

From Results to Prospects

At a meeting of the Supreme Council of the Eurasian Economic Union in Astana in May of this year, the Belarusian side stated that the current global situation is unfolding along the lines of a conflict scenario. Nevertheless, the Republic of Belarus continues to develop mechanisms for effective and mutually beneficial dialogue with the countries of the "outer arc." In particular, in May 2026, our country adopted the Directive "On the Practical Implementation of the All-Weather and Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between the Republic of Belarus and the People's Republic of China," which sets out highly practical plans and objectives for strengthening Belarusian-Chinese cooperation over the next five years. Among the priorities for economic cooperation with China are deepening industrial and technological cooperation and developing the trade, investment, and innovation sectors. Among Belarus's partners in Asia are India and Vietnam, which are expanding their economic cooperation with Belarusian partners. There are examples of such cooperation in Africa—Ghana, Togo, Egypt, Sudan, Zimbabwe, and Tanzania—as well as in Latin America—Venezuela, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Brazil, and Cuba. In fact, this study will focus on this very cooperation.



Boris Zalessky

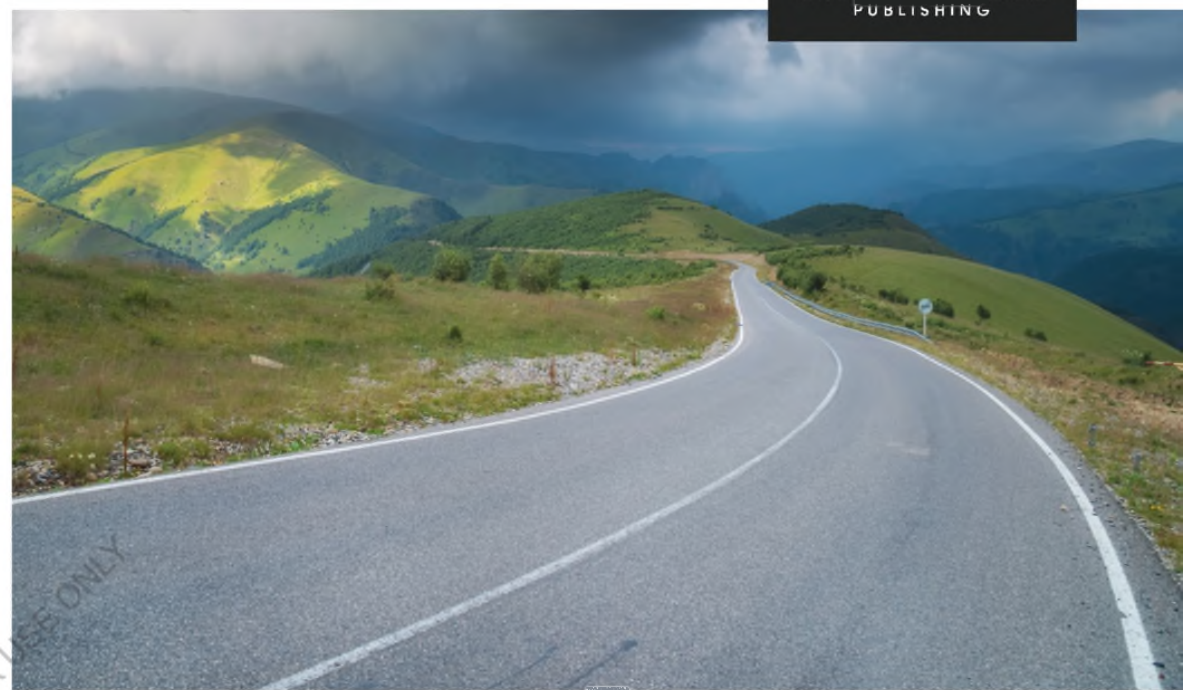
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Boris Zalessky



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From Results to Prospects

*Belarus' International Economic Cooperation Amid
Global Instability*

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Amid Global Instability**

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CHAPTER 1

China: the aim is to deepen scientific, technical and innovation

In May 2026, our country adopted the Directive ‘On the Practical Implementation of the All-Weather and Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between the Republic of Belarus and the People’s Republic of China’, which sets out highly practical plans and objectives for strengthening Belarusian-Chinese cooperation over the next five-year period. The focus of bilateral cooperation has been defined as strengthening political cooperation, preserving historical memory and fostering the values of friendship and mutual support, as well as participating in the implementation of China’s global initiatives for the benefit of Belarus. Among the priorities for economic cooperation with China are the development of trade, investment and innovation. In addition, some thirty provisions of the Directive envisage the implementation of specific measures in the fields of agriculture, energy, transport and logistics, healthcare, information and communication technologies, wood processing, the petrochemical and light industries, tourism, education, science and culture, the development of the flagship ‘Great Stone’ industrial park project, and the intensification of inter-regional cooperation.

The directive also identifies, among the priority tasks for the near future, the deepening of industrial and technological cooperation, the intensification of mutual technology transfer, and the improvement of the effectiveness of implementing the results of scientific and technical activities across key sectors of the economy. It should be recalled that the Belarus–China Years of Scientific and Technical Innovation, which took place in 2024–2025, were successfully concluded in early January. During this period, the parties conducted more than 60 scientific and

technical and academic exchanges in fields such as artificial intelligence, information technology, biopharmaceuticals, laser technology, new materials and agriculture; implemented 47 intergovernmental scientific and technical projects; and “jointly established 34 high-level cooperation platforms, including joint laboratories, technology innovation centres, industrial incubation centres and joint staff training centres”¹. Among these is the joint ‘Electromagnetic Environment’ laboratory under the ‘Belt and Road’ initiative in the field of advanced materials production, where a number of

¹ Zhang Wenquan: Belarus and China have jointly established 34 high-level platforms for scientific cooperation [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL:

<https://belta.by/society/view/chzhan-venchuan-belarus-i-kitai-sovmestno-sozdali-34-vysokourovnevnye-platformy-nauchnogo-762148-2026/>

technological breakthroughs have been achieved. Over the past two years, there have been other noteworthy examples of Belarusian-Chinese scientific and technical innovation.

In particular, in May 2025, an agreement was signed to establish a joint laboratory for operations research and optimisation between Liaoning University of Technology and the Joint Institute for Informatics Problems of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus. This laboratory will focus on research in the fields of mathematical optimisation and operations research. 'This includes optimisation in manufacturing and computer scheduling, optimisation in logistics and supply chains, optimal design of production lines, optimal infrastructure, routing and charging planning for electric buses, and approximate algorithms for optimisation problems'². Other priority topics for the laboratory include decision-making under uncertainty and computational complexity. The parties agreed on joint scientific work, the publication of research results, the training of postgraduate students, and the exchange of knowledge and scientific and methodological expertise.

Last September, the RK1R2025 International Scientific and Technical Conference – 'Pattern Recognition and Information Processing: Shaping the Future' – took place in Minsk. Its main areas of focus included machine learning and deep learning, computer vision, artificial intelligence, neural networks and intelligent systems, signal processing, bioinformatics, image recognition, information retrieval and data management, digital information processing and communications, intelligent analytical systems, embedded systems and software, expert systems and decision support systems, and cloud technologies and infrastructures. During this conference, an agreement was signed to establish a Sino-Belarusian joint laboratory for the implementation of artificial intelligence technologies, which was "established by the Joint Institute for Informatics Problems of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and Zhejiang University of Technology, with the participation of Belarusian State University and the NGO 'Optics, Optoelectronics and Laser Technology' of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus"³. The new facility will become a key link in the development of scientific cooperation between the two countries and will enable the pooling of efforts in research and the practical application of artificial intelligence technologies.

² Optimisation in manufacturing and logistics. Scientists from Belarus and China to set up a joint laboratory [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/optimizatsiia-v-proizvodstve-i-logistike-uchenye-belarusi-i-kitaia-sozdadut-sovmestnuiu-laboratoriiu-716414-2025/>

³ Scientific organisations in Belarus and China have established a joint laboratory for the implementation of AI technologies [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/nauchnye-organizatsii-belarusi-i-kitaia-sozdali-sovmestnuiu-laboratoriiu-po-vnedreniiu-tehnologii-737714-2025/>

And in December 2025, a whole package of documents on Belarusian-Chinese scientific cooperation was adopted. Firstly, an agreement on comprehensive scientific and technical cooperation was signed between the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the Shandong Provincial Academy of Sciences. Secondly, on the same day, an opening ceremony was held for the joint facilities: the Sino-Belarusian Joint Laboratory for 'Intelligent Sensing under Extreme Conditions' as part of the 'Belt and Road' initiative, as well as the Cooperation Network Node of the China – Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Cooperation Network Node, based at the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus. As for the laboratory for the development of remote sensing technologies, it will provide the opportunity to peer deep underground, into the depths of the sea and far into space. This will enable us to address challenges facing the real sector of the economy – acquiring new knowledge and enhancing safety standards. As for the Cooperation Network Hub, this is 'a new form of scientific and technical cooperation within the SCO, proposed by China. It opens up further opportunities for the exchange of scientific achievements and more'⁴. After all, scientists' laboratory developments must be turned into real industrial prototypes as quickly as possible and contribute to economic development. So, collaboration will help to achieve this.

In December last year, agreements were also signed in the fields of laser technologies, microelectronics, heat and mass transfer, new materials and technical acoustics. For instance, the Institute of Technical Acoustics of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the Institute of New Materials of the Shandong Provincial Academy of Sciences decided to establish an International Centre for Joint Research and Development. Meanwhile, the A.V. Lykov Institute of Heat and Mass Transfer of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the Institute of New Materials of the Shandong Provincial Academy of Sciences signed an agreement on the joint establishment of an international laboratory. Among other documents approved at were agreements on cooperation in research and development and on a scientific and technical project between the B.I. Stepanov Institute of Physics of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the Institute of Laser Technology of the Shandong Provincial Academy of Sciences. Furthermore, plans include the creation of an online platform for Sino-Belarusian technology transfer. A corresponding cooperation agreement was signed between the Republican Centre for Technology Transfer of the

⁴ Belarus and the Chinese province of Shandong have signed a package of documents on scientific cooperation [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-kitajskaia-provintsija-shandun-podpisali-paket-dokumentov-o-nauchnom-sotrudnichestve-753206-2025/>

National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, the Qingdao Centre for Marine Science and Technology, and Aston Engineering Technology Transfer Co., Ltd. of Qingdao.

It should be noted that, to date, “the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus has concluded more than 80 cooperation agreements with Chinese partners”⁵. Nevertheless, as early as April this year, the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus discussed the prospects for bilateral scientific and technical cooperation, including in the field of combined materials processing technologies, and the potential for synergy between laser technologies and magnetic pulse processing, which opens up new horizons for the creation of high-tech products, with the Chinese Institute of Optics and Electronic Information, and plans were made to ‘open a joint laboratory as part of the global “Belt and Road” initiative’⁶. Discussions also centred on joint participation in a competition for flagship Belarusian-Chinese scientific and technical projects and in a major specialised exhibition in the field of optics and electronics, to be held in Wuhan in 2026.

In April of this year, the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus held discussions with a delegation from the Jiangsu Provincial Department of Education and Nanjing University on the prospects for expanding bilateral scientific and technical cooperation, as well as specific areas for joint research in the field of information and communication technologies, the development of functional materials and specialised technical solutions. The participants noted that ‘deepening partnerships between Belarusian and Chinese scientific and educational institutions will undoubtedly give new impetus to the development of our cooperation, whilst the implementation of joint scientific projects will enable us to consolidate best practices and resources, thereby accelerating the pace of innovation’⁷.

In May 2026, a meeting was held at the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus with the Xinjiang Entrepreneurs Association (EMBA) and Jiangsu Mubang International Information Technology, at which Belarusian scientists expressed their interest “in developing cooperation with Chinese partners in the field of innovation”⁸ and discussed promising areas of collaboration

⁵ The National Academy of Sciences of Belarus is stepping up cooperation with the PRC in the fields of biotechnology and microelectronics [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/nan-belarusi-aktiviziruet-sotrudnichestvo-s-knr-v-oblasti-biotekhnologii-i-mikroelektroniki-769235-2026/>

⁶ The National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the Chinese Institute of Optics and Electronic Information plan to open a joint laboratory [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/nan-belarusi-i-institut-optiki-i-elektronnoi-informaniki-kitaja-planiruiut-otkryt-sovmestnuui-774055-2026/>

⁷ ICT and materials science. The National Academy of Sciences of Belarus discussed expanding cooperation with Jiangsu Province [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/sfera-ikt-materialovedenie-v-nan-belarusi-obsudili-rasshirenie-sotrudnichestva-s-provintsiei-izsiansu-775894-2026/>

⁸ The National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and Chinese companies have identified prospects for cooperation in the field of innovation [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/nan-belarusi-i-kitaiskie-kompanii-opredelili-perspektivy-sotrudnichestva-v-sfere-innovatsii-7791412026/>

between organisations of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and these Chinese partners, including in the fields of mechanical engineering, unmanned vehicles, highly automated and robotic systems, laser technology, optics, and information and communication technologies.

Two weeks later, in the Belarusian capital, the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, the Minsk City Clinical Oncology Centre and the Beijing-based medical technology company GoBroad signed a cooperation and partnership agreement, which “opens up new horizons for the development of medicine and science, laying a solid foundation for fruitful and long-term cooperation. Within the framework of this collaboration, particular attention is to be paid to improving the quality of healthcare provided”⁹. The parties will actively exchange best practice and knowledge in the field of modern medical technologies, including their development, implementation and promotion. There are also plans to implement joint scientific, clinical and educational initiatives, as well as to organise joint scientific events such as forums, round-table discussions and conferences. It should be noted that the Beijing-based GoBroad Healthcare Group is a high-tech medical group founded in 2017. In fact, it is a network of leading research clinics and laboratories in China specialising in the complex diagnosis and treatment of critical cases, particularly in the fields of oncohaematology and cell therapy.

In May of this year, the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus hosted a Belarusian-Chinese scientific and practical seminar entitled ‘Modern Biotechnologies: Current Trends and Prospects for Development’, attended by leading scientists and specialists in the field of biotechnology from the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the Chinese Academy of Sciences,

who discussed promising areas for the development of the biotechnology sector and exchanged experiences and best practices covering a wide range of topics, from fundamental research to applied developments. During the seminar, it was noted that cooperation between the two academies of sciences had reached a qualitatively new level, particularly in fields such as ‘biotechnology and medicine, optics and optoelectronics, materials science, information technology and artificial intelligence, and space research...’¹⁰.

And finally, in June 2025, the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus (NASB) and the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) signed an agreement on scientific and technical cooperation and an action plan to intensify cooperation for the period 2025–2030, aimed at strengthening the scientific

⁹ Partners from Belarus and China have signed a new agreement in the field of medical technology [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/novoe-soglasenie-v-oblasti-meditsiny-i-podpisali-partnery-iz-belarusi-i-kitaya-781549-2026/>

and technical capabilities of Belarus and China, develop and expand relations between the two countries, and to promote scientific and technical cooperation and the practical implementation of joint activities in areas of science and technology of mutual interest. These documents set out the main objectives of cooperation between scientists from the two countries: ‘creating favourable conditions for organising joint research projects, commercialising the results of joint activities in both countries, exchanging ideas and information, and jointly utilising the scientific infrastructure of both countries’^{10 11}. The National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the Chinese Academy of Sciences plan to establish joint centres and laboratories based at the academies of sciences of both countries and the China-Belarusian industrial park ‘Velikiy Kamen’, to carry out joint research and scientific and technical activities across a wide range of fields, and to organise internships and training at master’s and postgraduate levels at the academies’ universities. The following areas have been identified as priorities areas have been identified as priorities:

microelectronics and instrument engineering, mechanical engineering—including developments in the field of electric transport—as well as space, optical and laser technologies, information technology and artificial intelligence. Scientists from both countries will cooperate in the fields of energy, nanomaterials and nanotechnologies, biotechnology and medicine, chemical technologies, ecology and environmental protection. Attention will also be paid to topics such as the preservation of the historical and cultural heritage of the peoples of both countries.

And in May 2026, the State Committee for Science and Technology of Belarus (SCST) and the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology announced two calls for proposals: firstly, for flagship scientific and technical projects for the period 2027–2030; secondly, for scientific and technical projects for the period 2027–2029. The first competition covers areas such as the digitalisation of mechanical engineering and transport equipment; new materials with specified properties; plasma, optical and laser technologies and equipment; mathematical theories and methods, high-performance computing systems, digital models and digital twins. It also covers innovative technologies in the agro-industrial complex and the food industry; biological, chemical-pharmaceutical and medical technologies; biological and environmental safety; and space and aviation technologies.

¹⁰ The National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the Chinese Academy of Sciences discussed conducting joint research [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/nan-belarusi-i-kitaiskai-a-akademii-a-nauk-obsudili-provedenie-sovmestnyh-issledovaniy-7828452026/>

¹¹ The HAH of Belarus and the Chinese Academy of Sciences have signed a cooperation agreement [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/nan-belarusi-i-kitaiskai-a-akademii-a-nauk-podpisali-soglasenie-o-sotrudnichestve-719187-2025/>

Following the competition, it is planned to select up to ten large-scale joint projects, the outcomes of which should lead to the creation of cutting-edge technologies and the establishment of joint ventures or industrial technology centres based on them. The duration of the projects is up to three years. The second competition will cover the following areas: ‘the digital economy and artificial intelligence; innovative technologies in industry; biological and medical technologies; and innovative technologies in the agro-industrial complex and the food industry. The duration of the projects is up to two years’¹². If the duration of a project is dictated by the technological specifics of the work and this is confirmed by the State Expert Council following a state scientific and technical expert review, the project duration may be extended by agreement with the State Committee for Science and Technology.

All this indicates that China is one of Belarus’s key strategic partners in the fields of science, technology and high-tech manufacturing. Furthermore, cooperation with Chinese research centres and enterprises is one of the priority areas for the development of Belarusian scientists’ international activities.

