

Cooperation reserves

Central Asia is a region that is a link between Asia and Europe, where a unique experience of economic development has been accumulated. The five countries - Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan - are home to 80 million people, with a combined gross domestic product of 450 billion dollars. Significant reserves of uranium, oil and gas are concentrated here. The Chinese megaproject "One Belt, One Road" and the international transport corridor "North-South" are being implemented here. Here they are striving to modernize and develop innovative potential. For this reason, even in the conditions of global geopolitical turbulence, the countries of the region have been able to form a space of trust and respect, removed barriers to regional cooperation, and created a foundation for the development of multifaceted and multilateral cooperation with the states of the world. In this regard, the Republic of Belarus is actively developing trade and economic, industrial and cooperative, scientific and technical, cultural and humanitarian ties with the five Central Asian States. What tasks in this regard are already being solved in practice and defined for the future? This is the subject of the proposed study.



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Transformation of Belarus' economic cooperation

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CHAPTER 1

BELARUS - UZBEKISTAN

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The goal is a billion dollars

In June 2019, Minsk hosted the seventh meeting of the Belarusian-Uzbek intergovernmental commission for bilateral cooperation, during which the parties discussed priority areas of interaction, including agro-industrial complex, machine-building, food and pharmaceutical industries, and light industry, paying special attention to **industrial cooperation**. The fact is that back in September 2018 at the talks between the heads of state A. Lukashenko and Sh. Merziyoyev it was noted that "the countries have the potential to increase trade turnover up to \$1 billion"¹. The task is supposed to be solved in three to four years, actualising all possible areas of cooperation. But the priority area of cooperation "should be the expansion of production cooperation in machine-building, agro-industrial complex, transport and pharmaceutical industries, information technology"². A little later, in November 2018, at the level of heads of government of the two countries, it was announced that the parties "will work on the creation of joint production of milk, medicines, medical equipment, mini-tractors and attachments, as well as bicycles, a joint transport and logistics enterprise"³.

We would like to remind that by the time the roadmap for the development of cooperation between Belarus and Uzbekistan was signed, three assembly plants of Belarusian machinery were already operating in Uzbekistan. In particular, the Amkodor-Agrotechmash joint venture produces road-building machines. "UzBelAgromash produces a line of machines from Bobruiskagromash: tractor trailers, fodder spreaders-mixers, mowers. In addition, MTZ tractors are assembled at the Tashkent Agricultural Machinery Plant. The co-operation between the enterprises was launched in 2016"⁴. As for Minsk Tractor Plant, in September 2018 at the Belarusian-Uzbek business forum in Tashkent, the company's management voiced plans to open another assembly plant in Uzbekistan - this time for caterpillar and garden machinery. "The new enterprise, which was agreed to be located in Karakalpakstan, will

¹ Matievsky, M. Lukashenko and Merziev consider it possible to raise the level of trade turnover to \$1 billion / M Matievsky // [Electronic resource]. - 2018. - URL:

https://www.belta.by/president/view/lukashenko-i-mirzиеev-schitajut-vozmozhnym-podnjat-uroven-tovarooborota-do-1-mlrd-317697-2018/?utm_source=belta&utm_medium=news&utm_campaign=accent

² Negotiations with the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Merziev [Electronic resource]. - 2018. - URL: <http://president.gov.by/ru/news/ru/view/peregovory-s-prezidentom-uzbekistan-shavkatom-mirzиеevym-19489>

³ Signing of the roadmap for the development of co-operation between Belarus and Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. - 2018. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/8364>

⁴ Matievsky, M. Belarus and Uzbekistan plan to create joint ventures in pharmaceuticals, machine building and agro-industrial complex / M. Matievsky // [Electronic resource]. - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/special/economics/view/belarus-i-uzbekistan-planiruiut-sozdat-sovmestnye-predpriiati-a-v-farmatsevtike-mashinostroenii-i-apk-317534-2018/>

produce about 200 agricultural machinery per year."⁵ .

Gomelmash Holding is also considering the possibility of creating joint assembly plants of machinery in Uzbekistan. In February 2019, its specialists held negotiations "with representatives of the Hokimiyat of Tashkent region, the management of Uzagrotekhsanoatholding JSC, Tekhnolog JSC, visited the dealership centre of SN INVEST LLC"⁶ . Other economic entities of Gomel region have interesting prospects for development of production cooperation with Uzbek partners. Among them are Gomel Regional Agricultural Experimental Station, confectionery factory "Spartak", as well as JSC "SvetlogorskKhimvolokno", whose products are in great demand in this Central Asian country. For this reason, "Uzbek investors are ready to invest their capital to develop the enterprise"⁷ .

Hrodna Region is also planning to contribute to the development of Belarusian-Uzbek industrial cooperation. Thus, within the framework of the international business forum "Euroregion Neman-2018", held in September 2018 in Grodno, it was announced about the start of construction of a cotton processing plant in Smorgon with the participation of Uzbek capital. "The volume of investments will amount to about 30 million euros. <...> The enterprise will employ about 1.2 thousand workers"⁸ . The new enterprise is expected to be put into operation within two years. An important detail: the construction of the plant will be carried out by the resident of the free economic zone "Grodnoinvest" - Uzbek LLC "Europlastics Invest". The enterprise's products are planned to be exported to the markets of the European Union countries - Poland, France and Germany. At the same time, in September 2018, the Baranovichi Cotton Production Association joined the Uzbek cluster of cotton producers. The essence of this interaction is to grow cotton on Uzbek land, process it and "take the material for yarn, threads that are needed <...> at the mill. It turns out to be cheaper and more expedient"⁹ .

⁵ MTZ will open assembly production of caterpillar and garden machinery in Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/mtz-otkroet-sborochnoe-proizvodstvo-gusenichnoi-i-sadovoi-tehniki-v-uzbekistane-318069-2018/>.

⁶ "Gomelmashch" plans to establish joint assembly facilities in Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. - 2019. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/gomelmash-planiruet-sozdat-sovmestnye-sborochnye-proizvodstva-v-uzbekistane-338356-2019/>.

⁷ Uzbekistan is interested in industrial cooperation with Gomel region [Electronic resource]. - 2018. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/uzbekistan-zainteresovan-v-promyshlennoj-kooperatsii-s-gomelskoj-oblastju-327270-2018/>.

⁸ Cotton processing plant will be built in Smorgon [Electronic resource]. - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/zavod-po-pererabotke-hlopka-postrojat-v-smorgoni-317921-2018/>.

⁹ Matievskiy, M. Baranovichi Combine entered the Uzbek cluster of cotton producers / M. Matievskiy // [Electronic resource]. [Electronic resource]. - 2018. - URL:

In addition, Motovelo zavod LLC plans to become an active participant in production cooperation with Uzbek partners. In August 2018, it signed a letter of intent with the Hokimiyat of the Andijan region to establish production of bicycle equipment in the region. The parties agreed "to establish long-term and mutually beneficial co-operation, as well as to provide the JV with preferences and benefits established for other joint ventures with foreign investment in Uzbekistan"¹⁰. UzShoes, a footwear manufacturing company founded by the Belarusian holding company Marko, has been operating on Uzbek soil since 2018. Note also that "in September 2018, a new plant for assembling Amkodor machinery was opened in Tashkent by the presidents of Belarus and Uzbekistan"¹¹. Finally, Belarus and Uzbekistan intend to develop mutually beneficial cooperation in the confectionery industry, where "we are talking about the creation of a licence production facility. On the Belarusian side, the Kommunarika confectionery factory is taking part in the project"¹².

At the seventh meeting of the intergovernmental commission, the Belarusian side proposed to implement new large-scale projects in the **machine-building** sector to create production facilities for trucks, special and trailer vehicles, and gas-fuelled buses. Moreover, the Minsk Automobile Plant is already "ready to take part in the creation of such production facilities with a high degree of localisation"¹³. As for co-operation in **agriculture**, the parties reached an agreement on

to create dairy complexes in Uzbekistan "at the expense of the Uzbek side with the involvement of Belarusian design and construction organisations".

organisations, with the involvement of Belarusian design and construction organisations

equipment, as well as supplies of cattle of Belarusian selection"¹⁴. And they

<https://www.belta.by/economics/view/baranovichskij-kombinat-voshel-v-uzbekskij-klaster-proizvoditelej-hlopka-317839-2018/>

¹⁰ Motovelo zavod will create a JV in Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. - 2018. - URL:

<https://www.belta.by/economics/view/motovelo-zavod-sozdast-sp-v-uzbekistane-314017-2018/>

¹¹ Belarus - Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. - 2019. - URL:

<http://mfa.gov.by/bilateral/cis/uzbekistan/>

¹² Belarus and Uzbekistan plan to create a joint production of confectionery products

[Electronic resource]. - 2018. - URL:

<https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-uzbekistan-planirujut-sozdat-sovmestnoe-306531-2018/>

¹³ Vladimir Dvornik took part in the meeting of the intergovernmental commission on bilateral cooperation between Belarus and Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. - 2019. - URL:

<http://government.gov.by/ru/content/8847>

¹⁴ The government of Belarus offers Uzbekistan large-scale projects on production of machinery [Electronic resource]. - 2019. - URL:

<https://www.belta.by/economics/view/pravitelstvo-belarusi-predlagaet-uzbekistanu-masshtabnye-proekty-po-proizvodstvu-tehniki-113-2019/>

have already made concrete steps in this direction. In particular, back in April 2019, a joint venture Zdravushka Tashkent was established in Tashkent region to build a milk processing plant and a dairy complex for one thousand cattle.

Speaking about the prospects for cooperation in the **light industry**, we note that in the first quarter of 2019, the trade turnover of Bellegprom Concern's enterprises with Uzbekistan exceeded four and a half million dollars. Fabrics of Mogotex OJSC, Kamvol OJSC, pile fabrics of Belfa OJSC, corsetry products of Milavitsa JV CJSC were supplied from Belarus to the Uzbek market. The bulk of imports was cotton yarn, knitted fabrics and cotton fibre. Nevertheless, Bellegprom Concern is considering additional opportunities for cooperation and development of co-operative ties with Uzbek partners. It is a question of joint work "on supplies of demanded products - yarn from synthetic fibres, fabrics, pile fabrics, corsetry and hosiery, cotton yarn"¹⁵.

The agreement signed in June 2019 by the administrations of the free economic zones Vitebsk and Kosonsoy Farm in Namangan region of Uzbekistan on cooperation in the investment and information spheres opens up new opportunities for Belarusian-Uzbek cooperation in the pharmaceutical sector. The fact is that FEZ "Kosonsoy-Pharm", established in May 2017, specialises in the development of enterprises in the pharmaceutical industry, in which several residents of FEZ "Vitebsk" also operate. In why "attraction of investments in projects to create production facilities for medicines and medical devices is one of the most promising areas of co-operation between the administrations of the two FEZs"¹⁶.

In autumn 2018, Belarus and Uzbekistan also signed an intergovernmental treaty on socio-economic cooperation for 2019-2023, which reflects the key agreements reached at the highest level to develop Belarusian-Uzbek relations and bring them to a qualitatively new level, including in the **science and technology sector**.¹⁷ At the same time, the State Committee for Science and Technology of Belarus and the Ministry of Innovative Development of Uzbekistan reached an

¹⁵ "Bellegprom" plans to expand cooperation with Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/bellegprom-planiruet-rasshirit-sotrudnichestvo-s-uzbekistanom-333-2019/>

¹⁶ FEZ "Vitebsk" and Uzbek "Kosonsoy-Farm" will develop investment co-operation [Electronic resource]. - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/sez-vitebsk-i-uzbekskaj-a-kosonsoj-farm-budut-razvivat-investitsionoe-sotrudnichestvo-352766-2019/>

¹⁷ Belarus and Uzbekistan sign an agreement on co-operation in science and technology [Electronic resource]. - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-uzbekistan-podpisali-soglashenie-o-sotrudnichestve-y-oblasti-nauki-i-i-tehnologij-317747-2018/>

agreement on cooperation in science and technology, which envisaged the development and strengthening of long-term scientific and technical cooperation in such priority areas as energy, medicine, nano- and biotechnology, information and communication technologies, robotics, agro-industrial technologies, as well as an agreement to "carry out joint scientific and technical projects in the field of science and technology". To coordinate this interaction, the two sides established a joint commission on cooperation in science and technology, the first meeting of which was held in April 2019 in Minsk and within the framework of which an executive programme of scientific, technical and innovation cooperation for 2019-2020 was signed.

According to this document, the two former Soviet republics agreed to develop scientific and technical

co-operation on advanced technologies, implement joint scientific and technical projects, co-operate in the exchange of scientific and technical information, and conduct research and development of mutual interest. These are projects in the fields of mechanical engineering, agriculture and agro-industrial technologies, medicine and pharmacy, new materials, information and communication technologies, as well as in the field of science and technology. technologies, genetics

biotechnologies selected "based on the results of the contest of joint scientific and technical projects for 2019-2021, which was held in priority areas of bilateral cooperation <...>. In addition, the parties plan to establish at least two joint research laboratories in Belarus and Uzbekistan"¹⁸. All in all, a list of 15 joint projects in various spheres for co-financing has been agreed upon. And a number of concrete steps have already been taken to develop this area of co-operation.

Thus, in February 2019, the Belarusian National Technical University and Islam Karimov Tashkent State Technical University agreed to establish a joint science and technology park, which will become the first university-based entity of innovation infrastructure in Uzbekistan. BITU's science and technology park "Polytechnik" will participate in this project as a co-founder, which "will allow to integrate the scientific and innovative potential of BITU and TashSU, to scale up the experience of the Belarusian university in business incubation of high-tech projects, to jointly develop knowledge-intensive production of international level with the participation of students,

¹⁸ Belarus and Uzbekistan realise 15 joint scientific and technical projects [Electronic resource]. - 2019. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-uzbekistan-realizujut-sovmestnyh-nauchno-tehnicheskijh-proektov-343295-2019/15>

masters and doctoral students of both universities"¹⁹. The first priority joint innovation project in the technopark will be the development and production of medical devices.

²⁰In April 2019, it became known that the same universities - the Belarusian National Technical University and the Tashkent State Technical University - will be the founders of the Belarusian-Uzbek Interindustry Institute of Applied Technical Qualifications, where the main focus of work will be "training, retraining, internship and advanced training of personnel in areas of strategic importance for Uzbekistan on the basis of joint educational programmes, as well as the implementation of scientific, innovative activities of the Institute. Training at the new institute will be conducted in Russian in such areas as intelligent devices, machines and production, computer mechatronics, biotechnical and medical devices and systems, management of innovative projects of industrial enterprises. An important detail: graduates will be awarded a diploma of a Belarusian university, which is recognised as a document of higher education in this Central Asian country.

The Belarusian State University is also serious about co-operation with Uzbek partners. The thematic range of potential cooperation in the innovation sphere was clearly demonstrated by its exposition at the exhibition of Belarusian manufacturers Made in Belarus held in September 2018 in Tashkent, where more than 30 scientific and technological developments in the fields of agriculture, medicine and pharmaceuticals, food industry, as well as measuring instruments, equipment for the production of polyurethane foam products, technologies for the application of functional coatings, and the creation of heat-resistant water purification materials were presented. The participants and visitors of the exhibition also showed great interest in the stand of BSU "antitumour drugs Temodex, Prospidelong and Cisplacel". They cause the death of cancer cells, prevent metastasis, and help reduce the toxic load on the body"²¹. It should be noted that this topic is also important for Belarus and Uzbekistan in terms of industrial co-operation. After all, "the parties are planning to create two pharmaceutical enterprises. One will

¹⁹ The first university technopark is being created in Uzbekistan with the participation of BITU [Electronic resource]. - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/special/society/view/v-uzbekistane-pri-puchastii-bntu-sozdaetsja-pervyj-universitetskij-tehnopark-with-BITU's-participation-335511-2019/>

²⁰ The Belarusian-Uzbek Institute of Applied Technical Qualifications will be set up in Belarus Tashkent [Electronic resource]. - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belorusko-uzbekskii-institut-prikladnyh-tehnicheskikh-kvalifikatsij-sozdadut-v-tashkente-345862-2019/>

²¹ More than 30 scientific and technical developments will present BSU at the exhibition in Tashkent [Electronic resource]. - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/bolee-30-nauchno-tehnicheskikh-razrabotok-predstavit-bgu-na-vystavke-v-tashkente-317246-2018/>

specialise in the production of oncological drugs, the other - in the production of medicines developed on the basis of medicinal herbs growing in Uzbekistan"²² . In total, more than a hundred scientific and technical developments from organisations of the Ministry of Education and the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus were presented at this exhibition in Tashkent .

The Belarusian State Pedagogical University named after M. Tank, which in September 2018 facilitated the opening of the Nizami Tashkent State Pedagogical University on the basis of the Belarusian-Uzbek Belarusian-Uzbek educational centre,

considered by the parties "as a platform for the development and strengthening of Belarusian-Uzbek cooperation in education and culture"²³ .

In addition, these universities are jointly implementing an educational programme in speech therapy and a project within the framework of the programme at the second level of higher education in the network form of interaction in the specialties of "inclusive education" and "correctional pedagogy".

As we can see, the documents adopted in the autumn of 2018 at the level of the heads of state and government of Belarus and Uzbekistan began to yield real results quite quickly. Suffice it to say that already at the end of 2018, "mutual trade turnover increased by 2.5 times"²⁴ . And there is every reason to believe that if the current dynamics of expansion of Belarusian-Uzbek interaction continues, the goal set by the presidents of the two countries to achieve a mutual trade turnover of one billion dollars will be successfully fulfilled in the coming years.

The commission outlines priorities for co-operation

The eighth meeting of the joint intergovernmental commission on bilateral cooperation between Belarus and Uzbekistan was held in early March 2021 in Tashkent. It discussed issues related to the development of trade and economic, investment and cooperation ties, strengthening relations in the

²² Matievsky, M. Belarus and Uzbekistan plan to create joint ventures in pharmaceuticals, machine building and agro-industrial complex / M. Matievsky // [Electronic resource]. - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/special/economics/view/belarus-i-uzbekistan-planiruiut-sozdat-sovmestnye-predpriyatija-v-farmatsevtike-mashinostroenii-i-apk-317534-2018/>

²³ Grishkevich, A. Belarusian-Uzbek educational centre opened in Tashkent Pedagogical University / A. Grishkevich // [Electronic resource]. - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belorusko-uzbekskij-obrazovatelnyj-tsentr-otkrylsja-v-tashkentskom-peduniversitete-318451-2018/>

²⁴ Growth of trade turnover and new projects - Ambassador of Uzbekistan on the dynamics of relations with Belarus [Electronic resource]. - 2019. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/rost-tovarooborota-i-novye-proekty-posol-uzbekistana-o-dinamike-otnoshenij-s-belarusiju-333099-2019/>

scientific, educational, social and humanitarian spheres, interregional cooperation, information technologies, and tourism.

Diplomatic relations between the two former Soviet republics were established in January 1993. In 2020, the Belarusian-Uzbek trade turnover grew by another 17 per cent and exceeded \$280 million with the share of supplies from Belarus - more than \$237 million. "The main items of Belarusian exports last [2020] year were trucks, tractors and tractor-trailers, meat and meat products, sugar and dairy products, medicines, vaccines, and blood serums"²⁵. Noting these positive trends, the parties at the meeting of the intergovernmental commission nevertheless focused their attention on those issues, the solution of which would help to bring bilateral relations to a qualitatively new level. One of such urgent priorities was the expansion of the legal framework of Belarusian-Uzbek cooperation, which had more than 70 agreements until March 2021. The eighth meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission contributed to its further expansion.

In particular, the National Metrology Institutes of Belarus and Uzbekistan signed in Tashkent an agreement on co-operation, which defines the main areas of interaction for the next five years. The document refers to the close partnership of the parties in the development and implementation of programmes to create national and working measurement standards. "Another direction is participation in the development of interstate documents on the issues of ensuring the uniformity of measurements to solve the problems of harmonisation of national legislations and development of common principles of activity in this field"²⁶. In addition, the programme of cooperation for 2021-2023 was adopted by the State Committee for Standardisation of Belarus and the agency "Uzstandart", which outlined comparisons of state measurement standards, calibration of measurement standards and working measuring instruments, as well as participation of laboratories in proficiency testing programmes. All this, together with the planned establishment of a permanent group, should help to resolve issues related to technical barriers to trade between the two countries. Another important aspect of cooperation between Belarus and Uzbekistan in this area is that the Eurasian Economic Union currently has a draft agreement on procedures and conditions for the elimination of technical barriers to mutual

²⁵ Belarus aims at further development of bilateral relations with Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. - 2021. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/9736>

²⁶ The Institutes of Metrology of Belarus and Uzbekistan signed an agreement on co-operation [Electronic resource]. - 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/instituty-metrologii-belarusi-i-uzbekistana-podpisali-soglashenie-o-sotrudnichestve-431178-2021/>

trade with third countries in high readiness. In this regard, the Belarusian Gosstandart is "working on the possibility and making a proactive proposal that the first pilot project under this agreement after its entry into force be implemented with Uzbekistan"²⁷.

Ten more cooperation documents were signed in early March 2021 by higher education institutions of the two countries. They supplemented the already very extensive legal framework of interaction between educational institutions and scientific organisations, which already included about two hundred direct agreements. Thanks to them, joint faculties are now successfully functioning, Belarusian-Uzbek educational programmes are being implemented, including dual-diploma programmes. A joint Belarusian-Uzbek Interindustry Institute of Applied Technical Qualifications was opened in Tashkent. The establishment of the Uzbek-Belarusian University of Materials Science is under consideration. The following figures are also quite eloquent: "In the academic year 2020/2021 educational institutions of Belarus received about 2 thousand Uzbek students. Exports of educational services to Uzbekistan last year [2020] totalled \$1.7 million, having increased by almost 14% compared to the previous year"²⁸. It should be assumed that the appearance of ten more documents on co-operation between the universities of the two countries will only contribute to the further expansion of Belarusian-Uzbek interaction in the educational sphere.

It should be noted that a number of domestic universities show considerable interest in developing co-operation with Uzbek partners. Among them are the Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radioelectronics, the Belarusian National Technical University, the Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radioelectronics, and the Belarusian National Technical University. University, Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radioelectronics

University of Technology, P.M. Masherov Vitebsk State University, Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno, and Francysk Skaryna State University of Gomel. Realisation of large

²⁷ Gosstandart of Belarus and Uzstandart Agency signed a programme of cooperation for 2021-2023 [Electronic resource]. - 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/gosstandart-belarusi-i-agentstvo-uzstandart-podpisali-programmemu-sotrudnichestva-na-2021-2023-gody-431298-2021/>

²⁸ Universities of Belarus and Uzbekistan signed 10 documents on co-operation [Electronic resource]. - 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/vuzy-belarusi-i-uzbekistana-podpisali-10-dokumentov-o-sotrudnichestve-431140-2021>

The Belarusian State University (BSU) is also planning to expand its presence in the Uzbek educational market and is planning to seriously expand the range of joint educational programmes here.

In particular, the agreement signed in April 2021 on cultural and scientific co-operation between BSU and Mirzo Ulugbek National University of Uzbekistan, the first and leading higher education institution in Central Asia, offers great opportunities in this regard. Established in 1918, today it unites 12 faculties: Mathematics, Physics, Biology, Chemistry, Economics, Social Sciences, History, Geology and Geoinformation Systems, Geography and Natural Resources, Foreign Philology, Journalism and Taekwondo and Sports. Until recently, the interaction between the two universities consisted in joint training of Uzbek students in "medical and biological science" and "medical ecology" on the basis of the International State Ecological Institute named after A.D. Sakharov BSU.²⁹ The document signed in April concerns not only cooperation on student and professor-teacher exchange, preparation of theses, dissertations and publications, joint scientific research and events, exchange of literature and periodicals, but also expands the subject area of inter-university relations in new directions, among which "the parties have indicated an increase in joint educational programmes in the humanities and natural sciences, the organization of mutual summer schools, interaction between the Uzbek and Uzbek sides. In addition, the Uzbek side was interested in the BSU's experience in organising a system of continuing education for lawyers, which is implemented through a law college and faculty, as well as the Institute for retraining and advanced training of judges, prosecutors, courts and justice institutions. It is also quite possible that Belarusian scientists with relevant experience will participate in the development of a satellite for the Uzbek university.

The topic of expanding the range of educational programmes is also relevant in the BSU's interaction with the Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies, where Uzbek students have been jointly studying Oriental (Chinese) philology since 2019. Among the new areas under discussion is the use of BSU's experience in training specialists for the IT industry, as well as the development of interdisciplinary specialities. In particular, in April 2021, "the initiative of joint training of students in the field of computer linguistics"³⁰, as well as the implementation of youth startup projects was

²⁹ BSU and the National University of Uzbekistan reach a new level of co-operation [Electronic resource]. - 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/bgu-i-natsionalnyj-universitet-uzbekistana-vyhodjat-na-novyj-uroven-sotrudnichestva-436206-2021/>

³⁰ BSU plans to expand joint educational programmes with Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. -

supported.

A concrete result of the implementation of the roadmap signed in April 2021 between BSU and Tashkent State University of Uzbek Language and Literature named after Alisher Navoi will be the opening in December 2021 in Minsk of a cabinet of Uzbek language and literature, the activities of which "will be aimed at strengthening educational and cultural ties between the two countries, creating conditions for studying the language, history and ethnic characteristics of Uzbekistan"³¹.

The cooperation agreement between BSU and Tashkent State Law University has been in force since 2020. This year, this cooperation will be expanded through joint education of Uzbek students on the basis of the law college of the Belarusian university with the prospect of further enrolment in the BSU Law Faculty, as well as opening joint programmes with the BSU Faculty of International Relations. It is worth noting here that the Uzbek partners were "interested in the experience of BSU participation in international rankings, according to which the Belarusian university is close to the top 1% of the world's best universities"³². In April 2021, the parties agreed to set up a working group to promptly develop documents on the implementation of the proposed initiatives, as well as to organise a joint educational programme to train legal personnel in September. Finally, in cooperation with the University of Journalism and mass communications of Uzbekistan, the sides are now discussing the issues of Uzbek teachers' internships at BSU, their training there under professional development programmes, and inviting Belarusian university staff to give lectures in Tashkent.

Another important outcome of the work of the intergovernmental commission was the first meeting of the Belarusian-Uzbek business council held in Tashkent, which brought together more than 170 representatives of business circles of the two countries who were able to discuss "specific cooperation projects in agriculture, machine building, logistics, food industry, chemical and pharmaceutical production, science and education, and information technologies"³³. The potential for the implementation of these

2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/bgu-planiruet-rasshirit-s-uzbekistanom-sovmestnye-obrazovatelnye-programmesmy-435893-2021/>

³¹ Cabinet of Uzbek language and culture will be opened in BSU [Electronic resource]. - 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/kabinet-uzbekskogo-jazyka-i-kultury-otkrojut-v-bgu-435914-2021/>

³² BSU will expand cooperation with Uzbekistan in the field of education [Electronic resource]. - 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/bgu-rasshirit-sotrudnichestvo-s-uzbekistanom-v-oblasti-obrazovanija-436565-2021/>

³³ More than 170 business representatives of Belarus and Uzbekistan took part in the meeting of the Business Council [Electronic resource]. - 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/bolee-170-predstavitelei-biznesa-belarusi-i-uzbekistana->

projects is very eloquently demonstrated by the example of the Minsk Motor Plant, whose representatives brought to the Uzbek capital contracts worth more than four million dollars. This is largely due to the fact that "MM3's distribution network in Tashkent is represented by BURAN-SAVDO, SIGMA, INDUSTRIAL MARKETING, FUTURE GENERATION MARKETING. 3a 2019-2020 MM3 sold more than 1 thousand engines to the primary and secondary markets of Uzbekistan"³⁴.

A logical continuation of the first meeting of the Business Council was the participation of 23 Belarusian companies in April 2021 in the international exhibition "INNOPROM. Big Industrial Week in Uzbekistan", where exporters from Belarus presented products of mechanical engineering, metallurgy, chemical industry, pharmaceuticals, medical equipment, as well as scientific developments and consumer goods. One of the concrete results of the participation of Belarusian manufacturers in this exhibition event was the signing of a letter of intent by MAZ-Tashkent LLC, a subsidiary of the Minsk Automobile Plant in Uzbekistan, "to supply chassis and machine kits for the assembly of vehicles to the Uzbek market for \$10 million. A contract was also signed with a private Uzbek company for the supply of 50 units of MAZ vehicles for a total of \$3 million."³⁵. So the prospects for the development of economic ties between the two countries are serious.

We would like to remind that the basic document of trade and economic interaction between Belarus and Uzbekistan is the roadmap of cooperation between the two countries, adopted in November 2018 and comprising 158 measures. By May 2020, more than a third of them had already been fulfilled. This immediately affected the state of Belarusian-Uzbek partnership ties: "At the end of 2019, the volume of trade turnover between the countries reached \$239 million and increased 1.5 times by 2018"³⁶. This means that the parties intend to achieve as quickly as possible the goal, which was outlined in the same 2018 by the heads of the two states - to increase the volume of bilateral trade turnover to one billion dollars. "The task is supposed to be solved in

prinjali-uchastie-v-zasedanii-delovogo-soveta-431374-2021

³⁴ MM3 plans to sign contracts for more than \$4 million during the intergovernmental commission in Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. - 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/mmz-vo-vremia-mezhpravkomissii-v-uzbekistane-planiruet-podpisat-kontrakty-bolee-chem-na-4-mln-431277-2021/>

³⁵ More than 20 Belarusian enterprises took part in a major industrial exhibition in Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. - 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/bolee-20-belorusskih-predpriyatij-prinjali-uchastie-v-krupnoj-promyshlennoj-vystavke-v-uzbekistane-436286-2021/>

³⁶ Vladimir Dvornik held talks with the Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sardor Umurzakov [Electronic resource]. - 2020. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/9423>

three to four years, actualising all possible areas of cooperation"³⁷, among which agriculture is one of the most promising.

The fact is that the main trend in the development of the agro-industrial complex of Uzbekistan today is the formation of a cluster system of production. In other words, clusters should unite producers of agricultural raw materials and their processors into industrial enterprises. Uzbek partners view the Belarusian experience in this regard as very positive and therefore demonstrate their high interest in establishing direct business contacts and partnerships with Belarusian producers and processors, the effectiveness of which is evidenced by the figures.

In 2019, agricultural products and foodstuffs worth \$35 million were supplied to the Uzbek market from Belarus, which more than doubled the level of 2018. The positive dynamics of mutual trade in this area continued next year, despite restrictions caused by the spread of coronavirus. "Belarusian food exports more than doubled in 2020 and reached \$73 million. supplies of Belarusian beef more than doubled, sugar - 3.5 times, milk powder - twice, fish and fish products - 1.5 times"³⁸ to Uzbekistan.

At the same time, cooperation between Belarus and Uzbekistan, of course, is not limited only to mutual supplies of food products, but also includes a wide range of interaction, including the development of joint scientific approaches and modern technologies. In particular, "promising areas of cooperation in the agro-industrial sector include participation of the Belarusian side in the construction of dairy complexes, organisation of milk processing, establishment of joint ventures for the production of veterinary drugs, cooperation in the field of breeding, organisation of training and retraining of Uzbek specialists on the basis of Belarusian agrarian educational institutions"³⁹.

The first Belarusian-Uzbek Agrarian Forum, which took place in 2020 and was attended by more than 700 people, demonstrated this diversity of effective partnerships. The business part of the Belarusian delegation alone included about 150 representatives of agricultural and food exporting companies, scientific and educational institutions of the country. In particular, an active participant of the forum was Gomselmash OJSC, which

³⁷ Zalessky, B. Vector of post-Soviet integration. View from Belarus / Boris Zalessky. - Palmarium Academic Publishing, 2019. - C. 223.

³⁸ Belarusian food exports to Uzbekistan more than doubled in 2020 [Electronic resource]. - 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/eksport-belorusskogo-prodovolstvija-v-uzbekistan-v-2020-godu-vyros-bolee-chem-v-dva-raza-431838-2021/>

³⁹ On the results of Vladimir Dvornik's visit to Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. - 2020. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/9301>

signed an agreement with the Tashkent Agricultural Machinery Plant in autumn 2019. "The document provides for the creation of an assembly production of combines in the capital of Uzbekistan"⁴⁰. From the Uzbek side were delegations from all regions of the country, as well as from the relevant ministries and organisations of the agro-industrial complex. As a result, on the margins of the forum, "Belarusian exporting enterprises signed more than 30 agreements and contracts with Uzbek partners"⁴¹. In addition, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food of Belarus and the Ministry of Agriculture of Uzbekistan adopted a Memorandum of Understanding and Co-operation. Simultaneously with the agrarian forum, an exhibition was organised in Tashkent, where the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus alone presented more than 60 innovative developments and technologies for agriculture in Uzbekistan. Among the novelties of Belarusian scientists from the Scientific and Practical Centre of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus on Food, vegetable marmalade aroused great interest. "The line includes marmalade made of sweet corn, red carrots, ripe pumpkin, juicy tomato and spicy celery. The marmalade contains prebiotics and no artificial colours"⁴². The Institute of Soil Science and Agrochemistry demonstrated a range of complex mineral fertilisers with a balanced ratio of nutritional elements for cultivated crops. The S.N. Vyshellesky Institute of Experimental Veterinary Medicine showed vaccines for the prevention and treatment of viral and bacterial diseases of farm animals. Scientists from the Centre for Identification Systems and Electronic Business Operations offered technologies for digital identification and traceability of animals and animal products. The Scientific and Practical Centre for Potato Breeding interested the visitors of the exhibition in new potato varieties - "Manifest", "Uladar", "Palats" - resistant to a complex of diseases. As we can see, even this short list of novelties presented in Tashkent clearly shows what tempting prospects are opening up in the development of Belarusian-Uzbek partnership in agriculture in the near future.

⁴⁰ "Gomselmash" will present its potential at the agrarian forum in Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. - 2020. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/gomselmash-predstaviv-svoipotentsial-na-agrarnom-forume-v-uzbekistane-380486-2020>

⁴¹ More than 30 agreements and contracts signed as a result of the Belarusian-Uzbek agrarian forum [Electronic resource]. - 2020. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/bolee-30-soglashenii-i-kontraktov-podpisano-po-itogambelorusko-uzbekskogo-agrarnogo-foruma-381350-2020/>

⁴² NAS of Belarus presented in Uzbekistan more than 60 innovative developments for agriculture [Electronic resource]. - 2020. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/nan-belarusi-predstavila-v-uzbekistane-bolee-60-innovatsionnyh-razrabotok-dlja-selskogo-hozjajstva-381057-2020/>

The goal is a qualitatively new level of co-operation

In April 2022, a Belarusian government delegation visited Uzbekistan and signed contracts worth more than USD 25 million. An equally important outcome was the statement by Minsk and Tashkent that new points of growth in co-operation have been found. And "now the task is to fill it with new content"⁴³, in order to bring the annual volume of mutual trade up to half a billion dollars.

The beginning of 2022 showed that the parties were confidently approaching the set goal. While in 2021 the Belarusian-Uzbek trade turnover grew by almost 8 per cent and exceeded \$300 million with a surplus of almost \$190 million for the Belarusian side, "in January-February 2022 the trade turnover amounted to \$53.5 million and increased by 9.9 per cent against the level of the corresponding period of 2021"⁴⁴. The volumes of trade and investment are expected to increase further, primarily through the implementation of joint co-operation projects.

It should be noted that 103 companies with Belarusian investments have already been registered in Uzbekistan, as well as representative offices of Avtopromsnabpedition LLC, Softclub LLC, AmantisMed LLC, and Belvitunifarm LLC. One assembly production of Belarusian machinery with Belarusian capital - JV AMKODOR-AGROTEXMASH LLC - has been set up there. In particular, "the production of loaders is organised on the basis of

Tashkent Tractor Plant, which indicates the demand for these products in the local and regional market"⁴⁵. In addition, co-operation between MAZ OJSC and KRANTAS GROUP LLC, MTZ OJSC and Uzavtosanoat JSC in the production of motor vehicles and tractors continues. And "Marko Company" is implementing a joint project in Uzbekistan for the production of footwear. LLC "Svetlogorsk Welding Electrode Plant" is implementing an investment project in this country for the production of welding electrodes. For this

⁴³ Roman Golovchenko: Belarus and Uzbekistan can increase trade and investment, growth points have been found [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL:

<http://www.government.by/ru/content/10260>

⁴⁴ Belarus and Uzbekistan intensify the implementation of production and co-operation projects [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL:

<https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-uzbekistan-aktiviziruiut-realizatsiiu-proizvodstvenno-kooperatsionnyh-proektov-495026-2022/>

⁴⁵ Machinery, equipment, scientific and technical developments. What Belarus will present at the exhibition in Tashkent [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL:

<https://www.belta.by/comments/view/tehnika-oborudovanie-nauchno-tehnicheskie-razrabotki-cto-belarus-prezentuet-na-vystavke-v-tashkente-8158/>

purpose, the FE "MONOLITH ASIA" LLC⁴⁶ was established in Tashkent. And these ties continue to be actively strengthened.

Thus, in April 2022, the official distributor of Minsk Automobile Plant in this Central Asian country - MAZ-TASHKENT Ltd. - set up industrial assembly of MAZ vehicles from CKD kits. "The first model was chassis MA3-5337. Localisation of assembly production in Uzbekistan will allow Minsk Automobile Plant to expand its presence in the market of Central Asian countries, and in the future - Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan"⁴⁷. And within the framework of the Uzbek-Belarusian business forum held in April in Tashkent, the MAZ distributor "signed a contract with PE OLIY TEXNIK for the purchase of 41 MAZ vehicles. <...> The contract amount exceeded \$3 million"⁴⁸.

The Minsk Tractor Plant is also actively increasing its presence in the Uzbek market, having increased shipments of its machines by almost a quarter in the first quarter of 2022. "In total, more than \$10 million worth of machinery was shipped"⁴⁹. Interestingly, Belarusian tractors worth \$31 million were shipped to Uzbek partners for the whole of 2021. In late April and early May, a sales and service centre for Belarusian agricultural machinery was opened in Tashkent, which combines "a showroom and sales centre, a service point and production facilities"⁵⁰. There is also a branch of the bank, which is focused on providing services on lending and leasing of machinery. It is noteworthy that the Belarusian side plans to open similar centres in other Uzbek regions. Belarusian-Uzbek cooperation in the implementation of joint projects in the field of medicine is very promising. One of them is the joint venture Belpharm, which will produce antibiotics and has already invested over USD 8 million. In addition, the Belarusian side offered its partners to build a joint venture to process blood. An important detail: "Today, the organisations of

⁴⁶ Roman Golovchenko: Trade turnover between Belarus and Uzbekistan should be increased to at least \$500 million [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/10257>

⁴⁷ Minsk Automobile Plant has established the assembly of machinery in Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/minskij-avtozavod-naladil-sborku-tehniki-v-uzbekistane-496181-2022/>

⁴⁸ "MAZ-Tashkent" signed a major contract with an Uzbek company for the delivery of 41 vehicles [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/maz-tashkent-podpisal-krupnyj-kontrakt-s-uzbekskoj-kompaniej-na-postavku-41-avtomobilja-498224-2022/>

⁴⁹ MTZ in the I quarter increased supplies of machinery to Uzbekistan by more than 23% [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/mtz-v-i-kvartale-narastil-postavki-tehniki-v-uzbekistan-bolee-chem-na-23-499321-2022/>

⁵⁰ A sales and service centre for Belarusian agricultural machinery was opened in Tashkent [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/tsentr-prodazh-i-servisnogo-obsluzhivaniya-belorusskoj-selhoztehniki-otkrylja-v-tashkente-499290-2022/>

Belpharmprom Holding have 166 registration certificates for medicines in Uzbekistan. The holding's members have signed 12 contracts with Uzbek partners for the supply of pharmaceutical products. At the end of 2021, exports of Belpharmprom Holding organisations' products to Uzbekistan amounted to \$14 million, in January-February 2022 - \$3 million"⁵¹ .

If we talk about other prospects for co-operation, we can name several other areas. One of them concerns electric transport. The fact is that "Tashkent is considering the possibility of resuming tram service. The Belarusian side is ready to provide comprehensive solutions with the necessary infrastructure, planning and supply of rolling stock"⁵² . If the decision on this matter is made, the creation of a joint production facility on Uzbek soil will become a real possibility. The issue of supplying wooden houses from Belarus to Uzbekistan, where "it is now a very fashionable trend <...> and there is a great demand"⁵³ . This may open up good prospects for the Belarusian Newsprint Plant, which has a conveyor belt production of such houses.

In the same context, it is worth recalling that at the end of April 2022, the parties considered "the possibility of organising supplies of Belarusian peat substrates to forestry enterprises in Uzbekistan for further use as a basis for growing plantation seedlings"⁵⁴ . Given the considerable experience of Belarusian peat enterprises in this area, and in 2021 exports of peat industry organisations of Beltopgaz increased by more than a quarter, it is quite predictable that Uzbekistan will become the 25th country to receive Belarusian peat as early as this year.

Belarusian light industry enterprises, which produce worsted, linen, synthetic and artificial fabrics with various properties, pile fabrics, corsetry and hosiery products, also see their prospects for increasing supplies to the Uzbek market. These are Orsha Flax Factory, OJSC "Mogotex", OJSC "Kamvol", which became participants of the 4th International Exhibition of Textile and Fashion Industry UzTextileExpo Spring 2022, held in April 2022 in Tashkent. Together with them, five more Belarusian enterprises of the chemical and

⁵¹ Belarus and Uzbekistan discuss deepening co-operation in the pharmaceutical industry [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-uzbekistan-obsuzhdajut-uglublenie-sotrudnichestva-v-farmotrasli-498163-2022/>

⁵² Roman Golovenko: Trade turnover between Belarus and Uzbekistan should be increased to at least \$500 million [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/10257>

⁵³ Golovenko: Belarus is working out the supply of wooden houses to Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/golovchenko-belarus-prorabatvyaet-postavki-v-uzbekistan-derevjannyh-domov-498185-2022/>

⁵⁴ Belarus is interested in supplying peat substrates to Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-zainteresovana-v-postavkah-torfj-anyh-substratov-v-uzbekistan-499019-2022/>

petrochemical industry were also represented, which demonstrated to the numerous visitors of this business forum "artificial and chemical fibres for textile production, technical textiles for construction, polymer products, chemicals and fertilizers for agriculture, glass fibre"⁵⁵. In short, everything that arouses a keen interest among partners from Uzbekistan and can become the basis for concluding new contracts.

Speaking about the participation of Belarusian exporters in foreign exhibitions, it should be noted that in 2021, participating in exhibitions and forums organised by Belinterexpo, the exhibition enterprise of the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, they signed 86 agreements and contracts worth more than \$80 million. At the same time, "agreements and contracts worth \$15 million were signed within the framework of national exhibitions"⁵⁶. Here it is important that the most effective in terms of the amount of contracts signed included national expositions organised within the framework of exhibitions in Uzbekistan - "INNOPROM. Big Industrial Week" and UzProdExpo/UzAgroExpo.

