusian exhibition presented at food industry exhibition in Dubai [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belorusskaja-ekspozitsija-predstav/>

⁴⁵⁷ Unique raw materials, dessert paste, exclusive flour. What Belarus presented at the Gulfood exhibition [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/unikalnye-svry-desertnaia-pasta-ekskljuzivnaia-mukachto-belarus-predstavila-na-vystavke-gulfood-696467-2025/>

exhibition. **The Taste of Nature**, designed in the image of an openwork house, stylistically decorated with elements of Belarusian decorative and applied art – vytynanka, which, by decision of the Intergovernmental Committee, will be included in the UNESCO list of intangible cultural heritage in 2024. Thirteen Belarusian enterprises presented their products.

The exhibition featured white mold cheese from OJSC Minsk Milk Plant No. 1, the managing company of the First Milk holding, which has just appeared on the Belarusian market. Among the company's exclusive new products are blue cheese. Pervy Molochny also presented dry dairy products made from natural cow's milk, hard cheeses, butter, glazed curds, and a sterilized line of dairy products called " ." Babushkina Krynka OJSC presented an innovative dairy product – milk candies enriched with vitamin D3, as well as dry dairy products and classic cheeses. The company also demonstrated new products, including cheese with paprika, fat cheese with chanterelles, and Norwegian cheese. The company exhibited glazed curd cheese with different flavors especially for the exhibition. Dairy products, liquid and dry baby food, and desserts, including curd cheese, cakes, chocolate sausage, and popular dessert paste, were presented by the industry leader, Volkovysk OJSC Bellakt. In addition to well-known products, new items were presented: dry baby food, milk candies, coffee and cocoa drinks, as well as dry specialized drinks for middle-aged and elderly people and young people. The Slonim Meat Processing Plant presented a wide range of sausage products, semi-finished beef products, and canned goods. The stand featured new ready-made products that meet the requirements of the Halal voluntary certification system. The company OAO Lidakhleboprodukt presented flour, semi-finished flour products, compound feed, and premixes, including a new product – ptim made from hard wheat varieties. The Smorgon Bread Products Plant presented oat flour, whole micronized wheat and rye flour, rapeseed oil, and a range of instant cereals. Milkavita OJSC – a wide range of dry dairy products, ultra-pasteurized milk and cream, butter, cheeses, including aged cheeses; Lida Dairy Canning Plant – a product line of dry dairy products, sweet cream butter, cottage cheese, and a number of new cheese products from its subsidiary, Novogrudskie Dary. Lactose-free milk and a range of products, including product cases from the

Kalinkovichsky Dairy Plant, were presented by the Rogachevsky Milk Canning Plant, holder of the State Quality Mark. The Slutsk Cheese Factory offered a wide range of dry dairy products, glazed curds, sweet cream and chocolate butter, ultra-pasteurized milk, and a lactose-free line of milk, butter, yogurt, 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, and dry milk in innovative packaging designed specifically for ease of use in the retail segment.

Another interesting fact about the Belarusian participation in the 30th Gulfood International Food Exhibition: as a result of the participation of the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange (BUCB) in this exhibition forum, agreements were reached to increase exports of domestic agricultural products to the United Arab Emirates and other countries in 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 willingness to use the BUTB electronic platform to purchase Belarusian dry milk, dry milk whey, and frozen semi-finished meat products. Expanding the pool of Emirati importers accredited on the BUTB will create the conditions for increasing the volume of exchange exports to the UAE, which reached \$43 million in 2024. Last year, participants from the UAE were among the top five buyers of Belarusian goods at exchange auctions. At the same time, agricultural products accounted for 80 percent of the total volume of transactions concluded by Emirati companies, with the remaining 20 percent coming from exports of sawn timber. As for agricultural products, "in 2024, mainly skimmed milk powder and amino acids were supplied through the exchange in the UAE. In 2025, whole milk powder was added to these items. Active work is underway to increase sales of Belarusian-produced amino acids, with the total value of exchange transactions for their sale in the UAE exceeding \$20.5 million since the beginning of the year"⁴⁵⁸. It remains only to add that as of February 1, 2025, 33 residents from this

⁴⁵⁸ 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-belorusskoj-selhozproduksii-na-rynok-blizhnego-vostoka-696695-2025/>

Middle Eastern country had already been accredited on the BUTB. In addition, as part of the Gilfood exhibition, the BSE agreed to establish a partnership with the Dubai Gold and Commodities Exchange to create additional opportunities for attracting UAE business circles to the Belarusian commodity exchange market.

As for the **IDEX** exhibition forum, it is the largest international exhibition of arms and military equipment. In February 2023, the Belarusian stand in Abu Dhabi showcased "modern and promising innovative developments from nine enterprises in the country's defense sector, as well as actual and mock-up samples of products from Belarusian manufacturers such as AGAT Control Systems, OJSC Radar Design Bureau, and OJSC 140 Repair Plant"⁴⁵⁹.

Two years later, in February 2025, Belarus presented "more than 150 different models of weapons and military equipment that meet the most advanced global trends in weapons development" at **the IDEX 2025 international exhibition of arms and military equipment**.⁴⁶⁰ In particular, Belarusian arms manufacturers showed wheeled and tracked robots, as well as the Berserk robotic fire complex, which allows effective firing at manpower or low-flying drones and helicopters. The system is highly maneuverable and has high cross-country capability. This allows Berserk to be used, among other things, to guard the perimeter of a facility. "The maximum distance between the robot and the operator's position is 5 km in direct line of sight and 1 km in mixed urban terrain. The effective firing range is up to 1 km. However, the UAV can be detected from a distance of 3 km. Armored vehicles or helicopters can be detected from 6 km and 10 km, respectively"⁴⁶¹. Another Belarusian innovation at the IDEX 2025 exhibition

⁴⁵⁹ Belarusian innovative developments presented at the IDEX-2023 international exhibition in the UAE [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/beloruskie-innovatsionnye-razrabotki-predstavleny-na-mezhdunarodnoj-vvstavke-index-2023-v-oae-551861-2023/>

⁴⁶⁰ The State Military Industrial Committee will present more than 150 samples of weapons and equipment at the IDEX exhibition in the UAE [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/bole-150-obraztsov-vooruzhenija-i-tehniki-predstavit-goskomvoenprom-v-oae-na-vvstavke-index-695015-2025/>

⁴⁶¹ Belarusian arms manufacturers to present wheeled and tracked robots at exhibition in the UAE [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/beloruskie-oruzhejniki-predstavjat-na-vvstavke-v-oae-kolesnyh-i-gusenichnyh-robotov-695184-2025/>

is the Sapphire rocket-propelled grenade launcher, which has such advantages as "low weight, a multifunctional warhead, and a programmable explosive device that can be used in both contact and trajectory modes. Another feature of Sapphire is the ability to combine products into a cluster and fire in salvo mode.⁴⁶² . In addition, there is high potential for adapting the product to various carriers. As part of this exhibition, the Belarusian State Military Industrial Committee held talks with the independent Emirati state organization Tawazun Council, which works closely with the UAE Ministry of Defense and security services, during which "the emphasis was placed on creating joint high-tech products based on the existing competencies of the parties"⁴⁶³ , as well as with the Edge holding company, 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 range of topics and areas, and active dynamics"⁴⁶⁴ . In 2025, the two countries plan to hold another meeting of the Belarusian-Emirati Business Council, and UAE Culture Days in Minsk are also scheduled . In addition, there are significant prospects for the development of bilateral interregional cooperation, further strengthening of cooperation in the field of food security, and expansion of constructive cooperation in the field of standardization and certification. Thus, the parties are ready to implement joint initiatives and projects that open up new economic opportunities for Belarus and the United Arab Emirates.

⁴⁶² Belarusian grenade launcher complex "Sapphire" to be presented at military equipment exhibition in the UAE [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/beloruskij-granatometvji-kompleks-sapfir-predstavjat-na-vystavke-voennoj-tehniki-v-oae-695383-2025/>

⁴⁶³ Goskomvoenprom and Emirati Tawazun 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/>

⁴⁶⁴ Belarus and the UAE plan to hold a business council meeting in 2025 [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-oae-planiruiut-provesti-v-2025-godu-zasedanie-delovogo-soveta-679011-2024/>

Belarus – Iran: with a view to a new level of strategic cooperation

In January 2025, the 17th meeting of the 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 cooperation in 2025 in a wide range of areas, including trade and industry, agriculture, electric power, transport, healthcare, education, sports..."⁴⁶⁵ .

It should be recalled that at the 16th meeting of the JPC, which took place in October 2023 in Tehran, the parties "agreed on a plan for further cooperation in promising areas of partnership"⁴⁶⁶ , which included the implementation of about 40 measures in the areas of industrial cooperation, agriculture and veterinary medicine, healthcare and pharmaceuticals, transport, and cooperation through chambers of commerce and industry. To date, more than 30 of these measures have already been implemented or are in the final stages of implementation, while active cooperation is ongoing on the rest. And at the 17th meeting of the JPC, the parties again agreed to "find new growth points that will significantly increase trade between the two countries"⁴⁶⁷ . The Belarusian side is interested not only in the supply of domestic goods, agricultural machinery – tractors, combine harvesters, trailers, and mounted implements, but is also seriously considering Iranian sites and Iranian partners in terms of organizing and transferring expertise for the manufacture of knowledge-intensive products, for example, in agricultural machinery, right there on the spot. Iran "has enormous opportunities and potential in the petrochemical industry, the production of agricultural and mining equipment, knowledge-intensive goods,

⁴⁶⁵ Golovchenko: Belarus is committed to a long-term and sustainable partnership with Iran [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/golovchenko-belarus-nastroena-na-dolgosrochnoe-i-ustojchivoe-partnerstvo-s-iranom-689041-2025/>

⁴⁶⁶ Zaleski, B. Dynamics of Successful Partnership. Internal and External Reserves for the Steady Growth of the Belarusian Economy / Boris Zaleski. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2024. – P. 15.

⁴⁶⁷ 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/>

pharmaceuticals, the production of medical equipment, and building materials"⁴⁶⁸. The country also has highly developed engineering, construction, tourism, education, and healthcare services.

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 certain types of cancer and congenital diseases using bone marrow transplants"⁴⁶⁹. The fact is that Iran is one of the regional leaders in terms of the number and quality of bone marrow transplants performed. This method of treating blood diseases has been used there for over 30 years. About 17,000 such operations have been successfully performed in the country. Or take this example. Specialists from Iran 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"⁴⁷⁰. The dressing is designed to treat superficial wounds and first- and second-degree burns. Thanks to its biodegradable structure, the product helps new tissue cells to grow. As the wound heals, the dressing gradually dissolves. The developer company plans to produce about 500,000 units of this product per year. So Iran is ready to cooperate with Belarus in all these areas.

It should be noted that since 2022, there has been a steady increase in the volume of mutual Belarusian-Iranian trade. In 2022, it grew threefold compared to 2021. In 2023, these volumes increased again. And "in 2024, trade turnover grew by 25% compared to the previous year"⁴⁷¹, amounting to

⁴⁶⁸ Trading house and visa regime simplification. Iran counts on active cooperation with Belarus [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/torgovyi-dom-i-uproschenie-vizovogo-rezhima-iran-rasschitvvaet-na-aktivnoe-sotrudnichestvo-s-belarusiju-688936-2025/>

⁴⁶⁹ Iranian specialists have achieved significant success in bone marrow transplantation [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/tech/view/iranskiye-spetsialisty-dobilis-znachitelnyh-uspehov-v-transplantatsii-kostnogo-mozga-703570-2025/>

⁴⁷⁰ Iran has developed a biodegradable bandage for rapid wound healing [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/tech/view/v-irane-razrabotali-biorazlagaeemuju-povjazku-dlja-bystrogo-zazhivlenija-ran-700688-2025/>

⁴⁷¹ Alireza Sanei: Political and economic relations between Iran and Belarus continue to develop dynamically [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/alireza-sanei-politicheskie-i-ekonomicheskie-otnoshenija-mezhdu-iranom-i-belarusiju-prodolzhajut-695226-2025/>

about \$107 million. And this trend may develop even further. Especially since both Belarus and Iran are demonstrating major achievements in economics, science, and technology. For example, Iran ranks second in the region in terms of production volume in the petrochemical industry. It "can provide 85% of its own needs in the production of equipment for the oil and gas and petrochemical industries, as well as in the production of catalysts, which are exported to other countries"⁴⁷². This country is also one of 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 at Iranian universities.

Returning to the 17th meeting of the IPC, we note that the parties discussed a number of specific projects. First, Iran is ready to increase its purchases of potash fertilizers from Belarus, which are in demand in the country's agriculture. "The importer is the Iranian Ministry of Agriculture, which purchases these products and is ready to increase the volume of its purchases"⁴⁷³. In 2023, the parties already signed a contract for the supply of 400,000 tons of these fertilizers.

Secondly, Iran is interested in supplying its cars to Belarus. Thirdly, "Iran is interested in establishing joint tractor production with Belarus"⁴⁷⁴. This issue is already in the initial stages of development. Fourthly, Iran and Belarus have already discussed the topic of intensifying contacts "in the field of pharmaceuticals, which is well developed in Iran – 97% of the necessary medicines are produced <...> in the country"⁴⁷⁵. They have created a joint

⁴⁷² Alireza Sanei: Iran demonstrates major achievements in economics, science, and technology despite sanctions [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/alireza-sanei-iran-vopreki-sanktsijam-demonstriruet-krupnye-dostizhenija-v-ekonomike-nauke-i-695223-2025/>

⁴⁷³ Ambassador: Iran is ready to increase purchases of potash fertilizers from Belarus [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/posol-iran-gotov-narastit-objemy-zakupki-v-belarusi-kalijnyh-udobrenij-694790-2025/>

⁴⁷⁴ Alireza Sanei: Iran is interested in establishing joint tractor production with Belarus [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/alireza-sanei-iran-zainteresovan-v-sozdanii-sovmestnogo-s-belarusiju-proizvodstva-tractorov-694854-2025/>

⁴⁷⁵ Sanei, A. Belarus and Iran have reached the midpoint of their four-year roadmap. What has been achieved and what are the plans? / A. Sanei // [Electronic resource].

working group of health ministries to discuss in detail issues of cooperation in this regard.

Fifth, 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 a route to the port of Chabahar. "This is one of the largest ports in the country and a key element in the North-South international transit corridor"⁴⁷⁶. Belarus is interested in opening a direct air link on the Tehran-Minsk-Tehran route. After all, Iran occupies an advantageous geographical position and is a bridge connecting Belarus with the Persian Gulf states. In March of this year, during negotiations in Minsk on expanding cooperation in the field of air transport, the relevant agencies of the two countries signed a memorandum of intent. "The parties also agreed to carry out the domestic procedures necessary for signing an airworthiness agreement,"⁴⁷⁷. So, in the future, the opportunities for the two countries to promote transportation will only grow.

Sixth, in February 2025, an agreement to intensify the Belarusian-Iranian business agenda was reached during a series of meetings between a delegation from the National Marketing Center (NMC) and Iranian partners in Tehran to expand channels of bilateral cooperation. The partners agreed with the Trade Development Organization to exchange visits by expert delegations, which will lead to the development of joint steps to support exporters in both countries. In particular, the parties began working on an agreement on the supply of cable and wire products. This was discussed between Belarusian and Iranian business circles at the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture. Belarusian business was represented in a variety of sectors during the business visit to Iran: from the production of confectionery and cable and wire products to logistics services and investment attraction. During the negotiations, the parties discussed a

– 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/interview/view/belarus-i-iran-dobralis-do-mediuma-chetvrehletnej-dorozhnoj-kartv-cto-v-aktive-i-kakie-planv-9580/>

⁴⁷⁶ Belarus and Iran are interested in developing the transit potential of both countries [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-iran-zainteresovany-v-razviti-i-tranzitnogo-potentsiala-dvuh-stran-688928-2025/>

⁴⁷⁷ 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-zainteresovany-rasshirit-sotrudnichestvo-v-oblasti-vozdushnogo-transporta-701359-2025/>

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 on the Iranian market. "Active cooperation is underway to create 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 Iranian Transport and Logistics Federation"⁴⁷⁸. Successful cooperation between companies from both countries will strengthen their position in the international market, expand their geographical presence, and increase the competitiveness of enterprises. The NCM signed a bilateral memorandum with the Tehran Chamber of Commerce and Industry, which confirmed the stated intentions and other plans of the parties. It was based on a number of successfully conducted joint events. In addition, the NCM signed a memorandum of understanding with the Iranian Entrepreneurs Assembly, which "noted the willingness of both countries to help companies become more involved in business dialogue, including through participation in events for the business community"⁴⁷⁹.

And in May this year, there will be a major international exhibition, Iran Agrofood, one of the largest annual specialized exhibition events in the country, covering the entire food production chain: from agricultural equipment to finished products. The main sections of the exhibition include food and beverages, food ingredients, food and beverage production equipment and technologies, agricultural machinery, agricultural technologies, accessories and equipment for the hotel business and public catering, packaging, and more. "In 2024, 847 companies from 12 countries participated in the exhibition, namely Russia, China, Iran, the UAE, Turkey, India, Thailand, Spain, Italy, Austria, Germany, and Denmark. The exhibition

⁴⁷⁸ 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-prorabatvvajut-soglashenie-po-postavkam-kabelno-provodnikovoi-produktsii-698766-2025/>

⁴⁷⁹ Belarus and Iran agree to expand business cooperation and intensify contacts within the SCO [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-iran-dogovorilis-rasshirit-biznes-sotrudnichestvo-i-aktivizirovat-kontakty-po-linii-shos-696396-2025/>

occupied 22 pavilions, and the number of visitors exceeded 40,000."⁴⁸⁰ . The participation of Belarusian enterprises in the collective exhibition will undoubtedly allow them to inform a wide range of potential foreign partners about Belarus' production and export potential, establish direct contacts with foreign countries, and lay the foundation for long-term mutually beneficial cooperation.

Finally, in terms of intensifying 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 showed positive dynamics. And there are already new areas of growth for cooperation between Brest and Iran. After all, the southwestern region of Belarus has great potential not only in the agro-industrial complex, but also in the production of road machinery, batteries, automotive engineering, and the military-industrial complex. "One of the areas in which the parties are interested in cooperating is the supply of batteries manufactured in the Brest region for use in the Iranian automotive industry,"⁴⁸¹ . The Iranian side, in turn, proposed signing a twinning agreement between the Belarusian region and one of the regions of Iran in order to further develop relations and present their capabilities. This will enable businesspeople and enterprises to interact in a more focused and concrete manner. Another promising area of cooperation was identified as Iranian investment in projects in the Brest region. This is especially true given that the Brest Free Economic Zone offers many incentives, provides advantages to businesspeople, and creates comfortable conditions for implementing projects. In addition, the parties have great potential for mutual cooperation in the field of tourism.

⁴⁸⁰ From ingredients to packaging. The potential of Belarusian agriculture and food industry presented in Tehran [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/ot-ingredientov-do-upakovki-potentsial-selskogo-hozjajstva-i-pisheproma-belarusi-prezentujut-v-699525-2025/>

⁴⁸¹ A twinning agreement may link the Brest region with one of Iran's regions [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/pobratimskoe-soglashenie-mozhet-svjazat-brestskuju-oblast-s-odnim-iz-regionov-irana-706506-2025/>

Let's sum up. The 17th meeting of the joint intergovernmental commission on economic cooperation, held in Minsk in January this year, showed that Belarus and Iran have enormous potential for further deepening bilateral contacts and can reach a new level of strategic cooperation. Moreover, new opportunities for effective partnerships are also opened up by the two countries' membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Iran's membership in BRICS and Belarus' status as a partner country in this organization, Belarus' participation in the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) and Iran's status as an observer in the EAEU. In fact, the EAEU itself plans to hold the first meeting of the joint committee with Iran in Minsk in September 2025, where roadmaps for the development of cooperation in areas of mutual interest will be approved, which will "include such promising areas as the simplification of border customs procedures, industrial cooperation, removal of technical barriers to trade, cooperation in the field of SPS regulation, e-commerce, and digital trade"⁴⁸². This committee will serve as an institutional platform for considering any issues related to the implementation 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 Iran's recently granted observer status in the "Eurasian Five."

For reference: the full-fledged free trade agreement between the EAEU and Iran will enter into force on May 15 this year. "The implementation of the new agreement will be an effective tool for developing trade between the countries and, in the foreseeable future, could bring mutual trade turnover to a record \$12 billion, approximately double the current volume"⁴⁸³. It should be recalled that a temporary agreement between the EAEU and Iran has been in force since 2019, leading to the creation of a free trade zone for a limited number of goods. On December 25, 2023, a full-fledged free trade agreement was signed in St. Petersburg, establishing a duty-

⁴⁸² 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/>

⁴⁸³ Pivovar, E. Full-scale free trade agreement between the EAEU and Iran to come into force on May 15 / E. Pivovar // [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/polnoformatnoe-soglasenie-o-svobodnoj-torgovle-mezhdu-eaes-i-iranom-vstupit-v-silu-15-maja-703093-2025/>

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 on the prospects for developing cooperation with Iran in the field of transport and logistics, with the participation of business associations and transport companies from the EAEU countries that are already working in the Iranian market or are only working out the logistics for deliveries to this country. It was announced 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, Iranian partners are ready to explore opportunities for cooperation within the framework of the North-South Transport Corridor, to intensify maritime transport across the Caspian Sea, and to participate in the Eurasian Agro-Express project.⁴⁸⁴, as the need to build supply chains to Iran, as well as the development of infrastructure for access to the Caspian Sea basin, the Persian Gulf, Central Asia, Africa, and India, is becoming particularly important in the context of global changes and the establishment of new transport and logistics routes. All this will undoubtedly give additional impetus and positive momentum to Belarusian-Iranian cooperation.

⁴⁸⁴ 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/>

Belarus–Myanmar: The goal is to increase multisectoral cooperation

In September 2024, the Republic of Belarus and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar celebrated a significant milestone – 25 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations. On this occasion, the parties exchanged messages in which they demonstrated their "readiness to convert political dialogue into increased cooperation in trade, economic, cultural, scientific, educational, and other spheres"⁴⁸⁵. It should be noted that the legal framework for bilateral relations at that time was still in the process of being formed and consisted of only eight inter-state, intergovernmental, and inter-agency agreements. Other recent events include the **first** meeting of the Belarusian-Myanmar Joint Committee on Trade and Economic Cooperation, held in November 2013 in Yangon, the economic capital of this Southeast Asian country.

In January 2025, at a bilateral business forum in Yangon, Belarus and Myanmar agreed to intensify cooperation in the current year. In particular, "the Myanmar side expressed great interest primarily in pharmaceuticals, agricultural technology, and education"⁴⁸⁶. After all, Myanmar has a population of 55 million, so many Belarusian goods have great prospects for promotion in the market of this country. In March of this year, a representative delegation from Myanmar, led by the Chairman of the State Administrative Council and Prime Minister of the country, M.A. Hlaing, visited the Belarusian capital. He stated that his country aims to expand cooperation with Belarus through the development of multi-sectoral cooperation. It should be noted that "the volume of mutual trade with Myanmar reached \$34.6 million at the end of 2024, an increase of more than 90% compared to 2023. At the

⁴⁸⁵ On the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Belarus and Myanmar [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: https://www.mfa.gov.by/press/news_mfa/e44d21e4892be601.html

⁴⁸⁶ Pharmaceuticals and agriculture. Belarus and Myanmar agree to intensify cooperation this year [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/farmatsevtika-i-selskoe-hoziajstvo-belarus-i-mijanma-dogovorilis-ob-aktivizatsii-sotrudnichestva-v-688646-2025/>

same time, exports of domestic products amounted to \$22.7 million, which is almost four times more than a year earlier"⁴⁸⁷.

During the negotiations held in the Belarusian capital, the Myanmar leader proposed a number of specific areas that have great potential for joint activities. First and foremost, these were agriculture and mechanical engineering. Since agriculture is the main activity for Myanmar's economy, the country is interested in the transfer of Belarusian technologies in the agro-industrial complex and the production of agricultural equipment and machinery, as well as the purchase of various types of fertilizers. "The use of modern Belarusian technologies, expertise, and equipment will <...> further strengthen Myanmar's position as one of the leaders in the cultivation of rice and legumes, contribute to strengthening food security, and increase export volumes"⁴⁸⁸. A proposal was also made to invest in the Myanmar economy to set up various production facilities. For example, for the cultivation and processing of rubber for tire production, as well as "for the manufacture of concrete, which Myanmar imports in significant volumes every year"⁴⁸⁹.

Myanmar is also interested in the supply of freight and passenger vehicles from Belarus. Moreover, the Belarusian side is willing not only to organize these supplies of industrial products, but also to go further and organize assembly production in this country. In particular, during this visit, a document was signed on the intention to assemble Belarusian tractors on Myanmar soil. It is planned to organize this production with a capacity of 600 units per year. At the first stage, there will be 300. An important detail is that "at the first stage, the level of localization for tractors in Myanmar will be about 45%. <...> In the future, localization is planned to increase to 60%"⁴⁹⁰

⁴⁸⁷ Min Aung Hlaing: Myanmar aims to expand cooperation with Belarus [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/politics/view/min-aun-hlajin-mijanmanatselena-na-rasshirenie-sotrudnichestva-s-belarusiju-700834-2025/>

⁴⁸⁸ Min Aung Hlaing proposed that Belarus invest in Myanmar's economy [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/min-aun-hlajin-predlozhit-belarusi-investirovat-v-ekonomiku-mijanmy-700882-2025/>

⁴⁸⁹ Min Aung Hlaing: Myanmar is very interested in improving economic relations with Belarus [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/min-aun-hlajin-so-storony-mijanmy-est-bolshoj-interes-uluchshit-otnosheniia-s-belarusiju-v-sfere-700858-2025/>

⁴⁹⁰ Yefimov: The assembly capacity of Belarusian tractors in Myanmar will be 600 units per year [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/yefimov-moschnost-sborochnogo-proizvodstva-belorusskih-tractorov-v-mijanme-sostavit-600-edinits-v-god-700806-2025/>

. A contract has already been signed to supply one unit of three tractor models for testing on the Myanmar market. A site for the implementation of this project will be selected in the near future. In addition to tractors, it will be necessary to supply mounted and trailed implements for both agricultural and municipal needs. The Belarusian side has offered its partners in Myanmar technology for all agricultural work and more. Wherever tractors are used, a range of mounted and trailed implements will be offered to enable a large volume of work to be carried out.

Belarus is also ready to supply food products – dry milk and baby food – to this Southeast Asian country. And already, "during the visit to our country, agreements have been reached on the supply of 1,000 tons of dry milk from our enterprises in 2025"⁴⁹¹. In turn, Myanmar is interested in exporting other products to the Belarusian market. "These include fish, shrimp, and other seafood products to be supplied to Belarus <...>. We are talking about supplying Belarus with rice, which is traditionally grown in Myanmar"⁴⁹².

In addition, Belarus intends to expand the supply of pharmaceuticals to Myanmar. The fact is that cooperation with this country in the field of healthcare is being developed along several vectors, one of which is pharmaceutical production. Three Belarusian organizations are currently cooperating with Myanmar: Belmedpreparaty, Minskinterkaps, and the Borisov Medical Products Plant. Four domestic medicines are registered in Myanmar. There are plans to expand this list to at least twelve. And already at the Belarusian-Myanmar forum in March 2025, "an agreement on the registration of medicines was signed between RUE Belmedpreparaty and Apex Care Company with an appendix on six anticancer drugs"⁴⁹³.

⁴⁹¹ Myanmar is interested in purchasing Belarusian milk powder and baby food [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/mijanna-zainteresovana-v-zakupke-belorusskogo-suhogo-moloka-i-detskogo-pitanija-700816-2025/>

⁴⁹² From precious stones to shrimp. Ryzhenkov said that Belarus is interested in Myanmar [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/ot-dragotsennykh-kamnei-do-krevetok-ryzhenkov-rasskazal-cto-belarus-interesuet-v-mijanne-700823-2025/>

⁴⁹³ Belarus intends to expand the supply of pharmaceuticals to Myanmar, significantly increasing the number of export items [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/belarus-namerena-rasshirit-postavki-farmpreparatov-v-mijannu-v-razv-velichiv-chislo-eksportnyh-700827-2025/>

Incidentally, at the aforementioned business forum in Minsk in March, enterprises and companies from both countries signed 13 bilateral documents. Among them is a memorandum of understanding between OJSC MTZ and Myanmar Empire, which provides for the assembly of BELARUS tractors. They also signed a contract for the supply of three tractors of models 451, 522, and 820 worth about \$50,000 for operational testing and determination of the required technical characteristics"⁴⁹⁴. Volkovysk-based OJSC Bellakt and Myanmar Empire signed a memorandum of understanding on the supply of dry milk and baby food to Myanmar. The companies of the two countries also signed a number of documents on the supply of cord fabric, equipment for the production of dry milk, cream, condensed milk and other products to Myanmar, as well as seafood to Belarus. Memoranda of understanding were also signed between Belarusian and Myanmar higher education institutions.

⁴⁹⁵Following the March 2025 talks in Minsk, Belarus and Myanmar adopted a package of documents that develops the contractual and legal framework for bilateral relations. In particular, "a memorandum of intent was signed on joint actions to develop Belarusian-Myanmar cooperation. An agreement on the mutual protection of classified information was concluded. In addition, the following were adopted: cooperation agreements between the Ministry of Sports and Tourism of Belarus and the Ministry of Sports and Youth of Myanmar, between the Ministry of Justice of Belarus and the Ministry of Legal Affairs of Myanmar; a memorandum of understanding between the Ministry of Agriculture and Food of Belarus and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation of Myanmar. Overall, "Belarus and Myanmar agreed to develop a specific plan for cooperation"⁴⁹⁶ in order to dynamically interact in all areas of partnership relations, to resume the work of the intergovernmental committee on trade and economic cooperation in

⁴⁹⁴ Tractors, milk powder, equipment. What Belarusian and Myanmar companies agreed on at the business forum [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/traktory-suhoe-moloko-oborudovanie-o-chem-dogovorilis-kompanii-belarusi-i-mijianmv-na-biznes-forume-700741-2025/>

⁴⁹⁵ Package of documents on cooperation concluded between Belarus and Myanmar [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/politics/view/paket-dokumentov-o-sotrudnicestve-zakliuchen-mezhdu-belarusiu-i-mijanmoi-700875-2025/>

⁴⁹⁶ Belarus and Myanmar agree to develop a specific plan for cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/politics/view/belarus-i-mijanma-dogovorilis-razrabotat-plan-razvitija-sotrudnichestva-700843-2025/>

2025, and to establish a joint commission on innovative and scientific-technical cooperation.

And in the first half of 2025, the first deliveries of Belarusian dry milk products began. "Exports to Myanmar in January-July 2025 increased fourfold compared to the same period last year. The main items are dry whole and skimmed milk, whey, butter, and cheese"⁴⁹⁷. The Belarusian side also proposed expanding the range of products, providing export supplies of canned meat, including baby food, dry baby formula and condensed milk, flour, and pasta. It expressed its readiness to provide support for the development of dairy and livestock farming in Myanmar, including design, equipment supply, and training of specialists at Belarusian agricultural universities.

In early October 2025, the **second** meeting of the Belarusian-Myanmar Joint Committee on Trade and Economic Cooperation was held, at which the parties "identified priority areas and ways to further deepen cooperation, including in the fields of mechanical engineering, agriculture, healthcare, science and technology, education, culture, and tourism"⁴⁹⁸, noting the importance of expanding the legal framework for cooperation with an emphasis on trade and economic relations, and concluding with "the implementation of specific projects aimed at ordinary people. This includes facilitating the visa regime between our countries and creating favorable conditions for contacts between entrepreneurs and citizens of the two countries."⁴⁹⁹. In particular, six main issues were discussed, including cooperation in the field of agriculture. "The Myanmar side is interested in purchasing equipment and tractors for the agricultural industry from Belarus..."⁵⁰⁰, as well as medical equipment. In addition, the participants of

⁴⁹⁷ Exports of Belarusian dry milk products to Myanmar quadrupled in the first half of the year [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/eksport-belorusskih-suhih-molochnyh-produktov-v-mjanmu-v-pervom-polugodii-vvros-v-chetyre-raza-740336-2025/>

⁴⁹⁸ On the meeting of the Joint Belarusian-Myanmar Committee on Trade and Economic Cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: https://mfa.gov.by/press/news_mfa/fe0448112c100578.html

⁴⁹⁹ Transcript of the press conference given by Belarusian Foreign Minister M. Ryzhenkov (October 2, 2025, Minsk) [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: https://mfa.gov.by/print/press/news_mfa/d22f0b6cea43df54.html

⁵⁰⁰ Belarus and Myanmar agree on supplies of tractors and medical equipment, rice and seafood [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL:

the 2nd meeting of the committee agreed on the supply of clothing, rubber products, rice, legumes, and seafood from Myanmar to Belarus. As a result, it was announced that "Belarus and Myanmar are preparing a roadmap for cooperation"⁵⁰¹.

And in November 2025, this roadmap for 2026-2028 was signed during the **first** visit of the Belarusian head of state to Myanmar. Among other documents resulting from the high-level talks, agreements were concluded on the mutual abolition of visas, "the provision of export credits, cooperation in science and technology, and cooperation and mutual assistance in customs matters"⁵⁰². In addition, the parties agreed to upgrade the status of the Consulate General of Myanmar in Minsk to that of an embassy and to open a representative office of Belarus in this Southeast Asian country.

In November 2025, Yangon also hosted the **third** Belarusian-Myanmar business forum, which was attended by more than 100 representatives of business circles and government agencies of the two countries, including more than 40 people from Belarus, and where contracts worth about \$9 million were signed. In particular, it was decided at the forum to set up an assembly plant in Myanmar for Minsk Tractor Works machines, and "a contract was signed for the supply of 400 BELARUS 451, 522, and 820 tractor kits"⁵⁰³. Sales outlets and service centers will also be set up.

In the pharmaceutical sector, the parties agreed that medicines produced by RUE Belmedpreparaty and UP Minskinterkaps will be supplied to Myanmar. And already in December 2025, medicines produced by RUE Belmedpreparaty for cancer patients, as well as antiviral, antibacterial, and other therapeutic drugs, were sent to this country. A total of 15 tons of

<https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-mijanma-soglasovali-postavki-traktorov-i-medoborudovanija-risa-i-moreproduktov-740692-2025/>

⁵⁰¹ Pharmaceuticals and agribusiness. Belarus and Myanmar prepare a roadmap for cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/politics/view/farmatsevtika-i-apk-belarus-i-mijanma-gotoviat-dorozhnuju-kartu-sotrudnichestva-740632-2025/>

⁵⁰² Belarus and Myanmar sign agreement on mutual visa waiver [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/politics/view/belarus-i-mijanma-podpisali-soglashenie-o-vzaimnoj-otmene-viz-751296-2025/>

⁵⁰³ Assembly production of BELARUS tractors to be established in Myanmar [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/sborochnoe-proizvodstvo-traktorov-belarus-budet-sozdano-v-mijanme-751090-2025/>

medicines worth more than \$160,000 were shipped as part of this large delivery.⁵⁰⁴

As for cooperation in the agro-industrial complex, Belarus has already sent over a thousand tons of dry dairy products to Myanmar and is ready to increase these supplies to support the development of the country's agricultural sector. "Among the priority areas are supplies of skimmed milk powder, whey, baby food, canned milk and meat, flour, pasta, and long-life products."⁵⁰⁵ In livestock and seed production, Belarus offered assistance in the design and equipping of dairy complexes, technology transfer and training of specialists at domestic agricultural universities, and the supply of wheat, potato and corn seeds.

Let's sum up some of the results. The events of 2025 in Belarusian-Myanmar relations have shown that Minsk and Naypyidaw have significant potential for partnership, primarily in economic cooperation. For this reason, "at the current stage, by combining the competencies of Belarus and Myanmar, it is important to start producing joint high-tech and competitive goods that would become a practical embodiment of cooperation between the two countries"⁵⁰⁶. Then, with the help of a roadmap for 2026-2028, it will be possible to move towards long-term successful cooperation between the Belarusian and Myanmar economies.

⁵⁰⁴ Belarus has delivered its first large shipment of medicines to Myanmar [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/special/societv/view/belarus-postavila-v-mjjanmu-pervuju-krupnuju-partiju-lekarstv-752790-2025/>

⁵⁰⁵ Belarus is ready to increase exports of agricultural products and support the development of Myanmar's agricultural sector [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-gotova-naraschivat-eksport-produktsii-apk-i-podderzivat-razvitie-agrarnogo-sektora-mjjanmv-751104-2025/>

⁵⁰⁶ "The potential for cooperation is enormous." What did representatives of Belarusian and Myanmar businesses agree on? [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/potencial-sotrudnichestva-ogromen-o-chem-dogovorilis-predstaviteli-biznesa-belarusi-i-mjjanmv-751061-2025/>

Belarus – Africa: 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 partnership ties 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 a lot to offer the rapidly developing market of this region, as confirmed by the multimillion-dollar contracts and agreements reached recently"⁵⁰⁷.

At the international legal forum "Africa: Legal Subtleties of Doing Business," held in the Belarusian capital in October 2024 and attended by more than 240 participants, it was noted that today the African market generates steady demand for food, machinery, equipment, agricultural machinery, mineral products, chemical industry goods, and metals. And Belarus has great opportunities to develop this market. Suffice it to say that "in January-August 2024, Belarusian exports increased fourfold and amounted to almost half a billion dollars"⁵⁰⁸. At the same time, Belarus is ready for more advanced forms of interaction, offering a comprehensive approach to the development of cooperation, long-term work, and a gradual shift "from simple trade to investment cooperation and industrial cooperation"⁵⁰⁹.

In this context, the Belarusian side's desire to help domestic exporters show their potential at international exhibitions in African countries, which are one of the most effective ways to develop trade and economic relations between states, comes to the fore. This is especially true given that "Africa is

⁵⁰⁷ Belinterexpo announced 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/>

⁵⁰⁸ Belarus exceeded its peak 2019 level of 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/>

⁵⁰⁹ Myatlikov: Africa – a promising partner for long-term cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/myatlikov-afrika-perspektivnyi-partner-dlja-dolgosrochnogo-sotrudnichestva-671631-2024/>

a priority region for Belarusian enterprises in terms of developing cooperation and establishing business communication. In addition, African enterprises' interest in Belarusian products is evident"⁵¹⁰. This can be judged by looking at how Belarusian economic entities participated in a number of international exhibition forums on the African continent in 2023-2024.

For example, in April 2023, Belarusian companies showcased their products and services at **the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair in Zimbabwe**. The Belarusian exhibition Made in Belarus was represented by such companies as Bellakt, Lidakhlebprodukt, Smorgon Bread Products Plant, BELAZ – the managing company of the BELAZ-HOLDING holding company, Sohra, AMKODOR – the managing company of the holding company, Afrade, Minskintercaps, Borisov Medical Products Plant, Kamvol, and Mogotex. For example, Bellakt presented milk porridge and dry milk mixtures for children at the multidisciplinary exhibition, while Lidakhlebprodukt showcased its flour milling products and semi-finished flour products. The Smorgon Bread Products Plant presented oat flour and flakes. The machine-building industry was represented at the exhibition by the Belarusian Automobile Plant and Sokhra, a group of companies that services Belarusian mining equipment in various countries around the world. Also, as part of the Made in Belarus exhibition, Afrade, an authorized supplier of Belarusian equipment, demonstrated equipment from such well-known Belarusian brands as the Minsk Tractor Plant and AMKODOR at a collective stand, in particular, the high-power Belarus-2022.3 tractor, which has been supplied to the Zimbabwean market since 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 clothing, while Mogotex presented high-quality textiles that can be an excellent alternative to fabrics from China, India, and Malaysia. The company also manufactures workwear and clothing for law enforcement

⁵¹⁰ 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-belintereksposplaniruet-otkrvt-dlja-eksponentov-v-etom-godu-9259/>

agencies.⁵¹¹ Minskinterkaps and the Borisov Medical Products Plant presented new medicines at the exhibition.

In North Africa, in **Algeria, the 54th FIA International Exhibition** was held in June 2023, with about a thousand companies from 40 countries participating. Eleven companies representing various industries participated in the Belarusian national exhibition. OJSC MAZ, the managing company of the BELAVTOMAZ holding, presented a catalog of its trucks, which are known for their reliability, economy, and innovative solutions. OJSC Belarusian Metallurgical Plant, the managing company of the BMK holding (BMZ), presented advanced metallurgical technologies and high-quality rolled metal products. OJSC Slutsk Cheese Factory and OJSC Minsk Milk Plant No. 1 showcased their high-quality dairy products. And at the collective stand of the State Committee for Science and Technology, developments from institutions of the Ministry of Education and organizations of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus were presented, demonstrating "more than 30 scientific, technical, and innovative developments"⁵¹². The organizations and institutes were interested in establishing business contacts with industrial enterprises in various sectors, educational institutions, and technology parks.

In particular, the exhibition of the Belarusian State University included products developed in the laboratories of research institutes and university departments. "This is the multifunctional complex Alma Meter-2, synthesized carbon materials, heat-resistant composite materials based on solid phosphate binders, nanoscale technology for diamond processing of structural composite materials, non-ferrous metals and alloys..."⁵¹³. Smart

⁵¹¹ Belarus presents its products and services at an 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/>

⁵¹² 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/>

⁵¹³ 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-bsu-predstavvat-na-54-v-mezhdunarodnov-promvshlenov-vystavke-fia-2-d/>

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 dispense with curtains and blinds. The innovation can also be used as an information board, replacing paper price tags in shopping centers. Changes in the cost and name of goods throughout the entire retail outlet are made remotely from a centralized control unit on a computer. Visitors to the exhibition were also presented with radio-absorbing materials from the KUP series. They are designed to protect aircraft from the effects of electromagnetic radiation, have low density, high elasticity, thermal resistance up to 400-450 degrees, and chemical resistance to acids, alkalis, and solvents.

In April 2024, the same **city of Algiers** hosted the **DJAZAGRO International Food Industry Exhibition** (), where Belarusian manufacturers Belarus. The Taste of Nature presented a wide range of products and services, offering products tailored to the specifics of the region. Among the Belarusian companies were well-known domestic enterprises and food industry companies: OJSC Babushkina Krynka, the managing company of the Mogilev Dairy Company Babushkina Krynka holding, Volkovysk OJSC Bellakt, OJSC Lida Milk Canning Plant, and OJSC Soligorsk Poultry Farm⁵¹⁴. The exhibition also featured the largest spot exchange in Eastern Europe and the only commodity exchange in Belarus – the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange. These exhibitions showed that Algeria is of interest to Belarus as a proven partner with a huge market. After all, this country has a population of over 40 million people. In this regard, "Belarusian producers of dairy products and other types of food have good prospects in Algeria. There are special plans for cooperation in the industrial sector. Issues related to the creation of joint ventures for the production of freight and agricultural machinery are currently being worked out"⁵¹⁵.

⁵¹⁴ Belarusian enterprises presented their potential at the food industry exhibition in Algeria [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/beloruskie-predpriyatija-predstavili-potentsial-navvstavke-pischevoj-promyshlennosti-v-alzhire-629938-2024/>

⁵¹⁵ Terentyev, S. Milk, technology, and scientific developments / S. Terentyev // [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL:

And in **Kenya** last June, at **the 25th International Exhibition "BUILDEXPO AFRICA 2024,"** "the Republic of Belarus [was] represented in the engineering equipment and goods section by the stands of Mashkhiprom LLC and UMKA Company LLC."⁵¹⁶ . In the same month, Belarusian companies presented their potential at two major forums in **South Africa – Africa's Big 7** and **SAITEX 2024**. An interesting detail is that "in 2013 and 2015, Belarus had a national exhibition at the Africa's Big 7 and SAITEX exhibitions"⁵¹⁷ . Given Belarus' active interaction with BRICS member countries and the expansion of business partnerships within this organization, the Made in Belarus exhibition is becoming a key link in promoting 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 sector in the region, determining opportunities for coordination and building new business relationships between food producers, retailers, and the catering industry. Africa's Big 7 brought together about 4,000 participants and 170 exhibitors from 20 countries around the world. 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. Belarus was represented by the largest holding company, OJSC Minsk Crystal, the managing company of the Minsk Crystal Group holding company, and the flagship of the Belarusian wine industry, OJSC Minsk Sparkling Wine Factory, presenting a range of dessert drinks and spirits⁵¹⁸ .

<https://www.belta.by/comments/view/moloko-tehnika-i-nauchnye-razrabotki-posol-belarusi-o-prorvve-belorusskih-tovarov-v-alzhir-8770/>

⁵¹⁶ Belarusian companies participate in the BUILDEXPO AFRICA 2024 International Exhibition in Kenya [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belorusskie-kompanii-uchastvujut-v-mezhdunarodnoj-vystavke-buildexpo-africa-2024-v-kenii-639801-2024/>

⁵¹⁷ Belarusian companies showcase their potential at two major exhibitions in South Africa [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belorusskie-predpriiatija-pretentuiut-potentsial-nadvuh-krupnejshih-vystavkah-v-juar-619553-2024/>

⁵¹⁸ Belarusian companies participate in South Africa's largest international exhibition Africa's Big 7 [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belorusskie-predpriiatija-uchastvujut-v-krupnejshij-mezhdunarodnoj-vystavke-juar-africas-big-7-640514-2024/>

SAITEX is a multi-sector exhibition that serves as a platform for business negotiations and business interaction between foreign and local manufacturers, wholesale organizations, suppliers, and buyers to establish import and export ties in the region. The thematic sections of the SAITEX exhibition included industrial production, light industry, electronics and household appliances manufacturing, skincare and decorative cosmetics, tools and equipment for construction and repair, IT technologies, tourism services, insurance, financial, investment, logistics and business services, and agency support for import and export operations. More than 160 exhibitors and 4,300 visitors from several dozen countries took part in this forum. Belarus was represented by the brands Naftan, Belshina, Gomel Chemical Plant, Grodno Azot, and PO Energokomplekt.⁵¹⁹

In July 2024, Belarusian companies took part in the **FILDA** international exhibition in **Angola**, an important event in the economic life of South Africa. This multi-sector project is designed for a wide range of exhibitors. The exhibition brought together "more than 1,300 companies from 18 countries in Africa, Europe, America, and Asia"⁵²⁰. Even before the exhibition began, the organizers paid special attention to the flagship of domestic machine building within the Belarusian exposition – OJSC BELAZ, the managing company of the BELAZ-HOLDING holding company and its sales representatives, as the equipment from this 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 carrying capacities, special and specialized equipment, as well as other heavy transport equipment used in mining, construction, metallurgy, and other industries, are among the most sought-after and confidently hold leading positions in the world. As a result, the BELAZ delegation worked actively to "establish new business ties, replenish the order portfolio, and study the

⁵¹⁹ Belarusian industrial giants showcase their potential at the SAITEX multi-sector exhibition in South Africa [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/promyshlennye-giganty-belarusi-prezentujut-potencial-na-mnogootraslevoji-vvstavke-saitex-v-juar-640602-2024/>

⁵²⁰ More than 1,300 companies, 18 countries. The Made in Belarus exhibition in Angola attracted business interest [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/bolee-13-tys-kompanij-18-stran-ekspozitsija-made-in-belarus-na-vvstavke-v-angole-zainteresovala-biznes-650112-2024/>

requests of mining companies in the Republic of Angola and other southern African countries"⁵²¹.