¹² Calls for proposals announced for Belarusian-Chinese flagship and scientific and technical projects [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/obitav/inv- konkursov-belorusko-kitaiskikh-flagmanskikh-i-nauchno-tehnicheskikh-proektov-779399-2026/>

CHAPTER 2

India: on the basis of trade and economic pragmatism

In 2027, Belarus and India will mark the 35th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. Today, the two countries are focused on strengthening economic ties and expanding cooperation in the field of technology. The parties believe that ‘the time has come to move beyond the traditional strengths of bilateral trade and explore new product categories and areas of cooperation’¹³. Statistics show that over the last three years, bilateral trade between Minsk and New Delhi has grown by more than a quarter. Foreign trade between the countries is diversified. “Belarus supplies the Indian market with chemical products, wood products and light industrial goods, in particular Belarusian flax. Indian electrical goods, food products and textiles are popular on the Belarusian market”¹⁴.

In 2026, Belarus and India will hold the 12th meeting of the bilateral Intergovernmental Commission (IGC) on cooperation in trade, the economy, science, technology and culture in Minsk, at which they will discuss the progress of the roadmap for developing key areas of cooperation for 2024–2026. It should be recalled that in November 2022, the 11th meeting of the IGC took place in New Delhi, where the parties reviewed the results achieved and identified promising projects in strategic areas of cooperation. During the discussion of the commission’s agenda, it was noted that over the past 30 years, Belarusian-Indian cooperation has strengthened in virtually all areas of mutual interest, reaching a high-quality and effective level of bilateral contacts. This is despite the considerable geographical distance between the two countries. Nevertheless, “Belarus regards the development of full-scale cooperation with India as one of the priority areas of its foreign policy”¹⁵. In this regard, the Belarusian government has approved a roadmap for the development of key areas of cooperation with this South Asian state, which is reflected in the minutes of the 11th meeting of the commission, where ‘the full spectrum of bilateral cooperation issues was considered, primarily regarding the development of cooperation in the fields of logistics, industrial cooperation, agriculture, finance, healthcare and pharmaceuticals, as well as

¹³ Kumar, A. Bollywood in Belarus, BELAZ trucks in Indian mines: the Indian ambassador on the strong friendship with our country / Ashok Kumar // [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://belta.by/interview/view/bolivud-v-belarusi-belazv-na-indiskih-shahтах-posol-indii-o-prochnoi-druzhe-s-nashei-stranoi-9937/>

¹⁴ Trade turnover between Belarus and India has grown by more than a quarter over three years [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/tovarooborot-belarusi-i-indii-za-tri-goda-vyros-bolee-chem-na-chetvert-765154-2026/>

¹⁵ Makey: Despite the challenging global situation, cooperation with India is progressing positively [Online source]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/politics/view/makei-nesmotria-na-slozhnuiu-obstanoirovuiu-situatsiu-sotrudnichestvo-s-indiei-idet-v-pozitivnom-534208-2022/>

in science, education, tourism and other sectors’¹⁶. This concerns significant Belarusian-Indian projects in the trade, economic and investment spheres, which can be implemented through the joint efforts of the partners in various areas.

Firstly, regarding trade cooperation, it is worth noting that in 2021, bilateral trade between Belarus and India amounted to 567 million dollars. At the same time, ‘the largest share of exports from Belarus to India is traditionally accounted for by potash fertilisers, followed by nitrogen fertilisers, then raw materials for tyres and certain types of steel. India mainly supplies Belarus with medicines, raw materials for tobacco products, processed tobacco products, cotton yarn, electrical transformers, tea, coffee, rice and certain nylon products’¹⁷. During the 11th meeting of the commission, the Belarusian side focused on opportunities to increase supplies of potash fertilisers to India, as well as on the export of mining dump trucks, agricultural products, linen fabric, medicines, petrochemical products and wood products. In particular, the Belarusian Automobile Plant (BELAZ) is actively expanding its exports to the Indian market, having shipped a new consignment of vehicles to India in August 2022. “On this occasion, the Indian customer opted for 220-tonne BELAZ-7530 series mining dump trucks. The technical solutions incorporated into these heavy-duty vehicles are optimised for their operating conditions. The dump trucks are equipped with high-performance air conditioning units, a load and fuel monitoring system, a 360-degree active video surveillance system, and a smart lighting system”¹⁸. It remains to be added that, for two and a half years, BELAZ quarry dump trucks with a load capacity of 136 tonnes operated in conditions of extremely high temperatures – up to 50 degrees – in a coal quarry in the Indian state of Chhattisgarh. And the Belarusian machinery proved itself to be of the highest standard.

Secondly, the Belarusian partners are ready to ‘provide support to the growing Indian industrial cluster, including participation in government programmes such as “Make in India” and the modernisation of the Indian agricultural sector. Both sides are making progress on the establishment in India of an assembly plant

production of Belarusian tractors, combine harvesters and other agricultural

¹⁶ Agreements at ministerial and major business levels. Makei’s visit to India took place [Online resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/politics/view/dopovorennosti-na-urovne-ministerstv-i-krupnogo-biznesa-sostoja-sia-vizit-makeia-v-indiju-534194-2022/>

¹⁷ Ambassador: India and Belarus are seeking ways to overcome difficulties in bilateral trade [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/posol-india-i-belarus-ischut-nuti-preodoletia-slozhnostei-vo-vzaimnoi-torgovle-518941-2022/>

¹⁸ BELAZ is expanding its exports to India [Online resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belaz-razvivayet-postavki-produktsii-v-indiju-517579-2022/>

machinery in India’¹⁹. Thirdly, Belarusian specialists can assist in the development of India’s urban infrastructure as part of the government’s ‘Smart Cities’ programme and export environmentally friendly electric buses manufactured by leading Belarusian enterprises – the Minsk Automobile Plant and ‘Belkommunmash’. Fourthly, the parties have promising plans for the further development of economic cooperation in the agricultural sector, including the exchange of technologies and know-how in crop cultivation, and the expansion of supplies to the Indian market of a range of Belarusian meat and dairy products.

Fifthly, Belarus and India are developing their scientific, technical and innovative ties very effectively. In particular, ‘at the end of 2021, exports of high-tech goods to India amounted to \$343.1 million’²⁰. Furthermore, the State Committee for Science and Technology of Belarus and the Ministry of Science and Technology of India organised a competition for joint Belarusian-Indian scientific and technical projects for 2022–2023 in areas such as information and communication technologies, with a focus on artificial intelligence, the Internet of Things, machine learning, cloud services, new materials, and biotechnology, including medicine and pharmaceuticals. Sixthly, as regards the Indian side, it has three ideas that hold great potential for cooperation with Belarus. “The first is tourism. The second is IT, IT opportunities; the third is current research and production”²¹. Overall, the 11th session of the Intergovernmental Commission demonstrated that “India is one of Belarus’s partner countries in Asia, with which large-scale interaction is developing across all areas of cooperation”²², with the ultimate aim of establishing strategic relations between Minsk and New Delhi.

A year and a half later, in March 2024, the head of the Belarusian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, S. Aleinik, paid a visit to India, during which the parties once again held in-depth talks – ranging from politics to humanitarian cooperation – with a particular focus on the economy and the economic dimension of bilateral relations. The fact is that, in the current climate, the Indian Government is prioritising ambitious plans to build economic

¹⁹ Belarus and India are finalising preparations for the launch of a direct flight between the two capitals [Online resource]. – 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/politics/view/belarus-i-india-zavershai-ut-rabotu-po-zapusku-priamogo-rei-sa-mezhdu-stofitsami-534209-2022/>

²⁰ Belarus and India intend to develop scientific, technical and innovation cooperation [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-india-namereny-razvivat-nauchno-tehnicheskoe-i-innovatsionnoe-sotrudnichestvo-501726-2022/>

²¹ Tourism, IT, cutting-edge developments. In which areas is India interested in cooperating with Belarus? [Online resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/mrizm-it-peredovye-razrabotki-v-kakih-sferah-india-zainteresovana-v-sotrudnichestve-s-belarusiu-503301-2022/>

²² Zaleski, B.L. The Indian Dimension of Belarusian Regions / B.L. Zaleski // Proceedings of the 17th International Scientific and Practical Conference “The Scientific Space of Europe – 2022”, Volume 2. Przemysł: Nauka i studia. – p. 10.

capacity, launch major infrastructure projects and develop industrial cooperation, and is creating the necessary conditions to achieve this. This is the foundation upon which Belarusian-Indian trade and economic relations. All the more so as the Indian Government is paying particular attention to the development of the microelectronics, semiconductors, 'green' energy and engineering sectors. This creates the conditions for enterprises within the Belarusian industrial sector "to enter the Indian market, set up assembly plants and localise production, primarily in the fields of agricultural machinery, mining equipment and passenger transport"²³.

At the same time, in March 2024, a memorandum of cooperation was signed between OJSC "MAZ" – the managing company of the "BELAVTOMAZ" holding – and an Indian company, which "will facilitate the development of trade turnover, provide after-sales service, engineering and information support for the MAZ brand. With its assistance, the Minsk Automobile Plant intends to participate in major tenders"²⁴. In February 2025, a representative office of OJSC "MAZ" – the managing company of the "BELAVTOMAZ" holding – was officially opened in New Delhi; it will help to establish business ties with Indian manufacturers of components, raw materials and supplies, as well as machine tools. This suggests that MAZ views India "not only as a base for the supply of components and equipment, but also as a huge sales market. Consequently, the process of deepening bilateral cooperation is actively underway"²⁵.

In September 2025, Belarus and India agreed to jointly establish tractor assembly plants. Cooperation has already been established between the Minsk Tractor Works and the Indian company Bopayka. "The companies have agreed to exchange parts and technologies, and have also expressed their intention to sign a memorandum on the establishment of assembly plants for Indian

'tractors in Belarus and Belarusian tractors in India'²⁶. Meanwhile, BELAZ continues to fulfil a long-term contract, including after-sales support and the supply of spare parts. The machinery is in operation at sites belonging to the state-owned enterprise Coal India, the country's largest coal producer.

"Almost 100 BELAZ tractors continue to operate successfully. We expect that up to 20 more machines may

²³ Transcript of Minister S. Aleinik's summary of the results of his visit to India (13 March 2024, Delhi) [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL:

https://mfa.gov.by/press/news_mfaZddfdfa952e500980.html

²⁴ MAZ has signed a memorandum of cooperation with an Indian company [Online resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/maz-podpisal-memorandum-o-sotrudnichestve-s-indijskoi-kompaniei-620490-2024/>

²⁵ MAZ representative office officially opened in New Delhi [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL:

<https://belta.by/economics/view/predstavitelstvo-maza-ofitsialno-otkrylos-v-nju-delii-699155-2025/>

²⁶ Belarus and India have agreed to jointly establish tractor assembly plants [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-india-dogovorilis-ob-obojudnom-sozdanii-sborochnykh-proizvodstv-tractorov-738090-2025/>

well be delivered here”²⁷. Meanwhile, another Indian company is keen to collaborate with the leading Belarusian truck manufacturer.

Looking back to March 2024, it is worth noting that at that time the National Marketing Centre (NMC) of Belarus agreed to cooperate with Indian business associations. In particular, the NMC signed a cooperation agreement with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI). “An agreement was reached with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) to organise targeted events aimed at boosting bilateral cooperation in the field of mechanical engineering”²⁸. At a meeting with the Innovation Chamber of Commerce and Industry of India, the parties noted the need for representatives of the tourism sector to establish direct dialogue at company level, and also agreed to hold a series of joint sector-specific online events in the near future. Meanwhile, representatives of the National Centre for Machinery (NCM) discussed a roadmap with the Centre for Business and Corporate Services to strengthen links between Belarusian enterprises and the business community in Mumbai.

Last November, a meeting took place in Minsk between the Belarusian Head of State and the Head of the Indian diplomatic mission in Belarus, at which it was emphasised that trade and economic cooperation between the two countries has been developing successfully in recent years. By the end of 2024, bilateral trade stood at almost five hundred million dollars, an increase of 14 per cent compared with 2023. In the first three quarters of 2025, ‘trade in goods exceeded \$605 million, which is almost 74 per cent higher than in the same period of 2024. Meanwhile, Belarusian exports grew 2.7-fold to \$415 million, resulting in a positive trade balance’²⁹. The volume of trade in services also increased. In 2024, it grew 2.6-fold compared with 2023, amounting to around \$125 million, whilst in the first nine months of last year it rose by 12 per cent, reaching almost \$90 million. These figures demonstrate the vast potential that the parties still need to tap into, particularly by opening up new export markets and implementing joint bilateral projects in various sectors, so that the 12th session of the Intergovernmental Commission, where the current prospects for Belarusian-Indian relations will be discussed, may open a new chapter in relations

²⁷ Supply of BELAZ trucks, establishment of a tractor assembly plant. Ambassador on cooperation between Belarus and India [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/postavka-belazov-sozdanie-sborochnogo-proizvodstva-tractorov-posol-o-sotmidnichestve-belarusi-i-indii-763363-2026/>

²⁸ Belarus National Marketing Centre has agreed on cooperation with Indian business associations [Online resource]. - 2024. - URL:

<https://belta.by/economics/view/natsionalnyi-tsentr-marketinga-belarusi-dogovorisia-o-sotmidnichestve-s-dejovymi-assotsiatsiami-indii-621178-2024/>

²⁹ Furniture and timber, dairy products, BELAZ trucks. The Ambassador highlighted India's interest in Belarusian goods and products [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/mebel-i-drevestina-molochka-belazy-posol-oboznachil-interes-indii-k-belorusskim-tovaram-i-produktsii-746852-2025/>

between Belarus and India.

Among the most important areas of Belarusian-Indian cooperation to be discussed at the 12th session of the JCC will be the healthcare sector. Indeed, investment projects in the pharmaceutical sector involving Indian capital and technology are currently being implemented in Belarus. “The joint production of modern medicines is a key and promising area of bilateral cooperation”³⁰. Furthermore, an increasing number of students from India are coming to our country. A large number of Indian medical students – already around one thousand – are studying at Belarusian state medical universities, undergoing professional retraining and enhancing their qualifications. “The vast majority of them are studying medicine in Minsk, Grodno, Vitebsk and Gomel”³¹.

In March 2026, Minsk hosted the India–Belarus pharmaceutical business forum, organised on the initiative of Pharmexcil, the Indian Council for the Export of Pharmaceutical Products, which brought together more than 60 Indian manufacturers of pharmaceutical, cosmetics and dietary supplements, as well as at least 80 representatives of Belarusian enterprises. This forum served as further evidence that, for both Belarus and India, the pharmaceutical sector is of strategic importance and one of the most dynamically developing sectors of the economy. Suffice it to say that in Belarus, over the past five years, the average annual growth rate of pharmaceutical production has exceeded 10 per cent, and exports are now made to 30 countries worldwide. At the same time, the Belarusian pharmaceutical industry remains focused on growth, increasing local production and expanding retail demand. ‘Over the five years from 2019 to 2024, the volume of pharmaceutical production increased by approximately 80 per cent, with an average annual growth rate of around 13.2 per cent, making the pharmaceutical sector one of the fastest-growing in the country’³².

India, meanwhile, is a recognised global leader in the pharmaceutical sector, accounting for “around 10 per cent of total global pharmaceutical production. By the end of 2025, exports had exceeded \$15 billion. India ranks third in

³⁰ Khodzhaev: Investment projects in the pharmaceutical sector involving India are being implemented in Belarus [Online source]. - 2026. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/hodzhaev-v-belarusi-realizatsiya-investirovki-v-farmatsevticheskoj-sfere-s-uchastiem-indii-761092-2026/>.

³¹ Medical education and retraining. Around 1,000 Indian students are studying at Belarusian universities [Electronic resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://belta.by/special/societv/view/meditsinskoe-obrazovanie-i-perepodgotovka-okolo-1-tys.-indijskih-studentov-obuchaiutsia-v-belorusskikh-761043-2026/>.

³² The third meeting of the Belarusian-Indian working group on pharmaceuticals is scheduled for June 2026 [Electronic resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://belta.by/special/societv/view/tretie-zasedanie-belorussko-indijskoi-rabochei-gruppy-po-farmatsevtike-planiruetsia-v-ii-une-2026-goda-770534-2026/>.

terms of the volume of medicines exported to more than 200 countries and is known as the ‘pharmacy of the world’ for its high-quality generics”³³. And here’s another fact: according to forecasts, the global pharmaceutical market is set to double in size by 2035, reaching a staggering three and a half trillion dollars. These facts clearly demonstrate the importance and promising prospects of building mutually beneficial Belarusian-Indian cooperation in this sector. All the more so given that, over the past three decades or so, India and Belarus have developed a strong multilateral partnership in the pharmaceutical industry.

Back in 2017, the two countries established a joint working group on pharmaceuticals to develop bilateral cooperation in this field; its first meeting took place in New Delhi, whilst the second was held virtually in 2023. The group’s third meeting is scheduled for June 2026. At this forum, the collaboration between the Belarusian state-owned enterprise ‘Akademfarm’ and two Indian pharmaceutical manufacturers – Cipla and Reliance Life Sciences – was cited as an example of successful cooperation. A key area of cooperation between Belarus and India is the deepening of technological collaboration in fields such as the secondary packaging of Indian medicines at the Belarusian enterprise’s facilities, technology transfer in the field of pharmaceutical production from leading Indian manufacturers, the establishment of joint production sites, and contract manufacturing for subsequent export to the markets of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU).

In addition, a project was launched at the forum to establish an international research centre, whose remit will include the following activities: ‘conducting research, including on behalf of foreign partners; preparing and reviewing registration dossiers in accordance with EAEU regulations; refining production technologies through pilot batches; organising clinical trials within the EAEU; and developing and validating new methods for the control of active substances and finished medicinal products’³⁴. The establishment of such a centre will help to increase the output of new, knowledge-intensive finished products with a high degree of localisation.

India, meanwhile, is counting on cooperation with Belarus in the field of the traditional Indian system of medicine known as AYUSH: Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha and homeopathy. “The Indian side has already submitted a memorandum of understanding on this matter to the Belarusian government

³³ BelTIP: Businesses in Belarus and India are interested in implementing joint projects [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL:

<https://belta.by/economics/view/beltrn-biznes-belarusi-i-indii-zainteresovan-v-realizatsii-sovmestnyh-proektov-770570-2026/>

³⁴ An international pharmaceutical research centre is to be established in Belarus [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL:

<https://belta.by/society/view/v-belarusi-sozhdadut-mezhdunarodnyi-nauchno-issledovatel'skii-tsentr-v-oblasti-farmatsevtiki-770562-2026/>

for consideration”³⁵. The embassy of this South Asian country in Minsk has also opened an AYUSH information centre at its premises to promote these health systems and disseminate information about them. All this will not only lead to new business opportunities between the countries, but also create opportunities for joint research and development of medicines and pharmaceutical products.