Speaking about the first of them, it should be noted that the "Big Industrial Week in Uzbekistan", held in April 2021 in Tashkent, was the largest event in this Central Asian country after a pause caused by the pandemic. At that time, the exhibition was attended by "more than 200 enterprises working in the fields of mechanical engineering, metallurgy, energy, pharmaceuticals, chemical industry and medicine from Armenia, Belarus, China, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Russia, Turkey, Uzbekistan, the Czech Republic, the EAEU and Central Asia"⁵⁷. As for the Belarusian pavilion, it included stands of 65 companies and organisations that presented engineering, metallurgical, chemical, pharmaceutical products, medical equipment, scientific developments and consumer goods. One of the concrete results of their participation in this exhibition was "the signing by the subsidiary of Minsk Automobile Plant in Uzbekistan - MAZ-Tashkent LLC - of a letter of intent for the supply of

⁵⁵ Belarusian light industry enterprises present their potential in Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL:

<https://www.belta.by/economics/view/beloruskie-predpriatiia-legkoi-promyshlennosti-prezentuiut-svoj-potentsial-v-uzbekistane-498369-2022/>

⁵⁶ At the forums and exhibitions "Belinterexpo" domestic enterprises signed contracts for \$80 million [Electronic resource]. - 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/na-forumah-i-vystavkah-belinterekspo-otechestvennye-predpriatiia-podpisali-kontrakty-na-80-mln-476100-2021/>

⁵⁷ More than 20 Belarusian enterprises took part in a major industrial exhibition in Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. - 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/bolee-20-beloruskih-predpriatii-priniali-uchastie-v-krupnoi-promyshlennoi-vystavke-v-uzbekistane-436286-2021/>

chassis and machine kits for the assembly of vehicles to the Uzbek market for the amount of \$10 million. Also, a contract was signed with a private Uzbek company for the supply of 50 units of MAZ machinery for a total of \$3 million"⁵⁸. Interestingly, in April 2022, this exhibition in

The exhibition was held in the Uzbek capital under a new name - "INNOPROM. Central Asia" and included six thematic sections: mechanical engineering, metallurgy, energy, chemistry, industrial automation, pharmaceuticals and medicine. There was also a plenary session "Central Asia. Space of Technological Breakthrough" and specialised sessions on infrastructure projects, logistics, financial instruments, and education. Belarusian participation in this business forum was no less representative due to the fact that "exports of Belarusian goods to Uzbekistan have grown six times in five years. The greatest demand is for machinery from Belarus (tractors and tractors-tractors, trucks), chemical products, foodstuffs, ferrous and non-ferrous metals, energy carriers, oil products. In total, Belarus supplies Uzbekistan with 360 commodity items of all industries"⁵⁹.

As for the agriculture and food exhibitions UzAgroExpo and UzProdExpo, held in Tashkent in November 2021, they are the largest sectoral business forums in Uzbekistan, which this time brought together 120 companies from 18 countries. The national pavilion of Belarus, where 17 companies were represented, demonstrated export opportunities of domestic enterprises in three main areas: food industry; agrarian engineering; and science. Especially many original novelties were presented in the first of them - beef in lingonberry sauce, soft cheese made according to Italian technology from ricotta whey, high quality coffee made according to own patented technology, peanut paste with sea salt, fruit bars made from a mixture of dried prunes, dried apple, oat flakes and syrup, protein milk chocolate with increased protein content, as well as "Belarusian whisky, an alcoholic blended drink made from artesian water on the basis of national grain crops - rye, wheat and barley malt"⁶⁰. The Belarusian State University, Belarusian National Technical University, Belarusian-Russian University and Belarusian State University of Food and Chemical Technologies showed numerous

⁵⁸ Zaleskii, B. Key task - development. Collection of articles / B. Zalesky. - LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2021. - C. 40-41.

⁵⁹ Belarusian national pavilion will be represented at the INNOPROM exhibition in Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/beloruskii-natsionalnyi-pavilion-budet-predstavlen-na-vystavke-innoprom-v-uzbekistane-480872-2022/>

⁶⁰ The National Pavilion of Belarus is presented at the exhibitions in Tashkent [Electronic resource]. - 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/natsionalnyi-pavilion-belarusi-predstavlen-na-vystavke-v-tashkente-471340-2021/>.

visitors the scientific developments in agro-industrial and food spheres, including technologies of restoring damaged soils, methods of producing innovative fermented milk drinks, cosmetics. The Minsk Automobile Plant and the Lidselmash enterprise also brought innovative machinery to the Uzbek capital - a specially designed for the Uzbek market MAZ-65012K cargo dump truck, which "is equipped with a metal body tilted by a hydraulic mechanism and is designed for the transport of bulk cargo, including agricultural goods"⁶¹, and new modifications of the cultivator for cultivating cotton, the most popular crop in this Central Asian country. The concrete result of the work at these exhibitions was "an agreement between MAZ-Tashkent, the official distributor of Minsk Automobile Plant in Uzbekistan, and Nurafshon Maxsus Texnika on the supply of engineering products worth \$1 million"⁶². At the Uzbekistan-Belarus agrarian forum, agreements were reached on the construction and reconstruction of a dairy complex using Belarusian technologies on Uzbek soil.

Another important area of interaction between the two countries is the intensification of partnership Belarusian-Uzbek regional ties, which are becoming one of the most important areas of cooperation in the current environment. The First Forum of Regions of Belarus and Uzbekistan, which took place in Minsk in July 2019 and opened up new partnership opportunities in such areas as industrial cooperation, agro-industrial complex, and food industry, and brought together "more than two hundred representatives of such regions as Andijan, Bukhara, Jizzak, Namangan, Samarkand, Khorezm, Fergana, and Tashkent oblasts" from the Uzbek side alone.⁶³

On the Belarusian side, Vitebsk region became one of the active participants of this forum, as the positive dynamics of trade and economic cooperation with Uzbek partners has been observed over the past few years. Suffice it to say that in 2019 Uzbekistan entered the list of key partners of Vitebsk among the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States. At that time, the foreign trade turnover between the parties increased by more than a quarter and exceeded nine million dollars. Export supplies from the Belarusian region "increased one and a half times - up to \$6.7 million. Exports of food

⁶¹ Minsk Automobile Plant presented a new gas dump truck at the exhibition in Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. -2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/minskii-avtozavod-predstavil-novyi-gazovyi-samosval-na-vystavke-v-uzbekistane-471501-2021/>

⁶² MAZ signed a contract for delivery of machinery to Uzbekistan for \$1 million [Electronic resource]. - 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/maz-podpisal-kontrakt-na-postavku-tehniki-v-uzbekistan-na-1-mln-471344-2021/>

⁶³ Zalessky, B. Sustainability as a formula for growth. Features of international co-operation based on the innovative component / Boris Zalessky. - Palmarium Academic Publishing, 2021. - C. 37.

products amounted to \$0.9 million, or 13.4% of the total volume. <...> Cheese and dairy products of the Postavy Dairy Plant, Verkhnedvinsk Creamery, Polotsk Dairy Plant, as well as meat products of the Vitebsk Meat Processing Plant are already familiar to Uzbek consumers and are in good demand"⁶⁴ . In addition, the Vitebsk region successfully supplied the Uzbek market with baby food, a wide range of vaccines to combat diseases in domestic animals, and pharmaceuticals.

In 2021, the Belarusian region's mutual trade with this Central Asian country exceeded \$12.5 million, with Vitebsk's exports accounting for almost \$10 million, which were again based on medicines, cattle meat, milk and whey powder, butter, cheese, as well as polyethylene, plastic and glass fibre products, and fibre-optic cable. In addition, a joint venture of the leather and footwear holding Marco has started operations on Uzbek soil. Other projects in the sphere of production co-operation are in the pipeline. In particular, starting from 2020, Vitebsk region is negotiating the opening of a joint venture with BelVitunipharm OJSC in Uzbekistan, which will initially trade in medicines with a subsequent transition to their production. In December 2021, a representative office of the Belarusian manufacturer of veterinary drugs was opened in Tashkent. And already "the issues of project financing are being worked out in order to reach the sales of medicines in the amount of \$2 million per year"⁶⁵ .

Among other promising areas of interaction between the region's enterprises and Uzbek partners in March 2022 were discussed supplies of fruit and vegetable and meat and dairy products, as well as co-operation in such segments of the industrial sector as mechanical engineering, energy, chemical and gas industry. The activation of partnership ties of Vitebsk region with a number of Uzbek regions and especially with Namangan region should play an important role. The fact is that Vitebsk and Namangan regions signed an agreement on cooperation in trade and economic, scientific, technical and cultural areas in July 2019 in the framework of the I Forum of Regions of Belarus and Uzbekistan, already mentioned above. This document should help build mutually beneficial trade and economic ties between enterprises and organisations of the regions, provide "comprehensive support to business

⁶⁴ Tikhonov, A. Belarusian-Uzbek agrarian forum: afterword / A. Tikhonov // [Electronic resource]. - 2019. - URL: <https://produkt.by/story/belorusko-uzbekskiy-agrarnyy-forum-posleslovie>

⁶⁵ Pushnyakova, A. Uzbekistan can become for the enterprises of Vitebsk region a springboard for supplies to Asia / A. Pushnyakova // [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/uzbekistan-mozhet-stat-dlia-predpriatii-vitebskoi-oblasti-tramplinom-dlia-postavok-v-aziiu-491940-2022/>

structures in concluding mutually acceptable contracts for the supply of goods and services". There is also talk of joint business seminars, exhibitions and fairs with the participation of representatives of entrepreneurial and business circles"⁶⁶ .

The agreement on cooperation between the administrations of the Vitebsk Free Economic Zones (FEZ) and Kosonsoy-Pharm, signed at the same time, is also intended to expand possible areas of trade, economic, and investment interaction between the Belarusian and Uzbek regions; it not only creates a basis for sharing experience and promoting partnership between FEZ residents, but also forms the basis for combining the potential of the parties in holding joint events. Note that "Kosonsoy-Pharm" was among the seven pharmaceutical FEZs established in May 2017 in six Uzbek regions. In addition to it, then appeared "in Karakalpakstan - "Nukus-pharm", Jizzak region - "Zomin-pharm", <...> Syrdarya region - "Sirdaryo-pharm", Surkhandarya region - "Boysun-pharm" and Tashkent region - "Bustonlik-pharm" and ""Parkent-pharm""⁶⁷ . They have special tax, customs and currency regimes on their territories. All of them specialise in the development of pharmaceutical enterprises. Several residents of FEZ "Vitebsk" are also engaged in the same sphere. That is why "attraction of investments into projects on creation of production of medicines, medical products is one of the most promising areas of co-operation between the administrations of the two FEZs"⁶⁸ . And there is every reason to believe that this interaction between Belarusian and Uzbek free economic zones will further strengthen the emerging partnership ties between Vitebsk and Namangan regions.

The documents signed during the visit of the Belarusian government delegation to Tashkent in April 2022 can also serve as an indication of what other areas of Belarusian-Uzbek cooperation will be intensified in the very near future. Thus, the Ministry of Innovative Development of Uzbekistan signed a memorandum of cooperation with the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and an executive programme of scientific, technical and innovative cooperation for 2022-2023 with the State Committee for Science and Technology of Belarus. The Ministry of Agriculture and Food of Belarus

⁶⁶ Namangan region will co-operate with Vitebsk [Electronic resource]. - 2019. - URL: <https://nampravda.uz/ekonomika/namanganskaya-oblast-budet-sotrudnichat-s-vitebskom.html>

⁶⁷ Seven pharmaceutical FEZs are being created in Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL: <https://www.gazeta.uz/ru/2017/05/05/pharm/>

⁶⁸ FEZ "Vitebsk" and Uzbek "Kosonsoy-Farm" will develop investment co-operation [Electronic resource]. - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/sez-vitebsk-i-uzbekskai-a-kosonsoj-farm-budut-razvivat-investitsionnoe-sotrudnichestvo-352766-2019/>

also signed two significant documents: a memorandum of understanding with the State Committee for Veterinary Medicine and Livestock Development of Uzbekistan; a roadmap for further development of cooperation in agrarian science, education and innovation development for 2022-2023 with the Ministry of Agriculture of Uzbekistan, which, in turn, also signed a memorandum of understanding with the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus on further development of scientific-technical and innovation cooperation. Finally, an agreement on co-operation in the field of livestock breeding was concluded by Belplemzhivobedinenie and the Uzbekchordanasl agency.

Back in autumn 2018, Belarus and Uzbekistan signed an intergovernmental agreement on socio-economic cooperation for 2019-2023, which "reflects the key agreements at the highest level on developing Belarusian-Uzbek relations and bringing them to a qualitatively new level"⁶⁹. As we can see, the tasks set in this document are being fulfilled by the parties very actively and successfully.

Joint initiatives forge collaboration in innovative areas

In August 2022, Minsk hosted the ninth meeting of the joint intergovernmental commission on bilateral cooperation between Belarus and Uzbekistan, where participants noted the importance of continuing systematic work for new promising joint initiatives in order to jointly achieve a multiple increase in the volume of mutual trade in the coming years. Recall that "in 2021, trade turnover between Belarus and Uzbekistan totalled \$301.9 million and increased by 7.8% against the level of 2020, exports - \$245.4 million (3.3% growth). The balance is positive - \$188.9 million"⁷⁰. The main items of Belarusian exports in 2021 were meat and meat products, medicines, vinyl chloride polymers, milk powder, diagnostic reagents, vaccines, blood serums, chipboard, cheese and cottage cheese. In the first half of 2022, the Belarusian-Uzbek trade turnover exceeded \$190 million and increased by almost 40 per cent. At the same time, the positive balance on the Belarusian side totalled \$100.7 million. Now the parties see a real opportunity to achieve a mutual trade turnover of \$500 million. In this regard, Belarus is ready to increase supplies of food and agricultural goods, road-building, municipal and special equipment, dump trucks, woodworking products, petrochemicals,

⁶⁹ Zalessky, B. Vector of post-Soviet integration. View from Belarus / Boris Zalessky. - Palmarium Academic Publishing, 2019. - C. 228.

⁷⁰ Golovchenko and Aripov discussed building up the trade turnover between Belarus and Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/golovchenko-i-aripov-obsudili-naraschivanie-tovarooborota-belarusi-i-uzbekistana-520574-2022/>

pharmaceuticals, and medical equipment.

As for industrial cooperation and the creation of joint productions, "a total of 103 organisations with Belarusian investments have already been registered in Uzbekistan, as well as representative offices of Avtopromsnabspedition LLC, Softclub LLC, AmantisMed LLC, Belvitunifarm LLC"⁷¹. In 2022, a good result of joint work can be considered the release of equipment based on the chassis of the Minsk Automobile Plant. "If until recently only superstructures on ready-made machine kits were carried out, in April this year the first MAZ dump truck assembled in Uzbekistan was presented. There are all possibilities to ensure high localisation of this production"⁷². Work is underway to resume production of Belarusian tractors in Uzbekistan. And "BELAZ is ready to supply Uzbekistan with completely new models of machinery for transporting rock masses, which are both highly environmentally friendly and efficient"⁷³. Belkommunmash is interested in participating in the development of the Uzbek transport infrastructure and jointly implementing initiatives to launch environmentally friendly passenger transport. Belarusian specialists are ready to offer a comprehensive solution to create an efficient and safe system of public electric transport: from building the necessary infrastructure to supplying the most modern models of vehicles. The implementation of such a project would be a truly landmark event in the development of Belarusian-Uzbek relations.

Indicators between the two countries have also increased in the field of agro-industrial complex. In the first six months of 2022, the turnover of agricultural products increased in both exports and imports. "Meat products, dairy products and baby food are exported to Uzbekistan. Imports are mainly represented by vegetable and melon products, grapes, dried fruits, nuts"⁷⁴. For Uzbekistan's growing livestock industry, Belarus is ready to organise supplies of high-yield premixes with access to joint production of mixed fodder in this Central Asian country.

⁷¹ Zalessky, B. Result-orientation. Realisation of opportunities of international economic relations / Boris Zalessky. - LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2022. - C. 23.

⁷² Agro-industrial complex, industrial co-operation, construction. Zayats on the plans of interaction with Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/apk-promkooperatsiia-stroitelstvo-zaiats-o-planah-vzaimodeistviia-s-uzbekistanom-520299-2022/>

⁷³ Industrial cooperation, machinery supplies, woodworking. Belarus and Uzbekistan discussed mutual cooperation [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/promkooperatsiia-postavki-tehniki-derevoobrabotka-belarus-i-uzbekistan-obsudili-vzaimnoe-520492-2022/>

⁷⁴ Belarus and Uzbekistan discussed the issues of further cooperation in the sphere of agro-industrial complex [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-uzbekistan-obsudili-voprosy-dalnejshego-sotrudnichestva-v-sfere-apk-520545-2022/>

Speaking about Belarusian-Uzbek cooperation in the pharmaceutical sector, Belarusian investors in Tashkent are successfully implementing a project for the production of antibiotics with a broad spectrum of action. Belarusian holding Belfarmprom and its colleagues in Uzbekistan are working out the possibility of setting up joint ventures to produce medical drugs in non-overlapping areas. In the field of construction, the parties are interested in jointly designing Uzbekistan's infrastructure facilities, industrial buildings, healthcare facilities, including those of the pharmaceutical industry. The Uzbek side is interested in Belarusian wooden house-building products. Taking into account Uzbekistan's actively developing tourism sector and its need for environmentally friendly residential facilities, cooperation in this area is very promising.

Interesting Belarusian-Uzbek projects are also being implemented in the educational sphere. In particular, Baranavichy State University (BarSU), together with Samarkand State University and Jizzak State Pedagogical Institute, is currently implementing "double degree" programmes. It is expected that undergraduate and master's students will be trained at BarSU and partner universities on the basis of Belarusian and foreign positive experience. "Recruitment is planned to be carried out in the specialities of "practical psychology", "preschool education", "psychology", "economics""⁷⁵. And Brest State Technical University will cooperate with the Bukhara Institute of Engineering and Technology. In July 2022, the universities signed cooperation agreements to interact in organising retraining and professional development of teachers from Bukhara in Brest. "We will start with this, further on we can co-operate on the first and second levels of higher education"⁷⁶. The institute in Bukhara is a major educational and research centre in Uzbekistan. Teaching is carried out at eight faculties, higher education is received by more than 11 thousand students in 30 bachelor's degrees.

In January 2023, Belarus and Uzbekistan celebrated 30 years of diplomatic relations. In recent years, the two countries have significantly intensified bilateral dialogue also at the regional level. Suffice it to say that as of April this year, the parties have already signed 15 interregional agreements. "Delegations from the regions of Belarus and Uzbekistan regularly exchange

⁷⁵ BarSU develops joint educational programmes with Uzbek partners [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/bargu-razrabatyvaet-sovmestnye-obrazovatelnye-programmesmy-s-uzbekskimi-partnerami-520325-2022>

⁷⁶ BrSTU will co-operate with Bukhara Institute of Engineering and Technology [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/brgtu-budet-sotrudnichat-s-buharskim-inzhenerno-tehnologicheskim-institutom-514381-2022/>

visits. The practice of developing road maps for the implementation of interregional agreements has proved effective"⁷⁷. Among the active participants in this interregional interaction are such oblasts as Vitebsk and Kashkadarya, Gomel and Fergana.

In particular, in October 2022, the Vitebsk Regional Executive Committee signed a co-operation agreement with the khokimiyat of Kashkadarya region. This document contributes to the build-up of mutually beneficial "trade and economic trade and economic relations between enterprises and organisations in the regions. In addition, it will identify ways to develop co-operation in the scientific and technical, tourism, cultural, sports and health care sectors"⁷⁸. In the same October 2022, several important documents developing co-operation between individual participants of this interregional partnership were also signed: two agreements and two memoranda of co-operation. As for the agreements, they concern co-operation between the Eufrosinia Polotskaya Polotsk State University and the Karshi Institute of Engineering and Economics, as well as between the P.M. Masherov Vitebsk State University and the Karshi State University. Memorandums were adopted between the free economic zones of the two regions, the concern "Meat and Dairy Products" and an enterprise for the supply and processing of dairy products. In addition, the parties signed contracts worth about three million dollars. It is about food and woodworking products, as well as the supply of electrical equipment for the oil industry and measuring devices. And "Vitebsk region has been working out the issue of supplying its products to the Uzbek market. There is great interest in Kashkadarya region caused meat and dairy products, electrical appliances, cable products in terms of exchange of experience of enterprises on production within this country"⁷⁹.

At the same time, the Belarusian and Uzbek regions planned to cooperate in other areas as well. For example, back in 2021, in the territory of the free economic zone of Kashkadarya region, the Vitsebsk holding Marko set up an enterprise where more than two hundred employees sew shoes. Now Uzbek

⁷⁷ C. Rachkov: Belarus considers Uzbekistan as an important partner in Central Asia [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <http://sovrep.gov.by/ru/news-ru/view/srachkov-belarus-rassmatrivaet-uzbekistan-kak-vazhnogo-partnera-v-tsentralnoj-azii-22630-2023/>

⁷⁸ Delegation of Vitebsk region in Uzbekistan will sign an agreement with the khokimiyat of Kashkadarya region [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/delegatsija-vitebskoj-oblasti-v-uzbekistane-podpishet-soglashenie-s-hokimijatom-kashkadarjnskoj-527596-2022/>

⁷⁹ Enterprises of Vitebsk and Kashkadarya regions signed contracts for \$3 million [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/predpriyatija-vitebskoj-i-kashkadarjnskoj-oblastej-podpisali-kontrakty-na-3-mln-529745-2022/>

partners are interested in new competences - in light industry, dairy farms, milk processing enterprises. In May 2023, at the XI International Economic Forum "Innovations. Investments. Prospects", held in Vitebsk, the parties proposed a number of other new areas of co-operation, including the linen industry. "Vitebsk region is ready to assist in providing varieties that can be grown under the conditions of Uzbekistan. This proposal is being prepared by specialists of the Flax Institute RUE. In addition, options for co-operation in woodworking are being actively worked out, in particular for the manufacture of individual wooden houses and furniture, including for educational institutions of Kashkadarya region"⁸⁰. There are also initiatives in the pharmaceutical industry. For better development of contacts in economic, tourism and other spheres, the parties plan to organise joint information tours. Thus, joint activities of Vitebsk and Kashkadarya regions already create favourable prerequisites for both sides for the implementation of projects, which in the future may strengthen new points of contact in mutual cooperation.

As for Gomel region, which is also actively developing co-operation with Uzbek partners, we note that its trade turnover with Uzbekistan has more than tripled over the past three years to \$33 million. And according to the results of 2022 Gomel exports increased almost one and a half times. "The main export positions of Gomel enterprises are paper, cardboard, wallpaper, chipboard boards, wood pulp, cattle meat, timber, paint, polyethylene products, wire, chemical threads, dairy products, agricultural machinery, furniture..."⁸¹. Among the regions of Uzbekistan interested in joint projects with Gomel partners is Fergana region, which intends to develop cooperation with the Belarusian region in the production of agricultural machinery, woodworking, chemical industry, and tourism. In February 2023, Gomel regional executive committee and Fergana region khokimiyat signed a road map for 2023, which includes various directions. And there are already concrete developments. In the near future, "a company shop is expected to be opened in Fergana region, where woodworking products of the Belarusian region will be sold. Some of them will be sent for re-export to Uzbekistan's

⁸⁰ Vitebsk and Kashkadarya regions plan to organise infotours to intensify cooperation [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/vitebskaja-i-kashkadarjinskaja-oblasti-planirujut-organising-infotury-dlja-aktivizatsii-567511-2023/>

⁸¹ Trade turnover of Gomel region with Uzbekistan has grown more than three times in the last three years [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/tovarooborot-gomelskoi-oblasti-s-uzbekistanom-vyros-boleechem-v-tri-raz-za-poslednie-tri-goda-549254-2023/>

neighbouring countries"⁸². In Gomel the idea to open a trading house for selling fruits, dried fruits and vegetables from Uzbekistan is being worked out. Besides, Fergana entrepreneurs are interested in joint production of chemical and pulp-and-paper products with Gomel companies. To all appearances, the roadmap of the two regions - Belarusian and Uzbek - will soon be filled in other areas as well.

Another interesting aspect of the interaction between Belarus and Uzbekistan is the development of Belarusian exports in the Uzbek market using exhibition specifics. Especially since there will be several such projects in 2023. In March 2023, Tashkent already hosted the 22nd international exhibition "Foodstuffs, Ingredients and Production Technologies - UzFood", where Belarus presented a large-scale exposition - The Taste of Nature - with the participation of more than 20 food producers. Concern Belgospishcheprom presented the products of confectionery factories Kommunarika, Spartak and Krasny Izhevik, which familiarised the guests of the Belarusian pavilion with the best products and production novelties - new types of confectionery products, chocolate and chocolate candies, wafers, biscuits, chewy and jelly marmalade.

Meat processing companies and dairy producers, which are part of the Grodniasomolprom holding and the Brestmyasomolprom concern, were also well represented at the exhibition. These were Brest, Pinsk, Slonim, Volkovysk, Grodno and Oshmian meat processing plants, which offered high quality beef in various versions, sausages, meat semi-finished products. In particular, new products were demonstrated by Grodno Meat Processing Plant, which brought to Uzbekistan raw smoked sausages "Vostochnaya" and "Kavkazskaya", boiled-smoked salami "Favorit" with olives, as well as with cheese.

The dairy segment was represented by Kobrin Butter and Cheese Factory, Minsk Margarine Plant, Luninets Dairy Plant, Lida Dairy Canning Plant, Molochny Mir, Molochny Gostinets and Minsk Dairy Plant No. 1. "Belarusian producers demonstrate a wide range of whole-milk products - milk, cream, kefir, cheese, cottage cheese, creams, yoghurts"⁸³. Oil and fat products and rapeseed oil could also be seen at the exhibition. Bread and

⁸² From combine-building to tourism: Gomel and Fergana regions intend to develop co-operation [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL:

<https://www.belta.by/regions/view/ot-kombainostroeniia-do-turizma-gomelskaia-i-ferganskaia-oblasti-namereny-razvivat-sotrudnichestvo-549242-2023/>

⁸³ Belarus presented its exposition at the exhibition of food industry in Tashkent [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-predstavila-ekspozitsiju-navystavke-pischevoj-promyshlennosti-v-tashkente-557927-2023/>

bakery products were presented by Berestaisky Baker OJSC, and Bellact Company showed products for baby food. In addition, the products of such enterprises as Maloritsky Canning and Vegetable Washing Plant OJSC and Lidskie Food Concentrates OJSC were demonstrated.

Within the framework of the exhibition, an Uzbek-Belarusian business forum was held, which was attended by more than 50 heads and representatives of state bodies and business circles of the two countries, where cooperation in the field of agriculture and food was discussed, the food potential of Belarus was outlined, and the export potential of the Brest and Grodno regions was presented. In addition, the business circles of the two countries held B2B negotiations, which took place separately and at the stands of Belarusian enterprises. As for the specific results of the exhibition, "Grodno Meat Processing Plant signed a contract for the supply of meat products worth \$500 thousand, and Minsk Margarine Plant signed a contract for the supply of its products worth 10 million Russian rubles. During the exhibition, Minsk Dairy Plant No. 1 held negotiations on increasing sales volumes to its key partners in Uzbekistan, in particular, on the supply of butter and skimmed milk powder, and also signed a contract for the supply of dairy products"⁸⁴. Bellact discussed opportunities to increase sales of its products, increase supplies of dried baby food and agreed to supply curd desserts and milk powder, including lactose-free milk, to this Central Asian country, while JSC Molochniy Mir signed an agreement to supply almost two and a half thousand tonnes of whey powder and more than a thousand tonnes of milk powder.

Bobruiskagromash Holding is also one of the Belarusian companies that are actively interested in promoting their export products in the Uzbek market. In March 2023, within the framework of the international exhibition "Agriculture - AgroWorld Uzbekistan-2023", specialists of the Belarusian company held negotiations with key Uzbek partners - Metal processing, Planeta Servis and MCHJ Buxoro Agro Texnika Garant, "with whom further volumes of machinery deliveries were agreed, as well as the technical design of machines to adapt them to the requirements of the Uzbek market. In addition, during the negotiations the representative of the holding familiarised the partners with the novelties of Bobruiskagromash machinery: cotton cultivator, seeders and heavy-duty trailers"⁸⁵. Partners from

⁸⁴ Belarusian enterprises intend to increase supplies to Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belorusskie-predpriiatiia-namereny-narastit-postavki-v-uzbekistan-559267-2023/>

⁸⁵ Uzbekistan is interested in supplies of agricultural machinery "Bobruiskagromash" [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL:

Uzbekistan confirmed their interest in annual deliveries of agricultural machinery from Bobruisk. For reference, since 2022, machines for the application of solid organic fertilisers and rotary mowers-shredders have already been working in Uzbek fields.

In April 2023, Tashkent hosted the international industrial exhibition "Innoprom. Central Asia", which covered six thematic sections: mechanical engineering, metallurgy and materials, energy solutions, chemical industry technologies, information and telecommunications technologies, and infrastructure development. The exhibition featured an extensive Belarusian exposition Made in Belarus, which showcased the best industrial developments and innovative equipment of the country's engineering industry flagships. "7 major enterprises expressed their interest in participating <...>: Belarusian Metallurgical Plant, BELAZ, Minsk Tractor Plant, BATE, BITU Scientific and Technological Park "Polytechnik", "Gomselmash", "StankoGomel""⁸⁶.

Another important reserve for Belarusian-Uzbek economic relations is the intensification of partnerships between free economic zones (FEZs) of Belarus and Uzbekistan, whose residents can build cooperation in various areas. In March 2023, during the Third Congress of Free Economic Zones held in Gomel, constructive negotiations took place between the administrations of FEZ Gomel-Raton and Navoi, where they discussed the potential for mutually beneficial partnership. In particular, "the first direction is to sell in Uzbekistan the demanded types of products of FEZ "Gomel-Raton" residents. Uzbekistan is quite an interesting market. It has 36 million population. <...> A lot of foreign investments,⁸⁶ infrastructure projects"⁸⁷. Among the most demanded products of Gomel manufacturers the Uzbek side names such topical positions as industrial, boiler, heating, ventilation, cooling equipment, as well as energy-saving and energy-efficient technologies. In short, the Uzbek market is an important area for Belarusian exports in Central Asia. And this is just the beginning.

<https://www.belta.by/economics/view/uzbekistan-zainteresovan-v-postavkah-selskohoziastvennoi-tehniki-bobruiskagromasha-556555-2023/>

⁸⁶ Belarus will present an exposition at the exhibition "Innoprom. Central Asia" in Tashkent [Electronic resource]. resource]. - 2023. - URL:

<https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-predstavit-ekspozitsiiu-na-vystavke-innoprom-tsentralnaj-a-azij-a-v-tashkente-557617-2023/>

⁸⁷ Industrial co-operation and access to new markets. Director General of Navoi FEZ on the partnership between Belarus and Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL:

<https://www.belta.by/regions/view/promkooperatsija-i-vyhod-na-novye-rynki-gendirektor-sez-navoi-o-partnerstve-belarusi-i-uzbekistana-557030-2023/>

Growth points - industry, agriculture agriculture, health care, regions

In December 2023, Samarkand hosted the 10th meeting of the joint Belarusian-Uzbek intergovernmental commission (IGC) on bilateral cooperation, during which the parties discussed the state and prospects of trade and economic interaction, paying special attention to the areas 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 timely implementation of investment projects and trade contracts. It should be noted that bilateral trade between Minsk and Tashkent is currently showing good dynamics. "In the first 10 months of this [2023] year, mutual trade turnover has increased by more than 20 per cent and has already exceeded \$500 million"⁸⁸. Nevertheless, it was noted at the IGC meeting that the sides still have significant untapped potential to multiply trade volumes by expanding mutual supplies of products in demand in the markets of the two countries.

Let's take the development of **industrial co-operation**. Since 2019, the number of enterprises from Belarus has quadrupled in Uzbekistan. And today, "there are 186 enterprises with Belarusian capital operating in the country, but there are all prerequisites for increasing this figure"⁸⁹. Suffice it to say that in the first seven months of 2023, 33 enterprises from Belarus were established in the territory of the Central Asian republic. And a total of 84 organisations with Uzbek capital were established in our country. In addition, companies in the field of international transport, software development, production of medicines and veterinary drugs have already "opened representative offices in Uzbekistan. In 2022, a joint venture for the production of dairy products was opened in Tashkent"⁹⁰.

In this regard, the participants of the 10th IGC meeting proposed to further strengthen the substantive part of the draft joint roadmap for the development of bilateral cooperation for 2024-2025 in order to move towards mutual

⁸⁸ Aripov: Uzbek-Belarusian co-operation has reached a new level [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/aripov-uzbekske-belorusskoe-sotrudnichestvo-vyshlo-na-novyy-uroven-603582-2023/>

⁸⁹ Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Uzbekistan: we are interested in increasing the number of joint ventures [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/predsedatel-tpp-uzbekistana-my-zainteresovany-v-uvlichenii-kolichestva-sovmestnyh-predpriyatij-603524-2023/>

⁹⁰ Chervikov: among our partner countries Uzbekistan is in the top ten by volume of trade turnover [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/chervikov-sredi-nashih-stran-partnerov-uzbekistan-vhodit-v-desjtku-po-objemu-tovarooborota-586551-2023/>

investment and the creation of joint productions. And in this regard, the Belarusian side is already implementing projects to assemble specialised machinery and produce agricultural machinery for soil and cotton cultivation. In 2023, "the first Belarusian-Uzbek enterprise for the production of dry milk mixtures was launched, which will sell products made on the basis of Belarusian raw materials both to producers and processors in Uzbekistan and supply them to neighbouring countries. In the city of Karshi there is a joint venture with the Belarusian manufacturer Marko for the production of footwear"⁹¹. There are also significant prospects for organising production on Uzbek soil of tractors "Belarus", diesel-generator and compressor units, medicines, woodworking and furniture production.

In general, Belarus has a lot to offer its Uzbek partners: machine-building products, food products, services, and the latest scientific and technical developments. Suffice it to say that exports of enterprises of the Belarusian Ministry of Industry to this Central Asian country almost doubled in the first three quarters of 2023, "trade turnover increased by more than 90% <...> over this period. Exports to Uzbekistan were based on supplies of tractors, refrigerators and freezers, automotive equipment, metal products, engines, hardware products, electrical transformers, as well as mowers, starters, potato diggers, and oil pumps."⁹². In particular, JSC "Managing Company of Bobruiskagromash Holding" is planning to increase the volume of supplies of agricultural machinery to Uzbekistan in the near future, as "in Central Asian republics the most demanded models of agricultural machinery are tractor trailers for cotton transportation, tillage equipment, machines for organic fertiliser application and forage harvesting equipment"⁹³. In addition to tractors, cooperation between the two countries in the field of industry will expand significantly, as "cooperation on cargo and passenger equipment, household appliances, and lift equipment is being discussed and developed quite extensively"⁹⁴. Another example: the enterprises of the concern

⁹¹ Golovchenko: Uzbekistan for us is one of the main trading partners in the region of Central Asia and the CIS [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL:

<https://www.belta.by/economics/view/golovchenko-uzbekistan-dlia-nas-iaivliaetsia-odnim-iz-osnovnyh-torgovyh-partnerov-v-regione-tsentralnoj-603540-2023/>

⁹² Ministry of Industry: export of our products to Uzbekistan in January-September doubled [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/minprom-eksport-nashei-produksii-v-uzbekistan-za-ianvar-sentiabr-vyros-vdvoe-603475-2023/>

⁹³ "Bobruiskagromash" plans to increase the supply of agricultural machinery to Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/bobruiskagromash-planiruet-narastit-postavki-selhoztehniki-v-uzbekistan-582084-2023/>

⁹⁴ Tractors, lifts, lorry equipment. How Belarus and Uzbekistan will co-operate in industry [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/traktory-lifty-gruzovaia-tehnika-kak-belarus-i-uzbekistan->

"Bellesbumprom", which are very familiar to the Uzbek market. In the first nine months of 2023, "exports of woodworking products, including furniture and pulp, increased by almost 24% compared to January-September last year <...>. The Concern is now working on the creation of a commodity distribution network entity in Uzbekistan, which will open up new supply opportunities to this country"⁹⁵ .

All these facts show that Belarus and Uzbekistan are successfully contributing to the formation of a developed structure of co-operative ties in order to make full use of the available production, scientific, technical, and innovation potential to fulfil the urgent and ambitious task of increasing trade turnover to one billion dollars. For more systematic work in general, the Belarusian side proposed to develop a programme of bilateral economic cooperation within the framework of the 10th IGC meeting, while in certain sectors of the economy - to expand the formats of interaction to find new areas of partnership and pay attention to the functioning of sectoral working groups. For reference, we would like to remind that "meetings of the working group in the field of agriculture, as well as the mixed commission in the transport sector are held on a regular basis. It would be advisable to organise the work of groups in the field of industry, medicine and pharmaceuticals, construction, light industry, woodworking, forestry and water management, which will be working bodies of the intergovernmental commission"⁹⁶ . In addition, other new formats of interaction are being successfully implemented.

Among them is the **Women's Business Forum, which was** held for the first time in Minsk in September 2023 and brought together participants from the two countries in various areas: light and heavy industry, science and education, and mechanical engineering. Let us say at once that by the end of the plenary session, the participants of this meeting signed "14 memorandums and agreements on co-operation, including an agreement on the establishment of a joint leather and footwear production. 15 contracts worth Br93.5 million, or 350 billion Uzbek soums"⁹⁷ . In particular, light

budut-sotrudnicat-v-promyshlennosti-596490-2023/

⁹⁵ Export of the enterprises of "Bellesbumprom" to Uzbekistan for 9 months increased by almost a quarter [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/eksport-predpriiatii-bellesbumproma-v-uzbekistan-za-9-mesjatsev-vvros-pochti-na-chetvert-603583-2023/>

⁹⁶ Leonid Zayats on the results of the meeting in Samarkand: The decisions taken will contribute to the strengthening of bilateral ties [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/10747>

⁹⁷ During the First Belarusian-Uzbek Women's Business Forum contracts for Br93.5 million were concluded [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL:

industry enterprises of Belarus and Uzbekistan have signed contracts worth more than two and a half million dollars. Thus, an agreement on the intention to create a joint venture for dressing sheepskin-fur, karakulo-fur, fur-fur raw materials was signed between Furskins Company and "Marko". "Agreements on cooperation between Uzteksilprom Association and Kamvol Design Centre have been reached. A memorandum of intentions was signed for the purchase of worsted fabrics for school assortment of Charog'on Tekstil LLC. A contract for the supply of denim clothes was also signed between Kalinka CJSC and Chichiq Mega Bizness LLC"⁹⁸.

It should be noted that Belleprom Concern's enterprises have been successfully cooperating with Uzbek partners since 2018. Marco Holding is working within the framework of a joint venture to re-stitch shoes. About 250 thousand pairs have already been produced, but this is not the limit. The goal is to increase the output to millions of pairs of shoes. "And since sheepskin is in demand in Belarus for making lining and insoles for winter shoes, but we [in Belarus] have this type of raw material.

no, it is very important to enter into industrial co-operation in order to motivate one and the other side in terms of quality, technical and business"⁹⁹.

Another example: "Milavitsa has been working on lingerie alterations with a company in Tashkent since January 2023. And in Smorgon, together with the Uzbek side, a business project is being realised. business project to create a vertical

an integrated complex for the production of cotton yarn and cotton yarn products. "This is the first enterprise that will make a finished product in Belarus from raw materials obtained in Uzbekistan"¹⁰⁰.

Within the framework of the section "Expanding Industrial Cooperation between Belarus and Uzbekistan" of the Women's Business Forum, the Belarusian side presented opportunities for expanding industrial co-operation. In particular, "metropolitan enterprises [Minsk] are interested in finding new

<https://www.belta.by/economics/view/vo-vremia-pervogo-belorusско-uzbekskogo-zhenskogo-biznes-foruma-zakliucheno-kontraktov-na-br935-mln-586641-2023/>

⁹⁸ Light industry enterprises of Belarus and Uzbekistan signed contracts for more than \$2.5 million [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL:

<https://www.belta.by/economics/view/predpriatija-legproma-belarusi-i-uzbekistana-podpisali-kontrakty-bolee-chem-na-25-mln-586396-2023/>

⁹⁹ Dugina spoke about the prospects of co-operation between Belleprom enterprises and companies from Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL:

<https://www.belta.by/economics/view/lugina-rasskazala-o-perspektivah-sotrudnichestva-predpriyatij-belleproma-i-kompanij-iz-uzbekistana-5-86553-2023/>

¹⁰⁰ Belarus and Uzbekistan realise joint projects in the field of pharmaceuticals and light industry [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL:

<https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-uzbekistan-realizuiut-sovmestnye-proekty-v-oblasti-farmatsevtiki-i-i-legproma-592648-2023/>

partners to sell their products in the market of the region [Uzbekistan]"¹⁰¹ . And they are already co-operating effectively with their Uzbek colleagues. For example, Minsk Automobile Plant acts on the market of this Central Asian country as an independent exporter on the basis of an existing joint production facility. In particular, in September 2023, "Minsk Automobile Plant and FE MAZ-TASHKENT LLC signed a contract for the supply of MAZ machinery worth \$1 million"¹⁰² and agreed to expand co-operation ties. As for Minsk Tractor Plant, it will supply about 500 BELARUS machines to Uzbek TEXAGRO-KLASTER LLC. "The sum of the deal exceeds \$8 million"¹⁰³ .

As for pharmaceuticals, it was noted at the Women's Business Forum that the Belarusian side is building an enterprise on Uzbek soil to produce probiotics, which are not produced in Uzbekistan at all. Belarus is ready to supply its pharmaceutical products, and also to propose to the health authorities of our countries to work out the possibility of setting up production facilities in Uzbekistan for bulk drugs, antibiotics, anti-tumour drugs..."¹⁰⁴ . So, let us hope that this forum has indeed established useful contacts and made it possible to create additional conditions for attracting investment resources to the promising projects that were worked out at this Belarusian-Uzbek meeting.

And in November 2023, a three-day **medical forum** "Days of Health Care and Medical Education "Uzbekistan - Belarus" was held in Minsk, which touched upon virtually all areas of medical activity: high technologies, problems of primary care, personnel training, the work of the pharmaceutical industry, and the production of medical equipment. During these days, almost 120 agreements were signed, as well as a "road map, in which, according to all the principles of the target planning programme, tasks, deadlines, resources and responsible executor will be defined"¹⁰⁵ . The day before,

¹⁰¹ Lazarevich: capital enterprises effectively co-operate with Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/lazarevich-stolichnye-predpriiatiia-effektivno-vzaimodeistvuiut-s-uzbekistanom-586603-2023/>

¹⁰² MAZ signed a contract on delivery of machinery to Uzbekistan for \$1 million [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/maz-zakluchil-dogovor-na-postavku-tehniki-v-uzbekistan-na-1-mln-586570-2023/>

¹⁰³ MTZ will supply about 500 tractors to Uzbekistan for more than \$8 million [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/mtz-postavit-okolo-500-traktorov-v-uzbekistan-na-bolee-chem-8-mln-586567-2023/>

¹⁰⁴ Chervjakov: Belarus and Uzbekistan have created an impressive groundwork for further development of co-operation [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/chervjakov-belarus-i-uzbekistan-sozdali-vnushitelnyj-zadel-na-dalnejshhee-razvitiie-sotrudnichestva-586639-2023>

¹⁰⁵ Ministers of Health of Belarus and Uzbekistan sign agreements on co-operation [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL:

Belarusian cardiac surgeons, oncologists, and paediatric surgeons travelled to Uzbekistan as part of medical teams, where they "performed more than 100 operations and provided more than 250 consultations in various regions of the country"¹⁰⁶. And about 30 specialists from various hospitals in Uzbekistan have already undergone internships at the Minsk Scientific and Practical Centre for Surgery, Transplantology and Haematology, and have also proposed an initiative to establish a Minsk centre in Tashkent. We also note that "46 patients from Uzbekistan have received high-tech medical care at the MNPC of Surgery, Transplantology and Haematology. Including 3 liver transplants and 10 kidney transplants. The potential for further joint work in this area is quite large"¹⁰⁷.