Among the Belarusian goods presented at this exhibition were also products from CHEFI LLC, a leading manufacturer of medical devices for first aid in emergency situations, disaster medicine, and tactical medicine. Beldakorcosmetics LLC presented beauty products – a line of Belarusian brand LiLo decorative cosmetics and face and body care cosmetics, founded in 2017. One of the highlights of the Belarusian exhibition Made in Belarus was the products of representatives of the domestic food industry. The product range was presented by OJSC 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 cooperating with partners around the world and delivering products to the buyer's port/warehouse. The Made in Belarus exhibition offered a wide range of goods and food solutions (no-cook porridge, cereals, groats, flour, rapeseed oil) from one of the largest Belarusian producers of flour, grain, feed, and oil and fat products – the unitary production enterprise Smorgon Bread Products Plant"⁵²².

In September 2024, **Tanzania's** largest city, Dar es Salaam, hosted **the MINEXPO AFRICA international exhibition of the latest technologies in the field of mineral extraction and processing**, where the Belarusian Automobile Plant had a stand showcasing the most significant innovative developments for the mining industry. It should be noted that this industry is currently one of the most rapidly developing sectors of the country's economy. After all, "Tanzania ranks fourth in Africa in terms of gold production after South Africa, Ghana, and Mali, and, according to experts, there is great potential here for the exploration and development of

⁵²¹ Studying demand and business connections: BELAZ presents its industrial potential at an exhibition in Angola [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/izuchenie-zaprosov-i-delovye-svjazi-belaz-prezentuet-promvshlennvi-potentsial-na-vvstavke-v-angole-650150-2024/>

⁵²² Belarusian enterprises presented their potential at a multi-sector exhibition in Angola [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/beloruskie-predpriiatija-predstavili-potentsial-na-mnogootraslevoi-vvstavke-v-angole-649948-2024/>

minerals, especially diamonds, nickel, and coal⁵²³. So, there were many visitors at the exhibition who were interested in Belarusian new technology, equipment, services, and modern transport solutions in the field of mineral resource development and extraction.

Finally, in December last year, the Belarus. The Taste of Nature exhibition was presented in **Egypt** as part of **the largest international food and beverage trade exhibition, Food Africa Cairo – 2024**, which took place in Cairo and brought together about a thousand exhibitors from more than 30 countries, including Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, China, Russia, Turkey, Italy, Greece, France, Spain, Switzerland, and Japan. It should be noted that over the years, this exhibition forum has deservedly gained the status of a well-known exhibition brand, which is an effective business platform bringing together representatives of Egypt, the Middle East, North Africa, and world-class foreign partners. This indicates that Egypt is a major regional player interested in purchasing Belarusian goods and services.

In this case, the Belarus. The Taste of Nature exhibition brought together a number of well-known enterprises of the Grodnomyasmolprom holding and flagships of the Belarusian food industry. The exhibition featured Bellakt, the largest manufacturer of baby food and dry specialized products for pregnant women and nursing mothers, athletes, middle-aged and elderly people, and students. As part of Food Africa Cairo, the company presented a wide range of products, including milk formulas for infants, instant porridge, skimmed and whole milk powder, butter, coffee and cocoa drinks, and milk candies. The Smorgon Bread Products Plant showcased instant porridge, cereals, rapeseed products, feed products, and mixed feed. Lidakhlebprodukt OJSC demonstrated semi-finished bakery products, complex bakery mixes, flour and cereals, pasta, premixes, and compound feed. One of the leaders in the meat processing industry in Belarus, Volkovysk Meat Processing Plant, presented its product range, including beef, cuts and beef by-products, and canned meat. One of the leaders in the

⁵²³ BELAZ presented Belarusian industrial potential at an exhibition in Tanzania [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belaz-predstavil-belorusskij-promyshlennyi-potentsial-na-vystavke-v-tanzanii-661272-2024/>

dairy production sector, Minsk Milk Plant No. 1, the managing company of the First Milk holding in Cairo, exhibited skimmed milk powder, whole milk powder, and dry whey. Whole milk powder, dry whey, dry casein, as well as a range of cottage cheese, cheese, and butter were offered by the Lida Milk Canning Plant. The Slutsk Cheese Factory presented a wide range of products, including ice cream and dry mixes for ice cream, and butter. 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 the Minsk Milk Plant No. 1. For example, Pervy Molochny signed a contract with a large Egyptian company to supply skimmed milk powder and whole milk powder to the markets of Egypt, Kuwait, and Yemen worth \$1 million.⁵²⁴

All these facts show that the Belarus. The Taste of Nature exhibition has already proven itself on the African continent. And in 2025, Belarusian exporters are likely to visit various exhibition venues in African countries. After all, "Belarus has every chance of exceeding \$1 billion in exports to Africa by next [2025] year."⁵²⁵ For reference, this year the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry intends to organize national exhibitions in 25 countries, including "eight international exhibitions in Africa"⁵²⁶, including in 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 Uganda"⁵²⁷. Let us hope that Belarus' cooperation with African partners

⁵²⁴ Famous milk and million-dollar contracts: Belarusian food conquers the African market [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/znamenitaja-molochka-i-millionnye-kontrakty-belorusskoe-prodovolstvie-pokorjaet-afrikanskij-rynok-680216-2024/>

⁵²⁵ Ministry of Economy: we have every chance of exceeding \$1 billion in exports to Africa by next year [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/societv/view/minekonomiki-u-nas-est-vse-shansy-prevvsit-1-mlrd-eksporta-v-afriku-k-sledujuschemu-godu-673839-2024/>

⁵²⁶ BelCCI plans to organize exhibitions in 25 countries this year [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/beltop-planiruet-organizovat-otom-godu-organizovat-ekspozitsii-v-25-stranah-688338-2025/>

⁵²⁷ Belinterexpo plans to organize about 40 exhibitions at international exhibitions in 2025 [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belinterekspo-planiruet-organizovat-okolo-40-ekspozitsij-na-mezhdunarodnyh-vstavkah-v-2025-godu-688738-2025/>

will receive a significant boost this year, including thanks to Belarusian exhibitions, which create good conditions for the development of trade and economic relations.

As for Africa itself, it is worth noting the deepening integration of the continent. At the beginning of 2021, the African Continental Free Trade Area, the world's largest, came into force, bringing together 55 countries of the African Union and eight regional economic communities. It is "designed to stimulate pan-African industrialization processes at both the national and regional levels, create and develop competitive industries"⁵²⁸ and aims to create a single market with a population of about 1.3 billion people and a combined gross domestic product of about \$3.4 trillion. 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. This suggests that interaction with this association could have a significant impact on the dynamics of trade and cooperation between Belarus and its partners on this continent. It should be added that in 2024, "an action program for the development of cooperation between Belarus and African countries for 2024-2026, as well as a roadmap for cooperation with all partner countries" was approved⁵²⁹. This indicates that Belarus and Africa are serious about their long-term cooperation.

⁵²⁸ Cooperation with the African Union gains additional momentum [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL: https://eec.eaeunion.org/comission/department/dep_razv_integr/novosti/sotrudnich_estvo-s-afrikanskim-sovuzom-poluchaet-dopolnitelnyv-impuls/

⁵²⁹ 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-chetvre-raza-669953-2024/>

Belarus – Africa: The goal is sustainable development

The African vector of Belarus' foreign policy today demonstrates sustainable development dynamics. At the same time, the Belarusian side in this interaction emphasizes pragmatic and mutually beneficial cooperation, offering partners specific solutions in areas such as agriculture, education, healthcare, and mechanical engineering. As for exports from Belarus to Africa, they have continued to grow steadily since the beginning of 2025. The results of the first two months show that all contracts for the same engineering products are being fulfilled and even exceeding expectations. "Compared to the previous period, export growth is somewhere between 3 and 3.5 times..."⁵³⁰. These deliveries have almost completely replaced all lost export volumes to the European Union. All these facts show that the successful implementation of joint economic projects and cooperation based on the principles of sovereign equality are attracting many African countries to Belarus. Among them are **Algeria, Libya, Guinea-Bissau, and Uganda**, which have intensified their relations with Belarus in 2025.

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

⁵³⁰ Kartun: Belarusian exports to African countries tripled at the beginning of the year [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/kartun-belorusskij-eksport-v-strany-afriki-v-nachale-goda-vyros-v-tri-raza-703341-2025/>

Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Algerian Chamber of Commerce and Industry⁵³¹.

This North African country is the fourth largest producer of crude oil on the continent and the sixth largest producer of natural gas in the world. It has a well-developed mineral industry, producing oil, gas, phosphates, iron, lead, zinc, copper, marble, and mercury. The main items of Algerian imports are cars, equipment, metals, chemical and mineral products, food, consumer goods, electronics, textiles, wood, paper, plastics, and rubber. In this regard, "there are prospects for promoting Belarusian dairy and meat products, fertilizers, agricultural and other equipment, woodworking products, and metal products on the Algerian market"⁵³².

In April 2024, the head of the Belarusian Foreign Ministry, S. Aleinik, visited Algeria. During the high-level talks, the "constructive nature of Belarusian-Algerian relations and the coincidence of the two countries' positions on most topical international issues, including the recognition of the diversity of development paths of independent states" was noted⁵³³. At the same time, agreements were reached on expanding the legal framework for bilateral cooperation with a transition from framework to sectoral agreements. A number of topics of bilateral cooperation and projects of industrial and technical cooperation in the agro-industrial, food, machine-building, and municipal sectors were also discussed, as well as issues of interaction in the fields of education, science, technology, healthcare, pharmaceuticals, and tourism.

At the first meeting of the JPC, it was noted that trade turnover between the two countries in 2024 amounted to about \$50 million, an increase of 16 times compared to 2023. Last year, Belarus supplied Algeria with skimmed milk powder, whey, soybean oil, and potato flakes. It should be noted that this North African country is the world's second largest importer of dairy products, purchasing tens of billions of dollars worth of these products annually. "The consumption of various types of dairy products is

⁵³¹ Cooperation in the political sphere [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: https://egvpt.mfa.gov.by/ru/blr_algeria/political/

⁵³² Algeria [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://export.by/articles/alzhir>

⁵³³ On the meeting between Belarusian Foreign Minister S. Aleinik and the President of Algeria [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: https://mfa.gov.by/press/news_mfa/e049817def98777b.html

traditional here and constitutes a significant part of the daily diet of the population. Households spend up to a quarter of their budget on dairy products"⁵³⁴. Belarusian meat and meat products, sugar, and confectionery also have great potential in trade with Algeria. In addition, in 2025, Belarus already received certificates for the supply of beef to this country, which will become an additional export direction in bilateral trade. This indicates that "the trade and economic relations between Belarus and Algeria are quite promising and can develop in various new directions"⁵³⁵.

For example, our country is ready to organize the assembly production of agricultural machinery on Algerian soil. The fact is that the assembly production of BELARUS tractors in Algeria was established back in 2011. By 2015, more than 500 tractor kits had been delivered to this country. Then the work was suspended. And now the Minsk Tractor Works is extremely interested in organizing assembly again, in particular of small-sized BELARUS-152 machines. "Such equipment is needed for farmers and private plots. The assembly of 800 series tractors and above is also being considered. This may include energy-intensive equipment"⁵³⁶ [6]. In addition, assembly production in Algeria is planned with a view to supplying BELARUS equipment to third countries.

Algerian partners are also interested in the supply of equipment from OJSC AMKODOR. Silos as an element of integrated solutions for grain storage and processing were of particular interest. Possible formats for cooperation on equipment supplies were discussed.⁵³⁷. At the Belarusian Automobile Plant, specialists from this African country expressed their

⁵³⁴ Zaleski, B. In *Turbulent Times. The Potential for Inter-State Cooperation in the Era of Globalization* / Boris Zaleski. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2019. – P. 104.

⁵³⁵ Yuri 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>

⁵³⁶ MTZ is exploring opportunities for assembling small tractors in Algeria [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/mtz-prorabatyvaet-vozmozhnosti-sborki-malogabaritnyh-tractorov-v-alzhire-709669-2025/>

⁵³⁷ New horizons for partnership. AMKODOR intends to supply equipment to Algeria [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/novye-gorizonty-partnerstva-amkodor-nameren-postavljat-oborudovanie-v-alzhir-709828-2025/>

readiness to jointly produce front loaders. In addition, at the first meeting of the JPC, the issue of "organizing assembly production of the Minsk Automobile Plant in Algeria" was discussed⁵³⁸. The parties also considered issues of possible cooperation between the two countries in the field of pharmaceuticals, and "agreed to study pharmaceutical products manufactured in the Republic of Belarus and Algeria in order to identify promising areas of cooperation"⁵³⁹.

Judging by all appearances, 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, at the Djazagro 2024 food industry exhibition in Algeria, participants in the Belarusian manufacturers' exhibition Belarus. The Taste of Nature presented a wide range of goods and services, offering products from taking into account the specifics of the region. Among the Belarusian companies were "well-known domestic enterprises and food industry companies: OJSC Babushkina Krynka – the managing company of the Mogilev Dairy Company Babushkina Krynka holding, Volkovysk OJSC "Bellakt", OJSC "Lida Milk Canning Plant", OJSC "Soligorsk Poultry Farm"⁵⁴⁰. The largest spot exchange in Eastern Europe, the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange, also demonstrated its capabilities there.

A year later, in April of this year, the Djazagro 2025 food industry exhibition featured "about 600 exhibitors and 108 unique brands from 36 countries, including Italy, Germany, Belgium, Portugal, Russia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Japan..."⁵⁴¹. There, participants in the national exhibition Belarus. The Taste of Nature presented a new wide

⁵³⁸ MAZ assembly plant may be established in Algeria [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/sborochnoe-proizvodstvo-maz-mogut-sozdat-v-alzhire-709604-2025/>

⁵³⁹ First meeting of the Belarusian-Algerian Intergovernmental Joint Commission [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belpharmprom.by/news/pervoe-zasedanie-belorussko-alzhirskov-mezhpravitelstvennov-sovmestnov-komissii/>

⁵⁴⁰ 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-navystavke-pischevoj-promyshlennosti-v-alzhire-629938-2024/>

⁵⁴¹ Belarusian producers present their 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/>

range of products, offering goods tailored to regional specifics and demand. Among them were well-known exporters: Volkovysk OJSC "Bellakt", OJSC "Lida Milk Canning Plant", KPU "Mozyr Dairy Products", OJSC "Slutsk Cheese Factory". The Belarusian products presented included the most sought-after and popular items: a range of dry dairy products, butter, frozen cottage cheese, and assorted cheeses.

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

Now about **Libya**. In February 2025, Field Marshal and Supreme Commander of the Libyan National Army H.B. Haftar visited Minsk and expressed interest in developing cooperation with Belarus in various areas. He was particularly interested in Belarusian equipment and technologies in the agro-industrial complex in order to "learn from Belarusian experience in the agricultural sector. Your tractors and other agricultural equipment can all be used for agricultural development in Libya. This will enable us to obtain a large harvest of grain crops. We will even be able to export to third countries"⁵⁴².

A month later, a Belarusian government delegation traveled to Libya to identify the main tasks that need to be implemented urgently in the areas of agriculture, food security, industry, healthcare, and pharmaceuticals. In addition to helping with the introduction of 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. There are also plans to exchange experience in the field of medicine and to treat Libyan patients

⁵⁴² Haftar: Libya is interested in Belarusian equipment and technologies in the agro-industrial complex [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/komandujuschii-livijskoj-natsionalnoj-armijej-livija-zainteresovana-v-belorusskoj-tehnike-i-696755-2025/>

in Belarus,⁵⁴³ . As part of industrial cooperation, issues related to the supply of Belarusian equipment—trucks, fire engines, garbage trucks, and buses—were discussed. A number of assembly plants and service centers are planned to be set up in Benghazi.

Two months later, in May, a Belarusian government delegation visited Libya again to "intensify work on key areas that will ensure the unconditional implementation of agreements <...> in the fields of industry, agriculture, and healthcare"⁵⁴⁴ . In particular, the discussion focused on the agro-industrial complex. The Belarusian side intends to grow wheat in Libya in order to "obtain products that will subsequently be processed into compound feed, but mainly for the milling industry and flour production"⁵⁴⁵ . Moreover, there are enterprises in Belarus that are ready to organize the construction of a feed mill with a flour production workshop. And the House of Belarus has opened in Benghazi, which will become a place of attraction for economic entities and business circles, where "it will be possible to hold meetings, discuss specific contracts, and conclude them"⁵⁴⁶ , where the parties will move directly from words to action. As we can see, in just four months, Belarus and Libya have embarked on ambitious plans for cooperation in key areas. And that is impressive.

As for **Guinea-Bissau**, the first visit of the president of this West African country, U.S. Embalo, to Belarus took place quite recently, in May 2025, during which areas were identified where Minsk and Bissau could work together on a mutually beneficial basis. Firstly, in the field of industry. In this regard, a Memorandum of Cooperation was signed between the Ministry of

⁵⁴³ Belarus will help Libya with the introduction of modern technologies for the extraction of natural resources [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-pomozhet-livii-s-vnedreniem-sovremennyh-tehnologii-dlja-dobychi-prirodnih-resurov-701761-2025/>

⁵⁴⁴ 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/>

⁵⁴⁵ The Ministry of Agriculture and Food explained what joint projects in the agricultural sector Belarus and Libya could implement [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/kakie-sovmestnye-proekty-v-agrosfere-mogut-realizovat-belarus-i-livija-pojasnili-v-minselhozprode-717025-2025/>

⁵⁴⁶ A magnet for business circles. House of Belarus opens in Libya [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/mesto-prijazhenija-biznes-krugov-dom-belarusi-otkrvsja-v-livii-716988-2025/>

Industry of Belarus and the Ministry of Trade and Industry of Guinea-Bissau with the aim of developing cooperation between the two countries in the field of industrial cooperation. In particular, "the parties intend to promote the exchange of technologies and the supply of industrial goods between the countries, as well as to support joint investments in industrial projects. It is also planned to strengthen cooperation in the field of scientific research and the development of new industries"⁵⁴⁷. This document opens up a new export market for enterprises in the industry. For example, OJSC Minsk Tractor Works is already considering the possibility of supplying small-sized equipment from the Smorgon Aggregate Plant and the Bobruisk Tractor Parts and Aggregates Plant "to increase labor productivity in the agricultural sector and crop yields"⁵⁴⁸ in this West African country.

Secondly, during the first visit of the President of Guinea-Bissau to Minsk, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food of Belarus also signed a memorandum of cooperation with its African partners. The fact is that "Guinea-Bissau's economy is based on agriculture and fishing, and the country is one of the five largest producers of cashew nuts. In 2024, trade between Belarus and Guinea-Bissau consisted of exports of malt"⁵⁴⁹. The signing of the memorandum opens up new horizons for expanding cooperation in the agricultural sector between the two countries. Belarus is ready to establish supplies of a wide range of agricultural products. In addition, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food offers the West African republic cooperation in the field of agricultural education.

It remains only to add that, in addition to the memoranda already mentioned, other documents aimed at strengthening bilateral cooperation were also signed in Minsk. These include an "intergovernmental agreement

⁵⁴⁷ Yefimov: Memorandum with Guinea-Bissau opens up a new export market for Belarus [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/efimov-memorandum-s-gvineei-bisau-otkryvaet-dlja-belarusi-novyi-eksportnyi-rynok-713426-2025/>

⁵⁴⁸ MTZ considers 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/>

⁵⁴⁹ Agricultural education, product supplies. What Belarus and Guinea-Bissau agreed on in the agro-industrial complex [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/agrarnoe-obrazovanie-postavki-produktsii-ochem-dogovorilis-v-apk-belarus-i-gvineja-bisau-713415-2025/>

on the abolition of visas for holders of diplomatic, official, and service passports⁵⁵⁰, as well as a memorandum of cooperation between the ministries of justice. Overall, the visit of the President of Guinea-Bissau to Belarus showed that the diplomatic relations 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 set itself the ambitious goal of achieving an average level of economic development in the near future. At the beginning of 2021, the country's population exceeded 44 million people. The main sector of the economy is agriculture, which employs 82 percent of the workforce, and natural resources include "copper, cobalt, niobium, gold, tungsten, hydropower, and fertile land"⁵⁵¹. Back in 2013, the country adopted the Vision 2040 national development program, which sets out a course for modernization and technology adoption. And now, the country is making concrete efforts to improve its socio-economic situation. One of the factors driving Uganda's economic growth is foreign economic activity, primarily trade. "The country has managed not only to increase but also to diversify its exports, intensify regional economic cooperation, and enter new regional markets."⁵⁵². In addition, the roadmap for this program identifies eight key projects that determine the main directions of science and technology development. These include:

- 1) the creation of "smart cities" based on the development of high technologies and related infrastructure,
- 2) the development of large irrigation systems in different parts of the country;

⁵⁵⁰ Visa waiver, agro-industrial complex, industry. Belarus and Guinea-Bissau sign memoranda on strengthening cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/otmena-viz-apk-promyshlennost-belarus-i-gvineja-bisau-podpisali-memorandumy-po-ukrepleniju-713383-2025/>

⁵⁵¹ Brief description of Uganda's economy [Electronic resource]. – 2021. – URL: https://kenya.mfa.gov.by/ru/export_uganda/

⁵⁵² Byasharova, A.R. Uganda: socio-economic development, trade, international regional cooperation / A.R. Byasharova, L.V. Achalova // International Trade and Trade Policy. – 2021. – Volume 7. – No. 3(27). – P. 40.

3) modernization of the phosphate industry in the city of Tororo and the iron ore industry in the cities of Mukoga and Kabale;

4) the creation of modern urban and industrial infrastructure in five regional cities – Gulu, Mbalale, Kampala, Mbarara, Arua – as well as in five strategic cities – Hoima, Nakasongola, Fort Portal, Moroto, Jinja;

5) development of projects involving the introduction of modern transport and logistics management technologies to create four international airports, a standard gauge railway network with high-speed trains, an oil refinery and associated pipeline infrastructure, and a multi-level asphalt national road network connecting major cities and other strategic locations;

6) the establishment of globally competitive skills development centers to improve the quality of human resources;

7) Construction of nuclear and hydroelectric power plants in Ayago, Isimbe, Karume, and Murchison Bay;

8) creation of science and technology parks in every regional city.

For Belarus, this country is a potential and promising partner in East Africa. Official diplomatic relations between Minsk and Kampala were established in 1998. In February 2025, a Belarusian delegation led by Prime Minister R. Golovchenko visited Uganda to discuss a wide range of bilateral cooperation issues with a focus on promising opportunities in agriculture, pharmaceuticals, information technology, and education, and to achieve the desired results. Several important documents were signed in Kampala, primarily to promote the existing great potential for the development of bilateral economic cooperation.

⁵⁵³First, the governments of Belarus and Uganda agreed to coordinate trade and economic partnerships and signed an agreement to "establish a strong, effective intergovernmental committee to discuss and support projects in the economic sphere." Second, an intergovernmental memorandum of cooperation in the field of food security was signed. The fact is that cooperation between the two countries in the field of agriculture could lead to a significant increase in food production and exports. After all, "Uganda

⁵⁵³ Golovchenko to pay official visits to Uganda and Qatar [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/golovchenko-posetit-s-ofitsialny-mi-vizitami-ugandu-i-katar-697115-2025/>

has excellent conditions for agriculture – a suitable climate and fertile soils⁵⁵⁴. At the same time, this country faces problems typical for African countries. The population is growing rapidly and needs to be fed, treated, and educated. "The country's land resources are underutilized, and there is a need for intensive mechanization of agriculture, industrialization of the economy, extraction and purification of water resources, and waste processing"⁵⁵⁵. 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 there. "One of the topics was cooperation in agriculture. They also talked about dairy products"⁵⁵⁶.

Among other documents signed in Kampala were a number of interdepartmental memoranda, including: on political consultations – between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Belarus and Uganda; on military-technical cooperation – between the State Military-Industrial Committee of Belarus and the Ministry of Defense and Veterans Affairs of Uganda; on cooperation in the 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 may indeed be in high demand here in terms of both infrastructure development and the provision of telecommunications services, because our Belarusian communications satellite Belintersat has good coverage in Africa, particularly Uganda"⁵⁵⁷. The experience of the Belarusian High-Tech Park will also be in

⁵⁵⁴ 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-belarusii-ugande-vazhno-sozdat-mezhpravkomitet-dlja-soprovozhdenija-sovmestnyh-proektov-697750-2025/>

⁵⁵⁵ 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/>

⁵⁵⁶ Production of Belarusian tractors may be organized in Uganda [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/proizvodstvo-belorusskih-aktorov-mogut-organizovat-v-ugande-697763-2025/>

⁵⁵⁷ Ministry of Communications: Belarusian experience in digital development may be in high demand in Uganda [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL:

demand in this country. So, the two countries have many opportunities to implement all their existing achievements and find new solutions in order to move forward with new joint projects.

Let's sum up. All these facts indicate that Africa is one of the priorities of Belarus' foreign policy. Cooperation with the countries of this continent looks promising and effective for our republic. Moreover, a new legal framework is being formed and the existing one is being improved, which will allow bilateral relations with African states to reach a qualitatively new level. Belarus' policy of trust and cooperation in Africa creates favorable conditions and prerequisites for mutually beneficial partnerships in the long term.

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Belarus – Zimbabwe: to increase trade and establish joint ventures

Belarus and Zimbabwe established diplomatic relations back in April 1992. A decisive step in the development of bilateral cooperation between Minsk and Harare was taken in early 2023, when the Belarusian leader paid a state visit to this southern African country. Agreements were signed in the fields of industry, trade, agriculture, energy, transport, and mineral extraction. The governments of the two countries then approved a roadmap for the implementation of the agreements reached, which included "65 measures in various areas: political and diplomatic, trade and economic, agricultural, military and technical, health care and medical science, investment, energy, and equipment supply and maintenance. In addition, Belarus will continue to participate in the program to modernize and mechanize Zimbabwe's agriculture"⁵⁵⁸ [1, p. 55]. And over the next two years, a number of important events took place in relations between the parties.

First, a year later, in February 2024, **the first meeting of the Joint Permanent Commission on Cooperation between Belarus and Zimbabwe** was held in Harare, at which practical steps were considered to develop cooperation between the two countries in the political, economic, social spheres, and security, as well as promising areas and cooperation projects for implementation in the medium and long term and for increasing bilateral trade. In particular, "the intention to continue the third phase of the comprehensive agricultural mechanization project in Zimbabwe was confirmed, and agreements were reached on the supply of passenger and special equipment"⁵⁵⁹ .

It should be recalled that the first meeting of the commission took place against the backdrop of significant progress made by the two countries in many areas. For example, Belarusian exports increased by 103 percent in 2023. The parties are successfully implementing tasks, primarily in the field of agricultural mechanization. Two phases of this project have already been

⁵⁵⁸ Zaleski, B. The potential for implementing the agreements reached / Boris Zaleski. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2023. – P. 55.

⁵⁵⁹ On the first meeting of the Joint Permanent Commission on Cooperation between Belarus and Zimbabwe [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: https://mfa.gov.by/press/news_mfa/c39b1509985063cc.html

implemented, "which has enabled Zimbabwe to become self-sufficient in wheat production. At the end of 2023, Zimbabwe began exporting wheat to third countries for the first time in its history"⁵⁶⁰ . New promising projects in various areas have been outlined and 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 a memorandum of cooperation signed at the end of January by the 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 production cooperation, identify priorities in industrial sectors, and promote the development and implementation of joint projects and programs"⁵⁶¹ .

Earlier, as part of a mechanization program launched in 2020, Belarus supplied more than 1,800 tractors and about 80 grain harvesters to Zimbabwean farms. "In addition to agricultural machinery, domestic fire engines (more than a hundred in 2023) and BELAZ trucks (more than fifty such machines are operating in Zimbabwe's quarries) are being supplied to this country,"⁵⁶² . And in January 2024, more than 30 tractors purchased in Belarus were put into operation in the Zimbabwean capital, Harare, and sent to all areas of the city to help collect garbage and perform any other tasks for which they could be used. Moreover, "Zimbabwe has people trained to service these tractors, as well as workshops if the equipment needs repair"⁵⁶³ . During the first meeting of the joint commission, the parties agreed to allocate the necessary resources to fully implement the third phase of the

⁵⁶⁰ Transcript of Foreign Minister S. Aleinik's press conference following his visit to Zimbabwe (February 23, 2024, Harare) [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://mfa.gov.by/press/smi/b0f6472abc0e46d5.html>

⁵⁶¹ The Ministries of Industry of Belarus and Zimbabwe signed a Memorandum of Cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://minprom.gov.by/18605-2/>

⁵⁶² Belarus begins supplying tractors and combine harvesters to Zimbabwe [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-nachinaet-postavljat-traktornuju-tehniku-i-kombainy-v-zimbabwe-616746-2024/>

⁵⁶³ 31 tractors purchased in Belarus put into operation in Zimbabwe's capital [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/v-stolitse-zimbabwe-vveli-v-ekspluatatsiju-31-traktor-zakuplennyy-v-belarusi-612817-2024/>

mechanization program, "which provides for the delivery of more than 3,000 MTZ tractors and 80 Gomselmash combine harvesters to Zimbabwe"⁵⁶⁴.

On the sidelines of the first meeting of the commission in Harare, a Zimbabwe-Belarus business forum was also held, entitled "Building a Strong Partnership: Using a Shared Vision of a Sustainable Future," which included negotiations on a wide range of issues related to economic and investment cooperation in medicine and pharmaceuticals, resulting in "the signing of a memorandum between the management company of the Belfarmprom holding and the Zimbabwean company Graniteside Chemicals (PVT) Ltd. The document provides for the development of cooperation in the registration and supply of Belarusian medicines"⁵⁶⁵. In addition, Belarus and Zimbabwe want to jointly enter the markets of southern African countries – Mozambique and Botswana. To this end, Minsk and Harare, moving along an upward trajectory, have outlined new projects. "These include the joint assembly of Belarusian buses, cooperation in the gas industry, and the supply of Belarusian dairy products and baby food to Zimbabwe"⁵⁶⁶.

The forum also announced that in April 2024, Belarus intends to organize a national stand at the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair 2024, a multi-sector international exhibition to be held in Bulawayo, which will showcase the industrial potential of Belarusian exporters. In 2023, the Made in Belarus exhibition featured a range of products from 11 Belarusian companies. This time, products from the Minsk Tractor Plant, Gomselmash, the Minsk Automobile Plant, AMKODOR OJSC, Bobruiskagromash, Lidselmash, and Pozhsnab OJSC. "Also at the exhibition, BELAZ OJSC will

⁵⁶⁴ Aleynyk: Belarus is ready to organize a joint business forum with Zimbabwe in Minsk [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://www.belarus.by/ru/business/business-news/alejnik-belarus-gotova-organizovat-v-minske-sovmestnyj-s-zimbabwe-biznes-forum-i-167916.html>

⁵⁶⁵ The Ministries of Health of Belarus and Zimbabwe have identified areas for cooperation in medicine [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/minzdravv-belarusi-i-zimbabwe-opredelili-nuti-sotrudnichestva-v-meditsine-617370-2024/>

⁵⁶⁶ Belarus and Zimbabwe want to jointly enter the markets of southern African countries [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/politics/view/belarus-i-zimbabwe-hotjat-vmeste-vyhodit-na-rynki-juzhnyh-stran-afriki-617255-2024/>

present a line of mining dump trucks and offer a range of services for further support and maintenance of its products,⁵⁶⁷ .

A new element of cooperation between Minsk and Harare in the trade and economic sphere in 2024 was the integration of an exchange mechanism into mutual trade between the two countries, which will open up new opportunities for Belarusian and Zimbabwean economic entities. In February, the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange (BUTB), where the parties emphasized that cooperation between Belarusian and Zimbabwean companies through the BUTB platform will not only ensure the growth of mutual trade, but also simplify access for Belarusian producers to third-country markets. Agricultural and metallurgical products have been identified as promising commodity areas. For example, " is considering the possibility of using exchange trading to export Belarusian dairy products, rapeseed oil, and sugar to Zimbabwe. As for import deals, Zimbabwean suppliers of non-ferrous metals, cotton, and fruit and vegetable products will be involved in the BUTB for this purpose"⁵⁶⁸ .

Here is another example of cooperation 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 and rescue equipment, tools and instruments for firefighting" and "Training of unit commanders in the organisation of firefighting and emergency rescue operations" – at the Belarusian technical centre Bison Agro Machinery and the Fire Brigade City of Harare. Participants in these courses "practiced their skills in working with firefighting equipment and mastered emergency rescue techniques, including firefighting in buildings and structures, rescuing victims, evacuating people from upper floors of buildings, dealing with the aftermath of road accidents, and providing first

⁵⁶⁷ Belarus to present large-scale exhibition at multi-sector trade fair in Zimbabwe [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-predstavit-masshtabnuju-ekspozitsiju-na-mnogootraslevoj-vyvstavke-v-zimbabve-616800-2024/>

⁵⁶⁸ Zimbabwe is interested in developing stock exchange trading with Belarus [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/zimbabve-zainteresovano-v-razvitii-birzhevoj-torgovli-s-belarusiju-617283-2024/>

aid"⁵⁶⁹. These classes were a valuable experience for improving the skills and readiness of Zimbabwean specialists to respond to emergencies.

⁵⁷⁰Secondly, in April 2025, **the 2nd meeting of the Belarusian-Zimbabwean Joint Permanent Commission on Cooperation** was held in Harare, where new areas of further cooperation between the two countries were discussed, promising projects in the field of agriculture, cooperative collaboration, and the expansion of the legal framework for bilateral relations. Documents were signed "providing for the expansion of cooperation in agriculture, industry, education, healthcare, disaster management, and the mining industry." An agreement was also reached on the development of a new comprehensive roadmap for cooperation for 2026-2030, which will include both ongoing and new bilateral projects.

It should be noted that the level of mutual trade between Minsk and Harare is still low. For example, "exports from Zimbabwe to Belarus have remained relatively small and inconsistent over the years. The trade imbalance in favor of Belarus highlights the need for Zimbabwe to increase competitiveness and expand the market for its export products"⁵⁷¹. Nevertheless, the Belarusian side considers this African country to be a reliable strategic partner on the continent. This was stated at the 2nd meeting of the standing commission.

In particular, the effectiveness of cooperation between the two countries has already been proven in agriculture. Suffice it to say that Belarus has already contributed to increasing crop yields in this country. "When the program began in 2020, the wheat harvest in Zimbabwe was estimated at 150,000 tons. By the end of 2024, as a result of the implementation of the first

⁵⁶⁹ Special course in 35 days. Teachers from the Civil Protection University of the Ministry of Emergency Situations trained specialists in Zimbabwe [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/spetskurs-za-35-dnej-prepodavateli-universiteta-grazhdanskoi-zaschity-mchs-obuchili-spetsialistov-v-600251-2023/>

⁵⁷⁰ Belarus and Zimbabwe to develop a comprehensive roadmap for cooperation until 2030 [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/politics/view/belarus-i-zimbabwe-razrabotajut-vseobjemljuschuju-dorozhnuju-kartu-sotrudnichestva-do-2030-goda-709475-2025/>

⁵⁷¹ Muzimba, I.G. Distance is no obstacle to friendship and cooperation / I.G. Muzimba // [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/special/interview/view/posol-zimbabwe-rasstojanie-ne-pomeha-dlja-druzhbv-i-sotrudnichestva-9640/>

two phases of the joint program, the wheat harvest had more than tripled and exceeded 550,000 tons."⁵⁷² . At the second meeting of the permanent commission on cooperation, new Belarusian agricultural machinery was handed over to the Zimbabwean side: seven Gomselmash combine harvesters and 189 BELARUS tractors. And "as part of the implementation of the third stage of the Zimbabwe agricultural mechanization program, it is planned to supply 80 grain harvesters, 3,491 tractors, and 30 grain dump trucks with trailers."⁵⁷³ . All this equipment will be provided with warranty and post-warranty service, repairs, and spare parts. Local specialists work and will continue to work on this equipment. They must receive appropriate training in the operation of equipment from Belarus. To this end, a Bison Agro Machinery service center, the exclusive representative of Belarusian agricultural equipment in the region, was opened in the country earlier. Approximately 80 percent of the employees there are Zimbabwean citizens who have professional training in the field of education, equipment operation, and repair. "A spare parts warehouse has also been set up here for rapid response in terms of both technical maintenance and equipment repair, primarily for equipment that is used in the fields during the busy season. This proves once again that the approach is high-quality and aimed at the further progressive development of the center,"⁵⁷⁴ . The construction of grain drying complexes remains an important area: there are plans to build four of them in the country, as well as to modernize two. This will also increase the efficiency of the country's agriculture.

At the 2nd meeting of the standing committee on cooperation, it was also announced that the Belgospisheprom concern is working on food supplies to Zimbabwe. And "with regard to cooperation in the supply of fruit concentrates and purees for use in the food industry, interest has been

⁵⁷² Karankevich: Cooperation between Belarus and Zimbabwe in agriculture has proven its effectiveness [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/karankevich-sotrudnichestvo-belarusi-i-zimbabve-v-selskom-hozjaistve-dokazalo-svoiu-effektivnost-709306-2025/>

⁵⁷³ Belarus and Zimbabwe plan to develop industrial cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-zimbabve-planirujut-razvivat-promkooperatsiju-709565-2025/>

⁵⁷⁴ Government delegation notes success of Belarusian technology in Zimbabwe [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/pravitelstvennaja-delegatsija-otmetila-uspeh-belorusskoj-tehniki-v-zimbabve-709260-2025/>

expressed in exploring the purchase of certain types of semi-finished products from raw materials not grown in Belarus that are in demand by Belarusian canning enterprises on the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange⁵⁷⁵. Finally, one of the outcomes of the 2nd meeting of the Belarusian-Zimbabwean Joint Standing Commission on Cooperation was the signing of an agreement on the production, assembly, and sale of buses and a "contract for the supply of MAZ bus kits to Zimbabwe"⁵⁷⁶.

A week after the 2nd meeting of the joint commission in Harare, Belarusian enterprises were represented at the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair 2025 (ZITF) in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, where more than 20 countries were represented, including China, Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, representatives of European Union countries and regions of the African continent. More than 430 exhibitors showcased their products and goods at the Zimbabwe International Exhibition Centre. "The Made in Belarus exhibition stands feature a wide range of goods and services from the engineering, food, and education sectors,"⁵⁷⁷.

Thus, developments in the line of mining dump trucks and related services for the support and maintenance of heavy equipment were presented exclusively within the Belarusian location. In addition, OJSC "UKH "BobruiskAgromash" showed trailed and mounted machines, primarily soil cultivation equipment, as well as equipment for fodder harvesting. Zimbabwean partners of the Belarusian enterprise expressed "interest in purchasing MZT series machines for applying liquid organic fertilizers. A number of projects are being developed to supply agricultural machinery to the African region, with implementation scheduled to begin in the second half

⁵⁷⁵ Belgospisheprom is working on food supplies to Zimbabwe [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belgospisheprom-prorabatvvaet-postavki-pischevoi-produktsii-v-zimbabwe-709216-2025/>

⁵⁷⁶ Belarus signs agreement with Zimbabwe on the production, assembly, and sale of buses [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-podpisala-s-zimbabwe-soglashenie-o-proizvodstve-sborke-i-prodazhe-avtobusov-709476-2025/>

⁵⁷⁷ Belarusian enterprises represented at a multi-sector exhibition in Zimbabwe [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/beloruskie-predpriyatija-predstavleny-na-mnogootraslevoi-vystavke-v-zimbabwe-710492-2025/>

of 2025.⁵⁷⁸ . It should be noted that Bobruiskagromash machinery is already in operation in the fields of Zimbabwe, including heavy disc harrows and firefighting machines.

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

Thirdly, in May 2025, **Zimbabwean President E. Mnangagwa visited Belarus**, during which a roadmap for strategic cooperation and partnership between the two countries for 2026-2030 was signed, taking into account all key joint initiatives in various areas of interaction and identifying new projects, including in interregional cooperation and industrial cooperation. Also, following the talks in Minsk, a package of documents was adopted at the highest level, including an agreement between the relevant ministries on cooperation in the field of prevention and elimination of natural disasters and man-made accidents, memoranda of cooperation in the field of tourism, information and the press, on intentions to strengthen partnership in healthcare and the reconstruction of a hospital in Harare, on promoting the development of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, on strengthening partnership in the field of waste management and water purification"⁵⁷⁹ .

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. It should be noted that

⁵⁷⁸ Bobruiskagromash to increase equipment supplies to Zimbabwe [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/bobruiskagromash-uvlichit-postavki-tehniki-v-zimbabve-711570-2025/>

⁵⁷⁹ Belarus and Zimbabwe sign package of documents following talks between Lukashenko and Mnangagwa [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/politics/view/belarus-i-zimbabve-podpisali-paket-dokumentov-potogam-peregovorov-lukashenko-i-mnangagvy-714764>

"agriculture plays a key role in Zimbabwe's economy, with a significant part of the working population employed in this sector. The main crops grown in the country are corn, sorghum, peanuts, round nuts, and beans"⁵⁸⁰. The necessary conditions have already been created to increase exports of Belarusian products to Zimbabwe. In 2024, skimmed milk powder was supplied from Belarus to this African country, while citrus fruits and flowers were imported. At the beginning of 2025, meat and bone meal was added to the list of goods traded. And in June of this year, at the international specialized exhibition "Belagro-2025," the Zimbabwean side expressed its interest in supplies of sunflower oil.

An important step was the agreement on the form of the veterinary certificate and the receipt of permits by the relevant Belarusian economic entities to supply dairy products to this African country. And already "in March 2024, the Zimbabwean side conducted an inspection of Belarusian milk processing enterprises, as a result of which Belarusian enterprises began to export dairy products to Zimbabwe. The form of the veterinary certificate for such supplies has also been agreed upon"⁵⁸¹. At present, issues of logistics, customs duties, and a potential increase in the volume of supplies of baby food, canned meat, and other food products to this republic are being worked out. In addition, Belarus is ready to participate in the training of specialists for the agricultural sector of Zimbabwe by accepting students at specialized universities. For reference, more than 60 students from this country "are already studying at Belarusian universities in various agricultural, medical, and technical specialties"⁵⁸².

Special attention was paid to the construction of grain storage facilities during the negotiations. After the successful use of Belarusian

⁵⁸⁰ Technology, infrastructure, 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-zimbabve-714560-2025/>

⁵⁸¹ Sunflower oil, milk. What other goods from Belarus are Zimbabwe interested in [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/podsolnechnoe-maslo-moloko-v-kakih-esche-tovarah-iz-belarusi-zainteresovano-zimbabve-719338-2025/>

⁵⁸² 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/>

technology, which has enabled record wheat harvests in recent seasons, African partners have stated the need to ensure conditions for storing the harvested crop. In this regard, the Belarusian side has proposed a number of projects to its partners in the livestock and poultry sectors, as well as the construction of grain drying complexes. The Zimbabwean side is interested in building these grain storage facilities. Moreover, there are companies in Belarus that are ready to go there, design, and build these facilities on a turnkey basis.⁵⁸³

Another important issue is production cooperation. It should be noted that "Zimbabwe has been identified as one of the key countries on the African continent in terms of export diversification and export supply development"⁵⁸⁴. 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, freight and passenger equipment, in order to supply jointly produced products not only to the domestic Zimbabwean market, but also to neighboring countries in the future. Belarusian specialists are already prepared for long-term assignments to ensure the high-quality transfer of expertise to their African partners.

The next interesting topic is cooperation in the field of mineral resource extraction. It should be noted that "Zimbabwe is engaged in the extraction of minerals, mineral resources, and gold. Over the past 10 years, gold production has grown to 40 tons per year, which is definitely a success"⁵⁸⁵. In this regard, partners from South Africa have proposed that Belarus "develop a solid foundation for investment that will ensure

⁵⁸³ Gorlov: Belarus is ready to build turnkey grain drying complexes and grain storage facilities in Zimbabwe [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/gorlov-belarus-gotova-postroit-pod-kljuch-zernosushilnye-kompleksy-i-zernohranilischa-v-zimbabwe-714729-2025/>

⁵⁸⁴ Belarus plans to organize tractor production in Zimbabwe by 2027 [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-k-2027-godu-planiruet-organizovat-v-zimbabwe-proizvodstvo-tractormoj-tehniki-714713-2025/>

⁵⁸⁵ Agricultural machinery, dairy products, and cotton. Areas in which Zimbabwe wants to cooperate with Belarus [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/selhoztehnika-molochnaia-produktsija-i-hlopok-po-kakim-napravlenijam-v-zimbabwe-hotjat-sotrudnicat-s-714434-2025/>

productivity growth in this sector and allow our economies to prosper"⁵⁸⁶ . They are also ready to consider new opportunities for expanding cooperation in the field of waste processing and management, and water purification. In this regard, "the Zimbabwean side is interested in garbage trucks, dump trucks, and water trucks"⁵⁸⁷ . The Minsk Automobile Plant (MAZ) is being considered as a supplier. MAZ's partner in Zimbabwe currently operates in the country's capital, Harare, but after the completion of a large waste processing plant, it will expand its activities to ten more provinces. Therefore, the immediate plans include a significant increase in the vehicle fleet.

As for humanitarian cooperation between the two countries, during the visit of Zimbabwean President E. Mnangagwa to Minsk, a memorandum of cooperation was signed between the Belarusian Telegraph Agency and the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation (). "The parties agreed to exchange journalists, photographers, and other specialists to share experience. The document will also allow for the prompt and regular sharing of information about events in Belarus and Zimbabwe in English."⁵⁸⁸ . The Belarusian and Zimbabwean media will exchange not only text materials, but also photo and video content.