And finally, the India–Belarus Pharmaceutical Business Forum, held in Minsk in March this year, highlighted new opportunities for developing cooperation in this sector. The parties are counting on a further strengthening of business ties between Belarus and India. This is all the more so given that 2026 is set to see not only the 12th meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission, but also the 10th meeting of the Joint Working Group on Science and Technology, at which the current prospects for bilateral projects and new areas of partnership will be discussed, including in the fields of healthcare and pharmaceuticals.

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³⁵ India looks forward to cooperation with Belarus in the field of traditional medicine [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/india-rasschitvvaet-na-sotrudnichestvo-s-belarusiu-v-oblasti-traditsionnoi-mediciny-770558-2026/>

CHAPTER 3

Vietnam: the main objective is to strengthen trade and economic cooperation

Back in May 2025, T. Lam, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam, paid a visit to Belarus, during which the authorities in Minsk and Hanoi signed a Joint Statement on the establishment of a strategic partnership for the immediate and medium term. This document marked a new milestone in relations between the two countries, setting out the key priorities for bilateral cooperation, and served as a guide for both sides in drawing up joint plans and programmes. After all, “Vietnam is one of Belarus’s key partners in South-East Asia, and our cooperation is based on sincere friendship, mutual respect and support”³⁶.

Following the summit talks, a package of documents was also signed. In particular, the defence ministries of Belarus and Vietnam adopted a protocol of intent to strengthen cooperation in the field of training military personnel and specialists. A memorandum of understanding on cooperation in the field of digital transformation and the digital economy was concluded between the Ministry of Communications and Informatisation of Belarus and the Ministry of Science and Technology of Vietnam. A similar document in the field of science, technology and innovation was also signed with the Vietnamese side by the State Committee for Science and Technology of Belarus. “The Ministry of Culture of Belarus has concluded a programme of cooperation in the field of culture for 2026–2028 with the Ministry of Culture, Sport and Tourism of Vietnam. A cooperation programme for 2025–2027 has been signed between the Ministries of Justice. The Ministries of Health of Belarus and Vietnam have exchanged the texts of the memorandum of cooperation in the pharmaceutical sector that has been concluded”³⁷. In addition, a cooperation agreement was signed between the National State Television and Radio Company of Belarus and Voice of Vietnam Radio, whilst a memorandum of understanding was signed between the Belarusian Society for Friendship and Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries and the Vietnam Union of Friendship Organisations. And in the near future, the parties will adopt a ‘roadmap’ – a plan of joint action for the next three years or more.

Among the most important areas of cooperation envisaged in this plan are the

³⁶ Belarus and Vietnam have established a strategic partnership [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/president/view/belarus-i-vietnam-ustanovili-uroven-strategicheskogo-partnerstva-714295-2025/>

³⁷ Belarus and Vietnam have signed a package of documents following talks between Lukashenko and To Lam in Minsk [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/president/view/belarus-i-vietnam-podpisali-paket-dokumentov-po-3tozgam-peregovorov-lukashenko-i-to-lama-v-minske-714299-2025/>

resumption of regular supplies of Belarusian quarrying machinery, lorries and BELARUS tractors, and the establishment of joint production facilities. Specifically, this involves maximising the pace of the project to establish, on Vietnamese soil, ‘joint production of Belarusian tractors, as well as machinery from the Minsk Automobile Plant, including for supply to other countries in the region’³⁸. To be more specific about which tractor is planned for assembly at the joint production facility in Vietnam, the project is starting with a 50-horsepower range. In the future, it could potentially be expanded to include any models or variants available in the tractor factory’s range. It is worth noting that, throughout the history of Belarusian tractor exports to this South-East Asian country, just under 15,000 machines have been exported. And today, “there are plans to assemble the 50-horsepower BELARUS 451 tractor for use on rice paddies in both wet and dry conditions. Localisation of the product will be at least 45 per cent”³⁹. It is expected that this production facility will manufacture at least 1,000 units. As part of plans to develop industrial cooperation, during the negotiations the Vietnamese side discussed with their Belarusian partners, with keen interest, the production of fire engines and “specialised buses for transporting schoolchildren, which could become another area of cooperation between the two countries”⁴⁰.

Another interesting topic to be included in the ‘roadmap’ is the supply of Belarusian food products to the Vietnamese market. In 2024, exports of these products totalled just over six million dollars. ‘Belarus currently supplies Vietnam with dairy products and dried milk products. Whole milk packaged in Tetra Pak cartons is in particularly high demand’⁴¹. And in the near future, the Belarusian side will establish supplies of beef to the market of this country. The relevant veterinary certificates have already been confirmed by the Vietnamese side. Similar work is already underway to obtain these certificates for supplies of pork and poultry.

The Belarusian side also expressed its readiness to step up cooperation with Vietnamese partners on the digitalisation of administrative procedures – one of Vietnam’s priority areas for development. The Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Communications and Informatisation

³⁸ Belarus has reached an agreement with Vietnam on the establishment of joint ventures to manufacture MAZ tractors and machinery [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/nresident/view/belarus-dogovorilas-s-vietnamom-o-sozdanii-sovmestnyh-proizvodstv-tractorov-i-tehniki-maz-714302-2025/>.

³⁹ MTZ has revealed which tractor model is planned to be assembled at the joint production facility in Vietnam [Electronic source]. - 2025. - URL:

<https://belta.by/economics/view/kakuiu-model-traktora-planiruiut-sobirat-na-sovmestnom-proizvodstve-vo-vietname-rasskazali-na-mpz-714396-2025/>

⁴⁰ New horizons for cooperation. Turchin outlined the prospects for industrial cooperation with Vietnam [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/politics/view/novye-gorizonty-sotrudnichestva-turchin-oboznachil-nerspektivy-nomkooperatsii-s-vietnamom-714395-2025/>

⁴¹ Belarus is set to begin supplying beef to the Vietnamese market in the near future [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-v-blizhai-shee-vremia-naladit-postavki-goviadiny-na-rynok-vietnama-714260-2025/>

of Belarus and the Ministry of Science and Technology of Vietnam on cooperation in the field of digital transformation and the digital economy, mentioned above, provides for ‘the exchange of experience and cooperation in the field of digital transformation and the digital economy, the development of digital research and development centres, the exchange of experience in promoting innovation, and the exchange of knowledge, experience and best practice in the field of new and emerging digital technologies, such as artificial intelligence’⁴². Thus, interaction and collaboration under the memorandum will contribute to the development of the scientific and technological potential of both countries and the expansion of the digital technology market.

As regards cultural cooperation, the parties plan to hold the Vietnam Cultural Days in Belarus in 2027 to mark the 35th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. The programme signed for 2026–2028 “provides for coverage of all areas of cultural interaction: performing arts, visual arts, folk arts and circus arts, as well as exchanges of artistic groups and delegations to take part in international festivals, seminars, conferences and forums on culture and the arts held in both countries”⁴³. This will help to strengthen cultural ties and enable the people of Belarus and Vietnam to learn about the history and diversity of the world’s national cultures.

Finally, as part of this visit, a meeting took place between the Chairman of the Minsk City Executive Committee, V. Kukharev, and a delegation from the Hanoi People’s Committee, during which the parties discussed prospects for further cooperation in the fields of the economy, industry, healthcare, education, culture and tourism. Particular attention was paid to trade and economic ties – . It should be recalled that the agreement on friendly relations between Minsk and Hanoi was signed in 2004, whilst the cooperation programme for 2024–2026 was signed in 2023. In 2024, trade turnover between Minsk and Vietnam exceeded 120 million dollars. The Belarusian capital exports fertilisers, medicines, medical equipment, as well as machinery and measuring instruments to Hanoi. Imports from Vietnam include rubber, electronics, clothing, fish and rice. The parties see great potential in the development of their respective capitals. ‘Concrete projects’ are already underway: the pharmaceutical company ‘Minskintercaps’

⁴² Belarus is ready to step up cooperation with Vietnam on the digitalisation of administrative procedures [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-gotova-aktivizirovat-sotrudnichestvo-s-vietnamom-po-tsifrovizatsii-adminiroisudur-714484-2025/>

⁴³ Vietnamese Culture Days are planned to be held in Belarus in 2027 [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/dni-kulturny-vietnama-planiruut-provesti-v-belarusi-v-2027-godu-714327-2025/>

supplies medicines to the Vietnamese market, whilst the Minsk Gear Factory is preparing to ship products worth almost \$90,000 to a partner in Hanoi.⁴⁴ . And a few more figures. In 2024, institutions in Minsk provided assistance to 252 Vietnamese citizens. The Belarusian side proposed organising training for specialists from Hanoi at leading clinics in the capital, holding online conferences and establishing exchanges of medical delegations. So the two capitals are actively developing relations across a wide range of areas. More generally, with regard to Belarusian-Vietnamese inter-regional cooperation, it is worth noting that an intergovernmental Agreement on the Principles of Cooperation between the local executive and administrative bodies of Belarus and the local executive bodies of Vietnam has been in force since October 2009. Since then, 14 foundational cooperation agreements have been signed between cities and regions of Belarus and cities and provinces of Vietnam, which ‘are intended to facilitate the implementation of joint cooperative and cultural-humanitarian projects’⁴⁵ . Apart from the Belarusian capital, other Belarusian regions actively involved in inter-regional cooperation between the two countries can also be cited as examples. For instance, the Minsk Region’s main partner in Vietnam is Hung Yên Province, which specialises in the cultivation of rice, saffron and tropical fruits.

Here is another example. ‘Further impetus for the development of Belarusian-Vietnamese inter-regional cooperation,

“This is undoubtedly reinforced by the cooperation agreement signed in July 2017 between the Brest Region and Laokai Province, , which provides for the strengthening of partnership ties in the trade, economic, scientific, technical and cultural spheres”⁴⁶ . In August 2025, the Belarusian side delivered a consignment of quarry dump lorries manufactured by the Belarusian Automobile Plant to the same province – Laokai. At the same time, agreements were signed “between OJSC ‘Belshina’ and the company ‘Automotive Industry’ for the shipment of 500 tonnes of natural rubber and a contract for the supply of two containers of tyres for BELAZ dump lorries”⁴⁷ . It should be noted here that as far back as 2024, the Vietnamese government approved a plan for economic growth in the country’s northern, central and

⁴⁴ Kukharev: Minsk and Hanoi have great potential for cooperation [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL:

<https://belta.by/society/view/kukharev-n-minska-i-hanoia-est-boishoi-potentsial-dlia-vzaimodeistviia-714275-2025/>

⁴⁵ Belarus and Vietnam are keen to expand inter-regional cooperation [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL:

<https://belta.by/politics/view/belarus-i-vietnam-zainteresovany-rasshiriti-mezhregionalnoe-sotrudnichestvo-734752-2025/>

⁴⁶ Zaleski, B. Window of Opportunity – Asia. A chronicle of mutually beneficial cooperation between Belarus and the countries of the continent / Boris Zaleski. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2026. – p. 74.

⁴⁷ Boosting overall economic potential. Belarus and Vietnam expand technological cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL:

<https://belta.by/economics/view/povyshit-obschii-ekonomicheskii-potentsial-belarus-i-vietnam-rasshiritiut-tehnologicheskuiu-kooperatsiu-734756-2025/>

mountainous regions up to 2030, with a long-term outlook to 2050, in which Lao Cai Province is identified as one of six growth poles, alongside the provinces of Thai Nguyen, Bac Giang, Son La, Lang Son and Phu Tho, where ‘the main focus will be on developing the mining industry in conjunction with efficient and resource-saving processing, ensuring compliance with environmental standards for minerals such as apatite, copper and iron’⁴⁸. And here, of course, Belarusian quarry dump lorries will be needed.

Furthermore, there are plans to expand sales and the assembly production of vehicles by the Minsk Automobile Plant (MAZ) in order to carry out “the assembly of right-hand-drive MAZ vehicles for sale to third countries”⁴⁹. It should be noted that a production facility for specialised vehicles based on MAZ chassis has been operating in Hung Yên Province since 2019. “And this ‘MAZ Asia’ assembly plant opens up good prospects for operating in the markets of other countries in the region – Indonesia, Malaysia, Cambodia and Laos”⁵⁰. In September 2025, it was announced that an assembly plant for BELARUS tractors would be established in Vietnam. A corresponding licence agreement was signed in Ho Chi Minh City. “Three models of three models of agricultural machinery. The most promising is the BELARUS 451 tractor. It has a power output of 50 horsepower and is designed for work on flooded rice fields”⁵¹. The supply of a trial batch of tractor kits was also agreed.

In September 2025, the Belarus–Vietnam Business Forum was held in Minsk, attended by around fifty Belarusian and more than twenty Vietnamese companies interested in cooperating in the fields of high technology, environmentally friendly agriculture and renewable energy. During the forum, it was announced that in 2024, total bilateral trade had reached just under 250 million dollars. “Vietnam exports seafood, wood products, textiles, footwear, rice and agricultural products to Belarus. Belarus, in turn, supplies <...> its high-quality products: fertilisers, agricultural machinery and industrial equipment”⁵². This suggests that there are still many new

⁴⁸ Lao Cai has been identified as one of six economic growth hubs in the northern, central and mountainous regions [Online resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.vietnam.vn/ru/lao-cai-duoc-xac-dinh-la-1-trong-6-cuc-tang-truong-cua-vung-trong-khu-vuc-trung-du-da-mien-mui-phia-bac>

⁴⁹ Assembly production of Belarusian tractors is planned to start in Vietnam in 2026 [Online source]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belita.by/economics/view/shorochnoe-proizvodstvo-belorusskih-tractorov-planiruiut-zapustit-vo-vietname-v-2026-godu-752883-2025/>

⁵⁰ Zaleski, B. In Focus: A Phased Partnership. Belarus’s Multifaceted Economic Cooperation Across Different Continents / Boris Zaleski. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2025. – p. 16.

⁵¹ MTZ to set up an assembly plant in Vietnam [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belarus-news.by/news/mtz-sozdast-shorochnoe-proizvodstvo-tractorov-vo-vietnam>

⁵² High technology, agriculture, energy. Ambassador on the focus of cooperation between Vietnam and Belarus [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belita.by/economics/view/vysokie-tehnologii-selskoe-hoziaistvo-energetika-posol-ob-aktsentah-sotrudnichestva-vietnama-i-belarusi-738723-2025/>

opportunities for partnership between the two sides, including between the regions of the two countries.

And so, in April 2026, the Brest Region and the province of Lao Cai, with which we are already familiar, signed a Cooperation Programme for 2026–2028 to foster closer collaboration in the industrial sector and agriculture, as well as joint work in the fields of education, healthcare, culture and tourism. In this regard, it is worth noting an interesting fact. ‘Trade turnover between the Brest Region and Vietnam increased by 32 per cent by the end of 2025. The start of this year has also shown positive growth: in two months, trade turnover rose by 32 per cent. And in just five years, it has increased 2.3 times’⁵³. Nevertheless, when signing the new cooperation programme, the parties noted that the existing potential for comprehensive cooperation is far from being fully utilised. For example, the two regions have much in common. ‘Brest is the gateway to Europe; Laokai is a border province linking Asia with China’⁵⁴. The Brest Region has a strong position in processing, logistics and production organisation. In Lao Cai, projects are being actively developed in cross-border trade, logistics, the processing industry, digital transformation and tourism services. Thus, the two regions – the Belarusian region and the Vietnamese province – are keen to engage in close economic cooperation with an investment component. As early as September 2026, a delegation from the Brest Region will pay a return visit to Lao Cai Province to further strengthen trade and economic cooperation and announce new, concrete joint projects.

Among other Vietnamese regions interested in cooperation with Belarusian partners, Khanh Hoa Province is worth noting; in May this year, a presentation was held there on the trade and economic potential of the Republic of Belarus, highlighting the most significant aspects of bilateral Belarusian-Vietnamese cooperation. In this context, ‘particular attention was paid to increasing supplies of agricultural and freight machinery to Khanh Hoa Province, as well as imports of tropical fruit and seafood into Belarus’⁵⁵. The Belarusian side emphasised the organisation of visits by business delegations from Khanh Hoa Province to regions of Belarus to hold a Belarusian-Vietnamese business forum and familiarise themselves with the country’s trade and economic potential. Separate discussions were held on

⁵³ Trade turnover between the Brest Region and Vietnam has increased 2.3-fold over the past five years [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/tovarooborot-mezhdu-brestskoi-oblasti-i-vietnamom-na-piat-let-vvros-v-23-raza-777661-2026/>.

⁵⁴ The Vietnamese province of Lao Cai is interested in the experience of establishing and operating the ‘Brest’ SEZ [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://belta.by/special/economics/view/vietnamskoi-provintsi-laokai-interesen-opyt-sozdaniia-i-raboty-sez-brest-777677-2026/>.

⁵⁵ Freight transport, tourism. Belarus’s economic potential presented in the Vietnamese province of Khanh Hoa [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/gruzovaia-tehnika-turizm-ekonomicheskii-potentsial-belarusi-prezentovan-vo-vietnamskoi-provintsi-782222-2026/>.

logistics and the movement of Belarusian and Vietnamese goods via Cam Ranh Airport, as well as on increasing tourist flows following the launch of direct flights between Belarus and Khanh Hoa.

Let us now return to the visit to Belarus in May 2025 by T. Lam, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam. It demonstrated that, over the course of more than thirty years of diplomatic relations, the two countries have maintained and developed cooperation in many areas – ranging from national defence and security to the economy, trade, culture, education, science and technology, and inter-regional cooperation. During this time, a solid legal and treaty framework for cooperation in various fields has been established, comprising more than 50 documents. However, both Belarus and Vietnam are committed to continuing their joint efforts to take relations to new heights, focusing on promising areas of cooperation ‘in the digital economy and digital transformation, agriculture, industry, energy, science and technology, the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, transport and logistics, banking and education’⁵⁶, so that the strategic partnership announced in May 2025 may develop across all areas of mutual interest to the Belarusian and Vietnamese peoples.