A separate topic of the medical forum is the training of medical personnel. Belarus and Uzbekistan today see prospects for intensifying bilateral cooperation in such key areas as cardiology, oncology, transplantation, children's surgery, maternal and child health care, as well as in the pharmaceutical industry and supplies of medical devices. From January 2024, by agreement of the parties, joint educational programmes of network training will be organised in eight specialties of higher education and all areas of sub-specialties of clinical residency, and there are plans to introduce a system of training 150 sub-specialists under the internship programme. And one more thing: for the first time since January of this year training of nurses in six directions of the joint educational programme according to international standards will start. The thing is, that Uzbekistan pays special attention to the training of nurses in the sphere of health care. And they are well aware of the Belarusian experience in this subject. After all, 74 medical colleges are already functioning in Belarus and about 100 thousand nurses are trained in seven directions. In particular, the Vitebsk State Medical University (VSMU) and the college, which plan to accept students, interns and doctors from this Central Asian country, will help the Uzbek partners in this matter. "So far VSMU has no more than a dozen students from Uzbekistan, who come to Vitebsk on their own and enrol in specialties that

<https://www.belta.by/society/view/ministry-zdravoohraneniya-belarusi-i-uzbekistana-podpisali-dogovory-o-sotrudnichestve-602477-2023/>

¹⁰⁶ Minister of Health of Uzbekistan: Belarusian specialists performed more than 100 operations in Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/ministr-zdravoohraneniya-uzbekistana-belorusskie-spetsialisty-proveli-v-uzbekistane-bolee-60-operatsij-602505-2023/>

¹⁰⁷ Petrishenko: the most important task is to do everything to improve the well-being of the peoples of Belarus and Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/petrishenko-vazhneishaja-zadacha-sdelat-vse-dlja-povysheniya-blagopoluchija-narodov-belarusi-i-602449-2023/>

are attractive to them"¹⁰⁸. But the first steps have already been made towards co-operation of VSMU, for example, with Samarkand State Medical University and Bukhara State Medical Institute. And within the framework of the Medical Forum, four more agreements between VSMU and Uzbek universities were signed.

A new form of interaction between Belarus and Uzbekistan in the field of education was the **Forum of Rectors of Higher Education Institutions**, which met for the first time in October 2023 in Minsk - at the Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radioelectronics. This structure brought together "more than 30 heads of Belarusian and Uzbek universities, who actively engaged in dialogue, discussing topical issues of development of higher education systems of the two countries"¹⁰⁹ and signed a roadmap for cooperation, where, taking into account the trends in the educational market of Uzbekistan, a number of Belarusian universities will work out the issue of opening branches or joint faculties. Among the leaders in this context is the Belarusian National Technical University (BITU), which currently implements 75 joint educational programmes with partner universities from Uzbekistan. One of the brightest examples of co-operation is BITU's interaction with the Tashkent State Technical Transport University. "We are talking about the first joint educational programme "2+2". From 2019 to 2023 similar programmes have also been prepared and created with Islam Karimov Tashkent State Technical University, Karshi Institute of Engineering and Economics, Tashkent University of Architecture and Construction, Samarkand State University of Architecture and Construction"¹¹⁰. The idea of the programme is that Uzbek students spend the first two years of their studies at home and the next two at BITU, so that graduates receive two diplomas at once - in Uzbekistan and in Belarus. And so in June 2023, the first graduates of the "2+2" programme graduated.

Another interesting format of co-operation between Belarus and Uzbekistan was mentioned at the 10th MEC meeting - it is the following **forum of regions**, which should be given importance and "is planned to be

¹⁰⁸ Pushnyakova, A. In what Uzbek universities and colleges see cooperation with VSMU / A. Pushnyakova // [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/v-chem-uzbekskie-vuzy-i-kolledzhi-vidjat-sotrudnichestvo-s-vgmu-602248-2023/>.

¹⁰⁹ The roadmap for co-operation was signed by the heads of the Councils of Rectors of Belarus and Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/dorozhnuju-kartu-sotrudnichestva-podpisali-rukovoditeli-sovetov-rectorov-belarusi-i-uzbekistana-595530-2023/>

¹¹⁰ BITU awarded diplomas to the first graduates of joint educational programmes of Belarus and Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/v-bntu-vruchili-diplomy-pervym-vypusknikam-sovmestnyh-obrazovatelnyh-programmes-belarusi-i-uzbekistana-574797-2023/>

held in Belarus"¹¹¹ . Recall that the First Forum of Regions of the two countries was already held in Minsk in 2019. As of April 2023, "the parties have already signed 15 interregional agreements. <...> The practice of developing roadmaps for the implementation of interregional agreements has proved effective"¹¹² . For this reason, it is necessary to continue to find partners for long-term co-operation in the regions.

The Fergana Region and the **Bellesbumprom Concern** provide an interesting example in this regard. The fact is that Belarusian-Uzbek co-operation in the furniture, woodworking, and pulp and paper industries is now actively developing. "The result of the work with Uzbek colleagues was the opening of the furniture house "Belarus" in Fergana. Now the products of three domestic factories are presented here - OFO "FanDOC", Yelsk furniture factory (a branch of OJSC "Mozyr DOK") and RUE "Newsprint Plant" (a branch of house building)"¹¹³ . The parties plan to expand the assortment, as well as increase the number of Belarusian brands represented in the furniture house. Another interesting idea is to create a showroom in the under-construction residential complex "Eco City" in Fergana, where products from Belarus that are in demand in construction and arrangement of residential premises will be presented: thermo-insulating panels, wallpapers, interior doors, furniture. And in the sanatorium-resort zone in Buvaydinskiy district

In Fergana oblast, wooden houses, saunas and pergolas produced by the house-building branch of the Newsprint Plant RUE have been delivered here.

Hrodna Region, which has agreements with three Uzbek regions, is among the active participants in interregional cooperation between Belarus and Uzbekistan. And now this Central Asian country ranks third in Hrodna's trade turnover with foreign countries. At the same time, a significant growth of mutual trade was registered in 2022 - 1.7 times. In 2023, the trade turnover increased by another 11 per cent. "Grodno region supplies Uzbekistan with foodstuffs, woodworking products, petrochemicals, buys foodstuffs, yarn, fabrics, textiles in Uzbekistan, which is very much in demand by local light

¹¹¹ Aripov: Uzbek-Belarusian co-operation has reached a new level [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/aripov-uzbeksko-belorusskoe-sotrudnichestvo-vyshlo-na-novyj-uroven-603582-2023/>

¹¹² Zalessky, B. With a focus on results. Perspectives of an integrated approach to new partnership opportunities / Boris Zalessky. - LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2023. - C. 16.

¹¹³ New showrooms and furniture deliveries. "Bellesbumprom" on the development of co-operation with Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/novye-shourumy-i-postavki-mebeli-bellesbumprom-o-razviti-i-sotrudnichestva-s-uzbekistanom-561977-2023/>

industry enterprises"¹¹⁴. Developing interaction in the educational sphere as well: in 2023, 160 Uzbek students received higher education on the basis of Hrodna universities. And the parties have already outlined prospects for further development, including in the field of investments on the basis of the Grodnoinvest free economic zone. Finally, let us consider another important tool for increasing the Belarusian-Uzbek trade and economic interaction are **sectoral exhibitions**. In 2024, Belarus intends to participate in many international exhibition events in Uzbekistan, where the largest sectoral forums in agriculture, food, machinery and technologies for agro-industrial complex, industrial technologies, food and light industry will be held, scientific and technical achievements. In particular, in March this year, the Belarusian exposition will be organised in Tashkent at the 23rd international exhibition UzFood, in April - at the industrial forum Innoprom. Central Asia", in October - at the 8th textile exhibition UzTextileExpo Autumn, and in November - at the 18th food forum UzProdExpo/UzAgroExpo. Traditionally, Belarusian participants in these business events always attract great interest of visitors not only from Uzbekistan, but also from other Central Asian countries.

For example, in April 2023, at the forum "Innoprom. Central Asia", where about 300 companies took part, Belarus was represented by "leading enterprises from various industrial sectors and scientific and educational institutions, each of which presents its unique products and technologies at the exhibition, demonstrating the potential and opportunities for cooperation and promotion of manufactured products, scientific and technical developments and services"¹¹⁵. Thus, BELAZ OJSC, the managing company of the BELAZ-HOLDING holding company, presented at the exhibition its promising areas of development. In particular, the BELAZ-7558N dump truck with a payload capacity of 90 tonnes. Minsk Tractor Plant, among other things, demonstrated a specialised tractor BELARUS-80X, developed with due regard to the peculiarities of agricultural crops cultivation. And OJSC BMZ - the managing company of BMK Holding showed hot-rolled metal products for the automotive and other industries. More than 50 scientific and

¹¹⁴ Trade turnover of Grodno region with Uzbekistan in 2023 increased by 11% [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/tovarooborot-grodnenskoj-oblasti-s-uzbekistanom-v-2023-godu-uvelichilsja-na-11-594414-2023/>

¹¹⁵ Belarus presents its exposition at the exhibition "Innoprom. Central Asia" in Tashkent [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-predstavliaet-ekspozitsiiu-na-vystavke-innoprom-tsentralnaj-a-azij-a-v-tashkente-563204-2023/>

technical developments were presented at the stand of the Ministry of Education of Belarus six

universities and departmental organisations, including new technologies and software systems for use in industrial and scientific development, as well as technologies, equipment and materials for the chemical and oil refining industries, mechanical engineering, of the foundry.

Also in April 2023, the International Exhibition "Healthcare / TIHE 2023" was held in Tashkent, where more than 250 companies from 13 countries took part and where a wide range of materials and technologies for laboratory and functional diagnostics, therapy and surgery, rehabilitation equipment, means of automation of medicine, and equipment for medical institutions were presented. The visitors also got acquainted with the presented therapeutic and health-improving preparations, orthopaedic means meeting all modern demands of the industry. Our country was represented at this exhibition forum by the Belarusian Prosthetic and Orthopedic Rehabilitation Centre, which showed "technical rehabilitation equipment of its own production: products for children (with cerebral palsy, dysplasia) and women after mastectomy (bodices, swimming costumes), active wheelchair, orthopedic insoles, a table for mechanotherapy and others, in total - more than 20 items"¹¹⁶.

Belarus is also a traditional participant of the UzTextileExpo Autumn international exhibition, which was held for the 7th time in October 2023 in the Uzbek capital and where 183 companies from eight countries, including China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, participated. "The Belarusian exposition this time was represented by major petrochemical exporters, including companies such as Naftan, Mogilevkhimvolokno and Svetlogorskikhimvolokno. The companies brought with them a rich range of products in demand among Uzbek and regional consumers"¹¹⁷. "Naftan" introduced visitors to acrylic fibres of its own production - a durable material widely used in the textile industry. "Mogilevkhimvolokno" presented polyester fibre for the production of fabrics, insulation, syntepon, non-woven fabrics. Polyethylene terephthalate, a high-strength plastic used in the production of containers, was also among

¹¹⁶ Belarusian technical means of rehabilitation will be presented at the exhibition in Tashkent [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/beloruskie- tehlicheskie-sredstva-reabilitatsii-predstavjat-na-vystavke-v-tashkente-560954-2023>

¹¹⁷ Belarusian exposition is presented at the textile exhibition in Tashkent [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/beloruskaja- ekspozitsija-predstavlena-na-tekstilnoj -vystavke-v-tashkente-594563-2023/>.

the products presented. "Svetlogorskhhimvolokno demonstrated high-strength nonwovens, polyester textile yarns, knitted fabrics in various designs - dyed, lacquered, bleached, tufted, embossed and many others.

Finally, in November 2023, the Belarusian exposition Belarus - the Taste of Nature was presented at the leading agricultural and food exhibitions UzProdExpo/UzAgroExpo, where "more than 120 companies from Uzbekistan, Austria, Armenia, Belarus, Bulgaria, Iran, Italy, Kazakhstan, Cyprus, China, Kyrgyzstan, Netherlands, South Korea, Russia, USA, Turkmenistan, Turkey and Czech Republic..."¹¹⁸. In particular, the Belarusian company - Postavy Dairy Plant - presented its well-known products, including Cheddar Red, Parmesan Grand and Maasdam cheeses, which have already become a kind of classic. These products arouse the greatest interest among potential partners from Uzbekistan. Another Belarusian participant, Bretta, took part in the exhibition for the first time and expected successful contacts and fruitful results. The company showed a range of dry dairy products produced by the Luninets Dairy Plant, where among the products stood out milk powder under the brand name "Molochnaya Kapelka", which is made from skimmed pasteurised milk. This product can be used for preparation of non-caloric yoghurts, ice-cream, shakes, infant formulae. As for Slutsk Cheese Factory, it demonstrated in Tashkent an expanded line of its lactose-free products, including a novelty - lactose-free sweet cream butter "#Mozhno" and milk "#Mozhno A2". In addition, the assortment included glazed cheese, cottage cheese, milk with extended shelf life, sweet cream butter, chocolate butter and processed cheese. Finally, the Gomel meat processing plant brought to the Uzbek market products that meet halal standards, which included Beef sausage, raw smoked beef product Santorini Prestige, poultry chips, raw smoked chicken product Fileichka, as well as cooked-smoked beef products, including Filey Firm. In addition, the meat processing plant presented its latest innovations, including such products as "Exquisite" tenderloin and "Gourmet" beef. Also new for the Uzbek market was the low-calorie sausage "Black Pearl" made from beef and poultry meat. Of course, the exposition Belarus - the Taste of Nature aroused high interest on the part of visitors, including representatives of Uzbek business, government agencies and the media.

Returning to the 10th meeting of the joint Belarusian-Uzbek intergovernmental commission on bilateral cooperation, we note that

¹¹⁸ Belarus presents its food products at the exhibitions in Tashkent [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-predstavljaet-svoju-prodovolstvennuju-produktsiju-na-vystavkah-v-tashkente-601144-2023/>

Uzbekistan is Belarus's key partner in Central Asia. The two former Soviet republics celebrated the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations in 2023. And today, based on numerous facts, we can assert that the interaction between Minsk and Tashkent is experiencing a period of a peculiar flourishing, which is reaching a qualitatively new level and seeking to search for and expand new joint forms of cooperation to realise the objectives of strategic cooperation.

Forum of Hopes and Prospects

In February 2024, the II Forum of Regions of Belarus and Uzbekistan was held in Tashkent, attended by more than 150 representatives of Belarusian regions and the business community. And over the course of two days, they and their Uzbek partners discussed a wide range of issues of bilateral interregional interaction - from investment and industrial cooperation to strengthening cultural and humanitarian ties. As a result, the parties "came to a package of bilateral documents (45 documents), which includes interdepartmental, interregional agreements, a number of contracts, the total value of which is about \$150 million"¹¹⁹. In particular, they signed: an intergovernmental agreement on the application of electronic systems of certification of origin of goods; an agreement between the Ministry of Antimonopoly Regulation and Trade of Belarus and the Committee for the Development of Competition and Consumer Protection of Uzbekistan on cooperation in the development of competition, consumer protection and regulation of the advertising market; a protocol on cooperation in the field of intellectual property. The parties also "signed an agreement on scientific and production cooperation, a roadmap for the development of cooperation in the agro-industrial complex for 2024-2026, a plan of joint measures to develop cooperation in the integration of information systems in the field of plant quarantine"¹²⁰. programmes of cooperation in the spheres of culture and art, sports and tourism, and education have been adopted. Minsk and Tashkent signed an agreement to establish twinning ties and develop multifaceted cooperation. In addition, in order to organise systemic mutual supplies, a joint foreign trade company will be established in Minsk and Tashkent; export support mechanisms and electronic system of goods certification will be introduced; favourable conditions for cargo transportation will be created and

¹¹⁹ The Belarusian delegation in Tashkent reached agreements for \$150 million [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belorususkaja-delegatsija-v-tashkente-dostigla-dogovorennostej-na-150-mln-614453-2024>

¹²⁰ Belarus and Uzbekistan signed a road map of co-operation for 2024-2025 [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-uzbekistan-podpisali-dorozhnuju-kartu-sotrudnichestva-na-2024-2025-gody-614308-2024>

multimodal corridors will be used in the direction of South Asian markets. The parties also "intend to implement projects in the agro-industrial complex, electrical engineering and textiles, healthcare and pharmaceuticals, urban development, and public utilities. Roadmaps will be adopted and working groups will be set up in each direction"¹²¹ .

It should be noted that the parties have signed 70 documents over the 30 years of Belarusian-Uzbek interaction, and the scope of the February agreements confirms the strategic nature of the relations between the two former post-Soviet republics. Moreover, this package of bilateral documents is crowned by the Roadmap for the Development of Cooperation for 2024-2025, which envisages the implementation of export and investment projects worth one billion dollars. For reference, let us clarify: in 2018-2022, trade turnover between Belarus and Uzbekistan increased 3.2 times. In 2023, the volume of mutual trade grew by another 12 per cent and exceeded \$565 million. The roadmap for 2024-2025 deals with such areas of interaction as "industrial cooperation, agriculture, processing industry, humanitarian issues, education issues, cooperation in sports and tourism, training of personnel for the forestry industry, urban development, housing and utilities - a wide range of issues. They are sealed by 99 documents totalling \$1.054 billion"¹²² .

In their joint statement in February 2024, the leaders of Belarus and Uzbekistan stressed that the priority direction of Belarusian-Uzbek relations would be further expansion of mutually beneficial trade and economic interaction and building up the volume of mutual trade and expanding its nomenclature, including in the **industrial sector**. Recall that exports of the Belarusian Industry Ministry's enterprises to this Central Asian country increased by almost 45 per cent in 2023. At the same time, "industrial cooperation is not limited to mutual deliveries of products. Industrial cooperation is traditionally one of the priority areas of interaction"¹²³ .

For example, PA Energokomplekt together with YES LLC are working to localise the production of cable and wire products in Uzbekistan. Since 2018, Minsk Automobile Plant has been cooperating with Krantas Group LLC on the production of special-purpose machinery in Uzbekistan. During the

¹²¹ Mirziyoyev: Belarus and Uzbekistan will create a joint foreign trade company [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/mirziyev-belarus-i-uzbekistan-sozdadut-sovmestniju-vneshnetorgovuju-kompaniju-614250-2024/>

¹²² Belarus and Uzbekistan will implement projects for more than \$1 billion in 2024-2025 [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-uzbekistan-v-2024-2025-godah-realizujut-proekty-bolee-chem-na-1-mlrd-613960-2024/>

¹²³ Export of enterprises of the Ministry of Industry to Uzbekistan in 2023 increased by almost 45% [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/eksport-predpriatii-minprom-a-uzbekistan-v-2023-godu-vozros-pochti-na-45-614029-2024/>

period of cooperation, more than 200 units of special vehicles - tank trucks, in particular, petrol and water tankers, rubbish trucks, crane equipment - have been jointly produced and sold to Uzbek consumers. In its turn, the Uzbek company, within the framework of co-operation, supplies crane booms to Belarus to the Mogilevtransmash plant for the subsequent production of hoisting cranes. And work is underway to conclude new contracts for 2024. At the end of 2023, a new cooperation project to organise assembly production of diesel-generator sets and compressor stations in Uzbekistan has been launched. The project involves Minsk Motor Plant and the Uzbek company PLANETA SERVIS LLC.

In 2024, it is envisaged to start practical implementation of the tractor construction project with this partner. The fact is that "a pilot project will be launched this year - Belarus and Uzbekistan are creating an assembly production of a cotton tractor. At the first stage, 500 tractor sets will be supplied. Uzbekistan is going in the direction of developing its production base"¹²⁴. Licence agreements have already been signed with Minsk Tractor Plant (MTZ) for organisation of assembly production of Belarus machinery. Work is underway to resolve localisation issues. "The relevance of the project is confirmed by the unabated demand for Belarusian tractors from Uzbek agrarians. In 2023 alone, MTZ increased exports of tractors to Uzbekistan by 1.6 times compared to 2022"¹²⁵. To be more precise, more than four thousand tractors were supplied from Belarus last year. This is a record for recent years.

The parties have great potential for the development of mutually beneficial co-operation in the creation of joint production of dump trucks. After all, "Uzbekistan is a leader among the CIS countries in copper production and gold mining. It is the mining industry that has priority and it is the locomotive of Uzbekistan's economy"¹²⁶. For this reason, the Uzbek side is ready not only to organise large-scale assembly of Belarusian dump trucks, but is also ready to manufacture the necessary parts and components to transport ore to processing plants where rare-earth metals will be produced. It

¹²⁴ Belarus and Uzbekistan create assembly production of cotton tractors [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-uzbekistan-sozdajut-sborochnoe-proizvodstvo-hlopkovodcheskih-tractorov-613951-2024/>.

¹²⁵ Ministers of Industry of Belarus and Uzbekistan familiarised themselves with the production sites of partner companies [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/ministry-promyshlennosti-belarusi-i-uzbekistana-oznakomilis-s-proizvodstvennymi-ploschadkami-kompanii-614578-2024/>.

¹²⁶ Belarus and Uzbekistan will work out the creation of joint production of dump trucks [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-uzbekistan-prorabotaiut-sozdanie-sovmestnogo-proizvodstva-samosvalov-614810-2024/>

should also be noted for reference that following the II Forum of Regions of Belarus and Uzbekistan, more than ten enterprises of the Belarusian Ministry of Industry signed contracts worth about \$45 million.

In recent years, co-operation between the countries **in the forestry, woodworking and pulp and paper industries** has been developing very dynamically. Statistics show that "in the last three years there has been an annual increase in supplies to Uzbekistan - on average twofold, which indicates a constantly growing demand <...>. In 2023, the growth rate of exports of woodworking and pulp and paper products was over 150 per cent. In Uzbekistan, the enterprises of the industry supply almost the entire range of products manufactured in Belarus"¹²⁷ . And the organisations of the Ministry of Forestry were able to increase the export of to Uzbekistan in 2023 even five times. And this year "we plan to increase shipments two times more"¹²⁸ , including at the expense of house sets produced by forestry enterprises. And that is not all. At present, the Uzbek market is being supplied with the help of the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange.

(Belarusian woodworking products are very actively traded. There are, of course, contracts for other commodity items as well, but so far sawn timber from Belarus is the leader. In general, "for a month and a half of the current [2024] year, the [BUTB] exchange has already sold and purchased \$7 million worth of products with the participation of Uzbek business. More than 100 Uzbek companies are registered at the exchange"¹²⁹ .

At the II Forum of Regions, several woodworking and pulp and paper enterprises also signed contracts to supply Uzbekistan with their products. Thus, Svetlogorsk Pulp and Paper Mill signed agreements with two Uzbek companies for the supply of bleached softwood pulp. Newsprint Plant RUE signed a contract for supply of offset and sack paper. The total amount of the contracts is \$17 million. The newsprint plant also signed a letter of intent to sell sawn timber to Uzbekistan. And woodworking enterprise FanDOC will produce furniture in Uzbekistan. It is planned to open a joint company to produce furniture in Tashkent region. A road map has already been prepared

¹²⁷ Enterprises of woodworking and pulp and paper industry concluded contracts on delivery of products to Uzbekistan for \$17 million [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL:

<https://www.belta.by/economics/view/predpriiatija-bellesbumproma-zakliuchili-kontrakty-po-postavke-produktsii-v-uzbekistan-na-17-mln-614132-2024/>

¹²⁸ Organisations of the Ministry of Forestry at the end of 2023 increased exports to Uzbekistan five times [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/organizatsii-minleshoza-po-itogam-2023-goda-narastili-eksport-v-uzbekistan-v-piat-raz-614577-2024/>.

¹²⁹ BUTB proposes to build direct sales of Uzbek enterprises for buyers in Belarus [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/butb-predlagaet-vystraivat-prjamyje-prodazhi-uzbekskih-predpriyatij-dlja-pokupatelej-v-belarusi-616373-2024/>

for this purpose. Uzbek partners undertake to build a building according to the requirements of FanDOC, they buy equipment according to the requirements of the Belarusian company, and FanDOC comes in with its raw material base. "Thus, Belarus will not just sell raw materials to Uzbekistan, but will produce and sell a product with high added value on the local market. The parties will own the enterprise 50/50"¹³⁰. In addition, a roadmap for further expansion of co-operation between Belarus and Uzbekistan in the woodworking industry was signed on the margins of the forum.

As for the interaction between the two countries in **agriculture**, joint production facilities will be set up in Uzbekistan in the near future. Belarus will build a poultry farm in Tashkent and a dairy plant in Samarkand. For this purpose, "a project has been worked out to build a poultry farm to raise broilers of about 70-75 thousand tonnes per year. The implementation of this project has already begun: a feed mill has been purchased, land has been obtained. We even have a brand already - "Jozha" ("Chicken")"¹³¹. In Samarkand, Savushkin Product will act as a partner, where not only Belarusian but also local raw materials will be processed, and then the finished products will be marketed in third countries, for example, Afghanistan. Another direction in this regard is the export of veterinary drugs. In February 2024, a contract was signed under which "supplies will grow by almost 2.5 times. This shows the demand for our [Belarusian] veterinary drugs in the Uzbek market"¹³². In addition, Uzbekistan plans to test Belarusian potatoes and has already ordered the first batch - 20 tonnes. The fact is that Uzbek potatoes are grown in the fields of this Central Asian country with yields several times lower than in Belarus. "Further co-operation in this area will depend on the result. But in general, the need for potatoes in Uzbekistan is not covered by about 133 half"¹³³.

Another important trend in Belarus-Uzbekistan relations: in 2024, the two post-Soviet countries will noticeably strengthen co-operation in the **textile**

¹³⁰ "FanDOC" will engage in furniture production in Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/fandok-zajmetsja-proizvodstvom-mebeli-v-uzbekistane-614380-2024/>

¹³¹ Belarus will build a poultry farm in Tashkent and a dairy plant in Samarkand [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-postroit-v-tashkente-ptitsefabriku-a-v-samarkande-molochnyj-kombinat-614367-2024/>

¹³² Belarus will increase supplies of veterinary drugs to Uzbekistan by 2.5 times [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/societv/view/belarus-v-25- raza-narastit-postavki-vetpreparatov-v-uzbekistan-616324-2024>

¹³³ Uzbekistan wants to test Belarusian potatoes, yield of its own potatoes is several times lower [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/uzbekistan-hochet-izpytat-beloruskii-kartofel-urozhajnost-svoego-v-neskolko-raz-nizhe-614368-2024/>

and garment industries. Within the framework of industrial cooperation, there are plans for mutual supplies of cotton yarn, cloth, and fabrics for the work of Belarusian enterprises, as well as chemical fibres, linen raw materials, and blended ready-made fabrics for the work of Uzbek enterprises. Projects on sewing ready-made garments on the territory of Uzbekistan according to the orders of Belarusian brands will be worked out, as Belarus lacks its own seamstresses. For this reason, a number of Belarusian companies - "Svtganak, Slavyanka, Kalinka and Orsha Flax Factory - already have experience in placing their orders with Uzbek enterprises"¹³⁴. Strategically, the Belarusian side decided as follows: labour-intensive products - suit and dress, coat groups, some complex elements - will be produced in Belarus; other assortment items - in Uzbekistan - under Belarusian trademarks, with fabrics and fabrics from our republic. Besides, "the key aspect of cooperation will be in the field of education and professional development. Uzbek specialists, including seamstresses, technologists and designers, will be sent to Belarusian enterprises for internships, and Belarusian technologists will be engaged for managerial work at Uzbek enterprises"¹³⁵. By the way, it should be noted that the number of students from Uzbekistan studying in Belarus has grown significantly over the past five years. If five years ago, 14 citizens of Uzbekistan were educated in Belarus, now there are about 1,200. "And in total, about 4,000 students are studying under joint educational programmes. There is a great interest to train specialists in Belarus in those specialities that will be in demand in the real sector of the economy"¹³⁶.

In 2024, Belarus and Uzbekistan intend to develop co-operation in the **healthcare sector** at an accelerated pace and have outlined more than ten areas of co-operation in this regard. For example, in the area of child health care, the Mother and Child Republican Scientific and Practical Medical Centre of the Ministry of Health of Belarus will provide advanced training for doctors of the Republican Specialized Scientific and Practical Medical Centre for Mother and Child Health of Uzbekistan on neonatology, as well as

¹³⁴ Belarus will more actively attract Uzbek enterprises to the production of clothes [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-budet-aktivnee-privlekat-k-proizvodstvu-odezhdy-uzbekskie-predpriiatia-613968-2024/>

¹³⁵ Belarus and Uzbekistan will strengthen co-operation in the textile and clothing industries [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-uzbekistan-ukrepjat-sotrudnichestvo-v-tekstilnoj-i-shvejnoj-otrasljah-614106-2024/>

¹³⁶ Ambassador of Uzbekistan: there is a great interest in training students in Belarus [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/amp/society/view/posol-uzbekistana-cst-bolshaia-zainteresovannost-v-obuchenii-studentov-v-belarusi-616364-2024>

the development of joint educational programmes for master's degrees and clinical residency, and cooperation on neonatal resuscitation. Internships and advanced training will also be organised for Uzbek medical, teaching and scientific staff in cardiac surgery and cardiac anaesthesiology, functional diagnostics of patients with congenital heart defects, online consultations on problem patients, exchange of specialists in the field of radiology, targeting, molecular genetic therapy. A separate block of partnerships includes training in Belarus of medical physicists and oncology engineers, specialists for the transplantology service of Uzbekistan, cooperation in orthopaedics and arthroscopy through exchange of experience, training and joint operations. Speaking about cooperation between the sanitary and epidemiological services of Belarus and Uzbekistan, the parties agreed "to carry out joint work and research in the field of prevention and treatment of infectious and non-infectious diseases, including immunisation and pandemic control programmes"¹³⁷.

The Belarusian side is also considering the possibility of entering the Uzbek market with high-quality, low-cost **pharmaceuticals** that are essential for the healthcare needs of that country. All the more so because at present, Belfarmprom Holding companies have 136 registration certificates for medicines in Uzbekistan. In 2023, the supply of medicines to this country increased by 120 per cent. In February 2024, commercial contracts worth more than five million dollars were signed, which will significantly increase these supplies. A memorandum of understanding was also adopted between Belfarmprom Holding and the Agency for the Development of the Pharmaceutical Industry under the Ministry of Health of Uzbekistan, on the basis of which the first contracts have already been signed and practical work has begun to expand not only direct supplies, but also the development of new types of medicines. The Belarusian side offered a list of 12 items that can be jointly mastered at Uzbek enterprises. And "now between the Belpharm enterprise, which is located in

The Belarusian plant is acting as a technical partner, which means that it is ready to transfer technology and train specialists. The Belarusian plant acts as a technical partner, which implies readiness to transfer technologies and train specialists"¹³⁸. All this suggests that Belarus considers Uzbekistan as one of

¹³⁷ Staff training and joint operations. What cooperation between the Ministries of Health of Belarus and Uzbekistan looks like [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/podgotovka-kadrov-i-sovmestnye-operatsii-kakim-viditsia-sotrudnichestvo-minzdravov-belarusi-i-614005-2024/>

¹³⁸ Belarus plans to organise supplies of medicines for oncology treatment to Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL:

the most promising platforms for joint work to bring joint products to the markets of third countries. One more fact: the Belarusian side has submitted documents for registration of about 20 new medicines in this Central Asian country and 27 for re-registration. At the same time, the possibility of entering the Uzbek market with a range of oncological drugs from Belarus, which are two to three times cheaper than imported analogues, is being considered.

Speaking about the results of the II Forum of the Regions of Belarus and Uzbekistan in terms of Belarusian regions, we can note interesting results from Hrodna, Brest, Vitebsk, and Minsk. For example, the **Grodno Oblast Executive Committee** signed memoranda of co-operation with Surkhandarya Oblast and the Republic of Karakalpakstan, and agreements on trade and economic, scientific and technical, environmental, social and humanitarian and cultural co-operation were concluded with Samarkand and Andijan Oblasts. At the same time, the emphasis in partnerships with Uzbek colleagues is on co-operation, the creation of joint productions and mutual investments. "There is interest on the part of Uzbek business to invest in the economy of Grodno region <...>. There is an interest on the part of our [Grodno] producers to engage not only in supplying finished products, but also to organise joint ventures and produce products there"¹³⁹. In the same days of February, Grodno State University (GrSU) "signed cooperation agreements with Urgench Innovation University and Tashkent State Technical University"¹⁴⁰, as well as with Tashkent's Nizami State Pedagogical University. In addition, GrSU representatives at the Tashkent Institute of Chemical Technology outlined plans for the further development of a joint educational programme for undergraduates, and at the Tashkent State Transport University discussed the prospects for developing mutually beneficial ties.

As for **Brest region**, which has increased the growth of trade turnover and exports to the Uzbek market by the end of 2023, it identified clear priorities for cooperation with Uzbek partners at the forum - textile production, road

<https://www.belta.by/amp/society/view/belarus-planiruet-organizovat-postavki-v-uzbekistan-lekarstv-dlja-lechenija-onkologii-616347-2024>

¹³⁹ Karanik: in co-operation with Uzbekistan the emphasis is placed on the creation of joint productions and mutual investments [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL:

<https://www.belta.by/regions/view/karanik-v-sotrudnicestve-s-uzbekistanom-upor-delaetsja-na-sozdanie-sovmestnyh-proizvodstv-i-vzaimnye-614485-2024/>

¹⁴⁰ Three agreements with universities of Uzbekistan will complete the portfolio of international cooperation of GrSU [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL:

<https://www.belta.by/society/view/tri-dogovora-s-vuzami-uzbekistana-dopolnjat-portfel-mezhdunarodnogo-sotrudnicestva-grgu-614135-2024/>

construction, production of bricks, ceramic stones and blocks, as well as cooperation in agriculture and in organising mutual supplies of food products - peanuts, sultanas, apricots, prunes, spices. Brest region enterprises "not only supply their products to Uzbekistan and import Uzbek goods, but are also investors. For example, Kobrin "Polesie", specialising in the production of children's toys, invested in the construction of a similar plant in Tashkent"¹⁴¹. For this reason, the Brest Regional Executive Committee at the forum signed action plans for 2024-2025 to implement interregional agreements on trade and economic, scientific, technical and cultural cooperation with the Syrdarya and Bukhara regions, which were concluded at the First Forum of Regions of Belarus and Uzbekistan. In addition, the following agreements were signed at the Second Forum: a cooperation agreement between the Brest Regional Clinical Hospital and the Bukhara Regional Multidisciplinary Medical Centre and a protocol of intent between the cities of Brest and Bukhara.

On the margins of the II Forum of Regions, **Vitebsk** Region signed road maps for 2024-2025 with Namangan and Kashkadarya regions. In the second one, representatives of Vitebsk and Kashkadarya regions also agreed "on co-operation in the spheres of oncology, children's surgery, transplantology and endocrinology, ..." ¹⁴², as well as discussed issues related to co-operation in economy, tourism, information technologies and sports. Finally, as mentioned above, at the second forum **Minsk** and Tashkent signed an agreement on the establishment of twinning ties and an action plan to implement the agreement between the Minsk City Executive Committee and the Tashkent Khokimiyat on trade, economic, scientific, technical and cultural co-operation for the next two years.

2024-2025. The parties identified the main task in this matter as "to realise all plans as soon as possible"¹⁴³.

Summing up, it should be noted that today the interaction between the two former post-Soviet republics "is experiencing a period of a peculiar flourishing, which is reaching a qualitatively new level and striving to search

¹⁴¹ Brest region will conclude new co-operation agreements at the Forum of Regions of Belarus and Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/novye-dogovory-o-sotrudnichestve-zakljuchit-brestrskaja-oblast-na-forume-regions-belarusi-i-uzbekistana-613850-2024/>

¹⁴² Vitebsk and Kashkadarya regions plan cooperation in the spheres of oncology and children's surgery [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/vitebskaja-i-kashkadarjinskaja-oblasti-planirujut-sotrudnichestvo-v-sferah-onkologii-i-detskoj-hirurgii-613865-2024/>

¹⁴³ Delegation from Minsk participates in the II Forum of Regions of Belarus and Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/delegatsija-iz-minska-uchastvuet-v-ii-forum-regions-belarusi-i-uzbekistana-613836-2024/>

for and expand new joint forms to realise the objectives of strategic cooperation"¹⁴⁴. In this context, the 2nd Forum of Regions of Belarus and Uzbekistan showed the parties' confident course for further effective partnership, and the priority direction of Belarusian-Uzbek relations remains the expansion and deepening of mutually beneficial trade and economic cooperation: from industrial cooperation and agriculture to scientific and technological, cultural, humanitarian and regional interaction.

Co-operation is developing upward trajectory

In August 2024, the second Uzbek-Belarusian Women's Business Forum was held in Tashkent, where about one hundred representatives of the business community and government agencies took part from the Belarusian side alone. We recall that the first similar forum was held in September 2023 in Minsk and was dedicated to the theme "Women in Business - Potential for the Development of Business Cooperation between Belarus and Uzbekistan", where "14 memoranda and agreements on cooperation were signed, including an agreement on the establishment of a joint leather and footwear production facility, and 15 contracts worth more than Br90 million, or 350 billion Uzbek sums"¹⁴⁵.

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 approach the issue of building a green economy responsibly, backing it up with real actions. For example, they annually increase trade turnover, mutually ensuring the output of competitive products and developing production cooperation, localisation of Belarusian and Uzbek industries in each other's territories, and increasing the share of investments. The parties consider joint activities on the development, introduction and use of nature-saving technologies, development of environmental services, ecotourism and agro-ecotourism to be among the priorities of green economic growth. Also, "it would be advisable to work on the creation of a farm-laboratory of biodesign, where the selection of new types of crops, including agricultural crops, climate-adaptive technologies and approaches to improving the resilience of territories to the negative impact of anthropogenic and natural factors would be developed"¹⁴⁶. This was discussed at six

¹⁴⁴ Zalesky, B. Address of partnership - Uzbekistan. Chronicle of co-operative interaction / Boris Zalesky. - LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2024. - C. 61.

¹⁴⁵ Kochanova: Uzbek-Belarusian Women's Business Forum fully meets the spirit of the time [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/kochanova-uzbeksko-belorusskij-zhenskij-biznes-forum-polnostiju-otvechaet-duhu-vremeni-656964-2024/>

¹⁴⁶ Kochanova: Belarus and Uzbekistan approach the construction of green economy in good faith

thematic sections of the forum, based on the main areas of co-operation between the two countries: mechanical engineering, light industry, agriculture, chemistry and woodworking, medical and educational services, tourism. And here were noted interesting results of bilateral co-operation, following the results of which it was planned "to sign more than 60 agreements and memoranda worth about \$50 million"¹⁴⁷.

In particular, within the framework of this forum such sphere of joint interest as education was considered. At the plenary session, the parties voiced the task to expand the practice of mutual exchanges and internships of students, teachers, and specialists from various services and agencies, and to intensify cooperation within the framework of joint educational programmes. Moreover, 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, with the possibility of their prompt training and retraining for the green economy in a wide range of specialities"¹⁴⁸. In particular, Minsk Automobile Plant already employs 300 specialists from Uzbekistan.

Speaking specifically about interaction between institutions of higher education, it was noted at the Second Forum of Regions of Belarus and Uzbekistan, which took place in February 2024, that a few years ago, only a few dozen Uzbek citizens studied in our republic, while "today, about 5,000 students are educated at joint faculties. We are talking about expanding the areas of training and maximising the potential of Belarusian universities"¹⁴⁹. To date, more than 400 contracts and agreements have been signed. A rectors' forum was held, and "the opening of a branch of Vitebsk State University, one of the leading universities of the country, in Uzbekistan is on the agenda"¹⁵⁰.

[Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL:

<https://belta.by/society/view/kochanova-belarus-i-uzbekistan-podhodjat-k-stroitelstvu-ekonomiki-zelenogo-tipa-dobrosovestno-656993-2024/>

¹⁴⁷ Narbayeva: more than 60 agreements are planned to be signed as a result of the II Uzbek-Belarusian Women's Business Forum [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL:

<https://belta.by/society/view/narbaeva-po-itogam-ii-uzbekske-belorusskogo-zhenskogo-biznes-foruma-planiruetsja-podpisat-bolee-60-657064-2024/>

¹⁴⁸ Belarus is ready to assist in the training of specialists in demand in Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/belarus-gotova-okazat-pomosch-v-obuchenii-vostrebovannyh-v-uzbekistane-spetsialistov-656992-2024/>

¹⁴⁹ Belarus is ready to create enterprises in Uzbekistan for commercialisation of scientific developments [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/belarus-gotova-sozdat-v-uzbekistane-predprii-atij-a-dlj-a-kommertsializatsii-nauchnyh-razrabotok-.616330-2024/>

¹⁵⁰ "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-vozmozhnost-uvlichenija-tovarooborota-s-uzbekistanom-.657036->

Another telling example can be cited in this context. Last summer, Grodno State University (GrSU) hosted the first graduation of students studying under the joint programme of GrSU and Tashkent Law University. For reference, it should be noted that these students were recruited to study under the 2+1+1+1 scheme back in 2020. "The guys studied in Grodno for the first two years, then one year in Tashkent and completed their studies also in GrSU. Thus, they mastered all disciplines under the Belarusian programme and the necessary subjects under the Uzbek one. As a result, they received two diplomas in international law, which gives them the opportunity to work in their home country, Uzbekistan, as well as in Belarus..."¹⁵¹. Several people completed their studies with excellent results and received the relevant diplomas.

Some of them will continue their studies at the master's programme. And the implementation of this programme will continue. We would like to add that eight joint educational programmes are being implemented at SDSU, with 216 students: 144 students from Tashkent State Law University, 37 students from Karshi State University, 32 students from Kokand State Pedagogical Institute named after Mukimi, and three master's students from Tashkent Institute of Chemical Technology.

Another relevant topic that was raised during the second Uzbek-Belarusian Women's Business Forum was co-operation between the regions of the two countries. At the planning session of the forum, it was emphasised that the parties need to more actively involve the scientific and expert-analytical communities in the topic of green business, including "to develop people's diplomacy, initiate and monitor the building of twinning ties between the cities of Belarus and Uzbekistan. This approach will contribute to the development of common promising business solutions, including the creation of new markets and the promotion of joint products on the markets of third countries"¹⁵². Moreover, the second Forum of Regions of Belarus and Uzbekistan adopted documents that develop multidisciplinary cooperation between the regions of the two countries on the implementation of projects in the agro-industrial complex, electrical engineering and textiles, health care

2024/

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

¹⁵² Kochanova: it is necessary to build twinning ties between the cities of Belarus and Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/special/society/view/kochanova-nuzhno-vystraivat-pobratimskie-svjazi-mezhdu-gorodami-belarusi-i-uzbekistana-657003-2024/>

and pharmaceuticals, urban development, public utilities, as well as "road maps will be adopted and working groups will be set up in each area"¹⁵³. And already after this February forum, it was possible to note a number of examples of how Belarusian and Uzbek regions carry out effective interaction.

Thus, in April 2024, Gomel and Fergana regions signed a roadmap of cooperation and approved the action plan for 2024-2025, which "implies deepening and expansion of bilateral trade and economic, scientific and technical, cultural and humanitarian cooperation"¹⁵⁴. At the same time an agreement on co-operation between the free economic zones "Kokand" and "Gomel-Raton" was signed and contracts for more than six and a half million Belarusian rubles were concluded. Note that the two regions have been developing ties since 2019. And during this time, "exports of Homel products to Fergana region have grown 4.5 times"¹⁵⁵. In the future, the parties outlined several key areas in which they will build cooperation: the creation of a joint dairy enterprise, supply of products of Homel machine-building enterprises, furniture production, and the organisation of trading houses in Homel and Fergana.