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

⁵⁸⁶ Zimbabwe offers Belarus joint mineral resource extraction [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/zimbabwe-predlagaet-belarusi-zanjatsia-sovmestnoj-dobychej-mineralnyh-resursov-714772-2025/>

⁵⁸⁷ Dump trucks, garbage trucks, water trucks. What companies from Zimbabwe are ready to buy from MAZ [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/samosvaly-musorovozv-vodovozv-cto-kompanii-iz-zimbabwe-gotovy-zakupat-u-maza-714537-2025/>

⁵⁸⁸ BELTA and the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation signed a memorandum of cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/belta-i-zimbabviijskaja-teleradioveschatelnaja-korporatsija-podpisali-memorandum-o-sotrudnicestve-714588-2025/>

work of existing joint commissions and committees⁵⁸⁹, with the aim of achieving a sustainable mutual trade turnover of close to \$100 million by 2030. As for the current year, 2025, given 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, create joint promising production facilities, and open new markets in both Africa and Eurasia"⁵⁹⁰. By strengthening each other's capabilities in this way, Belarus and Zimbabwe are sending an additional powerful impetus to other participants in these integration blocs in terms of strategy and models of mutually beneficial cooperation.

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⁵⁸⁹ Belarus and Zimbabwe agreed to establish a commission at the level of heads of state [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/president/view/belarus-i-zimbabve-dogovorilis-sozdat-komissiju-na-urovne-glav-gosudarstv-714768-2025/>

⁵⁹⁰ New joint projects defined during 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-zimbabve-714763-2025/>

Belarus – Equatorial Guinea: maximizing effectiveness promoting partnership ties

Equatorial Guinea, a country on the west coast of Central Africa, and Belarus signed a Roadmap for Cooperation Development for 2024-2026 in December 2023 in Malabo, the capital of this African state. This document was developed with the Equatorial Guinean side in mind and was comprehensive in nature. "The document covers 15 key areas of cooperation, including joint projects, the supply of Belarusian equipment and the organization of its maintenance, agriculture, healthcare, pharmaceuticals and the sale of medical equipment, and forestry"⁵⁹¹. In total, over the next three years, the parties have agreed to implement 74 specific promising projects, including: the construction of an agricultural town with the necessary infrastructure; the construction of 100 social housing buildings; the creation of a ceramic brick factory with a capacity of up to 40 million bricks per year; the supply of fire engines, construction and other equipment, including for the implementation of a joint project on logging and the creation of new agricultural land; and 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 income 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 science and technology. In addition, a number of documents have been signed at the interdepartmental level, including memoranda of cooperation and mutual understanding.

It should be recalled that in October 2023, the first meeting of the Joint Permanent Belarusian-Equatorial Guinean Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation was held in Minsk, at which the parties "agreed to ensure the steady growth of trade turnover in order to bring it into line with

⁵⁹¹ Presidents of Belarus and Equatorial Guinea sign roadmap for cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: https://www.belta.by/president/view/prezidentv-belarusi-i-ekvatorialnoj-gvinei-podpisali-dorozhnuju-kartu-po-razvitiyu-sotrudnichestva-604377-2023/?utm_source=belta&utm_medium=news&utm_campaign=accent

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"⁵⁹². In addition, bilateral sectoral working groups were created to achieve results as soon as possible 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."⁵⁹³. And already in November 2023, at the first meetings of these working groups, the prospects for implementing projects on the joint construction of poultry farms, energy infrastructure facilities, social housing, building materials production enterprises, opportunities for joint activities in fish processing, the creation of agricultural clusters, and a production and logistics hub for Belarusian products.

In particular, at the meeting of the working group on industry, the Belarusian side announced proposals for the mechanization of agriculture, the construction of grain drying complexes for grain storage and drying, the supply of various automotive and road construction equipment, Belarusian dump trucks, diesel generator and compressor stations, and industrial diesel engines. At the same time, Belarusian manufacturers offer not only comprehensive projects, but also "adhere to a comprehensive approach that provides not only the supply of equipment, but also spare parts, service and warranty maintenance, training for local specialists in the operation and repair of equipment, and, if necessary, sending their technical specialists to commission the equipment and train personnel in its use."⁵⁹⁴. In addition, there is also talk of building a waste processing plant, followed by the processing of this waste into finished products and the generation of electrical

⁵⁹² Zaleski, B.L. The goal is to promote specific projects / B.L. Zaleski // Materials of the XX International scientific and practical conference "Fundamental and applied science – 2023", October 30 – November 7, 2023: Sheffield. Science and education LTD. – C. 11.

⁵⁹³ On the visit of Belarusian Foreign Minister S. Aleinik to Equatorial Guinea [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: https://mfa.gov.by/press/news_mfa/ddb586f041dd247f.html

⁵⁹⁴ Belarusian Ministry of Industry 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/>

energy. This contract is preliminarily estimated at \$100 million. And more: "Equatorial Guinea will eventually become a kind of hub for the supply of Belarusian equipment to neighboring African countries. In the future, there may also be talk of setting up production facilities here."⁵⁹⁵

As for the working group on agriculture, at the first meeting in November, the parties agreed on the supply of agricultural equipment and food products, Belarusian corn, potato, and other crop seeds, based on interest, as well as on the implementation of joint projects in the field of poultry farming and vegetable growing, and plant protection products from our country. The fact is that the Belarusian side intends to seriously engage in the creation and development of a modern agricultural sector in Equatorial Guinea, which "currently imports almost all of the food consumed in the country, with the exception of literally a few items that are traditionally grown in the country"⁵⁹⁶. So Belarus has 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 set up here, where, after training, local specialists will determine the soil composition. After that, the implementation of priority plans will begin. First, to clean up the territory where there is suitable soil. Second, to teach local workers how to grow crops using mineral fertilizers. Third, to assist in the construction of poultry farms with a capacity of 20,000 birds for egg production. Fourth, to assist in the construction of an agricultural town. Fifth, to create a training center for Equatorial Guinean specialists. Sixth, "cooperation in the field of fisheries (supply from Belarus and fish processing) will be established, as well as training for specialists from Equatorial Guinea in the fields of mechanization, processing, and fisheries at

⁵⁹⁵ Rogozhnik: Equatorial Guinea could 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-beloruskoj-tehniki-v-sosednie-strany-604414-2023/>

⁵⁹⁶ Belarus will help feed people in Equatorial Guinea. Bartosz shared his ambitious plans [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-pomozhet-nakormit-ljudej-v-ekvatorialnoj-gvinee-bartosh-podelilsia-ambitsioznymi-planami-604413-2023>

agricultural universities in Belarus⁵⁹⁷. So, the working group on agriculture has a very busy schedule.

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 country. This plan is comprehensive and covers virtually all measures to quickly solve the tasks set for three to five years. But to do this, Equatorial Guinea must first solve the problem of medical personnel, as "there are a number of medical buildings that have been built and relatively put into operation. But they are not functioning, <...> there are no professional staff, including specialists who can serve this medical complex"⁵⁹⁸. 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 medicines and medical devices. The logistics of the new projects have already been determined. For example, the Equatorial Guinean side has proposed that specialists from Belarus open an oncology department at the La Paz clinic in Bata. They also want to resolve the "issue of the logistics center for the supply of medical equipment and medicines to African countries"⁵⁹⁹.

Finally, at the first meeting of the working groups on cooperation in the scientific, technical, and educational fields, the parties identified the most priority areas for cooperation. In the first case, these are issues of "supplies of high-tech knowledge-intensive products and cooperation between scientific organizations, opportunities to participate in scientific and technical events, and holding a joint Belarusian-Equatorial Guinean competition of scientific and technical projects"⁶⁰⁰. The second area concerns "training

⁵⁹⁷ 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-ekvatorialnuju-gvineju-selhoztehniku-semena-i-prodovolstvie-599940-2023/>

⁵⁹⁸ Proposal to build Equatorial Guinea's healthcare system based on the Belarusian model [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/sistemu-zdravoohranenija-v-ekvatorialnoj-gvinee-predlagajut-postroit-po-belorusskim-lekalam-604422-2023>

⁵⁹⁹ Equatorial Guinea is interested in joint projects with Belarus in the field of healthcare [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/ekvatorialnaia-gvineja-zainteresovana-v-sovmestnyh-proektah-s-belarusiju-v-sfere-zdravoohranenija-604276-2023>

⁶⁰⁰ Belarus and Equatorial Guinea will develop cooperation in the scientific and technical sphere [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL:

personnel in engineering, engineering and technical, engineering and pedagogical, technological, and agricultural specialties in higher education, in vocational and technical and secondary specialized education, as well as in the field of teaching Russian to Equatorial Guinean citizens"⁶⁰¹.

And already in 2024, the two countries were able to make significant progress in developing this cooperation. In April, at the first session of the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of Belarus of the eighth convocation, deputies adopted a draft law "On the ratification of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Belarus and the Government of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea on the promotion and mutual protection of investments." This document aims to create a legal framework for bilateral relations in the field of investment cooperation and strengthen guarantees for the protection of capital investments. "The ratification of the agreement will allow the use of effective mechanisms to protect Belarusian investors in the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, which will contribute to the development of trade and economic cooperation"⁶⁰². In particular, the agreement provides for: the creation of favorable conditions for investment, the provision of a regime for investors in accordance with the minimum standard of treatment of foreigners provided for by international law, including fair and equal treatment, full protection and security, protection against compulsory acquisition of property equivalent in effect to expropriation or nationalization, and the possibility of appealing to an international arbitration court to protect their rights and interests.

In 2024, the Belarusian Ministry of Industry undertook the implementation of six comprehensive projects in this African country. "These projects involve the supply of Belarusian machinery and equipment for the mechanization of agriculture, the electrification of remote agricultural areas,

<https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-ekvatorialnaja-gvineja-budut-razvivat-sotrudnichestvo-v-nauchno-tehnicheskoi-sfere-599740-2023/>

⁶⁰¹ 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/>

⁶⁰² Belarus and Equatorial Guinea strengthen guarantees for mutual investment protection [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-ekvatorialnaja-gvineja-ukreplijut-garantii-po-vzaimnoj-zaschite-investitsij-628593-2024/>

the improvement and cleaning of territories, waste disposal, construction, and ensuring the country's fire safety,"⁶⁰³. To this end, the Belarusian Ministry of Industry signed two memoranda of cooperation: the first with the Ministry of Social and Housing Construction and Urban Planning, and the second with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Local Corporations of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea. These documents provide for the development of cooperation between the ministries in the supply of Belarusian municipal and road construction equipment, as well as garbage trucks and special firefighting equipment. In this regard, we note that a comprehensive solution is possible, whereby, in addition to supplying various types of equipment and machinery, companies in the industry provide a full range of services, including spare parts, service and warranty maintenance, training local specialists in the operation and repair of equipment, and, if necessary, sending their own technical specialists to commission the equipment and train local personnel in its use. This approach has already been successfully tested in the implementation of large-scale projects to supply Belarusian equipment to African markets.

The next issue is cooperation between Belarus and Equatorial Guinea in the field of construction. On this topic, it should be noted that the government of this Central African country recently announced plans to invest in infrastructure projects, such as the construction of new roads, bridges, and buildings, which stimulate economic growth. In this regard, there is "growing interest from foreign companies in investing in the country's construction industry"⁶⁰⁴. In June 2024, talks were held in Minsk between the heads of the Ministries of Architecture and Construction of Belarus and Social, Housing Construction and Urban Planning of Equatorial Guinea, at which the construction of a ceramic brick factory by Belarusian specialists on the territory of the African state was discussed, and "the possibility of organizing advisory assistance from Belarusian specialists in Equatorial

⁶⁰³ Ministry of Industry intends to implement six comprehensive projects with Equatorial Guinea [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/minprom-nameren-realizovat-6-kompleksnyh-proektov-s-ekvatorialnoj-gvineej-607364-2023/>

⁶⁰⁴ Overview of the construction market in Equatorial Guinea [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://budexport.by/equatorial-guinea/>

Guinea and training construction professionals using Belarusian methodology" was discussed⁶⁰⁵.

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 mutual understanding between peoples. In this regard, the parties will promote "the establishment and development of direct links between educational institutions of the two countries, participation in educational events held in the states, and the exchange of educational literature and scientific publications in accordance with the legislation of the states"⁶⁰⁶. And already in September last year, students from Equatorial Guinea came to Belarus to study at universities. And in 2025, the first intake of citizens from this country will be admitted to Belarusian medical higher education institutions: "20 people will come to study in Belarus on a grant"⁶⁰⁷.

All these facts show that the Roadmap for the Development of Cooperation between Belarus and Equatorial Guinea for 2024-2026 is already gaining momentum, moving along an upward trajectory and increasing interaction in various areas. The parties intend to carry out a great deal of work to implement the main provisions of this document, which will promote partnership ties as effectively as possible on a multi-level basis in order to bring the planned bilateral agreements to fruition.

⁶⁰⁵ Belarus and Equatorial Guinea to boost cooperation in the construction sector [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-ekvatorialnaja-gvineja-privadut-impuls-sotrudnichestvu-v-stroitelnoi-sfere-644244-2024/>

⁶⁰⁶ The Ministries of Education of Belarus and Equatorial Guinea have signed a cooperation agreement [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/minobrazovanija-belarusi-i-ekvatorialnoj-gvinei-zakljuchili-soglasenie-o-sotrudnicestve-658002-2024/>

⁶⁰⁷ 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-ppvperve-priedit-na-obuchenie-v-belorusskie-medvuzv-720328-2025/>

Belarus – Algeria: growth prospects – in the cooperation roadmap

October 2025 marked the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Belarus and Algeria. This North African country, with a population of over 45 million, is the second largest on the continent, with the Sahara Desert covering a huge part of its territory – about 80 percent. Nevertheless, this country is one of the strongest economies in Africa, with oil and natural gas accounting for virtually all of its exports.

In 2025, Belarus and Algeria took important steps to strengthen bilateral ties. Back in **April**, Minsk hosted the **first** meeting of the Belarusian-Algerian Intergovernmental Joint Commission (IGC) on Trade, Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation, at which agreements were reached on expanding the contractual legal framework of bilateral partnership with a transition from framework to sectoral agreements and discussed a number of projects on "production and technical cooperation in the agro-industrial, food, machine-building and municipal sectors, as well as issues of cooperation in the fields of education, science, technology, healthcare and pharmaceuticals, and tourism"⁶⁰⁸.

Six months later, in **October**, Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune received a message from the President of Belarus outlining the Belarusian side's position on developing cooperation with this North African country and "further steps to increase mutual trade, including the development of industrial and agricultural cooperation, the involvement of the Belarusian side in the implementation of Algerian state programs in the areas of food security, transport infrastructure, and the modernization of public transport"⁶⁰⁹. In order to implement all these plans, at the very first meeting of the JPC, it was proposed to prepare **a comprehensive roadmap for bilateral cooperation** for the coming years. And in early **December**

⁶⁰⁸ Zaleski, B. Focus on phased partnership. Belarus' multifaceted economic cooperation on different continents / Boris Zaleski. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2025. – P. 24.

⁶⁰⁹ President of Algeria receives personal message from Lukashenko with Belarusian vision for cooperation development [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/politics/view/prezidentu-alzhira-peredano-lichnoe-poslanie-ot-lukashenko-s-videniem-belorusskoi-storonny-po-razvitiyu-744561-2025/>

2025, this document for **the period 2026-2027** was signed in Algiers, together with a **joint statement on strengthening friendship and partnership** between the two countries.

During the Belarusian leader's official visit to this North African country, a number of other joint documents were also adopted, including agreements on military-technical cooperation, cooperation in the field of animal health, scientific research, technological development, and innovation. At the level of relevant ministries, memoranda of understanding were signed on cooperation in the legal sphere, scientific research and industrial development, agriculture, entrepreneurship and innovation, and higher education.⁶¹⁰ . In addition, a memorandum of understanding on accreditation was signed between the Belarusian State Accreditation Center and Algeria's ALGERAC.

Along with high-level talks, a bilateral **business forum** was held in Algeria these days, attended by more than 100 representatives of ministries, organizations, and enterprises from both sides. Its participants agreed that Belarusian-Algerian economic relations are still in the early stages of development. After all, "trade turnover has not yet reached \$50 million. For a country as large as Algeria and for the open market of Belarus, this is a very low figure. It mainly consists of supplies of Belarusian products to Algeria"⁶¹¹ . So the parties specifically discussed issues of industrial cooperation, the supply of equipment and food, and cooperation in agriculture and pharmaceuticals.

In the industrial sector, the main focus is on the creation of joint ventures. On the Belarusian side, such flagships as Bobruiskagromash, AMKODOR, the Minsk Automobile and Tractor Plants, and the Belarusian Automobile Plant are planning to participate in this venture. For example, the Algerian side is interested in the supply of grain drying complexes. Currently,

⁶¹⁰ Belarus and Algeria agreed to strengthen friendship and adopted a roadmap for the next two years [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/president/view/belarus-i-alzhir-dogovorilis-ob-ukreplenii-druzhbv-i-prinjali-dorozhnuju-kartu-na-predstojaschie-dva-752182-2025/>

⁶¹¹ Belarus proposed to its partners in Algeria to move forward together, like the first two letters of the alphabet [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-predlozila-partneram-v-alzhire-dvigatsia-vmeste-podobno-pervym-dvum-bukvam-alfavita-751738-2025/>

the AMKODOR holding company is ready to offer promising and modern grain storage systems"⁶¹². And already in 2026, it is planned to supply this equipment worth one million dollars to Algeria for joint production. At the same time, deliveries of the company's main product, road construction equipment, are being worked out. Negotiations are currently underway to select specific models for localization.

As part of this business forum, a partnership agreement was also signed between **the Minsk Automobile Plant** and **the Algerian company SFVUI**, which "opens the first stage of the project to assemble MAZ buses in Algeria"⁶¹³. The agreement covers 300 buses: 100 vehicles in 2026, 2027, and 2028. "With subsequent production reaching 200 vehicles per year"⁶¹⁴. As for **Bobruiskagromash**, work in Algeria is proceeding in two directions. "The first is the classic supply of finished equipment. The second is the development of joint production"⁶¹⁵. The range of equipment has already been preliminarily determined – for fodder harvesting, because agriculture is developing quite actively in this North African country, livestock numbers are increasing, which, of course, requires the creation of a serious fodder base. It'll take no more than two or three months to get everything set up. So, by January or February 2026, we'll start delivering machine kits.

In the field of agriculture, in November 2025, the parties signed a number of key documents in Algeria for the development of exports in this area. In particular, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food of Belarus and the Ministry of Agriculture of Algeria agreed on a sanitary certificate opening access to the Algerian market for dry baby food produced in Belarus. The

⁶¹² AMKODOR intends to organize joint production in Algeria [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/amkodor-nameren-organizovat-sovmestnoe-proizvodstvo-v-alzhire-751769-2025/>

⁶¹³ MAZ and Algerian company launch first phase of joint project to assemble MAZ buses [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/maz-i-alzhirskaja-kompanija-otkryli-pervyi-etap-sovmestnogo-proekta-po-sborke-avtobusov-maz-751831-2025/>

⁶¹⁴ Head of the Ministry of Industry of Belarus: cooperation with Algeria primarily involves the creation of joint ventures [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/glava-minproma-belarusi-v-sotrudnichestve-s-alzhirom-rech-prezhde-vsego-idet-o-sozdanii-sovmestnyh-752183-2025/>

⁶¹⁵ Algeria is interested in Belarusian agricultural machinery, joint production is also being discussed [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/alzhir-zainteresovan-v-belorusskoj-selhoztehnikе-obsuzhdaiut-i-sovmestnoe-proizvodstvo-751815-2025/>

prospect of expanding the export range was also discussed: the Algerian side expressed interest in importing Belarusian fish feed and will send a draft of the relevant sanitary certificate to the Belarusian side for approval as soon as possible. In addition, negotiations were held "with representatives of one of the largest Algerian dairy companies, with which an agreement was reached to sign a memorandum of cooperation. The document provides for the supply of dry baby food in 25 kg packages, with subsequent localization of its production in Algeria"⁶¹⁶.

And in December 2025, an agreement was signed under which Belarus will supply dry milk worth more than \$1.5 million to this African country. The fact is that Algeria imports large quantities of skimmed milk powder and whole milk powder – about 350,000 tons. It is used to produce food products: whole milk, yogurt, cheese, and various other products. The possibility of creating joint ventures for milk processing is currently being discussed. In addition, there is an agreement that "specialists from Algeria will visit Belarus in the near future to confirm the halal certificate for the country's meat and dairy products, which was previously issued by the BelHalal organization. Belarus has also offered Algeria its options for building dairy complexes that take into account the local climate"⁶¹⁷.

As for cooperation in **the medical field**, Belarus is studying the Algerian pharmaceutical market for opportunities for cooperation. Not long ago, a separate Ministry of Pharmaceutical Industry was created in this country to regulate this market.⁶¹⁸. So, not only Belarusian medicines may be in demand in Algeria, but also Algerian medicines in Belarus. The development of the Algerian pharmaceutical market is evidenced by the following indicator: 70 percent of this market is covered by domestic drugs. Nevertheless, "the Algerian side has been provided with a list of Belarusian

⁶¹⁶ The Ministry of Agriculture and Food of Belarus signed key documents for the development of exports in Algeria [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/minselhozprod-belarusi-podpisal-v-alzhire-kljuchevye-dokumenty-dlja-razvitija-eksporta-751169-2025/>

⁶¹⁷ Belarus to supply Algeria with dry milk worth over \$1.5 million [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-postavit-v-alzhir-suhoe-moloko-na-summu-bolee-15-mln-752188-2025/>

⁶¹⁸ Belarus is studying the Algerian pharmaceutical market for cooperation opportunities [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-izuchaet-farmrvnok-alzhira-na-predmet-vozmozhnostej-sotrudnichestva-751818-2025/>

drugs, which includes about 1,700 items"⁶¹⁹. This issue will be worked out in the short term in order to implement it in practice.

Another interesting topic in Belarusian-Algerian partnership relations is cooperation in joint **exhibition and fair activities**. It should be noted that in 2025, Belarusian enterprises and organizations participated in two international exhibitions in Algeria. In April, the **Djazagro 2025** food industry exhibition featured about 600 exhibitors and more than 100 unique brands from 36 countries, including Italy, Germany, Belgium, Portugal, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Japan. Participants in the national exhibition **Belarus. The Taste of Nature** presented a new wide range of products, offering goods tailored to regional specifics and demand. "Among them are well-known exporters: Volkovysk OJSC "Bellakt", OJSC "Lida Milk Canning Plant", KPU "Mozyr Dairy Products", OJSC "Slutsk Cheese Factory"⁶²⁰. The Belarusian products presented included the most sought-after and popular items: a range of dry dairy products, butter, frozen cottage cheese, and assorted cheeses.

In September 2025, more than 2,000 companies from 80 countries, including Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, the People's Republic of China, Canada, the United States of America, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Greece, India, Austria, Egypt, Zimbabwe, Indonesia, and Turkey. For the first time, companies from the engineering and pharmaceutical industries of Belarus were represented at this fair. Participants in the **Made in Belarus** exhibition, including OJSC MAZ, the managing company of the BELAVTOMAZ holding, RUE Belmedpreparaty, OJSC Babushkina Krynka, OJSC Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange, presented a wide range of products, offering automotive solutions, pharmaceutical developments, a range of dairy products, and promising projects. Distinguished guests noted the quality and range of products offered to the

⁶¹⁹ Khojaev: Belarus and Algeria are exploring how they can complement each other in the pharmaceutical industry [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/hodzhaev-belarus-i-alzhir-izuchajut-kak-mozhno-dopolnit-drug-druga-v-farmatsevtike-752231-2025/>

⁶²⁰ Zaleski, B. In the orbit of partnerships. The potential for economic cooperation between Belarus and participants in the international market / Boris Zaleski. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2025. – p. 117.

regional market by Belarusian enterprises"⁶²¹ . With the support of industry ministries of Algeria, this fair also served as a business platform to promote trade and economic communication and as an investment driver.

Thus, a series of business negotiations and participation in a specialized business forum by representatives of **OJSC "Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange"** were organized within the framework of the event. In particular, "meetings with a number of large milk processing enterprises in Algeria on the procurement of Belarusian dairy products at exchange auctions took place. Working through the exchange will optimize supply chains and eliminate unnecessary intermediaries"⁶²² . It should also be noted that Algeria has high economic potential for Belarusian producers, including as a hub for building promising business relationships with companies in the Mediterranean, Arab, and African markets. In this regard, the organizers provided IATF-2025 participants with the opportunity to join **Africa Trade Gateway (ATG)**, a unique digital trading ecosystem that brings together buyers, sellers, and traders with reliable partners across Africa and beyond. In just seven days, IATF 2025 hosted about 80 themed events, including ones with Belarusian reps, the business community, and foreign partners. For example, companies from Zimbabwe expressed their willingness to place orders on the BUTB for the sale of dried fruits, fruit purees, and juice concentrates. By using the exchange mechanism, Zimbabwean producers plan to enter the market of Belarus and other member states of the Eurasian Economic Union with their goods. Representatives of the Mozambique Investment and Export Promotion Agency have also expressed interest in cooperating with the BUTB. 's parties agreed to join forces to develop exchange trading between Belarus and Mozambique by informing Mozambican business circles about the opportunities offered by the BUTB and attracting them to the Belarusian electronic platform.

⁶²¹ Exhibition of Belarusian manufacturers presented at the Intra-African Trade Fair in Algeria [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/ekspozitsija-belorusskih-proizvoditelej-predstavljena-na-vnutriafrikanskoj-torgovoj-jarmarke-v-alzhire-735739-2025/>

⁶²² BUTB participates in the Intra-African Trade Fair in Algiers [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://www.butb.by/news/2025/butb-uchastvuet-vo-vnutriafrikanskoy-torgovoy-varmarke-v-alzhire/>

Returning to the Belarusian-Algerian business forum, we would like to note that an agreement on cooperation between **the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange** and **the Confederation of Employers of Algeria (CAP)**, providing for comprehensive cooperation between the parties on a wide range of issues related to the development of exchange trading between Belarus and Algeria. "The strategic goal of the partnership between the BSE and CAP is to ensure the widest possible use of the exchange mechanism by representatives of Algerian business both for the purchase of Belarusian goods and for the sale of their own products on the Belarusian market,"⁶²³. This agreement will form the basis for fruitful cooperation aimed at removing barriers to the development of Belarusian-Algerian exchange trading, which will contribute to the growth of mutual trade and the strengthening of bilateral trade and economic relations.

Let's summarize some of the results. As a result of the December (2025) high-level negotiations, it was decided that "Belarus and Algeria should reach a trade turnover of at least \$500 million in the next year or two"⁶²⁴. In this regard, all the tools of partnership relations will be used, not only between the two countries. In particular, the Belarusian side proposed "to implement a large joint project with Algeria and Oman for the production of fertilizers"⁶²⁵, which are needed not only in this North African country, but throughout the continent. In addition, the territory of Algeria could become another hub for the promotion of Belarusian goods in Africa. Belarus is also ready to help Algeria implement a large-scale desert greening project...⁶²⁶. In short, there are many interesting ideas.

⁶²³ BUTB will cooperate with the Confederation of Employers of Algeria [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-budet-sotrudnichat-s-konfederatsiei-rabotodatelej-alzhira-751886-2025/>

⁶²⁴ Lukashenko: Belarus and Algeria should reach a trade turnover of at least \$500 million in the next year or two [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/president/view/lukashenko-belarus-i-alzhir-v-blizhajshie-god-dva-dolzny-vyjti-na-tovarooborot-hotja-by-500-mln-752195-2025/>

⁶²⁵ Lukashenko proposed to implement a large-scale fertilizer production project with Algeria and Oman [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/president/view/lukashenko-predlozhit-realizovat-s-alzirom-i-omanom-krupnyj-proekt-po-proizvodstvu-udobrenij-752200-2025/>

⁶²⁶ Technology, agriculture, pharmaceuticals. Areas in which Algeria is interested in cooperating with Belarus [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/tehnika-selskoe-hozjajstvo-farmatsevtika-v-kakih-napravlenijah-alzhir-zainteresovan-sotrudnichat-s-750323-2025/>

In **February** 2026, the **second** meeting of the Belarusian-Algerian intergovernmental joint commission is to take place, at which further prospects for cooperation between the two countries will be determined. It is to be assumed that by that time, the comprehensive roadmap for bilateral cooperation for 2026-2027 will already be in effect in specific areas without any delays.

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Belarus – Cuba: new tools and approaches to partnership

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 key issues in the development of relations, including the expansion of mutual trade in goods, cooperation in the financial and banking sector, implementation of projects in the fields of 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.

It should be recalled that the 10th meeting of the commission took place just over two years ago in Havana. At that time, considering complex and problematic issues, including the disruption of logistics chains and financial schemes for Belarusian exports, rising prices for agricultural and industrial products, and energy resources negatively affecting Belarusian-Cuban trade, the parties firmly stated that "Belarus and Cuba must maintain the positive dynamics of economic cooperation"⁶²⁷. And already in 2023, Minsk and Havana jointly increased bilateral trade by more than two times. The increase in trade turnover was the main topic of the 11th meeting of the commission.

One of the outcomes of this Belarusian-Cuban meeting in Minsk was the establishment of a new benchmark for mutual trade volumes – "up to \$15 million for each party within 5 years"⁶²⁸. 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 dedicated to cooperation in the field of agriculture. The second will oversee issues related to healthcare, the medical and pharmaceutical industry, and biotechnology. The third will deal with

⁶²⁷ Shestakov: Belarus and Cuba must maintain positive momentum in economic cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/shestakov-belarus-i-kuba-dolzno-sohranit-polozhitelnuju-dinamiku-razvitiia-ekonomicheskogo-640232-2024/>

⁶²⁸ Belarus and Cuba expect to increase mutual trade volumes [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-kuba-rasschityvajut-narastit-objemy-vzaimnyh-postavok-640626-2024/>

partnerships in the banking and financial sectors and will assist the business community. Finally, "the fourth working group will focus on cooperation in the industrial sector. It will consider not only issues of cooperation in agricultural machinery, but also in the food industry"⁶²⁹.

As part of these new approaches, for example, the Minsk Tractor Plant is preparing to deliver the first batch of 12 tractor sets to Cuba for the organization of assembly production. "The delivery is expected to take place in the third quarter of this [2024] year."⁶³⁰ 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. This is especially true given that, during the 11th meeting of the commission, the parties "agreed to take all necessary measures to increase exports <...> of fixed volumes (8,000 tons) of dry milk"⁶³¹.

Speaking about cooperation in the field of healthcare, the participants of the 11th meeting of the commission agreed that successful interaction in this area – from the registration of drugs to the production of joint products – could accelerate the penetration of Belarusian medicines into the markets of Latin American countries and contribute to the consolidation of Cuban medicines in the markets of the Eurasian Economic Union countries. For reference, we note that "in November 2022, the first Belarusian medicines were registered in this Latin American country"⁶³². In addition, the parties signed an agreement on interlaboratory comparisons to increase the level of trust between the testing laboratories of the two countries, as well as the

⁶²⁹ Cuban Deputy Prime Minister: our countries have great potential and a solid foundation for further development of relations [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/vitse-premier-kubuy-u-nashih-stran-est-bolshoi-potentsial-i-zadel-dlja-dalnejshogo-razvitiia-otnoshenii-640769-2024/>

⁶³⁰ MTZ prepares to deliver the first batch of tractor kits to Cuba for production [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/mtz-gotovitsia-postavit-na-kubu-pervuiu-partiju-tractorokomplektov-dlja-organizatsii-proizvodstva-640644-2024/>

⁶³¹ From drug registration to joint production. Belarus and Cuba to expand ties in healthcare [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/ot-registratsii-preparatov-do-vypuska-sovmestnoj-produksii-belarus-i-kuba-rasshirjat-svjazi-v-640655-2024/>

⁶³² Zaleski, B. Focus on results. Prospects for a comprehensive approach to new opportunities for partnership / Boris Zaleski. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2023. – P. 18.

effectiveness and safety of medicines for Belarusian and Cuban patients. And in June 2024, within the framework of the 11th commission, "an agreement of intent to establish a joint venture was signed between the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the Cuban state organization for biotechnology and pharmaceutical industry BioCubaPharma"⁶³³ .

Let's sum up. At the 11th meeting of the joint commission on trade and economic cooperation in June this year, Belarus and Cuba showed that bilateral dialogue between Minsk and Havana has recently intensified at all levels. The parties outlined specific steps to increase cooperation, highlighting two areas on which they will focus in the first place. "The first is the expansion of the volume and mechanisms of countertrade, and the second is projects related to joint investments in the manufacturing sector"⁶³⁴ . This will be followed by new areas of partnership that will lay the foundation for future relations between Belarus and Cuba.

And already in July 2024, during a visit by a Belarusian government delegation to the Island of Freedom, it was announced that the two countries had already established a strategic partnership based on equality and respect for each other's interests. In terms of the economy, as mentioned above, Belarus and Cuba more than doubled their trade turnover in 2023. "And in the first five months of this year <...> they increased bilateral trade by another 20%"⁶³⁵ . In Havana, the parties signed two more individual loan agreements worth more than two million euros for payments for the supply of dry milk. "In total, more than 1,000 tons of this product will be delivered to Cuba in 2024"⁶³⁶ . In addition, new contracts were signed for the supply of Belarusian

⁶³³ Belarus and Cuba sign agreement of intent to establish joint pharmaceutical enterprise [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-kuba-podpisali-soglashenie-o-namerenijah-po-sozdaniju-sovmestnogo-farmpredpriiatija-640638-2024/>

⁶³⁴ 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/>

⁶³⁵ Golovchenko: Belarus and Cuba doubled their trade turnover in 2023 [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/golovchenko-belarus-i-kuba-v-2023-godu-uvlechili-tovarooborot-v-dva-raza-648415-2024/>

⁶³⁶ Belarus and Cuba have signed credit agreements for payments for dry milk supplies [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-kuba-zakljuchili-kreditnye-soglashenija-dlja-raschetov-za-postavku-suhogo-moloka-648606-2024/>

industrial products. For example, in accordance with the contract with CES Co. LTD, "Minsk Tractor Works will supply 15 units of BELARUS equipment to Cuba by the end of 2024"⁶³⁷.

In addition, following the meeting between the prime ministers of Belarus and Cuba, a number of agreements were signed, including on the mutual protection of classified information and on 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"⁶³⁸. The ministries of health of the two countries adopted an updated cooperation agreement that will promote cooperation between the agencies. In particular, this involves expanding partnerships in the field of medical science between organizations in this sphere for the training of medical personnel. "Of significant interest to both sides is the registration of medicines and medical devices, the supply of pharmaceutical products, and the joint production of medicines"⁶³⁹. Incidentally, the creation of a joint pharmaceutical enterprise between the Belarusian Akademfarm and a Cuban company is already in its final stages. Recently, the registration of one of Cuba's innovative cancer 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, Minsk and Havana are already looking for opportunities to gradually implement a unified Belarusian-Cuban scientific space without barriers. To this end, in August 2023, the Belarusian National Academy of Sciences (NAS) signed memoranda of understanding with the Cuban ministries of agriculture and food industry. An agreement on scientific and technical cooperation was also

⁶³⁷ Agriculture, pharmaceuticals, industry. Cuban Prime Minister names key areas of cooperation with Belarus [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/apk-farmatsevtika-promvshlennost-premier-ministr-kubv-nazval-kljuchevye-sfery-sotrudnichestva-s-648501-2024/>

⁶³⁸ Agriculture, pharmaceuticals, industry. Cuban Prime Minister names key areas of cooperation with Belarus [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/apk-farmatsevtika-promvshlennost-premier-ministr-kubv-nazval-kljuchevye-sfery-sotrudnichestva-s-648501-2024/>

⁶³⁹ Ministries of Health of Belarus and Cuba update cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/minzdravy-belarusi-i-kubv-aktualiziruiut-sotrudnichestvo-648831-2024/>

signed between the NAS of Belarus' Scientific Research Center for Animal Husbandry and Cuba Ron S.A. in the field of using rum production waste in livestock feeding technology⁶⁴⁰. 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 Research Center of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus on food. And at the international conference in Havana, "Macroprogram on Science, Technology, and Innovation of the National Plan for Socio-Economic Development of Cuba until 2030: its role in the management of science, technology and innovation," a representative of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, , delivered a report entitled "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 in the agricultural and food sectors of Cuba.

In the context of this topic, we would like to remind you that the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus "is currently considering 20 joint projects in various fields"⁶⁴¹, including physics, chemistry, and computer science. In addition, Cuban scientists have recently developed and introduced a large number of biotechnological products for use in medicine and agriculture. In 2023 alone, "as a result of bilateral visits <...> by delegations, 66 agreements were signed, which are currently being actively implemented [in Belarus and Cuba]"⁶⁴². Two drugs were also transferred to the Cuban side for registration, and two more are being considered for registration in Belarus. Ten such drugs have been prepared for mutual exchange. The parties are

⁶⁴⁰ Organizations of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus signed cooperation agreements with Cuban partners [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/organizatsii-nan-belarusi-podpisali-soglasheniia-o-sotrudnichestve-s-kubinskimi-partnerami-579830-2023/>

⁶⁴¹ Belarus proposed to Cuba to establish a joint pharmaceutical enterprise based on Akademfarm [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-predlozhila-kube-sozdat-sovmestnoe-farmatsevticheskoe-predpriatie-na-baze-akademfarm-599036-2023/>

⁶⁴² Gusakov: Belarus is open to cooperation with Cuba in all areas of scientific activity [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/gusakov-belarus-otkryta-dlja-sotrudnichestva-s-kuboi-vo-vseh-sferah-nauchnoj-deyatelnosti-599022-2023/>

already ready to cooperate in other areas of scientific research, such as space, microelectronics, mechanical engineering, agricultural, bio, and medical technologies.

Finally, in December 2023, it was officially announced that joint Belarusian-Cuban projects selected as part of a competition held for the first time by the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the Ministry of Science, Technology, and Environment of Cuba would begin implementation. As a result, 18 joint scientific projects will be implemented in 2024-2025, which are highly innovative and will address important issues in the development of science in various fields. For example, in materials science, this includes obtaining materials with improved physical and mechanical properties, developing biodegradable lubricants and coatings with increased wear and corrosion resistance (). In biotechnology, this means "research and development of nanovaccines, the search for multi-purpose compounds for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease"⁶⁴³. Economic research involves the development of methodological approaches to identifying unrealized export potential and assessing the economic benefits and risks of Belarusian-Cuban cooperation and their testing, as well as studying an additional list of commodity items in interstate trade. Thus, new opportunities for cooperation in the scientific sphere between Belarus and Cuba are opening up quite widely, both in fundamental and theoretical areas and in practical terms.

Another relevant area of Belarusian-Cuban partnership is education. In September 2023, Minsk hosted the first Forum of Belarusian and Cuban Rectors of Higher Education Institutions, which discussed ways to deepen bilateral cooperation in education, expand partnership ties between the educational communities of Belarus and Cuba, inter-university contacts for the training of teaching staff, student exchanges, and the implementation of specific scientific projects and joint research. "The Cuban side is particularly interested in the potential of Belarusian universities in the field of high technology, cybersecurity and personal data protection, as well as

⁶⁴³ Belarus and Cuba will implement 18 joint scientific projects [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-kuba-budut-realizovvat-18-sovmestnyh-nauchnyh-proektov-603581-2023/>

development in the field of artificial intelligence"⁶⁴⁴. Participants in the event stressed that today it is necessary to focus on concrete results that will yield economic returns. The first Forum of Belarusian and Cuban Rectors resulted in the signing of bilateral cooperation agreements between universities of the two countries.

The Belarusian State University (BSU) was among the active participants in this forum. It should be recalled that back in April 2023, BSU intensified its 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 fields of biology, geography, chemistry, mathematics, tourism, and the study of Spanish and Russian languages"⁶⁴⁵, as well as a memorandum on the development of a joint master's educational program. Immediate plans include academic mobility, the organization of internships, guest lectures, scientific research, and joint training of specialists. BSU intends to develop cooperation with Enrique José Varona Pedagogical University in the field of pedagogy, introducing innovative methods into the educational process. In the signed cooperation agreement, the parties agreed to exchange students and master's students, invite teachers and researchers to work together on scientific research and educational projects, as well as exchange information, teaching materials, and jointly conduct scientific and educational events. In addition, "the universities plan to develop joint educational programs in the humanities with the award of two diplomas"⁶⁴⁶.

In September 2023, BSU gained several more partners: the University of Guantanamo, the José Antonio Echeverría University of Technology in Havana, and the University of Camagüey. It should be noted that "BSU,

⁶⁴⁴ Cuba's Deputy Minister of Education expressed interest in implementing scientific projects with Belarus [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/zamministra-obrazovanija-kubv-zajavil-o-zainteresovanosti-v-realizatsii-nauchnyh-proektov-s-belarusiju-589322-2023/>

⁶⁴⁵ Mathematics, Spanish language, and tourism. BSU intensifies 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/>

⁶⁴⁶ 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-kubv-budut-razvivat-sotrudnichestvo-v-oblasti-pedagogiki-562339-2023/>

taking into account the signed agreements, is developing educational and scientific contacts with eight Cuban institutions"⁶⁴⁷, with which it is promising to cooperate in the fields of pharmaceuticals and biotechnology and to develop joint educational projects. For example, following the April (2023) negotiations, BSU and the Raul Roa Garcia Higher Institute of International Relations drew up a detailed cooperation program and have already developed a draft virtual platform called "Russian for Cubans / Spanish for Belarusians."

During 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 Antonio Nies Jiménez University of Mao. These documents provide for the exchange of experience in the educational and methodological work of universities, the exchange of textbooks and teaching materials (curricula, teaching aids), joint scientific research in various fields of science and technology, as well as the exchange of scientific and technical information, scientific experience, and the search for various forms of scientific cooperation"⁶⁴⁸.

It should be noted that the signing of the agreement was the result of a meeting of university leaders, which took place at 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, mineral extraction, and electromechanics. Colleagues from other Belarusian universities also signed a number of cooperation agreements with Cuban universities.

⁶⁴⁷ 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/>

⁶⁴⁸ 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/>

And more: in September 2023, a 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. It should be noted that this is not the first experience of cooperation with the Cuban side for the Gomel university. After all, "as a result of Belarusian-Cuban cooperation and with the active participation of GomSMU specialists in the field of vaccinology, the "Soberana Plus" vaccine was approved and authorized by the Belarusian Ministry of Health in 2022 for booster vaccination in our country"⁶⁴⁹. Today, clinical trials of the Cuban vaccine are already underway at the GomGMU research laboratory. So, partner universities still have a lot to do in this area of research.

Speaking about the results of the first Forum of Belarusian and Cuban Rectors, we would like to emphasize that back in November 2022, the contractual and legal basis of Belarusian-Cuban relations was supplemented by an intergovernmental agreement on the mutual recognition of educational documents...⁶⁵⁰. Today, the participants of this forum are already beginning to implement this document in practice so that universities in Belarus and Cuba can achieve concrete results and reap economic benefits in many areas of cooperation.

In short, the implementation of joint Belarusian-Cuban initiatives has made concrete progress over the past year or two. The parties are confident that the development of mutually beneficial ties between Minsk and Havana will continue to grow for the benefit of the Belarusian and Cuban peoples.

⁶⁴⁹ Gomel State Medical University 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-medsinskih-nauk-gavany-589137-2023/>

⁶⁵⁰ Zaleski, B. Priority – export growth. New opportunities in the context of Belarus' multi-vector foreign economic activity / Boris Zaleski. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2023. – P. 106.

Belarus – Nicaragua: to continue the mutually beneficial partnership in stages

In July 2024, a Belarusian government delegation led by Prime Minister R. Golovchenko visited Nicaragua, where groundbreaking documents on Belarusian-Nicaraguan bilateral relations were signed. It should be noted that Nicaragua is a dynamically developing country with a favorable economic and geographical location, where "a number of infrastructure projects are being implemented that are important not only for the Central American region, but also for the entire planet. In particular, the country is planning to dig a new canal"⁶⁵¹. For this reason, the Nicaraguan government is implementing projects to build a port, a runway, and roads that would connect the Pacific and Atlantic coasts. The Belarusian side believes that this Central American country is a promising partner for the simple reason that "Belarus shares Nicaragua's ideals and values, which are aimed at caring for ordinary people and building a just society."⁶⁵². So Minsk is ready to contribute to the development and prosperity of this country.

For reference, active cooperation between the two countries began a couple of years ago. And in mid-2023, the foreign ministries of Belarus and Nicaragua signed a general intergovernmental agreement on the provision of export credits, which provided additional opportunities for cooperation, including the supply of equipment. In October, at the third meeting of the Belarusian-Nicaraguan Joint Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation, it was noted that "products from the Minsk Automobile Plant, Amkodor, Minsk Tractor Plant, and other giants of domestic industry will be in demand in the Latin American country during the implementation of ambitious infrastructure projects planned by the current government"⁶⁵³. And

⁶⁵¹ MFA: Nicaragua is a promising partner for Belarus, we have something to offer this country [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/politics/view/mid-nikaragua-perspektivnyi-partner-dlja-belarusi-nam-est-cto-predlozhit-etoj-strane-648934-2024/>

⁶⁵² Golovchenko announced the delivery of more than 700 units of Belarusian equipment to Nicaragua [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/golovchenko-anonsiroval-postavku-bolee-700-edinits-belorusskoj-tehniki-v-nikaragua-648959-2024/>

⁶⁵³ Zaleski, B. Priorities of Multivectorism. Chronicle of Belarus' international economic cooperation with interested partners on different continents / Boris Zaleski. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2024. – P. 376.

already in January 2024, "the first shipment of dump trucks manufactured by the Minsk Automobile Plant was delivered to Nicaragua: 9 MAZ-5551 units and 6 MAZ-6501 units."⁶⁵⁴ . And in May of the same year, setting the tone for cooperation between all Belarusian and Nicaraguan regions, the Minsk City Executive Committee and the Managua City Council signed an agreement on trade and economic cooperation, which referred to "the creation of joint assembly plants, service centers, the supply of equipment, and cooperation in education and healthcare"⁶⁵⁵ . At the same time, in May, the Belarusian Ministry of Industry announced its interest in building the potential for industrial dialogue between the two countries and in facilitating "the implementation of projects to supply equipment for the needs of cities in the republic, including the capital, Managua. This involves the supply of trucks, buses, electric buses, and road construction equipment"⁶⁵⁶ . Finally, in June 2024, AMKODOR signed significant contracts for the supply of modern road construction equipment to Nicaragua – "for the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure, as well as for the Nicaraguan Institute for Municipal Development"⁶⁵⁷ , which will contribute to the modernization of the country's transport network and lay the foundation for closer economic cooperation between Belarus and Nicaragua.