⁵⁶ Trade, defence, investment. To Lam outlined the areas on which Belarus and Vietnam will focus their development efforts [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/torgovlja-oborona-investitsii-to-lam-rasskazal-na-razviti-kakih-sfer-sosredotochatsia-belarus-i-714314-2025/>

CHAPTER 4

Uzbekistan: moving towards significant projects

Industrial cooperation

Uzbekistan is one of Belarus's main and key partners in Central Asia. It continues to be our republic's most important trading partner, firmly holding third place in terms of trade turnover amongst the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States. The figures bear this out. In 2025, trade turnover between the two countries grew by almost 35 per cent, reaching \$855 million. Meanwhile, exports of Belarusian goods increased by almost 42 per cent, to \$686 million. This positive trend in trade and economic cooperation has continued into the start of this year. In particular, 'in January 2026, trade turnover amounted to around \$74 million, which is more than 70 per cent higher than the figures for the same period in 2025'⁵⁷. Belarus mainly exports beef, timber, petroleum products, medicines, milk and cream, tractors, chipboard and fibreboard to Uzbekistan. In turn, imports from there consist mainly of rolled steel, cotton yarn, grapes, knitted fabrics and clothing, liquid pumps, dried fruit, and mixtures of nuts and dried fruit. The volume of trade in services is also growing. Last year, it increased by more than half, amounting to just under 210 million dollars. There are 229 organisations registered in Uzbekistan whose founders are residents of Belarus.

The past year was marked by a number of events that took relations between Belarus and Uzbekistan to a new level. These included the 11th meeting of the Joint Intergovernmental Commission on Cooperation, which took place in June 2025 and at which 'current issues of bilateral cooperation were discussed in areas such as industrial cooperation, transport links, agriculture, inter-regional cooperation, healthcare, as well as cultural and humanitarian exchanges'⁵⁸.

And in September, the Belarusian-Uzbek Women's Business Forum, 'Belarus – Uzbekistan: Cooperation as a Factor in Sustainable Development', which covered virtually all areas of bilateral cooperation during sessions in seven panels: "Light Industry: New Horizons for Cooperation between Belarus and Uzbekistan", "Prospects for cooperation in the the engineering sector", "Belarus and Uzbekistan: business partnership in the tourism industry", "Belarus–Uzbekistan: bilateral cooperation in the socio-

⁵⁷ The Uzbek Ambassador has stated his desire to take relations with Belarus to a higher level [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://belita.by/politics/view/nosol-uzbekistana-zajavil-o-stremlenii-vyvesti-otnosheniia-s-belarusitu-na-bolee-vysokii-uroven-768462-2026/>

⁵⁸ Zaleski, B. The Strategy of Multivectorism. Current Opportunities for Belarus's International Cooperation in the Context of Global Change / Boris Zaleski. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2025. – p. 105.

economic sphere (challenges and prospects)”, “Belarus–Uzbekistan: An Expert View on the Horizons of Partnership in the Agro-Industrial Sector”, “Youth Cooperation within the Framework of Belarusian–Uzbek Relations”, and “The Role of Local Self-Government in Ensuring the Sustainable Development of the Regions of Belarus and Uzbekistan”. A special place on this agenda can be accorded to the partnership ties between the two countries “in the field of industrial cooperation, which is developing successfully and has significant potential for further expansion; our cooperation in the field of agriculture and food security; and our collaboration in the field of healthcare and pharmacology, which is also developing successfully”⁵⁹.

At the plenary session of the women’s forum, it was noted that Belarus and Uzbekistan are actively developing contacts in the textile, pharmaceutical, electrical engineering, and agricultural

sectors. Joint production of cable and wire products has been established in the Tashkent region, as well as footwear and finished textile products under well-known Belarusian brands; projects are also underway to organise the assembly of tractors in Uzbekistan. Nevertheless, the parties “have every opportunity to set up new joint ventures in the fields of garment and knitwear manufacturing, and the production of packaging materials for the food industry”⁶⁰.

As for specific examples, one might mention the Minsk Tractor Works (MTZ), which is establishing a network of service centres across Uzbekistan for the repair of BELARUS machinery. “At the same time, work is underway to open MTZ training classes to train specialists”⁶¹. This is all the more significant given that exports of BELARUS machinery to Uzbekistan in January–August 2025 grew by more than 30 per cent compared with the same period in 2024. “Since the start of [2025], MTZ has shipped more than 2,300 units of BELARUS machinery to Uzbekistan. The most popular models are the 80X, 80.1, 82.3, 1221.3 and 1222.3. Supplies of BELARUS tractors and tractor kits have also been established...,”⁶².

Another interesting example is the “Belneftekhim” group. The total trade turnover between the group’s organisations and “Uzbek business partners”

⁵⁹ Aleynik: Belarus has established very multifaceted, multi-level relations with Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/politics/view/aleynik-uz-belarusi-vvstroeniv-ochen-mnogoraznnye-mnogoraznnyye-otnosheniia-s-uzbekistanom-735029-2025/>

⁶⁰ Industry, education, tourism. What are the promising areas of cooperation between Belarus and Uzbekistan [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL:

<https://belta.by/special/economics/view/promyshlennost-obrazovanie-turizm-kakovy-perspektivyve-sfery-sotrudnichestva-belarusi-i-uzbekistana-735261-2025/>

⁶¹ Shuleiko: Belarus and Uzbekistan enjoy constructive cooperation at all levels [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL:

<https://belta.by/economics/view/shuleiko-uz-belarusi-i-uzbekistana-est-konstruktivnoe-vzaimodeistvie-na-vseh-urovniakh-735251-2025/>

⁶² MTZ increased exports of BELARUS machinery to Uzbekistan by more than 30 per cent in January–August [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/mtz-uvlechil-eksport-tehniki-belarus-v-uzbekistan-bolee-chem-na-30-v-ianvare-avguste-735882-2025/>

exceeded \$32 million by the end of 2024. The growth rate compared with 2023 was 142 per cent”⁶³. A pool of partners has already been established in Uzbekistan who purchase a wide range of Belarusian non-woven materials, cord fabrics, synthetic yarns and glass fibre products. At the women’s forum, it was emphasised that the enterprises of the “Belneftekhim” group have offerings not only for Uzbekistan’s light industry, but also for the engineering, construction and medical sectors.

Reflecting on the outcomes of the third Belarusian-Uzbek women’s business forum, it is worth noting that the two previous events – in Minsk and Tashkent – were highly productive. On those occasions, participants at the two forums concluded 30 contracts totalling 235 million Belarusian rubles. At that time, “36 agreements were signed between social sector organisations and local authorities, which served as a starting point for the implementation of a whole range of joint initiatives”⁶⁴. This time, in September 2025, 30 contracts totalling 261 million Belarusian rubles and 18 bilateral cooperation agreements were signed in Vitebsk, including those aimed at establishing cooperation between regions. As we can see, the upward trend is clear!

As for 2026, as early as February, a Belarusian government delegation paid an official visit to Tashkent, where meetings at the highest and senior levels took place, as well as the fourth session of the Uzbek-Belarusian Business Council and a bilateral business forum. It is worth noting that more than 50 representatives from the Belarusian side took part in these events. “These include 42 enterprises representing various sectors of the economy: mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, light and food industries, pharmaceuticals and cosmetics, forestry and the woodworking industry, and construction goods and services. On the Uzbek side, representatives from over 200 companies from all regions are taking part”⁶⁵.

During these meetings and negotiations, a substantial package of documents was signed, and a number of interesting ideas and promising proposals for cooperation and the implementation of joint projects were put forward. In particular, Belarus intends to establish an assembly plant for the Belarusian Automobile Plant in Uzbekistan, as there “are very large deposits of rare metals and minerals. Of course, for a country like this, having its own production facilities is not only a matter of a high level of expertise, but also

⁶³ Belneftekhim explains which Belarusian petrochemical products are of interest to Uzbekistan [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/kakaja-produktsija-belorusskoj-neftehimint-interesuet-uzbekistan-rasskazali-v-belneftehime-735154-2025/>

⁶⁴ Contracts worth Br261 million were signed at the 3rd Belarusian-Uzbek Women’s Business Forum [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/na-iii-belorussko-uzbekskom-zhenskom-biznes-forume-nodpisano-kontraktov-na-br261-mln-735239-2025/>

⁶⁵ Belarus plans to develop cooperation with Uzbekistan and export light industrial products [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-nlanimet-razvivat-kooperatsiju-s-uzbekistanom-i-eksport-produktsii-izproma-766058-2026/>

one of technological security”⁶⁶.

As for the Minsk Tractor Works, exports of BELARUS machinery to Uzbekistan in 2025 rose by 15 per cent compared with 2024. “Last year, MTZ shipped more than 3,000 units of BELARUS machinery to Uzbekistan. There is demand in the country for tractors with a wide power range – from 80 to 200 l. s. – as well as BELARUS 80X cotton-growing tractors”⁶⁷. In addition, a contract with the Uzbek company KRANTAS GROUP for the supply of transmissions has been partially fulfilled. MTZ’s distribution network in Uzbekistan currently comprises five dealerships. There is also a joint assembly plant in the city of Nurafshan producing BELARUS tractors. Belarus also plans to develop cooperation with Uzbekistan and export light industrial products. This February, the Belarusian enterprises “Vitebsk Carpets” and “Milavitsa” signed contracts, whilst “Mogotex” and the Orsha Flax Mill finalised the supply of fabrics from Uzbekistan. This is because Belarusian businesses have production facilities there. One in four T-shirts sewn in Belarus is made from Uzbek cotton. And discussions are already underway regarding wool processing. Uzbekistan has abundant supplies of this raw material. Furthermore, a memorandum on the leather industry was signed at the business council. This is also a promising area that the parties will be working on.

Another area of cooperation between Belarus and Uzbekistan is currently undergoing active development: education. In particular, the Maxim Tank Belarusian State Pedagogical University (BSPU) alone has established partnerships with 12 higher education institutions in this Central Asian country. Key partners include the Nizami National Pedagogical University of Uzbekistan, the Kadiri State Pedagogical University of Jizzakh and the Namangan State Pedagogical Institute. Plans for cooperation with these institutions in the coming academic year include the launch of new, in-demand bachelor’s and master’s degree programmes. In collaboration with the Nizami National Pedagogical University of Uzbekistan, master’s degree programmes in ‘Educational Management’ and ‘Pre-school Education’ will become available, whilst the Namangan State Pedagogical Institute will offer programmes in ‘Inclusive Education’, ‘Philological Education’ and ‘Primary Education’. A programme in pre-school education has been approved in collaboration with the Jizzakh State Pedagogical University. Future joint projects include ‘Dialogue of Cultures: Belarus – Uzbekistan’, which will

⁶⁶ Belarus hopes to set up a BELAZ assembly plant in Uzbekistan [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL:

<https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-rasschityvayet-sozdat-v-uzbekistane-sborochnoe-proizvodstvo-belazov-768578-2026/>

⁶⁷ The growth rate of exports of BELARUS machinery to Uzbekistan exceeded 115 per cent in 2025 [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/temp-rosta-eksporta-tehniki-belarus-v-uzbekistan-prevysil-115-v-2025-godu-766551-2026/>

feature various round-table discussions, exhibitions and literary evenings dedicated to the national traditions, languages, art and history of the two countries. The Namangan Institute has also proposed implementing an international project entitled “A Bridge of Science and Education between Belarus and Uzbekistan”. Another project – “Heritage and Modernity” – involves engaging students in research into the cultural heritage of the two countries, followed by the presentation of their findings through exhibitions, publications and student conferences. Looking ahead, there is another project – “Bridge of Friendship” – which centres on organising joint voluntary and social initiatives. Overall, a number of joint educational programmes with Uzbek partners are already operating successfully at the Belarusian State Pedagogical University. Since 2018, the university has been offering bachelor’s degree programmes in speech and language therapy, psychology, and pre-school and primary education. “From 2023, the range of programmes has been expanded to include master’s degrees: master’s students now study inclusive education, psychological counselling and biology. To date, there have been four bachelor’s degree cohorts and two master’s degree cohorts. Around 400 graduates have already received dual degrees from Belarus and Uzbekistan”⁶⁸.

Let us now return to the decisions of the fourth meeting of the Uzbek-Belarusian Business Council and the bilateral business forum held in February of this year. As a result of these events, “the total value of contracts and agreements signed amounted to almost \$110 million”⁶⁹. Furthermore, ahead of the forthcoming visit by the President of Uzbekistan, Sh. Merzieev, to Belarus in 2026, there are plans to draw up a bilateral cooperation roadmap, in which the parties will set out “an ambitious target of achieving a trade turnover of \$2 billion by 2030”⁷⁰. Active work has already begun on giving substance to this visit and on shaping a broad economic agenda for bilateral cooperation. This is all the more so given that Minsk and Tashkent have ‘long since reached a clear understanding that the potential of simple trade is not limitless and that it is important to develop cooperation more intensively, to interact more actively in the investment sphere, and to move towards significant projects aimed at establishing joint production facilities,

⁶⁸ Management, Philology, Inclusion. BSPU and universities in Uzbekistan launch new programmes [Electronic resource]. - 2026. - URL:

<https://belta.by/society/view/menedzhment-filologiya-inklyuziya-bspu-i-vuzov-uzbekistana-otkrvayut-novyye-programmy-766547-2026/>

⁶⁹ Contracts and agreements worth almost \$110 million were signed during the Belarusian delegation’s visit to Uzbekistan [Online source]. - 2026. - URL:

<https://belta.by/economics/view/kontraktiv-i-soglaseniya-pochti-na-110-mln-podpisany-vo-vremya-vizita-belorusskoi-delegatsii-v-766214-2026/>

⁷⁰ Belarus aims to increase trade with Uzbekistan to \$2 billion by 2030 [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL:

<https://belta.by/photonews/view/belarus-rasschitvayet-k-2030-godu-uvlechit-tovarooborot-s-uzbekistanom-do-2-mld-45829/>

where industrial cooperation plays a key role⁷¹. The parties see considerable scope for further deepening cooperative ties in other areas as well – ranging from agriculture, wood processing and pharmaceuticals to logistics, collaboration in the financial and IT sectors, as well as cooperation between the regions of Belarus and Uzbekistan.

In this context, the Gomel Region stands out among Belarusian regions, as its trade turnover with this Central Asian country has tripled over the last five-year period and amounted to almost fifty million dollars in 2025. ‘The south-eastern region of Belarus mainly supplies wood products, meat and milk, plastic goods and cellulose. Cotton yarn, slag wool, fruit, ceramic tiles, toys and clothing are sourced from Uzbekistan’⁷². Among the promising areas, the Gomel Region sees an increase in supplies of food products, ready-made furniture, forage harvesting machinery and equipment for dairy farms.

In March this year, a high-level delegation from the Gomel Region visited Uzbekistan, where, at two business forums – in Tashkent and Fergana – options were discussed for attracting Uzbek business partners to cooperate and set up joint production facilities at enterprises in both countries. At this forum in the Uzbek capital, “cooperation agreements were signed between the chambers of commerce and industry of the Gomel and Tashkent regions, as well as 13 documents, including commercial agreements, totalling \$7.5 million”⁷³. Many proposals are also at the stage of being finalised and contracts drawn up.

It should be noted that the main exporters from the south-eastern region of Belarus to Uzbekistan today are ‘Rechitsadrev’ and ‘Tomeldrev’, the Turov Dairy Plant, the Rogachev Canned Milk Plant, the Rechitsa Metalworks, and the Svetlogorsk Pulp and Paper Mill. Other potential exporters were also represented at this forum. In particular, OJSC ‘Management Company of the “Gomel Meat and Dairy Company” Holding’ concluded contracts for the supply of meat and dairy products. Agreements have been reached for direct supplies of sausage products from the Kalinkovichsky Meat Processing Plant. Overall, this OJSC is actively working with partners from Uzbekistan and strengthening its position. “Over the past two years, products worth \$9 million have been supplied. In 2025 alone, volumes doubled”⁷⁴.

⁷¹ Turchin announced the Uzbek President’s visit to Belarus [Online resource]. -

2026. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/turchin-anonsiroval-vizit-prezidenta-uzbekistana-v-belarus-766133-2026/>

⁷² Trade turnover between the Gomel Region and Uzbekistan has tripled over the last five-year period [Online resource]. -

2026. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/tovarooborot-gomelskoi-oblasti-s-uzbekistanom-v-vros-za-posledniy-u-niatiljetku-v-tri-raza-771423-2026/>

⁷³ The Gomel Region signed contracts worth \$7.5 million at a business forum in Tashkent [Electronic resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://www.belarus.by/ru/business/business-news/documenty-na-75-mn-podpisala-gomelskaia-oblast-na-biznes-forume-v-tashkente-0000210242.htm>

⁷⁴ Representatives of the Gomel Region have signed contracts worth \$7.5 million with partners in Uzbekistan [Online source]. -

2026. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/kontraktv-na-75-mn-zakluchili-predstaviteli-gomelskoi-oblasti-s-uzbekistanom-771423-2026/>

Furthermore, in Tashkent, representatives from the Gomel region discussed promising projects with a number of interested partners. For example, with “Texnopark” LLC, which brings together around 20 enterprises focused on creating high-tech, competitive, export-oriented products. The Gomel delegation expressed their readiness to cooperate in the production of electronic gas meters, domestic refrigerators, industrial air-conditioners and cooling systems, lifts and escalators, and building materials. Furthermore, “one of Uzbekistan’s confectionery factories expressed an interest in large-scale supplies of milk powder from the Gomel Region. To expand production, it is necessary to procure high-quality raw materials, which the south-eastern region of Belarus can provide”⁷⁵. Negotiations were held on the spot, and agreements were reached on trial deliveries of Belarusian products.

Meanwhile, the leadership of the two regions – Gomel and Tashkent – signed a memorandum of understanding on cooperation and discussed regional collaboration across all areas. ‘The list of topics discussed included student education, employment opportunities for Uzbek citizens in high-demand specialisms, medical tourism, and the organisation of sightseeing tours’⁷⁶. In this context, it is worth recalling that as far back as November 2025, the Belarusian State University of Transport – (BelGUT), which is based in Gomel, and the Tashkent State Transport University of Uzbekistan announced the creation of a joint full-time training programme for the transport sector. It should be noted that these universities have been collaborating for eight years. There is a joint programme for Uzbek part-time students studying at BelGUT, as the Gomel-based university is a key institution and a leading university in the post-Soviet space specifically in the field of rail transport. There are now also plans to establish a joint full-time programme, where students will study at Tashkent State Transport University and graduate in Gomel. “Last year alone, 167 people enrolled on the joint part-time programme with BelGUT”⁷⁷. The Uzbek university cooperates with four universities in Belarus. However, the greatest interest lies specifically in railway transport.