As for the interaction between the two capitals - Minsk and Tashkent - in February 2024, they signed an agreement on the establishment of twinning ties and a plan of measures in trade, economic, scientific, technical and cultural cooperation for 2024-2025. And already in April, a delegation from Tashkent came to Minsk to study Minsk's experience in various spheres of urban economy. Especially since "Uzbekistan is implementing a large-scale project "New Tashkent", which involves the construction of a city based on modern achievements of architecture on the territory of almost 20 thousand hectares"¹⁵⁶. For this reason, the Uzbek partners were interested in everything: the width of streets, traffic organisation, dispatching of traffic lights, the activity of the "One Window" system. The Belarusian capital

¹⁵³ Zaleskii, B. Realisation of economic potential in the conditions of world turbulence / Boris Zaleskii. - LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2024. - C. 32.

¹⁵⁴ Leaders of Gomel and Fergana regions signed a roadmap of co-operation [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL:

<https://belta.by/regions/view/rukovoditeli-gomelskoj-i-ferganskaj-oblastej-podpisali-dorozhnuju-kartu-sotrudnicestva-629168-2024/>

¹⁵⁵ Gomel and Fergana regions concluded contracts for more than Br6.5 million [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/gomelskaia-i-ferganskaj-a-oblasti-zakljuchili-kontrakty-bolee-chem-na-br65-mln-629575-2024/>.

¹⁵⁶ Kukharev: Minsk is ready to share with Tashkent the experience of work in housing and communal services, urban development, digitalisation [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL:

<https://belta.by/regions/view/kuharev-minsk-gotov-podelitsja-s-tashkentom-opytom-raboty-v-zhkh-gradostroitelstve-tsifrovizatsii-628286-2024/>

revealed its experience in other areas as well: service 115, enterprises producing municipal and passenger vehicles. Besides, "the possibilities of industrial co-operation were discussed, in particular, in the sphere of woodworking and furniture production, supply of baby food, establishment of a trade house of Uzbekistan in Minsk"¹⁵⁷. So the twinning ties between the two capitals are beginning to develop on an upward trajectory. And this is only pleasing.

Finally, the second Women's Forum highlighted topics of scientific, technical and industrial-cooperative co-operation. In particular, the Institute of Microbiology of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus (NAS) signed an agreement on scientific and technological co-operation 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 co-operation in the field of studying agents of peptide nature as an alternative to antibiotics. And "the Institute of Meat and Dairy Industry signed an agreement on scientific and technical co-operation, an agreement was reached on joint implementation of a number of scientific projects, including in the field of biochemistry of meat and dairy, fish projects"¹⁵⁸.

In addition, an exhibition-presentation Made in Belarus was organised at the forum, where more than 70 innovations of Belarusian scientists from the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the Ministry of Education were presented in the section of scientific and technical developments. For example, the Institute of Meat and Dairy Industry of the National Academy of Sciences presented technologies of production of low-lactose and lactose-free dairy and sour-milk products, as well as products made on their basis. 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 complex treatment of wastewater from poultry processing plants. The second one is for treatment of seeds and vegetative plants of winter wheat, it stimulates growth and increases productivity of the grain crop. An unparalleled microbial preparation for purification of aqueous solutions from a mixture of the most common solvents based on esters and

¹⁵⁷ Trade, industrial co-operation, exchange of experience. Kukharev outlined the directions of co-operation with Tashkent [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/kuharev-na-vstreche-s-poslom-oboznachil-napravlenija-sotrudnichestva-s-regionami-uzbekistana-623983-2024/>

¹⁵⁸ Scientists of Belarus and Uzbekistan will co-operate in the field of microbiology and biochemistry [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/uchenye-belarusi-i-uzbekistana-budut-sotrudnichat-v-oblasti-mikrobiologii-i-biohimii-656830-2024/>

alcohols was also presented.

Vitebsk State Technological University presented nanofibre materials of various structures obtained by the method of electroforming and intended for use in medicine and cosmetology to create innovative drugs. Polotsk State University showed at the exhibition-presentation a protective wax for rubbers, which is an ingredient of rubber mixtures for the manufacture of car tyres. In terms of properties it corresponds to imported protective wax. "The organisation of production will eliminate imports to Belarus in the amount of 210 tonnes per year and reduce the cost by 50% due to cheaper domestic raw materials"¹⁵⁹. Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno presented composite materials based on various polymer matrices for the production of industrial products. The National Research Centre for Materials Science of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus demonstrated gem-quality artificial emeralds, the single crystals of which have characteristics close to the precious natural stone.

And the Belarusian State University (BSU) showed "more than ten unique inventions in the field of medicine, pharmaceuticals, , technological equipment. ,"¹⁶⁰. In particular, the line of microbial biopreparations included products widely demanded in the agro-industrial complex. For example, "Bactogen" is designed to protect vegetable crops from bacterial and fungal diseases. In addition, the stand presented Gulliver, Stimul, MaxImmun and Korneplus plant growth and quality regulators to increase yields, as well as Nemacid, a biopreparation to control such a pest as gall nematode. This is the only remedy in Belarus against this parasite, authorised for use in private farms. Another exhibit was food products of the "Food of the Smart City" series. It includes dry compositions of pre-chopped or crushed dried vegetables, herbs, spices, salt and other ingredients. These phytocomplexes have immunomodulating effect and contribute to the normalisation of the functions of the musculoskeletal apparatus, nervous and immune systems. Besides, visitors of the exhibition- presentation could get acquainted with synthetic insect pheromones for controlling forest and garden pests, resource-saving technological equipment for production of products from elastic, integral and rigid polyurethane foams, new functional materials based on

¹⁵⁹ Gavrilova, V. From biopreparations to medical products: 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-beloruskie-razrabotki-prezentujut-na-biznes-forume-v-tashkente-9344//>

¹⁶⁰ BSU will present innovative developments at the exhibition in Tashkent [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/bgu-predstavit-innovatsionnye-razrabotki-na-vystavke-v-tashkente-656636-2024/>

secondary resources.

Ten enterprises of the Ministry of Industry of Belarus also showed their products at the exhibition. A three-axle MAZ-65012K dump truck running on gas motor fuel with a payload of 18.5 tonnes was presented at the open area. The specialised engine is produced at the joint Belarusian-Chinese enterprise in the Veliky Kamen industrial park. At the closed area in the collective exposition of the Ministry of Industry the latest samples were also demonstrated - "medical products of Integral OJSC and BelOMO Holding, the largest TV set in Belarus with a diagonal of 100 inches, as well as laptops and other products of N Holding OJSC, a scale model of tram model T811 (M 1:20) of UKH "BKM" OJSC, as well as diesel-generator sets of Minsk Motor Plant OJSC".¹⁶¹

This exhibition-presentation showed that it is not the first year that Uzbekistan has attracted numerous exporters from Belarus to showcase their capabilities in exhibition events in this Central Asian country. And 2024 is no exception in this respect. There are other examples that showed how diverse the participation of Belarusian enterprises and organisations in Uzbek exhibition forums can be.

Back in late winter and early spring of this year, the 25th International Specialised Exhibition "Construction - UzBuild" was held in Tashkent at the Uzexpocentre exhibition complex, where a collective exposition of Belarus was organised, represented by "five flagships of the Belarusian industry: Mogilevliftmash, Energokomplekt, Bellesexport, Newsprint Plant and Parquet Plant, a branch of Gomeldrev."¹⁶² Belarusian enterprises demonstrated their products: lifts, lifting, electrical and LED equipment, cable and wiring products, sawn timber, cylindrical wood, fuel products (wood chips, pellets), glued beam houses, frame-panel houses, solid laminated parquet, engineering board, mouldings. The exhibition also featured individual stands of business entities from Belarus - "Keramin OJSC, <...> Energokomplekt PO, Portman LLC (trade mark UNIDOORS), and Rechitsa Metizny Zavod OJSC"¹⁶³.

¹⁶¹ Ten enterprises of the Ministry of Industry will present their products at the II Uzbek-Belarusian Women's Business Forum. business forum [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL:

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

¹⁶² The exposition of Belarus is presented at the international construction exhibition UzBuild in Tashkent [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/ekspozitsiia-belarusi-predstavlena-na-mezhdunarodnoi-stroitelnoi-vystavke-uzbuild-v-tashkente-618287-2024/>

¹⁶³ Belarusian enterprises presented their products and services at the construction exhibition in Tashkent [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL:

A month later, at the end of March 2024, in Tashkent, enterprises from Belarus took part in the 23rd international exhibition UzFood 2024, where more than 280 companies from 26 countries participated. "The exposition Belarus. The Taste of Nature was formed by 15 Belarusian enterprises and their branches representing well-known domestic brands"¹⁶⁴. They presented a product line of meat and dairy products, cheeses, juices and desserts.

And in April, three business forms were held here at once. Firstly, it was the 25th International Exhibition "Education and Profession - 2024", which is one of the largest in Uzbekistan, where this time "more than 100 universities from almost 20 countries, including Belarus"¹⁶⁵. The exposition of the Belarusian National Technical University (BITU) included an information stand, presentations, master classes and consultations. After all, the number of students from this Central Asian country is growing every year not only at BITU, but also at other Belarusian higher education institutions.

Secondly, it is the 28th International Exhibition "Healthcare - TINE 2024", which is a unique platform where specialists have the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the latest medical technologies. Since its foundation, more than three thousand companies have already participated in the exhibition. The geography of participants has covered almost all continents, including Europe, Asia, America and Africa. This year more than 250 companies from 15 countries took part in the exhibition. Our republic was represented at this forum by BSU, whose stand demonstrated 20 scientific developments. The exposition included achievements of scientists and researchers in the field of medicine and chemistry. Among them were medicines, medical equipment, pharmaceutical substances. For example, haemostatic wipes for stopping 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 household bleeding. The wipes are made of sterile absorbable tissue of white or yellowish-white colour, manufactured by controlled oxidation of cellulose"¹⁶⁶. The visitors of the

<https://belta.by/economics/view/beloruskie-predpriatii-a-predstavili-svoj-u-produktsij-u-i-uslugi-na-stroitelnoi-vystavke-v-tashkente-618480-2024>

¹⁶⁴ Belarusian food products are presented at the exhibition in Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/beloruskie-produkty-pitanija-predstavleny-na-vystavke-v-uzbekistane-623805-2024/>

¹⁶⁵ Opportunities of education in Belarus are presented at the international exhibition in Tashkent [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/vozmozhnosti-obucheniya-v-belarusi-predstavleny-na-mezhdunarodnoj-vystavke-v-tashkente-628698-2024/>

¹⁶⁶ About 20 scientific developments of BSU will be presented at the international exhibition of health care in Tashkent [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/okolo-20-nauchnyh-razrabotok-bgu-predstaviat-na-mezhdunarodnoj-vystavke-zdravoohranenija-v-tashkente-628163-2024/>

exhibition could also get acquainted with an innovative preparation to accelerate regeneration of damaged tissues "Foscelantan", which accelerates wound healing in boils, abscesses, carbuncles, fistulas, thermal burns, trophic ulcers. The exhibits also included the drug Antispike for the prevention of adhesions during abdominal surgery, anti-tumour drugs Cisplacel, Prospidelong and Temodex, phytosols and mixtures based on natural spicy and aromatic raw materials designed to correct the nutrition of preschool and school-age children, athletes and the elderly.

Thirdly, it is the international specialised exhibition "INNOPROM. Central Asia", which brought together more than 400 exhibitors and presented 28 collective expositions, including Made in Belarus, where "more than 10 Belarusian enterprises and their branches, representing well-known domestic industrial brands"¹⁶⁷ participated. In particular, samples and developments of one of the flagships of the Belarusian industry - the enterprise for production of quarry machinery - were presented.

BELAZ OJSC is the managing company of the BELAZ-Holding holding company. Gomselmash Holding, the largest manufacturer of agricultural machinery, which is among the leaders of the world market of combines and other complex agricultural machinery, was also presented at this forum. OJSC "Minsk Tractor plant" demonstrated modernised, updated and special versions of tractor equipment, while the specialised enterprise for designing, manufacturing starters and alternators for carburettor and diesel engines of trucks, cars, buses, agricultural machinery and special equipment - OJSC BATE - demonstrated products of a number of branches, including OJSC Borisov Plant Avtogradshilitel, OJSC Belkard, OJSC Rudensk, OJSC Vitebsk Plant of Electrical Measuring Devices. OJSC "BMZ" showed a wide range of metal products, each type of which combines innovations and long-term experience of the company's developments. Samples of metal-cutting machine tools and CNC machining centres, universal console milling machines were presented at the stand of JSC "StankoGomel". Developments in the field of production of power distribution transformers and other electrical equipment were demonstrated by V.I. Kozlov MEETZ JSC. LLC "Cooling Systems Plant" presented radiators for cooling of power systems and products successfully used in cooling systems of mining dump trucks, tractors, drilling rigs, diesel generators, block power plants, traction transformers of electric locomotives,

¹⁶⁷ Belarus presented industrial developments at the exhibition "INNOPROM. Central Asia." [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-predstavila-promyshlennyye-razrabotki-na-vystavke-innoprom-tsentralnaia-aziia-629623-2024/>

compressor stations. BKM Holding, which specialises in the production of electric transport - electric buses, trolleybuses, trams, electric trucks and charging infrastructure - demonstrated large-scale product models at the exhibition, including a low-floor single-section tram with two motor bogies. An assortment of wristwatches, alarm clocks, processing parts and printed circuit boards was presented by Minsk Watch Factory. In addition, within the framework of this forum, Belarusian participants held a number of meetings to consolidate partnership points.

As we can see, Belarus and Uzbekistan maintain high dynamics in the development of bilateral ties in the field of exhibition activities, which is reflected in the trade and economic balance. For statistics, we note that since 2016, the trade turnover of the parties "increased 5.5 times and in 2022 exceeded the half-billion mark for the first time. The growth of mutual trade last year was 15%, and in January - September this year - almost 13%"¹⁶⁸. At the same time, Minsk and Tashkent intend to further deepen this interaction to cover new promising areas of co-operation.

Returning to the decisions of the second Uzbek-Belarusian Women's Business Forum, we would like to emphasise that it addressed areas across a wide spectrum: the real sector of the economy, machine-building, tourism, and health care. The investment agenda is also gradually growing. Suffice it to say that "Belarus has been investing in Uzbekistan's development multiple times over the past 5 years. <...> Only here in Uzbekistan there are about 180 organisations with capital from Belarus"¹⁶⁹. All this suggests that bilateral Belarusian-Uzbek economic cooperation is steadily developing and is aimed at a new level of mutual trade turnover.

¹⁶⁸ Ambassador: the dynamics of Belarusian-Uzbek relations is very high [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL:

<https://subs.belta.by/Republ.nsf/59e33ed42f57f8c5422569f8002b86f7/4142892f5e53f61843258bcd0069ee26!OpenDocument>

¹⁶⁹ Chebotar: Belarus and Uzbekistan confirm interest in developing co-operation in all directions [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/chebotar-belarus-i-uzbekistan-podtverzhdaiut-interes-k-razvitiu-sotrudnichestva-po-vsem-napravleniiam-657018-2024/>

CHAPTER 2

BELARUS - KAZAKHSTAN

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Ideology of Eurasian partnership

The world community, which has entered a period of global change, today is objectively faced with the problem of decreasing capacity of national states to ensure their sustainable socio-economic development and security. Only powerful regional associations can neutralise the negative effects of globalisation. An effective model of such an integration association of the peoples of Belarus, Kazakhstan and Russia is already emerging in the Eurasian space: "By developing the Customs Union and the Common Economic Space, we are moving towards the creation of the Eurasian Economic Union in order to ensure harmonious, complementary cooperation with other countries, international economic associations and the European Union with a view to creating a common economic space"¹⁷⁰.

As we can see, this model of Eurasian interaction is directed towards the integration future of the entire planet, provides for the benefit of each participant in integration processes and assumes the use of the total potential in the interests of all participants. Obviously, it is possible to achieve success in the implementation of the stated goals only if common efforts are pooled, when the idea of good-neighborly relations and the ideology of intercivilizational dialogue become decisive. In today's fragile balance of geopolitical forces, the processes of globalisation have turned almost all the states of the planet into neighbouring countries, for which the topic of searching for and finding consensus is particularly relevant, since "consensus is not just concessions and compromises, it is first and joint activity to create common values and a common socio-cultural space in which different civilisations can freely develop and interact"¹⁷¹.

It is clear that in the creation of common ideological values and a common socio-cultural space in integration associations, the role of mass media simply cannot be overestimated, as "the lack of a well-established system of information interaction is a significant obstacle to establishing not only humanitarian but also business contacts"¹⁷². This issue - the creation of a common socio-cultural and information space in the depths of the emerging Eurasian Economic Union - is especially relevant for Belarus today along the

¹⁷⁰ On 9 December in Moscow held a meeting of the EurAsEC Interstate Council [Electronic resource]. - 2010. - URL: <http://president.gov.by/press102182.html#doc>

¹⁷¹ Kolesnik, V.S. Conflict of values in the intercivilizational dialogue / V.S. Kolesnik // [Electronic resource]. - 2011. - URL: <http://dom-hors.ru/issue/fik/1-2011-1-2/kolesnik.pdf>

¹⁷² Zaleskii, B.L. Mass media and the formation of a common information space of the Commonwealth of Independent States / B.L. Zaleskii // Information field of modern Russia: practices and effects: proceedings of the VIII International Scientific and Practical Conference Kazan, 20-22 October 2011 / edited by V.Z. Garifullin, R.P. Bakanov. - Kazan: Kazan University, 2011. - C. 255.

Minsk-Astana line, as it is much less developed by researchers of international journalism than the problem of creating a common information space of the Union State of Belarus and Russia. However, this does not make the topic of Belarusian-Kazakhstani information interaction any less important. Moreover, in the future, the system of cooperation between Belarus and Kazakhstan in the media sphere may become a kind of matrix for creating a common ideology of multilateral Eurasian information partnership. That is why today it is advisable to focus on the existing level and prospects of Belarusian-Kazakh media co-operation.

Back in 2000, the governments of the Republic of Belarus and the Republic of Kazakhstan signed an agreement on co-operation in the field of press and information, in which they agreed to "support and encourage mutually beneficial co-operation between the editorial boards of mass media and information services (agencies) of their states, the specific conditions and forms of which will be determined by the participants themselves"¹⁷³. The purpose of this document is obvious: the aspiration to form a single or common information space and strengthen friendly relations between the two brotherly - Belarusian and Kazakh - peoples. Two years later, the governments of Belarus and Kazakhstan together with the governments of Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tajikistan in the Agreement on Cooperation in the Dissemination of Mass Information specified the forms of interaction between the media of their countries: "to promote the creation of favourable conditions for the wide and free mutual dissemination of mass information in order to further deepen knowledge about the life of the peoples of their states"¹⁷⁴. As we see, ten years ago, both in Belarus and Kazakhstan, the international segment of the national journalism of both countries had high hopes for adequate and comprehensive coverage of the bilateral relations. And life itself suggested and still suggests an abundance of topics for their publicistic comprehension.

Suffice it to say that from 2005 to 2010 the volume of trade turnover between Belarus and Kazakhstan "increased more than fourfold - from \$215 million to \$870 million"¹⁷⁵. The Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation signed in Minsk on 17 January 1996 has determined the main directions of development of the

¹⁷³ Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Government of the Republic of Belarus on co-operation in the field of press and information [Electronic resource]. - 2000. - URL: kazakhstan.news-city.info/docs/sistemsn/dok_oerajb.htm

¹⁷⁴ Agreement on Co-operation in the Dissemination of Mass Information [Electronic resource]. - 2002. - URL: pravo.kulichki.com/zak/megd/meg00645.htm

¹⁷⁵ 8 meeting of the Intergovernmental Belarus-Kazakhstan Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation [Electronic resource]. - 2011. - URL: www.kazakhstan.belembassy.org/rus/news/~page m12=1~news m12=461094

Belarusian-Kazakh bilateral relations. The complementarity of the economies of the two countries serves as a solid basis for such co-operation, as Belarus and Kazakhstan have virtually no competing industries. As of today, the legal framework of cooperation between the two countries contains more than 60 international treaties and documents. This shows that the interaction between Belarus and Kazakhstan is characterized by active dialogue at all levels, both through bilateral contacts and cooperation within the framework of international organizations, associations and forums, including the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Eurasian Economic Community, the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the Customs Union, the Common Economic Space, and the emerging

A breakthrough in the relationship between Belarus and Kazakhstan has emerged in the last few years, when in 2009 agreements were reached on cooperation in industrial and scientific-technical cooperation, healthcare, civil defence, prevention and elimination of emergency situations, higher and postgraduate education, tourism, archives, as well as in agricultural machinery, joint production of medicines, baby food, and dairy products¹⁷⁶. At the same time, the parties adopted a programme of economic cooperation for 2009-2016 - the "Road Map", which brought together a number of the most important prospective areas:

- 1) Ensuring the stable development of economic co-operation aimed at boosting the economies of both states;
- 2) further development of trade and economic relations on equal and mutually beneficial terms;
- 3) elimination of barriers to mutual trade;
- 4) co-operation in implementing institutional reforms, ensuring equal opportunities and guarantees for all economic entities, and creating conditions for fair competition;
- 5) creating incentives for production growth, investment in its development, introduction of the latest scientific achievements and advanced technologies;
- 6) Improving the quality and competitiveness of manufactured products;
- 7) creation of a system of state support for priority areas of development of interstate and interregional co-operation;
- 8) formation of targeted interstate projects and programmes of economic cooperation;

¹⁷⁶ Trade and economic co-operation between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Republic of Belarus [Electronic resource]. - 2011. - URL: www.kazembassy.by/kaz_bel_otn/torg_econom.html

9) preservation and development of labour and intellectual potential .¹⁷⁷

An important detail: among the main directions of long-term economic cooperation is the holding of information exchange events, to which we can refer the whole range of issues related to the interaction between the mass media of the two countries.

The joint statement adopted in 2011 following the talks between the presidents of Belarus and Kazakhstan contains instructions to the governments of the two countries to "focus their efforts on priority areas of economic, scientific, technical and humanitarian cooperation"¹⁷⁸ , which include: developing energy dialogue; increasing mutual turnover of goods and services; creating favourable conditions for expanding productive contacts between business circles; deepening industrial cooperation; creating

International journalists covering integration processes in the post-Soviet space should also take into account that for the successful implementation of the planned joint plans of cooperation, the Belarusian and Kazakh sides have created various mechanisms of bilateral interaction, including the Intergovernmental Belarusian-Kazakhstani Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation, the Belarusian-Kazakhstani Commission on Scientific and Technical Cooperation, and the Belarusian-Kazakhstani Business Forum.

All these measures to intensify bilateral interaction have yielded powerful results. In 2010, the volume of mutual trade between Belarus and Kazakhstan more than doubled. Moreover, this growth is characteristic of both Belarusian exports, which increased by almost half, and Kazakh imports, which grew by 5.4 times. The fact that in 2010 the nomenclature of Belarusian exports to Kazakhstan increased by 77 items at once and totalled 404 commodity items speaks volumes. Characteristically, these trends and positive dynamics of mutual trade continued in 2011, during eight months of which the Belarusian-Kazakh trade turnover increased by another five per cent with a positive balance of \$325 million for the Belarusian side. This was due to an increase in supplies of tractors and tractors, milk and cream, trucks and malt, carpentry and furniture, frozen beef, wires and cables from Belarus. Among the new items of Belarusian exports are vegetables, glassware, newsprint, and recreational watercraft.

¹⁷⁷ On signing the Treaty between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Republic of Belarus on long-term economic cooperation for 2009-2016 years [Electronic resource]. - 2009. - URL: http://ru.government.kz/docs/u.htm090000821_20090610.

¹⁷⁸ 24 May negotiations of the Presidents of Belarus and Kazakhstan in Astana [Electronic resource]. - 2011. - URL: <http://president.gov.by/press114645.html#doc>

The development of production co-operation between our countries can and should become a topical topic of journalistic research in the press of Belarus and Kazakhstan. Over the last two years, 12 assembly plants for Belarusian machinery have been set up in Kazakhstan, four of which appeared in 2011. And now our partners in the Customs Union and the Common Economic Space are already assembling Belarusian quarry and mining equipment, tractors, combine harvesters, engines, balers, lifts, several types of trailed agricultural machinery, as well as launching a project to assemble cardan shafts. "The task is set to bring the output of energy-intensive tractors in Kazakhstan to 1.5 thousand units in 2012, as well as the implementation of new joint projects"¹⁷⁹. At the stage of study and discussion are the issues of organisation of Belarusian assembly production of machine tools, grain drying complexes for grain processing and storage with Kazakh partners. There are plans to provide Kazakhstan's agricultural producers with Belarusian-made machinery and equipment through the KazBelLeasing joint venture, as well as a promising project to open a Belarusian-Kazakh industrial and technical park for agricultural and municipal machinery, which will unite manufacturers of the two countries. On the other hand, there is currently talk about supplies of Kazakh oil and oil products, electricity to Belarus, and the establishment of Kazakh logistics centres in Belarus.

The current five-year period will also see the actualisation of the innovation and investment area of cooperation between Belarus and Kazakhstan, which by definition should be in the focus of attention of the industry press of the two countries. In particular, the formation of the Scientific and Educational Consortium between higher education institutions and research institutes of the two countries, the agreement on the establishment of which was signed during the visit of the Belarusian President to Astana in May 2011, will facilitate the introduction of joint advanced developments into production. The consortium comprises 17 universities and research institutes in Belarus and 13 universities in Kazakhstan. The Eurasian National University named after L.N. Gumilev has been designated as the head organisation to coordinate the activities of the consortium from the Kazakh side. In total, "52 direct agreements were concluded between higher education institutions of Kazakhstan and Belarus"¹⁸⁰.

Interregional co-operation is an important component of the bilateral Belarus-Kazakhstan relations. This is explained by the fact that "Belarus is attractive

¹⁷⁹ In Kazakhstan in 2010-2011 12 assembly plants of Belarusian machinery were created [Electronic resource]. - 2011. - URL: www.government.by/en/content/4072/print

¹⁸⁰ On 25 May the official visit of the President of Belarus to Kazakhstan ended [Electronic resource]. - 2011. - URL: <http://president.gov.by/press115738.html#doc>

for practically all regions of Kazakhstan, as the range of products manufactured here is quite wide"¹⁸¹. In particular, Kazakh regions are interested in agricultural machinery and agricultural products, ranging from seed stock to agricultural machinery, as well as large-tonnage machinery. For example, Kostanay region has established production of Belarusian combines, trailers and other agricultural machinery. The area of joint projects in the North Kazakhstan region is successfully developing. Since May 2009, the assembly of Belarusian tractors has been started in Semey, where more than two thousand tractor sets were delivered in 2011, i.e. more than 2 thousand tractors will be produced. Kazakhstan's rapidly developing mining industry dictates the demand for Belarusian quarry machinery. In this regard, a major project to assemble BelAZs is being implemented in the Karaganda Region. In Pavlodar there is a site for the assembly of Mogilev lifts. Starting from 2012, the production of the same Belarusian products will be launched in Ust-Kamenogorsk. The issue of organising joint ventures for processing fruit and vegetable products in Kazakhstan is being worked out, in connection with which an agreement between Gomel and Alma-Ata regions was signed in autumn 2011. All these facts show that "as soon as businessmen and entrepreneurs start travelling to each other's enterprises to sign contracts, specific agreements, the business will start gaining momentum. For this purpose, three years ago we set a task to intensify interregional and sectoral co-operation"¹⁸².

It seems that regional, district and city newspapers of the two countries should play an important role in providing media support for these areas of co-operation. Moreover, the "Programme of Economic Cooperation between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Republic of Belarus for 2009-2019" among the main directions of long-term economic cooperation contains a reminder-requirement to the mass media of the two countries to carry out activities on information exchange and establishment of business contacts. It must be assumed that the time has already come to fill these humanitarian and informational areas of co-operation with concrete content, given the rapid integration transformations in the post-Soviet and Eurasian space. It is obvious that the successful realisation of the creative tasks set for the international journalists of the two countries depends only on their professional skills.

In this connection, it is advisable to draw the attention of representatives of

¹⁸¹ Smirnov, A. The future is for joint forms of interaction / A. Smirnov // Union of Entrepreneurs. - 2009. - 4 September.

¹⁸² Smirnov, A.V. Belarus - Kazakhstan: status and prospects of cooperation / A.V. Smirnov // [Electronic resource]. - 2011. - URL: <http://forum.soyuz.by/main-news/detail.php?TID=12457>

the international segment of Belarusian journalism to one of the real resources for strengthening information support for Belarusian-Kazakh cooperation. It is known that Kazakhstan is home to quite a few Belarusians. To be more precise, the Belarusian diaspora in Kazakhstan is united in twelve structures operating in Almaty, Astana, Karaganda, Kostanai, Pavlodar, Petropavlovsk, Ust-Kamenogorsk, Aktau, Aktobe, Akmola and East Kazakhstan regions. Moreover, co-operation with compatriots in Kazakhstan today is officially carried out by: Stalinsky District Executive Committee and 00 "Cultural Centre "Belarus" in Pavlodar; Dubrovensky District Executive Committee and Cultural Centre "Belarus" in Atbasar; Vetkovsky District Executive Committee and 00 "National Cultural Centre "Belarus" in Almaty; Gomel District Executive Committee and 00 "North Kazakhstan Regional Belarusian Centre "Radzhma" in Petropavlovsk; Belynychy and Kirov District Executive Committees and East Kazakhstan Belarusian Centre in Ust-Kamenogorsk¹⁸³. But how much can we learn about this co-operation from the local newspapers of the named Belarusian regions? It would not be an exaggeration to say that the potential of media support here resembles an untouched "information virgin land". This issue is also very relevant for our Kazakhstani colleagues - journalists covering international relations of the regions of Kazakhstan.

All these facts and observations lead to the conclusion that the issue of information support of integration processes in the post-Soviet space will become even more relevant in the coming years, as "mass media, mass communications play an increasingly significant role in social, socio-economic and cultural processes. They are not only a channel of information, but also an effective tool for designing and shaping political realities"¹⁸⁴. A very eloquent illustration of this reasoning are the famous articles of V. Putin, A. Lukashenko, N. Nazarbayev, published recently in the newspaper Izvestia. These media publications not only gave a powerful impetus to the discussion on the forms of advanced integration in the CIS and brought to a qualitatively new level the very process of comprehension of the problems faced here, but also actually laid the foundations of the ideology of the Eurasian information

¹⁸³ Co-operation of regions [Electronic resource].

- 2011. - URL:

www.belarus21.by/ru/main_menu/compatriots/sotr

¹⁸⁴ Proleskovskiy, O.V. To the participants of the 13th International Scientific and Practical Conference "JournalIstyka-2011: status, problems and prospects" / O.V. Proleskovskiy // JournalIstyka-2011: status, problems and prospects : proceedings of the 13th International Scientific and Practical Conference "JournalIstyka-2011: status, problems and prospects" / O.V. Proleskovskiy // JournalIstyka-2011: status, problems and prospects : proceedings of the 13th International Scientific and Practical Conference. 90th anniversary of the BDU, 8-9 cn. 2011, МІНСК / edited by: S.V. Dubovs (ed.) [i sh.]. - Vyp. 13. - МІНСК : BDU, 2011. - С. 3.

partnership, setting the necessary publicistic tone for the discussion of ways to find a compromise and find consensus within the framework of the Eurasian Economic Union being created.¹⁸⁵ International journalism will also have to play its responsible role in promoting and developing this ideology, which is called upon "to promote understanding and mutual understanding by means of analysis, revealing hidden causes and motives, clarifying complex interrelationships, reducing the pathos of lofty phrases, helping to realise the complex intertwining of different interests and the diversity of aspects of the problem <...> This journalism should today increasingly set itself the task of connecting local and national publics in order to join them, in turn, to the mainstream of the Eurasian Economic Union and the Eurasian Economic Union.

It is the media, in this case Belarus and Kazakhstan, that have a special role to play in the formation of new common Eurasian values and a common Eurasian identity, without which deep integration transformations in the post-Soviet space are simply doomed to failure. Therefore, international journalists from the two countries have yet to find their joint professional approaches to this responsible task, which is dictated by the logic of the ideology of Eurasian partnership in the era of innovation and integration transformations in the post-Soviet space.

¹⁸⁵ Münch, R. The role of journalism in the communication society / R. Münch // [Electronic resource]. resource]. - 1991. - URL: <http://www.academy-go.ru/Site/JournalPR/Publications/RMunch.shtml>

Twenty years of co-operation and partnership in the context of Eurasian communication

September 2012 marked the 20th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Belarus and the Republic of Kazakhstan. During this time, both countries have travelled "a difficult path of establishing and developing statehood, consolidating sovereignty and independence, ensuring a decent life for their citizens <...> Today Belarus and Kazakhstan are strategic partners and allies. Active bilateral co-operation is systematic, and co-operation in all areas is successfully expanding"¹⁸⁶. These processes have become especially visible in recent years, when the post-Soviet space began to move towards deep integration and communication within the framework of the Customs Union and the Eurasian Economic Space.

Back in 2009, Belarus and Kazakhstan adopted the Programme of Economic Cooperation for 2009-2016 - the Roadmap, which became a fundamental document in the practical development of bilateral relations. In the following years, the partner countries managed to increase the volume of trade turnover. In 2011, mutual Belarusian-Kazakh trade reached almost \$800 million. And the presidents of the two countries set the task "to increase trade turnover to \$3 billion in the long term, and then gradually to \$5 billion. The fulfilment of this task is quite realistic in the conditions of cooperation between the two countries within the Common Economic Space"¹⁸⁷.

Strict adherence to the Road Map allowed the two countries to "give a qualitatively new dynamic to bilateral trade and economic co-operation"¹⁸⁸, whereby Belarus began to consider Kazakhstan "as a support platform for strengthening its economic presence in the Central Asian region and is ready to become Kazakhstan's 'western gateway' on the way to Europe"¹⁸⁹. Such a perspective is quite feasible if we take into account the current trends in the development of the above-mentioned states. As for Kazakhstan, over the last few years "more than 440 new production facilities worth \$12 billion have been launched here. In general, it is planned to implement more than 700

¹⁸⁶ Alexander Lukashenko congratulated President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev on the 20th anniversary of diplomatic relations [Electronic resource]. - 2012. - URL: <http://president.gov.by/press139713.html#doc>

¹⁸⁷ Belarus is interested in developing co-operation with Kazakhstan - M. Myasnikovich [Electronic resource]. - 2012. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/4242>

¹⁸⁸ Alexander Lukashenko accepted credentials of foreign ambassadors [Electronic resource]. - 2012. - URL: <http://president.gov.by/press140154.html#doc>

¹⁸⁹ Alexander Lukashenko meets with President Nursultan Nazarbayev of the Republic of Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. - 2012. - URL: <http://president.gov.by/press130425.html>

industrial-innovation projects worth \$77 billion"¹⁹⁰ .

¹⁹¹In fact, with this aim - to ensure sustainable and balanced economic growth through diversification and improvement of its competitiveness - in 2010 Kazakhstan adopted the State Programme for Accelerated Industrial-Innovative Development, the key objectives of which include such directions as "development of priority sectors of the economy ensuring its diversification and growth of competitiveness; creation of a favourable environment for industrialisation; formation of centres of economic growth on the basis of rational and sustainable development of the economy. The implementation of these industrial and innovation plans should result in a 15 per cent increase in gross domestic product by 2014, increase the share of non-resource exports to 40 per cent of total exports and ensure that labour productivity in the manufacturing industry increases by at least one and a half times.

¹⁹²For the next decade in Kazakhstan, "five key areas have been identified as priorities in the activities of the state: preparing for post-crisis development; ensuring sustainable economic growth by accelerating diversification through industrialisation and infrastructure development; investing in the future - improving the competitiveness of human capital to achieve sustainable economic growth, prosperity and social well-being of Kazakhstanis; providing the population with quality social and housing and communal services; strengthening the economy; and ensuring the development of the national economy. Fulfilment of these provisions by 2020 should place Kazakhstan among the fifty most competitive countries in the world with a favourable business climate.

In this regard, Astana envisages foreign policy promotion of its national interests on purely pragmatic principles. For this purpose, as noted by the President of Kazakhstan N. Nazarbayev, "we must develop new industries with a focus on expanding non-resource exports <...> We will strengthen the Customs Union and the Common Economic Space.

Our immediate goal is to create the Eurasian Economic Union"¹⁹³ . Astana

¹⁹⁰ Speech by the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev at the plenary session of the IX Forum of Interregional Cooperation between Kazakhstan and Russia [Electronic resource]. - 2012. - URL: http://www.akorda.kz/ru/page/page_vystuplenie-prezidenta-respubliki-kazakhstan-nursultana-nazarbaeva-na-plenarnoi-sessii-ix-foruma-me_1348065813

¹⁹¹ State programme on forced industrial-innovative development [Electronic resource]. - 2010. - URL:

http://www.akorda.kz/ru/category/gos_programmemi_razvitiya

¹⁹² Strategic Development Plan of the Republic of Kazakhstan until 2020 [Electronic resource]. - 2010. - URL: http://www.akorda.kz/ru/category/gos_programmemi_razvitiya

¹⁹³ Message of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan N. Nazarbayev to the people of Kazakhstan. 14 December 2012r. [Electronic resource]. - 2012. -

considers the formation of this integration structure as "an important factor of regional stability, increasing the competitiveness of our economies and ensuring their technological breakthrough"¹⁹⁴. Based on these objectives, the priorities of modernisation of modern Kazakhstani foreign policy are active development of economic and trade diplomacy, as well as intensification of international cooperation in cultural and humanitarian, scientific and educational and other related spheres.

These provisions and principles are effectively embodied in Kazakhstan's cooperation with Belarus, the strategic nature of which was emphasised by the presidents of the two countries in a joint statement in May 2012. Attention was drawn to the fact that further deepening of this strategic partnership "is a priority of the foreign policy of both states"¹⁹⁵. At the same time, the parties agreed to intensify work on the full utilisation of the potential of the two States in order to deepen cooperation and instructed the governments to focus their efforts in the near future on a number of priority areas, among which are investment, scientific, technical and interregional cooperation, scientific and technical interregional co-operation. In furtherance of these provisions, the following were signed at the same time: Agreement between the Ministry of Agriculture and Food of Belarus and the Ministry of Agriculture of Kazakhstan on co-operation in the field of agriculture and food; Memorandum of Co-operation between OJSC "AGAT - Management Systems" - the managing company of the Geoinformation Management Systems Holding and JSC "National Company "Kazakhstan Engineering"; Memorandum of Understanding and Strategic Co-operation between the Belarusian State Concern for Oil and Gas and JSC "National Company "Kazakhstan Engineering".

Given the fact that the Belarusian-Kazakh trade turnover mainly consists of industrial, agricultural and manufacturing products, Minsk and Astana today agree that "we need to create joint ventures in almost all sectors of the economy and supply products, including to the markets of third countries"¹⁹⁶

URL:

http://www.akorda.kz/ru/page/page_poslanie-prezidenta-respubliki-kazakhstan-n-nazarbaeva-narodu-kazakhstana-14-dekabrya-2012-g 1357813742

¹⁹⁴ Speech by the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan N.A. Nazarbayev at the meeting with the heads of foreign diplomatic missions accredited in Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. - 2012. - URL: <http://www.akorda.kz/ru/page/vystuplenie-prezidenta-respubliki-kazakhstan-n-a-nazarbaeva-na-vstreche-s-glavami-zarubezhnykh-diplomateskii>

¹⁹⁵ Alexander Lukashenko meets with President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev [Electronic resource]. - 2012. - URL: <http://president.gov.by/press130425.html>

¹⁹⁶ Alexander Lukashenko meets with Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Serik Akhmetov [Electronic resource]. - 2013. - URL:

. Therefore, the priority areas of Belarusian-Kazakh investment co-operation under current conditions are "petrochemicals, industry, pharmaceuticals, information and communication technologies, banking"¹⁹⁷. In addition, there is a serious potential for investment growth in agriculture, machine-building, housing and utilities.

The following facts speak volumes. At the beginning of 2013, 13 projects to assemble Belarusian tractor, combine harvester, automotive and special agricultural machinery were already under active implementation in Kazakhstan. Seven of these joint projects are included in Kazakhstan's state programmes, including five in the Kazakhstan Industrialisation Map. These projects concern quarry and mining machinery of the Belarusian Automobile Plant, energy-intensive machines of the Minsk Tractor Plant, grain harvesters of PA Gomselmash, and diesel engines of the Minsk Motor Plant. Two more joint projects - on assembly of multifunctional tillage units of RUMP Kuzlitmash and balers of Bobruiskagromash - are included in the Programme for Development of Machine Building in Kazakhstan and in Kazakhstan's Business Road Map 2020, respectively.

The parties made a special emphasis on the development of promising areas of cooperation during the 9th meeting of the Intergovernmental Belarus-Kazakhstan Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation, which was held in November 2012 in Astana. Among the most urgent of them were identified such as: "intensification of investment cooperation; creation of a joint Belarusian-Kazakhstani Industrial and Technological Park of agricultural and municipal machinery in Kokshetau; creation of joint production facilities for the assembly of tractors, combines, cars, lift equipment; implementation of joint projects in agriculture, food and light industry; implementation of scientific and petrochemical projects; opening of new service centres"¹⁹⁸. It is these areas of interaction - interregional and scientific and technical - that are the most promising for the development of the bilateral Belarus-Kazakhstan partnership. And this conclusion can be illustrated by a number of specific regions.

Karaganda Region. Indeed, Karaganda Region is demonstrating great interest in developing cooperation with Belarusian partners, which is

<http://president.gov.by/press143900.html#doc>

¹⁹⁷ M. Myasnikovich and K. Masimov discussed issues of trade and economic cooperation [Electronic resource]. - 2011. - URL:

<http://www.government.by/ru/content/4087>

¹⁹⁸ On the 9th meeting of the Belarusian-Kazakh Intergovernmental Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation [Electronic resource]. - 2012. - URL: http://www.mfa.gov.by/press/news_mfa/e_e_bcd004307761.cbhtml

confirmed by statistics. In 2012, the trade turnover of this Kazakhstan region with Belarus grew by almost 75 per cent to \$122.9 million. At the same time, "Brest region is actively interested in co-operation with Karaganda region"¹⁹⁹. During the visit of the akim of Karaganda region B. Abishev to Belarus in April 2013, the issues of trade and economic cooperation were in the centre of attention, development of industrialco-operation, interaction in the sphere of agriculture.

Speaking about specific projects, Karaganda is currently implementing a project to assemble vehicles of the Belarusian Automobile Plant at the KazBelAZ joint venture: "This will be a modern plant to which the Belarusian side will transfer the relevant technical documentation, all the necessary regulatory documents, to produce a dump truck with a payload capacity of 45 tonnes here with deep localisation, not limiting itself to industrial assembly and overhaul"²⁰⁰. The first 45 tonne payload vehicle was assembled here back in 2012. And in 2013, the joint venture will start selling these vehicles.

There, in Karaganda, it is planned to create a large enterprise for the production of tractor equipment. The fact is that out of 9 thousand tractors operating in this Kazakhstani region, more than half - 5 thousand - are made by Minsk Tractor Plant, so it is time to solve the issues of service, sales and spare parts supply of these tractors at a qualitatively new level. In Karaganda, the international research and production holding Phytochemistry is implementing a number of joint projects with Belarusian scientific organisations. In this regard, the Belarusian Ministry of Health and the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus have been instructed to develop a programme of cooperation with this Kazakh holding.