Returning to the visit of the Belarusian government delegation to Nicaragua in July 2024, it should be noted that as a result of these high-level negotiations in Managua, contracts worth \$85 million were signed. For example, four new loan agreements totaling more than \$79 million were signed with the country's Ministry of Finance alone "for the supply of more than 700 units of Belarusian equipment to be used in various sectors of

⁶⁵⁴ MAZ is ready to expand trade cooperation with Nicaragua [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/maz-gotov-pristupit-k-rasshireniju-torgovogo-sotrudnichestva-s-nikaragua-627749-2024/>

⁶⁵⁵ Minsk and Managua have identified areas of cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/minsk-i-managua-opredelili-napravlenija-sotrudnichestva-637016-2024/>

⁶⁵⁶ Belarus and Nicaragua discussed practical aspects of cooperation on equipment supplies [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/special/economics/view/belarus-i-nikaragua-obsudili-prakticheskie-aspektv-sotrudnichestva-po-postavkam-tehniki-637745-2024/>

⁶⁵⁷ AMKODOR to supply road construction equipment to Nicaragua [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/amkodor-postavit-dorozhno-stroitelnuju-tehniku-v-nikaragua-641599-2024/>

Nicaragua's economy"⁶⁵⁸. There were two main areas of supply of Belarusian equipment to this Central American country: vehicles from the Minsk Automobile Plant and equipment from AMKODOR OJSC, in order to create a platform in Nicaragua for the transfer of Belarusian technologies in the machine-building and agro-industrial complexes. So, "by the end of [2024], about 370 units of freight equipment worth \$38 million will be delivered. These are dump trucks, tractors, tank trucks for transporting drinking water, and <...> municipal vehicles that will operate in the municipal districts of Nicaragua"⁶⁵⁹. This is especially true given that the Nicaraguan truck market consists mainly of used equipment, and the purchase of new equipment is hampered by the need to organize financial instruments.

As for AMKODOR, it has signed a large export contract for a wide range of road construction equipment. The first deliveries were planned for the end of 2024. "Under the contract, front-end mini-loaders, graders, bulldozers, excavators, and rollers will be supplied to Nicaragua—that is, a complete list of equipment necessary for the construction and maintenance of roads in working order"⁶⁶⁰.

The Minsk Tractor Plant also has plans for Nicaragua, supplying 36 machines there. There are plans to "supply 120-200 units per month, if a financial instrument is created."⁶⁶¹ It is believed that this Central American country is almost completely self-sufficient in food, but without mechanization and automation, it is impossible to engage in exports and create new capacities for fruit, coffee, and other products. So the power range of Belarusian tractors can be increased. And even the possibility of creating assembly plants is being considered.

⁶⁵⁸ Contracts worth \$85 million signed during Roman Golovchenko's visit to Nicaragua [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://www.government.by/ru/content/10955>

⁶⁵⁹ Minsk Automobile Plant to supply \$38 million worth of freight equipment to Nicaragua [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/minskij-avtomobilnyi-zavod-postavit-v-nikaragua-gruzovuju-tehniku-na-38-mln-649162-2024/>

⁶⁶⁰ "An unprecedented step." AMKODOR on a major contract to supply equipment to Nicaragua [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/besprezidentnyi-shag-amkodor-o-bolshom-kontrakte-na-postavku-tehniku-v-nikaragua-649135-2024/>

⁶⁶¹ Minsk Tractor Works to supply 36 tractors to Nicaragua [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/minskij-traktornyj-zavod-postavit-v-nikaragua-36-traktorov-649128-2024/>

The most promising areas of trade and economic cooperation between the two countries were identified at the Belarusian-Nicaraguan business forum, which took place in Managua in July 2024, where special emphasis was placed on cooperation in the supply of equipment from Belarus, "including electric transport, the supply of agricultural machinery and technology transfer in agriculture, pharmaceuticals and the use of domestic developments in the construction of residential and industrial facilities in Nicaragua"⁶⁶². As a result, a memorandum of cooperation was signed at the forum between the National Center for Marketing and Price Conjuncture and the Nicaraguan Secretariat for Investment and Export Promotion to ensure the establishment of direct contacts in the relevant business areas and their support until the conclusion of deals.

Summing up the results of this visit by the Belarusian government delegation to Managua, it can be noted that in July 2024, the first real step was taken towards major economic cooperation between Belarus and Nicaragua, not only to implement large-scale projects in this Central American country, but also to implement a well-thought-out policy of re-exporting joint products to Latin American markets. There are considerable prospects in this regard.

And already in August 2024, agreements in the field of trade and economic cooperation began to be implemented. "The first batch of Belarusian equipment, purchased under a credit line from the Development Bank of Belarus, has been delivered to the Nicaraguan port of Corinto"⁶⁶³. This equipment is already being used for clearing, construction, and repair work on nearly 1,500 streets in the country's capital. And at the end of September, a pilot batch of 15 dump trucks from the Minsk Automobile Plant

⁶⁶² Electric transport, agricultural machinery, and pharmaceuticals. How business relations between Belarus and Nicaragua will develop [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/elektrotransport-selhoztehnika-i-farmatsija-kak-budut-prodvigatsja-biznes-otnoshenija-belarusi-i-649101-2024/>

⁶⁶³ The first batch of Belarusian equipment arrived in Nicaragua [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/pervaja-partija-belorusskoj-tehniki-pribvla-v-nikaragua-653105-2024/>

was delivered. "The machine sets were delivered to Central America by sea"⁶⁶⁴.

In May 2025, the Amkodor holding company delivered the first batch of special equipment to this country – "12 AMKODOR 211 universal loaders with side turning and four AMKODOR 332C4 universal loaders"⁶⁶⁵. It should be noted that the contract between the Belarusian enterprise and the Nicaraguan side provides for phased deliveries of equipment until 2027. This includes a wide range of machines, including forklifts, motor graders, bulldozers, rollers, and other types of road construction and municipal equipment.

In May 2025, the 4th meeting of the Belarusian-Nicaraguan Joint Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation was held in Managua, at which enterprises and agencies of the two countries held direct constructive negotiations and identified promising "growth points" for mutually beneficial cooperation in the trade, economic, scientific, educational, and cultural spheres. The parties agreed to intensify cooperation in a number of strategically important areas, including "expanding supplies of Belarusian municipal, road, construction, freight, passenger, and agricultural equipment, participation of Belarusian companies in Nicaraguan investment projects in the field of road, industrial and residential construction, the development of transport infrastructure, and the supply of pharmaceutical and medical products to the Nicaraguan market"⁶⁶⁶.

During this meeting of the joint commission, a "Detailed Plan for the Development of Comprehensive Cooperation between the Republic of Belarus and the Republic of Nicaragua until 2030" was signed. In this document, "Belarus aims to continue cooperation in traditional areas (through industrial enterprises MAZ and AMKODOR) and to establish a strategic

⁶⁶⁴ A pilot batch of MAZ dump trucks was delivered to Nicaragua [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/v-nikaragua-sostoialas-peredacha-pilotnoj-partii-samosvalov-maz-664699-2024/>

⁶⁶⁵ Amkodor delivered the first batch of equipment to Nicaragua [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/amkodor-peredal-pervuju-partiju-tehniki-v-nikaragua-715513-2025/>

⁶⁶⁶ On the visit of Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belarus E. Shestakov to Nicaragua [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: https://mfa.gov.by/press/news_mfa/cab0186a90fd2361.html

partnership with the Ministry of Emergency Situations (from training to the supply of equipment)"⁶⁶⁷. Cooperation is also planned in the area of educational programs that Belarus could offer Nicaragua. There are other promising areas of cooperation, such as unmanned aerial vehicles and pharmacology.

Following the 4th meeting of the joint commission, the parties signed contracts worth \$36 million so that joint projects in the trade, economic, scientific, and technical spheres would not only target the Nicaraguan market but also serve as "a kind of platform for Belarusian goods and technologies to enter the markets of neighboring countries in the region"⁶⁶⁸. In particular, Belarus will supply Nicaragua with more than 280 trucks of various models and road construction equipment. This is provided for in new agreements between the two countries. The Development Bank of Belarus has signed four credit agreements worth a total of more than \$30 million, which are significant for both countries. After all, "Belarusian equipment for Nicaragua is a necessary element for the sustainable operation of public utilities and organizations involved in the implementation of large-scale Chinese-Nicaraguan infrastructure investment projects"⁶⁶⁹.

In this context, it should be added that back in November 2024, Nicaragua and China signed agreements on the implementation of several projects that will contribute to the economic and social development of this Central American country. In particular, "the first agreement on the design, procurement, and construction of the Bluefields deep-water port on the Caribbean coast was signed between representatives of the Chinese company CAMC and the Nicaraguan Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure (MTI)"⁶⁷⁰. MTI representatives also approved an agreement with the Asian

⁶⁶⁷ Cooperation in the areas of emergency response, medicine, and education. What Belarus offers Nicaragua [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/societv/view/sotrudnichestvo-po-linii-mchs-meditsiny-obrazovanija-cto-belarus-predlagaet-nikaragua-716393-2025/>

⁶⁶⁸ Belarus and Nicaragua sign contracts worth \$36 million [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-nikaragua-podpisali-kontraktv-na-36-mln-716679-2025/>

⁶⁶⁹ Belarus to supply more than 280 pieces of equipment to Nicaragua [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-postavit-v-nikaragua-bolee-280-edimits-tehniki-716779-2025/>

⁶⁷⁰ Nicaragua signs new agreements with Chinese companies [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://ruso.prensa->

company CCSA on the design and implementation of an intelligent logistics center in Nicaragua in cooperation with the Nicaraguan Port Authority and a number of other projects.

Returning to the 4th meeting of the joint commission, we note that Belarus is ready to cooperate in the field of information technology, banking and finance, and is also working on the supply of firefighting equipment, medicines, and medical equipment to Nicaragua. The Belarusian company Bobruiskagromash offers mounted and trailed equipment and equipment for tractors. After all, it is important not only to have a tractor, but also equipment for it, which significantly increases labor productivity in agriculture. This is what Nicaragua really needs at the moment. In the field of pharmaceuticals, "there are already specific agreements that will allow Belarusian medicines to be supplied to the Nicaraguan market even without full certification"⁶⁷¹. Moreover, Belarusian medicines are much cheaper than medicines from other countries, but at the same time they are no less effective. Our Nicaraguan colleagues are also interested in medical equipment, which is why it will be supplied together with the medicines.

Another important topic for Nicaragua is genetic material for potato cultivation. The Belarusian Academy of Sciences has many different types of potatoes that will be effectively cultivated on Nicaraguan soil. As for imports from Nicaragua, Belarus is interested in supplies of coffee, bananas, and seafood. Other topics include cooperation in science and education. "The Nicaraguan side is interested in strengthening cooperation with Belarusian universities"⁶⁷². Finally, in May 2025, the two capitals, Minsk and Managua, signed a twinning agreement covering a wide range of areas "in such fields

latina.cu/2024/11/19/%D0%BD%D0%B8%D0%BA%D0%B0%D1%80%D0%B0%D0%B3%D1%83%D0%B0-%D0%BF%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%BF%D0%B8%D1%81%D0%B0%D0%BB%D0%B0-%D0%BD%D0%BE%D0%B2%D1%8B%D0%B5-%D1%81%D0%BE%D0%B3%D0%BB%D0%B0%D1%88%D0%B5%D0%BD%D0%B8/

⁶⁷¹ Belarus is working on supplies of firefighting equipment, medicines, and medical equipment to Nicaragua [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-prorabatvvaet-postavki-v-nikaragua-pozharnoi-tehniki-lekarstv-i-medoborudovanija-717174-2025/>

⁶⁷² Nicaragua is interested in purchasing Belarusian medicines [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/nikaragua-zainteresovana-v-zakupke-belorusskih-lekarstv-682583-2024/>

as business, culture, education, and healthcare⁶⁷³ in order to explore new areas and markets in the center of the American continent.

All these facts show that the decisions of the 4th meeting of the Belarusian-Nicaraguan Joint Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation give new impetus to the development of trade, economic, scientific, technical, social, and cultural ties between the two countries in order to gradually continue their mutually beneficial partnership.

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⁶⁷³ Kukharev said that the twinning agreement with Managua will benefit Minsk [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/kuharev-rasskazal-cto-dast-minsku-soglashenie-o-pobratimstve-s-managua-713714-2025/>

Belarus: Asia, Africa, and Latin America as focal points for export diversification

For two years in a row – in 2023 and 2024 – the Belarusian economy showed growth above the global average. The main drivers were industry, construction, trade, and transport. "At the end of 2024, Belarus' foreign trade turnover of goods and services amounted to more than \$100 billion, an increase of 5.1% compared to 2023"⁶⁷⁴. At the same time, domestic exports grew by three and a half percent compared to 2023, reaching almost \$50 billion. Belarusian goods and services were exported to 154 countries around the world, and "in 2024, products were delivered to 14 new countries for the first time."⁶⁷⁵

Among the sectors of the national economy, **industry** stands out. Last year, the export geography of the enterprises of the Ministry of Industry system included 67 countries around the world, including the resumption of supplies to 15 markets to which there were no exports in 2023. "The foreign trade balance is positive – more than \$3.2 billion"⁶⁷⁶. For example, the growth rate of the department's enterprises' supplies to African countries increased by 1.5 times, and to Asia by 1.4 times. For further diversification of exports, the Ministry of Industry has "identified countries that are key points and promising for cooperation in Asia, Africa, and Latin America."⁶⁷⁷

In terms of specific enterprises, one example is **OJSC Bobruiskagromash Holding Management Company**, where "at the end of 2024, the export growth rate was 114.2%, and this year an additional 8.6%

⁶⁷⁴ Belarus' foreign trade turnover of goods and services increased by 5.1% in 2024 and exceeded \$100 billion [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/vneshnetorgovvj-oborot-tovarov-i-uslug-belarusi-za-2024-god-uvlechilsia-na-51-i-prevysil-100-mlrd-694899-2025/>

⁶⁷⁵ Golovchenko: Belarusian products were exported to more than 150 countries in 2024 [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/golovchenko-belorusskaja-produktsiia-v-2024-godu-eksportirovalas-bolee-chem-v-150-stran-mira-689588-2025/>

⁶⁷⁶ Yefimov: In 2024, the organizations of the Ministry of Industry system will operate profitably and cost-effectively [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/efimov-v-2024-godu-obespechena-rentabelnaja-i-pribvlnaja-rabota-organizatsij-sistem-minproma-698977-2025/>

⁶⁷⁷ Asia, Africa, Latin America: Yefimov spoke about the starting points for export diversification [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/azija-afrika-latinskaja-amerika-ob-opornyh-tochkah-dlja-diversifikatsii-eksporta-rasskazal-efimov-698981-2025/>

increase is planned"⁶⁷⁸. The bulk of the equipment manufactured in Bobruisk is supplied to the domestic market, as well as to the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States. In addition, the company's position in the markets of countries further afield is strengthening, as equipment manufactured by the Bobruiskagromash holding company is currently operating in more than 50 countries around the world. And the geography of supplies is constantly expanding. In 2025, it is planned to enter a number of African markets. A portfolio of orders has already been formed, which will ensure full production capacity in 2025, with most of the products being sold to African countries, Russia, and Kazakhstan.

Speaking of Africa, we can also mention **the Minsk Tractor Works**, which annually increases its production to countries on the continent and is currently completing "the shipment of equipment under a large contract for 2,000 units with Nigeria"⁶⁷⁹. The company is preparing to sign a new document similar in terms of supply volume. Tractors are also being actively supplied to Zimbabwe. Two high-power BELARUS tractors with a capacity of 350 hp and attachments have already been shipped to Kenya. Next in line are Togo, Mali, South Africa, and Madagascar. In February of this year, "during negotiations with the Minister of Agriculture of Ghana, the parties agreed to develop a program for the mechanization of the agricultural sector"⁶⁸⁰ in this African country.

In terms of the implementation of the export program, it should also be noted that "today, **the Lidselmash holding company** is fulfilling a large order for deliveries to Nigeria – 500 corn seeders and 300 mounted sprayers"⁶⁸¹. In addition to the African vector, the holding company has

⁶⁷⁸ Bobruiskagromash plans to increase exports by almost 9% this year [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/bobruiskagromash-planiruet-narastit-eksport-pochti-na-9-v-etom-godu-697497-2025/>

⁶⁷⁹ MTZ expands its export geography to the African continent every year [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/mtz-s-kazhdym-godom-rasshiraet-geografiju-eksporta-na-afrikanskij-kontinent-692083-2025/>

⁶⁸⁰ Minsk Tractor Works is interested in expanding cooperation with the Republic of Ghana [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/minskij-traktornyj-zavod-zainteresovan-v-rasshirenii-sotrudnichestva-s-respublikoj-gana-696644-2025/>

⁶⁸¹ The CEO of Lidselmash spoke about the major orders the company is working on [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/nad-kakimi-krupnymi-zakazami-rabotaet-lidselmash-rasskazal-gendirektor-699019-2025/>

signed a large contract with Uzbekistan. Thirty-six cotton cultivators have already been shipped. The contract has been extended for another forty units.

The positive dynamics of the development of the **agro-industrial complex** of Belarus in 2024 showed that the increase in production volumes made it possible not only to meet the needs of the domestic market, but also to "increase exports of food products and agricultural raw materials by 14.4%.⁶⁸². In total, food supplies were delivered to 117 countries, including 19 countries for the first time. In terms of **dairy products** alone, Belarusian milk processing enterprises shipped six million tons of milk and dairy products for export last year, expanding their supply geography to 69 countries. "Dairy products accounted for 40.3% of total food exports."⁶⁸³. Algeria, Mexico, Kuwait, Nigeria, and Kenya opened their markets to Belarusian dairy products.

As for Belarusian **food industry** enterprises, last year they continued to successfully develop markets in countries further afield. Overall, the exports of the **Belgospisheprom** concern grew by 11%, and over the five-year period increased by one and a half times. Geographically, the export portfolio covers 53 countries. In 2024, the concern's enterprises "supplied their products to Morocco, South Africa, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Ethiopia, and Equatorial Guinea. New markets include Afghanistan, Jordan, Bahrain, the Philippines, Brazil, Cuba, and Chile."⁶⁸⁴. In 2025, Belgospisheprom will once again focus on the African continent.

Among Belarusian companies, **Bellesbumprom** is also noteworthy in terms of exports, having shipped about 72 percent of its total output abroad in 2024. Diversification of sales markets has enabled the company's

⁶⁸² Exports of Belarusian food and agricultural raw materials grew by more than 14% in 2024 [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL:

<https://belta.by/economics/view/eksport-belorusskogo-prodovolstvija-i-selhozvrjia-v-2024-godu-vvros-bolee-chem-na-14-700084-2025/>

⁶⁸³ In 2024, Belarus exported 6 million tons of milk and dairy products to 69 countries [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL:

<https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-v-2024-godu-eksportirovala-6-mln-tonn-moloka-i-molochnyh-produktov-v-69-stran-697543-2025/>

⁶⁸⁴ The list includes the Philippines, Brazil, Cuba, and Chile. The Belarusian food industry opened new markets in 2024 [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL:

<https://www.belarus.by/ru/business/business-news/v-spiske-filippin-v-brazilija-kuba-chili-belorusskij-pisheprom-otkrvl-v-2024-godu-novve-rvni i 0000186578.html>

enterprises to supply 46 countries. "In January-November last year, exports of goods by the group's organizations as a whole reached 107.6% of the corresponding period in 2023. The share of supplies to CIS countries was 77%"⁶⁸⁵. Overall, the top five countries to which Bellesbumprom supplied its products were Russia, China, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, and Kazakhstan.

Increasing exports is also one of the priority areas of development for **the Belarusian construction industry**. In 2024, thanks to measures to diversify export flows and expand the geography of foreign trade relations, it was possible to achieve positive dynamics in the growth rate of exports of construction, engineering, and architectural services. "Over the year, exports amounted to \$997.6 million, or 138.9% compared to the same period last year, with a target of 107%. A positive balance of \$503.7 million was achieved, which is the best result in the last eight years"⁶⁸⁶. Given the external economic situation, the main direction for the growth of Belarusian construction exports remains Russia. Among the most promising regions for Belarusian contractors today are the Voronezh, Kaluga, Smolensk, Bryansk, Kursk, Leningrad, Kaliningrad, Nizhny Novgorod, and Moscow regions, the Primorsky and Krasnodar territories, Moscow, and St. Petersburg. For example, in the Kaluga region, Belarusian builders are constructing the residential neighborhoods of Vesnushki, Prost Kosmos, Annenki, and Malinovka. In May 2024, with the participation of Belarusian specialists, work was completed on the Federal Technopark of Professional Education in Kaluga, which "is a modern 28,000 square meter facility housing 30 laboratories with high-tech equipment for training teachers and vocational training masters from all over Russia for 15 sectors of the economy, from microelectronics to heavy engineering"⁶⁸⁷.

⁶⁸⁵ About 72% of Belarusian woodworking products are exported [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/eksportiruetjsia-okolo-72-produktsii-belorusskoi-derevoobrabotki-692632-2025/>

⁶⁸⁶ Belarus increased exports of construction, engineering, and architectural services in 2024 [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-v-2024-godu-narastila-eksport-stroitelnyh-inzhenernyh-i-arhitekturnykh-uslug-702696-2025/>

⁶⁸⁷ Schools, kindergartens, stadiums. What social facilities are Belarusian builders constructing in the regions of Russia [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/shkolny-detsady-stadiony-kakie-sotsobiekty-vozdviat-belorusskie-stroiteli-v-regionah-rossii-702773-2025/>

Specialists from Brestzhylstroy have already built a number of residential buildings in the Kaliningrad region, and in the Kursk region, housing construction work is being carried out by the Mozyr House Building Combine. In the Bryansk region, a residential building has been constructed by the Gomel House Building Combine, and in St. Petersburg, an entire "Belarusian Quarter" has been built. A "Belarusian quarter" will also appear in the Voronezh region; the project is currently being implemented in the eco-village of Lushnikovka. In addition, in June last year, Belarusian builders completed the construction of the 10,000-seat Fakel stadium in this regional center. There are also ongoing projects in this region: in June 2025, Belarusian builders will commission a 600-seat kindergarten in Voronezh. In the Nizhny Novgorod region, in Arzamas, a 1,500-seat school was built by Belarusians in December 2024. Agreements have also been reached on the construction of schools in other cities in the region, such as Balakhna and near Kstovo, and discussions are underway on the possibility of Belarusian specialists building model sports and recreation complexes in the region's municipal districts. And in the Primorsky Krai in 2024, the Belgosproekt Institute completed the preliminary design of a regional hockey center and boxing center to be built in Vladivostok, as well as a 419-bed multidisciplinary hospital for the city of Nakhodka.

Another interesting fact about Belarusian exports. It is well known that Belarus is one of the world leaders in **peat extraction** and a leader in the production of **fuel briquettes**. Two million tons are extracted annually in our country. In addition to the domestic market, peat products are also supplied abroad. In total, they are exported to 18 countries, including China, Russia, Turkey, and Georgia. "In terms of volume, last year they amounted to 120,000 tons worth about \$10 million"⁶⁸⁸. Beltopgaz organizations plan to continue increasing these supplies in 2025. To maintain and increase export volumes, they are working on diversification: actively entering the Chinese market, increasing supplies to Russian consumers, and working with new customers in countries such as Vietnam, Uzbekistan, and Turkey. "To date, three peat plants have been accredited to supply China: Glinka, Vitebsktoif, and

⁶⁸⁸ Belarus supplies peat products to 18 countries [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-postavljaet-produktsiju-iz-torfa-v-18-stran-697593-2025/>

Turzhovka. Entry into the markets of Central Asia, the Middle East, and the Far East is being considered,"⁶⁸⁹ [14]. The association's enterprises in these regions present their production capabilities at international specialized exhibitions. In 2024 alone, peat products worth \$407,000 were shipped to consumers under contracts concluded at these exhibitions. In particular, a number of agreements were reached following the MUSIAD EXPO international exhibition held in Istanbul in November 2024, . An agreement was signed with GLS GRUP A.S. "to increase supplies of peat products and conduct tests of liquid and dry humates in the amount of 200 kg. Agreements were also reached on long-term cooperation with DY GRUP"⁶⁹⁰ . After testing, the Belarusian side will develop a special formula that will become the basis for landscaping and landscape design. In 2025, participation in specialized agricultural exhibitions is also planned, which will significantly expand sales markets in the near future.

Among Belarusian regions, the **Gomel region** stands out in this regard, having increased its exports of goods and services by almost nine percent in 2024, amounting to nearly four and a half billion dollars. "Geography of supplies: 75 countries for goods and 119 countries for services. The main destinations are the Russian market and the markets of EAEU partner countries, as well as China. There are also products from Gomel enterprises on the African continent."⁶⁹¹ . The main export commodity items of the Gomel region are metal products, meat and dairy products, equipment and mechanical devices, plastics and products made from them, mineral fertilizers, paper, cardboard and cardboard products, timber and sawn timber, cellulose, as well as automotive, railway, pipeline transport, construction, tourism, computer, telecommunications, education, and healthcare services. For example, exports of agricultural products from the

⁶⁸⁹ Beltopgaz organizations plan to increase peat product exports in 2025 [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/organizatsii-beltopgazav-2025-godu-planirujut-naraschivat-eksport-torfoproduktsii-702455-2025/>

⁶⁹⁰ Belarus signed an agreement to increase supplies of peat products to the Turkish market [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-podpisala-soglashenie-ob-uvlichenii-postavok-torfjanoi-produktsii-na-turetskij-rynok-680408-2024/>

⁶⁹¹ 75 countries for goods, 119 for services. Krupko on the geography of exports from the Gomel region [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/po-tovaram-75-stran-po-uslugam-119-krupko-o-geografii-eksporta-gomelskoi-oblasti-701919-2025/>

region alone grew by 20 percent last year. The region's agro-industrial enterprises have entered new markets: Algeria, Hong Kong, Cuba, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, the Netherlands, Singapore, and Japan. In total, exports have reached more than 40 countries around the world.⁶⁹²

In 2024, enterprises **in the Brest region** increased their exports by almost 10 percent compared to 2023. Despite objective difficulties, work in foreign markets is characterized by good dynamics. "The foreign trade turnover of goods and services in the Brest region amounted to \$6.8 billion at the end of 2024, with a growth rate of 109.2%. At the same time, exports amounted to \$4.3 billion, with a growth rate of 109.4%. The positive foreign trade balance amounted to \$1.8 billion."⁶⁹³ . Positive dynamics are particularly evident in foreign trade with Kazakhstan. Exports of goods with the Brest brand grew by more than 15 percent in 2024. Good work has been done in Uzbekistan, where export volumes increased by more than 40 percent. One of the main partners of the Brest region is Russia. Enterprises in the southwestern region have increased exports there by almost 10 percent. China has traditionally been a strategic partner of the Brest region. Enterprises in the region are systematically increasing their presence in this country. Exports to China have grown 1.6 times since the beginning of the five-year plan.

All these numerous facts clearly show that increasing exports by Belarusian enterprises remains one of the priority vectors for the development of the national economy. Moreover, in January 2025, "goods and services worth \$3.4 billion were sold abroad, including \$2.7 billion worth of goods and \$0.7 billion worth of services"⁶⁹⁴ . In the near future, Belarusian exporters will focus on developing trade and economic cooperation with African countries and other countries "far away" , as well as creating their own infrastructure for promoting exports abroad.

⁶⁹² Algeria, Singapore, Japan. What new markets did the agro-industrial complex of the Gomel region enter in 2024 [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/alzhir-singapur-japonija-kakie-novve-rynki-osvoil-apk-gomelskoj-oblasti-v-2024-godu-701922-2025/>

⁶⁹³ Enterprises in the Brest region increased exports by almost 10% in 2024 [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/predpriiatija-brestskej-oblasti-v-2024-godu-narastili-eksport-pochti-na-10-701811-2025/>

⁶⁹⁴ Belarus' foreign trade turnover of goods and services exceeded \$7 billion in January [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/vneshnetorgovvj-oborot-tovarov-i-uslug-belarusi-v-ianvare-prevvsil-7-mlrd-701402-2025/>

Belarus: the "One District – One Project" initiative as a tool for unleashing local initiative

The "One District – One Project" initiative has been in place since 2022, when the Belarusian head of state instructed the Ministry of Economy of Belarus, together with regional executive committees, to draw up a list of projects to be implemented in each Belarusian region. The tasks set for the implementation of this initiative include job creation, retention of personnel in a specific district, and preservation of the region's competencies. The tasks also include the creation of new export-oriented products and the development of related industries. Any production contributes to the development of related industries – transport, logistics, trade, energy, and services⁶⁹⁵. In addition, import substitution is an important condition in today's situation.

It should be noted that the "One Region – One Project" program is designed for the current five-year period. Its results will be summarized in 2026. Since the beginning of 2023, there have been 129 projects under this initiative. Then this list was increased to 156, and at the end of the year it expanded to 190 projects, worth about eight billion Belarusian rubles. And this is not the limit, as "about two dozen more projects are expected to appear on the list. Work is ongoing"⁶⁹⁶. As of January 1, 2024, 28 investment projects had already been implemented, and six more in the first quarter of this year. By the end of the year, it was planned to complete 55. "More than 2,000 jobs have already been created through the implemented projects. In total, according to , the "One District – One Project" initiative should create more than 9,000 jobs."⁶⁹⁷.

⁶⁹⁵ Socio-economic development of regions and import substitution: objectives of the "One District – One Project" initiative [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/sotsialno-ekonomicheskoe-razvitiye-regionov-i-importozameschenie-zadachi-initsiativy-odin-rajon-odin-634027-2024/>

⁶⁹⁶ Ministry of Economy: About two dozen more initiatives will be included in the "One District – One Project" program [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/minekonomiki-v-programmu-odin-rajon-odin-proekt-budet-vkljucheno-esche-okolo-dvuh-desjatkov-initsiativ-634147-2024/>

⁶⁹⁷ Thirty-four projects have already been implemented under the "One District – One Project" initiative [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/po-initsiative-odin-rajon-odin-proekt-realizovano-uzhe-34-proekta-633766-2024/>

By the fall of 2024, there were already 208 projects in this program. The planned total investment in this initiative by the end of 2025 is almost nine billion Belarusian rubles. Thirty-eight projects from this program have already been implemented and launched. "This year, almost Br0.5 billion has been spent. In total, in 2024 <...> Br1.5 billion should be invested in this program."⁶⁹⁸

Among the Belarusian regions, there are leaders in terms of the number of initiatives implemented. In Gomel and Minsk, there are five projects each, and in Vitebsk, there are four. More specifically, "in the Minsk region, these are the Borisov, Dzerzhinsk, Kopyl, and Smolevich districts. Three or more projects are being created there. In general, two or more projects are being created in each district of the country."⁶⁹⁹ . Most of the initiatives that have already been implemented are production-oriented projects. By industry, these include woodworking, metallurgical production, machinery and equipment manufacturing, agro-industrial processing, medical device manufacturing, and pharmaceuticals. Among the most successful projects are the Omsk Carbon Mogilev technical carbon production enterprise and the Olsa furniture production facility with digital factory elements. "A large-scale production facility for cheese and dairy products has been implemented in the Gomel region, a broiler poultry farm in the Vitebsk region, and the Slutsk Cheese Factory () in the Minsk region. This year, a large woodworking complex was also implemented in the Grodno region"⁷⁰⁰

Speaking of specific projects in the **Minsk region**, in 2023, 46 projects included in the "One District – One Project" initiative were implemented there. "Their implementation provides for the creation of more

⁶⁹⁸ Pushnyakova, A. Golovchenko: the "One District – One Project" program aims to unleash local initiative / A. Pushnyakova // [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/golovchenko-programma-odin-raion-odin-proekt-napravlena-na-raskreposchenie-initsiativv-na-mestah-657380-2024/>

⁶⁹⁹ Leaders among regions: where the potential of the "One district – one project" initiative has been realized [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/lidery-sredi-oblastej-gde-realizovan-potentsial-initsiativy-odin-raion-odin-proekt-633813-2024/>

⁷⁰⁰ Ministry of Economy names the most successful "One District – One Project" initiatives [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/minekonomiki-nazvalo-samye-uspeshnye-initsiativy-odin-raion-odin-proekt-633981-2024/>

than 2,000 jobs."⁷⁰¹ . It is interesting that investors in the capital region are investing most heavily in the manufacturing industry, as well as in housing construction. They account for more than half of the projects. Projects in agriculture, forestry, and fisheries are also noteworthy. "Both state-owned enterprises and private businesses are investing in regional projects. Foreign investors are also being attracted. There is growth in foreign direct investment."⁷⁰² . Among the projects completed last year in the capital region, we would like to highlight a project in the Krupsky district – the organization of terrace board production. Another project that was implemented involved the production of dry milk with a capillary-porous structure at the Kopyl branch of the Slutsk Cheese Factory. As a result of its implementation, 32 jobs were created. In addition, the enterprise is already supplying products to China, Turkey, and Kazakhstan.

And at the beginning of 2024, three more projects were implemented in the Minsk region, including in the Kopyl district, where a new line for the production of edged sawn timber was opened, with an annual capacity of 18,000 cubic meters of finished sawn timber (1,500 cubic meters per month). <...> Thanks to the project, 22 new jobs with decent wages will be created in the region"⁷⁰³ . In general, it was planned to complete about 15 investment projects in the Minsk region this year in the areas of vehicle manufacturing, food products, pharmaceutical products and preparations, electrical equipment, and plastic products. In addition, in 2024, under the initiative "One District – One Project," "it is planned to continue the implementation of 47 investment projects. The volume of investments is Br1.7 billion. As a

⁷⁰¹ In 2023, 46 projects were implemented in the Minsk region under the "One District – One Project" program [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/v-minskoj-oblasti-v-2023-godu-realizovvvalos-46-proektov-po-programme-odin-raion-odin-proekt-635036-2024>

⁷⁰² Investors in the Minsk region invest most in the manufacturing industry [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/investory-v-minskoj-oblasti-bolshe-vsego-vkladvvajutsia-v-obrabatvvajuschuju-promyshlennost-633940-2024/>

⁷⁰³ A new production facility for edged sawn timber has been opened at the Kopyl Forestry Enterprise [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/v-kopylskom-leshoze-otkryli-novoe-proizvodstvo-po-vvpusku-obreznvh-pilomaterialov-633821-2024/>

result of the implementation of the projects, it is planned to create more than 2,000 jobs"⁷⁰⁴.

In mid-autumn 2024, it was noted that by the end of the current year, a dozen and a half investment projects would be implemented in the capital region, which are export-oriented, as well as import-substituting and innovative. Fifty-three investment projects with a total value of just under two billion Belarusian rubles have already been included in the "One District – One Project" program in 23 districts of the capital region, which are expected to create more than 2,500 jobs. Seven projects have already been implemented, creating over 200 jobs. "By the end of 2024, it is planned to complete 14 projects, and in 2025 – 15,"⁷⁰⁵.

In the **Vitebsk region**, as mentioned above, four projects of the "One District – One Project" program were completed in 2023. In particular, this includes the construction of a slaughterhouse at the Vitebsk poultry farm. And it has already started a new project – the construction of a feed mill. In Gorodok, the production and processing of dairy products in the form of a soft cheese line has been organized. Also, last year, "a complex for the in-depth processing of worn tires and rubber products was opened in Novopolotsk at the Biomechzavod Household Secondary Resources production unit, where about 60 jobs were created. In Beshenkovichi, a project for 20 jobs was implemented – the production of food flavorings"⁷⁰⁶. In addition, in 2023, 24 projects under this program continued to be implemented in this area. By the end of this year, it is planned to complete 12 projects in 10 regions. "These include the production of clothing in Dokshitsy,

⁷⁰⁴ This year, 16 investment projects under the "One District – One Project" program are planned to be completed in the Minsk region [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/societv/view/v-minskoj-oblasti-v-etom-godu-planiruetsja-zavershit-16-investproektov-programmy-odin-rajon-odin-proekt-635314-2024>

⁷⁰⁵ By the end of the year, 14 investment projects will be implemented in the Minsk region under the "One District – One Project" program [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/v-minskoj-oblasti-k-kontsu-goda-budet-realizovano-14-investproektov-po-programme-odin-rajon-odin-proekt-661592-2024/>

⁷⁰⁶ The Vitebsk Regional Executive Committee reported on the implementation of the "One District – One Project" program in 2023 [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/societv/view/v-vitebskom-oblispolkome-rasskazali-cto-realizovano-po-programme-odin-rajon-odin-proekt-v-2023-godu-633972-2024/>

the production of perfumes in the Dokshitsy district, and the production of juices in the Sharkovshchyna district⁷⁰⁷. The modernization of the Obolsky Ceramic Plant in the Shumilinsky district will also be completed, and a new line of whole milk products will be organized on the basis of the Postavy Dairy Plant.

In 2024, nine projects have already been implemented in **the Gomel region** under the "One District – One Project" program, which includes a total of 33 production projects with a total cost of more than 1.5 billion Belarusian rubles and provides for the creation of 1,425 new jobs. Work on 24 projects is continuing. "In the first half of the year, Br15 million was allocated for their implementation. This is slightly more than planned for this period"⁷⁰⁸. An important detail: in the Gomel region, the list of projects is constantly being updated. In particular, "based on the results of additional research in the region, proposals have been made to include eight more initiatives in the target plan"⁷⁰⁹. Speaking of specific examples, we can mention the Rechitsky Textile enterprise, where an investment project is being implemented to organize the production of blankets and towels, which is part of the "One District – One Project" program. "The first stage of the local project has already been successfully implemented: in March 2024, the site reached its design capacity"⁷¹⁰.

In **the Mogilev region**, a total of 31 investment projects with a total value of just under 1.5 billion Belarusian rubles will be implemented under the "One District – One Project" program. "As of September 1 this year, nine

⁷⁰⁷ In the Vitebsk region, 12 projects of the "One District – One Project" program will be completed by the end of the year [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/v-vitebskoj-oblasti-do-kontsa-goda-zavershat-12-proektov-initsiativ-odin-rajon-odin-proekt-631195-2024/>

⁷⁰⁸ In the Gomel region, Br15 million was allocated to projects under the "One District – One Project" program in the first half of the year [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/v-gomelskoj-oblasti-na-proekty-po-programme-odin-rajon-odin-proekt-v-i-polugodii-napravili-br15-mln-653056-2024/>

⁷⁰⁹ Nine investment projects under the "One District – One Project" program have already been implemented in the Gomel region [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/v-gomelskoj-oblasti-na-proekty-po-programme-odin-rajon-odin-proekt-v-i-polugodii-napravili-br15-mln-653056-2024/>

⁷¹⁰ Chebotar: The state is consistently increasing the production capacity of the regions [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/chebotar-gosudarstvo-posledovatelno-naraschivaet-proizvodstvennyj-potencial-regionov-654678-2024/>

projects from this list have been implemented in the region, with a total volume of investments in fixed capital of Br447.5 million and the creation of 907 new jobs. This includes seven projects launched last year and two this year.⁷¹¹ . Five more are planned to be completed by the end of this year. Among the projects already completed is the innovative production of confectionery products with the installation of a line at the Krasny Pishchevnik-Slavgorod production unit. This project has already reached its design capacity, has begun to settle all financial obligations, and is currently the most striking example of the national program for the development of the south-east of the Mogilev region.⁷¹² . A total of over 35 million Belarusian rubles has been invested in the project. The new profitable jelly marmalade production facility currently manufactures over thirty types of products, including more than 60 percent of innovative ones. More than 70 percent goes to the domestic market, and the rest is exported abroad. The enterprise has created about 130 new jobs.

As for **the Brest region**, for example, several projects will be implemented in **Brest** alone under the "One District – One Project" program. "The production of complex 3D molds, robotic complexes, and pumps made of composite materials was planned on the basis of the science and technology park. The first part of the project has been completed. The pump project is currently in the development stage."⁷¹³ . Three more projects from this program were supported this year. These include the construction of a production building for AgroPishcheProm LLC, the expansion of the Novamed medical center, and the Status spa complex.

Four projects from this program have been launched in **Pinsk**. One of them is being implemented by Zubr Energy LLC. It involves the

⁷¹¹ Five projects under the "One District – One Project" program will be completed by the end of the year in the Mogilev region [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/piat-proektov-po-programme-odin-raion-odin-proekt-zavershat-do-kontsa-goda-v-mogilevskoi-oblasti-666749-2024/>

⁷¹² Krutoy, using the example of the Slavgorod district, spoke about the development priorities for the south-east of the Mogilev region [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/krutoj-na-primere-slavgorodskogo-raiona-rasskazal-o-prioritetah-razvitiya-jugo-vostoka-mogilevskoi-666767-2024/>

⁷¹³ "Our work is focused on the future." Lobodinsky spoke about investment projects in Brest [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/nasha-rabota-natselena-na-perspektivu-lobodinskij-rasskazal-ob-investproektah-bresta-672089-2024/>

reconstruction of production facilities. "The first start-up complex has already been completed, creating 175 new jobs. A decision has been made to turn the second start-up complex into a production facility instead of a warehouse. Work on the project is underway, and the equipment has been ordered,"⁷¹⁴. Taking these factors into account, it will be possible to reach a capacity of about three million batteries per year. Also on the list is a project to build a plant for the production of plastic components for rechargeable batteries. Amkodor-Pinsk CJSC is modernizing its production facilities. An integration project to create a hydraulic pump production facility has been launched.

In **Baranovich**, the list of "One Region – One Project" includes an investment project by Barkhim OJSC to expand production with the reconstruction of liquid detergent production. The first stage has been completed. By the end of the year, the launch of new concentrated liquid detergent products is expected at . "As part of the second stage of the project, Barkhim, together with Belresursy, is considering the possibility of organizing the production of industrial chemicals. Marketing research is being conducted, market capacity and production capabilities are being determined in conjunction with the Institute of Meat and Dairy Industry"⁷¹⁵.

All these facts indicate that the "One District – One Project" program, which is being implemented in Belarus, will continue to develop. The Ministry of Economy is already conducting a round of review of plans for 2025 and emphasizes that "the key for us is projects in the field of technological security and localization. We will literally sketch out what can be done with our raw materials and resources in more detail in order to set tasks for the construction of new enterprises"⁷¹⁶. Moreover, any project under this program performs an import substitution function. And one more thing.

⁷¹⁴ Production of batteries, pumps, furniture. What projects are in Pinsk's investment portfolio [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/proizvodstvo-akkumuljatorov-nasosov-mebeli-kakimi-proektami-napolnen-investitsionnyi-portfel-pinska-672072-2024/>

⁷¹⁵ Plans to manufacture aircraft and refrigerators. What other investment projects are being implemented in Baranovich [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/planirovat-delat-samolety-i-holodilniki-kakie-esche-investirovat-realizujut-v-baranovichah-672049-2024/>

⁷¹⁶ Chebotar: New initiatives will supplement the "One District – One Project" program [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/chebotar-programmu-odin-rajon-odin-proekt-dopolniat-novye-initsiativy-635398-2024>

All these examples show that these projects are aimed at unleashing initiative at the local and regional levels. This is a crucial element in the further development of every Belarusian district involved in the implementation of the "One District – One Project" initiative.

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Belarus: the future of the country – strong regions

In December 2024, at an off-site meeting of the Expert Advisory Council under the Presidium of the Council of the Republic of Belarus, which took place in the urban settlement of Kopys in the Orsha district of the Vitebsk region, the progress of the implementation of the initiative "One District – One Project" initiative, which gives a new impetus to the development of Belarusian regions and strengthens the economy not only of enterprises but also of districts as a whole. It should be noted that in 2021-2023, 28 such projects were implemented in Belarus as part of this initiative, and this year [2024], 180 projects are being implemented for a total amount of Br7.2 billion.⁷¹⁷ Behind these figures lies the opening of production facilities and enterprises that help to retain personnel in these settlements, villages, small towns, and agricultural towns.

For example, in the **Minsk** region alone, 16 projects with a total value of more than 170 million Belarusian rubles have already been implemented as part of this program, creating more than 400 jobs. In particular, a production facility for wooden pallets for ceramic products, **Keravud**, has been opened in the **Berezinsky** district. A line for the production of wooden pallets was purchased for this enterprise. "The cost of the project amounted to more than Br4 million. As a result of the opening of the new production enterprise, 70 jobs were created"⁷¹⁸.

Two projects were implemented in the **Borisov** district. The first was "Creation of a production facility for a new generation of automotive components that meet the requirements of Euro 5, Euro 6 and above, for promising models of passenger, commercial, freight, agricultural, and special-purpose vehicles" – is included in the State Program for Innovative Development for 2021-2025 and is export-oriented and import-substituting. Over four years, **OJSC BATE, the managing company of the**

⁷¹⁷ Kochanova: The future of our country lies in regional development [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/societv/view/kochanova-za-razvitiem-regionov-budushee-nashej-strany-683617-2024/>

⁷¹⁸ From auto parts to candy. Sixteen projects have been implemented in the Minsk region under the "One District – One Project" program [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/ot-avtokomponentov-do-konfet-v-minskoi-oblasti-realizovano-16-proektov-po-programme-odin-rajon-odin-690163-2025/>

Avtokomponenty holding, has acquired more than 50 units of the latest equipment, most of which are numerically controlled machine tools, electroplating and welding equipment, annealing furnaces, sheet metal stamping presses, and electrical discharge machines. The total investment in the project amounts to more than 20 million Belarusian rubles.

The second project is called "Creation of high-performance production of intelligent auto components and systems for Euro-5 and Euro-6 environmentally friendly vehicles." Its cost is more than 12 million Belarusian rubles. The development of these products at **OJSC "Ekran"** will allow the company to enter a new market segment, increase production volumes, improve the quality of its products, and replace imports of similar products. As part of the project, 45 pieces of technological equipment were purchased, the local network was modernized, three stages of the launch of the software product "Automated system for managing design and technological preparation of production" were implemented, and pilot industrial operation of the processes was carried out.

In the **Volozhin** district, in the urban settlement of **Ivenets**, the project "Organization of import substitution production of confectionery products" was completed at **the branch of OJSC "Confectionery Factory "SLODYCH"** at a cost of more than five million Belarusian rubles. Here, "they plan to produce nine types of candies: lemon, strawberry, and apple flavored in stick form, raspberry-lemon, strawberry-banana, and apple-pineapple pastilles, as well as caramel with apple, cherry, and orange fillings"⁷¹⁹. A distinctive feature of this innovative and import-substituting project is that, until now, soft caramel had not been produced in Belarus. And in the **Kopyl** district, an innovative production of dry milk with a capillary-porous structure has been organized. "This is an import substitution and export-oriented project. The products are mainly targeted at China, Turkey, and Kazakhstan. Investors are constantly expanding the geography of such supplies,"⁷²⁰.

⁷¹⁹ District-scale project: Ivenets became the birthplace of Belarusian soft caramel [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/proekt-rajonogo-masshtaba-ivenets-stal-rodinoy-belorusskoj-mjagkoj-karameli-678573-2024/>

⁷²⁰ Next year, 15 initiatives under the "One District – One Project" program are planned to be implemented in the Minsk region [Electronic resource]. – 2024. –

Another fact. In November 2024, the first phase of site No. 1, "Innovative Closed-Cycle Quail Farm," was opened by **OJSC "Soligorsk Poultry Farm."** The fact is that this joint-stock company is continuously increasing the production and sales of processed quail eggs, which have a high level of added value. Currently, these products account for 47 percent of gross revenue. "Thanks to the modernization of the quail egg processing workshop and the launch of a line for boiling and cleaning quail eggs, production capacity allows for the processing of at least 90 million quail eggs"⁷²¹. The construction of a quail farm will make it possible to use existing reserves to increase the production of quail eggs, both smoked and boiled in marinade.