During the same period in March, the Gomel and Fergana regions signed a

[partnerami-v-uzbekistane-772278-2026/](#)

⁷⁵ Cooperation, joint production. The Gomel Region discusses expanding its partnership with Uzbekistan [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL:

<https://belta.by/economics/view/kooperatsiia-sovmestnye-proizvodstva-gomelskaia-oblast-obsuzhdaet-rasshirenie-partnerstva-s-771554-2026/>

⁷⁶ Gomel and Tashkent regions intend to strengthen cooperation [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL:

<https://belta.by/economics/view/gomelskaia-i-tashkentskaia-oblasti-namereny-ukrepit-sovdnichestvo-771685-2026/>

⁷⁷ Universities in Gomel and Tashkent plan to jointly train staff for the transport sector through full-time study programmes [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL:

<https://belta.by/regions/view/vuzv-gomelia-i-tashkenta-planiruiut-sovmestno-gotovit-kadry-dlia-transportnoi-sfery-v-ochnom-formate-749801-2025/>

Cooperation Action Plan for 2026–2027. This roadmap will strengthen interaction and serve as the basis for implementing joint projects and intensifying cooperation. For reference, it should be noted that ‘the first inter-regional agreement between the Gomel and Fergana regions was signed in 2019’⁷⁸. A cooperation agreement has also now been signed between the chambers of commerce and industry of the two regions. The parties plan to partner in several areas – agriculture, mechanical engineering and woodworking. “In particular, the Gomel Region can offer combine harvesters, equipment for the storage and cooling of milk, fish feed and food products”⁷⁹. Discussions also touched upon the possibility of establishing joint production facilities within the framework of cooperation between free economic zones. Summing up the visit by the Gomel Region delegation to this Central Asian country, we would like to emphasise that cooperation between the south-eastern region of Belarus and the two Uzbek regions – Tashkent and Fergana – has taken a new step forward in strengthening interaction, with a view to increasing trade volumes and expanding investment partnerships. After all, direct links between regions form the foundation of trade and economic cooperation between Belarus and Uzbekistan, which will, in the long term, reach a new level and facilitate the implementation of planned projects in priority areas.

⁷⁸ The Gomel and Fergana regions have signed a roadmap for the implementation of joint projects [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/dorozhnyu-kartu-dlia-realizatsii-sovmestnykh-proektov-podpisali--the-Gomel-and-Fergana-regions-771961-2026/>

⁷⁹ “The figures may be higher”. In which areas will the partnership between the Gomel and Fergana regions be strengthened [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/tsifry-mogut-byt-vyshe-v-kakih-sferah-usiliat-partnerstvo-gomelskaja-i-ferganskaja-oblasti-771932-2026/>

CHAPTER 5

Georgia: a highly concrete partnership

In March 2026, the 7th meeting of the Belarusian-Georgian Intergovernmental Commission on Economic Cooperation (IGC) took place in Tbilisi, at which the results of joint work over recent years were analysed and the prospects and priority areas for the further development of economic cooperation were discussed, including such sectors as agriculture, healthcare, education, science and other areas of cooperation. It should be noted that the 6th meeting of the IGC took place in Minsk in February 2020. Since then, ‘trade turnover between Belarus and Georgia <...> has increased by more than 70 per cent’⁸⁰. In 2024 alone, the volume of trade between the two post-Soviet countries rose 1.6-fold compared with the 2023 level, whilst Belarusian exports increased 1.3-fold. The main items of Belarusian exports to Georgia at that time were petroleum products, milk, condensed and dried cream, sawn timber, medicines and ethyl alcohol.

By 2025, positive developments in **agricultural** cooperation had already been noted, when supplies from Belarus to Georgia – specifically to the village of Sartichala in the Gardabani municipality – of 500 head of pedigree livestock of Belarusian breeding stock were resumed. At the same time, “the Belarusian side confirmed its readiness to continue cooperation on the supply of breeding stock with the aim of improving the breed and productive qualities of farm animals in Georgia”⁸¹. Meanwhile, the Georgian partners expressed an interest in purchasing Belarusian seeds for cereals, industrial crops and fodder crops. Even then, the first consignments of seed stock for various agricultural crops were delivered for field trials in Georgia. Overall, last year Belarus’s exports to Georgia were dominated by dairy products – milk, cream, condensed milk, cheese, butter, cottage cheese and ice cream – as well as meat products: beef, poultry offal and sausages. In addition, this list included cereals, pulses, fish and fish products, and alcoholic beverages. During the 7th meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission, it was noted that plans are already underway to establish a Georgian-Belarusian agricultural centre, where Georgian farmers will be able to purchase breeding stock, seeds, fertilisers, equipment and other necessary products. Another significant trend is the annual increase in food supplies from Belarus, alongside the growing number of shops selling Belarusian products in this South Caucasus country. In 2025 alone, eight new retail outlets were opened.

⁸⁰ Trade turnover between Belarus and Georgia has increased by more than 70 per cent since 2020 [Online source]. - 2026. - URL: <https://www.government.by/news/tovarooborot-mezhdu-belarusyu-i-gruziy-s-2020-goda-uvlechilsya-na-bolee-chem-70>

⁸¹ Belarus and Georgia will develop cooperation on the supply of breeding livestock [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-gruzija-budut-razvivat-sotrudnichestvo-po-postavkam-plemennoy-skota-729218-2025/>

The eighth of these – a branch of the Belmart chain specialising in Belarusian products – opened in Tbilisi in August. This chain offers a wide range of products from 35 leading Belarusian companies, including the Pinsk Meat Processing Plant, the Brest Meat Processing Plant, ‘INKO-FOOD’, ‘Molochny Mir’, ‘Bellakt’, ‘Pervy Molochny’, ‘Brest Ice Cream’, ‘Lidkon’, ‘Spartak’, ‘Alivaria’, ‘Minsk Kristall’, ‘Soligorsk Poultry Farm’, ‘Lida Flour’, ‘AVD Production’⁸², where a wide range of dairy and meat products, confectionery, flour and alcoholic products, tea, honey and coffee are on display. It is worth noting that the operation of Belarusian food retail chains has stimulated growth in food exports to Georgia, with products being delivered directly from the manufacturer. In total,

31 shops belonging to three Belarusian food retail chains have already opened in the country, in the cities of Tbilisi, Batumi, Zugzidi, Poti and Kutaisi. Among future joint projects, the parties highlighted an initiative to establish a Georgian-Belarusian trading house in Batumi, offering a wide range of Belarusian goods: from building materials to light industrial products.

At the 7th meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission, the 2.7-fold increase in the mutual trade in services between Belarus and Georgia since 2020 was also noted. Transport services are currently in high demand, including air, road and rail transport, as the development of cooperation in **the field of transport and logistics** contributes to the expansion of economic partnership and the intensification of mutual trade. For example, ‘load factors on direct flights between our countries remain consistently high – over 80 per cent’⁸³. Nevertheless, the Belarusian airline “Belavia” plans to increase the frequency of flights from Minsk to Tbilisi, Batumi and Kutaisi during the summer. All the conditions are in place for the resumption of **scientific and technical cooperation** and the broader development of collaboration in the field of education. To this end, as part of this meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission, an ‘Agreement on Cooperation between the Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radioelectronics (Minsk) and the State Technical University (Tbilisi)’ was signed⁸⁴. This document has expanded **the legal framework** for cooperation with Georgia, which now comprises ‘more than 30 documents, including three intergovernmental agreements, 15

⁸² The eighth branch of the Belmart chain of Belarusian food shops has opened in Tbilisi [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/v-tbilisi-otkrylsia-vosmoi-magazin-seti-belomorskikh-produktov-helmart-733418-2025/>

⁸³ “Belavia” plans to increase the frequency of flights from Minsk to Georgia during the summer [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/belavia-planiruet-uvelichit-chastotu-reisov-iz-minska-v-gruzii-u-v-letnij-period-770138-2026/>

⁸⁴ On the 7th meeting of the Belarusian-Georgian Intergovernmental Commission on Economic Cooperation [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://georgia.mfa.gov.ge/ru/embassy/news/c9544cb7d752dc89.html>

intergovernmental and 13 inter-agency agreements⁸⁵. Among the international documents currently in force are treaties on the establishment of diplomatic relations, international road transport, the creation of a bilateral Intergovernmental Commission on Economic Cooperation, the exchange of information on tax matters, the mutual protection of investments, a system for facilitating mutual trade, air transport, and cooperation in the fields of culture, sport, healthcare, education, science and technology, the organisation of settlements between national banks, mutual travel by citizens, the exchange and protection of classified information, partnership in the enforcement of competition law, and cooperation between internal affairs agencies, state security agencies, financial monitoring and control bodies, foreign ministries, ministries of justice, and chambers of commerce and industry.

During the 7th meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission, the parties also expressed their hope for an increase in **exhibition activities**. In this context, it is worth noting that the Belarusian side participates annually in Georgian international exhibitions. In particular, in late November–early December 2024, the **‘Made in Belarus’** exhibition of Belarusian manufacturers was traditionally presented as part of the AGRO FOOD DRINK TECH EXPO 2024 international exhibition on agriculture, food industry, food production and technology – **AGRO FOOD DRINK TECH EXPO 2024** in Tbilisi, which was also attended by ‘around 70 major industry representatives from Georgia, Belarus, Turkey, Iran and Italy’⁸⁶. The Belarusian exhibition stand featured well-known brands and industry leaders, as well as the largest enterprises of the ‘Belgospishcheprom’ food industry group and the ‘Brestmyasomolprom’ holding company. OJSC “Spartak” presented a range of sugar-free products: three types of chocolate, truffles, wafer bars, biscuits and muesli bars. An exclusive range was also showcased – a selection of thin dark and milk chocolates with added ingredients, as well as chocolate with biscuits. OJSC “Slodych Confectionery Factory” showcased chewy toffees in a variety of flavours and aromas, specially prepared for the exhibition. OJSC “Krasny Pishchevnik” added chewy marmalade and marshmallows in latte and caramel flavours, as well as champagne and strawberry flavours, to its range of products on display. The Belarusian exhibition also featured products from one of the leading manufacturers of instant foods, spices and breakfast cereals – OJSC

⁸⁵ Belarus-Georgia bilateral relations [Online resource]. – 2026. – URL: https://georgia.mfa.gov.ge/en/bilateral_relations/political/

⁸⁶ Belarusian enterprises present an exhibition at a food industry fair in Georgia [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/beloruskie-predpriatia-predstavili-na-vystavke-pracuyemyh-blennoy-dumby-i-pirogov>

“Lidapishchekoncentraty”. A range of products was showcased by manufacturers from the meat and dairy sector: OJSC “Slonim Meat Processing Plant”, OJSC “Slutsk Meat Processing Plant”, OJSC “Pinsk Meat Processing Plant”, OJSC “Luninets Dairy Plant” and OJSC “Verkhnedvinsk Butter and Cheese Factory”. Brest Meat Processing Plant OJSC presented a new product – pâtés with garlic, butter, fried onions and mushrooms, as well as a range of liver pâtés. OJSC “Kobrin Butter and Cheese Factory” showcased a dry mix designed for making vanilla ice cream from the freezer. Among the new products on display from OJSC “Berezovsky Canned Meat Plant” were tinned goods.

A year later – in November 2025 – the **AGRO FOOD DRINK TECH EXPO 2025** trade fair took place in Tbilisi, bringing together 80 representatives from the food production and agricultural sectors, technologists and executives from major retail chains in Georgia, Turkey, Italy, Germany, Russia and Slovakia. The **‘Belarus. The Taste of Nature’** exhibition featured well-known brands and industry leaders, as well as the country’s largest enterprises. ‘For instance, the “Belgospishcheprom” stand showcased a product range of confectionery, pastille and marmalade products, and sweets from the following enterprises: OJSC “Sloodych Confectionery Factory”, OJSC ‘Krasny Pishchevyk’, SOJSC ‘Kommunarka’, OJSC ‘Krasny Mozyryanin’ and the joint venture OJSC ‘SPARTAK’’,⁸⁷. Also on display was a wide range of baby food from OJSC ‘Gamma Vkusa’, and tinned products from OJSC ‘Maloritsky Canning and Vegetable-Drying Plant’. Rapeseed oil, vegetable oil blends, mayonnaise and mayonnaise-based sauces, ketchups, mustard, samples of margarine products from OJSC “Minsk Margarine Factory”, and products from OJSC “Mashpishcheprod”, which specialises in potato processing and the manufacture of potato products, as well as in the production of malt and the roasting of seeds. There was a wide range of non-alcoholic, dessert and spirits products on display. One of Belarus’s largest dairy producers – OJSC ‘Babushkina Krynka’ – the managing company of the ‘Mogilev Dairy Company “Babushkina Krynka”’ holding – presented a range of cheeses, milk sweets made from powdered milk, butter, glazed curd cheese, ultra-pasteurised milk and new products such as powdered mixes for milkshakes and powdered mixes for making ice cream in strawberry, vanilla and chocolate flavours. The multi-sector agricultural enterprise OJSC “Baranovichi Poultry Farm” exhibited an assortment of coloured chicken eggs in various packaging formats. OJSC

⁸⁷ Belarus presented an exhibition stand at the Agro Food Drink Tech Expo in Georgia [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-predstavila-ekspozitsiu-na-vystavke-agro-food-drink-tech-expo-v-gruzii-751359-2025/>

“Gluboksky Milk Canning Plant” showcased a range of cheeses and tinned dairy products, including the famous Belarusian condensed milk, at the exhibition in Tbilisi. OAO “Lida Canned Milk Plant” presented dried milk, cream, whey, butter and a wide range of cheeses, whilst OAO “Orsha Canned Meat Plant” showcased tinned meat, baby food and meat pâtés. Meat products were also showcased by Volkovysk Meat Processing Plant OJSC and Pinsk Meat Processing Plant OJSC. This exhibition demonstrated that Belarusian exporters are actively expanding their product range in this country, which paves the way for plans to open new retail outlets in Georgian cities.

In this context, specific aspects of **inter-regional cooperation** were discussed at the 7th meeting of the Inter-Regional Commission. For reference, it should be noted that 17 agreements have been signed between regions and cities in Belarus and Georgia. In particular, ‘on 18 February 1994, a cooperation agreement was signed between Tbilisi and Minsk, and on 9 September 2015, an agreement on twinning ties between Minsk and Tbilisi’⁸⁸. Today, it is necessary to breathe new life into these agreements in order to fill them with concrete content. As with other examples. It should be noted that inter-regional and twinning ties are maintained under cooperation agreements not only between the capitals, but also between the Minsk Region and the Kakheti region, the Mogilev Region and Adjara, the Gomel Region and the Imereti region, the cities of Brest and Batumi, Mogilev and Batumi, Polotsk and Tskhaltubo, Gomel and Kutaisi, Bobruisk and Batumi, Bobruisk and Kobuleti, Zhodino and Rustavi, the Gluboksky District and the Telavi Municipality, the Svetlogorsk District and the Mtskheta Municipality, the Kletsk District and the Telavi Municipality, and the Rosson District and the Lanchkhuti Municipality. As we can see, the prospects here are considerable. There is another area of Belarusian-Georgian cooperation that is important to highlight today. I am referring to the prospects for cooperation in **the stock exchange sector**. It must be acknowledged that Belarus and Georgia have significant untapped potential for partnership in this field. Let us look at the figures. In 2025, Georgian companies purchased Belarusian-made goods totalling nine million dollars at auctions on the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange (BUCE), whilst in the first two months of this year, the volume of import transactions has already reached just under four million dollars. ‘Currently, 79 Georgian residents are accredited with the BUTB. In

⁸⁸ Culture, housing and communal services, and passenger transport. Kukharev on areas of cooperation with Tbilisi [Online resource].
 - 2024. - URL:
<https://belta.by/society/view/sfera-kulturny-zhikh-i-passazhirskij-transport-kukharev-o-napravlenijah-sotrudnichestva-s-tbilisi-614991-2024/>

2025, 11 new companies joined the exchange, and in 2026, four more. In January–February 2026, the trading turnover of Georgian participants on the exchange increased 3.8-fold compared with the same period in 2025. More than 90 per cent of the total value of transactions was accounted for by dairy products: milk powder and butter”⁸⁹.

In March this year, the BUTB accredited its first broker from Georgia with a view to increasing the volume of exchange trading with that country. The status of professional exchange trader has been granted to a trading and logistics company specialising in the import of wood processing products. Initially, BUTB’s new partner intends to operate in the timber products segment. Specifically, it will focus on attracting buyers of sawn timber to the exchange platform, facilitating transactions between Belarusian and Georgian companies, and ensuring the delivery of goods purchased on the exchange to end consumers. In the future, as its client base grows, the Georgian broker plans to expand its scope of activities on the BUTB and, in addition to sawn timber, to import ferrous metal products and dairy products from Belarus. It is expected that the accreditation of an exchange broker in Georgia will open up further opportunities for Belarusian exporters interested in this market. First and foremost, this will create favourable conditions for an increase in supply volumes, as the broker typically aggregates demand from a range of buyers, enabling the sale of large lots and the optimisation of transport and logistics costs.

BUTB has already drawn up a plan to work with the broker in Georgia to increase exchange-traded trade volumes. Priority will be given to increasing supplies of Belarusian goods that are already being sold to Georgia via exchange trading. These include, in particular, edged softwood sawn timber, skimmed milk powder and butter. “Since the start of 2026, Georgian companies have already purchased these products on the BUTB to the value of \$4.5 million, which accounts for more than half of the exchange’s exports to Georgia for the whole of 2025”⁹⁰. In addition to increasing sales of Belarusian-manufactured goods in Georgia, BUTB’s new partner is also considering the possibility of attracting suppliers of Georgian products to the exchange platform, which will be in demand among consumers in Belarus. These include items such as non-ferrous metals, ferroalloys, juice concentrates, nuts and dried fruit.