Kostanai region. In 2012, Belarus's trade turnover with this region of Kazakhstan totalled only \$46 million, a figure that does not reflect the full potential of cooperation between the two sides. Moreover, this Kazakh region is interested in purchasing Belarusian agricultural machinery and setting up assembly plants in its territory. After all, more than 8,000 tractors are in operation here, one third of which are machines of the Minsk Tractor Plant of various classes: from the basic MTZ-80/82 to the energy-rich high-performance MTZ 1221/1222. "We have huge territories, three climatic zones, so we need good productive machinery and its service," said the akim

¹⁹⁹ Mikhail Rusyi met with the Akim of Karaganda region of Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. - 2013. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/4960>

²⁰⁰ Mikhail Myasnikovich visited the joint venture "KazBelAZ" in Karaganda [Electronic resource]. - 2012. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/4685>

of Kostanay region N. Saduakasov. - We see all this in Belarus"²⁰¹. Belarusian robotic equipment for dairy farms also interested Kostanai partners. For its part, Belarus offered Kostanay region the supply of agricultural machinery on leasing, technologies for soil cultivation with the use of wide-catch combined aggregates for sowing grain crops. The projects of to create storage facilities for Kazakh grain in Belarus for further supplies to Europe could become very promising.

Belarusian specialists are also interested in the approaches of Kazakh colleagues to breeding and production of durum wheat varieties. And Gomel region will become a concrete partner of Kostanai in Belarus, as "the initiative to conclude a co-operation agreement with Gomel region has already come from the leadership of Kostanai region"²⁰².

Akmola region. Based on the understanding that the future in Belarusian-Kazakh business interaction will be "for joint companies, which should already represent transnational corporations"²⁰³, in April 2013, at the initiative of Belarus, the parties signed an agreement on the establishment of a joint venture to implement the investment project "Belarusian-Kazakh Industrial and Technological Park of Agricultural, Municipal Machinery and Equipment in the city of Kokshetau, Akmola region. It is clear that participation in this project will allow Belarus to "strengthen its position in the Kazakh market, and Kazakhstan - to attract additional investment and create new jobs"²⁰⁴. Five Belarusian enterprises are expected to participate in this park, including Minsk Tractor and Automobile Plants, Lidselmash, and Bobruiskagromash. The essence of the specifics of the industrial-technological park is that modern agricultural machinery and vehicles will be jointly produced rather than assembled here.

In addition, the Belarusian State Agrarian Technical University and Kazakh Agrotechnical University named after O. Seifullin have already joined this work. On the basis of these higher educational institutions it is planned to create a training centre, whose students will be able to study and intern at the production facilities of the Industrial and Technological Park. In short, the

²⁰¹ Mikhail Rusyi met with the Akim of Kostanay region [Electronic resource]. - 2013. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/4876>

²⁰² Sidorchik, V. Gomel and Kostanay regions will conclude an agreement on cooperation / V. Sidorchik // [Electronic resource]. - 2013. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/ru/all/news/economics/Gomelskaja-i-Kostanajskaja-oblasti-zakljuchat-soglashenie-o-sotrudnichestve-i628956.html>

²⁰³ Mikhail Myasnikovich met with Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Serik Akhmetov [Electronic resource]. - 2013. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/4982>

²⁰⁴ Mikhail Myasnikovich met with the Ambassador of Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. - 2013. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/4928>

creation of this park quite eloquently shows that the stage of direct sales of Belarusian goods and machinery to Kazakhstan has already been passed and it is time to move on to the creation of joint ventures: "This work involves the transfer of Belarusian technologies and the transition to a new stage of co-operation in production co-operation from assembly plants to joint ventures with the prospect of entering the markets of third countries"²⁰⁵. In addition, this project should demonstrate that the existing economic conditions in the Customs Union and the Common Economic Space allow not only for efficient trade, but also for the development of production and scientific and technological co-operation.

Mogilev region. About \$700 million should be invested in the construction of two plants on the basis of Mogilevkhimvolkno OJSC - for the production of terephthalic acid on the basis of Kazakhstani paraxylene and for the production of PET materials from terephthalic acid, which are in high demand in the world market. The cost of the first plant is about \$450 million, the second - about \$250 million. Both projects are still at the stage of working out the issues of financing, including the use of Kazakhstani investments. But the very idea of creating these enterprises in Mogilev is very tempting. The benefits of the parties here are obvious: "Kazakhstan has paraxylene and an interest to promote it for export <...> Belarus has a favourable geographical location near potential markets"²⁰⁶. So this project may become another strong argument in favour of the fact that "cooperation between Belarus and Kazakhstan has reached the point where it is beneficial for the parties to work on the principles of mutual exchange of technologies and deepening the integration of production. Without this, it is difficult to promote joint products on foreign markets"²⁰⁷.

Among other projects in which representatives of Belarusian and Kazakh regions can become active participants, one can mention the intention of the Belarusian Seismotekhnika OJSC and the Kazakh company Ankor to establish a joint production of oilfield equipment in East Kazakhstan Oblast. A memorandum of co-operation on the establishment of a joint venture for the production of confectionery and bakery products was signed by RUPP

²⁰⁵ Belarus and Kazakhstan create an industrial and technological park [Electronic resource]. - 2013. - URL: http://www.belta.by/ru/all_news/economics/Belarus-i-Kazaxstan-sozdajut-industrialno-texnologicheskij-park-i641046.html

²⁰⁶ Mikhail Rusyi took part in a press conference on cooperation between Belarus and Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. - 2013. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/4931>

²⁰⁷ Belarus and Kazakhstan will invest about \$700 million in petrochemical production in Mogilev [Electronic resource]. - 2013. - URL: http://www.belta.by/ru/all_news/economics/Belarus-i-Kazaxstan-investirujut-okolo-700-mln-v-nefteximicheskoe-proizvodstvo-v-Mogileve-i-628920.html

Gomelkhlbprom and Shannrak Management Company LLP in November 2012. Great prospects for regional cooperation between the two countries are also opening up in the production of dairy products, where "the agreements reached open a new stage of bilateral cooperation"²⁰⁸.

All these examples demonstrate the tendency of Belarus and Kazakhstan to move towards broad interregional co-operation. And this is an absolutely natural phenomenon, as "such interaction enables the parties to solve many issues more quickly. If intergovernmental delegations negotiate large projects, smaller projects can be discussed at the interregional level"²⁰⁹. However, according to the head of the Kazakh diplomatic mission in Belarus E. Bulegenov, "the co-operation between the two sides is more rapid in solving many issues. Bulegenov, "the cooperation that we have now is only a small percentage of what could be done"²¹⁰. But large-scale positive changes in the Belarusian-Kazakh interregional co-operation are inevitable. After all, "having united within the CES, we have removed barriers for enterprises. Now we need to build effective interregional industrial clusters"²¹¹.²¹² At the same time, we should not forget that in the conditions of the global information society the main direction of Eurasian partnership should be the integration of regions in all three elements of the "triangle of knowledge" - education, research and innovation - with the most active and interested participation in these processes of the media and communication sphere of Belarus and Kazakhstan, since "the communication of Eurasian integration forms a new global public consciousness, united by humanistic mutually beneficial interests of the international community".

Topical media topics of bilateral interaction

Belarus and Kazakhstan signed an agreement on co-operation in the field of

²⁰⁸ Mikhail Myasnikovich pays an official visit to Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. - 2012. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/4684>

²⁰⁹ Grigorovich, T. Belarus and Kazakhstan intend to intensify interregional cooperation / T. Grigorovich // [Electronic resource]. - 2013. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/ru/all/news/economics/Belarus-i-Kazaxstan-namereny-aktivizirovat-mezhregionalnoe-sotrudnichestvo-j628944.html>

²¹⁰ Bulegenov, E. Economic cooperation between Kazakhstan and Belarus has great potential / E. Bulegenov // [Electronic resource]. - 2013. - URL: <http://www.belarus.by/ru/press-center/speeches-and-interviews/ergali-bulegenov-ekonomicheskogo-sotrudnichestva-kazaxstana-i-belarusi-bolshoj-potentsial-i-0000005439.html>

²¹¹ Speech by the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev at the plenary session of the IX Forum of Interregional Cooperation between Kazakhstan and Russia [Electronic resource]. - 2012. - URL: http://www.akorda.kz/ru/page/page_vystuplenie-prezidenta-respubliki-kazakhstan-nursultana-nazarbaeva-na-plenarnoi-sessii-ix-foruma-me-1348065813

²¹² Sluka, O. Communication in Eurasian integration / O. Sluka // International journalism-2013: globalisation and regionalisation of information space: proceedings of the Second International scientific and practical conference, 20 February. 2013, Minsk / edited by T.N. Dasaeva ; co-editor B.L. Zalesskiy. B.L. Zalesskiy. - Minsk: Izd. Centre BSU, 2013. - C. 257.

press and information back in 2000. In this document, the parties agreed to support and encourage partnerships between media editorial offices and news agencies in order to contribute to "the formation of a single or common information space and the strengthening of friendly relations between the two brotherly - Belarusian and Kazakh - peoples"²¹³. In April 2014, the legal framework of the Belarusian-Kazakhstani relations in the media sphere was supplemented by another document - an agreement between the Belarusian Telegraph Agency and the Kazinform agency, which "implies cooperation in the exchange of information, photo materials and other media content, in addition, the parties agreed on the internship of journalists"²¹⁴. And in November 2017, a new version of the intergovernmental agreement was adopted, the preamble of which states that the parties attach "special importance to the expansion of co-operation in the field of media between the two states"²¹⁵. And this reflects the current stage of development of the information spaces of Belarus and Kazakhstan, and also lays a serious legal basis for expanding interaction between the agencies and organisations of the two countries towards mutual presence in each other's media space.

The emergence of the new media cooperation agreement is significant in that it took place in the year of the 25th anniversary of the establishment of Belarusian-Kazakh diplomatic relations - in November 2017, when the presidents of Belarus and Kazakhstan signed the Treaty on Social and Economic Cooperation until 2026 with a programme of specific measures for its implementation for the same period. "This programme document is designed to consolidate the promising relations between the two countries and open up new opportunities in the development of comprehensive cooperation"²¹⁶, as the parties came to the conclusion that the base of bilateral partnership ties that has been established since 1992 now allows Minsk and Astana to move to a new technological level of interaction with a focus on innovation and high technology. Especially since the trade turnover between the countries increased by almost 65 per cent in the first three

²¹³ Zaleskii, B.L. Belarusian international journalism: features, trends, prospects / B.L. Zaleskii. - Minsk, BSU, 2014. - C. 186.

²¹⁴ BelTA and Kazinform agreed on co-operation [Electronic resource]. - 2014. - URL: <http://bsj.by/2014/04/belta-i-kazinform-dogovorilis-o-sotrudnichestve/>.

²¹⁵ Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Government of the Republic of Belarus on co-operation in the field of mass media [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL:

<http://egov.kz/wps/portal!/ut/p/b0/04/Sj9CPykyssy0xPLMnMz0vMAfjic7PyChKtUvKTS3NT80r0WwJ9KNgPM8UcgAQzMEDEAzMOBJ5STmpZcmpqfqRxaV6hfk5lqUOyoqAgAahz7G/#z6>

²¹⁶ Official talks with the President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL: <http://president.gov.by/ru/news ru/view/ofitsialnye-peregovory-s-prezidentom-kazaxstana-nursultanom-nazarbaevym-.17546/>

quarters of 2017 and amounted to about \$500 million. However, according to the heads of state, even this positive dynamics does not yet correspond to the potential of integration cooperation between Belarus and Kazakhstan. That is why the governments of both countries have set a challenging task - to increase the volume of mutual trade turnover to one billion dollars within the next two to three years by implementing promising projects in various fields: petrochemicals, agriculture, energy, transport, logistics and new technologies. At the same time, industrial cooperation will remain the main driver of bilateral economic cooperation. Within this framework, the Belarusian side has stated its readiness to increase the level of localisation of jointly manufactured products in Kazakhstan, which will create additional jobs there. By the way, "today there are 260 Belarusian enterprises operating in Kazakhstan"²¹⁷. In fact, this document defines the focus of Belarusian and Kazakhstani mass media's actions to cover the topic of bilateral cooperation, which is expected to develop strongly in the coming years.

The parties thoroughly discussed concrete ways to address the task of increasing the volume of Belarusian-Kazakh mutual trade at the most large-scale business forum in the history of cooperation between Belarus and Kazakhstan, which took place in Minsk in November 2017 and was attended by about 400 representatives of business circles of the two countries. 55 Belarusian companies presented more than 100 cutting-edge developments, each of which deserves the attention of representatives of the media sector.

There are great prospects for increasing Belarusian supplies to Kazakhstan, for example, in the wood processing industry. Suffice it to say that in the period from January to September 2017, enterprises of the Belarusian concern Bellesbumprom increased exports of their products to the Kazakh market by 42.3 per cent, or up to \$18.3 million. It is noteworthy that "the Concern's enterprises supply almost all types of woodworking products to Kazakhstan, primarily furniture, which accounts for more than 60 per cent of total exports. The second position in terms of sales volumes is occupied by particleboards"²¹⁸. And then follow fibreboard, plywood, sawn timber, doors, windows, wallpaper, paper, cardboard, matches. And practically each of these export positions on the Kazakhstani market demonstrates systematic

²¹⁷ Belarus-Kazakhstan relations have reached a high strategic level - Mr. Kuznetsov. Nazarbayev [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/politics/view/otnoshenija-belarusi-i-kazahstana-vyshli-na-vysokij-strategicheskij-uroven-nazarbaev-278130-2017/>

²¹⁸ Enterprises of "Bellesbumprom" in January-September increased exports to Kazakhstan by 42.3% [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/predpriiia-bellesbumproma-v-ianvare-sentiabre-uvlichili-eksport-v-kazahstan-na-423-278065-2017/>

growth in volumes.

Another important export item from Belarus to Kazakhstan is trucks and agricultural machinery. Thus, during the already mentioned Belarusian-Kazakh business forum, the Belarusian Automobile Plant and AstanaBelAZService LLP signed a contract for the supply of 25 dump trucks worth almost \$25 million to this Central Asian country. In addition, in accordance with the signed memorandum between Minsk Automobile Plant and Hyundai Trans Auto, it is planned to supply 100 dump trucks and municipal vehicles to Kazakhstan in 2018. Finally, in the same year 2018, Minsk Tractor Plant will ship two thousand of its machines to Trade House Belarusian Tractor LLP, and Gomselmash OJSC will ship 500 machine kits for combines to Kazakhstan's AgromashHolding JSC. It is also important that Gomselmash provided its partners - Agromashholding JSC - with exclusive dealer rights to sell the whole range of its products in Kazakhstan, which will allow them to seriously expand the range of exported combines. In particular, it is a question of "supplying rice harvesting machinery to the southern part of Kazakhstan"²¹⁹. Gomselmash has such a machine, which is now being prepared for launching serial production.

Belarus and Kazakhstan also have ambitious plans for cooperation in the development of digital transport corridors to Western and Northern Europe, which is very important given the geographical location of both countries on the Silk Road Economic Belt. The strategic objective is to double the volume of container transit in order to transport "1 million containers per year by 2020 and 2 million by 2025"²²⁰. At the same time, it is important that the average container from Central Asia reaches Western Europe in a fortnight. The parties intend to meet this challenge by working harmoniously with their Chinese and Russian counterparts. This means that the topic of creating digital transport corridors is becoming a topical issue for many years not only for international journalists in Belarus and Kazakhstan, but also for their colleagues in Russia and China.

The Treaty on Social and Economic Cooperation until 2026 signed in November 2017 between Belarus and Kazakhstan and aimed at "realising a qualitatively new stage in bilateral relations, implies mutual capital

²¹⁹ Dylenok, Yu. Agromashholding JSC became the exclusive dealer of Gomselmash in Kazakhstan / Yu. Dylenok // [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/ekskljuzivnym-dilerom-gomselmasha-v-kazahstane-stalo-ao-agromashholding-278165-2017/>

²²⁰ Dylenok, Y. Belarus and Kazakhstan intensify cooperation in the development of digital transport corridors / Y. Dylenok // [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-kazahstan-aktivizirujut-sotrudnichestvo-v-razviti-tsifrovyh-transportnyh-koridorov-278213-2017/>

penetration with a focus on innovation and high technology"²²¹, as noted above, implies that the locomotive of the strategic Belarusian-Kazakh partnership will continue to be projects that allow for the creation of joint products with high added value and both the creation of joint products with high added value and the creation of joint ventures. As of the end of 2017, there were eight joint ventures operating in Kazakhstan.

assembly plants where "the assembly of quarry, mining, special municipal and fire-fighting equipment, tractors, combines, engines, balers, and medical equipment has been organised"²²². We should note at once that the specific experience of each of them can and should constantly remain in the focus of attention of the mass media of the two countries, both at the central and regional levels. But unfortunately, this has not been the case so far. But there is much to tell our readers, viewers and listeners.

Thus, one of the obvious Belarusian leaders of presence in the Kazakhstan market is Minsk Automobile Plant, which opened Trade House MAZ-Kazakhstan LLP in Astana back in 2010 and has now formed its own distribution network in this country, including nine dealers and a network of 12 authorised service stations for Belarusian vehicles. A logical continuation of this cooperation was the opening of production of heavy-duty dump trucks MAZ 5516X5 and MAZ 6501N9 with a payload capacity of 20 tonnes at the auto assembly plant of Hyundai Trans Auto, part of Astana Motor Group, in Almaty in June 2017. At the same time, a full cycle of welding, assembly and colouring is carried out"²²³.

The next example. Even earlier - in 2007 - co-operation between Belarusian Gomselmash OJSC and Kazakhstan's AgromashHolding JSC started. Over ten years, the Belarusian-Kazakh joint assembly plant, which is located in the city of Kostanai on the basis of AgshromashHolding JSC, has managed to assemble more than three thousand combine harvesters. And this is provided that the capacity of the Kazakh market in this equipment is one thousand new machines per year. In 2018, the joint venture will master the production of two more new models of agricultural machinery. We are talking in this case

²²¹ Review of the results of the foreign policy of the Republic of Belarus and the activities of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2017 [Electronic resource]. - 2018. - URL: <http://mfa.gov.by/publication/reports/a8a5169b6e487b3b.html>

²²² Matveeva, N. The relations between Belarus and Kazakhstan have acquired an allied and strategic character - Bulegenov / N. Matveeva // [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/politics/view/otnosheniia-belarusi-i-kazahstana-priobrelisozuznicheskij-i-strategicheskij-harakter-bulegenov-266564-2017/>

²²³ In Kazakhstan the production of MAZ motor vehicles has been launched [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/v-kazahstane-zapuscheno-proizvodstvo-avtotehniki-maz-256106-2017/>

about models KZS-575 and KZS-10. "These machines will expand the range of combine harvesters that are produced in Kostanai, which will allow a more flexible response to the needs of the local market"²²⁴.

Another good example of the development of bilateral mutually favourable cooperation Belarus-Kazakhstan co-operation

The first stage of the project to create the Kazakhstan-Belarusian Industrial and Technological Park of Agricultural and Municipal Machinery was commissioned in 2016. The implementation of this large investment project began back in 2012 - with the aim of organising in the city of Kokshetau, Akmola region, under the licences of a number of Belarusian factories, "a full-cycle production line for assembling trailers, press pickers, attachments, bale and forage harvesting implements, excavators, loaders of different sizes and modifications"²²⁵. The first phase of the project is almost 10,000 square metres of space. "After commissioning of the second stage and full utilisation of the enterprise, about 230 new jobs will be created"²²⁶. The parties are confident that the successful implementation of this project will create a powerful cluster of Belarusian-Kazakh machine building in Kokshetau, and will also serve as a good example for spreading this positive experience of industrial cooperation to other areas of interaction. In particular, "it is planned to create similar parks for the production of passenger buses, quarry and mining machinery, road-building machinery"²²⁷. The implementation of these plans is another thematic area of publications in the Belarusian and Kazakhstani press.

A total of several dozens of joint scientific and technical projects with extensive use of Belarusian technologies, innovations and scientific developments are planned for the next few years. In particular, a project is planned "to create joint production of unmanned aerial systems"²²⁸ and

²²⁴ Sidorchik, V. Two new models of combine harvesters will be developed at the Belarusian-Kazakh joint venture in 2018 / V. Sidorchik // [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/newscompany/view/dve-novye-modeli-zernouborochnyh-kombajnov-osvojat-na-belorussko-kazahstanskom-sp-v-2018-godu-278818-2017/>

²²⁵ How in the field conditions raise the economy of Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. - 2016. - URL:

<https://forbes.kz/process/economy/kak-v-polevyih-usloviyah-podnimayut-ekonomiku-kazahstana/>

²²⁶ Akashin, V. Minsk - Kokshetau: a mutually beneficial project / V. Akashin // [Electronic resource]. - 2016. - URL: <http://apgazeta.kz/2016/10/01/minsk-kokshetau-vzaimovyygodnyj-proekt/>.

²²⁷ Interview of Anatoly Nichkasov, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Belarus to the Republic of Kazakhstan, to the Kazakh news agency Khabar (11 June 2014). г.) [Electronic resource]. - URL: <http://mfa.gov.by/press/smi/d8d30fc5ce4d68be.html>

²²⁸ Belarus and Kazakhstan are planning a project to create a joint production of drones [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-kazahstan-namechait-proekt-po-sozdaniyu->

organise their production in Kazakhstan. Joint cooperation projects in the oil sector, including geological exploration, well operation, and the introduction of various methods of production stimulation and enhanced oil recovery, which were discussed at the meeting between the heads of government of the two countries A. Kobyakov and B. Sagintayev in August 2017, may also become new areas of successful cooperation between Belarusian companies and Kazakh partners. Sagintayev in August 2017 in Astana. In total, there are still "six joint assembly plants in Kazakhstan in the active phase of formation"²²⁹, which indicates a very high readiness of the parties to continue the active search for new forms of production co-operation. At the same time, much will depend on the ability of the regions of the two countries to realise the cooperation potential inherent in them. Accordingly, the role of the regional press of the two countries in the media support of the implementation of these co-operation perspectives increases manifold.

In 2016, the trade turnover between Belarus and Kazakhstan totalled about USD 420 million. That is why in early 2017, both Minsk and Astana set an ambitious task to return to the record level of Belarusian-Kazakh mutual trade in 2014, when it totalled \$966.8 million. At the same time, one of the effective tools for solving this task was outlined - intensification of interaction between the regions of the two countries, which is an important condition for their dynamic socio-economic development and a factor ensuring the promotion of trade and economic relations within the framework of the free movement of goods, services, capital, technology, labour and joint ventures declared in the Eurasian Economic Union. The conclusion that "the regions of Belarus and Kazakhstan have many promising areas for mutually beneficial economic cooperation"²³⁰, was also reached by participants of the interregional meeting of representatives of the Kazakh Pavlodar and Belarusian Gomel regions held in April 2017 in Gomel.

It should be noted that Pavlodar region is among those Kazakhstani regions where business interests "develop within the framework of one of the main directions in the economic policy of Kazakhstan, Russia and Belarus - the Common Economic Space.

spaces. For our region, this co-operation is a priority in foreign economic

sovместного-производства-беспилотников-278212-2017/

²²⁹ Bilateral trade and economic co-operation [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL:

http://kazakhstan.mfa.gov.by/ru/bilateral_relations/trade_economic/

²³⁰ Sidorchik, V. The regions of Belarus and Kazakhstan have many promising areas for cooperation - Vladimir Dvornik / V. Sidorchik // [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL:

<http://www.belta.by/regions/view/u-regionov-belarusi-i-kazahstana-est-mnogo-perspektivnyh-napravlenij-dlj-a-sotrudnichestva-vladimir-243748-2017/>.

activity"²³¹. The seriousness of its intentions to fill the partnership with Belarusian regions with concrete economic content is evidenced at least by this fact. The akimat of Pavlodar region signed an agreement on cooperation with the Gomel Regional Executive Committee in November 2016. And if for the whole of 2016 the volume of mutual trade between Gomel residents and Pavlodar residents was noted at the level of two and a half million dollars, then only "in January-February 2017 trade turnover between the regions amounted to \$1.4 million (growth rate - 393.8%), including exports - \$0.9 million (256.1%). The main export items: condensed milk and cream, equipment for railway tracks, metalware, tableware and kitchenware made of porcelain. Imported from Pavlodar region ferrosilicon"²³² for the needs of the Belarusian Metallurgical Plant.

The interregional meeting in Gomel showed that the parties intend to significantly expand the framework of interregional co-operation. For example, Pavlodar residents were very interested in the Belarusian experience in the improvement of settlements, including small towns. In this regard, the Kazakh side even proposed to invite Gomel architects and housing and communal services workers to Pavlodar so that they could work there for some time, passing on their experience. Another promising area of cooperation is the purchase of agricultural machinery from Gomselmash: "We are talking about the KZS-5 combine harvester, designed for work on small fields, primarily in farms"²³³. These promising areas of cooperation between Belarus and Kazakhstan can be supplemented by the planned purchase of young cattle in Gomelshchina for the development of dairy farming in Kazakhstan and the expansion of supplies of Belarusian furniture there. The interaction of free economic zones located on the territory of the regions, the agreement on which was signed in Gomel within the framework of the interregional meeting and which may turn out to be very productive, is also in the same line. The fact is that the free economic zone of Pavlodar region invites interested partners to participate in projects on joint use of

²³¹ Bozumbaev, K. Interaction of regions plays an important role in the development and strengthening of integration / K. Bozumbaev // Eurasian Economic Union: regional aspect: inform.-integ. project / compiled, interviewed. B. Zalesky, M. Valkovskiy, A. Mostovoy. - Minsk: Biznesofset, 2014. - C. 177-178.

²³² Sidorchik, V. Delegation of the Pavlodar region of Kazakhstan will visit the Gomel region on 19-20 April / V. Sidorchik // [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/delegatsiia-pavlodarskoi-oblasti-kazahstana-posetit-gomelskij-region-19-20-aprelja-243412-2017/>

²³³ Sidorchik, V. The head of Pavlodar region was interested in the Belarusian experience of urban development / V. Sidorchik // [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/glavu-pavlodarskoj-oblasti-zainteresoval-beloruskij-opyt-blagoustrojstva-gorodov-243790-2017/>

subsoil resources on its territory. In particular, now in this Kazakh region "an aluminium cluster is being created with the involvement of large companies from Germany, Poland and Turkey"²³⁴, in which Belarusian representatives of this market segment could participate.

It is important to note that the interests of Pavlodar region in developing partnership relations in Belarus are not limited only to Gomel region. Thus, in Minsk region, the Kazakh side showed great interest in co-operation in the construction of dairy farms. Handing over a package of standard projects of agricultural facilities to the Pavlodars, representatives of the capital region of Belarus expressed their readiness not only to advise them on this topic, but also to build dairy complexes on mutually beneficial terms. The city of Ekibastuz, located in Pavlodar region, and Partizansky district of Minsk, which signed an agreement in April 2017 to "expand trade and economic cooperation, assist in establishing contacts between economic entities, organise exhibitions, fairs, business forums, as well as develop cooperation in the spheres of education, culture, sports and tourism"²³⁵.

The Mogilev region is also urgent to intensify co-operation with Kazakh regions, having concluded "co-operation agreements with East Kazakhstan (2009) and South Kazakhstan (2003) regions"²³⁶. Since that time many enterprises of Mogilev region have become exporters of their products to the Kazakh market: JSC "Belshina", JSC "Mogotex", JSC "Bobruisk Machine-Building Plant", RPUE "Mogilev Plant "Strommashina", JSC "Osipovichi Dairy Plant", JSC "Bykxovmoloko", KUP "Legpromrazvitie", SOOO "Jockey Plastic", SOOO "Stl-Extrusion", company "Babushkina Krynka". Almost all of them are ready to increase their supplies to Kazakhstan regions. Representatives of the international segment of mass media could help them in advertising and media promotion of export products

Mogilev region, having creative contacts with Kazakh colleagues.

Back in 2014, the Akmola and Grodno regions were going to establish close partnership ties. At that time, they signed a memorandum of co-operation in

²³⁴ Pavlodar and Minsk regions show mutual interest in the development of cooperation in agriculture [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/pavlodarskaja-i-minskaja-oblasti-projavljajut-vzaimnyj-interes-k-razvitiju-sotrudnichestva-v-selskom-243719-2017/>

²³⁵ Partizansky district of Minsk signed a co-operation agreement with the Kazakh city of Ekibastuz [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/partizanskij-rajon-minska-podpisal-soglasenie-o-sotrudnichestve-s-kazahstanskim-gorodom-ekibastuzom-243437-2017/>

²³⁶ Tkacheva, O. Kazakhstan is interested in intensifying interregional cooperation with Mogilev region / O. Tkacheva // [Electronic resource]. - 2013. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/kazahstan-zainteresovan-v-aktivizatsii-mezhregionalnogo-sotrudnichestva-s-mogilevskoj-oblastju-31160-2013>

agriculture and noted great potential for co-operation "in terms of investment, trade in goods and services"²³⁷ . Examples of such intentions could be continued. The issue is that they are not always adequately reflected in the media sphere. And this then has the effect of reducing the interest of partners in continuing co-operation as a whole. In order to prevent this from happening, Minsk and Astana must have updated the agreement on co-operation in the field of mass media adopted back in 2000.

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²³⁷ Stasiukevich, E. Akmola region of Kazakhstan is interested in adopting the agricultural experience of Grodno region / E. Stasiukevich // [Electronic resource]. - 2014. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/akmolinskaja-oblast-kazahstana-zainteresovana-perenijat-selskohozi-ajstvennyj-opyt-grodnenskoj-oblasti-38047-2014>

Plans for the future - in the roadmap

In May 2021, the 16th meeting of the Intergovernmental Belarus-Kazakhstan Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation was held, following which the parties adopted a roadmap or programme of activities for 2021-2022. The results of the interaction between the two countries in the first quarter of 2021 became a kind of tuning for this meeting. "Trade turnover totalled \$215 million and increased by 12% compared to the corresponding period of 2020"²³⁸. At the same time, the positive balance for the Belarusian side amounted to \$133.5 million. Among the main activities of the adopted roadmap should be highlighted the development of the Belarusian-Kazakhstani dialogue. Belarus-Kazakhstan

co-operation in industrial co-operation and machinery supply, agriculture and construction, as well as cooperation between the regions of the two countries. Another important event in Belarus-Kazakhstan interaction took place at the end of June 2021, when a Belarusian government delegation headed by Prime Minister R. Golovchenko visited Kazakhstan, during which the parties made serious progress in the development of bilateral **trade and economic relations**. Again, this visit took place against the backdrop of very positive dynamics in mutual trade between the two countries. Suffice it to say that "in 2020, Belarusian-Kazakh trade turnover totalled \$847.9 million. The main items of Belarusian exports were tractors, combines, beef, milk, cream, sugar, cheese, cottage cheese, furniture and medicines"²³⁹. Such figures testify to a lot. There are 54 companies with Kazakh capital operating in Belarus, including 13 joint ventures and 36 foreign ones. And 366 companies with Belarusian participation operate in Kazakhstan. Besides, there are enterprises with Belarusian technologies operating at ten production sites in different regions of this country. And now the parties are focusing on increasing the localisation of machinery produced there - the same tractors and cars - in order to "reach new indicators in mutual trade - more than \$1 billion a year in goods and services"²⁴⁰.

The contracts signed at the end of June 2021 between the economic entities

²³⁸ Industrial Co-operation and Days of Culture - Belarus and Kazakhstan held a meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission [Electronic resource]. - 2021. - URL:

<https://www.belta.by/economics/view/promkooperatsija-i-dni-kultury-belarus-i-kazhstan-proveli-zasedanie-mezhpravravkomissii-443204-2021/>

²³⁹ Ruslan Golovchenko visited large enterprises of Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. - 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/roman-golovchenko-posetil-krupnye-predpriiata-kazhstana-447818-2021/>

²⁴⁰ Belarus has agreed with Kazakhstan on oil supplies [Electronic resource]. - 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-dogovorilas-s-kazhstanom-o-postavkah-nefti-447959-2021/>

of the two countries should contribute to the achievement of this goal. In particular, Minsk Tractor Plant will supply 590 units of machinery to Kazakhstan for ten million dollars. "Another contract was signed between MAZ OJSC and Hyundai Trans Auto LLP for the supply of MAZ trailer kits worth \$1.3 million. Also, BELAZ OJSC and ASTANABELAZSERVICE LLP signed a contract for the supply of BELAZ machinery worth \$1.2 million"²⁴¹. The same list of Belarusian exporters includes the company Bobruiskagromash, which has been working closely on the Kazakh market for the past five years, where it has an assembly plant for trailers, balers and mowers. In 2020, it increased its exports of agricultural machinery to that country by one and a half times. In 2021, the results promise to be no worse. At least, the signed contract for the supply of products in the amount of one million dollars with the entities of the commodity distribution network of "Bobruiskagromash" in Kazakhstan is aimed at this. Gomselmash OJSC and AgromashHolding KZ JSC - the only industrial enterprise in this country that produces combine harvesters, tractors and additional products in a wide range and is the exclusive distributor of Gomel's products in Kazakhstan - also signed an agreement on the development of cooperation for 2021-2022.

But, perhaps, Minsk Tractor Plant stands out more than others in terms of the development of **industrial cooperation** with Kazakh partners. Minsk Tractor Plant already has three assembly plants here, has its own trading house and plans to develop another assembly plant in this Central Asian country - with investments of \$50 million - on the basis of the enterprise "Composite Group Kazakhstan" in Kostanai. Now the assembly line here is designed to produce 1200 Belarus tractors. But plans have already been formed to develop the site, create new jobs, increase the number of technological operations, aimed at increasing the localisation of production. In particular, "at the first stage, together with Kazakh partners, a workshop for the production of cabins will be built. The next stage is the construction of another building with an area of 25 thousand square metres for the assembly of engines and radiators of all types. It is also planned to produce a new type of products - diesel pumps"²⁴². It is quite possible that this enterprise will become an important element of the Belarusian industrial centre being created in the industrial zone of

²⁴¹ Belarus is increasing supplies of machinery to Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. - 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-naraschivaet-postavki-tehniki-v-kazahstan-447970-2021/>

²⁴² Industrial enterprises of Belarus and Kazakhstan intend to sign large contracts [Electronic resource]. - 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/prompredpriyatija-belarusi-i-kazahstana-namereny-podpisat-krupnye-kontrakty-447828-2021/>

Kostanay. "It will be a multi-profile structure, which will combine not only production facilities, but also scientific and technical activities and training of specialists"²⁴³. And there is every reason to believe that such a centre could become the core of innovative development.

Agriculture is one of the other areas of Belarus-Kazakhstan cooperation that should receive accelerated development in the near future. The Central Asian country's market is important for Belarusian agrarians because it ranks second after Russia in terms of food supplies from Belarus. By the end of 2021, the Belarusian side plans to "reach 120% of exports of our products to Kazakhstan to the level of last year: in 2020 it was over \$300 million"²⁴⁴.

In this regard, it is important to recall the results of 2020, which showed that even in the context of restrictions related to the spread of coronavirus infection, the agro-industrial complex of both countries maintained growth trends in 2020. In particular, data from the Eurasian Economic Commission shows that "agricultural production in the territory of the member countries of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) in 2020 increased by 2.3 per cent to 114.3 billion US dollars. The highest production growth among EAEU countries was recorded in Kazakhstan (by 5.6%) and Belarus (by 4.9%)"²⁴⁵. Positive trends in the growth of cooperation between the two countries in the agro-industrial sector were also recorded at the second meeting of the joint Belarusian-Kazakh working group on developing promising areas of bilateral cooperation in agriculture, which took place in Minsk in February 2021. At the meeting, the parties focused on food trade, crop and livestock farming, veterinary medicine, breeding and selection, taking into account that "in 2020, trade turnover of agricultural products and foodstuffs between Belarus and Kazakhstan increased by 1.2 times by 2019 and reached \$307.2 million. Exports totalled \$289.9 million (an increase of more than 20%)"²⁴⁶. At the same time, the parties noted the existing serious potential for further stable growth of trade turnover and consolidation of positive trends in mutual trade.

²⁴³ Golovchenko: trade and economic relations are the foundation of Belarus-Kazakhstan cooperation [Electronic resource]. - 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/golovchenko-fundament-belorusko-kazahstanskogo-sotrudnichestva-torgovo-ekonomicheskie-otnoshenija-447956-2021/>

²⁴⁴ Brylo: Belarusian food exports to Kazakhstan are increasing every year [Electronic resource]. - 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/brylo-eksport-beloruskogo-prodovolstvija-v-kazahstan-kazhdvi-god-uvlechivaetsja-447921-2021/>

²⁴⁵ About the meeting of the Ambassador of Belarus with the Minister of Agriculture of Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. - 2021. - URL:

<http://kazakhstan.mfa.gov.by/ru/embassy/news/c66dcb28873a0b75.html>

²⁴⁶ Export of Belarusian agricultural products to Kazakhstan in 2020 increased by more than 20% [Electronic resource]. - 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/eksport-beloruskoj-selhozproduksii-v-kazahstan-v-2020-godu-vyros-bolee-chem-na-20-430100-2021>

On the Belarusian side, these prospects are seen in the supply of equipment for the construction of dairy farms, the introduction of new technologies, the expansion of purchases of agricultural machinery, and the retraining of personnel for the agro-industrial complex. Kazakhstan is particularly interested in the Belarusian experience in the development of the dairy and sugar industries, as well as in other areas of agricultural production. The nature of this interest lies in the fact that "the coronavirus has shown how much all agricultural products are in demand now. New niches are opening up"²⁴⁷.

In particular, in 2021, the parties pin great hopes on the continuation of cooperation between Belarusian Gomselmash OJSC and AgromashHolding KZ, Kazakhstan's largest agricultural machinery company, which in 2020 increased production volumes by 1.7 times. Joint assembly of grain harvesters by these enterprises on Kazakh soil began back in 2007. "In 2019, the organisation produced 429 combines and tractors, and in 2020 - 730 units of machinery"²⁴⁸. Including the first combine harvester ESSIL KZS-790, which has already been tested in the Karaganda region and showed good results. The new machine has increased engine power and grain cleaning area, and threshing is done in a combined way: by drum and rotor. In 2021 the serial production of this model is planned. In addition, the production of self-propelled mowers will also increase, which is explained by the growing demand for them among Kazakhstani farmers. Recall also that back in the summer of 2020, more than 70 machine sets of the KZS-10 MAX model were sent to Kazakhstan from Gomel. "The innovations introduced on this model of combine harvester, mainly concerning more comfortable work of mechanisers, were liked by the agrarians of Kazakhstan. This prompted them to order 30 more of these combines"²⁴⁹. And in the second half of December 2020, this additional batch of 30 machine sets was shipped to Kazakh partners.

Among the events that should have a positive impact on the development of cooperation between Belarus and Kazakhstan in agriculture in 2021, we

²⁴⁷ Kazakhstan is interested in the Belarusian experience of development of dairy and sugar industries [Electronic resource]. - 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/kazahstan-zainteresovan-v-belorusskom-opyte-razvitiya-molochnoj-i-saharnoj-otraslej-430102-2021>

²⁴⁸ "Gomselmash" and "AgromashHolding KZ" will expand the line of agricultural machinery in 2021 [Electronic resource]. - 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/gomselmash-i-agromashholding-kz-rasshirj-at-linejku-agrotehniki-v-2021-godu-424825-2021/>

²⁴⁹ "Gomselmash" additionally shipped to Kazakhstan 30 machine kits KZS-10 MAX [Electronic resource]. - 2020. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/gomselmash-dopolnitelno-otgruzil-v-kazahstan-30-mashinokomplektov-kzs-0-max-421382-2020/1>

would like to mention a few more. First, the idea discussed at the meeting of the Belarus-Kazakhstan Business Council in November 2020, which was attended by representatives of more than 160 enterprises of the two countries, may yield interesting results. Given the fact that one of the most important issues in the development of relations between the two former Soviet republics is the holding of exhibitions, "Belarus and Kazakhstan are considering the possibility of holding an offsite agricultural exhibition Belagro in Kazakhstan"²⁵⁰. This could be another concrete step towards intensifying bilateral cooperation and increasing mutual trade turnover. Secondly, back in November 2020, the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange (BUTB) offered Kazakh companies to buy Belarusian meat and dairy products and sugar at exchange trading. At the same time, BUTB could assist companies from Kazakhstan in selling their products on the Belarusian market. As a follow-up to this proposal, in January 2021, BUTB agreed to intensify cooperation in the field of electronic trade with the Astana Universal Commodity Exchange, which "will make it possible to form a single database with commercial offers of Belarusian and Kazakh companies and will contribute to the growth of mutual trade volumes"²⁵¹. Another of the most important areas of co-operation between Belarus and Kazakhstan, which should receive intensive development in the very near future, is the **construction sector**, as the parties are seriously interested in this interaction. This is explained by the fact that "today, Belarus and Kazakhstan have multifunctional construction complexes, which are continuously carrying out their activities, increasing their pace every year"²⁵². Among the priorities of interaction in this area, the parties see such areas of cooperation as the construction of industrial enterprises, housing and dairy complexes, production and supply of construction materials, as well as the establishment of a trading house of Belarusian construction materials in Kazakhstan and the expansion of supplies of sanitary faience, thermal insulation and roofing materials, and floor coverings to this Central Asian country.

²⁵⁰ Utyupin: the possibility of holding the exhibition "Belagro" in Kazakhstan is considered [Electronic resource]. - 2020. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/utyupin-rassmatrivaetsja-vozmozhnost-provedenija-vystavki-belagro-v-kazahstane-417045-2020/>

²⁵¹ BUTB and Kazakhstan's Astana Stock Exchange intend to develop co-operation in the field of electronic commerce [Electronic resource]. - 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/butb-i-kazahstanskaja-birzha-astana-namereny-razvivat-sotrudnichestvo-v-sfere-elektronnoj-torgovli-425206-2021>

²⁵² Belarus and Kazakhstan are interested in expanding co-operation in the construction sector [Electronic resource]. - 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-kazahstan-zainteresovany-v-rasshirenii-sotrudnichestva-v-stroitelnoj-sfere-452678-2021/>

If we are talking about industrial construction, it was noted at the 16th meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission that "an important step in cooperative cooperation will be the construction by MTZ OJSC in Kazakhstan of a plant for the production of cabins for tractors and front axles"²⁵³. Let's add that the works on the mentioned production facilities in the Kazakh city of Kostanai have already started. "About 7 million dollars of investments will be directed on realisation of the project. And it is planned to invest about 50 million dollars in the development of production facilities"²⁵⁴.

In addition, today the parties are working on the establishment and construction of a joint venture for the production of ceramic tiles on Kazakh soil. This project will be realised in reality if there will be enough raw materials in the subsoil of this country to produce these products. That is why "now the geological, environmental protection services of Kazakhstan are studying the volume of available resources"²⁵⁵.

Another interesting construction project, which is being worked out by the parties, concerns the construction of a "Belarusian neighbourhood" in Nur-Sultan. By its example, the Belarusian side could demonstrate its capabilities in designing and building residential complexes. The peculiarity of this project is that it does not exclude "the possibility of equipping the built housing with Belarusian furniture and household appliances, because in Kazakhstan some construction companies have such a practice of selling completely finished housing"²⁵⁶.