The **Vitebsk** region has included 35 projects in this initiative, which the region must implement by the end of the five-year period. So, in some areas, two projects are being implemented. And this list will be expanded further. Meanwhile, in the **Beshenkovichi** district, the **Scorpio-Kvetka** enterprise for the production of food flavorings has been opened as part of the initiative, which has taken over a former school building for the implementation of the investment project. To date, more than 20 jobs have already been created. "The opening of such small enterprises allows unused facilities to be put into operation, including in rural areas"⁷²².

In the **Orsha** district, in the village of **Kopys**, two participants in the "One District – One Project" initiative are successfully operating: **MILKOP START LLC** and the **No. 2 woodworking site of the Orsha Forestry Enterprise**. The first is engaged in cheese production and employs residents of Kopys and nearby settlements. In the second case, a drying complex with a boiler room was recently opened. "The increase in the volume of wood drying and the opportunity to sell it at a higher price are undoubted advantages

URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/v-sledujuschem-godu-v-minskoj-oblasti-planiruetsja-realizovat-15-initsiativ-odin-rajon-odin-proekt-674606-2024/>

⁷²¹ Kochanova: "One District – One Project" strengthens the economy not only of enterprises, but also of the district as a whole [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/kochanova-odin-rajon-odin-proekt-ukrepliaet-ekonomiku-ne-tolko-predpriatij-no-i-raiona-v-tselom-678347-2024/>

⁷²² Pharmaceuticals and animal husbandry. Which industries are most promising for the creation of new production facilities in the Vitebsk region [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/farmatsevtika-i-zhivotnovodstvo-kakie-otrasli-naibolee-perspektivny-dlja-sozdaniya-novyh-proizvodstv-v-685256-2024/>

that have given another impetus for development. It is also important that new jobs have been created,"⁷²³ . A new juice production facility will be created in the **Sharkovshchinsky** district. "The construction of the facility is about 80% complete, the equipment has already been purchased, construction work is underway, and landscaping is being carried out,"⁷²⁴ . The enterprise is expected to be operational in a year.

In the **Brest** region, this initiative has also given impetus to all regions to create new production facilities. For example, four projects are already underway in **Pinsk**. In the **Gantsevichi** district, "a large-scale innovative project related to blood plasma processing is being implemented."⁷²⁵ . In the **Stolin** district, as part of this initiative, a new metalworking production facility, **KB Stolin LLC**, was established in 2023, and in 2024, "an investment project to expand the greenhouse complex of the **OlshanyAgro farm** was completed ahead of schedule"⁷²⁶ . In the **Berezovsky** district, **Berezastroj Materials OJSC** has mastered the production of large-format ceramic tiles that are on par with European models in terms of quality.

The Brest Science and Technology Park (BSTP) is working in three areas under the "One Region – One Project" program. The first is the production of complex 3D molds. Equipment has already been purchased and production has begun on one-off items that are needed by enterprises in various industries. The technology park has also mastered the production of robotic systems, working in tandem with its residents. The focus is on the processing industry. One of the main partners is Savushkin Product OJSC, which develops and assembles robotic systems at the BSTP, primarily for its

⁷²³ Kochanova on the "One District – One Project" initiative: without the economy, there will be nothing [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/kochanova-ob-initsiativa-odin-rajon-odin-proekt-bez-ekonomiki-ne-budet-nichego-683695-2024/>

⁷²⁴ Sergeenko: the "One District – One Project" program gives a new impetus to regional development [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/sergeenko-programma-odin-rajon-odin-proekt-daet-novyi-tolchok-k-razvitiyu-regionov-679225-2024/>

⁷²⁵ How the "One District – One Project" initiative is being implemented in the Brest region [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/kak-realizuet-sja-initsiativa-odin-rajon-odin-proekt-v-brestskoj-oblasti-684389-2024/>

⁷²⁶ Chebotar: the state will continue to create favorable conditions for the emergence of new industries in the regions [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/chebotar-gosudarstvo-prodolzhit-sozdavat-komfortnye-usloviya-dlja-pojavlenija-v-regionah-novyh-684101-2024/>

own use. The technopark provides shared services for the preparation and manufacture of components. More than 70 sets of robotic systems have already been produced in a year and a half. Another 40 are planned to be produced in 2025. In addition, robotic systems help to optimize and automate production processes. For example, robotic manipulators are programmed for sorting, marking products on conveyor lines, and other processes. Work is currently underway to create a production facility for composite material pumps. In 2025, it is planned to release a prototype that will be tested. This is one of the pumps in the line for the oil refining industry. The test results will show how to further develop this project and reach design capacity. Its prospects are more long-term. As part of the business project's development, design capacity is expected to be reached by 2032. " 's composite pumps are mainly used in the chemical and oil refining industries. They are more resistant to aggressive environments. Such pumps are not manufactured in Belarus; they are imported. The feasibility of developing this area is relevant. The topic is not easy, and the range of pumps is quite large. Currently, testing and preparation of design documentation, purchase of additional equipment, and test benches are underway"⁷²⁷ . We would also like to add that the reconstruction of the technopark building is continuing at the BNTU. Work remains to be completed on five floors. They will house production facilities, offices, recreation and entertainment areas, and an exhibition center. In total, the technology park has more than 50 residents working in various sectors of the economy, including education, healthcare, high technology, processing, and manufacturing.

Twenty-five projects under this initiative have already been implemented in the **Gomel** region. For example, in the **Buda-Koshelevsky** district, a private enterprise manufactures plastic products and is already expanding its production. "A rather interesting project has been implemented in the **Gomel** district for the production of lavash and filo dough. 155 jobs have been created"⁷²⁸ . In total, an investment portfolio of 103 projects has

⁷²⁷ Production of robotic systems has been established in Brest [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/proizvodstvo-robototekhnicheskikh-kompleksov-naladili-v-breste-691079-2025/>

⁷²⁸ 25 projects of the "One District – One Project" initiative have already been implemented in the Gomel region [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL:

been formed in the Gomel region under the "One District – One Project" initiative, which is expected to create 2,500 jobs.

In the **Grodno** region, the production of glass containers using innovative energy-efficient and resource-saving technologies has been mastered at **the Grodno glass factory**, where "more than 100 jobs have been created."⁷²⁹ . In the **Svisloch** district, a new woodworking plant plans to produce more than 250,000 cubic meters of sawn timber using waste-free technology.

Finally, as part of the "One District – One Project" program, three major investment projects are planned at the enterprises **of the Bellesbumprom concern**: at the Svetlogorsk pulp and paper mill, the Spartak paper factory, and the newsprint factory. The first project involves the construction of a paper production workshop at the Svetlogorsk Pulp and Paper Mill. "The project provides for the installation and launch of a paper machine for the production of kraft micro-creped paper with a capacity of 160,000 tons per year from sulphate pulp produced in-house. The industry intends to complete the project by 2027,"⁷³⁰ . The next investment project involves the construction of a second stage of production of sanitary and hygienic paper from 100% cellulose at the Spartak paper mill. The project is scheduled for completion in 2026. The third project under the "One District – One Project" initiative will be implemented at the Shklov Newsprint Mill. Here, the first paper machine will be modernized to repurpose production: instead of thermomechanical pulp, the enterprise will produce bleached chemical-thermomechanical pulp. The plant will master the production of offset paper, supercalendered paper, paper bases for coatings, improved newsprint, and light and medium-weight coated paper. The project is scheduled to run until 2027. And there's more. In November 2024, the

<https://belta.by/society/view/v-gomelskoj-oblasti-uzhe-realizovano-25-proektov-initsiativv-odin-rajon-odin-proekt-684936-2024/>

⁷²⁹ Chebotar: At least two investment projects are being implemented in half of the country's districts [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/v-polovine-rajonov-strany-realizujutsia-minimum-po-dva-investprojekta-initsiativv-odin-rajon-odin-proekt-687331-2025/>

⁷³⁰ Three investment projects are being implemented in woodworking under the "One Region – One Project" initiative [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/tri-investprojekta-realizujut-v-derevoobrabotke-po-initsiative-odin-rajon-odin-proekt-692735-2025/>

Ivatsevichdrev enterprise launched a large-scale investment project under the "One District – One Project" initiative, which involves the introduction of a new line for laminating wood-chip boards of its own production. Another project is planned, which will see the emergence of a new production facility for these boards.

As for the prospects of the "One District – One Project" initiative as a whole, 123 more projects are planned to be implemented in Belarus by the end of 2025. At the same time, new production facilities are expected to appear in the regions, or existing ones will be modernized with expansion and the release of new types of products. In November 2024, the Ministry of Economy of Belarus, together with interested parties, developed proposals to clarify the criteria for including projects in this list and its adjustment. Taking into account the specifics of the districts, commercial facilities for transport and logistics infrastructure, tourism and recreation, and medical services will be created. As a result of the implementation of each project, "at least five new jobs must be created or at least five additional people must be employed"⁷³¹. It is planned that the list will ultimately include 217 projects with a total investment of more than eight billion Belarusian rubles and more than 10,500 jobs will be created. Once again, we emphasize that all these projects "are aimed at unleashing initiative at the local and regional levels. This is a crucial element in the further development of each Belarusian district involved in the implementation of the 'One District – One Project' initiative"⁷³². At the same time, this program will be supplemented and continuously expanded throughout 2025. And there is every reason to believe that it can indeed be scaled up across the entire republic into a "Regional Initiative." After all, this would be in keeping with its spirit.

⁷³¹ Chebotar: The implementation of the "One District – One Project" initiative must be constantly monitored [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/chebotar-hod-realizatsii-initsiativy-odin-rajon-odin-proekt-dolzhen-byt-na-postojannom-kontrolle-678321-2024/>

⁷³² Zaleski, B. From programs to specific projects. Features of positive trends in the Belarusian economy / Boris Zaleski. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2024. – P. 11.

Belarus: with the aim of developing new industries and large enterprises

In 2024, Belarus produced import-substituting products worth about \$30 billion. Belarusian enterprises sold more than half of these products for export. And in 2025, the Belarusian Ministry of Economy expects an even higher figure – "more than \$31 billion in equivalent"⁷³³. It should be noted that import substitution is a mandatory element in the development of Belarusian industries and regions, as it is focused on increasing export potential, expanding the range and improving the quality of products, technically re-equipping enterprises, and reducing the import component in the cost of finished products.

For example, in **the woodworking and pulp and paper industries** last year, import substitution affected 52 product items. This list included chipboard and fiberboard, plywood, carpentry products, doors, paper and cardboard for corrugation, bags, kraft paper for bags, napkins and paper towels, wallpaper, packaging paper, various types of cardboard, cellulose, and other goods. One of the main priorities of **the Bellesbumprom concern** in replacing imported products is the introduction of new technologies and the production of innovative products. In particular, in 2024, it launched a line for the production of laminated chipboard, the surface of which has a unique natural effect and imitates natural wood, deep pores, and other natural materials such as concrete, fabric, marble, natural leather, as well as various textures and decorative elements with a variety of tactile and visual effects and synchronized decors. Products of this class have not been manufactured in Belarus before, and analogues were imported as high-end products. By 2030, the concern plans to launch the production of decorative paper-laminated plastics using high pressure. This type of plastic is used to create furniture, countertops, floor coverings, wall panels, doors, and window sills. It has found application in the automotive industry, railcar manufacturing, and even shipbuilding. Such plastics are distinguished by their high mechanical strength and resistance to moisture, scratches, chemicals, and

⁷³³ In 2024, Belarus produced import-substituting products worth about \$30 billion [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-v-2024-godu-vvpustila-importozameschajuschej-produktsii-na-summu-okolo-30-mlrd-691877-2025/>

ultraviolet radiation. The product is unique and is not yet manufactured in our country. "Overall, the volume of innovative products manufactured by Bellesbumprom enterprises is growing. According to statistics, in 2024, the share of innovative products shipped in the total volume was 18.4%, with a target of 12.5%"⁷³⁴.

Another example of a company in this industry. Mozyr Woodworking Plant currently produces blown insulation for coniferous substrates and thermal insulation boards made from natural wood fiber, which are import substitutes. "The thermal insulation board production line produces more than 200,000 cubic meters of finished products annually, which are high-quality, environmentally friendly, and comply with international standards. In 2024, the company's exports grew by 25% compared to 2023"⁷³⁵. The geography of supplies includes about 20 countries.

At the end of last year, **the Belgospischeprom concern** assured that work on supplying new types of import-substituting products to the domestic market in 2025 would continue. Especially since much has already been done in this direction. "In 2024, confectionery companies produced over 36,000 tons of import-substituting products, mastering 50 types of sweets – chocolate, candies, wafers, bars, halva, marmalade..."⁷³⁶. Previously, these products were imported exclusively from abroad. In 2025, the Krasny Pishchevnik factory in Bobruisk will continue to expand its halva line, adding a new flavor – cocoa. Work will also continue on innovative sugar-free products, which are in demand among those who follow a healthy lifestyle, as the factory will begin to produce even more marmalade with reduced energy value. In the first quarter of this year, the factory plans to complete the installation of an automatic line for the production of dragees, which will

⁷³⁴ Pshennoy, A. A quarter of the world loves our furniture and paper! How woodworking enterprises operate today / A. Pshennoy // [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/interview/view/chetvert-mira-ljubit-nashi-mebel-i-bumagu-kak-rabotajut-segodnja-predpriyatija-derevoobrabotki-9567/>

⁷³⁵ Focus on import substitution: enterprises in the Gomel region are increasing wood processing [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/photonews/view/stavka-na-importozameschenie-predpriyatija-gomelschiiny-naraschivajut-pererabotku-drevesiny-41260/>

⁷³⁶ Vasilevskaya, V. Dubai-style candies, marshmallows with Irish cream. What's hot among new sweets? / V. Vasilevskaya // [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/konfety-po-dubajski-zefir-s-irlandskim-kremom-cto-uv-tone-sladkih-novinok-693017-2025/>

significantly expand the product range. The factory will also produce an analogue of the well-known dragees with milk and dark chocolate in a crispy coloured coating. The small candies will come in different varieties: with peanuts, explosive caramel and in a yoghurt coating. This year, the Krasny Pishchevnik factory in Slavgorod will continue to produce an innovative import-substituting product – jelly marmalade with all kinds of fillings and gelling agents: pectin-based, gelatin-based, modified starch-based, and collagen-based. They will also launch the production of sugar-free marmalade there. In 2025, the Sladych factory at its production site in the urban settlement of Ivenets will diversify its range of caramels by adding an original elderberry-lemon flavor and will begin producing jelly candies with juice and candies with a sour coating.

The situation on foreign markets has given a powerful impetus to the development of **the Belarusian light industry**, becoming a stimulus for active import substitution, localization of production, and improvement of industrial infrastructure. To this end, enterprises are being modernized and automated, with an emphasis on the robotization of processes, the introduction of modern technologies, and the expansion of the range of products manufactured. In particular, we are talking about the Baranovichi Cotton Production Association, where in 2024 the first automated line for sewing bed linen in the republic was installed, and the Belvest shoe factory introduced robotic complexes for cutting leather.⁷³⁷ . Or another example. For 2025-2027, the Zhlobin garment factory has planned to implement a project to modernize production with the development of a new type of product, the baseball cap, which is innovative and import-substituting. "By launching a new product and reaching the design capacity, the plans are to increase the production of import-substituting products by \$270,000."⁷³⁸ .

In 2024, import-substituting products were manufactured by more than 80 enterprises in the **Vitebsk** region, including 53 small and medium-

⁷³⁷ Bamboo fiber has begun to be introduced at Belarusian light industry enterprises [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/bambukovoe-volokno-nachali-vnedriat-na-predpriyatijah-belorusskogo-legproma-692285-2025/>

⁷³⁸ Fashionable baseball caps will begin to be produced at the Zhlobin garment factory [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/modnve-beisbolki-nachnut-vypuskat-na-zhlobinskoj-shveinoi-fabrike-691713-2025/>

sized businesses. In particular, the following companies were involved in the production of goods under this program: Prodexim LLC, Ivasy-Plus PE – salted and smoked fish, fish preserves; Vitba confectionery factory – waffle products and biscuit rolls; Gluboksky MKK – canned milk and cheese; Savushkin-Orsha – several types of cheese. Other import-substituting products included canned meat for baby food from the Orsha Meat Canning Plant, semi-finished poultry products from the Vitebsk Broiler Poultry Farm, children's clothing from Belle-Bimbo Plus, and footwear from the management company of the Belarusian Leather and Footwear Company Marco Holding, as well as Krasny Oktyabr.⁷³⁹

The private enterprise Vitstroitehmash has also been considering the creation of import-substituting equipment for a long time. Now they are working on this much more actively, as they already have the necessary equipment and production facilities. Two years ago, a separate workshop was built at the enterprise for the assembly of car lifts. And there are already some unique developments there. "A 56-meter-high lift, which has no analogues in Belarus and the CIS countries, is manufactured in Vitebsk. This equipment is indispensable for power engineers when carrying out high-altitude repair work."⁷⁴⁰ Vitstroitehmash also produces the well-proven Dvina crane-manipulator units and Vizit truck cranes. Last year, the company presented these units and a new product, a 36-meter telescopic lift, at an international exhibition, which immediately found a buyer. Another new product was recently released: lifts that can be used to return tram cars that have derailed to their tracks.

The production of import-substituting products – a sterilizer for solutions, a complex for disinfecting and destroying disposable medical devices, and a mobile irradiator – has been established at the Vityaz OJSC in Vitebsk. One of the company's latest developments is a vertical-loading steam

⁷³⁹ Organizations in the Vitebsk region have begun to produce more import-substituting products [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/organizatsii-vitebskoj-oblasti-stali-vypuskat-bolshe-importozameschajuschej-produktsii-659597-2024/>

⁷⁴⁰ Pushnyakova, A. Always on the rise. What heights are being conquered by automotive technology from Vitstroitehmash / A. Pushnyakova // [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/vsegda-na-podjeme-kakie-vysoty-pokorjaet-avtotehnika-ot-vitstroitehmasha-688280-2025/>

sterilizer with a chamber volume of 75 liters. The plant had previously mastered the production of a 100-liter horizontal-loading sterilizer. It can be used to sterilize instruments and protective clothing. The new product is primarily intended for the treatment of medical liquids and solutions. In the near future, it will undergo clinical trials in three healthcare institutions. There, specialists will evaluate its performance and give their opinion. It should be noted that no one in Belarus manufactures such equipment. Deliveries are planned for the second half of 2025. Another import-substituting innovation is the a mobile irradiator that is analogous to a wall-mounted ultraviolet lamp used for quartz treatment in hospital wards. This innovation has an advantage: it is mounted on mobile supports or wheels, so one irradiator can be used in all available wards. In addition, this year, the company began developing a device that destroys used disposable syringes, needles, and catheters. In this device, such items are exposed to high voltage after use. They disintegrate and turn into crumbs, essentially. The device will increase the safety of medical personnel, particularly in treatment rooms."⁷⁴¹ . Vityaz OJSC has also begun supplying another innovation: a complex for the disposal of used medical devices, which consists of a sterilizer and a destructor that grinds up the devices sterilized in the sterilizer, reducing the volume of waste by a factor of ten or more. This reduces the cost of their further disposal. All medical equipment from Vityaz is primarily supplied to the Belarusian market, as well as to the markets of the post-Soviet countries.

In 2024, the production of import-substituting products in the **Brest** region increased by 5.5 percent. It should be noted that in 2023, the production of these products in the region amounted to "\$980 million, an increase of more than 10% over the previous year"⁷⁴² . In **Brest** itself, last year, as part of the import substitution program, the Brestmash enterprise "mastered the production of silicone hoses. Anrex, which previously

⁷⁴¹ Pushnyakova, A. Sterilization, disinfection, disposal. What import-substituting medical equipment is produced in Vitebsk / A. Pushnyakova // [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/sterilizatsija-dezinfektsija-utilizatsija-kakoe-importozameschajushee-medoborudovanie-vypuskajut-v-694047-2025/>

⁷⁴² Enterprises in the Brest region increased the volume of import-substituting products in 2023 [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/predpriiatija-brestskoj-oblasti-v-2023-godu-narastili-obiemy-vypuska-importozameschajuschej-produktsii-607604-2023/>

manufactured cabinet furniture, has set up a workshop for the production of upholstered furniture.⁷⁴³ . The Brest site of the meat processing plant is undergoing reconstruction, and the modernization of the Gefest group's production facilities and the expansion of AgroPishcheProm's capacities are continuing.

In the **Minsk** region in 2024, the Mountain Wax Plant in the Pukhovichi district continued its cooperation in the field of import substitution within the framework of roadmaps signed with domestic enterprises of the Ministry of Industry and the state-owned enterprise Belenergo. The results of this program over the past year have shown positive dynamics in increasing the company's market share in the republic. Thus, "the growth rate of production volumes of import substitution products by the plant in 2024 compared to 2023 was more than 115%. Now the enterprise faces equally ambitious tasks in working with domestic manufacturers"⁷⁴⁴ . In 2025, about a third of the enterprise's total production will be innovative. The list includes new types of products developed and put into production – transformer oil, wax emulsion, candles for heating gardens, as well as products with improved properties.

In 2024, in the agricultural town of Gatovo in the Minsk region, the company Effective Packaging Systems commissioned a state-of-the-art production complex designed to manufacture corrugated polyamide casings for the meat and dairy industry. The construction was carried out as part of the "One District – One Project" program, which aims to develop new industrial capacities throughout the country. "The launch of the new workshop is an important step in the import substitution program, which aims to reduce dependence on foreign supplies of packaging materials. As a result, Effective Packaging Systems LLC produces polyamide casings for sausages and frankfurters, which are significantly cheaper than imported

⁷⁴³ Manufacturing, construction, transport. Lobodinsky spoke about the development of Brest in 2024 [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/proizvodstvo-stroitelstvo-transport-lobodinskij-rasskazal-o-razviti-bresta-v-2024-godu-686514-2025/>

⁷⁴⁴ "In 2025, about a third of production will be innovative." Mountain wax factory enters Asian markets [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/v-2025-godu-okolo-treti-produksii-budet-innovatsionnoi-zavod-gornogo-voska-osvaivaet-aziatskie-rynki-690670-2025/>

counterparts"⁷⁴⁵ . These products are already in demand not only on the domestic market, but also in the Commonwealth of Independent States, Asia, Africa, and Europe. The main advantage of this packaging is complete protection from moisture and oxygen due to the barrier properties of the combination of polyethylene and polyamide layers. The polyamide casing also gives the product an attractive appearance, makes it easy to transport and use in production.

In 2025, the implementation of import substitution projects in the **Mogilev** region will become the basis for the development of new industries and large enterprises. In particular, "the plans include the creation of a production facility for bleached chemical-technological pulp, the reconstruction of a mothballed capital building into a specialized building for the production of building materials with engineering and transport infrastructure"⁷⁴⁶ . The same list includes investment projects implemented by large republican enterprises: Mogilevliftmash OJSC – high-tech production of a new series of electric motors; Belshina OJSC – production of all-steel cord radial tires; Olsa OJSC – production of import-substituting products with the introduction of electric welding pipe manufacturing and metalworking technologies. And the Bobruisk Plant of Tractor Parts and Assemblies (BZTDIA), which is part of the Minsk Tractor Plant holding company, has established the production of import-substituting disc wheels. This is a new design of disc wheel. These discs are used on chisel-disc units. "BZTDIA has replaced the supply of European-made disc wheels. The customer has benefited from shorter delivery times for finished products and competitive prices"⁷⁴⁷ . By 2025, it is planned to sell at least 500 units of the new version of this wheel disc.

⁷⁴⁵ Valakh, M. We visited a factory that makes packaging for sausage, milk, and soda. What else do they produce there? / M. Valakh // [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/pobyvali-na-predpriyatii-gde-delajut-upakovku-dlja-kolbasv-moloka-i-gazirovki-chto-esche-tam-vvpuskajut-694467-2025/>

⁷⁴⁶ New industries and jobs. What import substitution projects will appear in the Mogilev region [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/novye-proizvodstva-i-rabochie-mesta-kakie-importozameschajuschie-proektv-pojaviatsja-v-mogilevskoj-685474-2024/>

⁷⁴⁷ Bobruisk Tractor Parts and Assemblies Plant has launched production of import-substituting wheels [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL:

In the **Grodno** region, OJSC "Management Company of the Lidselmash Holding" is setting an example of innovative development and technological advancement of its products by offering a way to improve the technology for harvesting the main types of feed. To do this, the company has developed a unique product – the GVG-9.5 comb rake-roller. Another important stage in the innovative development of the holding company was the creation and launch of production of the SM-38 mobile grain dryer. These are high-performance mobile units suitable for drying all types of grain crops. Mobile grain dryers can be installed and set up in 2-3 days without additional investment or approvals. Easy to maintain, they can be moved both within the warehouse and used in the field⁷⁴⁸. As part of the expansion of the range of steel panel radiators, Lidselmash is currently conducting a detailed analysis of the needs of the modern market and consumer expectations with the aim of producing a new size of steel panel radiator that will allow it to reach new segments of the audience. The new 400 mm steel panel radiators will not only meet modern requirements, but will also set new trends in heating, ensuring maximum comfort and warmth in every home.

Let's sum up. Recall that import substitution is one of the key priorities for Belarus' development in the near future. "Back in December 2021, the Belarusian government defined strategic areas of work and developed specific tasks in this direction"⁷⁴⁹. Today, this policy is developing quite successfully in Belarus. At the same time, import substitution products are in demand not only in our country, but also have good export potential. In addition, they use local raw materials and actively involve scientific developments in their production.

<https://belta.by/economics/view/bobruiskij-zavod-traktornyh-detalei-i-agregatov-naladil-vypusk-importozameschajuschih-koles-694604-2025/>

⁷⁴⁸ Trubitsy, R. How Lidselmash is building on centuries-old traditions of mechanical engineering / R. Trubitsy // [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/comments/view/kak-lidselmash-priumnozhaet-vekovye-traditsii-mashinostroenija-9577/>

⁷⁴⁹ Zaleski, B. Space for cooperation. Chronicle of economic cooperation between the Republic of Belarus and the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States / Boris Zaleski. – Palmarium Academic Publishing, 2024. – P. 189.

Belarus: technology parks as an innovative tool for export and import substitution products

Today, the Republic of Belarus is seeing the dynamic development of such innovative infrastructure entities as technology parks, which occupy a key position in the development of innovative entrepreneurship in the country. "As of January 1, 2025, there were 23 entities of innovative infrastructure operating in Belarus, including 16 science and technology parks, five technology transfer centers, the Belarusian Innovation Fund, and the National Center for Intellectual Property"⁷⁵⁰. They operate in the capital, in all regional cities of the country, as well as in several large district centers. A branch network of technology parks is developing: in Bobruisk and Molodechno – the InKata LLC technology park, in Baranovichi – the Brest Science and Technology Park CJSC. The residents of the technology parks are engaged in a wide variety of activities: the production of medical equipment, laser-optical technology and equipment, the manufacture of components and equipment for motor transport, instrument and machine building. Their activities also include software development, design, and production of electronic control systems and power electronics. For example, in 2024, two new production facilities were commissioned in Borisov and Kobrin. These are export-oriented and import-substituting production facilities for programmable control and diagnostic elements for electrical equipment for motor vehicles at OJSC "Ekran", as well as high-precision and durable welded joints for hydraulic cylinder parts at OJSC "SALE-O-Kobrin". In addition, the production of compound feed and premixes at ZAO "BNBK" and equipment for magnetic-abrasive processing of rotating surfaces and complex-shaped parts of machines and devices at UP "Polimag" have reached their design capacity.

Another interesting fact: "From 2016 to 2023, the volume of products manufactured by technology park residents increased 11-fold, with innovative products manufactured last year [2023] amounting to more than

⁷⁵⁰ Shlychikov, S. What conditions for the development of technology parks have been created in Belarus / S. Shlychikov // [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/comments/view/kakie-usloviya-dlja-razvitiya-tehnoparkov-sozdany-v-belarusi-9550/>

Br300 million, which is six times more than in 2016⁷⁵¹. In addition, technology parks, together with residents, have created almost 5,000 jobs, of which more than 4,000 are accounted for by technology park residents. In the first half of 2024, "the number of technology park residents increased by four organizations and amounted to 268. The total number of employees increased by 279 people from the 2023 level and amounted to 5,602⁷⁵². During these six months, production was carried out on 50 projects, which ensured a production volume 1.7 times higher than in the first half of 2023. Of the total sales volume, one-third was exported.

As of January 1, 2025, the number of residents of technology parks was 275. The total number of their employees increased by 1,067 people, or 20 percent from the 2023 level, and amounted to 6,390 people. "The volume of production by residents of technology parks increased by more than 20% compared to the previous year and amounted to about Br1 billion. Residents of technology parks shipped products worth about Br460 million for export, which is 46% of the total volume of products manufactured. Compared to 2023, this figure increased by 29%⁷⁵³. To improve the work of technology parks in 2025, the State Committee for Science and Technology plans to assist in promoting the developments of technology park residents at exhibition events and to ensure their participation in Belarusian exhibitions and related events, such as cooperation exchanges, presentations by scientific organizations and their developments, both in the country itself and abroad.

Now let's take a look at some of the entities that make up our country's innovation infrastructure. First, in the capital. There are three technology parks in **Minsk** that are subordinate to the Ministry of Education, the main one being **the Minsk City Technology Park**. These structures, working in

⁷⁵¹ In 2023, Belarusian technology parks produced more than Br300 million worth of innovative products [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/tehnoparki-belarusi-v-2023-godu-proizveli-innovatsionnoj-produktsii-bolee-chem-na-br300-mln-668431-2024/>

⁷⁵² GKNT: Br1 of budget financing accounts for Br8.9 of the output of technology park residents [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/gknt-na-br1-bjudzhetnogo-finansirovanija-prihoditsja-br89-produktsii-rezidentov-tehnoparkov-664087-2024/>

⁷⁵³ Residents of Belarusian technology parks increased production by more than 20% in 2024 [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/rezidentv-tehnoparkov-belarusi-v-2024-godu-velichili-vvpusk-produktsii-bolee-chem-na-20-696813-2025/>

the field of science and education, have significant scientific potential, which is realized not only in Belarus but also for export. The Minsk City Technopark, in turn, creates conditions for innovative business by providing infrastructure at the expense of the capital's innovation fund. Cooperation is already being established between these entities. In the future, it is planned to strengthen this cooperation so that scientific developments find practical application, create innovative products, and bring income to the city. Particular attention is paid to the production of import-substituting products. One example is the production of medical joints, which was previously a problem area but has now been successfully established at **the Belarusian National Technical University's technology park**.

One of the key issues currently being discussed in this context is the lack of space in the capital. The possibility of locating production facilities in the city's technology park is currently being considered in order to consolidate all innovative structures and build effective cooperation. Minsk has set itself the task of "creating three more technology parks. <...> Among the possible formats for new sites, both universal and narrow-profile technology parks are being considered"⁷⁵⁴. For example, there is an idea to create a competence center in the main technology park so that enterprises can use shared equipment instead of purchasing it individually. This will optimize costs and accelerate the development of new products.

And in the Belarusian capital, active work is already underway to create a new site for a technology park, which will be located on the territory of former vegetable warehouses on Tsentralnaya Street. These warehouses have been in use since wartime. This facility will allow new residents to be accommodated, as well as some of the existing enterprises to be relocated from Partizansky Prospekt. Among them are companies belonging to the fifth and sixth technological structures. The industrial technology park envisages the creation of ready-made conditions for high-tech production. Applications have already been received from future residents, including both companies expanding their activities and completely new production facilities. "The

⁷⁵⁴ "Scientific developments must find practical application." Lazarevich on the work of Minsk technology parks [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/nauchnye-razrabotki-dolzhen-nahodit-prakticheskoe-primeneniye-lazarevich-o-rabote-minskih-tehnoparkov-695481-2025/>

work is divided into stages: the first buildings are planned to be erected in 2025, and the second stage of construction is scheduled to begin in 2026. <...> If the initial goal was to complete the project by 2029, it is clear that this will happen much earlier"⁷⁵⁵.

One of the key advantages of the new site is its convenient location: Radialnaya Street and Partizanskiy Prospekt are nearby, and the Avtozavodskaya metro station is within walking distance. This will ensure convenient logistics for both cargo delivery and removal, as well as for personnel logistics. The technology park site itself will consist of two parts: one is located at 47 Tsentralnaya Street, where the old warehouses are already being dismantled and the site is being prepared for construction; the second is at 46 Tsentralnaya Street, which will cover about five hectares. As a result, more than 40,000 square meters of production facilities will be created. As for the specialization of future residents, a unique hub for the production of automotive equipment is already taking shape here. These are enterprises that will create special equipment for oil well maintenance, pipeline flushing, and the production of components for electric trucks and buses, as well as batteries (). In addition, the technology park will focus on the production of equipment for the food, chemical, and other industries. The project also takes into account the need to consolidate the efforts of various technology parks in the capital, including those at universities. A building has been allocated here for residents who previously worked at the Belarusian State University, the Belarusian National Technical University, and the Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radioelectronics.

In addition to production, an important aspect remains the sale of products, including for export. The Minsk Technopark is establishing cooperation with similar sites in Russia and Uzbekistan. The process of getting to know each other is currently underway, which will lead to new cooperative ties and expand competencies in the creation and promotion of products.

⁷⁵⁵ A modern technology park will appear on the site of former vegetable storage facilities in Minsk [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/sovremenniy-tehnopark-pojavitsia-na-meste-byvshih-ovoschehranilisch-v-minske-699130-2025/>

The Brest Science and Technology Park (BSTP) already has more than 50 residents working in various sectors of the economy, including education, healthcare, high technology, processing, and manufacturing. Here, for example, they have established the production of robotic complexes for the processing industry in three areas. The first is the production of complex 3D molds. Equipment has been purchased and production has begun. Individual products are manufactured that are needed by enterprises in various industries. The BSTP has also mastered the production of robotic systems. Here, the technology park works in tandem with its residents. The focus is on the processing industry. The technopark provides "shared services for the preparation and manufacture of components. More than 70 sets of robotic systems have already been produced in a year and a half. Another 40 are planned to be produced in 2025 year"⁷⁵⁶. Robotic systems help to optimize and automate production processes. For example, robotic manipulators are programmed to sort and label products on conveyor lines. Work is currently underway to create a production facility for composite material pumps. A prototype is planned to be released this year, which will undergo testing. It will be one of a line of pumps for the oil refining industry. As part of the business project's development, it is expected to reach its design capacity by 2032. It should also be noted that the reconstruction of the technology park building in Brest is continuing. Work remains to be completed on five floors. These will house production facilities, offices, leisure and entertainment areas, and an exhibition center.

In **Baranovichi** and **Pinsk**, the first buildings of the industrial parks are scheduled to be commissioned in 2025. These facilities are included in the State Investment Program. The industrial park in **Baranovichi** has been named "**Burshtyn**." It is a branch of the **Brest Science and Technology Park**. The project involves the construction of three production and administrative-laboratory buildings and an automated warehouse complex. In the first stage, networks and communications were connected, and the construction of the first building is being completed. "In 2022-2024, about Br28 million will be allocated. This year, it is planned to allocate more than

⁷⁵⁶ Zaleski, B. *New Frontiers of Partnership. Prospects for Internal and External Economic Development of Belarus* / Boris Zaleski. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2025. – P. 8.

Br30 million. It is expected that in the first half of the year, the first production building will be put into operation,"⁷⁵⁷. Internal work is being completed at the facility, connections to communication networks are being made, and the surrounding area is being landscaped. In October 2024, a pool of potential residents was formed to fill the industrial park. "A company engaged in the processing of VMR and the production of polymer composites has expressed interest in organizing production in the premises of the first building of the industrial park. The list of potential residents also includes private companies engaged in the manufacture of mobile cellular stations, low-voltage complete devices, and ventilation equipment"⁷⁵⁸. In January 2025, a competitive selection of residents for the industrial park was also announced. It is expected that organizations of all forms of ownership will be located there, including individual entrepreneurs engaged in innovative activities. The products manufactured can be both import-substituting and export-oriented. The results of the competition will be announced in the near future. In general, the Burshtyn Industrial Park will be built by 2028. It will be able to accommodate medium and large-scale production facilities.⁷⁵⁹ In the future, residents will be able to scale up on unused areas of the city's industrial enterprises or build their own production facilities on 70 hectares of land specially allocated for this purpose.

As for the industrial park in **Pinsk**, it will consist of four production buildings. They will be located "in the industrial zone of Pinsk, the site has been selected on Kozubovsky Street."⁷⁶⁰. Almost 12 million Belarusian rubles will be invested in the construction of the park in 2022-2024. In 2025, funding of more than 20 million Belarusian rubles is planned. The general

⁷⁵⁷ Innovative production facilities to be located in industrial parks in Baranovichi and Pinsk [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/innovatsionnye-proizvodstva-razmestjatsja-v-industrialnyh-parkah-v-baranovichah-i-pinske-696414-2025/>

⁷⁵⁸ A pool of potential residents for the industrial park in Baranovichi has been formed [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/sformirovan-pul-potentsialnyh-rezidentov-industrialnogo-parka-v-baranovichah-672052-2024/>

⁷⁵⁹ Competitive selection of residents for the Baranovichi industrial park announced [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/objjavlen-konkursnyi-otbor-rezidentov-dlja-industrialnogo-parka-baranovickej-689951-2025/>

⁷⁶⁰ Construction of an industrial park has begun in Pinsk [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/industrialnyi-park-nachali-stroit-v-pinske-640595-2024/>

contractor, Construction Trust No. 2, has already begun interior work on the first building. The project is scheduled for completion in the third quarter of this year. The building covers an area of approximately 5,500 square meters. It can accommodate several residents, depending on how much space is required for a particular production facility. A competition is currently underway to select potential residents, which may include a variety of companies, from small manufacturers to large-scale producers. A second production building is being built at the same time. Overall, the industrial park in Pinsk can give a boost to the development of the economy not only of the city, but also of the Polesky region as a whole. After all, this construction will lead to the creation of high-performance and high-paying jobs. So, the businesses that move into these spaces will join supply chains in different industries, not just in Pinsk, but across the whole Brest region.

It should be noted that "in the future, our republic plans to create new technology parks and their branches in order to develop the technological infrastructure for providing services to residents"⁷⁶¹. So the model of industrial parks in Baranovichi and Pinsk is attracting a lot of interest. It is quite original. At the International Conference of Free Economic Zones in Mogilev in September 2024, it was noted that these two pilot projects represent a model that can be scaled up to all Belarusian regions. In Baranovichi and Pinsk, "the first residents will move into these parks in 2025. 80% of the space there has already been reserved by potential residents"⁷⁶².

And another interesting question. In October 2024, in Minsk, on the sidelines of the seminar "Innovations in the real sector: financing, stimulation, and accounting," its participants—representatives of the Minsk City Technopark, the small business incubator LLC Legal Group "Law and Order," RUSP "Agency for Development and Investment Promotion" – "Coral" Technopark, CJSC "Mogilev Technological Park," Inkata LLC, Remago PE – signed a memorandum of intent to establish a Republican Association of Technology Parks and Innovative Entities in order to "take

⁷⁶¹ Zaleski, B. Growth points of the Belarusian economy in the dynamics of global challenges / Boris Zaleski. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2024. – P. 34.

⁷⁶² NAIP: The model of industrial parks in Baranovichi and Pinsk can be used in other regions [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/naip-model-promyshlennih-parkov-v-baranovichah-i-pinske-mozhno-budet-ispolzovat-v-drugih-regionah-664360-2024/>

into account the importance of establishing closer cooperation and mutually beneficial partnerships in the innovation segment in order to create new business opportunities, cooperate to solve common and specific problems, and strive to establish and develop cooperation in areas of mutual interest"⁷⁶³. All this suggests that the development and support of innovative entrepreneurship and innovative infrastructure is becoming a key factor in the country's economic security and ensuring its technological sovereignty.

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⁷⁶³ An association of technology parks and innovation entities will be established in Belarus [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/assotsiatsija-tehnoparkov-i-subjektov-innovatsionnoi-deiatelnosti-pojavitsja-v-belarusi-668380-2024/>

Belarus: international economic forums as a path to investment projects and promising proposals

Annual international regional economic forums in Belarus have already become an obvious necessity for representatives of government agencies, business circles, and foreign partners to find common ground, get acquainted, communicate, and conclude mutually beneficial agreements. Last fall, such forums were held in several Belarusian regional centers, which showed a high level of interest in international cooperation and in establishing and expanding trade, economic, and investment cooperation.

In September 2024, the 18th annual **Gomel Economic Forum** was held, which has become a recognized and authoritative platform for discussing topical issues of international trade, economic and investment cooperation, and establishing reliable long-term interregional and cooperative ties. Over its history, this forum has become the main business event in the Gomel region, "with 107 signed documents worth \$2.6 billion and the creation of thousands of jobs to its credit. Moreover, <...> not only in large cities such as Gomel, Zhlobin, Mozyr, Rechitsa, and Svetlogorsk, but also in areas remote from the center, such as Lelchitsy and Zhitkovichi districts"⁷⁶⁴, as well as in areas affected by the Chernobyl nuclear accident. Overall, by pursuing a consistent policy of strengthening mutual contacts and friendly relations with foreign partners, the southeastern region of Belarus at the level of the region, cities, and district centers has already concluded more than 250 international cooperation agreements with two dozen countries. "Behind this figure lies the creation of joint ventures, the implementation of research projects..."⁷⁶⁵. Since the beginning of 2024, the Gomel region has already received 18 official delegations from seven countries.

This time, the economic forum in the city on the Sozh River brought together more than 400 participants from 16 countries, where, along with

⁷⁶⁴ Krupko on the Gomel forum: a solid foundation for creating a smart economy [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/krupko-o-gomelskom-forume-prochnaja-osnova-dlja-sozdaniya-umnoj-ekonomiki-662391-2024/>

⁷⁶⁵ Krupko: more than 250 international agreements have been concluded at the level of the Gomel region and district centers [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/krupko-na-urovne-gomelskoi-oblasti-i-rajsentrov-zakljucheno-bolee-250-mezhdunarodnyh-dogovorov-662333-2024/>

regular partners, representatives from Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, China, Vietnam, India, Iran, Mongolia, Pakistan, the United Arab Emirates, and Zimbabwe. The business program focused on key issues for the Belarusian region in the areas of industry, exports, innovation, and investment, as well as the work of small and medium-sized businesses. The plenary part of the forum discussed the prospects and possible areas of cooperation between the Gomel region and foreign partners. Important aspects of business relations were also discussed in thematic sections devoted to production and construction potential, tourism and the social sphere, and small and medium-sized businesses. The topic of investment was a particularly rich section of the forum. Suffice it to say that "there are more than 80 investment projects, mainly in the real sector of the economy. This is no coincidence: it is the industrial complex that is the driving force behind the region's economy"⁷⁶⁶ .

For example, in the Lelchitsy district, a project is being proposed to develop a deposit of ultra-pure water. This is a real opportunity to compete with world-renowned brands. No such production facilities have yet been created in Belarus or in neighboring countries. The water has extremely low mineralization and can be used in dietary and baby food. In the Petrikov district, there is an explored gypsum deposit that is already prepared for industrial development. According to the results of preliminary exploration, the western and eastern sections of the mineral deposit contain 120 and 125 million tons, respectively. The deposit's objectively advantageous location has also been noted – 11 kilometers from the railway station and near the Pripyat River. The organization of primary aluminum and aluminum alloy production based on the Zaozernoye bauxite-davsonite ore deposit is a relevant proposal for investors in the Yelsk district. "According to forecasts, the deposit contains over 182 million tons of ore. Potential investors have two mining options: open pit mining and drilling."⁷⁶⁷ . Moreover, the demand for

⁷⁶⁶ More than 80 investment opportunities are being offered at the Gomel Economic Forum [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/bolee-80-objektov-dlja-investirovaniia-predlagajut-na-gomelskom-ekonomicheskom-forume-662389-2024/>

⁷⁶⁷ "Transparent gold," gypsum, aluminum. What mineral resources are offered to investors in the Gomel region [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL:

aluminum is constantly growing. The range of applications for aluminum extends from the aviation and space industries to construction and the chemical industry.

Returning to the prospects and possible areas of cooperation between the Gomel region and foreign countries, we note that Kazakhstan was among the active participants in the forum from the Commonwealth of Independent States, whose potential for cooperation with the southeastern region of Belarus is simply enormous. This primarily concerns issues of industrial cooperation and agriculture. For example, "in Kazakhstan, as part of cooperation, an assembly plant for machinery has been set up jointly with Gomselmash, which is developing successfully"⁷⁶⁸. During the economic forum, the parties agreed that the number of joint projects would increase.

Partners from Uzbekistan announced at the forum that they were working on a new project with Belarus. The prerequisite for active cooperation was a memorandum signed about six months ago on cooperation and the creation of investment projects between the Kokand and Gomel-Raton free economic zones (FEZ). The Uzbek FEZ was established in 2017. It is now interested in the experience of Gomel manufacturers in the machine-building industry, as well as milk processing. Negotiations are currently underway to establish a joint project with a Belarusian company. Apparently, "a Belarusian-Uzbek investment project for milk processing, production of dry milk, cheese, kefir, etc. will be implemented in the near future."⁷⁶⁹

When talking about the Gomel region's partners in Asian countries, China should be mentioned first and foremost. During the economic forum, representatives of the Chinese province of Hebei identified guidelines for new areas of cooperation with the Gomel region. "There is interest in developing cooperation in the field of wood processing. One of the cities in the province

<https://belta.by/regions/view/prozrachnoe-zoloto-gips-aljuminij-kakie-bogatstva-nedr-predlagajut-v-gomelskoi-oblasti-investoram-662828-2024/>

⁷⁶⁸ Gomel Region intends to expand cooperation with partners from Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/gomelskaja-oblast-namerena-rasshirjat-sotrudnichestvo-s-partnerami-iz-kazahstana-662369-2024/>

⁷⁶⁹ It will be a super product. A representative of the Kokand FEZ announced a new Belarusian-Uzbek project [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/poluchitsja-superprodukt-predstavitel-sez-kokand-anonsiroval-novyi-belorussko-uzbekskij-proekt-662558-2024/>

has a large furniture manufacturing industry, which means that there is a high demand for timber..."⁷⁷⁰ . In addition, there is a bearing manufacturing plant in the Chinese region. This could be another area for potential cooperation with Belarusian partners.