And finally, all these examples of bilateral cooperation demonstrate that the

⁸⁹ BUTB has accredited the first broker in Georgia [Online resource]. – 2026. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-akkreditovala-pervogo-brokera-v-gruzii-769427-2026/>

⁹⁰ BUTB has outlined a plan for collaboration with a broker in Georgia to increase trade turnover [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-nameftla-plan-sovmestnoi-raboty-s-brokerom-v-gruzii-po-uvlechitiu-tovarooborota-769971-2026/>

decisions of the 7th meeting of the Belarusian-Georgian Intergovernmental Commission on Economic Cooperation will serve as an effective tool for achieving the set objectives in expanding inter-agency contacts, so that the parties' joint work takes on a constructive, highly concrete nature in strengthening the comprehensive partnership between Belarus and Georgia, which is aimed at an equal and mutually respectful dialogue.

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CHAPTER 6

Africa: cooperation is developing in a substantive and active manner

In March 2026, the Presidium of the Council of Ministers approved the government's action programme for the development of Belarus's cooperation with African countries for 2026–2030, with a view to establishing a systematic mechanism for consolidating our republic's presence on that continent. Its aim is to establish effective political, trade and economic, logistical and humanitarian

set of tools to promote Belarus's interests in Africa and to forge sustainable ties with the continent's countries. This document identifies promising areas of cooperation, goods of export interest, and the tools required to achieve the set goals and objectives. It also ranks African countries by priority based on the intensity of their cooperation with Belarus, taking into account the presence of diplomatic missions, the nature of bilateral political, trade, economic and humanitarian relations, the economic potential of partner countries and the existence of joint projects currently under development. Of the 54 African countries, three categories have been identified: 1) key partners; 2) promising countries; 3) countries for targeted initiatives. Ultimately, “the aim is to ensure that actual exports of goods and services to Africa reach a level of around \$1.5 billion by 2030”⁹¹. The implementation of this programme should ensure systematic efforts to intensify cooperation with African countries and increase supplies of Belarusian products to the continent.

As it happened, just the day before, in early March, the head of the Belarusian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, M. Ryzhenkov paid a working visit – the first in the history of diplomatic relations at the level of a Belarusian Foreign Minister – to two countries on the African continent: **Ghana** and **Togo**. Until now, there had been virtually no legal framework with these states, no significant contracts had been signed previously, and trade had been sporadic. These visits helped to define the directions and main thrusts of further cooperation with these African partners.

In **Ghana**, as part of the bilateral Ghana-Belarus talks, the country's President D.D. Mahama “placed particular emphasis on the agricultural sector, proposing to draw up a five-year programme of cooperation in the agricultural sector”⁹². This involves the establishment of Belarusian

⁹¹ Government action programme approved for the development of Belarus's cooperation with African countries for 2026–2030 [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://belita.by/economics/view/nuzvezhdjena-programma-deistvii-pravitelstva-po-razvitiu-sotrudnichestva-belarusi-so-stranami-afriki-768512-2026/>

⁹² Ghana has proposed that Belarus develop a programme of agricultural cooperation [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL:

processing facilities in this African country, as well as the development of a network of agricultural mechanisation centres – twelve such centres are planned to open this year. “The Ghanaian side emphasised the need to adapt Belarusian machinery to local conditions, as well as to develop irrigation and create cold storage facilities for crops”⁹³. Separately, the parties discussed the training of Ghanaian specialists in the agricultural sector at Belarusian specialist educational institutions. For reference, it should be noted that “around 80 students from Ghana are currently studying in Belarus”⁹⁴. Ghana is keen to see their numbers increase significantly, particularly in agricultural and medical specialisms.

The Belarusian side, for its part, outlined the potential of its agro-industrial complex in terms of cooperation: opportunities for supplying dried milk and poultry meat; purchasing Ghanaian cocoa beans under direct contracts; and collaboration in livestock and crop farming, including the supply of breeding stock, compound feed and veterinary medicines. As part of this visit, funding has been secured and an order has already been placed for the production in Belarus of around three thousand units of domestic machinery, including tractors and attachments. Specific agreements have also been reached on increasing supplies of milk powder and meat. Until now, supplies of these product groups have been insignificant – amounting to around 200,000–300,000 dollars. It is expected that following this visit, export volumes will increase significantly.

Consequently, the parties agreed that the President of Ghana will visit Belarus in June this year to lay the foundations for the legal framework of bilateral relations in Minsk and to sign a package of international documents. “These include agreements on visa-free travel for holders of diplomatic and service passports, on the mechanisation of agriculture, on export credits, and on the establishment of an intergovernmental commission on trade and economic cooperation...”,⁹⁵.

As regards cooperation between Belarus and **Togo**, the parties focused in Lomé on developing the legal and treaty framework. The Belarusian side “proposed speeding up the preparation of agreements on investment

<https://belta.by/economics/view/gana-nredlozhila-belarusi-razrabotat-programmu-agrarnogo-vzaimodeistviya-767508-2026/>

⁹³ Ghana has proposed that Belarus get involved in cocoa processing. What else are the two countries interested in? [Online source]. - 2026. - URL:

<https://belta.by/special/economics/view/gana-nredlozhila-belarusi-zanjatsia-pererabotkoj-kakao-chem-esche-strany-interesny-drug-druyu-767713-2026/>

⁹⁴ Ryzhenkov: We have identified key trade routes with Ghana and Togo and are expecting exponential growth [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL:

<https://belta.by/politics/view/ryzhenkov-my-naschupali-magistraivne-linii-v-torgovle-s-ganoi-i-togo-rasschitvvaem-na-kratni-rost-768444-2026/>

⁹⁵ The President of Ghana plans to pay a visit to Belarus [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://belta.by/politics/view/prezident-gany-nanimet-posetit-s-vizitom-belarus-767710-2026/>

protection and the avoidance of double taxation”⁹⁶. This initiative was fully supported. Furthermore, as part of this visit, a decision was taken to finance the supply of four and a half thousand units of agricultural machinery from Belarus to Togo. Exports of Belarusian food products – meat and dairy – will also be developed. To this end, the relevant veterinary certificates have been signed.

The Belarusian side confirmed its readiness to offer its Togolese partners not merely one-off supplies of machinery, but comprehensive solutions for the mechanisation of agriculture, including an investment component, training for local specialists and the establishment of assembly facilities. In Togo, where the agro-industrial sector accounts for 40 per cent of the economy, interest has been expressed in cooperation in the fields of mechanisation, irrigation and the creation of modern warehousing infrastructure. Our country, meanwhile, is ready to import coffee, cocoa, fruit and nuts, as well as to work on developing compound fertilisers for West African markets. Togo is also interested in processing technologies, the adaptation of Belarusian agricultural machinery and the establishment of assembly plants.

The logistics capabilities of this African country are of particular interest to Belarus. It is home to the deep-water port of Lomé – one of the largest in West Africa, handling around 30 million tonnes of cargo annually in both directions. It serves as a key link, a gateway of sorts for states in the Central African region to access the wider world. Consequently, ‘Togo is regarded by Belarus as one of its priority partners on the African continent and as an important logistics hub for accessing the markets of the Sahel countries’⁹⁷.

A significant outcome of this visit was the signing of an intergovernmental agreement on the abolition of visas for holders of diplomatic and service passports, as well as a memorandum of understanding between the foreign ministries of the two countries on holding political consultations, which lay a solid foundation for the further development of political dialogue. The parties agreed to step up efforts to improve the legal and treaty framework, particularly in the trade and economic sphere. To this end, a roadmap for bilateral cooperation will be drawn up. The Belarusian side has submitted a package of three draft sectoral agreements – between chambers of commerce and industry, and in the fields of agriculture and export credit – to its Togolese partners for consideration.

⁹⁶ Belarus is exploring the production of compound fertilisers for West African markets [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://belta.by/special/economics/view/belarus-prorabatvvaet-sozdanie-kompleksnyh-udobrenii-dlia-rvnikov-zapadnoi-afriki-767506-2026/>

⁹⁷ Belarus and Togo are taking their bilateral relations to a new level. First details of Ryzhenkov's visit to Lomé [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://belta.by/politics/view/ministr-inostrannyh-del-belarusi-maksim-ryzhenkov-vstretilsia-s-ministrom-inostrannyh-del-togo-767275-2026/>

Returning to the Belarusian Government's action programme for developing cooperation with African countries for 2026–2030, it is important to ensure systematic efforts to boost cooperation with African countries and increase supplies of Belarusian products to the continent, whilst also increasing the participation of Belarusian exporters in international exhibitions there and broadening the geographical scope of new business contacts with potential partners. Specific measures will be taken in this regard in 2026. All the more so as 'interested enterprises <...> will be able to find export opportunities across the entire spectrum'⁹⁸.

In particular, the Belarusian delegation is one of the most eagerly awaited guests of honour at the multidisciplinary international exhibition, the **Zimbabwe International Trade Fair 2026 (ZITF)**, which is due to take place in April in the **Zimbabwean** city of Bulawayo. It should be noted that this African country is experiencing increased demand for Belarusian food products, machinery and equipment, technologies and scientific developments, as well as for offerings in the fields of education, culture and tourism. The high quality and competitive prices of Belarusian products make them among the most attractive offerings on the Zimbabwean market. In 2025, companies from Belarus took part in a similar international multi-sector exhibition, which featured "over 20 countries, including China, Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, representatives of European Union countries and regions across the African continent. At the Zimbabwe International Exhibition Centre, more than 430 exhibitors showcased their products and goods"⁹⁹. At that time, the '**Made in Belarus**' exhibition stands featured a wide range of goods and services from the engineering, food and education sectors.

The largest international multi-sector business event in **Mozambique** – the **FACIM 2026** exhibition – is also included in the list of significant regional events for this year. The exhibition is scheduled to take place in late August – early September in Maputo, the capital of this African nation. Key sections of the forum include the agricultural and food sectors, industrial production, technology and communications, digital solutions, and scientific and educational programmes. This exhibition "attracts more than 350 exhibitors, both national and international, representing around 30 countries, 800 foreign companies and 70,000 visitors"¹⁰⁰.

⁹⁸ From Zimbabwe to Ghana. Which international exhibitions in Africa will Belarusian companies be taking part in this year [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/ot-zimbabve-do-gany-v-kakih-mezhdunarodnyh-vystavkah-afriki-nrimut-uchastie-beloruskie-predpriatia-770830-2026/>

⁹⁹ Zaleski, B. In Focus: Phased Partnership. Belarus's Multifaceted Economic Cooperation Across Different Continents / Boris Zaleski. - LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2025. - p. 42.

¹⁰⁰ FACIM 2026 Mozambican International Multisectoral Exhibition [Electronic resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://www.belinterexpo.by/events/mezhdunarodnye->

Taking into account feedback and requests from Belarusian enterprises, work is currently underway to organise the participation of domestic companies and organisations in the international trade fair for agriculture, the food industry and packaging, ingredients, bakery and confectionery products, foodstuffs and the hospitality sector – **Agrofood West Africa 2026**, which will take place in October in Accra – the capital of **Ghana** – and will cover the entire value chain: from field to table. “The main focus of the cooperation is on agricultural technologies, livestock farming, floriculture and horticulture, as well as greenhouse technologies”¹⁰¹.

Belarus is also exploring participation in **MINEXPO Africa 2026**, the largest regional African exhibition forum, to be held in October in Dar es Salaam – **Tanzania’s** largest city. This exhibition is organised in six African countries, with the longest-running events having taken place in Tanzania and Kenya for the past thirty years. It is the region’s leading event ‘in the field of mineral extraction and processing, earthworks and safety equipment’¹⁰² and serves as a comprehensive platform for representatives from across East Africa seeking new products, equipment, machinery, services and solutions related to the mining sector.

In December 2026, the **Food Africa** international food and beverage trade fair will take place in Cairo – the capital of **Egypt** – where the ‘**Belarus. The Taste of Nature**’ exhibition, featuring domestic producers, is traditionally expected to be presented. It is worth recalling that in December 2024, this forum brought together around one thousand exhibitors from more than thirty countries, including Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, China, Russia, Turkey, Italy, Greece, France, Spain, Switzerland and Japan. Following two days of discussions between Belarusian companies and their Egyptian partners, eight documents were signed at the time. “These are commercial contracts and cooperation agreements totalling around \$12 million”¹⁰³.

As for the participation of Belarusian enterprises in international exhibitions in African countries in 2025, there are a few more interesting facts worth noting. For example, two exhibition forums took place in Algeria last year. In April, “as part of the **Djazagro 2025** food industry exhibition, around 600 exhibitors and 108 unique brands from 36 countries were represented”¹⁰⁴,

[exhibitions/mozambican-international-multisectoral-exhibition-facim-2026/](https://worldexpo.pro/agrofood-west-africa)

¹⁰¹ Agrofood West Africa 2026 [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL:

<https://worldexpo.pro/agrofood-west-africa>

¹⁰² MINEXPO AFRICA 2026 in Tanzania [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://www.belinterexpo.by/events/inezhdunarodnye-vystavki/minexpo-africa-2026-v-tanzanii/>

¹⁰³ Myatlikov. Belarusian companies have signed contracts worth approximately \$12 million during their visit to Egypt [Online resource]. - 2024. - URL:

<https://belta.by/economics/view/myatlikov-belorusskie-predpriatia-zakliuchili-kontraktov-nimerno-na-12-mln-v-ramkah-vizita-v-egipt-631580-2024/>

¹⁰⁴ Zaleski, B. The ‘Far Arc’ Reserves. The Specifics of Belarus’s Interaction with the Countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America / Boris Zaleski. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2025. – p. 320.

whilst participants in the national exhibition **Belarus. The Taste of Nature** showcased a new, extensive range of products, offering items tailored to regional characteristics and demand. The Belarusian range included the most sought-after and popular items: a range of dried dairy products, butter, frozen quark and an assortment of cheeses.

Meanwhile, in September, the **Intra-African Trade Fair (IATF 2025)**, held in Algiers under the slogan “Gateway to New Opportunities”, attracted over two thousand companies from 80 countries. For the first time at this fair, companies from the

Belarus’s engineering and pharmaceutical sectors were represented at this fair for the first time. Participants in the ‘**Made in Belarus**’ exhibition, including OJSC ‘MAZ’ – the managing company of the ‘BELAVTOMAZ’ holding, RUE ‘Belmedpreparaty’, OJSC ‘Babushkina Krynka’, OJSC “Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange”, “presented a wide range of products, offering automotive solutions, pharmaceutical developments, a range of dairy products and promising projects”¹⁰⁵

In July last year, leading enterprises from Belarus’s petrochemical sector took part in the 10th **PlastExpo** International Exhibition of Plastics, Rubber, Composites and Petrochemicals, which was held in Casablanca on **Morocco’s** Atlantic coast: “Belshina” – lorry tyres and rubber products for the Moroccan automotive industry; “Grodno Azot” – nitrogen fertilisers and polyamides for agriculture and processing; and “Polotsk-Steklovolokno” – composite materials for construction and wind energy. Overall, “around 300 national and international exhibitors set up stands at one of the region’s largest exhibition centres, representing the host country – Morocco – as well as Belarus, Egypt, India, Spain, Italy, Qatar, Turkey, Portugal and France”¹⁰⁶. The event was attended by over 20,000 people.

In July 2025, the **Angolan** capital, Luanda, hosted the **FILDA 2025** international multi-sector exhibition, which is Southern Africa’s largest trade and economic event and a universal business platform for interaction between representatives of government, business and retail chains in the region. On the sidelines of FILDA 2025, with the support of the Angolan Ministry of Industry and Trade, a series of events was held focusing on the prospects for the country’s manufacturing sector and economic reforms, taking into account its investment potential. The event was attended by over 1,300

¹⁰⁵ Zaleski, B. Africa as a Partnership Benchmark. The Evolution of Deepening Cooperation between Belarus and Countries on the Continent / Boris Zaleski. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2026. – p. 67.

¹⁰⁶ Tyres, fertilisers and composite materials. How the Belarusian petrochemical industry is conquering the Moroccan market [Electronic resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/special/economics/view/shimv-udobreniia-i-kompozitivnye-materialy-chem-belorusskaia-neftekhimiia-pokorilaet-marokkanskie-rynok-722528-2025/>

companies from around 20 countries worldwide, including the United Kingdom, Brazil, Sweden, India, Japan, and numerous companies representing the European Union and the United States of America. Belarusian enterprises showcased their potential at the ‘**Made in Belarus**’ exhibition – featuring domestic innovations in the manufacture of quarrying and specialised machinery. In particular, ‘Gomselmash Holding – the largest manufacturer of agricultural machinery and one of the world market leaders in combine harvesters and other complex agricultural machinery’,¹⁰⁷. At the Belarusian exhibition stand, as part of the ‘ ’ section of the exhibition, thematic materials were displayed highlighting the trade, economic, investment, industrial and socio-cultural potential of the Republic of Belarus. During the exhibition, a series of business meetings and negotiations were organised with foreign partners and representatives of the business community from Angola and the wider region.

Africa: a course towards expanding cooperation

¹⁹⁷ Quarrying and specialised machinery. Belarusian companies showcase their potential at an exhibition in Angola [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/kariernaia-i-spetsializirovannaa-tehnika-belorusskie-kompanii-prezentuiut-potentsial-na-vystavke-v-728034-2025/>

cooperation with African partners in the fields of food security, energy, petrochemicals, healthcare and digital technologies. In 2026, Belarus continued its course of strengthening cooperation with a number of African states, including **Egypt** and **Sudan**.

In May 2026, the **8th meeting of the Belarusian-Egyptian Joint Trade Commission** took place in Minsk, at which the parties reviewed the results of cooperation between the two countries over recent years and developed proposals for further collaboration across various areas of partnership. It should be recalled that the 7th meeting of the Joint Commission took place in Cairo in November 2023, at which ‘issues relating to increasing mutual supplies of goods, developing industrial cooperation, intensifying cooperation in the fields of agriculture and food, and expanding cooperation in the scientific, educational and tourism sectors...’ were discussed¹⁰⁹. At the same time, a service centre operated by OJSC “MAZ” was opened in this North African country.