The next project discussed by the parties to open a trading house in Kazakhstan, which would include such Belarusian construction industry enterprises as Keramin, Berezastroymaterialy, and Belarusian Glass Company, looks logical in this regard. It is possible that later, according to the Belarusian Ministry of Architecture and Construction, the concern Bellesbumprom will join their ranks. The fact is that only in the first four months of 2021, its enterprises increased exports of its products to the

²⁵³ On holding the 16th meeting of the Intergovernmental Belarus-Kazakhstan Commission [Electronic resource]. - 2021. - URL: <https://kazakhstan.mfa.gov.by/ru/embassy/news/dda48a09c28d30da.html>

²⁵⁴ Multimillion contracts and agreements on oil supplies: summarising the three-day visit of the Prime Minister to Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. - 2021. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/9894>

²⁵⁵ Joint ceramic tile factory and "Belarusian Quarter" may appear in Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. - 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/sovместnyj-zavod-keramicheskoy-plitki-i-belorusskij-kvartal-mogut-poj-avitsja-v-kazahstane-452553-2021/>

²⁵⁶ Belarus is interested in the construction of "Belarusian Quarter" in Kazakhstan - Utyupin [Electronic resource]. - 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-zainterresovana-v-stroitelstve-belorusskogo-kvartala-v-kazahstane-utjupin-451644-2021/>

Kazakh market by almost 30 per cent - to more than seven million dollars. "This is primarily furniture: it was supplied for more than \$2 million. Belarusian upholstered furniture and cabinet furniture made of solid wood are particularly popular in Kazakhstan. The country also exports chipboard and fibreboard, plywood, wooden windows and doors, wallpaper, paper, cardboard, sawn timber..."²⁵⁷. There is every reason to believe that sales of Belarusian woodworking products in the Kazakhstan market will continue to grow systematically. The use of the potential of a specialised trading house can only open up new additional sales opportunities.

Finally, with regard to the construction of agricultural facilities, the Kazakh side is particularly interested in this issue. At the end of June 2021, an agreement was even reached to meet with partners from Kazakhstan in Belarus, where "we will demonstrate to them our capabilities to build fairly large farms for 2,400 heads"²⁵⁸. If this Belarusian experience finds a favourable response from the Kazakh side, then in the future we can talk about the implementation of a similar turnkey project of a Belarusian farm in Kazakhstan with its further expansion throughout the country. In this case, the term "turnkey" includes design, construction by Belarusian companies, supply of equipment and breeding cattle.

Interregional co-operation also plays an important role in the development of Belarusian-Kazakh partnership ties. Suffice it to say that there are about 30 co-operation agreements between the regions of Belarus and Kazakhstan. In particular, the relevant documents were signed by the executive committees of Minsk, Brest, Gomel, Vitebsk, and Mogilev regions and the akimat of Karaganda region. Gomel and Vitebsk voblasts have a co-operation agreement with North Kazakhstan voblast, Brest voblast - with East Kazakhstan voblast. Grodno region co-operates with Aktobe, Kostanay and Mangistau regions, Gomel region - with Almaty and Atyrau regions. These partnerships of the regions of the two countries are complemented by documents on co-operation of such cities as Minsk and Nur-Sultan, Brest and Semey, Bobruisk and Ust-Kamenogorsk, Mogilev and Shymkent. But due to the fact that "in 2020 the development of regional cooperation was to some extent hampered due to the introduction of quarantine restrictions related to

²⁵⁷ Enterprises of Bellesbumprom in January-April increased exports to Kazakhstan by 28.7% [Electronic resource]. - 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/predpriyatija-bellesbumproma-v-janvare-aprele-narastili-ekspora-v-kazahstan-na-287-448021-2021/>

²⁵⁸ Belarus plans to double the export of construction materials to Kazakhstan - Parkhamovich [Electronic resource]. - 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-planiruet-udvoit-eksport-strojmaterialov-v-kazahstan-parhamovich-447920-2021/>

the spread of coronavirus infection COVID- 19²⁵⁹ , in 2021 the task is set not only to intensify existing partnerships, but also to work on the establishment of new ones.

In particular, serious intentions in this regard are demonstrated today by Gomel region, which offers Kazakh partners to expand cooperation, including through joint ventures, small business, transport infrastructure, tourism. In 2020, the volume of foreign trade of the region with Kazakhstan exceeded 115 million dollars. "The growth rate of trade turnover in January-April [2021] reached 161% compared to last year's four months"²⁶⁰ , and among the main suppliers should be noted "Gomselmash" and a meat and dairy company. The same "Gomselmash" in June 2021 signed an agreement on the development of co-operation for 2021-2022 with the Kazakh JSC "Agromashholding". The crux of the matter is that "the Kazakh side requested 570 units [of combines] for this year - for \$60 million. In the next three years, the goal is to produce up to 1,000 units of combines per year"²⁶¹ . The parties are also discussing other areas of co-operation. In particular, there are prospects for mutually beneficial partnership in the chemical and glass spheres. The proposal of the head of the Kazakh diplomatic mission in Belarus A. Beisenbayev, who expressed his views on this issue, is also noteworthy. Beisenbayev, head of Kazakhstan's diplomatic mission in Belarus, suggested in Gomel that a forum of regions of the two countries should be held.

Brest region is also going to actively develop cooperation with the Kazakh side, the volume of foreign trade turnover with Kazakhstan in 2020 exceeded 130 million dollars. Now nine enterprises with Kazakh capital are registered in Brest region. But there are certainly reserves and potential for continued cooperation. And today we are talking about "the supply of products with added value, primarily in such industries as woodworking, food industry"²⁶² . A real breakthrough in the development of cooperation between the regions of the two countries could be the emergence of the Belarusian Industrial

²⁵⁹ About interregional co-operation of the Republic of Belarus with the Republic of Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. - resource]. - 2021. - URL: https://kazakhstan.mfa.gov.by/ru/bilateral_relations/trade_economic/region/

²⁶⁰ JV, small business, tourism - Gomel region intends to expand cooperation with Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. - 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/sp-malyi-business-turizm-gomelskaia-oblast-namerena-rasshirjat-sotrudnichestvo-s-kazahstanom-.446559-2021/>

²⁶¹ Multimillion contracts and agreements on oil supplies: summarising the three-day visit of the Prime Minister to Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. - 2021. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/9894>

²⁶² Belarusian-Kazakh intergovernmental commission plans to meet in Brest [Electronic resource]. - 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/belorussko-kazahstanskaj-a-mezhpravkomissij-a-planiruet-sobratsja-v-breste-434510-2021/>.

Centre in the Kostanai region, which the parties agreed on in June 2021. "This will be a multi-profile structure that will combine not only production facilities, but also scientific and technical activities and training of specialists"²⁶³. This centre will be located in the industrial zone "Kostanai", which was opened in 2017 and is an industrial site of 400 hectares, provided with communications, which already hosts enterprises of mechanical engineering, food and light industry, production of building materials and structures, agricultural equipment. Interestingly, the first "swallow" of this zone was the "plant for the production of tractors of the brand "Belarus" of the holding company "Composite Group Kazakhstan". It was opened in 2018, and now it is successfully developing"²⁶⁴. So the foundation for the appearance of the Belarusian Industrial Centre is already here.

As we can see, Belarus and Kazakhstan have great prospects for co-operation in various areas and have already created a good foundation for long-term co-operation between industrial, agro-industrial and construction complexes, as well as at the level of the regions of the two countries. Let's hope that all these plans discussed above will be successfully realised.

On the road of friendship and co-operation

Belarus and Kazakhstan signed the Treaty on Social and Economic Cooperation until 2026 in November 2017. In this document, the parties outlined the implementation of a qualitatively new stage in their bilateral relations. At the end of June 2021, during the visit of the Belarusian government delegation to this Central Asian country, a task corresponding to this new stage was announced - at the end of the year "to reach new indicators in mutual trade - in goods and services it is more than \$1bn in total per year"²⁶⁵.

In February 2022, summarising the results of the past year, the parties stated at a high level that Belarusian-Kazakh trade turnover exceeded one billion dollars for the first time in history. To be absolutely precise, it "totalled \$1,092.5 billion and increased by 31.9% compared to the same period last year [2020], exports - \$911.8 million (up 25%). The balance is positive -

²⁶³ Belarusian industrial centre will appear in the industrial zone of Kostanay [Electronic resource]. - 2021. - URL: <https://www.sb.by/articles/beloruskiy-industrialnyy-centre-poyavitsya-v-industrialnoy-zone-kostonaya.html>

²⁶⁴ Goray, O. Industrial zone "Kostanai" is gradually filled with new production / O. Goray // [Electronic resource]. - 2021. - URL: <https://top-news.kz/industrialnaja-zona-kostanaj-postepenno-zapolnjaetsja-novymi-proizvodstvami/>.

²⁶⁵ Zaleskii, B.L. With an eye on trade and production co-operation / B.L. Zaleskii // Materialy XVII Miedzynarodowej naukowo-praktycznej konferencji "Dynamika naukowych badan - 2021", Volume 6. Przemysl: Nauka i studia. - C. 21.

\$731.1 million²⁶⁶. Belarusian supplies were based on a variety of food products - fresh or chilled beef, condensed and dried milk and cream, cheese and cottage cheese, sausages and similar meat products, sugar, as well as parts of rolling stock, combine harvesters, furniture and its parts. The commodity distribution network of Belarusian enterprises in Kazakhstan includes more than 40 companies, as well as more than 170 entities of the dealer network. There are also a number of joint assembly plants for Belarusian machinery and equipment.

In October 2022, high-level working meetings of representatives of the governments of Belarus and Kazakhstan were held in Astana, where the parties outlined priorities in the field of industrial cooperation, agro-industrial complex, and construction.

In the area of industrial co-operation, we note that seven Belarusian enterprises operate in Kazakhstan, including Gomselmash, Minsk Tractor Plant, and Bobruiskagromash. They are steadily increasing supplies of machinery components to this country for the production of equipment. Within the framework of one of the largest projects on creation of tractor production in the industrial zone in Kostanai, the construction of a workshop for manufacturing of unified cabins with a production capacity of up to 10 thousand units per year has been completed. "The parties are studying the possibility of organising the production of not only elements and units of tractor equipment, but also machine tools, engines for tractor equipment, diesel generators, pumping units, optical products"²⁶⁷.

As for new prospects for cooperation, the production of fire trucks based on the chassis of the Minsk Automobile Plant and the Pozhsnab enterprise is being discussed. This is a new promising niche that needs to be filled with Belarusian equipment. In general, "we can increase mutual supplies with Kazakhstan by \$200 million"²⁶⁸. The experience of Minsk Motor Plant (MM3), whose trading house was opened in early 2022 in Kazakhstan and which successfully sells Belarusian engines, special equipment and spare

²⁶⁶ Golovnenko: trade turnover between Belarus and Kazakhstan in 2021 exceeded \$1 billion for the first time [Electronic resource]. resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/golovchenko-tovarooborot-belarusi-i-kazahstana-v-2021-godu-vpervye-prevysil-mlrd-486829-2022/-1>

²⁶⁷ Golovchenko: Belarus and Kazakhstan need to move forward in the field of industrial co-operation [Electronic resource]. resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/golovchenko-belarusi-i-kazahstanu-nuzhno-dvigatsija-dalshe-v-oblasti-promkooperatsii-531879-2022/>

²⁶⁸ Snopkov: The basis of co-operation between Belarus and Kazakhstan is production co-operation [Electronic resource]. resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/snopkov-bazoi-sotrudnichestva-belarusi-i-kazahstana-javljaetsja-proizvodstvennaja-kooperatsija-506651-2022/>

parts with increasing indicators, is interesting in this regard. In this context, in October 2022, MM3 took part in the KazAgro-2022 international exhibition, which is the largest and most visited in Central Asia. The objective of the Belarusian company at the forum is "to expand business and commercial prospects, opportunities to promote products, and increase brand recognition"²⁶⁹. For the same purpose, in September 2022 in Astana, more than 30 Belarusian business entities took part in international specialised exhibitions on mechanical engineering and metalworking, as well as on the manufacturing industry. Collective stands were "presented by enterprises of the Ministry of Industry of the Republic of Belarus, the Ministry of Education, individual stands were presented by Minsk Tractor Plant and machine-tool enterprises"²⁷⁰. This suggests that new projects in Belarusian-Kazakh industrial co-operation are on the way.

In the agro-industrial sector, the Ministry of Agriculture of Kazakhstan confirmed its interest in building a 1200-head dairy farm on Kazakh soil, where "Belarusian technologies, materials, equipment and dairy cattle will be used. The work will start already this year and will continue in 2023"²⁷¹. Belarus continues to work on the creation of veterinary drugs production in Kazakhstan to meet the needs of both the domestic market and prospective exports to third countries. BelVitunipharm will participate in this project on the Belarusian side. In addition, the Kazakh side expressed interest in supplies of Belarusian mixed fodders, premixes, amino acids, and in switching to potato seeds of Belarusian selection.

The Belarusian and Kazakh partners are also planning several projects in the construction sector in the near future. "Among them there are symmetrical ones - the construction of a Belarusian neighbourhood in Astana and a Kazakh neighbourhood in Minsk. <...> At this stage, the plan is to determine the land plots and concept, to attract state developers"²⁷². Another project is

²⁶⁹ Minsk Motor Plant presented its products at the exhibition in Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/minskij-motornyj-zavod-predstavil-produktsiju-na-vystavke-v-kazahstane-528774-2022/>.

²⁷⁰ More than 30 Belarusian enterprises participate in industry exhibitions in Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/bole-30-belorusskih-predpriyatij-uchastvujut-v-vystavkah-promyshlennosti-v-kazahstane-525159-2022/>.

²⁷¹ Production of veterinary preparations and construction of MTFs. How Belarus and Kazakhstan will co-operate in agro-industrial complex [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/proizvodstvo-vetpreparatov-i-stroitelstvo-mtf-kak-budut-sotrudnichat-belarus-i-kazahstan-v-apk-531987-2022/>.

²⁷² Belarusian quarter in Astana, Kazakh quarter in Minsk. What new projects are discussed in construction [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belorusskij-kvartal-v-astane-kazahstanskij-v-minske-kakie-novyje-proekty-obsuzhdajut-v-stroitelstve-531980-2022/>.

the joint production of ceramic tiles. Kazakhstan has a lot of mineral resources, so it is planned to create a production facility with the involvement of Belarusian specialists and technologies.

Another interesting fact: Belarus and Kazakhstan are also planning to develop freight transport by railway. In October 2022, a Belarus-Kazakhstan round table was held in Astana, where more than 80 participants, including about 40 Kazakh companies from the mining, oil, chemical, gas, metallurgical and agricultural industries, carriers and transport and logistics companies of the country, as well as representatives of Belarusian forestry, woodworking and food industries, transport and freight forwarding companies, discussed the prospects for the development of existing projects and current transport and logistics solutions for long-distance transport. At the same time, "significant

attention was paid to the issues of unimpeded passage of cargo from Belarus to Kazakhstan, as well as to China in transit through Kazakhstan, including as part of container trains"²⁷³ .

Interregional co-operation is another important component of Belarusian-Kazakh bilateral interaction. Let us recall that "there are about 30 agreements between the regions of Belarus and Kazakhstan"²⁷⁴ . Among the Belarusian participants of this effective interaction is **Minsk Region**, whose trade turnover with Kazakhstan in 2021 increased by another 7.5 per cent to \$190 million. At the same time, "exports accounted for almost \$180 million, with a growth rate of 107.2 per cent. In foreign trade there was a surplus of almost \$170 million. The volume of foreign direct investment from Kazakhstan was more than \$1.2 million, or 137.2 per cent of the 2020 level"²⁷⁵ . Karaganda and Pavlodar regions are among the active Kazakh partners of the Belarusian capital region.

Thus, the agreement on cooperation between **Minsk Region** and **Karaganda Region** was signed back in 1996 and included measures on cooperation in industry, , healthcare, and education. In June 2013, JV KazBelAZ LLP, a joint venture for overhaul of units and assemblies, production of spare parts and manufacture of machinery of the Belarusian Automobile Plant, started its

²⁷³ Belarus and Kazakhstan plan to develop freight traffic by railway [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-kazahstan-planirirujut-ravzivat-gruzoperevozki-po-zheleznoj-doroge-530740-2022/>.

²⁷⁴ Zalessky, B. The goal is stable growth. Collection of articles / Boris Zalessky. - LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2021. - C. 52.

²⁷⁵ Turchin discussed with Beisenbaev the development of co-operation between Minsk region and Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/turchin-obsudil-s-bejsenbaevym-razvitie-sotrudnichestva-mezhdu-minskoj-oblastju-i-kazahstanom-486296-2022/>

work in this Kazakhstan region.

"Based at the Karaganda Foundry and Machine Building Plant (KLMZ), a branch of Kazakhmys Corporation LLP"²⁷⁶. This JV became one of the largest in the State Programme of Forced Industrial and Innovative Development and was included in the Kazakhstan Industrialisation Map for 2010-2014. The first Belarusian dump truck was assembled in Karaganda in August 2013 by "Karaganda automobile masters who were trained at the Belarusian plant"²⁷⁷. And in October 2021, the parties have already discussed the creation of a joint production of fire-fighting equipment in Karaganda region. At that time, "21 joint ventures were already operating in the Kazakhstan region. Among them is a company for the assembly of dump trucks, repair and maintenance of BelAZ equipment"²⁷⁸. Apparently, this interaction can be further expanded, as the region is interested in attracting Belarusian companies and is ready to create favourable conditions for them so that they could "take part in the implementation of agricultural projects, construction of schools. Co-operation in the IT sphere is also possible"²⁷⁹.

As for **Pavlodar Region**, Minsk Region signed an agreement with it on trade, economic, scientific, technical cultural co-operation in 2009. In 2017, the parties agreed to cooperate in agriculture. A great interest of the Kazakhs then aroused the Belarusian experience in the construction of dairy and cattle complexes. "Handing over a package of model projects of agricultural facilities to Pavlodar residents, representatives of the capital region of Belarus expressed their readiness not only to advise them on this topic, but also to build dairy complexes at their place on mutually beneficial terms"²⁸⁰. In addition, the free economic zones of Pavlodar region invited interested companies of Minsk region to participate in projects on joint use of subsoil resources of the region. One of them is an aluminium cluster involving large companies from Germany, Poland, and Turkey. It should be noted that the

²⁷⁶ Potylitsyn, S. The process of regular evolution / S. Potylitsyn // [Electronic resource]. - 2014. - URL: <https://kazpravda.kz/n/protsess-zakonomernoy-evolyutsii/>

²⁷⁷ Akhmetova, A. Karaganda residents assembled the first Belarusian dump truck / A. Akhmetova // [Electronic resource]. - 2013. - URL: <https://www.altyn-orda.kz/karagandincy-sobrali-pervyj-belorusskij-samosval/>.

²⁷⁸ Belarus and Kazakhstan can launch joint production of fire-fighting equipment in the territory of Karaganda region [Electronic resource]. - 2021. - <https://primepress.by/news/kompanii-belarus-i-kazakhstan-mogut-zapustit-sovmestnoe-proizv-odstvo-pozharnoy-tekhniki-na-territorii-karagan-38483/>

²⁷⁹ About the visit of the Ambassador of Belarus to Karaganda region [Electronic resource]. - 2021. - URL: https://kazakhstan.mfa.gov.by/ru/embassy/news/c/b/e2580259079_cad.html

²⁸⁰ Zalesky, B. Actual media topics of Belarusian-Kazakh interaction / B. Zalesky // International Journalism-2018: global challenges, regional partnership and media: materials of the VII International scientific and practical conference, Minsk, 15 February. 2018 / comp. B.L. Zaleskiy ; ed. by T.N. Dasaeva. - Minsk: Izd. Centre BSU, 2018. - C. 98.

machinery of the Belarusian Automobile Plant is already very actively used in this area of Kazakhstan. In particular, in February 2021, at the assembly site of the technopark of the Vostochny open-pit mine of JSC "EEC" of the Eurasian Group (ERG), the assembly of three BelAZ dump trucks with a payload capacity of 130 tonnes, which were added to this coal mine enterprise, was completed. They joined "seven of their brethren, which have already been operating for two years at the cyclic-flow stripping areas of the mine, having earned the Ekibastuz miners a reputation of reliable and highly productive mining machines"²⁸¹. As we can see, the range of development of relations between Minsk and Pavlodar regions can still be very wide.

In particular, co-operation with Kazakhstan is among the priority areas of development of **Gomel region's** foreign economic relations. Enterprises of the south-eastern region of Belarus have the most serious intentions to develop co-operation ties with Kazakhstani partners in import substitution, in capabilities logistics. A good example is the joint production of OAO Tomselmash and JSC "AgromashHolding KZ", operating since 2007 in Kazakhstan. Today it is not just an assembly shop, but the most real production.

"During the period of cooperation, more than \$320 million worth of the plant's products have been delivered to the Kazakhstan market, and more than 3.7 thousand units of jointly produced machinery have been sold"²⁸². The products of other enterprises of Gomel region, including Belarusian Metallurgical Plant and Milkavita open joint-stock company, are also in demand in Kazakhstan.

The Mogilev region also co-operates closely with this country in Central Asia, which is beginning to step up its work in trade and economic co-operation. "In the first seven months of this year [2022], the foreign trade turnover between Mogilev Oblast and Kazakhstan totalled about \$40 million"²⁸³. But there are still plenty of opportunities for the parties to work together. Kazakhstan is one of the most important trade and economic

²⁸¹ BELAZ delivered 130-tonne dump trucks to Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. - 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belaz-postavil-130-tonnye-samosvaly-v-kazahstan-428544-2021/>

²⁸² Enterprises of Gomel region intend to develop co-operative relations with Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/predpriiatiia-gomelskoi-oblasti-namereny-razvivat-kooperatsionnye-sviazi-s-kazahstanom-512360-2022>

²⁸³ Isachenko at the meeting with the Ambassador of Kazakhstan: it's time to strengthen work in the trade and economic sphere [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/isachenko-na-vstreche-s-poslom-kazahstana-prishlo-vremia-uzilit-rabotu-v-torgovo-ekonomicheskoi-sfere-525098-2022/>

partners for the Belarusian region, ranking second in terms of foreign trade turnover among the countries of the Eurasian Economic Union both at the end of 2021 and for the first seven months of 2022. The main export items are machinery and spare parts for cars, dairy products, poultry meat, lifts, and railway cars. In turn, Mogilev region buys equipment, chemical products and various raw materials in Kazakhstan. It should be noted that almost 45 per cent of the region's total imports is paraxylene, which is used by Mogilevkhimvolokno. Other enterprises of the Belarusian region, including those from the free economic zone Mogilev, have a number of proposals for co-operation with Kazakh partners.

Hrodna Region is also intensifying its co-operation with Kazakhstan, having already signed five agreements with Kazakh regions. Hrodna region actively supplies agricultural, processing and woodworking products to its partners. But "the time has come to intensify the work, to fill these agreements with real projects and contracts that will intensify the relations between the two countries"²⁸⁴.

As for cooperation between Belarus and Kazakhstan in the educational sphere, the interaction between the parties was also enriched with new colours in 2022. In particular, in October, Baranavichy State University offered co-operation to Shakarim University, which is located in Semey, Abay region. More than seven thousand students study at five faculties in this educational and scientific centre of the north-eastern region of Kazakhstan. The two universities are interested in "jointly implementing educational programmes for students and teachers, organising academic exchanges, summer and winter schools. There are ideas for scientific and innovative projects"²⁸⁵.

And one more thing: in September 2022, a round table "Kazakhstan and Belarus: the Road of Friendship and Cooperation" was held in Minsk, where it was noted that "in 2021, trade turnover between Kazakhstan and Belarus exceeded \$1 billion"²⁸⁶, but there are still solid reserves for increasing trade turnover: it is not only industrial cooperation, agro-industrial complex,

²⁸⁴ Ambassador of Kazakhstan at the meeting with Karanik: our task is to help businessmen of the two countries to find each other [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/posol-kazahstana-na-vstreche-s-karanikom-nasha-zadacha-pomoch-biznesmenam-dvuh-stran-najti-drug-druga-514826-2022/>

²⁸⁵ BarSU aims to cooperate closely with the university from Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/bargu-natselen-tesno-sotrudnichat-s-universitetom-iz-kazahstana-530948-2022/>

²⁸⁶ Ambassador of Kazakhstan: Belarus is a country that one always wants to return to [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/posol-kazahstana-belarus-strana-v-kotoruju-vsegda-hochetsja-vozvraschatsja-526048-2022/>

transport, deepening interregional cooperation, joint ventures, but also interaction in cultural and humanitarian spheres.

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CHAPTER 3

BELARUS - TAJIKISTAN

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Co-operation based on respect, mutual support and consideration of interests

March 2016 will mark 20 years since the establishment of Belarusian-Tajik diplomatic relations. Today, Minsk views Tajikistan as an important and reliable partner in Central Asia, interaction with which is based on mutual trust, respect, and friendly support, and the implementation of the agreements already reached with it "will make it possible to seriously increase the dynamics of the multifaceted partnership"²⁸⁷.

Let us recall that in the 1990s this former Soviet republic, more than 90 per cent of whose territory is occupied by mountains, after the collapse of the Soviet Union had to go through a 5-year civil war that claimed the lives of more than 100,000 people, as well as through a difficult period of national economic recovery. However, thanks to sustainable socio-economic development in the following years, Tajikistan has managed to significantly strengthen its position and authority in the world community, expanded productive cooperation with many countries of the world and authoritative international organisations. Today it is recognised by 147 States of the world and maintains diplomatic relations with 128 countries.

In pursuing an "open door" policy that creates effective means of combining national and international interests, Tajikistan has demonstrated its commitment to the development of regional cooperation within the framework of existing international organisations that contribute to the resolution of purely national issues. Thus, in a very short period of time, the United Nations has already endorsed three initiatives of the country: the declaration of 2003 as the International Year of Clean Water, the adoption of 2005-2015 as the "Water for Life" decade of action, and the declaration of 2013 as the International Year of Water Cooperation.

Tajikistan's contribution to strengthening the Commonwealth of Independent States is also significant, as evidenced by concrete facts. In particular, at the summit in Dushanbe in 2007, the heads of state approved the Concept for the Further Development of the CIS, which formulated the immediate and prospective goals of this entity in the post-Soviet space, as well as specific ways of achieving them. In addition, "under the auspices of Tajikistan's chairmanship of the Commonwealth in 2011, fundamental documents were adopted, including a free trade area agreement, an inter-State programme for innovative cooperation, a concept for the strategic development of rail

²⁸⁷ Congratulations to the President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rakhmon [Electronic resource]. - 2014. - URL: http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/pozdravlenie-prezidentu-respubliki-tadzhikistan-emomali-raxmonu-9755/

transport, a framework programme for Atom-CIS cooperation, and a concept for cooperation in the field of culture"²⁸⁸ .

Speaking about the CIS space, Tajik President E. Rahmon noted that Dushanbe "has identified specifics and beneficial aspects of cooperation with member states, i.e. with its traditional partners, and will contribute to the development and improvement of integration processes in the Commonwealth space in order to use their creative potential and develop mutually beneficial cooperation"²⁸⁹ . The Tajik side sees the Republic of Belarus as one of such specific partners in the post-Soviet space with significant creative potential and capable of using it effectively in the implementation of integration processes.

The visits of the heads of the two states to Dushanbe and Minsk in April 2000 and July 2001, respectively, were the first impulses to intensify bilateral Belarusian-Tajik relations. As a result of this high-level dialogue, a basic document - the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation - emerged, which "defined the basic principles of bilateral relations - mutual respect for independence and state sovereignty, equality, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, mutual aspiration to establish mutually beneficial partnership economic ties"²⁹⁰ .

Even earlier - in 1999 - the Belarusian-Tajik Intergovernmental Commission on Trade and Economic Co-operation was set up, the scope of interests of which covers such priority areas as: delivery of machine-building products on the basis of new leasing schemes; co-operation in the agro-industrial complex and energy sector; participation in joint economic projects; participation in joint economic projects; participation in the development of the Belarusian-Tajik trade and energy sector; and participation in joint economic projects. projects; creation of a network of joint

production enterprises in both countries. However, a truly new page in the relations between Belarus and Tajikistan was opened by the visit of the Belarusian head of state to Dushanbe in October 2011, during which the Belarusian side expressed its interest in actively developing mutually beneficial cooperation with Tajikistan in all areas, from agriculture and

²⁸⁸ Garkun, V. Tajikistan makes a significant contribution to strengthening and improving the CIS activities / V. Garkun // [Electronic resource]. - 2014. - URL: http://www.belta.by/ru/person/opinions/Vladimir-Garkun_i514987.html

²⁸⁹ Speech at the meeting with diplomatic workers of the country on the occasion of the opening of the new building of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan [Electronic resource]. - 2013. - URL: <http://www.prezident.tj/ru/node/4114>

²⁹⁰ Co-operation of the Republic of Tajikistan with the Republic of Belarus [Electronic resource]. - 2012. - URL: <http://khovar.tj/rus/foreign-policy/30297-sotrudnichestvo-respubliki-tadzhikistan-s-respublikoy-belarus.html>

industry to security issues and interaction within international organisations. The Tajik side, in turn, noted that "relations with Belarus occupy one of the leading places in the foreign policy and foreign economic strategy of Tajikistan. We are interested in their progressive development"²⁹¹.

These negotiations resulted in the signing of a number of bilateral Belarusian-Tajik documents that defined the nature of the relationship between the two countries in the near and long term. First, the heads of state of Belarus and Tajikistan adopted a joint statement in which they instructed the governments to focus their efforts on priority areas of economic, scientific, technical, and humanitarian co-operation. and humanitarian co-operation. Secondly, a Treaty on Long-Term Cooperation for 2011-2020 was signed, under which the parties decided to "promote the creation of favourable conditions for the development of trade and economic ties, strengthening of interbank relations, formation of individual projects and programmes, joint production structures and investment activities"²⁹².

Thirdly, the Interstate Cooperation Programme for 2011-2020 was approved, in which the parties identified nine main areas of Belarusian-Tajik as priorities for the long term:

- 1) co-operation in the agro-industrial complex, machine building, petrochemical industry, food and light industries;
- 2) supplies of Belarusian quarry and road-building machinery, heavy-duty dump trucks for the needs of the Republic of Tajikistan, further development of the service and warranty repair system;
- 3) establishment of assembly plants for industrial products, including tractors and other agricultural machinery;
- 4) supplies of agricultural machinery, including through leasing schemes;
- 5) supplies of cotton fibre from Tajikistan fibre, horticultural and other products;
- 6) development of regional co-operation and interaction through chambers of commerce and industry;
- 7) involvement of Belarusian enterprises in the development of mineral deposits in the Republic of Tajikistan;
- 8) military-technical co-operation;

²⁹¹ Alexander Lukashenko makes an official visit to Tajikistan [Electronic resource]. - 2011. - URL: http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/aleksandr-lukashenko-sovershaet-ofitsialnyj-vizit-v-tadzhikistan-5173/

²⁹² Treaty between the Republic of Belarus and the Republic of Tajikistan on long-term cooperation for 2011 - 2020 years [Electronic resource]. - 2011. - URL: <http://www.tajembassy.by/files/dpb-2.pdf>

9) co-operation in freight transport .²⁹³

At the same time, the Chambers of Commerce and Industry of the two countries established the Tajik-Belarusian Business Council, which outlined its main goal as the expansion and development of business contacts and mutually beneficial cooperation between entrepreneurs, promotion of business in the markets of both countries and attraction of mutual investments in Belarus and Tajikistan.²⁹⁴ And already at the 8th meeting of the Intergovernmental Belarusian-Tajik Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation, held in April 2013 in Dushanbe, the parties talked about specific opportunities to expand bilateral trade turnover, the legal framework and partnership ties between the regions of the two countries, as well as cooperation in agriculture, transport, social protection, migration, health care, education and culture, industry, "including the creation of joint ventures for processing of agricultural products, as well as cooperation in the areas of agriculture, transport, social protection of the population, migration, health care, education and culture.

The timeliness of the measures taken was obvious, as in 2012 the volume of Belarusian-Tajik trade decreased by 20.6 percent to \$57.7 million with a surplus of \$39 million for the Belarusian side. The basis of Belarusian exports was then "sugar, ferrous metals, tyres, furniture, machinery, equipment, medicines, vehicles, wood and wood products, inorganic products"²⁹⁵. But the downward trend in bilateral trade between Belarus and Tajikistan continued in 2013, when it totalled \$41.8 million. At the same time, Belarusian exports, the commodity structure of which has undergone certain changes, decreased significantly - by almost 40 per cent. "The main trend is the reduction in the share of food and raw material supplies due to the reduction in supplies of sugar, fluoroaluminates and petroleum products, while the share of machine-building products grew significantly due to the resumption of supplies of BelAZ quarry equipment"²⁹⁶. This alarming signal became the main topic of discussion at the meeting held in Minsk in early May 2014

²⁹³ Interstate programme of cooperation between the Republic of Belarus and the Republic of Tajikistan for 2011 - 2020 years [Electronic resource]. - 2011. - URL:

<http://www.tajembassy.by/files/dpb-2.pdf>

²⁹⁴ On the regular meeting of the Intergovernmental Belarusian-Tajik Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation [Electronic resource]. - 2013. - URL: http://mfa.gov.by/press/news_mfa/be_f52ecdb7570082.html

²⁹⁵ About the meeting of the Intergovernmental Belarusian-Tajik Commission [Electronic resource]. - 2013. - URL: http://mfa.gov.by/press/news_mfa/abff628586159ac.html

²⁹⁶ On trade and economic co-operation between Belarus and Tajikistan in 2013 [Electronic resource]. - resource]. - 2014. - URL: <http://tajikistan.mfa.gov.by/ru/embassy/news/ab80403d8ea1de2f.html>

9th meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission. Within the framework of this format of interaction, the parties, noting the decline in the dynamics of trade turnover growth, stated the need to "intensify trade and economic cooperation in agriculture, food and light industry, machine-building, humanitarian sphere"²⁹⁷ .

This topic was discussed in even more depth by the heads of the two states during the visit of Tajik leader E. Rakhmon to Belarus in late May 2014. At that time, the Belarusian side stated a very specific position: "We need not only to restore the economic relations that we once had, but also to significantly surpass them, despite the fact that we saw a certain decline in trade at the end of last year"²⁹⁸ . In order to solve this problem , official Minsk has voiced a number of concrete initiatives.

In particular, Tajik partners were offered supplies of Belarusian goods under leasing schemes and preferential lending, including with the participation of Tajik banks. Taking into account the fact that Tajikistan's top priority is to upgrade its machinery fleet and create service centres for its maintenance, the Belarusian side expressed its readiness to fully meet this demand for machinery and comprehensive service support. For this purpose, a network of machine-tractor stations could be set up jointly with the Tajik side, and joint assembly plants for agricultural machinery could be set up.

In this regard, the idea of creating on Tajik soil the production of agricultural attachments and trailed equipment was called promising.

As a result, the parties adopted a solid package of documents expanding Belarusian-Tajik co-operation in a number of areas. The Ministry of Architecture and Construction of Belarus and the Committee on Architecture and Construction under the Government of Tajikistan agreed to cooperate in the construction sector; the National Olympic Committees of the two countries agreed to cooperate in the sports sector; the National State Television and Radio Company of Belarus and the Committee on Television and Radio under the Government of Tajikistan agreed to cooperate in the media sector; the Bellegprom Concern and the Ministry of Industry and New Technologies of Tajikistan agreed to cooperate in the industrial sector; and the Grodno State University agreed to cooperate in the education sector.

²⁹⁷ Belarus and Tajikistan intend to intensify cooperation in agriculture, food and light industry [Electronic resource]. - 2014. - URL: http://www.belta.by/ru/all_news/economics/Belarus-i-Tadzhikistan-namereny-aktivizirovat-sotrudnichestvo-v-selskom-xozjajstve-pischevoj-i-legkoj-promyshlennosti_i667853.html

²⁹⁸ Alexander Lukashenko met with President of Tajikistan Emomali Rakhmon [Electronic resource]. - 2014. - URL: http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/aleksandr-lukashenko-vstretilsja-s-prezidentom-tadzhikistana-emomali-raxmonom-8846/

Significant intensification of bilateral interregional co-operation was evidenced by the agreements on trade and economic, scientific, technical, and cultural co-operation signed by Minsk and Sughd regions, Uzden and Yavan districts, and the cities of Mogilev and Khujand during the summit.

Speaking about the need to make more active use of the potential of regional co-operation, both sides drew attention to the need to involve small and medium-sized businesses and business associations of the two countries in joint work. In this connection, it is important to note that in Tajikistan "improving the efficiency of the use of national wealth, especially human potential and fixed assets"²⁹⁹ is considered one of the priority areas in the long-term state strategies and programmes until 2030. After all, the population of this small Central Asian country is now more than eight million people, which indicates a solid surplus of labour force. That is why here, pursuing a policy of "open doors", they think, first of all, about industrial cooperation with foreign partners, about creating new jobs: "This is the possibility of creating small businesses in the territory of free economic zones of Tajikistan, using transport and communication corridors to establish cooperation between different companies working in the business sphere"³⁰⁰. For this reason, the Tajik side is seriously interested in the emergence of joint ventures with Belarus on its territory, including those oriented towards exports to Afghanistan, Pakistan and India, which could be created on the basis of already existing enterprises in Tajikistan by expanding their production capacities. "We are talking about enterprises that will use Belarusian-made semi-finished products, as well as Belarusian technologies, investments, and software"³⁰¹.

Work on the creation of such enterprises is currently underway, in particular, in the Dangara free economic zone in the Dangara district of Khatlon Region, where it is planned to organise the assembly of Belarusian tractors. A total of four FEZs have been established in Tajikistan - Sughd, Panj, and Ishkashim. The type of FEZ "Dangara" is industrial, which is "aimed at stimulating industrial development in the neighbouring districts based on the efficient use of local resources. Not far from FEZ "Dangara" there is a railway line and the construction of a road bridge to Afghanistan is underway, which contributes

²⁹⁹ Message of the President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon to the Majlisi Oli of the Republic of Tajikistan [Electronic resource]. - 2015. - URL: <http://www.prezident.tj/ru/node/8137>

³⁰⁰ Coimododov, K. Tajikistan: doors for co-operation are open / K. Coimododov // [Electronic resource]. - 2015. - URL: <http://www.kurier.lt/tadzhikistan-dveri-dlya-sotrudnichestva-otkryty/>

³⁰¹ Savko, S. Tajikistan offers Belarus to create multi-profile JVs in the construction industry / S. Savko // [Electronic resource]. - 2014. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/ru/all/news/economics/Tadzhikistan-predlagaet-Belarusi-sozdat-mnogoprofilnye-SP-v-stroitelnoj-otrasli-i670360.html>

to the development of logistics and transport services"³⁰². And in Gissar district of Tajikistan, an assembly plant for mounted and trailed equipment of Bobruiskagromash OJSC is to appear.

There are interesting prospects for Belarusian-Tajik cooperation in a number of other areas of co-operation as well. For example, in the area of healthcare, the parties are expected to focus their efforts "on resolving issues related to increasing supplies of Belarusian medicines and medical equipment to Tajikistan, providing educational services, and exchanging experience in transplantology"³⁰³. At the same time, Tajik partners are particularly interested in the possibility of co-operation with Belarus in the field of postgraduate education and training of Tajik doctors in Belarusian health care institutions.

It should be recalled that, speaking at the Belarusian State University in May 2014, Tajik President E. Rakhmon noted that qualified specialists in a number of areas, including international relations, engineering specialities, and medicine, are in demand in his country today. For this reason, "Belarus and Tajikistan intend to actively <...> develop new projects in the sphere of education, especially in the field of university science and the sphere of receiving and improving education"³⁰⁴.

Prior to that, on 31 May 2013, the parties signed an intergovernmental agreement on cooperation in the field of higher and postgraduate education, creating a legal framework for intensifying cooperation in this area. And now each of the parties has the opportunity to annually accept "for a full course of study: for the first stage of higher education five students; for the second stage of higher education (Master's degree) two students; for a PhD degree one student"³⁰⁵. As a result, in the 2013/2014 academic year "245 citizens of Tajikistan studied in Belarusian educational institutions, which is 2 times more than in the previous academic year."³⁰⁶

³⁰² Karimova, M.T. The role of free economic zones in the development of industry in Tajikistan / M.T. Karimova // Actual issues of economics and management : proceedings of the II international scientific conference (Moscow, October 2013). - M.: Buki-Vedi, 2013. - C. 123.

³⁰³ On the meeting of Ambassador O. Gavruk with the Minister of Health of Tajikistan [Electronic resource]. - resource]. - 2013. - URL: <http://mfa.gov.by/press/news/mfa/a96995adef720ff7.html>

³⁰⁴ BSU diploma opens the gateway to the future for students of Tajikistan - Rahmon [Electronic resource]. - 2014. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/ru/all/news/society/Diplom-BGU-otkryvaet-dlja-studentov-Tadzhikistana-vorota-v-budushee--Raxmon-i-670351.html>

³⁰⁵ Tajik-Belarusian relations [Electronic resource]. - 2014. - URL: <http://www.tajembassy.by/politicheskie/>

³⁰⁶ Grishkevich, A. Belarus and Tajikistan have common approaches to solving urgent problems of our time / A. Grishkevich // [Electronic resource]. - 2014. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/ru/all/news/politics/Belarus-i-Tadzhikistan-imejut-obschie-podxody-k-resheniju-aktualnyx-problem-sovremennosti-i-679524.html>

Interestingly, since 2012, the Tajik Technical University named after Academician M.S. Osimi has been running a joint engineering and technical faculty with the Belarusian National Technical University. The training here is carried out in two stages in the Russian language according to integrated curricula developed by Belarusian teachers. At the first stage, students who do not speak Russian study in Tajikistan on preparatory courses, while those who do - on the first and second courses. At the second stage - at 3-5 courses - the training is conducted in Belarus with the defence of the diploma project and awarding the appropriate qualification. "The first graduation of students enrolled in this faculty will take place in 2017. The main training profiles are construction and architecture, energy, mechanical engineering and metallurgy, road transport, information technology, and economics"³⁰⁷. Based largely on this existing experience, in 2014 the Belarusian Ministry of Education came forward with an initiative to "establish a joint secondary vocational education institution in Tajikistan"³⁰⁸. In general, in the near future, the parties intend to increase both the number of students and the list of specialities, as well as to expand the training and exchange of trainees and young specialists.

The measures aimed at boosting Belarusian-Tajik interaction that were outlined at the highest level in May 2014 had already yielded results by autumn. In the first 10 months of this year, the volume of supplies from Belarus to Tajikistan increased by 11.1 percent, with the nomenclature of Belarusian exports including 140 commodity items, 37 of which were new. The largest shipments of new commodity items were "frozen beef, engines for repair of trucks, gas cookers, longitudinally-sawn timber, hot-rolled steel bars"³⁰⁹.

These facts clearly demonstrate the growing interest of the two former Soviet republics in fruitful co-operation in a wide variety of areas. Thus, modern Belarusian-made high-performance machinery and equipment can find effective application in Tajikistan not only in the areas already mentioned above, "not only in the construction of hydraulic structures, but also in the development of mineral deposits in this country - the extraction of Tajik gold,

³⁰⁷ Joint Faculty of BITU and Tajik Technical University will open on 11 September in Dushanbe [Electronic resource]. - 2012. - URL: <http://www.moyby.com/news/92466/>

³⁰⁸ On the meeting of Ambassador O. Gavruk with the Minister of Labour, Migration and Employment of Tajikistan [Electronic resource]. - 2014. - URL:

http://mfa.gov.by/press/news_mfa/c6a6e78ca4fcfe82.html

³⁰⁹ On trade and economic co-operation between Belarus and Tajikistan for 10 months of 2014 [Electronic resource]. - 2014. - URL:

http://taiikistan.mfa.gov.by/ru/bilateral_relations/trade_economic/statistics/c3e89aa71e790a80.h_tml

silver, rare metals, polymetallic ores, uranium, precious stones"³¹⁰ . Therefore, there is every reason to believe that the current efforts of the parties to comprehensively develop the existing potential of the bilateral Belarusian-Tajik relations will make it possible to bring them to a qualitatively new level in the very near future.