The Gomel side expressed its intention to strengthen cooperation in various areas with promising partners from Mongolia at the forum, emphasizing that 2024 was a starting point for intensifying cooperation and raising it to a qualitatively new level, and that this year opened a new page in the history of Belarusian-Mongolian partnership relations. Interesting prospects are visible "in agriculture, industry, and food production"⁷⁷¹ . We are talking about specific agreements: from the supply of Gomselmash mowers to studying the content and feeding of farm animals in the best farms of the Mozyr region.

As for the United Arab Emirates (UAE), it is the main trading partner of the Belarusian south-eastern region among the Arab states of the Persian Gulf. Suffice it to say that "exports of dairy products produced in the Gomel region alone increased almost ninefold at the end of last year [2023]"⁷⁷² . Gomel enterprises and organizations also supply flour confectionery and carpentry products to the UAE and provide computer and construction services. During the economic forum, the Emirati side, speaking about the most promising areas of partnership with the Gomel region, noted such areas of cooperation as agricultural technology, food products, food security, "green technology," clean energy, and interregional cooperation, as the parties plan to adopt an important document in the near future – "a

⁷⁷⁰ Industrial sector and woodworking. Gomel Region and China's Hebei Province have identified areas for integration [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/promsektor-i-derevoobrabotka-gomelschina-i-kitajskaja-provintsija-hebei-nametili-sfery-dlja-integratsii-662539-2024/>

⁷⁷¹ From technology to sweets. What are the points of contact between the Gomel region and Mongolia [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/ot-tehniki-do-sladostej-kakovy-tochki-soprikosnovenija-gomelskoj-oblasti-i-mongolii-662425-2024/>

⁷⁷² Exports of dairy products from Gomel producers to the UAE increased almost ninefold in 2023 [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/eksport-molochnoj-produktsii-gomelskih-proizvoditelej-v-oe-avros-pochti-v-devjat-raz-po-itogam-2023-662349-2024/>

memorandum on establishing sister city relations between Gomel and the Emirate of Fujairah"⁷⁷³ .

The 18th Gomel Economic Forum also identified another vector for strengthening international ties – with African countries. In particular, the discussion focused on Zimbabwe. The fact is that in 2023, Gomel agricultural machinery proved itself in the fields of this southern African country. With the help of this equipment, "farmers in Zimbabwe harvested a record wheat crop last year. The Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water Resources and Rural Development of Zimbabwe gave such a high assessment to the joint government program with Belarus on the mechanization of the agricultural sector"⁷⁷⁴ . By the end of this year, another 80 units of Gomselmash equipment will be delivered to this African country from the south-eastern region of Belarus.

Summing up the results of the 18th Gomel Economic Forum, we would like to emphasize that this annual event provides an opportunity for both the region itself and each enterprise in the region to "develop, produce more products, and increase export volumes so that enterprises grow stronger, grow and be financially stable during this difficult period"⁷⁷⁵ , as well as to find new partners for cooperation and establish joint production projects, giving an additional impetus to the strengthening of international economic and socio-cultural ties in the Gomel region.

Also in September 2024, **the Grodno International Economic Forum** was held under the motto "Modern Realities and New Opportunities," which brought together more than forty enterprise managers, business owners, specialists from foreign economic and legal services, sales and marketing departments, as well as representatives of the diplomatic corps of Kazakhstan, Russia, Pakistan, India, Iran, Zimbabwe, Palestine, guests from

⁷⁷³ Gomel and Fujairah plan to establish sister city relations [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/gomel-i-fudzhejra-planiruiut-ustanovit-pobratimskie-otnosheniia-662476-2024/>

⁷⁷⁴ Gomselmash intends to deliver a large batch of equipment to Zimbabwe by the end of the year [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/gomselmash-nameren-postavit-v-zimbabve-krupnuiu-partiju-tehniki-do-kontsa-goda-662341-2024/>

⁷⁷⁵ Krupko: Gomel Economic Forum gives additional impetus to the development of international relations [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/krupko-gomelskij-ekonomicheskij-forum-daet-dopolnitelnyj-impuls-v-razvitii-mezhdunarodnyh-svyezey-662566-2024/>

sister cities, and representatives of business circles from China, Azerbaijan, Russia, and Turkey. This forum became a platform for open dialogue, providing an opportunity to discuss mechanisms for cooperation in various fields. In particular, the thematic sections "Free economic zones as a driver of regional economic development," "E-commerce as a tool for promoting exports," and "Industrial and health tourism" discussed the expansion of vectors along which mutually beneficial ties will move forward.

Speaking in general about the Grodno region, it has achieved the highest growth in gross regional product in 2024 among other Belarusian regions – more than 108 percent. In the Grodno region, great attention is paid to the development of cities. In particular, the Lida district is among the top three in Belarus in terms of the development of cities with a population of over 80,000. In addition, the region is "successfully implementing the 'One District – One Project' program. In fact, it has already gone beyond its name. Practically every second district has two or three modern projects"⁷⁷⁶. In terms of exports, the region has already increased its deliveries abroad by three percent in 2024. Today, products from the Grodno region are present in the markets of more than 100 countries around the world and are actively entering the markets of Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Suffice it to say that this year, "exports to countries in the Far Arc have increased significantly: twice to China and three times to India."⁷⁷⁷.

Speaking specifically about Grodno itself, the venue for the international forum, this city with an open economy maintains trade and economic relations with 109 countries around the world. Its enterprises export more than one billion dollars worth of products annually. Grodno is actively strengthening its international ties. An important fact: over the past four years, cooperation agreements have been signed with three Chinese cities (Lan Zhou, Haikou, and Luo He), two Russian cities (Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk and

⁷⁷⁶ Chebotar at the international forum in Grodno: we have a high-quality economy, and it attracts investors [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/chebotar-na-mezhdunarodnom-forume-v-grodno-una-kachestvennaja-ekonomika-i-ona-privlekaet-investorov-659331-2024/>

⁷⁷⁷ This year, the Grodno region has doubled its exports to China and tripled its exports to India [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/grodnenskaja-oblast-v-tekuschem-godu-v-dva-raza-narastila-eksport-v-kitaj-v-tri-raza-v-indiju-659407-2024/>

Krasnodar), and one Azerbaijani city (Gabala). In Grodno itself, large investment projects are being implemented and continue to be implemented to create new enterprises and production facilities, social facilities are being built, and new infrastructure is being created and existing infrastructure is being improved. "Today's realities provide an incentive to rebuild, find new approaches to development, reboot, and lay a new foundation for successful growth. Grodno presented proposals at the forum for potential investors on vacant land plots, real estate objects..."⁷⁷⁸. The effectiveness of the regional center's trade and economic policy is also evidenced by several cooperation agreements signed, for example, with Gabala, Azerbaijan, and the Chinese city of Lunan in September 2024.

As part of the forum's thematic section, "Free Economic Zones as a Driver of Regional Economic Development," examples of successful investment projects implemented by residents of the Grodnoinvest FEZ were discussed. "The priority in the work of this FEZ is the development of investment sites in the regions"⁷⁷⁹. It is expected that by the end of the current five-year period, FEZ residents will ensure a significant increase in investment, exports, and wages of enterprise employees. During the Regional Universal Exhibition of Grodno Achievements organized at the forum, where about forty leading enterprises and organizations of the city presented their products, services, and innovative developments to residents of the region and foreign guests, 16 were residents of the Grodnoinvest FEZ. In particular, the following residents presented their trade and economic potential: OJSC Grodtorgmash, PCC Consumer Products Navigator LLC, Biokom LLC, Uytyny Eurodom Premium LLC, TekhnoKhimReagentBel LLC, PT LLC Typhoon, NPO Vector CJSC, Terrazit Plus LLC, SP ZAO Bigan, LLC ServisPromPak, LLC Medlen, OJSC Belcard, SOOO Conte Spa, OJSC

⁷⁷⁸ Six agreements with foreign partners signed at economic forum in Grodno [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/shest-soglashenij-s-zarubezhnymi-partnerami-zakljucheny-na-ekonomicheskom-forume-v-grodno-659365-2024/>

⁷⁷⁹ Ministry of Economy: priority in the work of the Grodnoinvest SEZ – development of investment sites in the regions [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/minekonomiki-prioritet-v-rabote-sez-grodnoinvest-razvitie-investitsionnyh-ploschadok-v-rajonah-672104-2024/>

Gronitex, SOOO ZOV-LenEVROMEBEL, and LLC EUEcoPak.⁷⁸⁰ It remains to add that at the plenary session of the forum, cooperation agreements were signed between the Administration of the SEZ "Grodnoinvest" with the Municipal People's Government of the city of Lunanya, the Representative Office of the Nizhny Novgorod Region in Belarus and the Turkish company "Vin Logistic".

And at the thematic section of the forum – "E-commerce as a tool for promoting exports" – the experience of the Grodno branch of the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange (BUCX) was presented. It should be noted that at the end of the first eight months of 2024, the total value of export transactions made by economic entities of the Grodno Region on the BUEX "exceeded \$155 million, which is 13.4 times more than in January-August 2023"⁷⁸¹. The main volume of sales was accounted for by agricultural and woodworking products. The share of these product groups in the structure of exchange exports of Grodno enterprises amounted to almost 90 and 10 percent, respectively. This year, companies from 19 countries purchased goods from Grodno manufacturers at exchange auctions. Dairy products, sugar, meat products, rapeseed oil, and edged sawn timber of coniferous species were in the highest demand among foreign importers. Thus, participation in the Grodno International Economic Forum provided an additional opportunity to convey information about the possibilities of exchange trading not only to Grodno enterprises, but also to non-residents of the Republic of Belarus.

Returning to the motto of this economic forum in Grodno – "Modern realities and new opportunities" – we would like to emphasize that the Grodno region is a dynamically developing territory with enormous opportunities and a comfortable business climate. "The key task for exporting enterprises is new geography and new logistics relationships"⁷⁸². So this forum became another

⁷⁸⁰ Grodno International Economic Forum held with the participation of FEZ "Grodnoinvest" [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://grodnoinvest.by/press-center/grodnenskij-mezhdunarodnyi-forum-sostoivalsya-pri-uchastii-sez-grodnoinvest/>

⁷⁸¹ Exports by enterprises in the Grodno region grew 13-fold [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/birzhevoj-eksport-predpriyatij-grodnenskoj-oblasti-vyros-v-13-raz-659464-2024/>

⁷⁸² Sidorkevich, D. Plenary session opened a series of events of the Grodno International Economic Forum / D. Sidorkevich // [Electronic resource]. – 2024. –

concrete step towards building long-term relationships with promising international partners in terms of mutually beneficial cooperation.

Finally, in October 2024, two international forums were held in **Mogilev: the 15th economic forum, "Mill of Success," and the 2nd cooperation forum on import substitution for member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)**. The first forum is a traditional presentation platform for production and investment projects in the Mogilev region and the most promising proposals in the field of trade, economic, investment, and industrial cooperation. The second is aimed at finding alternative suppliers of products – raw materials, equipment, components – for exporting companies, establishing strong cooperative ties between producers and consumers of SCO enterprises. Participants in these international events included representatives of government authorities, diplomats, and businesspeople from countries such as China, Tajikistan, India, Iran, Pakistan, and Russia. The forum sections discussed "issues of industry problems, import substitution, support for exporters, new logistics routes and transport corridors, financial market instruments, and current tasks of the process of integrating regional business into the global economic space"⁷⁸³.

It should be noted that the holding of these authoritative economic and cooperation forums indicates that interest in the economy of the Mogilev region, which has managed to restructure its work in the new conditions and has entered a trajectory of sustainable growth, is growing annually and steadily. Suffice it to say that "the region ended 2023 with a gross regional product growth rate of 101.6%, and this year it is growing at a rate of 105.8% compared to this base"⁷⁸⁴. Today, the Mogilev region specializes in the production of agricultural machinery, chemical products and fabrics, wood

URL:

https://grodnonews.by/news/vlast/plenarnoe_zasedanie_otkrivo_cheredu_meroprivyativ_grodnenskogo_mezhdunarodnogo_ekonomicheskogo_foruma.html

⁷⁸³ New sales markets, import substitution. Two major economic forums to be held in Mogilev [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/novve-rynki-sbvta-importozameschenie-dva-krupnyh-ekonomicheskikh-foruma-projdu-v-mogileve-667334-2024/>

⁷⁸⁴ "Presenting the Mogilev Region and Belarus." Two major economic forums opened in Mogilev [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/prezentuem-mogilevskuiu-oblasti-i-belarus-dva-krupnyh-ekonomicheskikh-foruma-otkrilis-v-mogileve-668921-2024/>

products, and food products. Two of Belarus' three cement plants are located in the region. All Belarusian tires and elevators are also produced there.

During the 15th economic forum "Mill of Success," new specific business ideas were announced that may soon be implemented with international participation. These include projects for the production of feed additives, organic soils, and fertilizers; the creation of new meat processing complexes for the subsequent processing of beef and its export; and the creation of deep wood processing facilities and the development of tourism.⁷⁸⁵ Moreover, all the necessary business support tools are in place for open dialogue in this region of Belarus: the Mogilev Free Economic Zone, the Mogilev Regional Development Agency, and the Mogilev branch of the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry. They create favorable conditions and promote the development of business ties with foreign partners and investors.

Another unique advantage of the Mogilev region is the south-eastern region, which includes seven districts where exceptional preferential conditions have been created. These include a guarantee that investors will be reimbursed 35 percent of the costs incurred during the implementation of the project, reduced payroll deductions for both organizations and employees, and a simplified procedure for granting land plots and real estate. Finally, the construction of all necessary infrastructure—electricity, gas, water, roads—will be fully funded by the budget.

As for the 2nd Cooperation Forum on Import Substitution of the SCO Member States, several key areas were formulated in Mogilev that will contribute to more effective joint use of the opportunities offered by this international organization. Firstly, this is industrial cooperation and investment cooperation. After all, dividing production into stages and components according to the principle of comparative advantage will not only optimize production processes, but also increase the competitiveness of goods on international markets. Secondly, it is the development of transport and logistics infrastructure, as the modernization of transport corridors and the

⁷⁸⁵ Isachenko on the "Mill of Success": the forum became a platform for meetings with reliable friends and new partners [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/isachenko-o-melnitse-uspeha-forum-stal-ploschadkoi-dlja-vstrech-s-nadezhnymi-druzijami-i-novymi-668855-2024/>

creation of logistics hubs will significantly reduce the time and cost of delivering goods. Thirdly, it is personnel cooperation, the exchange of knowledge and experience in the field of training specialists. And "Belarus, as a new full member of the SCO, is ready to make every effort to increase the organization's effectiveness in the areas of economy and security, using its transit, industrial, and scientific potential, as well as its experience in peacekeeping and multilateral diplomacy"⁷⁸⁶ .

It should be noted that our country offers a number of preferences: six free economic zones, a high-tech park, attractive operating regimes in small and medium-sized cities and rural areas, the Bremino-Orsha special economic zone, and the Great Stone Chinese-Belarusian industrial park. So today, a window of opportunity is opening up for both Belarus and other SCO countries in terms of industrial cooperation and the active development of import substitution projects, in order to explore new horizons for interaction and strive for constructive dialogue and knowledge exchange. For reference, we note that "the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, which includes almost 40% of the world's population and about 30% of global GDP, offers enormous opportunities for trade and investment"⁷⁸⁷ . And at this forum in Mogilev, a wide range of support for joint initiatives and high-quality conditions for investment were proposed in order to ultimately achieve significant joint results.

Let's sum up. All these facts show that international economic forums in Belarus, some of which have been in existence for more than 15 years, give new impetus to regional development, strengthen the innovative economy, and stimulate regional initiatives with international participation to ensure sustainable development of territories.

⁷⁸⁶ "External restrictions open a window of opportunity." Naumovich at the economic forum in Mogilev [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/vneshnie-ogranichenija-otkrvajut-okno-vozmozhnostej-naumovich-na-ekonomicheskom-forume-v-mogileve-668949-2024/>

⁷⁸⁷ "When there is economic interest, everything else develops." Participant in the economic forum in Mogilev [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/kogda-est-ekonomicheskij-interes-razvivaetsia-vse-ostalnoe-uchastnik-ekonomicheskogo-foruma-v-mogileve-668917-2024/>

Free economic zones: the goal is to accelerate development

Free economic zones (FEZs) in Belarus have been driving the economic development of our country's regions for many years. Statistics show that a total of 440 residents of six Belarusian FEZs account for more than 5% of gross domestic product, a fifth of foreign direct investment, exports of goods, and industrial production. In the last three years alone, 100 new residents have joined the FEZs with plans to create 6,000 jobs.⁷⁸⁸ And in 2024, new projects are already being implemented in Belarusian SEZs in metal and wood processing, mechanical engineering, integrated logistics, the chemical and polymer industries, the production of charging infrastructure for electric transport, and biotechnology. "These include a number of large investment projects: the organization of production of chrome-plated hydraulic cylinder rod blanks in Kobrin, the construction of a plant for the production of chipboard and laminated boards in Vitebsk, and the organization of production of metal pipes and packaging materials in the Minsk and Mogilev FEZs"⁷⁸⁹. In terms of export development, residents of Belarusian FEZs are actively working to reorient their product deliveries from Europe to countries in Asia, Africa, and the Pacific region, diversifying their logistics chains and expanding the range of products supplied. For example, "manufacturers in the woodworking sector have increased shipments to Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, Egypt, Iraq, Iran, China, Mexico, Russia, Turkey, and Uzbekistan. As a result, they managed to compensate for the reduction in supplies to the European market"⁷⁹⁰. And already in the first quarter of 2024, the volume of exports exceeded two billion dollars. This is a record figure for the first three months of this year for the entire period of operation of Belarusian FEZs. At the same time, resident enterprises

⁷⁸⁸ Naumovich: SEZs are drivers of regional economic development [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/naumovich-sez-javljajutsja-drajverami-ekonomicheskogo-razvitiia-regionov-664109-2024/>

⁷⁸⁹ 36 new residents have been registered in Belarus' economic zones since the beginning of the year [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/v-ekonomicheskijh-zonah-belarusi-s-nachala-goda-zaregistrirovany-36-novyh-rezidentov-648189-2024/>

⁷⁹⁰ Abramenko: Export deliveries by FEZ residents exceeded \$2 billion – a record [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/abramenko-eksportnye-postavki-rezidentov-sez-prevvsili-2-mlrd-eto-rekord-644544-2024/>

"significantly increased the volume of supplies of their products to Asian countries: to Kazakhstan – 1.1 times, to India – 1.2 times, to Tajikistan – 1.3 times, to China – 1.5 times, to Turkey – 1.6 times, to Turkmenistan – 2.1 times, to Iraq – 4.5 times"⁷⁹¹. Domestic SEZs continue to have a significant impact on regional indicators, accounting for up to half of the export volumes of a number of Belarusian regions.

Among the leaders in this indicator is **the Gomel-Raton SEZ**, where in 2022, almost \$105 million in foreign direct investment was attracted for the implementation of investment projects, or more than half of the volume of foreign investment in the Gomel region. At the beginning of 2023, 67 residents were operating in the FEZ, including 24 companies with foreign capital from 15 countries. "In total, three new resident enterprises were registered in 2022 with a declared investment volume of \$2.3 million. The foreign trade turnover of residents of the Gomel-Raton FEZ increased by 7.8% compared to the same period in 2021 and amounted to \$2.6 billion in 2022,"⁷⁹². Residents sold most of their products outside Belarus. Exports of goods by FEZ participants account for almost 40% of the region's total exports. In 2023, exports by residents of this FEZ already amounted to almost \$1.5 billion.

Currently, 63 investment projects are being implemented here at various stages. Twenty-five enterprises with foreign capital from 13 countries operate in the FEZ. Nearly 30,000 people work at the enterprises of residents. In 2023, 545 people were hired for the newly created jobs."⁷⁹³. At the same time, the growth of investments by residents of this FEZ last year amounted to 163 percent, or 315.5 million Belarusian rubles. In terms of net growth in foreign direct investment, it increased by 150 percent, or \$38.2 million. Among the new facilities commissioned by residents of the Gomel-Raton

⁷⁹¹ Exports of goods by FEZ residents exceeded \$2 billion in the first quarter [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/eksport-tovarov-rezidentov-sez-v-i-kvartale-privysil-2-mlrd-635605-2024>

⁷⁹² Foreign trade turnover of the Gomel-Raton FEZ increased by 7.8% last year [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/vneshnetorgovvi-oborot-sez-gomel-raton-uvlichilsja-za-proshlyi-god-na-78-552223-2023>

⁷⁹³ Residents of the Gomel-Raton FEZ exported goods worth \$1.4 billion in 2023 [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/rezidenty-sez-gomel-raton-eksportirovali-tovarov-na-14-mlrd-v-2023-godu-618590-2024>

FEZ in 2023 are a workshop for the production of sterile medical devices at the Alcopack enterprise, a metalworking workshop at Vez-G, the reconstructed administrative and laboratory buildings of Mirtek-Engineering and TM BELAR, and a mineral fertilizer warehouse at the Gomel Chemical Plant,⁷⁹⁴ . In addition, SEZ resident SvetlogorskKhimvolokno OJSC has mastered the production of latex and nitrile gloves. Approximately \$10 million in investments were allocated for this purpose. A project to produce three-layer polyethylene film is nearing completion, with equipment currently being installed. The capacity is 4,000 tons per year...⁷⁹⁵ . In 2024, another FEZ resident, Milkvita OJSC, began producing dry instant milk, which has no analogues in Belarus. The fact is that in this case, the milk is subjected to low-temperature drying without losing its beneficial properties. "This innovative product can subsequently be used to produce cheese, sour cream, cottage cheese, and other dairy products. The project's payback period is about 8 years."⁷⁹⁶ .

Another telling fact: last year, five companies were registered in this SEZ: two new residents in Gomel, two in Mozyr, and one in the Svetlogorsk district. For example, Geflis LLC is implementing an investment project for the development of the reconstruction, modernization, and repair of treatment facilities, GOSNIP LLC is implementing a project to organize the production of cable and wire products, and Ameta-Elektrod LLC is implementing a project to organize the full-cycle production of rutile electrodes for manual arc welding. <...> The project provides for the creation of 197 additional jobs.⁷⁹⁷ . In June 2023, ZAO BELPLASTHIM was registered in the SEZ with

⁷⁹⁴ Residents of the Gomel-Raton FEZ invested over Br315 million in production in 2023 [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/svvshe-br315-mln-investirovali-v-proizvodstvo-rezidenty-sez-gomel-raton-v-2023-godu-618608-2024>

⁷⁹⁵ Resident of the Gomel-Raton FEZ has established the production of import-substituting products [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <http://gomelraton.com/press-center/news/rezident-sez-gomel-raton-naladil-vypusk-importozameshchayushchev-produktsii/>

⁷⁹⁶ Milkvita OJSC, a resident of the Gomel-Raton FEZ, plans to start producing instant dry milk, which has no analogues in Belarus [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <http://gomelraton.com/press-center/news/predprivatizatsiya-rezident-sez-gomel-raton-oao-milkavita-planiruet-pereviti-k-vypusku-sukhogo-bystrorastvo/>

⁷⁹⁷ A new resident of the Gomel-Raton FEZ has been registered [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <http://gomelraton.com/press-center/residents/sostovalas-registratsiya-novogo-rezidenta-sez-gomel-raton/>

an investment project for the modernization and development of wallpaper production with the aim of "developing a fundamentally new type of product – profiled embossed wallpaper <...>. The number of employees hired for the newly created jobs will be 73."⁷⁹⁸

In the third quarter of last year, another new FEZ resident, ProfitPlastMetal LLC, launched an investment project to set up a production facility for cast iron products to meet the needs of domestic and foreign enterprises on premises previously owned by Mozyr Distillery OJSC. "The range of products manufactured will include both finished cast iron products (heating radiators, various fasteners, hatches, ladders, consoles, plinths, grates, cast iron cookware) and cast iron blanks"⁷⁹⁹. The company plans to increase the number of employees to 105.

As for 2024, the FEZ is already in talks with potential domestic investors about setting up export-oriented and import-substituting production of local treatment facilities, polyethylene and polypropylene products, metal structures of varying complexity, reinforced concrete structures, and reinforcement products⁸⁰⁰. Overall, when it comes to the prospects for the Gomel-Raton FEZ, it should be noted that there are plans to actively develop engineering and transport infrastructure, provide resident enterprises with trained personnel in order to significantly expand opportunities and fulfill the key tasks for 2024 – "a 25% increase in investment in fixed capital, a 5% increase in exports of goods, and an 11.8% increase in employee salaries, and registration of four new residents"⁸⁰¹, as well as introduce new formats for interaction with FEZ participants, investors, and foreign partners.

⁷⁹⁸ A new resident, BELPLASTHIM CJSC, has been registered in the Gomel-Raton FEZ [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <http://gomelraton.by/press-center/residents/v-sez-gomel-raton-zaregistrirovan-novyy-rezident-zao-belplastkhim/>

⁷⁹⁹ New resident of the Gomel-Raton FEZ to launch production of cast iron products [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/novyi-rezident-sez-gomel-raton-zapustit-proizvodstvo-izdelij-iz-chuguna-579381-2023/>

⁸⁰⁰ Five enterprises received the status of residents of the Gomel-Raton FEZ in 2023 [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/piat-predpriyatij-poluchili-status-rezidenta-sez-gomel-raton-v-2023-godu-618615-2024/>

⁸⁰¹ Abramenko: FEZ "Gomel-Raton" actively participates in training personnel for its residents [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/abramenko-sez-gomel-raton-aktivno-uchastvuet-v-podgotovke-kadrov-dlja-svoih-rezidentov-632039-2024/>

The Vitebsk FEZ, established in August 1999, is one of the contributors to the development of the Belarusian economy. The first resident in this FEZ was registered in 2000. It is the German company Vitella, which is still operating today. In 2018, a presidential decree expanded the area of this FEZ and defined "16 sectors located not only in the Vitebsk region, but also in other cities and urban settlements of the region – Postavy, Orsha, Barany, Bolbasovo, Novopolotsk, Polotsk district, as well as near the villages of Kosachi and Kopti in the Vitebsk district"⁸⁰². In August 2024, the FEZ celebrated its 25th anniversary. Today, it has 57 registered residents with capital from 14 countries around the world, employing about 16,000 people. The FEZ administration gives priority to investors with innovative and high-tech projects, constantly developing engineering and transport infrastructure and creating the most favorable conditions for residents. As a result, "since 2000, the free economic zone has attracted \$1.2 billion in investments, including \$900 million in fixed capital. The volume of accumulated foreign investments in the Vitebsk FEZ as of April 1 of this year [2024] amounted to \$104.4 million. Almost all of it, namely 99%, is foreign direct investment"⁸⁰³. At the same time, investments continue to come from investors from Poland, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Sweden, the United Kingdom, Lithuania, Spain, Romania, Latvia, and Iran. In general, FEZ residents today cooperate with more than 50 countries. By the beginning of this summer, "they had exported \$340 million worth of goods, with total trade turnover exceeding \$500 million"⁸⁰⁴. An important trend in this context is the strengthening of cooperation with the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States. In 2024, export growth to Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, and Kazakhstan is already assured.

⁸⁰² Zaleski, B. Success lies in development. Free economic zones as growth points / Boris Zaleski. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2022. – P. 17.

⁸⁰³ Modernization of production, competitive goods. The Vitebsk FEZ has revealed the secret to business success [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/modernizatsiia-proizvodstv-konkurentosposobnyj-tovar-v-sez-vitebsk-nazvali-sekret-uspeha-dlja-biznesa-653077-2024/>

⁸⁰⁴ SEZ "Vitebsk" strengthened cooperation with CIS countries [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://subs.belta.by/Republ.nsf/59e33ed42f57f8c5422569f8002b86f7/2137d035c089e21e43258b7300419c56!OpenDocument>

It should be noted that the main objectives of the FEZ for the current year are "a 10% increase in investment in fixed capital, a 9% increase in exports of goods, a 12% increase in workers' wages, and the registration of six new enterprises"⁸⁰⁵. By 2027, FEZ residents plan to increase industrial production by at least two times, which will amount to eight billion Belarusian rubles. "A twofold increase by 2027 is also expected for all key indicators: average employee wages, tax revenues, exports of goods, and the volume of import-substituting products."⁸⁰⁶.

In the first half of 2024, production in the FEZ increased by almost a quarter, sales profits grew two and a half times, and both net profits and the number of new jobs created doubled, reaching 294 people. The main areas of activity for FEZ residents this year are the production of cables and mechanical engineering products, hydraulics, construction materials and equipment, woodworking, the chemical and oil and gas industries, radio electronics, food production, pharmaceuticals, water purification and water treatment, printing and packaging, light industry goods, transport, and logistics. The main export items, accounting for more than 60% of exports, were insulated wires, cables, televisions, monitors and projectors, glass fiber and glass fiber products, water purification and water treatment equipment, linen fabrics, processed fish, plastic containers, and flat-rolled white tinplate."⁸⁰⁷.

Newly registered SEZ residents will also work to increase exports. First, there is the Belarusian-Italian LLC EuroPressForm, the only company in the Eurasian Economic Union with expertise in the production of molds for casting shoe soles. Secondly, there is the Belarusian-Chinese LLC Chili New Energy, which plans to produce urban electric transport – trucks with a

⁸⁰⁵ Abramenko: SEZ administrations need to monitor the progress of residents' investment projects [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/abramenko-administratsijam-sez-nuzhno-derzhat-na-kontrolje-hod-realizatsii-investproektov-rezidentov-631354-2024/>

⁸⁰⁶ Enterprises in the Vitebsk FEZ intend to double industrial production by 2027 [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/predpriiatija-sez-vitebsk-k-2027-godu-namereny-uvlechit-promproizvodstvo-vdvoe-653093-2024/>

⁸⁰⁷ Over 25 years of operation, the Vitebsk FEZ has attracted \$1.2 billion [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/za-25-let-dejatelnosti-sez-vitebsk-privlekla-12-mlrd-664898-2024/>

carrying capacity of up to three and a half tons and municipal vehicles, as well as three-wheeled agricultural machinery.

And in 2025, four major investment projects will be implemented in the FEZ. "Two projects in machine tool manufacturing, one project in the food industry, and one project in woodworking"⁸⁰⁸. In particular, the Vitebsk Tractor Parts Plant plans to set up a new production facility in the FEZ. The point is that "a roadmap for the project has been developed jointly with the Minsk Tractor Plant. The initial stages will involve large-scale assembly, with the prospect of organizing a full cycle of equipment production in the future."⁸⁰⁹. So, the choice of a new site in the FEZ was driven by the need for innovative production with modern infrastructure, as well as a shortage of space directly on the factory premises.

Returning to the 25th anniversary of the Vitebsk FEZ, we note that over a quarter of a century, a highly effective system for the production of high-tech, innovative, and import-substituting products has been established in this territory in the Vitebsk region. Today, "the share of residents of the Vitebsk FEZ in the region's indicators of foreign direct investment is 65%, in industrial production – 14%, and in exports of goods and services – 16%"⁸¹⁰. There is a firm belief that this FEZ will continue to grow at an accelerated pace, promoting the products of its residents to new markets and attracting new participants to this innovative platform.

⁸⁰⁸ Four major investment projects to be implemented in the Vitebsk region in 2025 [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/chetyre-krupnyh-investproekta-realizujut-v-vitebskoi-oblasti-v-2025-godu-653071-2024/>

⁸⁰⁹ The Vitebsk Tractor Parts Plant plans to set up a new production facility in the Vitebsk Special Economic Zone [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://vitvesti.by/obshchestvo/vitebskii-zavod-tractornykh-zapchastei-planiruet-organizovat-novoe-proizvodstvo-v-sez-vitebsk.html>

⁸¹⁰ Subbotin: An effective business environment for new production facilities has been created in the Vitebsk FEZ [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/subbotin-v-sez-vitebsk-sozdana-effektivnaja-biznes-sreda-dlja-novyh-proizvodstv-653047-2024/>

Minsk Free Economic Zone: ambitious goals and promising projects

The Republic of Belarus has many attractive investment platforms that are key points of attraction for investments to create modern export-oriented and import-substituting industries. The Minsk Free Economic Zone (FEZ) Minsk Free Economic Zone, whose residents conduct business in various sectors of the Belarusian economy, including mechanical engineering, microelectronics, radio electronics, metalworking, pharmaceuticals, woodworking, chemicals, printing and packaging, cable manufacturing, and innovative types of agricultural machinery...⁸¹¹.

It should be noted that for the current year, the administration of the Minsk FEZ has set very ambitious targets for its residents: "a 5% increase in investment in fixed capital, an 8% increase in exports of goods, an 11.5% increase in employee salaries, the creation of approximately 550 new jobs, and the registration of 10 new residents."⁸¹². And now, after three quarters of 2024, exports of goods by 107 FEZ enterprises have grown by almost 11%, foreign trade turnover has increased by almost 5% and amounted to more than \$4 billion. "During this period, residents of the Minsk FEZ invested about Br323 million in fixed capital, which is more than 70% higher than in the corresponding period of 2023. From January to September, enterprises in the free economic zone produced 27.3 percent more goods and services than last year and created 373 new jobs,"⁸¹³. In addition, ten residents with a declared investment volume of about \$50 million were registered during this period.

It should be noted that the growth in the number of new SEZ participants began back in the summer of 2024, when five residents were registered there in a wide variety of fields: from the production of paints and

⁸¹¹ Buben, A. What is the Minsk FEZ today and what is its contribution to the country's economy / A. Buben // [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/interview/view/chto-segodnja-predstavljajet-soboi-sez-minsk-i-kakov-ee-vklad-v-ekonomiku-strany-9200/>

⁸¹² Abramenko: The Minsk FEZ needs to actively attract anchor investors to ready-made investment sites [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/abramenko-sez-minsk-nado-aktivno-privlekat-jakovyh-investorov-na-gotovye-investploschadki-631595-2024/>

⁸¹³ Enterprises in the Minsk FEZ increased their exports of goods by almost 11% in nine months [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/predpriatija-sez-minsk-za-devjat-mesjatsev-uvlechili-eksport-tovarov-pochti-na-11-674843-2024/>

varnishes, recycled crushed stone, and wire to the manufacture of jewelry and dry animal feed. Firstly, there is **Kondor Paint Factory LLC**. As part of this investment project, a new enterprise is being created to produce finishing materials – enamels, paints, primers, varnishes, putties, and adhesives used in construction, finishing, and decorative works. "It is planned to establish the production of 35 items. The start of production is scheduled for the second half of 2026. The implementation of the investment project will create 50 jobs,"⁸¹⁴. The largest consumers of these paint and varnish materials will be enterprises in the machine-building, bridge-building, and railway transport industries, representatives of the oil refining and gas industries, and manufacturers specializing in the production of mineral fertilizers.

Secondly, there is **SpetstekhikaGroup LLC**, which plans to expand the production capacity of the enterprise, purchase equipment for secondary crushed stone, arrange a site, and construct a building. The new line will increase production volumes, which will reduce delivery costs and increase attractiveness to consumers in terms of more fully satisfying the demand for building materials. "The main consumers of the plant's products are road construction companies, construction trusts, and individuals. The project envisages the creation of ten new jobs"⁸¹⁵. Production is scheduled to start in the fourth quarter of 2025.

Thirdly, there is **OJSC "BELMETALL"**, which will organize the production of welding wire and general-purpose wire with the reconstruction of the calibration warehouse building for the metalware production workshop. The investment project envisages the production of products with enhanced consumer properties through the use of high-quality raw materials on the most modern high-tech equipment. "At least 86 jobs will be created at the enterprise. The project facilities are scheduled to be commissioned in

⁸¹⁴ A new resident of the Minsk FEZ will launch the production of paint and varnish materials [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/proizvodstvo-lakokrasochnyh-materialov-zapustit-novvi-rezident-sez-minsk-651775-2024/>

⁸¹⁵ New resident of Minsk FEZ to specialize in secondary crushed stone production [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/na-proizvodstve-vtorichnogo-schebnia-budet-spetsializirovatsia-novvi-rezident-sez-minsk-657751-2024/>

2025,"⁸¹⁶. The main consumers of welding wire will be industrial machine-building enterprises, railway car repair enterprises, manufacturers of metal structures for the construction industry, installation organizations, and repair enterprises in the agro-industrial complex.

Fourthly, there is **Goldpas LLC**, which is organizing its own production of gold products for sale in foreign countries, including the United Arab Emirates, India, and China. "The start of production is scheduled for the fourth quarter of 2024"⁸¹⁷. The company's production capacity is designed to meet high consumer demand. By 2028, it plans to increase jewelry production by 3.6 times.

Fifth, there is **Bekdash Azot LLC**, which specializes in the production of dry animal feed. The goal of this investment project is to organize the production of dry food for dogs and cats, designed for a balanced daily diet. "The project will create 24 jobs. Production is scheduled to start in 2025."⁸¹⁸. In terms of technical characteristics, production will be minimally wasteful. Manufacturers plan to purchase raw materials from meat processing plants and farmers in the regions. The successful implementation of the project will ensure the growth of Belarus' production and export potential.

Several more residents appeared in the Minsk FEZ this fall. In September, **Silikontech LLC** was registered, which will produce high-quality rubber products from silicone. "The new resident plans to produce up to 80 tons of products per year. The project will create 10 jobs,"⁸¹⁹. Today, the company's main market is Belarus. Having obtained the status of a FEZ resident, the enterprise intends to develop the export of finished products. The start of production is scheduled for the first quarter of 2025.

⁸¹⁶ New resident of the Minsk FEZ will engage in wire production [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/novji-rezident-sez-minsk-zajmetsja-proizvodstvom-provoloki-645157-2024/>

⁸¹⁷ New resident of the Minsk FEZ to engage in jewelry production [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/novji-rezident-sez-minsk-zajmetsja-proizvodstvom-juvelirnyh-izdelij-650006-2024/>

⁸¹⁸ Dry animal feed will be produced by a new resident of the Minsk FEZ [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/suhie-korma-dlja-zhivotnyh-budet-vypuskat-novji-rezident-sez-minsk-641157-2024/>

⁸¹⁹ High-quality silicone rubber products will begin to be manufactured in the Minsk Free Economic Zone [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/vysokokachestvennye-rezinotekhnicheskie-izdelija-iz-silikona-nachnut-proizvodit-v-sez-minsk-661511-2024/>

In October, two more residents were registered in the FEZ. These are **BELSOUKHIM LLC**, which organizes the packaging of caustic soda "used in various industrial processes, for the possibility of its sale not only to large enterprises, but also to medium and small wholesale consumers, including dairy enterprises, the food industry, service enterprises, and educational institutions"⁸²⁰. It should be noted that there is no such enterprise in Belarus yet. The project will create more than 20 jobs. Production is scheduled to start at the end of 2026.

The second new resident of the FEZ in October is **Kinson Technology LLC**, which will manufacture bumpers for all models of BELGEE and Geely cars. The creation of its own bumper production facility at the BELGEE plant will increase the level of localisation of production, reduce dependence on foreign components and the cost of finished products, and avoid the risk of damage to bumpers during transport from China. "The project will create 12 jobs. The company plans to start operations in the second quarter of 2025,"⁸²¹. An important detail: today, BELGEE cars are the leaders in sales on the Belarusian market, accounting for more than half of total car sales over the past two years.

And in November, two more residents appeared in the FEZ. **MarketGroupBel LLC** will establish the production of commercial vehicles, ranging from dump trucks and flatbed trucks to specialized equipment: garbage trucks, aerial platforms, and more. Chinese companies will be the suppliers of machine kits. Chassis and components manufactured in Belarus and by the company itself, as well as by leading global manufacturers, will be used to manufacture the vehicles. After all, the organization of domestic production of equipment is of great importance in creating competitive high-tech industries, meets the needs of the country's economy in creating jobs and in the production of import-substituting commercial vehicles that are in

⁸²⁰ A chemical production complex will appear in the Minsk Free Economic Zone [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/kompleks-po-proizvodstvu-himicheskoi-produktsii-pojavitsja-v-sez-minsk-666530-2024/>

⁸²¹ Large plastic parts for BELGEE and Geely will be produced by a new resident of the Minsk FEZ [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/krupnogie-plastikovye-detali-dlja-belgee-i-geely-budet-proizvodit-novyi-rezident-sez-minsk-668207-2024/>

demand on the market. "The project envisages the creation of 25 jobs. Production is scheduled to begin in the first quarter of 2025,"⁸²² .

The second November resident, **AlexTransAlliance LLC**, will provide container cargo handling services: loading and unloading, container storage, including photo documentation, and document processing support. The enterprise will be located in the Minsk district in close proximity to the railway tracks. The creation of the center will reduce the load on the nearby transport and logistics infrastructure, increase the variability and maneuverability of logistics operations, and strengthen the stability of container cargo transportation. "The investment project will create more than 30 jobs. Production is scheduled to begin in the fourth quarter of 2026,"⁸²³ .

In addition to registering new residents, the Minsk FEZ is also actively developing international ties in 2024. In particular, in September, it signed a memorandum of cooperation with **the Bishkek FEZ**, which is aimed at developing cooperation between the FEZs "on issues of promoting business development, the business environment and business climate, implementing joint investment projects and creating enterprises with foreign investments on the territory of the parties."⁸²⁴ . Promising areas of cooperation, opportunities for Belarusian-Kyrgyz business partnerships, and the implementation of joint projects have already been discussed.

There has also been interesting interaction between the Minsk FEZ and the Tajik **FEZ Sugd**. It should be recalled that in September 2023, the capital's FEZ expanded its cooperation with partners from Tajikistan when three cooperation agreements with the FEZs were signed on the sidelines of the Belarusian-Tajik business forum: "Sugd", "Kulyab" and "Dangara"⁸²⁵ .

⁸²² New resident of the Minsk FEZ to organize production of commercial freight transport [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/novyi-rezident-sez-minsk-organizuet-proizvodstvo-gruzovogo-kommercheskogo-transporta-673171-2024/>

⁸²³ A transport and logistics center in the free economic zone is being organized by a new resident of the Minsk FEZ [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/transportno-logisticheskij-tsentr-v-svobodnoj-ekonomicheskoy-zone-organizuet-novyi-rezident-sez-minsk-676803-2024/>

⁸²⁴ Minsk FEZ and Bishkek FEZ sign memorandum of cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/sez-minsk-i-sez-bishkek-podpisali-memorandum-o-sotrudnichestve-662236-2024/>

⁸²⁵ Zaleski, B. The ideology of pragmatism. Features of partnerships in the Belarusian economy: internal and external segments / Boris Zaleski. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2024. – P. 11.

And in June of this year, Tajik partners from the Sugd FEZ in Minsk specifically discussed promising areas of cooperation and opportunities for industrial cooperation between residents of the parties.

In 2024, the Minsk FEZ also participated in a number of international business events, where promising areas of cooperation between residents of this FEZ and partners from other countries were discussed. In particular, in March of this year, at the Belarusian-Turkish business forum, FEZ specialists held negotiations with companies from Turkey that specialize in "the production of packaging materials, parts for automotive and agricultural machinery, furniture, and the provision of services in the field of public catering and logistics"⁸²⁶. It turned out that Turkish businesses are interested in both supplying products to the Belarusian market and purchasing a range of goods, in particular, woodworking and food industry products.

At the Belarusian-Hungarian business forum held in May in the Belarusian capital, which was attended by 24 Hungarian companies, residents of the Minsk FEZ held talks "on the development of cooperation in the fields of agriculture, construction and woodworking, mechanical engineering, medicine and pharmaceuticals, and investment opportunities"⁸²⁷. This forum revealed interesting prospects for the development of economic cooperation.

In June, at the Belarusian-Azerbaijani business forum, where more than 100 enterprises and organizations from Belarus alone took part, covering all industries and areas of activity – agriculture, food, mechanical engineering, metallurgy, woodworking, construction and production of building materials, chemical, pharmaceutical, and light industries, as well as wholesale and retail trade. During B2B negotiations, the management of the Minsk Free Economic Zone discussed with Azerbaijani partners the possibilities and conditions for residents of the free economic zone to participate in specialized exhibition events in the Republic of Azerbaijan.⁸²⁸

⁸²⁶ SEZ "Minsk" at the Belarusian-Turkish Business Forum [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://www.fezmink.bv/news/rukovodstvo-administratsii-sez-minsk-prinimaet-uchastie-v-belorusko-turetskom-biznes-forume-kotorv/>

⁸²⁷ Minsk FEZ at the Belarusian-Hungarian Business Forum [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://www.fezmink.bv/news/sez-minsk-na-belorusko-vengerskom-biznes-forume/>

⁸²⁸ The Minsk Free Economic Zone took part in the Belarusian-Azerbaijani Business Forum and B2B negotiations [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL:

And at the IV Forum of Heads of Regions of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) member states, which took place in September 2024 and was attended by about 500 people from Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, India, and other countries, as well as business representatives from Nigeria, the United Arab Emirates, and Japan, the opportunities offered by the Minsk SEZ Minsk FEZ were presented, both in terms of potential investment and industrial cooperation, with the aim of deepening "interregional cooperation in trade, economic, investment, scientific, technical, cultural, humanitarian, and other priority areas of cooperation between SCO member states"⁸²⁹. For reference: this international organization currently unites ten countries with a population of more than three and a half billion people.

Within the framework of the topic of international cooperation between residents of the Minsk FEZ, here is another interesting fact. In May 2024, FEZ resident Unison CJSC launched the production of cars under the VGV Sinotruk brand. This Chinese passenger vehicle concern, China National Heavy Duty Truck Group Co. Ltd (Sinotruk), is China's second-largest manufacturer. In this case, we are talking about the production of seven-seater family cars at the price of a compact crossover. It is planned to produce about thirty thousand units per year. "In the future, the company plans to launch a number of other Sinotruk VGV models, including an all-wheel-drive pickup truck, and also plans to produce electric cars"⁸³⁰. The Chinese partners expect to continuously deepen their cooperation. Moreover, the support and promotion of this project has been entrusted entirely to the Belarusian side.

Finally, in the near future, the Minsk FEZ may see the implementation of a promising investment project by the Afghan company Zafaran

<https://www.fezminsk.by/news/sez-minsk-prinvala-uchastie-v-belorussko-azerbaydzhanskom-biznes-forume-i-v2v-peregovorakh/>

⁸²⁹ SEZ "Minsk" presents its opportunities to participants of the IV Forum of Heads of Regions of SCO Member States [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://www.fezminsk.by/news/sez-minsk-predstavlyaet-vozmozhnosti-svobodno-ekonomicheskoy-zony-uchastnikam-iv-foruma-glav-region/>

⁸³⁰ A resident of the Minsk FEZ has launched production of vehicles under the VGV Sinotruk brand [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://www.fezminsk.by/news/rezident-sez-minsk-zapustil-proizvodstvo-avtomobilev-pod-brendom-vgv-sinotruk/>

Pharmaceuticals, which is interested in trade, manufacturing, and investment activities, and is also "considering the possibility of building a pharmaceutical plant on the territory of the FEZ."⁸³¹ . This company has been operating in the healthcare sector for over 25 years and is one of the five largest pharmaceutical companies in Afghanistan. The company is licensed to manufacture more than 60 different medicines and specializes in the production of generics, capsules, dry suspensions, and injectable drugs. So, an interesting Belarusian-Afghan partnership in the field of pharmacy may emerge.