In April 2024, during an official visit by a Belarusian government delegation to Egypt, it was stated that the parties had significant scope for cooperation in the industrial sector, in the development of cooperative projects for the joint production of passenger, freight, agricultural and municipal machinery, as well as on increasing the volume of food product supplies to this African country. Several important documents were signed at the same time. Firstly, this was an intergovernmental agreement on a system to facilitate mutual trade, which provides for a number of advantages for participants in foreign economic activity. In particular, these include ‘priority processing of customs procedures, simplification of customs formalities, and the waiver of customs inspections at border crossing points, except in specific cases where there is a high risk of violations’¹¹⁰. Secondly, two memoranda: one on bilateral cooperation between the Ministry of Finance of Belarus and the Egyptian Financial Regulatory Authority; and one on mutual understanding between the National Agency for Investment and Privatisation of Belarus and the General Authority for Investment and Free Zones of Egypt. Thirdly, “following two days of work by Belarusian enterprises with their Egyptian partners, eight documents were signed. These comprise commercial contracts and cooperation agreements totalling approximately \$12 million”¹¹¹. And in

¹⁰⁹ On the holding of the 7th meeting of the Belarus-Egypt Joint Trade Commission [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL:

<https://evm.mfa.gov.by/ru/embassy/news/b91914a911eaf827.html>

¹¹⁰ Trade, investment, business. In which areas are Belarus and Egypt interested in developing cooperation? [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL:

<https://belita.by/economics/view/torgovlia-investitsii-biznes-v-kakih-sferah-belarus-i-egipet-zainteresovany-razvivat-sotrudnichestvo-717085-2025/>

¹¹¹ Industry, food and health. Roman Golovchenko on areas of cooperation with Egypt [Online resource]. - 2023. - URL:

May 2025, Belarusian-Egyptian cooperation received a new boost with the signing in Cairo of a number of ‘contracts for the supply of more than 100 Belarusian tractors, as well as motor vehicles from OJSC “Minsk Automobile Plant” and tyres from OJSC “Belshina”, totalling over \$3 million”¹¹².

And in May 2026, a comprehensive proposal was presented to the Egyptian side regarding the terms for the organisation and operation of assembly plants for Belarusian lorries and tractors, as well as a concept for the Belarusian side’s participation in a project to establish a grain and feed hub in Egypt. “Agreements have been reached on the supply to Egypt of Belarusian dairy products, MTZ tractors and MAZ lorries, tyres, cellulose and cottonised fibre, and building materials. Projects are being implemented in the fields of pharmacology, water treatment and solid waste processing”¹¹³. Belarus also welcomes the involvement of the Egyptian company Air Cairo in planning the launch of direct scheduled flights between Minsk and Cairo, as ‘direct flights will help to boost tourism. <...> This will enable Belarusians to fly to Egypt more often and at a lower cost’¹¹⁴.

The decisions of the 8th meeting of the Joint Commission placed particular emphasis on agriculture. For reference: back in October 2025, Belarus and Egypt held a meeting of the joint working group on expanding cooperation in the agro-industrial sector, at which they noted a ‘significant increase in agricultural trade: in 2024, it doubled compared with 2023. Belarus supplied dairy products to Egypt, whilst Egypt supplied fruit, vegetables, melons and gourds, as well as coffee extracts and essences, to Belarus’¹¹⁵. At the same time, key areas for further cooperation were discussed. These included the simplification of trade procedures and veterinary and phytosanitary certification; the recognition by the Egyptian side of Belarusian ‘Halal’ certificates to expand access for domestic products to the Egyptian market; the registration and supply of Belarusian baby food to Egypt, joint projects in the field of feed production, the supply of Belarusian agricultural machinery and the development of cooperation in mechanisation, as well as scientific and educational collaboration in the field of food security.

At the 8th meeting of the joint commission, it was confirmed that the supply

<https://government.by/news/promyshlennost-prodovolstvie-ozdorovlenie-roman-golovchenko-o-napravleniyakh-sotrudnichestva>

¹¹² Tractors, tyres. Belarus and Egypt have signed contracts worth over \$3 million [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL:

<https://belta.by/economics/view/traktory-shiny- contracts-worth-over-3-million-signed-by-belarus-and-egypt-717456-2025/>

¹¹³ Direct flight, industrial cooperation and a grain hub. The government discussed cooperation between Belarus and Egypt [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://www.government.by/news/pryamov-revs-nromkooperaciva-i-zemovov-khab-v-pravitelstve-obsudili-sotrudnichestvo-belarusi>

¹¹⁴ Plans are being drawn up for a direct flight between Cairo and Minsk [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL:

<https://belta.by/society/view/prorabatyvaetsia-organizatsii-a-priamogo-aviarei-sa-mezhdu-kairom-i-minskom-779131-2026/>

¹¹⁵ Belarusian dairy producers intend to increase supplies to Egypt [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL:

<https://belta.by/economics/view/belorusskie-proizvoditeli-molochnoi-produktsii-namereny-uvlechivat-postavki-v-egipt-741659-2025/>

of food products and agricultural raw materials remains an important area of cooperation. The veterinary services of both countries have already agreed on health certificates for the export of dried dairy products and beef from Belarus to Egypt. “Forty-two Belarusian dairy processing enterprises are authorised to supply dairy products. By the end of 2025, exports of Belarusian products to Egypt consisted of supplies of skimmed and whole milk powder, buttermilk, flour-based and confectionery products, and dried vegetables”¹¹⁶. This year, the companies are working on increasing supplies of dried dairy products, including baby food. The parties have confirmed their readiness to further expand the range of products supplied and to strengthen their partnership.

Another interesting topic in this context is cooperation between Belarus and Egypt in the field of exchange trading. Minsk and Cairo intend to give impetus to the development of this cooperation by focusing their joint efforts on a number of promising areas that will help to increase trade turnover between the two countries and strengthen business ties between Belarusian and Egyptian enterprises. It is expected that further cooperation between the parties will focus on three main areas. First and foremost, this involves attracting Egyptian companies interested in concluding export and import deals with Belarusian businesses to the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange (BUCE). In addition, there are plans to establish systematic cooperation between the BUTB and the Egyptian Commodity Exchange regarding the exchange of price information, expertise and technological developments. Furthermore, with a view to promoting the exchange mechanism in Egypt, the country’s Ministry of Investment and Foreign Trade will assist the BUTB in organising presentation and training events for Egyptian businesses, both online and offline. The Belarusian side also highlighted opportunities for technology transfer between Belarus and Egypt. In particular, “the software developed by BUTB can be adapted to the specific characteristics and needs of the Egyptian market, which will expand the functionality of the Egyptian commodity exchange’s trading system and forge strong cooperative ties between the two electronic trading platforms”¹¹⁷. In short, all necessary steps will be taken to boost exchange cooperation between the two countries.

All the more so as Egypt and Belarus have much to offer one another. Joint, coordinated efforts will therefore bring mutual benefits and help to realise the

¹¹⁶ Belarus plans to increase agri-food exports to Egypt [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-planiruet-narastit-agroprodukovstvennyi-eksport-v-egipet-779208-2026/>

¹¹⁷ Belarus and Egypt have outlined the main areas of cooperation in the field of exchange trading [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-egipet-nametli-osnovnye-napravlenija-sotrudnichestva-v-sfere-birzhevoi-torgovli-779395-2026/>

economic and trade potential of both countries more effectively.

Following the 8th meeting of the Joint Trade Commission in Minsk, a Belarusian-Egyptian business forum was held, attended by around 150 representatives of Belarusian and Egyptian businesses. They presented their products and discussed the implementation of joint projects. Several significant agreements were signed during this forum. "In particular, an agreement on the supply of fruit products to Belarus, as well as on the supply of tractors to Egypt"¹¹⁸. In addition, a preliminary agreement was reached on the establishment of a Belarusian-Egyptian Business Council under the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Federation of Egyptian Chambers of Commerce, which will serve as an effective platform for discussing opportunities for the development of joint projects between the two countries. Finally, 'following the Belarusian-Egyptian Business Forum <...> contracts worth \$6.5 million were signed'¹¹⁹.

Let us summarise. During the 8th meeting of the Belarusian-Egyptian Joint Trade Commission, problematic issues relating to bilateral cooperation were discussed. The parties believe that the potential for trade and economic cooperation between Belarus and Egypt has not yet been fully realised, and that the 2025 trade turnover of \$110 million is merely the beginning of a major partnership, into which Minsk and Cairo wish to breathe new life. All the more so as Belarus is soon expecting a visit from the President of this North African country.

Now, regarding **Sudan**. This country is situated in north-eastern Africa and borders Egypt, Libya, Eritrea, Ethiopia, the Republic of South Sudan, the Central African Republic and Chad. It has a population of over 43 million. Belarus established diplomatic relations with this country in July 1999. Throughout all these years, Minsk and Khartoum have traditionally and consistently provided mutual support to one another on the international stage regarding pressing issues on the bilateral, regional and global agendas.

The two countries already have considerable experience of partnership in the economic sphere. Back in August 2017, Belarus and Sudan adopted a 'roadmap' for cooperation, in which they 'outlined the parameters for collaboration in the oil and gas sectors, in the fields of water resources and the electricity sector, industry and trade, higher education and scientific research, and in the banking and financial sectors'¹²⁰, in order to ensure the

¹¹⁸ New business opportunities. Belarusian and Egyptian companies have agreed to expand their partnership [Online source]. - 2026. - URL:

<https://belta.by/economics/view/novye-vozmozhnosti-dlia-biznesa-belorusskie-i-egipetskie-kompanii-dogovorilis-o-rasshirenii-partnerstva-779263-2026/>

¹¹⁹ Contracts worth \$6.5 million were signed following the Belarus-Egypt Business Forum [Electronic resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/no-togam-belorussko-egipetskogo-biznes-foruma-podpisano-kontraktov-na-65-mln-779295-2026/>

¹²⁰ Zaleski, B. Vectors of the Long Arc: Opportunities for Sectoral Cooperation / Boris Zaleski. - LAP LAMBERT Academic

implementation of agreements across the full spectrum of bilateral cooperation, including joint projects. Until recently, the legal framework for bilateral relations comprised 27 international legal documents, including the inter-state treaty on friendly relations and cooperation, intergovernmental agreements on trade, investment and scientific and technical cooperation, on the promotion and mutual protection of investments, as well as a number of inter-departmental agreements and memoranda.

In 2018, the **fourth meeting of the Belarusian–Sudanese Joint Commission on Cooperation** was held in Khartoum, during which options for ‘intensifying bilateral cooperation in the fields of industry, agriculture, geological exploration, energy and construction’ were discussed¹²¹, and a coordinated position was reached on a further action plan aimed at implementing joint projects in these sectors. At the same time, a Belarusian exhibition stand was organised at the Khartoum International Fair. OJSC “MAZ”, OJSC “BelAZ”, OJSC “MTZ”, OJSC “Gomselmash”, OJSC “Amkodor”, CJSC “Atlant” and other domestic enterprises presented their products there.

In the years that followed, Belarusian-Sudanese cooperation took place across various areas. In 2023, plans were announced to develop scientific and technical cooperation, primarily in the fields of agricultural production, livestock farming and mineral processing. The fact is that Sudan is an agricultural country. For this reason, the Belarusian side offered its assistance in adapting seeds from Belarusian breeding programmes to the conditions of the African climate, as well as agricultural machinery for sowing, harvesting and processing crops. Furthermore, scientific organisations under the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus offered to supply Sudan with specialised equipment for the processing of minerals, including ores containing valuable elements, ‘assistance in the field of livestock farming, as well as help in establishing a scientific body in Sudan modelled on the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus to provide scientific support for the economic sectors of this African country’¹²².

In 2024, the Belarusian side stated that it was interested in providing the necessary assistance in the restoration and modernisation of Sudan’s agro-industrial complex and was ready to continue work on the implementation of

Publishing, 2018. - p. 61.

¹²¹ The fourth meeting of the Joint Belarusian-Sudanese Commission on Cooperation is taking place in Sudan [Electronic resource]. - 2018. - URL:

<https://www.minenergo.gov.by/press/novosti/chetvertoe-zasedanie-sovmestnyov-belorussko-sudanskov-komissii-po-sotrudnichestvu-prokhodit-v-sudane/>

¹²² Belarus and Sudan to cooperate in the fields of agriculture and mineral processing [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-sudan-budut-sotrudnichat-v-oblasti-selskogo-hoziaistva-i-pererabotki-poleznymi-iskopaemymi-602972-2023/>

joint projects based on previously reached agreements. It also proposed to the Sudanese side that they expand the range of supplies of freight, road construction,

passenger transport, cotton-harvesting machinery, grain storage facilities and grain-drying complexes. After all, ‘the exchange of experience and technologies in agriculture and the food industry, as well as in scientific and educational activities within the agricultural sector, is of mutual interest to both sides’¹²³.

In May 2025, Belarus expressed its interest in strengthening the potential for industrial dialogue with Sudan and its readiness to provide the necessary assistance in implementing joint projects. In this context, the organisation of ‘assembly plants, as well as cooperation on the exchange of expertise in the field of staff retraining and professional development’ was identified as a promising area¹²⁴. Furthermore, discussions centred on potential areas of cooperation in the petrochemical industry. After all, the Republic of Sudan is actively developing its oil sector, but faces certain challenges due to economic instability. Nevertheless, this African country is actively working to restore its oil infrastructure and attract foreign investment. In this regard, as an option, ‘the expertise of Belorusneft’s specialists in providing engineering services to Sudanese oil companies for the rehabilitation of mature fields’¹²⁵ ‘could prove useful’.

And so, in May 2026, the **fifth meeting of the joint Belarusian–Sudanese Commission on Cooperation** took place in Minsk, at which current issues relating to cooperation between the two countries were discussed, including industrial cooperation. In particular, a positive trend was noted. ‘Trade turnover in products manufactured by enterprises under the Ministry of Industry increased 2.5-fold in 2025’¹²⁶. At the same time, the Belarusian side is prepared to consider any requests and meet any needs of its Sudanese partners. In particular, it is counting on establishing long-term and mutually beneficial cooperation regarding the supply of combine harvesters, and is interested in cooperation in the field of medical technology and equipment, in

¹²³ Mironchik: Belarus is ready to continue working on joint projects with Sudan [Online resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/mironchik-belarus-gotova-prodolzhit-rabotu-po-realizatsii-sovmestnykh-proektov-s-sudanom-661618-2024/>

¹²⁴ Belarus is interested in strengthening the potential for industrial dialogue with Sudan [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-zainteresovana-v-narashchivanii-potentsiala-promyshlennogo-dialoga-s-sudanom-717797-2025/>

¹²⁵ Sudanese oil companies are interested in ‘Belorusneft’s’ services for the rehabilitation of mature fields [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/sudanskikh-neftnykh-zainteresoval-uslugi-belorusnefti-dlia-reabilitatsii-zrelvyh-mestorozhdenii-718051-2025/>

¹²⁶ Ministry of Industry enterprises have increased trade turnover with Sudan by two and a half times in 2025 [Electronic resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/predpriiatia-minprom-a-dva-s-polovinoi-raza-narastili-tovarooborot-s-sudanom-za-2025-god-779381-2026/>

the supply and joint production of freight and road-construction machinery, and in the export of household appliances and electronics. With regard to Belarusian tractors, the parties “confirmed agreements to increase deliveries of machinery to 200 units by 2026”¹²⁷. And, of course, they are interested in exploring the organisation of industrial cooperation for the assembly of tractors in Sudan.

As for agro-industrial matters, during the 5th meeting of the commission, Belarus declared its readiness to increase supplies of high-quality food products to the Sudanese market: skimmed and whole milk powder, baby food and poultry meat. Given Sudan’s well-developed livestock sector, the Belarusian side also proposed ‘feed for cattle and poultry, gluten for bread-making, veterinary medicines and vaccines. Cooperation in the field of agricultural education was identified as a promising area’¹²⁸. It should be noted that in our country, training for this sector is carried out at four higher education institutions under the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, covering the full range of specialisms in demand. Thus, Belarus has once again confirmed its openness to comprehensive partnership with Sudan across various areas of the agricultural sector.

During the 5th meeting of the Joint Commission, an intergovernmental General Agreement on the Provision of Export Credits was adopted, which ‘establishes the legal and financial framework for the financing of supplies of Belarusian goods (including goods, works and services) to Sudan’¹²⁹. The lender will be OJSC ‘Development Bank of the Republic of Belarus’. In addition, a memorandum of understanding was signed between the Belarusian State Oil and Chemical Concern and the Sudanese Ministry of Energy, under which the two parties agreed to jointly process and interpret geological exploration data on Sudanese fields using the ‘Belorusneft’ software. Provision has also been made for the professional training of Sudanese specialists at the International Business Academy of the ‘Belorusneft’ State Enterprise.

To summarise, it should be noted that, over more than 25 years of interaction, Belarus and Sudan have managed to build relations based on trust, support and cooperation, which serve the mutual interests of the peoples of both countries and are moving towards new promising areas of partnership, as is,

¹²⁷ Belarus intends to increase supplies of equipment to Sudan [Electronic resource]. - 2026. - URL:

<https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-namerena-uvlechit-postavki-tehniki-v-sudan-778732-2026/>

¹²⁸ The Ministry of Agriculture and Food has outlined which Belarusian goods may appear on the Sudanese market [Online source]. - 2026. - URL:

<https://belta.by/economics/view/kakie-belorusskie-tovary-mogut-poiavitsia-na-rmkh-sudana-rasskazali-v-minselhozprode-779409-2026/>

¹²⁹ Belarus has signed an agreement with Sudan on the provision of export credits [Electronic resource]. - 2026. - URL:

<https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-podpisala-s-sudanom-soglasenie-o-predostavlenii-eksportnykh-kreditov-779361-2026/>

in fact, evidenced by the decisions of the 5th meeting of the Joint Belarusian-Sudanese Commission on Cooperation.

Africa: a systematic mechanism for cooperation will deliver tangible results

Belarus is actively developing strategic cooperation with African countries, viewing the continent as a key market for export diversification and economic growth. Cooperation covers trade, industry, agriculture, education and security. As for Belarusian exports to the African market, these include supplies of heavy goods vehicles, tractors, fertilisers, tyres and foodstuffs. Joint assembly plants for Belarusian machinery are being set up in a number of African countries to adapt the equipment to local climatic and economic conditions. , thousands of students from African countries are studying at Belarusian universities, specialising in medicine, engineering and IT, whilst Belarusian agronomists and land reclamation specialists are sharing their expertise to help develop agriculture in African countries. Among Belarus's active partners on the African continent in 2026 are **Zimbabwe** and **Tanzania**.