Towards a strategic partnership

In June 2019, Presidents of Belarus and Tajikistan A. Lukashenka and E. Rakhmon signed the Strategic Partnership Treaty in Minsk. In June 2019, Presidents Lukashenka and E. Rakhmon signed the Strategic Partnership Agreement, in which they consolidated a qualitatively new level of Belarusian-Tajik bilateral relations and reaffirmed their intention to actively develop them in all areas of mutual interest. It is expected that the implementation of the provisions of this document will give a new impetus to further work in all areas. And especially in the trade and economic sphere, since at the end of 2018 the trade turnover between the two former Soviet republics totalled only about forty million dollars, which, according to the parties, "absolutely does not correspond to the potential Belarusian-Tajik

co-operation"³¹¹ . That is why the signing of the document stated the need to significantly deepen and expand co-operation. Among the main promising areas were: industrial cooperation; supplies of Belarusian trucks, road-building and passenger vehicles, renewal of the railway car fleet; expansion of cooperation in agriculture, including agrarian education; and intensification of interregional cooperation.

Developing Belarusian-Tajik **industrial cooperation**, Minsk and Dushanbe proceed from the premise that "direct cooperation, joint production of quality competitive goods should become a driving force for further development of economic cooperation between our countries"³¹² . And the first steps in this direction have already been taken. In particular, a joint assembly plant for MTZ tractors has been operating in the Tajik city of Gissar for the second year. And in January 2019, in order to provide the domestic market with high-quality dairy products and the prospect of entering the markets of neighbouring countries, an agreement was

³¹⁰ Belarus - Tajikistan: Customs Union as a stimulus for the development of mutually beneficial co-operation [Electronic resource]. - 2010. - URL: http://export.by/resources/izdaniya_i publikacii/belarus %E2%80%94 tadjikistan tamozhen nii soyuz kak sti.html

³¹¹ Negotiations with the President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon [Electronic resource]. - 2019. - URL: <http://president.gov.by/ru/news ru/view/peregovory-s-prezidentom-tadjikistana-emomali-raxmonom-21425/>

³¹² Ibid.

signed on the establishment of a joint venture in Dushanbe, LLC "Production of Dairy Products "VATAN", the founder of which on the Belarusian side is OJSC "Minsk Dairy Plant No. 1". Belarus will supply raw milk and finished dairy products for the Tajik partner's network of distributors. The fact that Tajikistan has already expressed its interest in setting up another joint venture to produce dairy products speaks volumes. Only this time on the basis of Avicenna LLC, where Grodno-based Molochny Mir OJSC will become a participant from the Belarusian side. As part of this project, Avicenna has already purchased a dairy farm for more than 1,500 cattle, as well as production sites and equipment for the dairy enterprise in Hissar, and now the company is "negotiating with the International Finance Corporation on the allocation of appropriate financing. The implementation of the project is designed for the Afghan market"³¹³. As a result, the dairy products produced jointly with Belarus at the enterprises in Dushanbe and Hissar are expected to reach the market of this Central Asian country in early 2020.

As for the prospects of **supplies of Belarusian equipment** to Tajikistan, it looks very encouraging in this regard. The Belarusian enterprise Belkommunmash, which is working on a contract for the supply of its equipment worth thirty million dollars to Tajikistan, is cooperating with Tajik partners. The fact is that in recent years Dushanbe has stepped up its efforts to modernise and upgrade passenger and municipal transport. Suffice it to say that the budget of the Tajik capital for 2019 provides for the purchase of more than three hundred units of equipment. Already in May 2019, as part of the project "Sustainable development of public transport in Dushanbe", four trolleybuses with autonomous running for one million dollars were delivered at the expense of a loan from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development from Belarus. And in the same May 2019, "Belkommunmash" and the Dushanbe City Hall signed a letter of intent to supply 100 autonomous trolleybuses. However, the possibility of supplying already 150 units is currently under discussion."³¹⁴. The autonomous trolleybuses will help solve many problematic issues in Tajikistan's capital. Firstly, they can be used to build new routes and extend old ones, as well as to run additional trolleybus lines to dormitory areas or areas with underdeveloped transport

³¹³ Matveev, V. The first milk processing products of the joint venture of Belarus and Tajikistan will enter the market in 2020 / V. Matveev // [Electronic resu3rs]. - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/pervaja-produktsija-molokopererabotki-sp-belarusi-i-tadzhikistana-vyjdet-na-rynok-v-2020-godu-353105-2019/>

³¹⁴ Matveev, V. Belkommunmash is working out a contract for the supply of equipment to Tajikistan for \$30 million / V. Matveev // [Electronic resource]. - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belkommunmash-prorabatyvaet-kontrakt-na-postavku-tehniki-v-tadzhikistan-na-30-mln-353062-2019/>

infrastructure. Secondly, the use of the new contactless trolleybuses could have a positive effect on reducing traffic jams on the streets of Dushanbe, as conventional trolleybuses stand on the roads for hours in the event of a power outage, hindering traffic. Thirdly, "the innovative trolleybus is capable of travelling up to 15 km without a contact line, while conventional trolleybuses can travel no more than 500 m on an autonomous run"³¹⁵. The Belarusian side plans to set up a service centre here, where local specialists will be trained, with the prospect of turning it into a base for assembly production and continuing to work for third countries.

Interesting prospects for Belarusian-Tajik cooperation are also opening up today in the **field of education**. Statistics show that about 1,500 Tajik students study in Belarusian universities. Besides, thanks to the establishment of five joint faculties in the leading higher education institutions of Tajikistan, it is now possible to receive Belarusian education in this country as well. Nevertheless, according to Tajik leader E. Rakhmon, "the time has come to work out the possibility of implementing new joint Tajik-Belarusian educational projects"³¹⁶. At the same time, "the establishment of branches of Belarusian universities in Tajikistan, the opening of new joint faculties and even institutions of higher education"³¹⁷.

It should be reminded that Belarusian-Tajik interaction in the educational sphere is currently based on several intergovernmental and interdepartmental agreements: on cooperation in higher and postgraduate education (2013), on cooperation in education (2000); on cooperation in preschool education (2018). These partnerships between the universities of the two countries are particularly dynamic. Suffice it to say that "contractual relations of Belarusian higher education institutions with Tajik educational institutions are realised within the framework of 77 inter-university agreements in the field of education"³¹⁸. And, indeed, the joint Belarusian-Tajik faculties, which already numbered five as of mid-2019, have become a very effective

³¹⁵ Electric buses "Belkommunmash" will start running in Dushanbe [Electronic resource]. - 2019. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/elektrobussy-belkommunmash-nachnut-kursirovat-v-dushanbe-333003-2019/>

³¹⁶ Krishenik, E. Rakhmon: we are interested in attracting advanced technologies of Belarus to the real sector of the economy / E. Krishenik // [Electronic resource]. - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/rahmon-my-zainteresovany-v-privlechenii-peredovyh-tehnologij-belarusi-v-realnyj-sektor-ekonomiki-353119-2019/>

³¹⁷ Negotiations with the President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon [Electronic resource]. - 2019. - URL: <http://president.gov.by/ru/news-ru/view/peregovory-s-prezidentom-tadzhikistana-emomali-raxmonom-21425/>

³¹⁸ Co-operation between the Republic of Belarus and the Republic of Tajikistan in the field of education is actively developing [Electronic resource]. - 2019. - URL: <http://edu.gov.by/news/sotrudnichestvo-mezhdu-respublikoy-belarus-i-respublikoy-tadzhikistan-v-sfere-obrazovaniya-aktivno-r/>

form of implementing these agreements.

The first "swallow" in this regard was the Faculty of Engineering and Technology, opened in 2012 on the basis of the Tajik Technical University named after Academician M.S. Osimi and the Belarusian National Technical University. Education at this faculty is conducted in Russian in two stages. The first one is implemented in the Tajik university and includes training first in preparatory courses for students who do not speak Russian, and then - in the first and second courses. The second stage is training in Minsk with the defence of the diploma project. In the 2017/2018 academic year, 476 Tajik students studied at the Faculty. The most popular training directions among them are: construction, architecture, mechanical engineering, instrumentation. "In 2017, the first graduation of the joint faculty took place - 24 graduates"³¹⁹.

On the basis of the same Tajik Technical University named after Academician M.S. Osimi, in 2016, together with the Belarusian State Aviation Academy, a faculty of civil aviation was established, which trains specialists in the following areas

Technical operation of aviation equipment (instrumentation and electric lighting equipment)", "Technical operation of aviation equipment (instrumentation and electric lighting equipment)", "Technical operation of aviation equipment (instrumentation and electric lighting equipment) operation of aviation equipment (radio-electronic equipment)", "Organisation of traffic and flight support on air transport (air traffic management)". "Currently, 25 students are studying at the joint faculty in the first year, and 28 students continue their studies at the BGAA in the second year"³²⁰.

Two joint faculties also operate today at the Belarusian State University and the Tajik National University. Firstly, it is a joint faculty of information technologies, the agreement on the establishment of which was signed in June 2015 and where since then students have been trained in "applied mathematics", "computer science" and "computer science". "applied mathematics", "computer science" and "computer science". security", "mathematics and information technologies"³²¹. Secondly, it is the

³¹⁹ Joint Engineering and Technical Faculty of BNTU-TTU [Electronic resource]. - 2018. - URL: <http://www.bntu.by/engineering-and-technical-faculty-bntu-ttu.html>

³²⁰ Faculty of Civil Aviation of the Belarusian State Academy of Aviation - Tajik Technical University named after Academician M.S. Osimi (FGA BSAA-TTU) [Electronic resource]. - 2018. - URL: <http://ttu.tj/ru/university-ru/structure/fmt-dmtb-dtt/fga-bgaa-ttu/>

³²¹ BSU and Tajik National University opened a joint faculty of information technologies [Electronic resource]. - 2015. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/bgu-i-tadzhikskij-natsionalnyj-universitet-otkryli-sovmestnyj->

Faculty of Ecological-Saving Technologies, established in 2016, where at the beginning of 2018 there were 101 first and second year students studying "in the specialities of the first stage of higher education: "Energy-Efficient Technologies and Energy Management", "Nuclear and Radiation Safety" and "Medical and Biological Engineering"³²² .

Finally, in March 2019, a joint faculty of Polotsk State University and Technological University of Tajikistan was opened. This made it possible to carry out in 2019 the first intake of students to the new faculty in two specialities - "Machines and apparatuses of chemical industries and enterprises of construction materials" and "Design, construction and operation of gas and oil pipelines and gas and oil storage facilities". As a result of negotiations between representatives of the Polotsk State University and the management of the Tajik National University, plans were outlined to "implement cooperation in the field of training specialists, undergraduates and postgraduates, joint participation in academic mobility programmes, conducting scientific research and implementation of joint educational programmes in "Practical Psychology" and "Tourism and Hospitality"³²³ .

It should be assumed that other higher education institutions of the two countries will soon move to more advanced forms of co-operation. In particular, this applies to the Belarusian State Medical University and the Tajik National University, which signed an agreement on academic and scientific co-operation back in October 2016. At the same time, the Belarusian side expressed interest in such partnerships, "especially if it is possible to give cooperation a pronounced practical orientation, for example, in terms of research on cardiovascular diseases"³²⁴ .

Another important element in the implementation of the Strategic Partnership Agreement is the development of **interregional co-operation** between the regions, cities and districts of Belarus and Tajikistan. At the signing of this document, the parties declared their endeavour to "promote in every possible way the expansion of direct ties between the regions of our countries and economic entities"³²⁵ . Representatives of parliaments of the two countries

fakultet-informatsionnyh-tehnologij-4702-2015/

³²² Faculty of ecological-saving technologies of TNU [Electronic resource]. - 2018. - URL:

<http://www.iseu.bsu.by/fakultet-ekologosberegayushhih-tehnologiy-tnu/>

³²³ Alexeeva, D. Opening of a joint faculty with the Technological University of Tajikistan /D.

Alekseeva // [Electronic resource]. - 2019. - URL: <https://www.psu.by/novosti-mezhdunarodnoj-deyatelnosti/11961-otkrytie-sovmestnogo-fakulteta-s-tehnologicheskimi-universitetom-tadzhikistana>

³²⁴ Stasevich, M. Visit of the delegation of the Tajik National University (Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan) to BGMU / M. Stasevich // [Electronic resource]. - 2016. - URL:

<https://www.bsmu.by/allarticles/rubric2/page121/article1593/>

³²⁵ Negotiations with the President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon [Electronic resource]. -

also speak about the need to "utilise the regional potential"³²⁶. It should be reminded that agreements on trade and economic, scientific, technical and cultural co-operation between Vitebsk and Sughd, Minsk and Sughd, Homel and Khatlon regions, the cities of Minsk and Dushanbe, Yavan and Uzden districts, as well as agreements on co-operation between Mogilev and Sughd regions and on mutual co-operation between the cities of Mogilev and Khujand have been concluded so far.

Beginning Belarusian-Tajik interregional

co-operation was established more than twenty years ago, when the capitals of the two former Soviet republics became sister cities in the summer of 1998. At that time **Minsk and Dushanbe** adopted two documents at once. The first one - the "Agreement on twinning of the cities of Minsk and Dushanbe" - stated about mutual aspiration "to promote in every possible way the creation of the most favourable conditions for the development of friendly relations between the inhabitants of our cities, cooperation of enterprises, organisations and firms"³²⁷. The second document - Agreement on cooperation in trade-economic, scientific-technical and cultural spheres - contained the intention of the parties to assist in the creation of joint ventures, joint-stock companies, financial-industrial groups, trading houses, commercial-business and regional information centres for collecting, processing and issuing information necessary for producers and consumers of goods and services to study the market conditions. It seems that both these documents have not lost their relevance today, as they only contribute to the development of twinning-partnership relations between the two capitals and their specific business entities. In this sense, the current example of cooperation between the Minsk enterprise Belkommunmash and the Dushanbe Mayor's Office on the renovation of passenger public transport in the Tajik capital only confirms the timeless nature of the documents adopted more than twenty years ago.

Among other participants in Belarusian-Tajik interregional interaction, **Sughd** Oblast stands out from the rest, actively developing partnership ties with three Belarusian regions at once - Vitebsk, Minsk and Mogilev Oblasts. An agreement on trade-economic, scientific-technical and cultural co-

2019. - URL: <http://president.gov.by/ru/news ru/view/peregovory-s-prezidentom-tadzhikistana-emomali-raxmonom-21425/>

³²⁶ Myasnikovich: new forms of work are important for expanding trade and economic relations with Tajikistan [Electronic resource]. - 2018. - URL: https://www.belta.by/economics/view/mj_asnikovich-novye-formy-raboty-vazhny-dli a- rasshirenij a-torgovo-ekonomicheskikh-otnoshenij-s-295210-2018/

³²⁷ Zalesky, B. Second Breath / B. Zalesky // Vecherniy Minsk. - 1998. - 3 Aug.

operation with **Vitebsk region** was signed in April 2012. At the same time, "machine building, furniture industry, leather processing and light industry were named as priority areas of co-operation"³²⁸. A similar agreement with **Minsk region** was signed in May 2014. And, it should be noted, the Belarusian capital region's co-operation with Tajik partners generally brings good results. Suffice it to say that "at the end of 2018, exports of Minsk Region to the Republic of Tajikistan totalled \$6.4 million <...>. The main commodity positions of export: sugar and chemically pure sucrose in solid state; oil refining products; book printing products"³²⁹. To consolidate this positive trend, in June 2019, a number of enterprises of the Minsk region, including JSC Slutsk Meat Processing Plant, JSC Minsk Meat Processing Plant, JSC Borisov Meat Processing Plant, JSC Slutsk Cheese Factory, demonstrated their products at the international trade fair Sugd-2019, which resulted in 14 agreements and memoranda of co-operation.

As for the interaction between the Sughd and Mogilev regions, the core of it is **Mogilev's** partnership with the city of **Khujand**, located in this Tajik region, which was sealed by a relevant agreement in May 2014. From the very beginning, the parties declared their intention to "move to a new level of co-operation - from trade and exchange of goods to co-operation between industrial enterprises and creation of joint productions"³³⁰. At the same time, the Tajik side expressed interest in cooperating with Mogilevliftmash to set up an assembly production facility for lifts in Tajikistan. In June 2015, the parties reached an agreement on the supply of lifts and lift equipment to Khujand for the needs of the municipal economy, as well as on the establishment of a joint production facility for the manufacture of lifts for the purpose of their sale in Tajikistan and neighbouring countries. In addition, indicated "great interest of the Tajik side to establish joint production facilities in Khujand with furniture enterprises "Mogilevdrev" and "Mogilevmebel". There is readiness

also consider proposals for the creation of a JV for the production of confectionery products"³³¹.

³²⁸ Rafieva, S. Sogd and Vitebsk signed an agreement on co-operation / M. Rafieva // [Electronic resource]. - 2012. - URL: <https://news.vitebsk.cc/2012/04/26/sogd-i-vitebsk-podpisali-soglashenie-o-sotrudnichestve/>.

³²⁹ Delegation of Minsk region with a working visit visited Tajikistan [Electronic resource]. - 2019. - URL: <https://www.mlyn.by/2019/06/delegatsiya-minskoj-oblasti-s-rabochim-vizitom-posetila-tadzhikistan/>.

³³⁰ Kulyagin, S. Tajikistan is interested in the development of cooperation with the enterprises of Mogilev region - Coimododov / S. Kulyagin // [Electronic resource]. - 2015. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/tadzhikistan-zainteresovan-v-razvitii-kooperatsii-s-predpriyatijami-mogilevskoj-oblasti-koimododov-174610-2015/>

³³¹ Kulyagin, S. Mogilev and Tajik Khujand intend to create joint productions / S. Kulyagin //

Finally, in December 2017, **Gomel and Khatlon** regions signed the Agreement on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Cultural Cooperation to give new impetus to the development of relations between the two regions, as well as to contribute to the strengthening of trade and economic cooperation. The fact is that for three quarters of 2017, the trade turnover of the Belarusian region with Tajikistan totalled only \$818 thousand. "Gomel enterprises supplied soap, capping products, wall paper, cattle carcasses"³³². In total - thirteen exporting enterprises, including TUP "Homiel Traditions of Taste", IPUP "Alkopak", ALC "Vimala", JSC AFPK "Zhlobin Meat Processing Plant". It should be assumed that the signed agreement in the light of the recently adopted course on the Belarusian-Tajik strategic partnership will still play its important role in strengthening the interaction between the above-mentioned regions.

From commission decisions to roadmap priorities

Belarus and Tajikistan have traditionally enjoyed close relations, and the countries have been consistently strengthening their mutually beneficial strategic partnership. The Intergovernmental Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation (IGC), established back in 1999, plays a key role in the development of effective Belarusian-Tajik bilateral interaction. The scope of its interests "touches upon such priority areas as: supply of machine-building products on the basis of new leasing schemes; cooperation in the agro-industrial complex and energy sector; participation in joint economic projects; creation of a network of joint production enterprises in both countries"³³³.

In April 2021, the 14th meeting of the IGC was held in Dushanbe to discuss topical issues of interaction in industry and production cooperation, agriculture and transport, healthcare and education, investment and information technologies. At the same time, an exhibition of Belarusian manufacturers Made in Belarus, a business forum Belarus-Tajikistan-Afghanistan, and a forum TajBelAgro were organised in the capital of Tajikistan. All these events once again demonstrated that "despite the crisis phenomena in the world, the Belarusian-Tajik trade and economic cooperation shows a positive and dynamic character. Since 2016, mutual

[Electronic resource]. - [Electronic resource]. - 2015. - URL: <https://www.belarus.by/ru/business/business-news/mogilev-i-tadzhikskij-xudzhand-namereny-sozdat-sovmestnye-proizvodstva-i-0000025058.html>

³³² Gomel and Khatlon regions signed an agreement on co-operation [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL: <https://newsgomel.by/news/society/15070-gomel-skaya-i-hatlonskaya-oblasti-podpisali-soglashenie-o-sotrudnichestvo.html>

³³³ Zalesky, B. Vector of post-Soviet integration. View from Belarus / Boris Zalesky. - Palmarium Academic Publishing, 2019. - C. 211.

trade turnover has grown 5.5 times and totalled \$111.7 million in 2020³³⁴. At the same time, Belarusian exports to the Tajik market increased more than sixfold over the same period of time and reached almost \$110 million, while the positive balance totalled \$107.5 million due to supplies from Belarus of cars, sugar, tractors and tractor-trailers, flour, meat by-products and fish, stationery made of paper and cardboard, and chipboard.

Among the major joint projects implemented recently is the shipment to Afghanistan of the first batch of Belarusian tractors assembled at Agrotekhservis in the Tajik city of Gissar, where it is planned not only to produce modern machinery for the agro-industrial complex - forage harvesters, attachments, and expand the model range of assembled tractors, but also to create more than a hundred more qualified jobs, taking into account the further development of this project. In this regard, within the framework of the meeting of the intergovernmental commission, an agreement on the expansion of assembly production through the development of tractor semi-trailers PST-9 at the site in Gissar was signed by JSC "UKH Bobruiskagromash" and JSC "Agrotekhservis". "In addition, the companies signed a contract for the supply of the first batch of machine kits, the shipment of which is scheduled for the second quarter of 2021"³³⁵. It should be recalled that in Gissar, with Belarusian assistance, "a training centre is also functioning to train specialists for the effective operation and maintenance of machinery and equipment working in the fields of Tajikistan"³³⁶. The contract for the delivery of one hundred Belarusian autonomous trolleybuses to Dushanbe is in its final stages.

Belarusian-Tajik co-operation in agriculture was also very dynamic in 2020. Suffice it to say that the volume of mutual trade in agricultural products and foodstuffs between the two former Soviet republics reached almost ten million dollars. An important detail is that "Belarusian food exports to this country increased 1.4 times to \$9.5 million <...>. In January 2021, domestic agricultural products and foodstuffs worth \$775 thousand were supplied to

³³⁴ Belarus and Tajikistan need to more actively implement projects in agriculture - Krupko [Electronic resource]. - 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarusi-i-tadzhikistanu-nuzhno-aktivnee-realizovyvat-proekty-v-selskom-hozjajstve-krupko-435795-2021/>

³³⁵ "Bobruiskagromash" will expand assembly production in Tajikistan [Electronic resource]. - 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/bobruiskagromash-rasshirit-sborochnoe-proizvodstvo-v-tadzhikistane-436621-2021/>

³³⁶ Belarus and Tajikistan discussed the development of trade and economic cooperation and industrial co-operation [Electronic resource]. - 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-tadzhikistan-obsudili-razvitie-torgovo-ekonomicheskogo-sotrudnichestva-i-promkooperatsiiu-436006-2021/>

Tajikistan (a sevenfold increase over the same period last year)"³³⁷ . And there is every reason to believe that this positive trend will continue in the medium term. Bellegprom Concern is also working out the possibilities of supplying flax to this Central Asian country, which is of great interest to Tajik business circles. In particular, the IGC discussed "the issue of supplying products of Orsha Flax Factory and flax-containing fabrics of Kamvol to the Tajik market"³³⁸ .

The exhibition of Belarusian manufacturers Made in Belarus, which took place in Dushanbe in 2021 and showcased the products of 40 domestic companies from key industries, is also intended to promote the growth of exports from Belarus to Tajikistan

industries: Agrofood - agriculture and food products; TechMach engineering and technology; Wood - woodworking and furniture products; Health - healthcare and pharmaceuticals; FMCG consumer goods. Tajik partners were also able to learn about the export opportunities of the Belarusian agro-industrial complex and prospects for bilateral cooperation in crop and livestock farming at the agrarian forum "TajBelAgro", where they discussed not only the conclusion of contracts for mutual supplies of agricultural products and machinery, but also the elaboration of cooperation options. Finally, within the framework of the business forum "Tajikistan-Belarus-Afghanistan", which was attended by more than two hundred enterprises from the three countries, "eight documents were signed on the development of partnership in the spheres of industry, education, food and beverage supplies"³³⁹ , which indicates the growing dynamics of partnership in this trilateral format as well.

It should be noted that in June 2022, Minsk hosted the 15th meeting of the IGC, where the parties noted the most significant areas of bilateral interaction: investment, industry, agriculture, transport, social, cultural and scientific-technical spheres. Recall that "in 2021, Belarus' trade turnover with Tajikistan totalled more than \$126 million and increased by 12.6% compared to 2020, exports - just over \$122 million (up 11.1%), imports - \$4 million (up

³³⁷ Export of Belarusian agricultural products to Tajikistan in 2020 increased 1.4 times [Electronic resource]. - 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/eksport-belorusskoi-selhozproduktii-v-tadzhikistan-v-2020-godu-vyros-v-14-raza-434869-2021/>

³³⁸ "Bellegprom" is working on the possibility of supplying flax to Tajikistan [Electronic resource]. - 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/bellegprom-prorabatyvaet-vozmozhnosti-postavok-lna-v-tadzhikistan-435980-2021/>

³³⁹ Belarus, Tajikistan and Afghanistan signed 8 documents on the development of partnership at the business forum. partnership [Electronic resource]. - 2021. - URL:

<https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-tadzhikistan-i-afghanistan-podpisali-na-biznes-forume-8-dokumentov-o-razvitii-partnerstva-435998-2021/>

90.5%)"³⁴⁰. Today, the two countries are mutually interested in expanding areas of cooperation, which could include the development of assembly production of Belarusian lifts in Tajikistan, the establishment of a joint venture to produce carpets, supplies of Belarusian passenger, quarry and construction equipment, as well as pedigree cattle of Belarusian selection, and increasing exports of food products, including those certified according to Halal standards. Belarus, in turn, is interested in importing from Tajikistan raw materials for the Belarusian light industry, as well as in continuing co-operation in education, culture, and sports.

In this context, it is important that in Tajikistan 2022-2026 are declared the years of industrial development. "During this period, it is planned to ensure average annual economic development at the level of at least 7 per cent and double GDP per capita, create more than 500,000 new jobs and reduce poverty to 15 per cent. Belarusian companies were invited to take an active part in solving these tasks. A separate wish was expressed to continue training Tajik specialists in Minsk for different areas of the economy"³⁴¹. In this regard, the Belarusian side is ready to provide Tajik partners with any types of engineering machinery, primarily quarry and road machinery, for the implementation of infrastructure projects in the country's mining and electric power industries. There is a possibility to significantly increase supplies of new models of Belarusian buses, trucks, woodworking, petrochemical and metallurgical products to the Tajik market, as well as to open joint production facilities for assembling lifts, household appliances and furniture.

In the agro-industrial sector, Tajikistan is interested in increasing supplies of Belarusian agricultural machinery and meat and dairy products. In particular, significant work is underway on the shipment of agricultural machinery from Belarus, which is badly needed by the Tajik agrarian sector. "In 2021, 411 units of tractors of various brands and more than 124 agricultural machinery were delivered to Tajikistan"³⁴². At the same time, the Tajik side expresses interest in continuing co-operation in this area. In addition, partners from Tajikistan plan to expand the range of supplies of beef meat products, dairy

³⁴⁰ Belarus and Tajikistan are interested in expanding areas of co-operation [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/politics/view/belarus-i-tadzhikistan-zainteresovany-v-rasshirenii-napravlenij-sotrudnichestva-506166-2022>

³⁴¹ Pivovar, E. Krutoy stated about the readiness of Belarus to provide Tajikistan with any types of engineering equipment / E. Pivovar // [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/krutoj-zajavil-o-gotovnosti-belarusi-obespechit-tadzhikistan-ljubymi-vidami-mashinostroitelnoj-tehniki-523859-2022/>

³⁴² Tajikistan is interested in increasing supplies of Belarusian meat and dairy products and agricultural machinery [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/tadzhikistan-zainteresovan-v-uvelichenii-postavok-belorusskoj-mjaso-molochnoj-produktsii-i-2-506657-202>

products and raw materials. Within the framework of the 15th IGC meeting, the parties also noted "the potential for growth in supplies of pedigree cattle of Belarusian selection and the possibility to provide Tajik agrarians with highly productive, balanced mixed fodder and admixtures"³⁴³.

The topic of co-operation between the regions of Belarus and Tajikistan is also developing successfully in 2022. In particular, on the agenda is the development of co-operation between the capitals of the two countries in a number of areas, including in machinery, production of medicines, and in the field of education. Recall that in 2019, Minsk implemented a large project to provide Dushanbe with Belkommunmash trolleybuses. And today these vehicles are already decorating the Tajik capital. Another project is being implemented in the field of dairy production - cooperation of Tajik partners with Minsk Dairy Plant No. 1. There are plans to develop co-operative ties and create a joint production of municipal machinery. As for the educational sphere, about 600 Tajik students are currently studying in Belarus. They mainly choose Minsk and technical universities for their studies. Many of them study at the Academy of Aviation and various faculties of the Belarusian State University. In addition, there are four joint faculties of Belarusian and Tajik universities. So the two capitals are developing many mechanisms of co-operation. And "in the future, a document will be signed to regulate further development of relations between Minsk and Dushanbe"³⁴⁴. Another example of regional cooperation is the Homiel and Khatlon regions, which intend to develop co-operation in agriculture and industry. Thus, Gomel specialists are ready to build turnkey farms in the Tajik region. Partners from Khatlon region have "intentions in purchasing mineral fertilisers, timber, cattle, as well as feed for poultry farms"³⁴⁵. Khatlon Oblast is a large region of Tajikistan, where 48 to 78 per cent of the total republican volume is grown for some agricultural products. These include vegetables, early fruits, melons, and citrus fruits.

Another important document was signed by Belarus and Tajikistan in Dushanbe in October 2022 - a roadmap for 2022-2026. In the context of

³⁴³ Belarus is ready to supply halal products to Tajikistan [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-gotova-postavliat-v-tadzhikistan-haljalnuju-produktsiju-506619-2022/>

³⁴⁴ Co-operation between Belarus and Tajikistan was discussed in Minsk city executive committee [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/politics/view/sotrudnichestvo-belarusi-i-tadzhikistana-obsudili-v-mingorispolkom-525441-2022/>

³⁴⁵ Gomel and Khatlon regions intend to develop co-operation in agro-industrial complex and industry [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/gomelskaia-i-hatlonskaia-oblasti-namereny-razvivat-sotrudnichestvo-v-apk-i-promyshlennosti-507131-2022/>

implementing the programme of accelerated industrial development of this Central Asian country, Tajikistan's

partners are interested in developing co-operation with the Belarusian side in the light, food, pharmaceutical, chemical and mining industries. In addition, "the agricultural sector in the sphere of industrial cooperation and interregional cooperation were identified as priority areas of economic interaction"³⁴⁶. In addition, the two republics adopted a number of important bilateral documents. These include intergovernmental agreements on a system of mutual trade facilitation and on co-operation in the field of youth policy. The Prosecutor General's Office of Belarus and the Agency for State Financial Control and Anti-Corruption of Tajikistan adopted a document on cooperation in combating corruption. The Ministry of Sport and Tourism of Belarus and the Committee for Tourism Development under the Government of Tajikistan agreed to develop co-operation in the tourism sector. The National Centre for Marketing and Price Study of Belarus and the Agency for Export under the Government of Tajikistan also signed an agreement on cooperation. The National Academies of Sciences of the two countries agreed to train personnel in virology, microbiology, molecular biology, and epidemiology,

biotechnology and pharmacology. In addition, an "action plan for the development of trade, economic and humanitarian cooperation between the Minsk City Executive Committee and the Dushanbe City Executive Body for 2023-2024" was approved. Mogilev district established twinning ties with Spitamen district of Sughd region of Tajikistan.....",³⁴⁷.

In these October days, Dushanbe also hosted a Tajik-Belarusian business forum, which was attended by representatives of 73 enterprises from Belarus, almost fifty of which showed their products at the Made in Belarus exhibition. "Almost all sectors of the Belarusian economy were represented at the business forum: machine building, metallurgy, foodstuffs, woodworking, light industry. The total amount of contracts signed was about \$46 million. In addition, another \$2 million was secured during online negotiations"³⁴⁸.

³⁴⁶ Rakhmon outlined priority areas of co-operation with Belarus [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/politics/view/rahmon-oboznachil-prioritetnye-napravlenija-sotrudnichestva-s-belarusju-528619-2022/>

³⁴⁷ Belarus and Tajikistan signed a road map for 2022-2026 and several other important documents [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-tadzhikistan-podpisali-dorozhnuuu-kartu-na-2022-2026-gody-i-esche-neskolko-vazhnyh-dokumentov-528597-2022/>

³⁴⁸ Tajik-Belarusian business forum is held in Dushanbe [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/fotofakt-tadzhiksko-belorusskii-biznes-forum-prohodit-v->

In particular, Minsk Tractor Plant signed contracts with Tajik companies for \$11 million. "Thus, 170 units of BELARUS tractor equipment worth about \$4 million will be delivered to Madadi Tursunzoda. A trade agreement was signed with Agrotekhservis for the delivery of 320 tractors worth more than \$7 million"³⁴⁹. It should be noted that about 370 Belarusian tractors have already been delivered to Tajikistan in the first three quarters of this year. This is more than in January-September 2021 by almost 50 per cent. For reference: in November 2017, an assembly facility for BELARUS tractors was opened in the city of Hissar and contracts were signed for the production of seven models.

Another fact: Minsk Automobile Plant will supply 14 units of motor vehicles to the Tajik market for almost \$500,000. The contract within the framework of the Tajik-Belarusian business forum was signed by MAZ and CJSC Obi Zulol - "the largest producer of bottled water, carbonated beverages and natural juices in Tajikistan". In 2019, MAZ supplied the company with 18 units of machinery, including road trains and flatbed trucks with trailers"³⁵⁰.

Another participant of the Tajik-Belarusian business forum was the Belgospischeprom concern, eight enterprises of which took part in the Made in Belarus exhibition and even signed a number of contracts with Tajik partners for the supply of sugar, brewing malt and confectionery products. By the way, "Tajikistan ranks first among the Concern's trading partner countries in Central Asia and the Middle East in terms of exports this year"³⁵¹.

Representatives of Belleprom Concern explored the possibility of investing in cotton production in Tajikistan during the business forum. The heads of the Orsha Flax Mill and the Baranovichi Cotton Production Association, who visited Dushanbe, held talks on possible imports of cotton yarn and fibre, since the price of cotton yarn has become more acceptable for Belarusian producers in Tajikistan in recent years. Note that there are other interests in light industry co-operation between the two countries. "This [2022] year, the Belarusian company Mogotex supplied Tajikistan with its products for the first time. The exports included technical fabrics, with the transaction

[dushanbe-528500-2022/](https://www.belta.by/economics/view/mtz-zakliuchil-kontrakly-s-kompanii-ami-iz-tadzhikistana-na-11-mln-528650-2022/)

³⁴⁹ MTW signed contracts with companies from Tajikistan for \$11 million [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/mtz-zakliuchil-kontrakly-s-kompanii-ami-iz-tadzhikistana-na-11-mln-528650-2022/>

³⁵⁰ MAZ will supply machinery to Tajikistan for almost \$500 th. [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/maz-postavit-tehniku-v-tadzhikistan-pochti-na-tys-500-528637-2022/>

³⁵¹ Zhidkov: Tajikistan is one of the key partners for Belgospischeprom in the Central Asian market [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/zhidkov-tadzhikistan-odin-iz-kliuchevyh-partnerov-dlia-belgospischeproma-na-tsentralnoaziatskom-rynke-528642-2022/>

amounting to \$250,000. The Mogilev residents have agreed to supply Tajikistan in 2023 as well. <...> "Mogotex" will supply technical fabrics for \$300 thousand"³⁵² .

Vitebsk Carpets Holding, which is setting up a joint production facility in Khujand, Sughd Region, with Tajik partners, will also be represented on the Tajik market. Interestingly, in mid-April 2022, this city hosted the official opening ceremony of the joint Belarusian-Tajik assembly plant of lifts of OJSC "Mogilevliftmash", with Khujandtorgmash as a partner. The new lift production shop provided jobs for 50 residents of Khujand, where "using modern equipment and technologies, production of different types of lifts will be carried out - passenger lifts for high-rise buildings, production enterprises, as well as health care institutions"³⁵³ .

As for cooperation in education and science, at the forum of rectors of universities of Belarus and Tajikistan held in October 2022, the parties saw great potential in the innovation sphere, in the implementation of joint educational programmes, and in the training of Tajik students at Belarusian universities and institutes. In particular, the Belarusian National Technical University (BITU) signed a number of co-operation agreements with Tajik universities. These include the Dangara State University and the Tajik Agrarian University, the Tajik National University and the Technological University of Tajikistan, as well as the Mining and Metallurgical Institute of Tajikistan. Belarusian and Tajik partners already see a number of joint points for co-operation. "Interaction with the named universities is a new level of entering the Tajik market of educational services. <...> Opening new horizons of co-operation..."³⁵⁴ . As a result, the parties believe that innovative interaction is the key to the creation of new joint ventures on the territory of Tajikistan and Belarus. And in general, all these facts "show the growing interest of the two former Soviet republics in fruitful co-operation in a wide variety of areas"³⁵⁵ , which are reaching a new level in the form of

³⁵² Belarus is studying the possibility of investing in cotton production in Tajikistan [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-izuchaet-vozmozhnost-investirovaniia-v-proizvodstvo-hlopka-v-tadzhikistane-528489-2022>

³⁵³ Emomali Rahmon took part in the opening of the assembly production of lifts "Mogilevliftmash" in Tajikistan [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/emomali-rahmon-prinial-uchastie-v-otkrytii-sborochnogo-proizvodstva-liftmash-mogilevliftmash-v-496483-2022/>.

³⁵⁴ BITU and universities of Tajikistan to cooperate in the field of science, education and innovation [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/bntu-i-vuzy-tadzhikistana-budut-sotrudnicat-v-sfere-nauki-obrazovaniia-i-innovatsii-528871-2022>

³⁵⁵ Zalesky, B. International Relations and Media. Features of multi-vector international co-operation in the period of global challenges / Boris Zalesky. - Palmarium Academic Publishing, 2016. - C. 129.

comprehensive measures of the Road Map of Belarus and Tajikistan for 2022-2026.

New steps on the course of co-operation

Belarus and Tajikistan plan to intensify trade and economic cooperation to increase trade turnover and reach the level of at least \$100 million of bilateral trade in 2024. Minsk and Dushanbe see positive dynamics and untapped potential to emphasise not only "simple supply of products, but also the expansion of cooperation ties, the creation of long-term joint projects, assembly plants in agricultural machinery and attachments, lifts, dairy products, electrical transformers and other promising areas"³⁵⁶.

Recall that in 2022, the Belarusian-Tajik trade turnover totalled more than \$78 million. As of the end of 11 months of 2023, the figure was about \$75 million. There are 9 registered enterprises with Tajik capital in Belarus, including 2 joint ventures and 7 foreign ones. More than 20 entities of the commodity distribution network of Belarusian enterprises and one joint venture operate in Tajikistan. In addition, interesting joint co-operation projects have emerged over the past five years. Firstly, since 2017, an assembly facility for Belarusian agricultural machinery has been operating in the Tajik city of Hissar. In 2024, plans to organise the assembly of combine harvesters there as well. Second, in 2022, an assembly plant for lifts of OJSC Mogilevliftmash was opened in the Tajik city of Khujand. Thirdly, a joint venture based on Belarusian technologies was set up in the capital Dushanbe - LLC JV "Production of Dairy Products "Vatan", which has been producing products under the trade mark "ALMIR" since June 2023. Fourth, in November 2023, the V.I. Kozlov Minsk Electrotechnical Plant and JSC Transformer from Bokhtar signed a Memorandum on the organisation of assembly production of Belarusian transformers in Tajikistan. Fifth, commercial agreements were signed to supply cotton, yarn and cotton fabrics from this Central Asian country totalling over USD 40 million until 2025 for the needs of light industry enterprises of Belarus. Sixth, BELAZ OJSC worked out the issue of setting up an enterprise for the production of quarry machinery in Tajikistan in the near future.

In September 2023, the 16th meeting of the Belarusian-Tajik Intergovernmental Commission (IGC) on Trade and Economic Cooperation was held in Dushanbe to review trends of interaction in industrial

³⁵⁶ Co-operative ties and joint projects. Ambassador of Belarus on co-operation with Tajikistan [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/koopratsionnye-svjazi-i-sovmestnye-proekty-posol-belarusi-o-sotrudnichestvo-s-tadzhikistanom-607001-2023/>

cooperation, light industry, supplies of woodworking products, food products, and pharmaceutical products. The sides also discussed cooperation in agriculture, food and personnel training for the agro-industrial complex, transport, education and science, healthcare and social protection, culture and sports, tourism and interregional cooperation. On the same day, a meeting of the Belarusian-Tajik Business Council was also held, attended by heads and representatives of 24 Belarusian enterprises and organisations, as well as small and medium-sized businesses. As a result of the event, the participants signed "13 bilateral documents - cooperation agreements and contracts for the supply of products totalling over \$16 million"³⁵⁷.

In particular, within the framework of the 16th IGC meeting, Gomselmash OJSC signed a memorandum of bilateral co-operation with Agrotekhservis CJSC. This document provides for the delivery of five G5SA combine harvesters to the Tajik market in 2024. The fact is that "Gomselmash" has been closely cooperating with "Agrotekhservis" for many years to provide Tajikistan's agrarians with grain and forage harvesters, as well as timely service maintenance"³⁵⁸. We would like to add that nowadays in this Central Asian country the most popular are economical and simple combines and self-propelled mowers GOMSELMASH. It is also planned to supply machine kits and other machinery to Tajik partners. In addition, "Belarus will supply seeds, livestock, canned meat, dairy and fish products to Tajikistan"³⁵⁹.

In 2023, the Belarusian-Tajik cooperation in the woodworking and pulp and paper industries also shone with new colours, with supplies from Belarus growing 1.7 times in seven months. And if we talk about the figures of the last five years, the exports of the enterprises of Bellesbumprom Concern grew 2.2 times. "Now almost the whole range of products of the timber industry complex of the republic is sold in Tajikistan: sawn timber, wood boards, paper, cardboard and products made of them, wallpaper, furniture, plywood"³⁶⁰. The Belarusian concern already has clear prospects for further

³⁵⁷ Enterprises of Belarus and Tajikistan signed contracts for \$16 million during the business council [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/predpriiatija-belarusi-i-tadzhikistana-vo-vremia-delovogo-soveta-podpisali-kontrakty-na-16-mln-590816-2023/>

³⁵⁸ "Gomselmash" will supply a batch of combine harvesters to Tajikistan in 2024 [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/gomselmash-postavit-partiiu-zernouborochnyh-kombai-nov-v-tadzhikistan-v-2024-godu-591373-2023/>

³⁵⁹ Belarus and Tajikistan agreed on co-operation in agriculture [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-tadzhikistan-dogovorilis-o-sotrudnichestve-v-selskom-hoziaistve-592218-2023/>

³⁶⁰ Enterprises of "Bellesbumprom" have increased exports to Tajikistan 2.2 times over the last 5 years [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/predpriyatija-bellesbumproma-za-poslednie-5-let-narastili>

co-operation with its Tajik partners.

Investment co-operation between the two countries also featured prominently in the decisions of the 16th IGC meeting. Earlier, in February 2023, at the first meeting of the working group on these issues between the Ministry of Economy of Belarus and the State Committee for Investment and State Property Management of Tajikistan, the parties outlined the key objective in this topic - "to give impetus to investment cooperation, to identify points of contact up to the list of specific projects to attract business"³⁶¹. And now the most promising areas and the formation of a list of investment projects, including import-substituting ones, are already being discussed. These are mining, machine building, IT-sector, agriculture, pharmaceuticals and tourism. Plans are also underway to explore the possibility of creating a Belarusian-Tajik investment fund. In addition, among the new investment projects Tajikistan wants to create in Minsk "a multifunctional trade complex to serve as a coordination centre for representatives of both countries"³⁶².