All these facts indicate that serious work is being done in the Minsk Free Economic Zone is doing serious work to develop new types of products through the implementation of new investment projects, as well as through the diversification of the investment activities of residents, in order to further develop this territory, where the focus is on modernization and technical re-equipment of existing production facilities and the introduction of new modern technologies.

⁸³¹ Afghan company interested in cooperation with Minsk FEZ [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/afganskaja-kompanija-zainteresovana-v-sotrudnichestve-s-sez-minsk-625003-2024/>

Free economic zones: The goal is to implement projects based on new technologies

In 2024, free economic zones (FEZs) in the Republic of Belarus remained key centers of capital attraction in the country's regions, where about 440 residents from more than 30 countries operated, investing over \$13 billion in their projects. They accounted for 5.3% of gross domestic product, 19.2% of industrial production, 3.8% of investments in fixed capital, and 21.9% of exports of goods. Most SEZ residents are employed in the manufacturing industry (86.4%), followed by trade (4%)⁸³². In total, more than 136,000 people worked there. Last year, Belarusian FEZs showed a record foreign trade turnover of \$14 billion. In addition, a record level was achieved in the total export of goods by residents – just under \$9 billion.

Investment activity in the FEZ also picked up. Capital inflows into promising projects grew by nine percent. "Among the most ambitious projects are the development of OJSC "INTEGRAL" production in Minsk, the construction of a transport and logistics building in the Minsk region, the expansion of technical carbon production in the Mogilev region, and the reconstruction of a complex of workshops for the production of mineral fertilizers in Gomel and food products in Brest"⁸³³. In 2024, 36 enterprises became new residents of the FEZ. Their total investment portfolio reached \$230 million and provided for the creation of more than 2,000 new jobs. These projects are being implemented in the fields of wood and metal processing, mechanical engineering, the chemical and polymer industries, and the production of charging infrastructure for electric transport. To maintain the investment attractiveness of the FEZ, the demand for these sites is also increasing due to the development of infrastructure. "Over the past three years, with state support (about Br160 million), 16 infrastructure

⁸³² Almost 440 organizations are residents of FEZs in Belarus [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/rezidentami-sez-v-belarusi-javlajutsja-pochti-440-organizatsij-695893-2025/>

⁸³³ Residents of Belarusian FEZs generated a record volume of foreign trade turnover in 2024 [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/rezidentv-sez-belarusi-v-2024-godu-sformirovali-rekordnyi-objem-vneshnetorgovogo-oborota-697065-2025/>

facilities have been built, including 10 in the energy sector⁸³⁴. And since 2024, four new power substations have been under construction in Brest and Pinsk, as well as in the Minsk and Smorgon districts.

Among the leaders at the end of last year was **the Minsk FEZ**, which showed high performance results for its residents in 2024. **First**, production volume grew by 20 percent and amounted to more than 12.5 billion Belarusian rubles. In particular, large investment projects are being implemented in the FEZ for the production of X-ray equipment, electric buses, electronic equipment, radio-electronic products, and household appliances. **Secondly**, the foreign trade turnover of more than 100 FEZ residents exceeds five and a half billion dollars. "At the same time, the volume of exports grew by 5 percent and amounted to about \$3 billion. The balance of foreign trade in goods is positive, amounting to about \$400 million"⁸³⁵. In this context, the issue of replacing imported products is also one of the most significant and promising, since most FEZ participants are focused on the production of these goods. These include, for example, cable products with a wide range of applications, hydraulic control equipment, charging stations for electric vehicles, pumping units, printing inks, and microwave ovens. **Thirdly**, foreign direct investment in the Minsk FEZ in 2024 amounted to almost \$145 million, which makes it possible to implement innovative projects. Among the most significant are the initiatives implemented by ADVIN Smart Factory CJSC, BELDZHI CJSC, Belkommunmash Holding Management Company OJSC, INTEGRAL OJSC — the management company of the INTEGRAL holding, UP N-TV.

Fourth, last year, 15 new companies became residents of this SEZ, with a total declared investment of more than \$70 million and 514 new jobs. These enterprises are engaged in investment projects for the production of polymer and composite materials, vehicles, automotive parts, chemical products, recycled crushed stone, silicone rubber products, finishing

⁸³⁴ Chebotar: Residents of Belarusian FEZs invested over \$13 billion [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/rezidenty-belorusskih-sez-investirovali-svvshe-13-mlrd-687352-2025/>

⁸³⁵ New investment projects and focus on innovation: Minsk FEZ – a comfortable climate for business [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://fezminsk.by/news/novye-investproekty-i-stavka-na-innovatsii-komfortnyy-klimat-dlya-biznesa/>

materials, jewelry, metal pipes, wire, dry feed, charging stations for electric vehicles, and sanitary and hygiene products.

In particular, in the first half of December 2024, a new SEZ resident was registered – **Prodi LLC** – a manufacturer of products made of polymer and composite materials. The goal of its project is "to create a modern, highly efficient production facility for plastic products with engineering support that allows for end-to-end design from the design project to the finished product using 3D modeling software"⁸³⁶. The fact is that Prodi LLC is engaged in the modernization of the entire range of road construction equipment manufactured by Amkodor, with the development of design projects and 3D models of plastic parts for interior and exterior use. The implementation of this investment project will expand the range of products manufactured, with the development of new products for consumers in the fields of industrial production, construction, transport, and consumer goods. The technology and equipment purchased for the project are unique and enable the manufacture of a whole range of plastic parts used in mechanical engineering and other sectors of the economy. The project is expected to create around 100 jobs. A third of the products manufactured will be exported to the Commonwealth of Independent States and other countries.

In the second half of December last year, a resident enterprise, **Onco Solutions LLC**, opened in this FEZ, specializing in the production of sterile parenteral antineoplastic drugs. The launch of production will meet Belarus's needs for a number of antineoplastic drugs. The main task of the new resident is to produce drugs for the treatment of cancer that are in demand in Belarus, Russia, Kazakhstan, Armenia, and Kyrgyzstan. "Production is planned both for export to the EAEU countries, neighboring countries, and countries further afield, as well as for import substitution purposes. The share of exports after the launch of production will be 80%,"⁸³⁷. The production capacity

⁸³⁶ New resident of the Minsk FEZ will manufacture products from polymer and composite materials [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/novyi-rezident-sez-minsk-budet-proizvodit-izdelija-iz-polimernyh-i-kompozitsionnyh-materialov-681765-2024/>

⁸³⁷ On December 20, 2024, the grand opening of the Minsk FEZ resident company Onco Solutions took place, which is implementing an investment project for the production of drugs for the treatment of oncological diseases [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://fezminsk.by/news/20-dekabrya-2024-goda-sostoyalos-torzhestvennoe-otkrytie-predprivatna-rezidenta-sez-minsk-onko-solvu/>

allows for the manufacture of half a million vials of finished products annually. The total investment cost of the project amounted to over 50 million Belarusian rubles, and more than 35 new jobs have already been created.

In February 2025, two more residents were registered in the Minsk FEZ. The first, **Precision Machines LLC**, will launch machine tool production and a mechanical parts processing section in the FEZ. This company "is engaged in the production of numerically controlled metalworking machine tools for turning and milling. Automated equipment capable of performing the most complex operations according to a given program without direct human involvement is widely used in the manufacturing sector"⁸³⁸. The enterprise will be located in the Fanipol district. Production is scheduled to begin in the first quarter of 2025. A significant portion of the products will be exported. Exports are expected to account for about half of the total revenue.

The second February resident of the SEZ, **ZELDEN LLC**, is implementing an investment project for the production of complete administrative, utility, and residential modules for building construction. "The resident company plans to build a production and storage complex, develop, design, and manufacture complete administrative and residential modules for large-scale construction sites and residential modules for use in the tourism sector,"⁸³⁹. The main sales markets will be the countries of the Eurasian Economic Union, as well as markets in other countries. The enterprise will be located on a plot of land in the Fanipol area of the FEZ, and production is scheduled to begin in 2029.

It should be noted that the territory of the Minsk FEZ covers more than 2,650 hectares on 21 land plots in Minsk and the Minsk region. Today, the main growth point for the investment activities of residents is the tenth plot in the Fanipol district. In 2025, construction of the eighth street will continue there, and two more streets, No. 9 and No. 13, will be designed. All

⁸³⁸ Russian investors to manufacture machine tools in the Minsk FEZ [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/investorv-iz-rossii-budut-vypuskat-stanki-v-sez-minsk-698685-2025/>

⁸³⁹ Investment project for the production of modules for building construction to be implemented in the Minsk FEZ [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/investproekt-po-proizvodstvu-modulej-dlja-vozvedeniija-zdaniij-realizujut-v-sez-minsk-699114-2025/>

this indicates that "the Minsk FEZ is doing serious work to develop new types of products through the implementation of new investment projects, as well as through the diversification of residents' investment activities"⁸⁴⁰, so that, expanding the possibilities of industrial cooperation, effective projects based on new modern technologies can be implemented.

The past year was also productive for **the Mogilev FEZ**, where 50 organizations were registered at the beginning of this year. "In 2024, eight new residents were registered with a declared investment in fixed capital of €14.5 million"⁸⁴¹. In particular, three manufacturing companies were registered in March last year. First, there is **Bellanya LLC**, which plans to organize the production of plastic packaging materials. Production is scheduled to begin in January 2027. Second, there is **MRKM Zapad LLC**, which will manufacture truck bodies and trailer equipment. "The project will create 275 new jobs. The planned average headcount in 2028 will be 300 people,"⁸⁴². Thirdly, there is **Extraline LLC**, which will set up a polymer products manufacturing facility and create about thirty new jobs.

In May 2024, another resident was registered in the FEZ – **Transfest**, which will organize the production of "body and trailer equipment <...> in Bobruisk"⁸⁴³. And in October last year, a new FEZ participant, **the private enterprise Bazaltum**, embarked on an investment project to organize the production of basalt-based insulation. After all, "basalt wool is one of the best insulation and soundproofing materials"⁸⁴⁴, which is completely non-flammable and non-melting. For this reason, this material is used in the modern construction of residential buildings and public facilities. In

⁸⁴⁰ Zaleski, B. Key Investment Points. Realizing the Potential of Belarus' Free Economic Zones on the Fast Track / Boris Zaleski. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2024. – P. 49.

⁸⁴¹ Results of the Mogilev FEZ for 2024, prospects for 2025 [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://fezmogilev.by/services/sobytiva/itogi-devatelnosti-sez-mogilev-za-2024-god-perspektivy-2025-goda/>

⁸⁴² L'dova, E. Three new residents registered in the Mogilev FEZ / E. L'dova // [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://www.vestnikmogileva.by/novosti/novosti-kompaniy/tri-novyh-rezidentov-zaregistirovany-v-sez-mogilev>

⁸⁴³ A new resident has been registered in the Mogilev FEZ [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://fezmogilev.by/services/sobytiva/v-sez-mogilev-zaregistirovan-novyy-rezident/>

⁸⁴⁴ Private enterprise Bazaltum – new resident of the Mogilev FEZ [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://fezmogilev.by/services/sobytiva/chastnoe-predprivatie-bazaltum-novyy-rezident-sez-mogilev/>

November and December 2024, two more residents were registered in the FEZ: **Tova LLC**, with a business plan to set up wire production, and **PolymerBoom LLC**, which "is implementing an investment project to organize the production of self-adhesive materials"⁸⁴⁵.

Another interesting fact about the Mogilev FEZ occurred in November last year, when **BelEmSA LLC**, a resident of the FEZ since 2011, won the National Entrepreneur of the Year competition. It is "the first and only enterprise in Belarus producing disposable diapers for children"⁸⁴⁶, which also manufactures a wide range of sanitary and hygiene products, including adult diapers, wet wipes, and moist toilet paper. Today, the share of import-substituting products in the total production volume is approaching 100 percent. "Since the beginning of its activity as a resident, the company has invested €32.5 million in fixed capital"⁸⁴⁷. Between 2021 and 2024 alone, the number of employees there grew almost 2.5 times, reaching almost 480 people.

And in February 2025, BelEmsa LLC launched a production line for absorbent disposable diapers. This production facility was created in accordance with an investment agreement signed at the Musiad Expo 2024 International Exhibition in Istanbul between the administration of the Mogilev FEZ and the company, which purchased the necessary equipment in January 2025, carried out commissioning work on the line, and received the first samples of the new product. The production capacity of the installed equipment allows for the production of over 10 million units per month. Currently, 16 jobs have been created here. Within a month and a half, it is planned to reach full capacity and operate around the clock. Accordingly, the amount of products manufactured will double. Half of the output will be exported. "The production capacity of the enterprise currently allows it to

⁸⁴⁵ PolymerBoom LLC – new resident of the Mogilev FEZ [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://fezmogilev.by/services/sobytiva/ooo-polimerbum-novvy-rezident-sez-mogilev/>

⁸⁴⁶ BelEmSA LLC named winner of the National Entrepreneur of the Year competition [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://fezmogilev.by/services/sobytiva/ooo-belemsa-priznan-pobeditelem-natsionalnogo-konkursa-predprinimatel-goda/>

⁸⁴⁷ Strakhar: Only in partnership with the state can enterprises and the country be developed [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/strahar-tolko-v-partnerstve-s-gosudarstvom-mozhno-razvivat-predpriatija-i-stranu-696638-2025/>

produce 25 million adult diapers per month, 20 million baby diapers, 10 million baby diapers, and 3 million wet wipes. The products are sold under various brand names, fully meeting the needs of Belarusian consumers, with the rest being exported (about 80% of sales),⁸⁴⁸. It should be added that four enterprises are currently implementing investment projects with Turkish capital in the Mogilev FEZ. In addition to the production of sanitary, hygienic, and medical products, the FEZ is also developing the production of packaging materials and rubber products used as sealants in the manufacture of translucent structures.

The Ministry of Economy of Belarus has set four key tasks for this FEZ for 2025: maintaining the positive dynamics of the main financial and economic indicators of residents, forming a pool of key investment projects and ensuring control over the effectiveness of their implementation, attracting new investors with export-oriented projects to vacant investment sites, and intensifying work on infrastructure development, as well as "scaling up the successful experience of implementing business projects on inefficiently used industrial sites"⁸⁴⁹. This suggests that residents of the Mogilev FEZ will continue to demonstrate effective work in implementing innovations and lean manufacturing principles to increase labor productivity by producing export and import-substituting products.

Residents of the **Gomel-Raton FEZ** also showed good results in 2024. It should be noted that 62 investment projects are currently being implemented at various stages in this FEZ. Twenty-four enterprises are operating there with the participation of foreign capital from 12 countries. "In 2024, FEZ residents invested Br298 million in production. Of this amount, almost 20% came from foreign sources. The volume of foreign direct investment amounted to \$107.3 million, which is 64.3% of the total foreign

⁸⁴⁸ A new production line for absorbent disposable diapers was launched in the Mogilev Special Economic Zone [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/novuju-liniju-po-proizvodstvu-vpityvajuschih-odnorazovyh-pelenok-zapustili-v-sez-mogilev-696635-2025/>

⁸⁴⁹ Maintaining momentum and attracting investors. The Ministry of Economy has set targets for the Mogilev FEZ for 2025 [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/sohranenie-dinamiki-i-privlechenie-investorov-v-minekonomiki-postavili-zadachi-sez-mogilev-na-2025-god-695271-2025/>

direct investment in the region"⁸⁵⁰. In 2025, the FEZ intends to only increase investment. Last year, almost 7.5 billion Belarusian rubles worth of products were manufactured here. This is one-fifth of the industrial production volume of the Gomel region. It should be noted that almost 30,000 people work at resident enterprises. At the same time, in 2024, 490 people were hired for newly created jobs. And deliveries outside Belarus by FEZ residents grew by more than 15 percent. Last year, "goods worth \$1.6 billion were shipped for export"⁸⁵¹. The largest consumers of these products are the countries of the Eurasian Economic Union. Goods are also currently being shipped to China and African countries.

On the eve of 2025, **the transport unitary enterprise Khimtrans** was registered as the 64th resident of this FEZ, which "will implement an investment project to organize technological cargo transportation and the formation of phosphogypsum dumps"⁸⁵². And already this year, the FEZ resident **OJSC SvetlogorskHimvolokno** has mastered the production of a new type of import-substituting product – immobilization splints designed for quick fixation of limbs in case of fractures, dislocations, and displacements at the stages of first aid. These splints have been included in the State Register of Medical Devices and Medical Equipment of Belarus. "Overall, in 2024, the share of innovative products manufactured by SvetlogorskHimvolokno in the total volume of shipments amounted to 23.3%. Three new types of products have been additionally developed and included in the list: co-extruded polyolefin film, agrotexile made of polypropylene threads, and compact immobilization splints"⁸⁵³. It should be noted that

⁸⁵⁰ Residents of the Gomel-Raton FEZ invested almost Br300 million in production in 2024 [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/pochtibr300-mln-investirovali-v-proizvodstvo-rezidenty-sez-gomel-raton-v-2024-godu-698510-2025/>

⁸⁵¹ To Russia, Africa, China. Exports of goods by residents of the Gomel-Raton FEZ grew by 15.6% in 2024 [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/v-rossiju-afriku-kitaj-eksport-tovarov-rezidentov-sez-gomel-raton-vvros-na-156-v-2024-godu-698517-2025/>

⁸⁵² New resident in the outgoing year [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://gomelraton.com/press-center/residents/novyy-rezident-v-ukhodvashchem-godu/>

⁸⁵³ Resident of the Gomel-Raton SEZ has mastered the production of a new type of import-substituting product [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://gomelraton.com/press-center/news/rezident-sez-gomel-raton-osvoil-proizvodstvo-novogo-vida-importozameshchavushchev-produktsii/>

SvetlogorskKhimvolokno OJSC is part of the Belneftekhim concern and is one of the largest diversified enterprises in the country's petrochemical complex. The products manufactured here – polyester threads, fabrics and cloths, non-woven materials, polypropylene containers, disposable gloves, synthetic plaster – are in stable demand on the domestic and foreign markets.

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Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange: developing partnerships in both familiar areas and new positions

In 2024, the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange (BUCE) continues to be active in the market of the People's Republic of China (PRC) in developing export and import opportunities and increasing exchange turnover between the two countries. This is evidenced by the figures: as of the beginning of October this year, 224 residents from the PRC had already been accredited by the BUEB, three of which have the status of exchange brokers. And "in the first seven months of 2024, the total value of transactions by Chinese businesses reached \$84 million, which is 2.6 times more than in the same period of 2023"⁸⁵⁴. At the same time, residents of China mainly bought and sold timber, meat and dairy products, ferrous metal products, and industrial equipment on the Belarusian exchange platform. One of the effective tools for promoting the BUTB on the Chinese market is the exchange's participation in international exhibitions held in various regions of the PRC.

For example, in June this year, the BUTB took part for the first time in the **China-Eurasia Expo international exhibition** held in Urumqi, the administrative center of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. Given the theme of the exhibition, the main focus at the BUTB stand was on agricultural products and industrial goods. Visitors were invited to familiarize themselves with the product range and export-import opportunities of the Belarusian exchange platform, as well as to consult on issues of accreditation on the exchange and participation in trading. In addition, the BUTB stand provided an opportunity to view current purchase and sale offers posted on the exchange by Belarusian companies, which allowed for substantive negotiations with Chinese importers and exporters. It should be noted that participation in this exhibition forum helped attract manufacturing and trading companies from all over the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region to the BUTB. Through the exchange, they can trade with Belarusian companies

⁸⁵⁴ BUTB will help Chinese synthetic fiber manufacturers enter the Belarusian market [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-pomozhet-kitajskim-proizvoditeljam-sinteticheskogo-volokna-vviti-na-belorusskij-rvok-652563-2024>

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 pronounced. Thus, "in January-May, the amount of transactions with goods not related to woodworking products increased more than 8 times. The exchange platform was used by Chinese manufacturers to supply Belarus with ferrous and non-ferrous metal products, spare parts and components for machinery and equipment, and raw materials for the food industry"⁸⁵⁵. The BUTB expects that as new participants from the regions of the PRC join the trading platform, the share of products from the agro-industrial complex, metallurgy, and light industry in the total volume of exchange trading between Belarus and China will grow.

In July 2024, thanks to the participation of the BUTB in the **international aluminium industry exhibition Aluminium China 2024**, held in Shanghai, more than twenty Chinese metal producers announced their readiness to enter the Belarusian commodity exchange market. Through the BUTB, "it is planned to supply aluminum pipes, profiles, sheets, foil, and other popular products to the Belarusian market"⁸⁵⁶. This will expand the range of foreign suppliers of rolled aluminum products using the Belarusian platform, and consumers from Belarus will be able to make purchases on more favorable terms. The appearance of new aluminum producers from China at the auction should not only have a positive impact on product sales volumes, but also increase the economic effect of using the exchange mechanism for Belarusian enterprises in the real sector.

In August this year, in the same Shanghai, a BUTB delegation participated in the **TIM Expo Shanghai international exhibition of thermal insulation materials and energy-saving technologies**, where it held talks on cooperation with leading Chinese manufacturers of synthetic fibers on the sale of their products on the exchange. A number of Chinese

⁸⁵⁵ BUTB electronic tools presented at China-Eurasia Expo [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/elektronnye-instrumenty-butb-predstavleny-na-ekspo-kitaj-evrazija-643984-2024/>

⁸⁵⁶ Chinese aluminum producers are ready to enter the Belarusian stock market [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/kitajskie-proizvoditeli-aluminija-gotovy-vyiti-na-birzhevoj-rynok-belarusi-645865-2024/>

companies expressed their willingness to place orders for the sale of the most popular types of fibers in Belarus on the BUTB industrial and consumer goods platform. Thus, Belarusian light industry enterprises will be able to purchase the raw materials they need from suppliers from China that have been verified by the exchange without intermediaries."⁸⁵⁷ . This will not only increase the efficiency of procurement activities of Belarusian trading participants, but will also contribute to the further strengthening of trade and economic relations between Belarus and China.

It should be noted that this year, the BUTB 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 have recently become noticeably more active. Transactions began to be concluded more frequently, and for some commodity items, they became 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 BUTB representative office in Shanghai, which opened in 2023. Its specialists already regularly participate in major industry exhibitions, forums, conferences, and other business events in China. Direct contact with representatives of Chinese businesses provides additional opportunities to inform potential bidders about BUTB tools and services, as well as simplifies interaction with already accredited companies.

Finally, in early September 2024, opportunities for purchasing Belarusian woodworking industry products at BUTB auctions were presented at the **International Conference on Cooperation in the Production of Household Goods and Building Materials in China and Central Asia**, which was held in Xi'an, the administrative center of Shaanxi Province. The event, organized by the China International Furniture and Decoration Chamber of Commerce and the Furniture Chamber of Commerce of the

⁸⁵⁷ BUTB will help Chinese synthetic fiber producers enter the Belarusian market [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-pomozhet-kitaiskim-proizvoditeljam-sinteticheskogo-volokna-vviti-na-belorusskij-rvok-652563-2024>

province, was attended by about 400 businesses involved in the production and sale of furniture, building materials, and interior items. By involving these companies in exchange trading, the BUTB plans to expand the pool of Chinese importers of Belarusian sawn timber products and establish supplies of wood-based panels to China, which are in high demand in the country's furniture industry.

It is known that this year, Chinese residents are the largest buyers of wood products on the exchange platform, but the potential for cooperation in this area is far from exhausted. "In the first nine months of 2024, Chinese participants purchased almost 672,000 cubic meters of sawn timber at exchange auctions, which is 2.4 times higher than the figure achieved in January-September 2023. The growth in sales is associated with a reduction in sawn timber stocks on the Chinese domestic market, which stimulates demand for imports from Belarus"⁸⁵⁸. Traditionally, edged boards of coniferous species have been in the highest demand among Chinese participants. At the same time, other types of forestry products that could be of interest to the Chinese side are also presented at the auction. In particular, the exchange is ready to assist furniture companies from the PRC in purchasing Belarusian chipboard and fiberboard. After all, leading manufacturers of these products 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 the Belarusian Trade and Economic Chamber "plans to further increase both the export of Belarusian agricultural products and Chinese imports of metals and metal products by participating in international exhibition events in China"⁸⁵⁹ in order to develop exchange trading in various regions of China, both in established commodity areas and in new areas, which will significantly increase the overall volume of Belarusian-Chinese trade.

⁸⁵⁸ A large batch of Belarusian pulp is planned to be exported through BUTB [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/krupnuiu-partiu-belorusskoi-tsellulozvy-planirujetsja-realizovat-na-eksport-cherez-butb-667638-2024/>

⁸⁵⁹ Zaleski, B. Growth points of the Belarusian economy in the dynamics of global challenges / Boris Zaleski. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2024. – P. 6.

In the second half of 2024, the BUTB will expand its cooperation with other countries on the Asian continent, including **Mongolia, South Korea, Vietnam, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Jordan, and Turkey.**

For example, in June of this year, the BSE signed a memorandum of cooperation with **the Mongolian Commodity Exchange** to combine the resources, technologies, and experience of the two exchanges and give new impetus to trade and economic cooperation between Belarus and Mongolia. The parties will focus primarily on agricultural products. At the same time, "based on the range of goods currently available on the Belarusian and Mongolian exchanges, the most promising items for supply 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"⁸⁶⁰.

It should be noted that until recently, only Belarusian sugar was exported to Mongolia using the exchange mechanism. In the first four months of 2024, just under 4,000 tons of this product were sold on the Mongolian market for approximately \$2.5 million. And in May of this year, the first two deals were concluded on the BUTB for the supply of skimmed milk powder to this East Asian country. "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 the exchange was provided by the accredited broker of the BSE in Mongolia, United Meres Machinery,"⁸⁶¹.

This can be considered a landmark event in the development of Belarusian-Mongolian exchange trading, especially given that the expansion of the product range has a positive effect on the volume of exchange turnover and contributes to the growth of business activity, both for sellers from Belarus and buyers from Mongolia. In addition, the parties plan to work on the issue of supplying Belarusian sawn timber to the Mongolian market,

⁸⁶⁰ Commodity exchanges in Belarus and Mongolia plan to cooperate in agricultural trade [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/tovarnye-birzhi-belarusi-i-mongolii-planirujut-sotrudnicat-v-torgovle-selhozproduksiej-635733-2024/>

⁸⁶¹ Mongolia has started buying Belarusian dairy products on the stock exchange [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/mongolija-nachala-pokupat-belorusskuiu-molochnuiu-produktsiju-na-birzhevyh-torgah-634389-2024/>

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 on the BUTB, one of whom has the status of an exchange broker. In January-May 2024, the amount of exchange transactions by Mongolian trading participants reached \$2.5 million⁸⁶².

Another East Asian country, **the Republic of Korea**, is a very promising market for Belarusian timber companies. Korean residents of the BUTB have been participating in timber trading since November 2023, gradually increasing the volume of transactions. In the first half of this year, they purchased almost 6,000 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 platform"⁸⁶³. In addition, the issue of supplying wood fuel granules or pellets to this East Asian country is being considered. These are so-called "gray granules" used for industrial purposes. And this issue, apparently, will soon move into the practical realm.

Since the beginning of this autumn, **Vietnam** has joined the ranks of BUTB's partners from Southeast Asia. In early September, a Vietnamese trading company joined the pool of foreign buyers of Belarusian dry milk, concluding its first exchange transaction using the targeted mechanism that has been in effect at the BUTB since August 9 with a Belarusian milk processing enterprise. "The purchase volume amounted to 52 tons"⁸⁶⁴. It should be noted that in August, buyers from seven new countries came to the BUTB to purchase domestic dry milk and other dairy products.

Now let's move on to the Middle East, where Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Oman, Saudi Arabia, and Syria are

⁸⁶² BUTB to expand cooperation with Mongolian businesses [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-rasshirit-sotrudnichestvo-s-mongolskim-biznesom-638715-2024/>

⁸⁶³ 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-lesoproduktsii-zainteresovanv-sotrudnichestve-s-butb-650959-2024/>

⁸⁶⁴ Vietnam has joined the list of buyers of Belarusian milk powder through BUTB [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/vietnam-popolnil-spisok-pokupatelej-belorusskogo-suhogo-moloka-cherez-butb-658614-2024/>

among the countries using the domestic exchange platform to import Belarusian-made goods. As of early October 2024, 26 businesses from the UAE, 6 each from Lebanon and Egypt, 5 from Syria, 3 from Jordan, 2 from Iraq, and 1 each from Oman and Saudi Arabia were accredited on the BUTB. The UAE and Lebanon lead in terms of the total value of transactions for the first three quarters. In both cases, the trend is positive. In particular, compared to January-September last year, the turnover of Emirati participants increased 96 times in monetary terms, and that of Lebanese participants increased 1.5 times. Based on the structure of exchange sales, domestic lumber and dry milk are in the highest demand among Middle Eastern companies. They account for more than 70% of the total volume of transactions"⁸⁶⁵.

When it comes to significant events in this context, there are a number of interesting observations. For example, in early July this year, a **UAE-based company** purchased Belarusian-made feed additives through the BUTB for the first time. The fact is that companies from the Middle East had not previously concluded exchange transactions for the purchase of domestic feed additives. These first exchange transactions for the purchase of amino acids, concluded by a company from the UAE, open a new page in the development of exchange trading between Belarus and this Middle Eastern country. Until now, UAE residents have purchased only sawn timber on the exchange. In particular, "in the first half of 2024, the volume of purchases amounted to 29 thousand cubic meters, which is 5.3 times more than in the whole of 2023. The entry of Emirati companies into the agricultural products exchange market will undoubtedly give additional impetus to cooperation between Belarus and the UAE in the exchange sphere and create the conditions for further growth in mutual trade."⁸⁶⁶.

Another interesting fact. In September this year, a major distributor of dairy products headquartered in Dubai (UAE), serving the Middle East and

⁸⁶⁵ Belarusian dairy products sold to Jordan for the first time through BUTB [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/beloruskuiu-molochnuju-produktsiju-vpervve-prodali-v-iordaniju-cherez-butb-668653-2024/>

⁸⁶⁶ A company from the UAE bought Belarusian feed additives on BUTB for the first time [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/kompanija-iz-oae-vpervve-kupila-beloruskie-kormovve-dobavki-na-butb-644906-2024/>

North Africa region, intends to significantly increase its purchases of skimmed milk powder on the BSTB by the end of the year. In addition to increasing imports of 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, as well as organizing supplies of palm oil from Southeast Asian countries for the Belarusian food industry, is being worked out. It remains only to add that "in January-August 2024, the trade turnover of residents of the United Arab Emirates on the BUTB exceeded \$25.5 million. About 77% of this amount was generated by exports of Belarusian agricultural products"⁸⁶⁷.

There are plans to use the BSTB platform to supply Belarusian dairy products to **Oman** and **Jordan** as well. In the first case, the first Omani company has already been accredited on the domestic exchange platform for this purpose and 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 through the BUTB may be expanded to include items such as rapeseed oil, beet pulp and molasses, sugar, amino acids, and feed additives"⁸⁶⁸. In the second case, in October of this year, the first transactions for the sale of dairy products to the Jordanian market were already registered on the BUTB. The subject of the trial purchase was skimmed milk powder and dry milk whey with a total volume of 26 tons.

Finally, speaking of **Turkey**, we would like to remind you that as of June 1, 2024, 85 Turkish residents were accredited on the BUTB, 19 of which began participating in exchange trading only this year. Until recently, the structure of Belarusian-Turkish exchange trade was dominated by exports of forest products from Belarus, as well as ferrous metal scrap and artificial fibers. But in June 2024, a deal to purchase sugar was concluded on the BUTB for the first time. The trial purchase amounted to 136 tons. This fact indicates that "Turkey, as a country with a developed confectionery industry, is

⁸⁶⁷ UAE businesses are ready to increase purchases of dry milk on the BOTB [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/biznes-oae-gotov-naraschivat-zakupki-suhogo-moloka-na-butb-662372-2024/>

⁸⁶⁸ Zaleski, B. Potential for increasing economic cooperation between Belarus and countries in the Far Arc / Boris Zaleski. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2024. – P. 37.

undoubtedly of considerable interest in terms of exports of Belarusian sugar and other sugar beet processing products⁸⁶⁹. There is confidence that the first deal concluded by a Turkish resident company will serve as a positive signal for other Turkish businesses, including chocolate and soft drink manufacturers, for whom the exchange could become a reliable source of sought-after raw materials.

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⁸⁶⁹ At BUTB, a Turkish resident company concluded its first deal to purchase Belarusian sugar [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/na-butb-kompanija-rezident-turtsii-vpervve-zakljuchila-sdelku-na-pokupku-belorusskogo-sahara-640235-2024/>

Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange: Asian-African cooperation vector

In 2024, the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange (BUCE) increased its activity on different continents, where it showed good sales of export goods from Belarus to foreign business partners. "Among the reasons for the successful operation of the exchange platform are an increase in the number of non-resident buyers, the opening of new markets, and the introduction of additional commodity items..."⁸⁷⁰.

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 the BUTB. This is evidenced by the high positive dynamics of trade turnover and the significant number of Chinese companies using the opportunities offered by the Belarusian exchange platform. As of January 1, 2025, 247 residents of this country were accredited on the BSE, including three exchange brokers. In 2024, the volume of transactions by Chinese trading participants amounted to about \$135 million, which is 1.7 times more than in 2023. This level was achieved largely thanks to factors that contribute to the growth of Belarusian-Chinese exchange trading:

- 1) the successful activities of the BUTB representative office in Shanghai;
- 2) active interaction with Chinese regions.
- 3) transition of Belarusian and Chinese stock trading to a wide range of multi-commodity trading.

As for the BUTB representative office in Shanghai, it was established in 2023. Today, "its specialists already regularly participate in major industry exhibitions, forums, conferences, and other business events in the PRC"⁸⁷¹, providing direct contact with representatives of Chinese businesses, additional opportunities to inform potential trading participants about BUTB tools and services, and simplifying interaction with already accredited

⁸⁷⁰ Zaleski, B. Priorities of Multivectorism. Chronicle of Belarus' international economic cooperation with interested partners on different continents / Boris Zaleski. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2024. – P. 573.

⁸⁷¹ Zaleski, B. Geography of Stock Trading in Belarus. Chronicle of International Cooperation / Boris Zaleski. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2024. – pp. 51–52.

companies. During the first year of the representative office's operation, the Chinese direction of the BTB has become significantly more active – "almost 90 new tender participants, <...> export deals worth \$2-3 million weekly"⁸⁷². In November 2024, at the 7th China International Import Expo in Shanghai, the representative office's specialists held numerous meetings with Chinese companies interested in purchasing dairy and oil and fat products, as well as Belarusian-made lumber and cellulose. There is no doubt that in 2025 we will see new effective results from this structure of the BUTB.

Speaking about the interaction between the BUET and Chinese regions, several relevant facts on this topic can be cited. In November 2024, the BUET signed a memorandum of understanding with the Investment Promotion Center of Enshi Prefecture, Hubei Province. By signing this document, the parties "intend to join forces to promote exchange trading among representatives of the business community in this region of China and to take measures to encourage Chinese economic entities to join the BUTB electronic platform"⁸⁷³. It should be noted that agriculture, metallurgy, mechanical engineering, and the textile industry are well developed in this province, and its extensive transport and logistics infrastructure allows for the rapid delivery of goods to other regions of China. All this creates the conditions for mutually beneficial cooperation between the Belarusian exchange platform and the business circles of Hubei Province.

An agreement on the organization of mutual exchange trading in agricultural products and industrial goods in November 2024 was reached following negotiations between the BSE and business circles in the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region (XUAR). The main focus was to be on attracting enterprises from the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps (XPCC) to the Belarusian exchange platform, which not only plays an important role in the economy of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, but also makes a

⁸⁷² During the period of operation of the BUTB representative office in Shanghai, the number of Chinese trading participants increased 1.6 times [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/za-vremia-raboty-predstavitelstva-butb-v-shanhae-chislo-kitajskih-uchastnikov-torgov-vyroslo-v-16-raza-673733-2024/>

⁸⁷³ BUTB intends to develop exchange trading with the Chinese province of Hubei [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-namerena-razvivat-birzhevuiu-torgovlju-s-kitajskoj-provintsiej-hubei-673638-2024/>

significant contribution to the development of the foreign trade potential of the PRC as a whole. Negotiations have already been held with a number of large SPC companies interested in purchasing Belarusian meat and dairy products and rapeseed oil through the BSE. The possibility of selling industrial chemicals, workwear, and electronics manufactured in the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region on the domestic market of Belarus is also being explored. To this end, an exchange platform for industrial and consumer goods will be used, which has been regularly used by Chinese manufacturers of spare parts and components for industrial equipment since 2024.⁸⁷⁴ . An interesting fact: last year, China ranked sixth in terms of the number of companies accredited on the BUTB and second in terms of the volume of exchange turnover with Belarusian trading participants. Further growth in these indicators is planned to be achieved through even more active interaction with the regions of the PRC.

Recently, the BSE has been paying special attention to establishing contacts with producers of ferrous and non-ferrous rolled metal, which accounts for about 85 percent of the turnover of the metal products section. At the end of October 2024 "following meetings with Chinese metallurgists, it is planned to organize their participation in exchange trading for the domestic market of Belarus, which will increase the supply of metal on the exchange platform, increase competition among foreign suppliers, and create more favorable purchasing conditions for Belarusian enterprises in the real sector of the economy"⁸⁷⁵ . Speaking about imports of metal products from China, given the structure of exchange transactions in 2024, rolled steel is of greatest interest to Belarusian consumers. This includes hot-rolled sheet, rebar, round bars, electric-welded pipes, angles, and channels. As for metals themselves, these are primarily aluminum, tin, nickel, zinc, as well as ferroalloys such as ferromanganese, ferromolybdenum, and ferrochrome.

⁸⁷⁴ Belarus and Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region to establish trade through BUTB [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/torgovlju-cherez-butb-naladajat-belarus-i-sintsizian-ujgurskij-avtonomnyj-rajon-676369-2024/>

⁸⁷⁵ 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/>

From January to September last year, the total value of transactions in this area amounted to almost 23 million Belarusian rubles.

And in total, over the ten months of 2024, the amount of exchange transactions in the "Industrial and Consumer Goods" category of the BUTB exceeded Br967 million, which is 35% more than in the same period of 2023. The largest sales volumes were generated by vehicles, special equipment, spare parts and components for industrial equipment, industrial tools, electronics, and video and audio recording equipment.⁸⁷⁶ . Also in this area, namely the textile industry, at the beginning of November 2024, the pool of foreign sellers using the BUTB platform was joined by another Asian country when a Chinese manufacturer of raw materials and supplies sold its products on BUTB for the first time. The transaction for the supply of polyurethane membrane with knitted mesh to one of the Belarusian textile companies amounted to about one and a half million Belarusian rubles. The entry of Chinese suppliers into the exchange certainly contributes to an increase in the concentration of supply at auctions and, in the long term, will have a positive effect on the dynamics of Belarusian-Chinese trade.

However, it must be acknowledged that in 2024, Belarusian-produced timber products still dominated the structure of trade turnover between the BUTB and its Chinese partners, accounting for 95 percent of the total. At the same time, importers of woodworking products from China are ready to increase their purchases of sawn timber, as they are attracted to the Belarusian-Chinese Trade and Economic Center by the opportunity to purchase these products directly from Belarusian manufacturers at transparent market prices, as well as a range 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 wood raw materials and wood products in China, in 2024 "concluded exchange transactions for the purchase of edged sawn timber of coniferous species with a total volume of 11 thousand cubic meters, and from 2025 plans

⁸⁷⁶ The geography of suppliers of raw materials for the Belarusian textile industry has expanded on BUTB [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/geografija-postavschnikov-svrjija-dlja-belorusskoj-tekstilnoj-promyshlennosti-rasshirilas-na-butb-677213-2024/>

to participate even more actively in trading⁸⁷⁷ in order to achieve even higher performance, including by expanding the size range of sawn timber. Overall, in the first 11 months of 2024, Chinese residents topped the list of the five largest importers of Belarusian wood products on the BUWB. During this period, they purchased 1.5 times more of these products than during the same period in 2023. And at the beginning of 2025, the pool of Chinese buyers of sawn timber who regularly participate in export trading sessions already numbers about 85 companies.

Another interesting observation: in 2024, a key trend in exchange trading between Belarus and China was a pronounced shift towards multi-commodity trading. For example, "if a year ago, practically the entire volume of exchange trade with China was provided by exports 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"⁸⁷⁸. At the end of November 2024, the first 23 tons of Belarusian butter were sold through the BUTB to a Chinese dairy product importer in Qingdao, Shandong Province. Previously, this company had already purchased dry milk and dry milk whey at BUTB auctions. Given its successful experience with the Belarusian exchange platform, it decided to expand the range of goods it purchases. In December 2024, the first deal for the sale of meat products to China was concluded on the BUTB, when a Chinese importer purchased 25 tons of semi-finished beef products at an exchange auction, with a large meat processing enterprise from the Brest region acting as the seller. Overall, in 2024, Chinese exports of agricultural products developed both in terms of quantity and quality. "The total value of transactions increased sixfold compared to 2023, reaching \$2.1

⁸⁷⁷ Chinese businesses are ready to increase purchases of Belarusian sawmill products at exchange auctions [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/kitaiskij-biznes-gotov-naraschivat-zakupki-belorusskoj-piloproduksii-na-birzhevnyh-torgah-679946-2024/>

⁸⁷⁸ Transition to multi-commodity trading: China has started buying Belarusian butter on the BUOTB [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/perehod-k-multitovarnosti-kitaj-nachal-pokupat-na-butb-belorusskoe-slivochnoe-maslo-679094-2024/>

million, and the product portfolio was expanded to include butter, dry milk whey, and meat products"⁸⁷⁹.

In turn, Chinese manufacturers began to actively supply Belarus not only with ferrous metal products, but also with various components and spare parts for industrial equipment and electrical engineering. In January 2025, the first exchange transaction was concluded on the BUTB for the purchase of components for electric vehicle charging stations directly from a Chinese manufacturer. The cost of the equipment amounted to 893 thousand Belarusian rubles. The fact is that the field of electric transport, including the charging infrastructure for electric vehicles, is currently actively developing in Belarus. This involves the purchase of the appropriate equipment, and China, as is well known, is a world leader in this field. Therefore, in order to assist Belarusian enterprises in organizing imports of charging stations and accessories from China, a number of Chinese manufacturers were accredited to participate in the tender. This deal became "part of a set of measures to develop the industrial and consumer segment of exchange trading between Belarus and China, which was successfully launched in mid-2024 and is gradually gaining momentum. Thus, at the end of last year, the amount of exchange transactions for the import of equipment, spare parts, and components from China reached \$1 million"⁸⁸⁰. So, in 2025, the interaction between the Belarusian exchange platform and Chinese partners will, apparently, continue to develop along an upward trajectory, as has become traditional. All this indicates an increase in Chinese business interest in the Belarusian exchange market, which has a positive impact on the dynamics of mutual trade. Currently, the Chinese market accounts for 11% of total exchange exports, placing China in second place in terms of this indicator. And this is not the limit.

In another **East Asian** country, BUTB acquired a new partner in 2024 – **the Mongolian Commodity Exchange (MCE)** – with which it signed a

⁸⁷⁹ Belarusian meat products sold to China for the first time through the BUTB [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/beloruskie-mjasoprodukty-vpervye-prodanv-v-kitaj-cherez-butb-685396-2024/>

⁸⁸⁰ Chinese manufacturer of electric vehicle charging equipment sold its products on B2B for the first time [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/kitaiskij-proizvoditel-zariadnogo-oborudovanija-dlja-elektromobilej-vpervye-prodal-produktsiju-na-butb-688167-2025/>

memorandum of cooperation to exchange experience, information, and technologies, facilitate the establishment of direct contacts between economic entities of the two countries, hold business events, create favorable conditions for Belarusian and Mongolian companies to participate in exchange trading, 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 measures, which will form the basis for further interaction between the commodity exchanges of Belarus and Mongolia"⁸⁸¹.

In 2024, the BUTB intensified cooperation with two **South Asian** countries, **India and Pakistan**. In particular, in November last year, the Belarusian exchange 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 conduct import and export transactions with goods on the BUTB. "For India, these are sawn timber, flax fiber, synthetic threads, and plastic products, and for Belarus, rice, food raw materials, fruit and vegetable products, and cotton yarn"⁸⁸². In addition, in December last year, the BUTB 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 the four Indian companies already accredited there.

Incidentally, one of them concluded its first deal for the purchase of sawn timber in early November 2024. A manufacturer of wall paneling and flooring from Delhi used the exchange's targeted trading mechanism to conclude a contract for 3,000 cubic meters. Prior to this, wood products had not been sold on the Indian market through exchange trading, although India is undoubtedly an attractive export destination for Belarusian wood processing companies. "Every year, this South Asian country imports about

⁸⁸¹ Commodity exchanges of Belarus and Mongolia signed a memorandum of cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/товарные-биржи-беларуси-и-монголии-заклужили-меморандум-о-сотрудничестве-639163-2024/>

⁸⁸² BUTB and the Indian Chamber of International Business agreed on areas of cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-i-indijskaia-palata-mezhdunarodnogo-biznesa-soglasovali-napravlenija-sotrudnichestva-678777-2024/>

30 million cubic meters of timber from abroad. <...> Coniferous wood species, which are common in Belarus, are in particular demand, which opens up wide opportunities for the supply of domestic sawn timber products to the Indian market"⁸⁸³. It is noteworthy that a targeted mechanism was used to conclude the first deal with an importer from India, , which involves a simplified accreditation procedure on the exchange and a symbolic exchange fee of one Belarusian ruble from the buyer. Overall, the volume of transactions on the BUTB 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 enormous"⁸⁸⁴. So, in 2025, the parties plan to achieve much higher results.

The BSE 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 for exchange transactions, including the use of various financial mechanisms to secure obligations"⁸⁸⁵. A memorandum of understanding will be signed for further cooperation, which will define the key objectives, principles, directions, and forms of joint work between the two exchanges.

Secondly, with **the Association of Pakistan Timber Traders (APTTA)**. In December last year, BUTB and APTTA 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 products, given their high demand in Pakistan, could be a starting point for long-term mutually beneficial cooperation between Belarusian and

⁸⁸³ India has started purchasing Belarusian sawn timber through the BUTB [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/indija-nachala-pokupat-beloruskie-pilomaterialy-cherez-butb-673332-2024/>

⁸⁸⁴ BUTB plans to accredit an exchange broker in India [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-planiruet-akkreditovat-v-indii-birzhevogo-brokera-683642-2024/>

⁸⁸⁵ BUTB and Pakistan Commodity Exchange agree to intensify cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-i-pakistanskaja-tovarnaja-birzha-dogovorilis-ob-aktivizatsii-sotrudnichestva-674954-2024/>

Pakistani businesses in the exchange sector⁸⁸⁶. This agreement will give a much-needed boost to the development of trade and economic relations between the two countries.

Now let's move on to **Central Asia**. The development of exchange trading between Belarus and Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan in 2024 was marked by high dynamics. In just eight months of last year, the total value of transactions by trading participants from these five countries amounted to \$56 million, which is almost four times more than in the same period of 2023. Moreover, growth in exchange turnover was observed in all countries of the region. For example, "the volume of transactions with **Tajikistan** increased sixfold in value terms. In Belarus, Tajik companies mainly purchased edged softwood lumber and exported cotton yarn. In addition, in September, the first exchange contracts were concluded for the supply of Belarusian dry milk and whey to Tajikistan"⁸⁸⁷. In the same month, the first Tajik non-resident exchange broker was accredited on the BUTB. This will attract importers of sawn timber and agricultural products from this Central Asian country.

The growth in exchange turnover was noted in transactions between the BSE and **Uzbek** companies in 2024: \$55 million, which is three times more than in 2023. Interestingly, "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 circles of Uzbekistan"⁸⁸⁸. As a result, last year saw an expansion in the range of goods bought and sold on the BUTB by Uzbek enterprises. In particular, from mid-2024, Belarusian skimmed and whole milk powder began to be sold on the Uzbek market. The total value of transactions for August-December exceeded four million dollars. As for imports, last year Uzbekistan actively supplied raw materials for the textile

⁸⁸⁶ BUTB will cooperate with the Pakistan Timber Merchants Association [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-budet-sotrudnichat-s-assotsiatsiej-torgovtsev-lesoproduktsiej-pakistana-684173-2024/>

⁸⁸⁷ BUTB accredited the first exchange broker in Tajikistan [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-akkreditovala-nervogo-birzhevoogo-brokera-v-tadzhikistane-660324-2024/>

⁸⁸⁸ The volume of stock trading in Belarus and Uzbekistan has tripled [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/objem-birzhevoi-torgovli-belarusi-i-uzbekistana-uvlichilsja-v-tri-raza-688691-2025/>

industry to Belarus, namely cotton carded yarn and raw fabric. The total value of transactions for these items increased by 1.5 times by 2023.

As for **Kazakhstan**, it is the largest buyer of sugar on the BUTB. In particular, in January-May 2024 alone, Kazakhstani exchange participants purchased 29,000 tons of white granulated sugar, which is 4.7 times more than in the same period of 2023⁸⁸⁹. As part of the 24th Kazakhstan International Exhibition "Food, Beverages, Ingredients, Packaging and Equipment for the Food Industry" – InterFood Astana 2024, which took place in May in Astana, representatives of the BUTB held talks on cooperation with a number of Kazakhstani enterprises interested in purchasing agricultural products at exchange auctions. This involves the import of dairy products and sugar, and in the future, other food products manufactured in Belarus. For reference, as of May 1, 2024, 122 residents of Kazakhstan, including one brokerage company, were accredited on the BUTB.

In 2025, BUTB intends to intensify business ties with partners from **Kyrgyzstan**, although last year's stock exchange trading figures were quite good. According to the results of the first 10 months of 2024, exchange trade turnover with this Central Asian country increased 2.4 times, to \$5.7 million. Almost 65% of this amount was provided by exports of Belarusian butter. Other popular commodities imported to Kyrgyzstan through the exchange included granulated sugar, skimmed milk powder, and rennet cheese.⁸⁹⁰. As of early November 2024, 30 residents of Kyrgyzstan were accredited on the BUTB, five of whom participated in exchange trading for the first time last year. It is planned to give an additional impetus to the development of Belarusian-Kyrgyz exchange trade by involving new liquid positions in mutual trade, expanding the circle of Kyrgyz trading participants, and deepening inter-exchange cooperation. This involves 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

⁸⁸⁹ BUTB expects to increase exports of Belarusian agricultural products to Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-rasschitvvaet-uvlichit-eksport-belorusskoj-selhozproduksii-v-kazahstan-637599-2024/>

⁸⁹⁰ Belarus and Kyrgyzstan to strengthen exchange cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-kyrgyzstan-usilijat-birzhevoj-vektor-sotrudnichestva-678941-2024/>

and technologies of the BSE. In this regard, the Belarusian and Kyrgyz exchanges have reached a preliminary agreement to sign a cooperation agreement in 2025, which will form the basis for further joint work between the two countries' exchange platforms.

Azerbaijan stands out as one of the active partners of the BSE in the **South Caucasus**. "In the first 10 months of 2024, companies from this country concluded exchange transactions worth more than \$91 million, exceeding the January-October figure for last year by two and a half times. All of this was exports of Belarusian goods, mainly woodworking products, which accounted for 90% of shipments"⁸⁹¹. The growth in sales on the BUTB is primarily due to the expansion of the circle of regular buyers from Azerbaijan. After all, their number has increased by almost one and a half times. As of early 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 last year, the first deals for the export of meat by-products were registered on the BUTB. The seller was one of the leading meat processing enterprises in 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 amounted to 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 trading between Belarus and Azerbaijan in 2025 .

Turkey is one of the promising partners of the BUTB 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 last year, the exchange turnover of Turkish companies exceeded \$17 million. This is 2.5 times more than in the same period of 2023, and the growth was driven not by one, but by several commodity sectors. Belarusian sawn timber, sugar, wheat gluten, milk powder, ferrous metal

⁸⁹¹ Belarusian meat products sold in Azerbaijan for the first time through BUTB [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belorusskaja-mjasoproduktsija-vpervye-realizovana-v-azerbajdzhan-cherez-butb-673064-2024/>

scrap, and flax fiber were supplied to Turkey, while polyester yarn and threads, which are in demand in the Belarusian textile industry, were purchased for import.⁸⁹²

In November 2024, the **Istanbul Commodity Exchange (ISTIB)** confirmed its interest in working with the BUTB on all relevant aspects of the bilateral and multilateral agenda. ISTIB plans to add new promising items to the list of bilateral cooperation areas, especially in the agro-industrial complex segment. In the same month, the BSE held its first successful auction of flax products for export. 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. It should be noted that the last time this commodity was traded on the foreign market at the BSE was back in 2005. Now, "with the help of the exchange mechanism, it is planned to expand the export opportunities of Belarusian flax processors and ensure more effective pricing for 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"⁸⁹³. It remains to be added that further work on the development of export exchange trading in flax fiber will be carried out in two directions: expanding the pool of foreign buyers and attracting Belarusian flax factories to the exchange platform.

Finally, let's get acquainted with BUTB's partners on the African continent. Back in July 2024, three companies from **Kenya, East Africa**, successfully passed the accreditation procedure at BUTB. Until then, residents of this country had not participated 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 Kenyan coffee, vegetables, and fruits will be supplied to the Belarusian market. The fact is that it is advisable to start exchange trading

⁸⁹² BUTB and Istanbul Commodity Exchange to develop cooperation in BRICS [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-istambulskaja-tovarnaia-birzha-budut-razvivat-sotrudnichestvo-v-briks-678324-2024/>

⁸⁹³ Belarusian flax fiber sold for export through BUTB for the first time [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/beloruskoe-linjanoe-voлокno-vpervye-prodano-na-eksport-cherez-butb-676512-2024/>

with a new country with highly liquid products that can ensure a stable flow of goods in both directions right from the start. "In the case of Belarus and Kenya, these are undoubtedly agricultural products, both raw materials and goods with higher added value"⁸⁹⁴. Kenyan companies in Belarus are primarily interested in dry dairy products, frozen semi-finished meat products, and cereals, while Kenya is ready to supply coffee beans and fruit and vegetable products, including avocados and mangoes.

In **West Africa**, in the fall of 2024, BUTB 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. It should be noted that "the Nigerian exchange platform mainly trades in raw materials such as cocoa beans, coffee beans, wheat, corn, cotton, millet, and rice, while the BUTB also widely represents highly processed products"⁸⁹⁵. In addition, the BUTB 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 between Belarus and Nigeria and create the conditions for growth in mutual trade.

In November 2024, BUTB and the **Ghana Commodity Exchange (GCX)** identified promising areas of cooperation between the two electronic platforms in terms of developing mutual exchange trading and technology transfer. Taking into account the range of goods currently available on the BUTB and GCX platforms, the parties intend to focus on agricultural products, as "this product group provides a wide field for cooperation in both export and import, which fully meets the interests of both countries"⁸⁹⁶.

⁸⁹⁴ First companies from Kenya accredited on BUTB [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/pervve-kompanii-iz-kenii-akkreditovany-na-butb-648277-2024/>

⁸⁹⁵ BUTB to cooperate with the Nigerian Commodity Exchange [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-budet-sotrudnichat-s-nigerijskoi-tovarnoi-birzhei-672175-2024/>

⁸⁹⁶ Commodity exchanges of Belarus and Ghana have identified promising areas of cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL:

Moreover, Ghana has expressed its willingness to assist in attracting producers of goods in high demand in Belarus, such as soybeans, corn, and rice, to the BUTB auction, while Belarus plans to supply Ghana with meat products, flour products, and wheat gluten. So, in the near future, the partners intend to take new concrete steps to implement joint projects in order to open up new markets and reliable sources of imports on the African continent.

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Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange: steady growth in trading participants brings success

The steady influx of foreign participants into the Belarusian exchange market showed that 2024 was one of the most successful years in the history of the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange (BUCX). The figures speak for themselves. 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 in trading. These are manufacturing and trading companies from Venezuela, Vietnam, Iraq, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Oman, and Saudi Arabia. Second, the total number of foreign economic entities accredited on the BSE increased by almost 1,100 companies and reached 7,945 by the end of 2024. Third, the positive trend in this context continues this year. In January 2025, 75 new participants from abroad joined the Belarusian stock exchange. And in early February, the first company from Indonesia was accredited on the BSE. The new participant in stock trading plans to use the capabilities of the Belarusian trading platform to purchase sawn timber and dairy products.⁸⁹⁷ Thus, the geography of BUTB's foreign clients has once again expanded and now covers 79 countries. As of February 1 of this year, 35,513 companies, including 8,020 foreign participants, have been accredited on the Belarusian exchange platform.

One of the key areas of BUTB's work on the external front 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 steady increase in the volume of exchange turnover. At the beginning of 2025, 4,258 participants from Russia, 146 from Kazakhstan, 48 from Armenia, and 30 from Kyrgyzstan were accredited on the BSE. At the same time, positive dynamics in the volume of mutual exchange trading has been achieved with virtually all EAEU countries. In particular, trade turnover with Russia increased 3.5 times, with Kazakhstan – 4.2 times, and with Kyrgyzstan – 2.4

⁸⁹⁷ BUTB accredited the first company from Indonesia [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-akkreditovala-pervuju-kompaniju-iz-indonezii-695107-2025/>

times"⁸⁹⁸. Overall, in 2024, the total value of exchange transactions between Belarusian enterprises and economic entities of other EAEU countries amounted to more than one billion dollars, which is 3.3 times more than in 2023 and is a record result in the entire history of the BUTB. Nevertheless, the Belarusian stock exchange will continue to increase its cooperation with the countries of the Eurasian "five" in 2025.

For example, with **Kazakhstan**. According to stock exchange trading statistics, in 2024, imports of Kazakhstani products accounted for less than one percent of the total stock exchange turnover of the two countries. At the same time, "as of February 24, 2025, 154 residents of Kazakhstan were accredited on the BSE. In 2024, the total value of transactions concluded by Kazakhstani participants in exchange trading amounted to \$29 million, which is four times more than in 2023"⁸⁹⁹. In this context, it is planned to work out in detail a list of export-oriented goods produced in Kazakhstan in order to identify the most promising items that would be advisable to supply to Belarus through exchange trading. After all, grain, flour, ferrous and non-ferrous metal products, and coal will all be in demand among Belarusian consumers, and the BUTB will help cut out unnecessary intermediaries and contribute to strengthening trade and cooperation ties between enterprises in Kazakhstan and Belarus. To this end, it is necessary to intensify efforts to inform small and medium-sized enterprises in Kazakhstan about the opportunities for trading on the Belarusian exchange platform.

And already in March of this year, the BUTB signed two documents in Astana with two leading exchange platforms in Kazakhstan – JSC "Commodity Exchange "Eurasian Trading System" (ETS) and JSC "Commodity Exchange "Caspian". The first document is a cooperation agreement, and the second is a memorandum of cooperation. These documents "will serve as the legal basis for the development of mutually beneficial inter-exchange cooperation between Belarus and Kazakhstan, aimed at expanding the use of electronic exchange instruments, involving

⁸⁹⁸ Belarus' trade turnover with EAEU countries has grown more than threefold [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/birzhevoi-tovarooborot-belarusi-so-stranami-eaes-vyros-bolee-chem-v-tri-raza-689299-2025/>

⁸⁹⁹ Belarus and Kazakhstan intend to increase the volume of exchange trading [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-kazahstan-namereny-naraschivat-objemy-birzhevoi-torgovli-698367-2025/>

economic entities of both countries in exchange trading, and increasing mutual exchange turnover"⁹⁰⁰. This indicates that this cooperation is reaching a qualitatively new level, which will result in a multiple increase in the volume of exchange trading, the 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 measures for the implementation of the cooperation agreement and memorandum of cooperation. The priority is to simplify mutual access for Belarusian and Kazakh companies to the commodity markets of both countries.

In March, a Belarusian-Kazakh seminar in Astana examined the role of exchange trading in the development and strengthening of trade and economic cooperation between Belarus and Kazakhstan. The event was attended by over 50 representatives of Kazakh businesses interested in working on the BSE, where all key aspects of the organization and conduct of exchange trading were discussed and current commodity items for mutual electronic trading between the two countries were identified. Thus, "in terms of exports, the main efforts are planned to focus on increasing supplies of Belarusian sawn timber, meat and dairy products, and feed additives, and in terms of imports, on purchases of Kazakhstani metal products, coal, grains, meal, and oilseeds for industrial processing"⁹⁰¹. It should be noted that in January-February 2025, the total value of transactions by Kazakhstani participants in the exchange increased by 36 percent. The structure of the exchange turnover between Belarus and Kazakhstan was dominated by imports of Belarusian dry milk, butter, sugar, and sawn timber.

When it comes to other countries **of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)**, **Uzbekistan** stands out. As of the end of February 2025, 188 residents from this Central Asian country have already been

⁹⁰⁰ BUTB signed cooperation agreements with two leading exchange platforms in Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-podpisala-dokumenty-o-sotrudnicestve-s-dvumja-veduschimi-birzhevymi-platformami-kazhastana-700392-2025/>

⁹⁰¹ Belarus and Kazakhstan to strengthen exchange-based trade and economic cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-kazhastan-usiljat-birzhevoe-napravlenie-torgovo-ekonomicheskogo-sotrudnicestva-700133-2025/>

accredited on the BSE, three of whom have the status of exchange brokers. "Last year, Uzbek exchange traders concluded deals totaling \$54.8 million, which is three times more than in 2023. In 2025, there has already been a nearly twofold increase in trade turnover: \$9.6 million in January this year compared to \$5.2 million in January 2024"⁹⁰². In February this year, a delegation from the BUTB 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 supplies of Belarusian sawn timber and agricultural products to the Uzbek market. There was also considerable interest among Uzbek business circles in using exchange trading instruments to purchase and sell a wide range of raw and non-raw goods. In particular, in addition to importing wood products, Uzbek business representatives expressed their willingness to purchase meat products and feed additives on the BUTB and to place orders on for the sale of food raw materials, including nuts and dried fruits. The plans are not only to increase the number of exchange trading participants from this country, but also to diversify the structure of Belarusian-Uzbek exchange trade, which will ensure its stable positive dynamics in the long term. In 2024, Uzbekistan ranked fourth after Russia, China, and Azerbaijan in terms of the total amount of exchange transactions concluded on the BUTB. More than 90 percent of all transactions were purchases of Belarusian sawn timber, milk powder, and sugar. Belarus mainly supplied cotton yarn through the exchange, which is in high demand among textile industry enterprises. The issue of expanding the range of goods involved in exchange trading between the two countries, both in terms of exports and imports, is relevant.

As for **Moldova**, 62 residents from this CIS country are currently accredited on the BUTB. Moldova is undoubtedly a promising market for Belarusian products, and the range of goods supplied to this country through exchange trading is expanding every year. For example, in 2023, the first deals were made to buy Belarusian sugar, and in 2024, a trial batch of skimmed milk powder was sold on the Moldovan market. In February 2025,

⁹⁰² Uzbekistan's businesses to expand presence on Belarusian stock exchange [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/biznes-uzbekistana-rasshirit-prisutstvie-na-belorusskoj-birzhevoj-ploschadke-698799-2025/>

"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"⁹⁰³. The appearance of butter in the structure of Belarusian and Moldovan exchange turnover will have a positive impact on the dynamics of mutual trade volumes and will attract more Moldovan businesses specializing in the import and distribution of agricultural products to the exchange platform.

Among the main partner countries of the Belarusian Unitary Enterprise Trade and Business (BUETB) from the "far arc" that showed high results on the Belarusian stock exchange in 2024, **China** should be highlighted. After all, exports of products from Belarus to China through the BUTB grew 1.6 times last year, to almost \$130 million. "The largest volume of transactions was accounted for by products of the timber industry, namely sawn timber from coniferous species. In addition, over the past year, dry milk, butter, dry milk cream, and semi-finished beef products were actively supplied to the Chinese market through exchange trading"⁹⁰⁴. This year, Chinese businesses continue to show increased interest in Belarusian-made goods: in the first two weeks of January, exchange transactions totaling more than three and a half million dollars were already made.

And in February 2025, in order to expand the circle of Chinese metallurgical enterprises selling products in demand in Belarus on the exchange, the BUTB accredited a new exchange broker from Zhejiang Province – Wenzhou Ruijun Steel Co. (Wenzhou Ruijun Steel Co. Ltd.). This company has been cooperating with the commodity exchange since 2021 and has considerable experience in using the exchange mechanism to supply rolled metal products to the market of our republic. It is expected that in its capacity as a broker, Wenzhou Ruijun Steel will focus on attracting Chinese steel producers to the exchange platform, which will contribute to an increase in the supply of these products on the exchange and, as a result, provide more favorable purchasing conditions for domestic consumers. The fact is that

⁹⁰³ Belarusian butter sold in Moldova for the first time through BUTB [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/beloruskoe-slivochnoe-maslo-vpervye-prodano-v-moldovu-cherez-butb-696416-2025/>

⁹⁰⁴ Belarus increased its exchange exports to China by 1.6 times in 2024 [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-v-16-razavelichila-birzhevoi-eksport-v-kitaj-za-2024-god-691039-2025/>

against the backdrop of declining global demand for metallurgical products, Chinese manufacturers have begun to take an active interest in the Belarusian market, using exchange trading as their point of entry. And only "in 2024, 90 new companies from China entered the trading market, while the exchange imports of Chinese metal to Belarus increased almost sixfold in value terms compared to 2023. Pipe and sheet metal products dominated the structure of transactions"⁹⁰⁵. Of course, the emergence of a broker specializing in metal products will not only have a positive impact on sales of Chinese metal in Belarus, but will also give additional impetus to the development of cooperation between our countries in the exchange sphere.

And in March of this year, the first transaction for the sale of technical casein to the Chinese market took place with the help of BUTB. The purchase volume amounted to 21 tons. "The seller was one of the leading milk processing enterprises in the Minsk region, and the buyer was a trading company from Beijing specializing in the import and distribution of dairy products,"⁹⁰⁶. The expansion of the range of commodities exported to China through the exchange is linked to the steady increase in the number of trading participants from that country. Since the beginning of 2025, 12 new residents have been accredited on the BUTB. Such interest from Chinese businesses in the Belarusian exchange platform not only contributes to increased competition during trading, but also creates favorable conditions for the emergence of additional commodity items supplied to China through the exchange. This year, the development of exchange trading 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, as of March 1, 2025, 259 residents of the PRC were accredited on the BUTB, including four with the status of exchange brokers.

Continuing the theme of Belarusian-Chinese cooperation in exchange trading, we note that in February of this year, the BSE agreed on cooperation

⁹⁰⁵ 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/>

⁹⁰⁶ Belarusian casein sold to China for the first time through the exchange [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belorussskij-kazein-vpervve-prodan-v-kitaj-cherez-birzhu-700342-2025/>

with the Huayao Association of Chinese Compatriots. This is a non-profit organization established under the leadership of the Chinese Embassy in Belarus. 's members are Chinese citizens permanently residing in Belarus, as well as legal entities with Chinese capital⁹⁰⁷. It will assist the BUTB in expanding the circle of exchange trading participants from China, as well as, in accordance with its competence, inform Chinese businesses about the opportunities and advantages of the exchange platform. The BSE, in turn, is ready to take on the entire range of issues related to the organization and support of export and import activities of Chinese residents in Belarus, including consulting, marketing support, search for business partners, training in the basics of exchange trading, and assistance in concluding transactions.

In 2025, the BUTB apparently intends to intensify cooperation in exchange trading with another foreign country, **India**. At the beginning of this year, eight Indian companies were accredited on the Belarusian electronic platform, six of which joined the exchange in 2024. The total amount of exchange transactions concluded by Indian residents last year amounted to \$1.6 million. At the same time, since the beginning of this year, Belarusian-Indian trade turnover has already approached \$1 million. The entire volume of exchange sales was provided by exports of Belarusian sawn timber.⁹⁰⁸. In January 2025, Singla Timbers, a major Indian importer of sawn timber, announced its readiness to deepen cooperation with BUTB. This involves not only increasing the volume of purchases of Belarusian sawn timber products, but also exploring other promising segments of the commodity market with a view to concluding import and export deals. The company began participating in exchange trading about a year ago. Based on the 11 deals it has already concluded, it has fully assessed the potential of the BUTB as a tool for interacting with Belarusian enterprises. In connection with , this Indian importer is ready to take the next step and plans to purchase pallet boards starting in 2025. Currently, this product is mainly imported to India from Australia in volumes of 50-60 thousand cubic meters per month. In addition,

⁹⁰⁷ BUTB to cooperate with association of Chinese compatriots [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-budet-sotrudnicat-s-assotsiatsiei-organizatsii-kitajskih-sootechestvennikov-694280-2025/>

⁹⁰⁸ Indian businesses interested in expanding activities with BUTB [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/indijskii-biznes-zainteresovan-v-rasshirenii-dejatelnosti-s-butb-690860-2025/>

the company would like to engage in export and supply goods from India and neighboring countries to Belarus. 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 was concluded on the BUTB for the sale of textile raw materials from India on the domestic market of Belarus. "A pilot purchase of 20 tons of combed sliver (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 Punjab"⁹⁰⁹. This deal showed how the use of the exchange mechanism helped the Belarusian company to quickly purchase the necessary raw materials directly from a foreign manufacturer. Secondly, this is a significant step in the development of Belarusian-Indian exchange trading, since until now, the basis of exchange trade between our countries has been sawn timber, which has been supplied to the Indian market since November last year. It is reasonable to assume that the emergence of a new promising commodity item will give additional impetus to cooperation between Belarus and India in the exchange sphere and will have a positive impact on the dynamics of the volume of transactions concluded by Indian trading participants.

In February of this year, the BUTB Exchange Education Center held its first practical seminar on exchange trading for representatives of Indian businesses, thereby expanding the geography of its educational services exports. The event was held online in English, with traders from a textile manufacturer in West Bengal acting as listeners. This Indian company plans to supply its products to the Belarusian market through the exchange platform. Thus, one of the tasks of the Belarusian Trade and Economic Chamber for this year is already being implemented: Indian 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

⁹⁰⁹ Indian textile raw materials manufacturer sells its products on BUTB for the first time [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/indijskij-proizvoditel-tekstilnogo-svrjija-vpervve-prodal-svoju-produktsiju-na-butb-699298-2025/>

participants"⁹¹⁰. Holding specialized training events for Indian residents not only helps them get more economic benefits from participating in exchange trading, but also makes a big contribution to promoting the exchange mechanism in the context of developing trade and economic cooperation between countries.

In 2024, the BUTB was able to actively promote cooperation with another foreign country, **Turkey**. "First, the trade turnover of Turkish trading participants 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"⁹¹¹. Currently, 107 Turkish residents are accredited on the BUTB. And in the first two months of this year, the value of transactions by Turkish companies on the Belarusian exchange increased by 1.5 times compared to the same period in 2024, reaching just under \$5 million. Exports from Belarus were dominated by edged softwood lumber, flax fiber, and ferrous metal scrap, while Turkey mainly imported carded yarn, which is in demand in the Belarusian textile industry. In addition to wood products, Belarusian sugar, wheat gluten, skimmed milk powder, and flax fiber began to be supplied to the Turkish market, and imports increased due to purchases of textile raw materials by Belarusian light industry enterprises. In 2024, 38 new companies from Turkey joined the BUTB user pool, which also had a positive impact on the dynamics of exchange trade between the two countries. To ensure high growth rates in Belarusian-Turkish stock exchange trade in the long term, there are plans to establish closer cooperation with the MÜSIAD association, which unites over 60,000 Turkish companies, which will open up new opportunities for business entities in Belarus and Turkey, providing them with a convenient platform for doing business together.

In short, the positive trends in the expansion of foreign companies' presence on the Belarusian stock exchange in 2024 show that this year,

⁹¹⁰ BUTB expands the geography of educational services exports [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://www.butb.by/news/2025/butb-rasshirila-geografiyu-eksporta-obrazovatelnykh-uslug/>

⁹¹¹ The stock exchange turnover between Belarus and Turkey has increased by 1.5 times since the beginning of 2025 [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/birzhevoi-tovarooborot-belarusi-i-turtsii-vvros-v-poltora-raza-s-nachala-2025-goda-701676-2025/>

participants in stock trading on the BSE will not only increase sales volumes to traditional markets, but also open up new supply channels.

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Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange: from East Asia to West Africa

In 2025, the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange (BUCX) took a major new step in the development of exchange trading in our country. In the first quarter of this year, the total amount of export exchange transactions on the BUCX increased by almost one and a half times and amounted to 1.3 billion Belarusian rubles. The most popular Belarusian goods abroad were sawn timber, milk powder, meat, butter, and feed additives. At the same time, in the first three months of 2025, 774 new companies (470 residents and 304 non-residents) were accredited to participate in exchange trading. As of March 31, 2025, more than 36,000 companies were accredited, of which more than 8,000 were non-residents from 81 foreign countries⁹¹².

When it comes to specific countries that actively participate in the work of the BUTB, **Russia** is, of course, the leader in this list, not only ranking first in terms of trade volume among all countries represented on the Belarusian exchange platform, but also being the largest destination for exchange exports. At the end of the first quarter of this year, deliveries of Belarusian goods to the Russian market grew by more than 40 percent in value terms, exceeding \$200 million. Russian companies mainly buy meat products, milk powder, butter, cheese, and feed additives at auctions. Belarusian participants are most interested in grain, plant protection products, veterinary drugs, and food raw materials. The growth rate of transactions in this segment of the commodity market was 135 percent. In addition to agricultural products, metallurgical and woodworking products, building materials, lubricants, polymer products, and a wide range of industrial and consumer goods also demonstrated high liquidity on the exchange over the three months. "In particular, export sales of Belarusian gas silicate blocks to Russia increased by 26%, ferrous and non-ferrous metal scrap by 12%, and industrial products by 3%. In turn, Russian enterprises increased sales of

⁹¹² The number of transactions on the BUTB trading platform increased by a third in the first quarter [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/kolichestvo-sdelok-na-torgah-butb-za-i-kvartal-vvroslo-na-tret-712291-2025/>

polymers and polymer packaging by 63%, ferroalloys by 22%, and ferrous rolled products by 6%.⁹¹³

And according to the results of January-April, Russian exports grew by another 20% compared to the same period in 2024, exceeding \$310 million, which is significantly more than China and Uzbekistan, which ranked second and third, respectively. This demonstrates the sustained interest of Russian businesses in the tools offered by the BUTB and the desire of Russian companies to develop cooperation with Belarus in the field of electronic exchange trading. It remains only to add that as of mid-May this year, "4,522 Russian residents, including seven exchange brokers, are accredited on the BUTB. Thus, since the beginning of the year, the number of Russian trading participants has increased by 264 companies"⁹¹⁴.

In May of this year, the Natproektstroy group of companies, one of Russia's largest construction holdings, expressed interest in cooperating with the BUTB. The discussion focused on the possible use of exchange trading for the procurement of materials, equipment, and machinery for the construction of transport and energy infrastructure facilities. Not only Belarusian and Russian enterprises, but also companies from other countries accredited on the BUTB will be able to act as suppliers. In particular, one of the areas of cooperation with the Natproektstroy Group may be the purchase of aerated concrete blocks produced by the Belarusian cement company. Since export exchange trading of these products is conducted on the BUTB on a regular basis, and the seller is the direct manufacturer, working through the exchange will ensure regular deliveries and the proper quality of goods. It should be noted that "in January-April 2025, 257,000 cubic meters of aerated concrete wall blocks were sold abroad, which is 32% more than in the same period in 2024. The entire volume was purchased by residents of Russia"⁹¹⁵.

⁹¹³ Stock exchange turnover in Belarus and Russia grew by 17% [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/birzhevoj-tovarooborot-belarusi-i-rossii-vvros-na-17-706573-2025/>

⁹¹⁴ BUTB: Russian companies continue to lead in terms of the total value of stock exchange transactions [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-rossijskie-kompanii-po-prezhnemu-lidirujut-po-summe-birzhevih-sdelok-715396-2025/>

⁹¹⁵ One of Russia's largest construction holdings plans to cooperate with BUTB [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/odin-iz->

Recently, there has been an increase in exchange trading of BUBS with other countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). For example, with **Azerbaijan**. In 2024, transactions concluded by Azerbaijani companies on the Belarusian exchange platform "accounted for more than 20% of the total trade volume between Belarus and Azerbaijan, while compared to 2023, the exchange turnover of the two countries increased almost 2.5 times"⁹¹⁶. As of early May this year, 156 business entities from this South Caucasus country had already been accredited on the BUTB, of which about a third regularly participate in trading. Lumber is in the highest demand among Azerbaijani importers. This item accounts for over 90 percent of the exchange turnover between our countries. However, the situation is gradually changing, and based on statistics from 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 rapidly. At the end of the first four months of this year, purchases of these goods already exceeded the total for the whole of 2024 by 30 percent. In May, at the Belarusian-Azerbaijani Business Forum, the first BUTB broker 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, conducting settlements, and organizing logistics. In addition, to enhance cooperation with the business community of Azerbaijan, a memorandum of cooperation was signed between the BUTB and the Agency for the Development of Small and Medium-Sized Businesses of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The combined efforts of the agency and the exchange will make it possible to more effectively inform Azerbaijani entrepreneurs about the opportunities for 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.

[krupnejshih-stroitelnyh-holdingov-rossii-planiruet-sotrudnichat-s-butb-716037-2025/](https://belta.by/economics/view/birzhevaia-torgovlja-obespechila-bolee-20-tovarooborota-belarusi-i-azerbaidzhana-712981-2025)

⁹¹⁶ Stock trading accounted for 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>

Another CIS country that intends to increase the volume of exchange trade turnover, expand the range of goods, and increase the number of users of the BUTB trading platform in 2025 is **Turkmenistan**. "At the end of last year [2024], the amount of exchange transactions by Turkmen participants grew 25 times – from \$80,000 to almost \$2 million. Moreover, all of this was Belarusian exports, namely sawn timber and dry milk"⁹¹⁷. In May of this year, at the International Trade and Services Exhibition (ITSE-2025) in Ashgabat, representatives of the BUTB expressed interest in developing cooperation with Turkmen businesses, both in terms of increasing the volume of transactions and expanding the range of goods involved in mutual trade. This is especially true given that "compared to January-April last year, the value of exchange transactions by Turkmen trading participants has grown more than fivefold, primarily due to an increase in exports of Belarusian products"⁹¹⁸. As for imports from this Central Asian country, the most promising product groups are textiles and fruit and vegetable products. In this regard, negotiations were held on the sidelines of the ITSE 2025 forum with a number of Turkmen producers of these products to attract them to the Belarusian exchange platform. A meeting was also held with the State Commodity and Raw Materials Exchange of Turkmenistan, at which opportunities for intensifying cooperation were discussed, including in the field of analytics and technology exchange, which will contribute to increasing the efficiency and competitiveness of the Belarusian and Turkmen exchange platforms. It should be added that as of April 30, 2025, 21 residents of Turkmenistan were accredited on the BSE, six of whom came last year with the aim of purchasing products from the woodworking and dairy industries.

As for **Georgia**, in 2024, the volume of exchange trading with this South Caucasus country grew almost fourfold on the BSE, reaching nearly \$13 million, and 27 new Georgian companies began to use the exchange

⁹¹⁷ BUTB and the Embassy of Turkmenistan agree on cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-i-posolstvo-turkmenistana-dogovorilis-o-sotrudnichestve-707495-2025/>

⁹¹⁸ BUTB will assist Turkmen enterprises in entering the Belarusian market [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-posodejstvuet-turkenskim-predpriyatijam-v-vvhode-na-belorusskij-rynok-712486-2025/>

mechanism. "To date, the Georgian market has mainly been supplied with forestry products, including sawn timber, sleepers, posts, and stakes, as well as dry whole and skimmed milk. In turn, Georgian companies sold raw materials and semi-finished products from poultry, pork, and beef on the exchange,"⁹¹⁹. And in March of this year, the first transaction for the sale of butter to the Georgian market was registered on the BUTB. The purchase volume amounted to eight tons. It is expected that the expansion of the range of exchange exports to Georgia will serve as an incentive for new buyers from this country to enter the Belarusian exchange platform and create the conditions for a further increase in mutual trade turnover.

In March 2025, the first deal to sell Belarusian meat by-products to **Uzbekistan** was also registered. "The Uzbek importer who made the purchase was accredited to the BUTB in February 2025 as part of a set of measures to diversify the sales markets for domestic meat industry products"⁹²⁰. This indicates that the volume of meat and meat products exported through the Belarusian exchange platform is showing steady positive growth, and the circle of foreign buyers is constantly expanding. In particular, in January-February of this year, foreign companies purchased almost 9,000 tons of meat and semi-finished meat products on the BUTB, which is more than half of the total sales volume in the past year. In monetary terms, exports of meat products exceeded \$40 million. At the same time, compared to 2024, the geography of buyers has expanded, and Belarusian meat products are now supplied through the exchange to Azerbaijan, China, Russia, and also to Uzbekistan.

Now let's move on to **East Asia** – to **China**. By mid-May of this year, 274 residents from this country had already been accredited on the BTB, "four of whom have the status of exchange brokers. Since the beginning of the year, 27 new companies have joined the pool of Chinese users of the exchange

⁹¹⁹ Belarus and Georgia have expanded the range of goods traded on the exchange [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-gruzija-rasshirili-tovarnuju-nomenklaturu-birzhevoj-torgovli-704568-2025/>

⁹²⁰ Belarus has expanded the range of meat products exported to Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-rasshirila-nomenklaturu-birzhevo-go-eksporta-mjasnoj-produktsii-v-uzbekistan-702458-2025/>

platform"⁹²¹. In the same month, Belarusian flax fiber began to be sold to China through the BUTB. "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"⁹²². This event is important for three reasons. First, it is an additional incentive for Belarusian flax factories to offer more products for exchange trading. Second, it is a positive signal for Chinese importers who are interested in the Belarusian market but have not yet decided to enter the exchange platform for one reason or another. Thirdly, the expansion of the pool of foreign buyers increases the level of competition during BUTB trading sessions, allowing domestic exporters to conclude deals on more favorable terms. Thus, the geography of flax fiber sales through the exchange now covers four countries: China, Latvia, Russia, and Turkey. Cottonized and short fiber, as well as combed lint, are exported. Since the launch of exchange trading in flax fiber, 570 tons of this product have been sold to foreign markets.

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

⁹²¹ A major producer from the Chinese city of Karamay is to be accredited on the BUTB. What will be sold and bought [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/na-butb-akkreditujut-krupnogo-proizvoditelja-iz-kitajskogo-goroda-karamaj-cto-stanut-prodavat-i-714542-2025/>

⁹²² Belarusian flax fiber began to be sold to China through the exchange [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belorussskoe-inovolokno-nachali-prodavat-v-kitaj-cherez-birzhu-715888-2025/>

at the BSE. In the first four months of 2025, the total value of transactions for these product groups already exceeded 100 million Belarusian rubles, which is one-third more than in January–April 2024. At the same time, demand from Belarusian trading participants is showing steady growth, and the presence of suppliers from this city at the trading sessions would have a positive impact on the level of competition. Karamay, as one of the centers of China's oil industry, can play a key role here. As for promising areas of cooperation in the exchange sector, the parties noted such items as polymer packaging, plastic containers, polyethylene film, technical oils, and additives. Belarus could offer agricultural products, direct deliveries from leading Belarusian milk processing enterprises, meat processing plants, and oil extraction plants. As a result of these negotiations, the parties agreed on the accreditation of a large Karamay-based manufacturer of polymer products on the BUTB with the aim of selling plastic containers used for food and non-food products and polyester granules on the Belarusian exchange platform.

As for **Southeast Asian** countries, at the end of the first quarter of 2025, 13 companies from four countries – Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore – were registered on the BUTB. On the last day of March, the first company from **Myanmar**, which plans to purchase Belarusian dairy products on the exchange, successfully completed the accreditation procedure. Almost all companies from these five countries have been accredited on the exchange platform over the past six months with the aim of purchasing dairy products. Participants from **Singapore** are the most active in trading. "By the end of 2024, the amount of their transactions had grown 1.6 times, to \$28 million. The entire volume of sales was provided by imports of Belarusian sawn timber, cellulose, and skimmed milk powder. This year, Singaporean exchange trading continues to develop dynamically. Thus, in January-March, the exchange turnover between Belarus and Singapore amounted to \$13.6 million, which is 5.2 times more than in the first quarter of 2024."⁹²³ . In 2025, Belarusian exports will continue to dominate the structure of exchange trading with Southeast Asian countries, as this is due to the high level of demand for the main export commodity items sold through the BUET. These

⁹²³ Another Southeast Asian country will trade on the BUTB [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/na-butb-budet-torgovat-esche-odna-strana-iugo-vostochnoj-azii-706041-2025/>

are primarily softwood lumber and dry dairy products. It is expected that in the short and medium term, these product groups will be the key drivers of growth in the volume of exchange transactions between enterprises of the Republic of Belarus and residents of SE Asian countries.

Speaking of the **Middle Eastern** countries that were among the leaders in terms of the total amount of exchange transactions with Belarusian residents in the first quarter of 2025, we would like to note the **United Arab Emirates** (UAE) as one of the key markets for Belarusian goods in this region. "In January-March, Emirati companies concluded stock exchange transactions for the purchase of Belarusian products worth about \$24 million. This is nine times more than in the first quarter of last year. Belarusian sawn timber, milk powder, and amino acids were in the highest demand among UAE traders,"⁹²⁴. In April this year, the BSE agreed to establish cooperation with the Dubai Gold and Commodities Exchange (DGCX) in the field of clearing, which will improve the efficiency of settlements and reduce the risks for Belarusian traders, especially when conducting cross-border transactions. It is expected that the introduction of clearing with the assistance of the DGCX will help attract large Emirati importers to the BSE and contribute to further growth in the exchange turnover of the two countries. And in May 2025, the list of goods involved in exchange trading between Belarus and the UAE expanded again. Now, in addition to sawn timber, dry milk, and feed additives, businesses in the two countries have begun trading in textile products, with the first deal to sell Belarusian-made cottonized linen fiber to the UAE market. The buyer was an Emirati food and service holding company, one of whose areas of activity is the manufacture of textile products – workwear, bed linen, kitchen towels, and other linen products. It should be noted that "as of May 22, 2025, 35 companies from the UAE are accredited with the BUTB"⁹²⁵.

⁹²⁴ BUTB and Dubai Gold and Commodities Exchange to cooperate in clearing [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-i-dubajskaja-birzha-zolota-i-tovarov-budut-sotrudnicat-v-sfere-kliringa-707027-2025/>

⁹²⁵ 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/>

Another Middle Eastern country, **Syria**, began using the BUTB platform in May this year to trade with Belarusian dairy companies, where the first deal for the supply of dry milk was concluded. The purchase volume amounted to 100 tons. The seller was one of the leading milk processing enterprises in the Vitebsk region, and the buyer was an importer and distributor of food products from the Syrian province of Idlib, accredited on the BUTB at the end of April. In addition to Syria, the pool of Middle Eastern buyers of domestic dairy products on the exchange also includes countries such as Jordan, Lebanon, the UAE, Oman, and Saudi Arabia. "In the first four months of this year, exchange exports of dairy products reached \$205 million, which is 29% more than in the same period last year. The sales leader is milk powder, accounting for 61% of the total volume of export transactions"⁹²⁶.

Turkish companies are also actively using the digital infrastructure and tools of the Belarusian Trade and Business Portal in trade with Belarusian enterprises, acting as importers and exporters of a range of raw materials and non-raw materials. Statistics show that "in 2024, the exchange turnover between Belarus and Turkey more than doubled, reaching \$20.8 million. <...> In particular, in January-April 2025, the growth rate was 109% compared to the same period in 2024"⁹²⁷. This year, purchases of Belarusian sawn timber continue to dominate the structure of exchange transactions, accounting for almost 90 percent. At the same time, new commodity items with great potential for scaling up supplies are gradually being added. For example, last year, began selling Belarusian flax fiber, sugar, wheat gluten, and skim milk powder to the Turkish market, and in 2025, the first exchange contracts were concluded for the supply of "wet-blue" semi-finished leather products to Turkey. In addition, Turkish participants regularly purchase ferrous and non-ferrous metal scrap at exchange auctions, supply raw materials to domestic textile manufacturers, and sell equipment for the food industry in our country.

⁹²⁶ Belarusian dairy products sold to Syria for the first time through BUTB [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/beloruskuiu-molochku-vpervve-prodali-v-siriju-cherez-butb-712882-2025/>

⁹²⁷ The digital infrastructure of BUTB is in demand among Turkish businesses trading with Belarusian companies [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/tsifrovaia-infrastruktura-butb-vostrebovana-turetskim-biznesom-v-torgovle-s-predpriyatijami-belarusi-715310-2025/>

It should be added that as of mid-May this year, 112 Turkish residents have already been accredited on the BUTB, more than half of whom came to the Belarusian exchange platform between 2023 and 2025.

On the European continent, **Serbia** stands out in terms of cooperation with the BUTB as Belarus' key trade and economic partner in the Balkans. "Over the past year, the stock exchange turnover between Belarus and Serbia has increased 37 times"⁹²⁸. And in the first four months of this year, Serbian companies concluded deals on the exchange for a total amount exceeding three million dollars, which is ten times more than in the same period last year. At the same time, the commodity structure of the exchange trade turnover between Belarus and Serbia has been expanded with new items. In particular, "while in January-April 2024, only Belarusian butter was supplied to Serbia, this year Serbian exchange participants actively purchased skimmed and whole milk powder in Belarus, as well as sold herbicides and sugar beet seeds"⁹²⁹. In May 2025, at the business forum "Logistics, Trade, Investment. Belarus – a key point of entry to the EAEU market" as part of the Novi Sad International Agricultural Fair in the Serbian city of Novi Sad, representatives of the BUTB focused the attention of Serbian small and medium-sized enterprises operating in the agricultural sector on expanding trade in sugar and rapeseed oil. Intensified cooperation with Serbian businesses will open up additional purchasing opportunities for Belarusian exchange participants, who will be able to purchase the locally produced goods they need, including seeds, plant protection products, and food raw materials, without intermediaries. As of the second half of May, eight Serbian residents were accredited on the BUTB. The immediate plans now are to accredit a brokerage company in this Balkan country, which will represent the interests of the BUTB and assist in attracting Serbian business circles in order to take stock exchange trading between Belarus and Serbia to a qualitatively new level.

⁹²⁸ 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/>

⁹²⁹ Serbian companies' trade turnover on the BUTB has grown tenfold [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/tovarooborot-serbskih-kompanij-na-butb-vvros-v-10-raz-716218-2025/>

Finally, let's see how the Belarusian exchange's ties with its **African** partners develop in 2025. By mid-May of this year, 15 companies from six countries on this continent, including Egypt, Kenya, Côte d'Ivoire, the Seychelles, Senegal, and South Africa, had already been accredited by the BSE. 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 trading for Belarus, so the BUTB 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"⁹³⁰. Sugar can also be considered a promising export commodity. As for imports to Belarus from Africa, soybeans and cocoa beans, textile raw materials, mango puree, and other exotic fruits are likely to be in demand.

More specifically, in March of this year, the first exchange transaction for the export of dairy products to **Senegal** was registered on the BUTB. "The subject of the transaction was a batch of 125 tons of dry whole milk. The seller was a large domestic milk processing enterprise from the Grodno region, and the buyer was a Senegalese food importer headquartered in Dakar, which had been accredited the day before"⁹³¹. This fact indicates that this **West African** country is of considerable interest to Belarusian dairy producers. Firstly, Senegal itself is a major consumer of milk powder and regularly needs supplies from abroad to meet domestic demand. "Last year, the country imported almost 34,000 tons of milk products worth \$106 million"⁹³². Secondly, for Belarusian milk processing enterprises, this is not only a promising sales market, but also an opportunity to strengthen their

⁹³⁰ BUTB assessed the prospects for expanding stock exchange cooperation with African countries [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-otsenila-perspektivy-rasshirenija-birzhevogo-sotrudnichestva-so-stranami-afriki-714267-2025/>

⁹³¹ Belarus plans to supply milk powder to West Africa through BUTB [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-planiruet-postavljat-suhoe-moloko-v-zapadnuju-afriku-cherez-butb-703207-2025/>

⁹³² Belarus plans to supply milk powder 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/>

position in the region as a whole, for example, by using Senegal as a point of access to potential buyers from Guinea, Mauritania, and Mali.

And finally, as of mid-May 2025, 8,350 foreign companies were accredited on the BSE. This fact alone convincingly shows that foreign firms "on the Belarusian stock exchange <...> will not only increase sales volumes to traditional markets, but also open up new supply channels"⁹³³. This includes the Commonwealth of Independent States, East Asia, the Middle East, the Balkans, and West Africa.

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⁹³³ Zaleski, B. Challenges of Turbulence. The Trajectory of Belarus' International Economic Cooperation / Boris Zaleski. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2025. – P. 41.

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