One of the priorities of Belarusian-Tajik co-operation is also the education sector, which in 2024 will reach the following level

new level. After all, today various educational projects are already being implemented between the educational institutions of the two countries, "within the framework of which joint faculties have been created and unified educational programmes have been adopted. The issue of opening branches of Belarusian universities in Tajikistan is being worked out"³⁶³. For reference, there are four joint Belarusian-Tajik faculties in higher education institutions in Dushanbe, whose graduates receive state diplomas of the Republic of Belarus. Firstly, this is a joint faculty of the Tajik National University with higher educational institutions of Belarus: Belarusian State University (BSU), International State Ecological Institute named after A.D. Sakharov BSU, Belarusian State Technological University, Polotsk State University. Secondly, the Civil Aviation Department of the Belarusian State Academy of Aviation and the Tajik Technical University named after Academician M.S. Osimi. Thirdly, it is the Faculty of Engineering and

[ekspert-v-tadzhikistan-v-22-raza-590869-2023/](https://www.belta.by/economics/view/ekspert-v-tadzhikistan-v-22-raza-590869-2023/)

³⁶¹ Cherviaikov: it is necessary to identify priority areas of investment co-operation between Belarus and Tajikistan [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: https://www.belta.by/economics/view/chervj_akov-nuzhno-opredelit-prioritetnye-napravlenij-a-ivestsotrudnichestva-belarusi-i-tadzhikistana-552755-2023/

³⁶² Tajikistan wants to create its trading house in Minsk [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/tadzhikistan-hochet-sozdat-v-minske-svoj-torgovjy-dom-609906-2024>

³⁶³ Safarzoda, B. Water for life, melting glaciers, Nowruz and Kupalye / B. Safarzoda // [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/interview/view/voda-dlja-zhizni-tajanie-lednikov-navruz-i-kupalje-posol-o-tadzhikistane-i-druzhbe-s-belarusju-8874/>

Technology of the Belarusian National Technical University and the M.S. Osimi Tajik Technical University. Fourthly, it is a joint faculty of the Polotsk State University at the base of the Technological University of Tajikistan. And there are more than 500 Tajik students studying at Belarusian universities.

In October 2023, the Ministry of Education of Belarus and the Ministry of Education and Science of Tajikistan signed a joint action plan for 2023-2026 in Minsk. At the same time, the Belarusian capital hosted the second forum of rectors of the two countries, where representatives of more than 50 higher education institutions of Belarus and Tajikistan participated and where more than 10 bilateral agreements at the university level were signed. In particular, within the framework of this interaction, "the Belarusian State Pedagogical University is closely cooperating with the Pedagogical University of Tajikistan precisely on the exchange of teaching staff and best practices in training future teachers"³⁶⁴. And Baranovichi State University and Tajik State University of Law, Business and Politics have signed a cooperation agreement, which "defines the key areas of joint educational and research activities, as well as the implementation of joint youth initiatives"³⁶⁵. And now the universities are preparing a roadmap for international co-operation to facilitate the implementation of educational modules, participation in scientific and educational tracking, and academic exchange.

Finally, in June 2024, the 17th meeting of the IGC on cooperation was held in Minsk, where the parties discussed the status and prospects of trade, economic and investment cooperation in transport and logistics, industrial cooperation, education and medicine, as well as interregional partnerships, in order to take a new step in terms of deepening trade and economic cooperation and to define a clear objective - to improve the joint

Belarusian-Tajik

production. Moreover, there are already interesting examples. It was mentioned above that a joint venture that processes Belarusian milk and produces dairy products is already operating in Tajikistan. Another area of cooperation is the assembly of Belarusian machinery on Tajik soil.

At the 17th IGC meeting, it was emphasised that today there is a need to

³⁶⁴ The Ministries of Education of Belarus and Tajikistan signed a plan of joint action for 2023-2026 [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/ministerstva-obrazovanija-belarusi-i-tadzhikistana-podpisali-plan-sovmestnyh-dej-stvij-2023-2026-gody-592165-2023/>

³⁶⁵ BarSU develops a roadmap for co-operation with a new partner university from Tajikistan [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/bargu-razrabatyvaet-dorozhnuuu-kartu-sotrudnichestva-s-novym-vuzom-partnerom-iz-tadzhikistana-592689-2023/>

expand the area, the range of manufactured equipment and assortment. The Tajik side is also interested in the assembly production of processing machinery, as well as motor transport and transport of housing and communal services. It should be recalled that the Belarusian-Tajik enterprise Agrotekhservis has been opened in Tajikistan, where machines of the Minsk Tractor Plant are assembled. The demand for this equipment is very high. Tajik agricultural producers are interested not only in Belarusian tractors, but also in combines. There is already an agreement to buy machinery from Gomselmash. There are plans to expand co-operation with the Bobruisk Plant of Tractor Parts and Units.

If we talk about the sphere of Tajikistan's interests in Belarus, then, firstly, the Tajik side has been buying Belarusian pedigree cattle for the development of farms for several years. Last year alone, about two thousand cattle were purchased. And one of the enterprises in this Central Asian country is engaged in breeding cattle for their further sale. Secondly, Tajik partners buy potatoes in Belarus. In 2023, their purchases amounted to 800 tonnes. This year, these figures will be increased. Thirdly, another position of Belarusian exports to Tajikistan is flax seeds, which will be developed. Fourth, in its turn, the Tajik side has already supplied Belarus with a trial version of safflower seeds, an oilseed crop, and can also provide tomato and cucumber seeds for growing in greenhouses. Finally, fresh apples, cherries and apricots are already being harvested in Tajikistan from late April to early May. By setting up a logistics scheme, the parties could supply all these products in solid volumes.

Continuing this topic, we note that supplies of food products and agricultural raw materials from Belarus to Tajikistan last year amounted to more than 160 per cent. "The basis of agricultural exports was formed by sugar (2.1 times growth), milk and milk products (growth rate of 140.9 per cent), cattle (151.2 per cent), meat and meat products (61.8 per cent) <...>. Imports from Tajikistan in 2023 totalled 103.8%. The basis of imports was supplies of dried fruits. Exports of food products and agricultural raw materials for January - March 2024 increased 2.4 times"³⁶⁶. In addition, within the framework of the 17th IGC meeting, the parties agreed to establish an exchange for the training of specialists in the field of agriculture, as well as students for internships.

Touching upon the topic of Belarusian-Tajik interregional partnership within

³⁶⁶ Bartosz: the deepening of co-operation with Tajikistan is facilitated by the improvement of joint productions [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/bartosh-uglubleniiu-sotrudnichestva-s-tadzhikistanom-sposobstvuet-sovshenstvovanie-sovmestnyh-639287-2024>

the framework of the 17th IGC meeting, interesting examples of this interaction can be cited. In particular, Minsk and Dushanbe. In June this year, the two capitals discussed the possibility of supplying Dushanbe with snowploughs and passenger vehicles, spare parts, sugar, vegetable oil, as well as the construction of a trade house of Tajikistan in Minsk, the site of which is located in the area of Pritytski and Leshchinski Streets. The necessary documents for the implementation of this project are already being drawn up. In Dushanbe, Belarusian specialists are planned to assist in the implementation of a joint project with South Korea on the construction of a light metro. There are other areas of co-operation that are only developing. This is evidenced by the fact that "trade turnover [between Minsk and Tajikistan] exceeded the volume of the previous year in the first quarter alone"³⁶⁷.

The development of co-operation with Tajikistan is also a promising direction for Gomel region. Suffice it to say that this year the trade turnover between the parties has already quadrupled. The south-eastern Belarusian region supplies this Central Asian country with ferrous metal products, woodworking, dairy and confectionery products. And Tajikistan buys cotton yarn for the enterprises of Gomel region. As for the prospects of co-operation between the parties, they have already been practically defined in all directions. For example, batches of Gomel combine harvesters will be delivered to Tajikistan this year, and there are plans to buy for next year. In turn, Tajikistan is ready to supply lemons, grapes, cherries, apricots, dried fruits. The parties also have an opportunity to create trade houses, "which would allow to present goods from Tajikistan on Homel land, and in Tajikistan - what can please Homel producers"³⁶⁸. The partners also have their own plans for co-operation in the sphere of agrotourism and ecotourism, in health care institutions, and in education, especially in terms of training personnel for the agricultural sector.

Returning to the 17th meeting of the Belarusian-Tajik Intergovernmental Commission, we would like to note that the participants of this meeting placed the main emphasis on the issues of intensifying trade and economic cooperation, developing industrial cooperation and humanitarian interaction,

³⁶⁷ Supplies of machinery, construction of a trading house. Minsk and Dushanbe discussed areas of co-operation [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/postavki-tehniki-stroitelstvo-torgovo-go-doma-minsk-i-dushanbe-obsudili-napravlenija-sotrudnichestva-638915-2024/>

³⁶⁸ From mechanical engineering to agro-tourism. Gomel region and Tajikistan will develop partnership in agro-industrial complex [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/ot-mashinostroeniia-do-agroturizma-gomelskaia-oblast-i-tadzhikistan-budut-razvivat-partnerstvo-v-apk-639537-2024>

stressing the importance of further fruitful progress in the most pressing areas of partnership between Belarus and Tajikistan.

Last. In October 2022, Belarus and Tajikistan signed a roadmap for bilateral co-operation for 2022-2026, which contains 39 items. To date, 6 have already been fulfilled, and 33 are under implementation, including 21 that are being implemented on a permanent basis. Today, the parties continue to look for new opportunities to intensify cooperation in order to fully implement this strategic document and make a new contribution to the development of Belarusian-Tajik relations.

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CHAPTER 4

BELARUS - KYRGYZSTAN

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The priority task is to accelerating co-operation

The Republic of Belarus has traditionally been interested in the closest partnership with the Kyrgyz Republic, a country in Central Asia that possesses rich natural resources and minerals, high potential for the development of agriculture, hydropower and tourism. All the more so, trade and economic co-operation between Belarus and Kyrgyzstan has been noticeably intensified recently.

Back in May 2013, the Kyrgyz side noted: "I would like the economic relations between Belarus and Kyrgyzstan to develop dynamically. Belarus has a number of goods in which Kyrgyzstan is interested. In turn, we are also ready to supply goods that are interesting for the Belarusian economy"³⁶⁹. In September 2015, at the meeting of the heads of government of the two countries, focusing on the need to increase mutual trade turnover, the parties agreed that "in addition to trade interaction, efforts should be directed at the development of production cooperation"³⁷⁰. And already in the first quarter of 2017, the Belarusian-Kyrgyz trade turnover increased by one and a half times, totalling \$15.2 million. The Intergovernmental Belarusian-Kyrgyz Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation, whose sixth and seventh meetings were held in Bishkek in June 2016 and in Minsk in June 2017, played an important role in boosting bilateral interaction between the countries.

In particular, during the seventh meeting of the commission, the parties noted a significant intensification of contacts between Belarusian enterprises and Kyrgyz partners, which only contributes to the expansion of interaction between Belarus and Kyrgyzstan in terms of machinery supplies and production cooperation, in the fields of energy, agriculture, healthcare, education, science, culture, information and tourism, as well as the development of cooperation between regions and free economic zones of the two countries. This extensive list of areas of Belarusian-Kyrgyz cooperation also included "training of specialists, upgrading their qualifications, creation of trade networks, joint ventures for the production of agricultural machinery, supplies of Belarusian lifts to Kyrgyzstan"³⁷¹.

³⁶⁹ Kyrgyzstan is interested in the development of trade and economic relations with Belarus [Electronic resource]. - 2013. - URL: <http://www.belvpo.com/ru/26710.html>

³⁷⁰ Andrei Kobyakov met with the head of the Government of Kyrgyzstan [Electronic resource]. - 2015. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/6027>

³⁷¹ About the meeting of the Intergovernmental Belarusian-Kyrgyz Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL: http://kyrgyzstan.mfa.gov.by/ru/embassy/news/b_a_b71702175943_ffhtml

As far as mutual trade is concerned, Belarusian agricultural products are clearly in the lead, as evidenced by the figures: "At the end of 2016, exports of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food to Kyrgyzstan grew 3.1 times, and in the first quarter of 2017 - almost 14 times. The basis of export supplies is meat and dairy products"³⁷². Agreeing to further increase mutual supplies of agricultural products, expand their commodity nomenclature, the parties also decided to consider the possibility of implementing joint projects in the development of livestock and crop production.

flagship Belarusian-Kyrgyz industrial

In November 2016, a tractor assembly plant and a service centre for agricultural machinery from Belarus opened in Bishkek on the basis of Avtomash-Radiator LLC. An important detail - "about 90 per cent of radiators for Minsk-assembled tractors are supplied from Kyrgyzstan. The same assembly shop has now started assembling combines of Gomselmash OJSC"³⁷³. In addition, the parties have been actively working on the issue of establishing joint ventures in the light industry, the prerequisite for which was the actualisation of trade relations in this area. Thus, in April 2017, the Kyrgyz company Opt-Invest first delivered a batch of textile products to Belarus, and in September 2017, it signed a contract with Belarus for the supply of garments.

In February 2020, the ninth meeting of the intergovernmental Belarusian-Kyrgyz commission on trade and economic co-operation was held in Minsk, where topical issues of developing and strengthening systemic mutually beneficial partnership ties were considered. In Minsk and Bishkek, this meeting of the intergovernmental commission, where the status of co-chairs has already been raised to the level of deputy prime ministers, was seen as "a new impetus for the development of relations between our countries"³⁷⁴. Recall that in 2019, the volume of Belarusian-Kyrgyz trade totalled over \$105 million with a surplus for the Belarusian side of over \$90 million, which was secured by supplies from Belarus of dairy products, tractors and

³⁷² Kyrgyzstan is interested in establishing assembly facilities for Belarusian agricultural machinery [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/kyrgyzstan-zainteresovan-v-sozdanii-sborochnyh-proizvodstv-belorusskoj-selhoztehniki-251058-2017/>

³⁷³ Omuraliev noted a positive trend in the development of relations between Kyrgyzstan and Belarus [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/politics/view/omuraliev-otmetil-pozitivnuju-tendentsiju-v-razvitii-otnoshenij-mezhdu-kyrgyzstanom-i-belarusiju-269017-2017/>

³⁷⁴ The meeting of the Belarusian-Kyrgyz intergovernmental commission will be held in Minsk on 21 February [Electronic resource]. - 2020. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/zasedanie-belorussko-kyrgyzskoj-mezhpravkomissii-projdet-v-minske-21-fevralja-378085-2020/>

tractor-trailers, meat and poultry by-products, medicines, furniture and chipboard. However, according to the parties, the volume of mutual trade between Kyrgyzstan and Belarus does not meet the economic potential of the countries. Actually, and for this reason, at the next meeting of the intergovernmental commission, the attention of the parties was focused on the priority areas of interaction: 1) **increasing the volume of mutual trade**; 2) **deepening** of industrial cooperation and creation of joint assembly production; 3) **expansion of** interregional cooperation.

In terms of **increasing the volume of mutual trade**, the Belarusian side made specific proposals to increase supplies of passenger, cargo, and municipal vehicles to Kyrgyzstan, which is in line with the plans of the Kyrgyz side to upgrade, for example, the fleet of passenger vehicles in Bishkek and other cities. In addition, in 2020, Belarus continued to actively participate in exhibition events in Kyrgyzstan to promote its products to the Kyrgyz market. Thus, in April, the exposition of Belarusian exporters was presented for the third time at the FoodExpo international food industry exhibition in Bishkek, where visitors could familiarise themselves with products and beverages from Belarus. The emphasis was placed on healthy food and products with Halal certificate. For the first time, the exposition "presented food additives, casings for meat and sausage products, baby food"³⁷⁵.

Speaking about **deepening production cooperation**, the Kyrgyz side proposed to intensify co-operation in agriculture and agro-industrial complex. First of all, it is about the creation of a joint agro-cluster for milk processing in Kyrgyzstan using Belarusian technologies, as well as the "construction of dairy complexes with the necessary Belarusian-made equipment and supplies of pedigree cattle"³⁷⁶. To consolidate these agreements in the legal field, an agreement on cooperation in agriculture and food between the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry of Belarus and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Industry and Land Reclamation of Kyrgyzstan was signed following the meeting of the intergovernmental commission. As for industrial cooperation, the plans voiced in Minsk look quite realistic: "assembly production of transformers may be established with the Kozlov Minsk Electrotechnical

³⁷⁵ Nemankova, Y. The exposition of Belarusian producers will be presented at the FoodExpo exhibition in Bishkek / Y. Nemankova // [Electronic resource]. - 2020. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/ekspozitsiia-belorusskih-proizvoditelei-budet-predstavlena-vvstavke-foodexpo-v-bishkekeke-378791-2020/>

³⁷⁶ Kyrgyzstan offers Belarus to create an agrocluster for milk processing [Electronic resource]. - 2020. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/kyrgyzstan-predlagaet-belarusi-sozdat-agroklaster-po-pererabotke-moloka-380586-2020/>

Plant, lifts - with Mogilevliftmash, gas meters - with BelOMO"³⁷⁷ . The seriousness of these intentions of the parties is evidenced, in particular, by the fact of signing an agreement on co-operation between the V.I. Kozlov Minsk Electromechanical Plant and Mashelectrosnab LLC following the meeting of the intergovernmental commission.

Speaking about the **expansion of interregional cooperation between Belarus and Kyrgyzstan**, so far the tone has been set by the capitals Minsk and Bishkek, which signed an agreement on economic, scientific, technical and cultural cooperation back in 1997 and established twinning relations in 2008. In the language of figures, this interregional co-operation looks as follows: "The growth rate of trade turnover of Minsk enterprises with Kyrgyzstan in January-June 2017 to the level of the same period of 2016 was 306%, exports of goods - 393.7%, exports of services - 176.1%"³⁷⁸ . At the same time, tractors, paving slabs, radiators, air heaters, refrigerators, and medicines were supplied to Kyrgyz partners. New exported goods from Minsk were dairy products, chipboard, tools. In the future cooperation between the two capitals in the field of public transport development may become very promising. After all, Bishkek plans to purchase about 400 large-capacity buses. And the authorities of the Kyrgyz capital are studying the market of suppliers. It should be assumed that Minsk manufacturers of transport equipment have good chances to become participants in the implementation of this project. After all, back in 2009 Minsk Belkommunmash delivered 20 trolleybuses to Bishkek, and later won a tender for the export of another 30 units of electric transport.

At the 9th meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission in Minsk, the agreement on cooperation in trade and economic, scientific and technical, humanitarian and cultural spheres was signed by the Gomel Regional Executive Committee and the Office of the Plenipotentiary Representative of the Government of Kyrgyzstan in Chui Oblast. Although this agreement is the first one with Kyrgyz partners for the Belarusian region, even before that, the enterprises of Homiel region were already present in the market of the Central Asian country. Suffice it to say that in 2019, the region's trade turnover with Kyrgyzstan exceeded ten million

The exports totalled \$8.5 million. "At the same time, exports totalled \$8.5

³⁷⁷ Vladimir Kukharev: Belarusian electric buses may appear on the streets of Bishkek [Electronic resource]. - 2020. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/9293>

³⁷⁸ Matveeva, N. Bishkek plans to buy equipment from Minsk enterprises for the development of public transport / N. Matveeva // [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/bishkek-planiruet-zakupit-u-minskih-predpriyatij-tehniku-dlja-razvitiya-obschestvennogo-transporta-265609-2017/>

million. 26 enterprises of the region supplied their goods, including OJSC "Gomselmash", IPUP "Multipak", OJSC "Mozyrsol", manufacturers of doors and wallpaper. Promotion of the products of the Turov Dairy Plant, in particular, soft cheeses, to the Kyrgyz market has begun³⁷⁹.

It should be noted that in 2021, Belarus's trade turnover with Kyrgyzstan totalled almost USD 100 million, including Belarusian exports of over USD 86 million. The balance was positive in the amount of \$75.4 million. "Last year [2021], the nomenclature of goods supplied by Belarus totalled 749 commodity items (for comparison, in 2020 - 620). In January-June this year, bilateral trade turnover totalled \$56.4 million, up 44.3% compared to the same period in 2021, including Belarusian exports of \$42.8 million (up 24.8%)."³⁸⁰. The main Belarusian export commodities to Kyrgyzstan are fresh or chilled beef, sugar, poultry meat, medicines, finished meat products, carpets and other textile products, fibre optic cables, cheese and cottage cheese, diagnostic reagents, and chicken eggs. And there are reasons to believe that Belarusian enterprises have every chance not only to consolidate and increase their presence in the Kyrgyz market in terms of products already supplied, but also to expand the list of export items. In particular, there are prospects for increasing deliveries to Kyrgyzstan has Belarusian manufacturers of agricultural, passenger and municipal machinery.

Another interesting component of exports from Belarus to this Central Asian country is medical products. "Belarusian pharmaceutical companies are active in the Kyrgyz market. Thus, in 2021, the volume of exports of medicines to Kyrgyzstan totalled \$4.3 million"³⁸¹. In April 2022, Belarusian manufacturers took an active part in the 16th International Specialised Healthcare Exhibition MedExpo Kyrgyzstan-2022 in Bishkek. Their well-known and well-established drugs, as well as new products that have no analogues in the Kyrgyz market, were presented by LLC "Technology and Medicine 2030", RUE "Belmedpreparaty", OJSC "Borisov Plant of Medical Preparations", UE "Minskintercaps", OJSC "Exon", SE "Akadempharm" and

³⁷⁹ Gomel region will develop co-operation with the Chui region of Kyrgyzstan [Electronic resource]. - 2020. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/gomelskii-region-budet-razvivat-sotrudnichestvo-s-chujskoj-oblastiju-kyrgyzstana-381123-2020>

³⁸⁰ NcsM spoke about the prospects for promoting Belarusian goods and services in the region Kyrgyzstan [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/ntsm-rasskazal-o-perspektivah-prodvizheniia-belorusskih-tovarov-i-uslug-v-kyrgyzstan-519484-2022/>

³⁸¹ Belarusian enterprises presented their products at the exhibition of health care [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belorusskie-predpriiatiia-predstavili-produktsiiu-na-vystavke-zdravoohraneniia-v-bishkekeke-494393-2022/>

NP LLC "Medbiotech". In particular, "JSC Exon presented a line of VITAX vitamins, haematogen with new flavours (apple, apple with cinnamon, cranberry)"³⁸². As a result, the Belarusian companies signed contracts for the supply of products and planned to organise training seminars for medical representatives to promote medicines in Kyrgyzstan.

In the second half of 2022 - in September, the 10th meeting of the intergovernmental commission was held in the city of Osh, during which it was stated that a promising direction for the development of Kyrgyz-Belarusian cooperation is to increase production potential, capacity to produce products with high added value, as well as the creation of joint ventures in all industrial sectors. "Currently, there are 54 representative offices of entities of the commodity distribution network and distributors of Belarusian enterprises in the country, including the assembly production of tractors of the joint-stock company Minsk Tractor Plant"³⁸³. The Kyrgyz side is also interested in attracting investment in such areas as information technology, agriculture, and tourism.

In this regard, the Kyrgyz-Belarusian Business Forum was also held in Osh in September 2022, which demonstrated the growing interest of Belarusian businesses in developing bilateral business contacts with Kyrgyzstan. Representatives of the Belarusian side - the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, the Belgospischeprom concern, and the Belkommunmash holding company - presented to the forum participants opportunities for co-operation with enterprises in the agricultural, food, and industrial sectors of Belarus. A business contacts exchange was organised at the forum. "Meetings were held between Belarusian and Kyrgyz enterprises working in the food sector, mechanical engineering, health care and economy. As a result of the business forum, bilateral contracts totalling \$900 thousand were signed"³⁸⁴.

The international universal exhibition "South Expo-2022" was also held in Osh, where the Belarusian exposition was represented by the Belgospischeprom concern and its 16 enterprises, which combined export

³⁸² Pharmaceutical companies of Belarus plan to expand the range and volume of drug supplies to Kyrgyzstan [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/farmpredpriiatia-belarusi-planiruiut-rasshirit-assortiment-i-objemy-postavok-lekarstv-v-kyrgyzstan-494553-2022/>

³⁸³ Within the framework of the 10th meeting of the Intergovernmental Kyrgyz-Belarusian Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation in Osh a business forum was held [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://cis.minsk.by/news/24072/v-ramkah10-go-zasedaniya-mezhpravitelstvennoj-kyrgyzsko-belorusskoj-komissii-po-torgovo-ekonomicheskomu-sotrudnichestvu-v-oshe-sostojsijsja-biznes-forum>

³⁸⁴ Contracts for \$900 thousand signed as a result of the Belarusian-Kyrgyz business forum [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/kontrakty-na-900-tys-podpisany-po-itogam-belorussko-kyrgyzskogo-biznes-foruma-523912-2022/>

goods - "confectionery, snacks, instant foods, food concentrates, baby food, strong alcoholic beverages - gaistes, tinctures and balms on Belarusian herbs, distillates, whiskey of the full production cycle from Belarusian grain, products from fruits and berries...."³⁸⁵ . The world-famous Belarusian brands Gomselmash, MTZ and MAZ were represented at the exhibition by the local dealer AUTOMASH-RADIATOR. Among the exhibitors were other Belarusian enterprises: one of the largest European manufacturers of electrical equipment - V.I. Kozlov Minsk Electrotechnical Plant, leading medical institutions - N.N. Aleksandrov RNPC Oncology and Medical Radiology (OMR) and Cardiology RNPC, as well as a manufacturer of veterinary medicines - Belzoovetsnabprom. In particular, at the stand of RNPC MPA Kyrgyz specialists were offered educational services in radiology, surgery and ultrasound diagnostics. As a result of negotiations between the RNPC MPA and Osh State University, "a cooperation agreement was prepared, providing for the exchange of experience between the staff of the institutions on educational programmes of advanced training and internships; organisation of conferences, seminars, symposiums, round tables"³⁸⁶ .

All these facts confirm that Belarus and Kyrgyzstan intend to realise the potential of bilateral relations in all areas of cooperation and especially accelerate interaction in the economic sphere, including partnerships in industrial cooperation, agro-industrial complex, transport, as well as in a variety of issues on the cultural, humanitarian and regional agenda.

³⁸⁵ 16 enterprises of Belgospisheprom presented their products at the exhibition "Yug Expo" in Kyrgyzstan [Electronic resource resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/produktssiiu-na-vystavke-iug-ekspo-v-kyrgyzstane-predstavili-1-6-predpriy-atij-belgospisheprom-523807-2022>

³⁸⁶ 6th International Universal Exhibition-Fair "Yug Expo-2022". [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://omr.by/news/news-main/6-ya-mezhdunarodnaya-universalnaya-vystavka-yarmarka-yug-ekspo-2022>

CHAPTER 5

BELARUS - TURKMENISTAN

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Peculiarities of media support long-term co-operation

The Republic of Belarus has traditionally regarded the Commonwealth of Independent States as the most important integration association in the post-Soviet space, which contributes to ensuring economic and social stability in the region. Having held the CIS presidency in 2013, it "intends to use its presidency to further strengthen mutually beneficial co-operation between the CIS member states, improve the living standards and well-being of their citizens, as well as to preserve and multiply the positive experience of integration cooperation accumulated in the Commonwealth of Independent States"³⁸⁷. Particularly interesting in this regard is the positive experience of cooperation between Belarus and Turkmenistan - a country that occupies a special position among the former Soviet republics, but whose foreign policy course, according to official Minsk, "is an effective tool and guarantee of maintaining peace and stability in the region"³⁸⁸.

It is known that Turkmen foreign policy in the XXI century is determined by such factors as "the neutral status of Turkmenistan, the country's huge reserves of natural gas and the desire to maximise its exports"³⁸⁹. The neutral status of Turkmenistan was fixed back in December 1995 in a special resolution of the UN General Assembly, which was supported by 185 countries at that time. Official Ashgabat defined one of the main objectives of its foreign policy as the development of constructive mutually beneficial co-operation with all foreign partners on the basis of equality and mutual respect. At the same time, "given the significant resource potential of the state, Turkmenistan uses it to implement large-scale projects, the implementation of which involves the creation of joint ventures, attracting investments from foreign state and private companies, banks and international financial institutions"³⁹⁰.

The point of reference in the implementation of the modern foreign policy strategy of Turkmenistan is considered to be the keynote speech of the President of this country G. Berdimuhamedov at the UN General Assembly

³⁸⁷ Address to the member states of the Commonwealth of Independent States [Electronic resource]. - 2013. - URL: <http://president.gov.by/press130838.html#doc>

³⁸⁸ Alexander Lukashenko congratulates President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov [Electronic resource]. - 2010. - URL: <http://president.gov.by/press102262.html#doc>

³⁸⁹ Kamenev, S. Foreign policy of Turkmenistan. Battle around the gas pipe / S. Kamenev // [Electronic resource]. [Electronic resource]. - 2002. - URL: <http://www.centrasia.ru/newsA.php?st=1033368840>

³⁹⁰ The concept of foreign policy of Turkmenistan as a neutral state [Electronic resource]. - 1995. - URL: http://niyazov.sitecity.ru/ltext_0608085523.phtml?p_ident=ltext_0608085523.p_2108100642

in September 2007, which noted: "Turkmenistan today is open to the world, open for broad international cooperation in all directions"³⁹¹. This shows that Ashgabat understands well that the process of economic and social transformations within the country cannot be imagined without reliable economic partnerships with the world's best producers of goods and technologies, so "Turkmenistan readily responds to many proposals, carefully selecting the best of the world's production and technological experience. <...> We do not conclude economic agreements that are disadvantageous for the country in return for some political dividends"³⁹². And here it is important to emphasise that, harmoniously combining the successful solution of domestic development tasks and active participation in international affairs, official Ashgabat "considers cooperation with the CIS countries an important direction of its foreign policy"³⁹³, where the dynamic build-up of partnership ties with the Republic of Belarus plays an important role.

It should be recalled that back in 2008, mutual Belarusian-Turkmen trade totalled only about \$50 million. It was only in 2009 that a tendency to intensify bilateral ties emerged, when the Belarusian head of state arrived in Ashgabat on an official visit after a 7-year break. At the same time, the parties made decisions that gave the interaction between Belarus and Turkmenistan a "long-term and strategic character"³⁹⁴. These decisions concerned mutual deliveries of Belarusian machine-building products and products of Turkmen light industry enterprises, as well as a fundamentally new form of economic ties – comprehensive participation of Belarus in projects of industrial and social infrastructure of Turkmenistan. It was then that a Framework Agreement was signed on the construction by Belarusian specialists of a mining and processing complex for potash fertiliser production on Turkmen soil with a design capacity of 7 million tonnes of ore annually, including 1.4 million tonnes of potash fertilisers.

It is appropriate to explain here that the national programme "Strategy of economic, political and cultural development of Turkmenistan for the period

³⁹¹ Durdiev, S. Foreign policy of Turkmenistan at the present stage / S. Durdiev // Neutral Turkmenistan. - 2009. - 21 May.

³⁹² Agakhanov, H.A. In the centre of attention - the foreign policy of Turkmenistan / H.A. Agakhanov // [In the centre of attention - the foreign policy of Turkmenistan]. [Electronic resource]. - 2009. - URL:

http://www.turkmenistan.ru/7_page_id=4&lang_id=ru&elem_id=15725&type=event&sort=date_desc

³⁹³ December-2012: following the course of foreign policy initiatives of the leader of the nation [Electronic resource]. - 2013. - URL: <http://www.parahat.info/news/2013-01-10-dekabr-2012-sleduya-kursom-vneshnepoliticheskikh-iniciativ-lidera-nacii-politika-otkrytyh-dverey>

³⁹⁴ Belarus and Turkmenistan intensify bilateral co-operation [Electronic resource]. - 2009. - URL: <http://president.gov.by/press73283.html#doc>

up to 2020" plans to increase agricultural output almost 18 times in relation to 2000. "By this time, the country will have implemented a number of measures aimed at increasing crop yields and agricultural output. Creation of potash fertiliser production in solving such a task is one of the state priorities"³⁹⁵. As for the Garlyk deposit of natural potassium salts, located in the Lebap province of Turkmenistan, its reserves exceed three billion tonnes, or more than 40 per cent of all proven reserves of potassium salts in Turkmenistan. In fact, the development of this deposit and the establishment of a potassium salt extraction and beneficiation plant here is the starting point for the development of the Turkmen mining industry and the guarantor of ensuring the planned growth of agricultural production in the country.

The international tender for the design, equipment supply, personnel training and launch of the plant itself was announced by the state concern Turkmenhimiya back in late 2007. Among others, the Chinese company Tamplan and the Russian West-Ural Machine-Building Concern became its participants. But in the end, the Turkmen side favoured the Belarusian JSC Belgorkhimprom, a research and design institute of the mining and chemical industry of Belarus, which provides support for the production activities of Belaruskali. A year and a half later, on 19 June 2009, a capsule was laid in the foundation of the mining and processing plant at the Garlyk potash deposit, the first stage of the development concept of which envisages "the development of raw materials using the mine method and the construction of a potash fertiliser plant with a capacity of up to one and a half million tonnes per year. After the development of two more deposits - up to 4.5 million tonnes per year"³⁹⁶. In addition, in addition to the construction of a complex of production facilities and the creation of new jobs, the project provides for the supply of modern equipment and the training of Turkmen specialists.

The appearance of such a large facility as a mining and processing plant in the prospective plans of Belarusian-Turkmen cooperation was a natural continuation of the course pursued by the current leadership of Turkmenistan, which envisages industrial development of this former Soviet republic: "To solve this important task, we intend to build industrial giants equipped with the latest equipment and technologies"³⁹⁷. The consequence of this course is

³⁹⁵ Belarus - Turkmenistan: potash foundation of future interaction [Electronic resource]. resource]. - 2010. - URL: [http://export.by/resources/izdaniya_i_publicacii/belarus %E2%80%9494_turkmenistan_kaliinii_fundament_budusc.html](http://export.by/resources/izdaniya_i_publicacii/belarus_%E2%80%9494_turkmenistan_kaliinii_fundament_budusc.html)

³⁹⁶ Belarus will become a participant of a large-scale investment project in Turkmenistan [Electronic resource]. - 2009. - URL: <http://president.gov.by/press73356.html#doc>

³⁹⁷ The President of Turkmenistan gave an interview to representatives of the Turkish press [Electronic resource]. - 2012. - URL: <http://www.turkmenistan.ru/ru/articles/37076.html>

that the population of Turkmenistan is now provided free of charge with natural gas, electricity, basic fuels and table salt.

At the same time, in 2009, the Belarusian side also offered its Turkmen partners projects on the comprehensive modernisation of the transport system of Turkmenistan's cities, the creation of environmentally friendly transport routes, including in the Avaza national tourist zone, as well as the construction of a number of other facilities on Turkmen soil. All these agreements were enshrined in relevant documents, including agreements on international road passenger and cargo traffic, on cooperation in the economic sphere, customs affairs, tax law compliance, sports and tourism, science and technology, culture, education, health and medical science, as well as press and information.

In the latter document, which is particularly important for international journalists of the two countries, the parties agreed to assist each other "in the regular exchange of news affecting the political, economic and cultural spheres of their states through news agencies, print, audio-visual and other media"³⁹⁸. It is also assumed that co-operation in the media sphere will be aimed at: opening correspondent offices in both countries on a parity basis; exchange of information materials, bulletins on mass media issues; exchange of specialists in the field of mass media and press distribution; exchange of experience in the field of training and internship of specialists; participation in international book and press exhibitions, seminars and conferences.

Such close attention of the parties to the issues of media support for the long-term Belarusian-Turkmen partnership is explained by the fact that "the effectiveness of integration processes directly depends on the political will of the leadership of the states and the constructive position of their citizens. That is why the role of the mass media, which honestly and objectively reflect real processes and shape public opinion, is so important in this respect"³⁹⁹. This is all the more relevant for the interaction between Belarus and Turkmenistan, which has been growing at an impressive pace over the past three years.

In early 2010, Turkmen leader G. Berdimuhamedov paid his first official visit to Belarus, during which the two heads of state came to the conclusion that Belarus and Turkmenistan are reaching a qualitatively new level of

³⁹⁸ Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Belarus and the Government of Turkmenistan on co-operation in the field of press and information [Electronic resource]. - 2009. - URL: <http://pravo.levonevsky.org/bazaby11/republic10/text213.htm>

³⁹⁹ Alexander Lukashenko sent greetings to the participants of the VII Forum of European and Asian Media [Electronic resource]. - 2012. - URL: <http://president.gov.by/press141469.html#doc>

strategic partnership relations, confirming this by intensifying economic and trade interaction in both existing and new areas of cooperation. In particular, the two countries have already talked about deepening industrial cooperation, creating new production facilities based on advanced technologies and developments, implementing major infrastructure projects, and developing productive interaction in the energy sector. In addition, the parties have demonstrated similar positions in assessing such principles of international relations and the activities of international organizations as "equal dialogue between developed and developing countries, inviolability of the sovereignty of states and rejection of interference in internal affairs, the right of peoples to choose their own model of political development, rejection of war as a means of conflict resolution"⁴⁰⁰.

The establishment of the Intergovernmental Belarusian-Turkmen Commission for Economic Cooperation and the signing of a new package of agreements on trade and economic cooperation in the supply of Belarusian agricultural and automotive equipment and urban transport, military and military-technical cooperation, mutual recognition of documents on education, academic degrees and titles, establishment of trade houses in Turkmenistan and Belarus, cooperation between Belarusian and Turkmen universities, and additional exploration and development of the Karabilskoye oil field It was based on supplies of Belarusian goods with a high degree of added value - tractors, road machinery, soil tillage machines, trucks, tyres, woodworking products, medicines, and foodstuffs.

At the same time, the Belarusian side is studying the possibilities of implementing several other major projects in Turkmenistan, including the design and turnkey construction of a plant for the production of ceramic tiles, porcelain stoneware and sanitary ware; modernisation of a plant for the production of basalt fibre insulation; construction of social and cultural facilities - a sports and recreation complex and three 14-storey residential buildings in Ashgabat⁴⁰¹. In addition, Belarusian builders undertook a pilot project on reconstruction and thermal modernisation of the housing stock built in the 6070s of the last century. "Belavtodor decided to take part in the tender for the construction of a bridge over the Amudarya River. And in January 2012, the Turkmen side announced its intention to buy 2 thousand

⁴⁰⁰ Alexander Lukashenko met with President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov [Electronic resource]. - 2010. - URL: <http://president.gov.by/press82516.html>

⁴⁰¹ The Belarusian delegation headed by A. Kalinin takes part in the third meeting of the Intergovernmental Belarusian-Turkmen Commission on Economic Cooperation [Electronic resource]. - 2011. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/3468>

tractors in Belarus and about 3 thousand units of machinery of Minsk Automobile Plant, as well as to open 4 service stations for MAZ vehicles in different regions of Turkmenistan. As a result, in 2012, 4.2 thousand tractors were "supplied to Turkmenistan from Belarus.

tractors and 3,800 lorries"⁴⁰². The Belarusian side also expressed its readiness to continue supplying domestically manufactured tower cranes and lifts to this Central Asian country.

The parties agreed to open a Belarusian-Turkmen college to train specialists to work at the new enterprises. Belarusian Prime Minister M. Myasnikovich outlined new horizons of cooperation between the two countries: "Cooperation should be innovative, promising and large-scale, and not be limited to the interests of national economies. That is why the two countries have great prospects in the field of innovative co-operation <...> It is necessary to create such capacities, such production facilities that will produce exports to third countries. The economies of the states mutually complement each other, and in this respect the realisation of the most ambitious projects is possible"⁴⁰³. And today we can state that this very course - innovation interaction - is now becoming more and more concrete in the relations between Belarus and Turkmenistan, as evidenced by various facts.

In particular, 15 enterprises with Belarusian capital are already operating in Turkmenistan, and 13 investment projects with Belarusian participation have been registered for a total of \$1.3 billion. In 2011, the Belarusian-Turkmen foreign trade turnover exceeded USD 200 million, and in 2012 it increased by half.

The visit of the Turkmen leader to Minsk in April 2012, during which G. Berdymukhamedov invited the Belarusian side to participate in the modernisation of Turkmenistan, brought new colours to the development of cooperation ties between the two countries. The fact is that in early 2012, the country adopted a programme of socio-economic development of Turkmenistan for 2012-2016, which pays much attention to the development of agriculture, urban infrastructure and roads. In this regard, the Turkmen side is ready to expand the nomenclature of Belarusian machine-building

⁴⁰² Single negotiating delegation of the CU is actively working to finalise the unification of trade regimes with other countries [Electronic resource]. - 2013. - URL: http://www.belta.by/ru/all/news/politics/Edinaja-peregovornaja-delegatsija-TS-aktivno-rabotaet-nad-zaversheniem-unifikatsii-torgovyx-rezhimov-s-drugimi-stranami_i620828.html

⁴⁰³ More Belarusians will be involved in the construction of the Garlyk mining and processing plant in Turkmenistan [Electronic resource]. - 2012. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/4214>

products to be purchased, is interested in purchasing agricultural, road, construction, municipal equipment, machine tools, construction materials, food, medicines. The Belarusian proposal to set up an educational institution in Turkmenistan to train middle-level personnel, which could cover the need for specialists in the mining industry being set up in Lebap province, is currently at an active stage of study. It should be noted that the current scale of cooperation between the two countries in the educational sphere is already quite eloquent: more than 7,000 Turkmen students are currently studying in Belarusian universities, of which about 200 are specialised to work at the Garlyk mining and processing plant. All this gave the Turkmen president a reason to call Belarus "a key partner in the education of our students"⁴⁰⁴.

The new package of bilateral documents signed in Minsk in April 2012 also confirmed the rapid expansion of areas of Belarusian-Turkmen cooperation. Among them are intergovernmental agreements on cooperation in geodesy, cartography, remote sensing of the Earth; agreements on scientific and technical cooperation between the Academies of Sciences of the two countries, between the Geophysical Monitoring Centre of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the Institute of Seismology of the Academy of Sciences of Turkmenistan, between the Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radioelectronics and the Turkmen State Institute of Transport and Communications. There are also interdepartmental agreements on cooperation in industrial, housing and social construction, agriculture, as well as a memorandum of understanding between the ministries of justice of the two countries. Besides, the parties actualised the topic of creation and functioning of the Business Council on cooperation between the Chambers of Commerce and Industry of the two countries, which should help to attract business circles, small and medium businesses to more active participation in the implementation of joint projects. It is expected that the first meeting of the Business Council for Cooperation, as well as the meeting of the Intergovernmental Belarusian-Turkmen Commission for Cooperation in Science and Technology, will be held in 2013.⁴⁰⁵

High rates of implementation of the planned plans of Belarusian-Turkmen co-operation, with trade turnover between the two countries having grown almost fivefold over the past four years, allowed official Minsk to say: "Our

⁴⁰⁴ Alexander Lukashenko met with President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov [Electronic resource]. - 2012. - URL: <http://president.gov.by/press131087.html>

⁴⁰⁵ About Belarusian-Turkmen intermidovan consultations [Electronic resource]. - 2013. - URL: http://mfa.gov.by/press/news_mfa/bc_c_e7023100851_ehtml

relations with Turkmenistan are an example for others. We have developed co-operation in all areas in recent years"⁴⁰⁶. The Belarusian side sees further prospects for the development of this foreign policy vector in the post-Soviet space in the development of direct ties between enterprises, active use of the potential of regional contacts, new forms of economic cooperation, including the implementation of joint industrial and infrastructure projects. It seems that representatives of the international segment of the national journalism of Belarus and Turkmenistan, who are still in search of new creative approaches that can adequately reflect the full scope of this international topic and effectively contribute to solving the problems faced here, should also have their say in promoting the ideas of Belarusian-Turkmen long-term and strategic cooperation in the mass consciousness of the residents of their countries.

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⁴⁰⁶ Alexander Lukashenko accepted credentials of foreign ambassadors [Electronic resource]. - 2012. - URL: <http://president.gov.by/press140152.html#doc>

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