Let us begin with **Zimbabwe**. Belarus plans to achieve a trade turnover of one hundred million dollars with this southern African country over the coming years. This was discussed at a meeting between the Belarusian head of state and the Speaker of the Zimbabwean Senate, M.M. Chinomona, in February this year. It should be noted that by the end of 2025, trade between the two countries totalled over 26 million dollars. Belarus's exports were primarily comprised of machinery and equipment for harvesting and threshing agricultural crops, tractors and articulated lorries, lorries, trailers and semi-trailers. In 2026, the parties plan to step up trade and economic cooperation in order to systematically and consistently achieve the set objective.

It should be noted that in the **industrial** sector, Belarus and Zimbabwe maintained positive momentum in 2025. Suffice it to say that 'as part of the third phase of the country's agricultural mechanisation programme, agricultural machinery, including tractors, combine harvesters and towed equipment from enterprises under the Ministry of Industry, was supplied to a value of over \$12 million'¹³⁰. The Belarusian side is keen to carry out further deliveries of the full range of agricultural machinery and equipment for crop

¹³⁰ Kuznetsov: Industrial cooperation between Belarus and Zimbabwe is maintaining a positive momentum [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/kuznetsov-v-promvshjemnom-sotrudnichestve-belarusi-i-zimbabwe-podderzhivaetsi-a-rezultativnaja-dinamika-748319-2025/>

cultivation under the terms of the contractual obligations.

As regards the **agriculture and food** sector, it was announced as early as the end of last year that Belarus would export dried baby food to Zimbabwe. At the same time, the Belarusian side confirmed its readiness to supply products in quantities commensurate with the needs of this southern African country, including participation in government programmes to feed pre-school and school-age children. At the same time, “the first practical result was achieved: OJSC ‘Bellakt’ signed a contract with a Zimbabwean company to supply the first consignment of dried baby food...”,¹³¹.

In addition to infant formula, the parties discussed the potential for cooperation in the field of agricultural mechanisation. The Zimbabwean side, at the level of the diplomatic mission, expressed an interest in examining these proposals and undertook to identify potential partners. And as early as March this year, it was announced that arrangements were being made for the supply of tinned meat for children in Zimbabwe. The Belarusian side requested information from its Zimbabwean partners regarding the conditions for these products to enter the local market, as well as the possibilities and procedures for including Belarusian goods in state nutrition programmes for pre-school and school-age children. As for the prospects for cooperation in the agro-industrial sector, it is worth noting that ‘trade turnover between Belarus and Zimbabwe by the end of 2025 had increased 3.3-fold compared with the previous year. Belarus’s exports consist mainly of meat-and-bone meal and dried baby food. Imports include citrus fruits and coffee’¹³².

Cooperation between Belarus and Zimbabwe in the **high-tech** sector is also expected to expand this year. The fact is that in February 2026, a Zimbabwean delegation visited the High-Tech Park (HTP), where potential partners from this southern African country were shown solutions that could yield rapid results not only in Belarus but also in Zimbabwe. In particular, these include technologies for the agri-industrial sector: field monitoring and agricultural management systems. For a country where the agricultural sector forms the backbone of the economy, this is not innovation for innovation’s sake, but a matter of food security. “In the field of medicine, these include laser equipment and IT solutions for healthcare. Developments addressing such sensitive areas as women’s health, veterinary medicine and epidemiological control attracted particular interest”¹³³. In addition, the

¹³¹ Belarus to supply Zimbabwe with dried baby food [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-budet-postavliat-v-zimbabve-suhoe-detskoe-pitanie-747936-2025/>

¹³² Belarus is working on organising supplies of tinned meat for children in Zimbabwe [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://belta.by/politics/view/belarus-prorabatvayet-organizatsiiu-postavok-miasnyh-konservov-dlia-detei-v-zimbabve-769952-2026/>

¹³³ Work on specific projects will begin within the year. The Zimbabwean delegation assessed the potential of the HTP [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/v-tehnenie-goda-nachnetsia-rabota-nad-konkretnymi-proektami-delegatsii-a-zimbabve-otsenila>

Zimbabwean guests showed interest in high-tech equipment for the mining industry, IT solutions for marketing, big data processing and digital promotion. The parties agreed that, during the course of this year, the outcomes of the first meeting held in February would be translated into concrete agreements and projects. The next step is to work out the formats for cooperation and adapt the best Belarusian solutions to Zimbabwe's needs. So, perhaps the African market will soon see new examples of Belarusian high technology, whilst HTP residents will gain another reliable partner in the region, which is now referred to as the continent of the future.

The humanitarian sphere, particularly education, is also seen as an important area of cooperation between Belarus and Zimbabwe. Statistics indicate that 'at present, around 150 Zimbabwean citizens are studying in Belarus'¹³⁴ [5]. The Belarusian side is also inviting other students from this African country to study and undertake further training in various fields – including technical and healthcare disciplines. Furthermore, in May 2026, during a visit to Minsk by the Speaker of the National Assembly of the Parliament of Zimbabwe, D. Mudenda to Minsk, an initiative was also discussed to hold Zimbabwean Culture Days in Belarus this year and Belarusian Culture Days in Zimbabwe in 2027, which will help to strengthen real, concrete ties between the citizens of the two countries.

Finally, cooperation between Belarus and Zimbabwe in the field of **exhibitions** has already continued this year. In April, Belarusian manufacturers were represented at the multi-sector international exhibition Zimbabwe International Trade Fair 2026 (ZITF), which took place in Bulawayo and brought together "over 400 exhibitors from around 30 countries, including China, Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, the United Arab Emirates, representatives of European Union countries and African regions"¹³⁵. The main theme of this forum – 'Interconnected economies, competitive industries' – highlighted the priorities for developing inter-state partnerships across a range of sectors: from agriculture and engineering to medicine and science. Taking into account market needs and regional demand, the Belarusian exhibition stand showcased a range of specialised equipment, freight vehicles and integrated solutions for the automation of technological processes and systems, including offerings for the utilities sector, agriculture, the energy sector and

[potentsial-765388-2026/](https://belta.by/economics/view/beloruskie-proizvoditeli-predstavlyayut-na-mezhdunarodnoi-vystavke-v-zimbabwe-776738-2026/)

¹³⁴ Sergeenko: Belarus is ready to support the development of existing Belarusian projects in Zimbabwe and the launch of new ones [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://belta.by/politics/view/sergeenko-belarus-gotova-sodeistvovat-razvitiyu-novoi-sfery-usluzhivaniya-beloruskimi-proektami-v-zimbabwe-782941-2026/>

¹³⁵ Belarusian manufacturers are represented at an international exhibition in Zimbabwe [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/beloruskie-proizvoditeli-predstavlyayut-na-mezhdunarodnoi-vystavke-v-zimbabwe-776738-2026/>

the food industry. All of this will, of course, contribute to the successful growth of Belarusian exports to Zimbabwe. In addition, “specifically as part of ZITF-2026, a presentation area was organised for enterprises and organisations that are members of the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, as well as a themed area dedicated to the upcoming international industrial exhibition ‘INNOPROM. Belarus’, which will take place in Minsk from 30 September to 2 October 2026”¹³⁶. So cooperation in this area will continue in the Belarusian capital this autumn.

Let’s summarise. The partnership ties between Belarus and Zimbabwe show that this interaction has become the most successful example of cooperation with countries in Southern Africa in recent years. And this work continues today across a wide range of areas: from the mechanisation of agriculture and education to healthcare and assistance with staff training. All the more so as there are already promising plans set out in the roadmap for the strategic partnership for 2026–2030.

Now, regarding **Tanzania**. In April 2026, the Belarusian Minister of Foreign Affairs, M. Ryzhenkov, paid an official visit to this East African country. During numerous meetings and talks with representatives of the Tanzanian Government, the high level of political interaction between the two countries was noted; this needs to be translated into practical results in the trade and economic sphere and bilateral cooperation intensified across all sectors, primarily in the economic sphere to organise the supply of goods in demand in both countries. At the same time, the parties noted the need to expand the legal and treaty framework for bilateral Belarusian-Tanzanian cooperation, with an emphasis on establishing practical mechanisms for joint work in specific areas, and highlighted ‘the need to establish a joint trade commission to develop strategies for a significant increase in mutual trade, and to bring potential joint projects in areas such as agricultural mechanisation, food security, education, the supply of fertilisers and logistics – with a focus on air freight and the use of port infrastructure – to the implementation stage’¹³⁷.

It is worth recalling that May this year marked the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Belarus and Tanzania. This African country is one of Minsk’s most promising partners. Its population exceeds 60 million. Around 80 per cent of the workforce is employed in agriculture. An important fact: ‘In January 2026, Tanzania announced the

¹³⁶ The Presidents of Zimbabwe and Botswana recognised the potential of Belarusian exporters at an exhibition in Bulawayo [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL:

<https://belta.by/economics/view/prezidentv-zimbabve-i-botsvanv-otsenili-potentsial-belorusskikh-eksportirov-na-vystavke-v-bulavaio-776957-2026/>

¹³⁷ On the first day of the official visit by Belarusian Foreign Minister M. Ryzhenkov to Tanzania [Electronic resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://mfa.gov.by/press/news/mfaZc6937f7421f03629.html>

development of a new strategy for the growth of its industrial sector, which will help create 6.5 million jobs over six years and open 9,048 factories, significantly increasing the number of jobs and improving the country's economic situation'¹³⁸. Cooperation between the governments of Belarus and Tanzania intensified in July 2025, when a government delegation from this East African country visited the Belarusian capital, where the parties outlined prospects for strengthening bilateral cooperation.

On this occasion, in April 2026, the discussion centred on specific areas of partnership. In particular, Minsk and Dodoma intend to expand cooperation in the agro-industrial sector. For reference, it should be noted that 'in 2025, trade in food products and agricultural raw materials between the countries increased 3.6-fold. Exports of Belarusian products included vegetable oil and meat-and-bone meal, whilst imports comprised oilseeds, fruit, coffee and flowers'¹³⁹. Nevertheless, the potential for cooperation between the parties has not yet been fully realised. Belarus is ready to offer its partners a wide range of high value-added products: dairy products, including whole and skimmed milk powder, baby food, butter and cheeses, as well as poultry meat as an additional area for growth. Furthermore, four specialist higher education institutions under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food of Belarus are ready to train highly qualified personnel for the agricultural sector. The parties also discussed "issues relating to expanding the provision of Belarusian state grants for education, as well as increasing the total number of Tanzanian students at Belarusian universities, including through scientific and educational exchanges to ensure the training of personnel, including specialists in African studies"¹⁴⁰, and agreed to organise a visit by a Tanzanian delegation at the level of the leadership of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, with the participation of representatives from Tanzanian higher education institutions, to study the Belarusian higher education system.

Furthermore, Tanzania has a significant need for high-quality fertilisers. One Tanzanian company has already prepared a specific request and specification for Belarusian manufacturers. The parties agreed to set up a joint working group to work out the proposals in detail and draw up a joint action plan, which will enable the systematic implementation of the provisions of the inter-ministerial memorandum of understanding signed in 2025. The

¹³⁸ Zaleski, B. *International Cooperation and the Media*. Part VI. Collection of Articles / Boris Zaleski. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2026. – p. 449.

¹³⁹ Belarus and Tanzania intend to expand cooperation in the agri-food sector [Online resource]. – 2026. – URL:

<https://belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-tanzanija-namereny-rasshirit-sotrudnichestvo-v-ank-774536-2026/>

¹⁴⁰ Priority: the economy and supplies. Belarus and Tanzania set course for a practical partnership [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://belta.by/politics/view/prioritet-ekonomika-i-postavki-belarus-i-tanzanija-berut-kurs-na-prakticheskoe-partnerstvo-777861-2026/>

following areas have been identified as promising avenues for cooperation: the supply of Belarusian fertilisers and machinery, the exchange of agronomic technologies, the development of educational programmes, and the establishment of direct contacts between exporters and importers in both countries. Discussions also covered the transfer of Belarusian technologies in the fields of plant breeding and veterinary medicine, as well as organising a visit by representatives of Tanzania's agricultural sector to Belarus for the 'Belagro' exhibition, with a view to expanding cooperation in livestock farming, aquaculture and biotechnology, including the supply of Belarusian animal and fish feed. The Tanzanian side expressed interest in Belarusian technologies for the production of veterinary vaccines, the supply of bioactive additives for livestock farming, and the selection of genetic material for cattle.

During the Belarusian Minister for Foreign Affairs' official visit to this East African country in April (2026), an 'intergovernmental agreement on the establishment of a joint committee on trade and economic cooperation between Belarus and Tanzania' was signed, which, amongst other things, will serve to coordinate the main areas of joint work, facilitate the development of new mutually beneficial projects and deepen contacts between the business communities¹⁴¹, and memoranda of cooperation were also signed between the National Export Support Centre of Belarus and the Tanzania Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Tanzania Trade Development Centre and the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation, which will strengthen bilateral business ties and facilitate the organisation and holding of economic events in both countries.

Furthermore, the Belarusian side stated that "Belarus regards Tanzania as a strategic partner, not only in the context of developing bilateral trade and economic ties, but also as a gateway for Belarusian and jointly produced goods to enter the markets of Eastern and Southern Africa"¹⁴². In this context, discussions focused on the potential of one of the country's leading special economic zones (SEZs) – the Benjamin William Mkapa Special Economic Zone – which was the first industrial park established and owned by the Tanzanian government, offering serviced land for lease to SEZ investors. The infrastructure in place includes serviced industrial plots, a health centre, customs facilities, a canteen, retail units, a water tank, roads, street lighting, a perimeter fence and an administrative block with sufficient

¹⁴¹ On the second day of the official visit by Belarusian Foreign Minister M. Ryzhenkov to Tanzania [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://mfa.gov.by/press/news/mfa/174bbc1b43067b79.html>

¹⁴² Ryzhenkov: Belarus wants to access the markets of Eastern and Southern Africa via Tanzania [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://belta.by/politics/view/ryzhenkov- cherez-tanzaniyu-belarus-hochet-vviti-na-rvunki-vostochnoi-i-juzhnoi-afriki-778001-2026/>

office space. “A total of 14 projects, mainly engaged in manufacturing for export, have been allocated serviced plots within the park”¹⁴³. The Belarusian side sees potential in using this SEZ to host joint ventures, intended, amongst other things, for the export of manufactured goods to third countries.

With the same aim in mind, the Belarusian side familiarised itself with the infrastructure and operational features of the seaport in Dar es Salaam, which is one of the largest trading ports in East Africa. Goods transhipped through this port are destined for Australia, Asia, the United States of America, as well as African countries. Given Tanzania’s membership of the East African Community, the use of this port will create the conditions for the uninterrupted supply of Belarusian goods via Tanzanian ports and facilitate their delivery to countries across the African continent, including Belarusian mineral fertilisers and the organisation of blended fertiliser production. This promising initiative could, of course, take the partnership between Belarus and Tanzania to a whole new level of cooperation.

¹⁴³ Taraday, Yu. Free Economic Zones in Tanzania / Yu. Taraday // [Online resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://reab.pro/m/info/market-reviews/free-economic-zones-in-tanzania>

CHAPTER 7

Latin America: forums as a tool for developing partnerships

The Latin American region, which encompasses Central and South America and the Caribbean, is one of the most promising markets; it is currently developing very dynamically and is of immense interest to the Republic of Belarus. For this reason, the Belarus-Latin America Forum has been held annually for the past five years, serving as a kind of ‘synchronisation’ on this topic.

The first such forum took place in June 2022 and was organised in Moscow at the Business and Cultural Complex of the Belarusian Embassy in Russia. The forum brought together representatives from the embassies of 15 Latin American countries in Belarus and Russia. “The event was attended by ambassadors, heads of diplomatic missions and diplomats from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Venezuela, Guatemala, Honduras, the Dominican Republic, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Chile, Ecuador and El Salvador”¹⁴⁴.

The second forum also took place in the Russian capital in April 2023, attended by ambassadors, heads of diplomatic missions and diplomats from the embassies of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Venezuela, Guatemala, Honduras, the Dominican Republic, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Uruguay, Chile, Ecuador and El Salvador. The event highlighted promising areas for trade and economic cooperation between Belarus and Latin American countries, including the development of electric transport, the introduction of biotechnology in agriculture, and the active promotion of information technology services. At the forum, “the National Academy of Sciences, the Ministry of Industry, the Development Bank, the National Centre for Marketing and Price Trends, the High-Tech Park Administration and the ‘RTL Alliance’ group of companies delivered their thematic presentations”¹⁴⁵.

A third similar forum in Moscow in April 2024 brought together representatives from “12 embassies of Latin American countries in the Russian Federation, half of whom were heads of diplomatic missions”¹⁴⁶. The forum was also attended by the heads of the region’s trade missions and the heads of the trade and economic departments of these countries’

¹⁴⁴ Zaleski, B. Focusing on Results. Prospects for a Comprehensive Approach to New Opportunities for Partnerships / Boris Zaleski. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2023. – p. 3.

¹⁴⁵ On the Second Belarus-Latin America Forum [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://russia.mfa.gov.by/ru/embassy/news/b201f20c3eb4304.htm>

¹⁴⁶ On the Third Belarus-Latin America Forum [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL: <https://mfa.gov.by/press/news/mfa/f4f98d0103a5512b.html>

embassies, who familiarised themselves with promising areas of cooperation between Belarus and its partners in Latin America and the Caribbean in agriculture, pharmaceuticals, biotechnology and logistics. At the same time, the Belarusian side presented “the potential of light industry, the pharmaceutical sector and the food industry, as well as the most promising projects in the field of biotechnology, the production of biological products for agriculture and biofertilisers”¹⁴⁷. It also identified traditional partners in the region: Cuba, Nicaragua, Venezuela, as well as Brazil, Argentina, Colombia and other countries in Central and Latin America, “which wish to cooperate with us in the supply of our machinery, particularly construction, agricultural, freight and quarrying equipment”¹⁴⁸.

The fourth forum, held in April 2025, was attended by diplomats from 11 Latin American embassies in the Russian Federation, 10 of which were represented by their heads of mission, as well as heads of trade missions from countries in the region and heads of the trade and economic departments of Latin American embassies, and representatives of the business community from a number of Latin American countries, including Cuba, Venezuela, Argentina, Mexico, Ecuador, Costa Rica and Colombia. On this occasion, the forum’s programme “comprised two main sections: mechanical engineering, electrical engineering and metallurgy, as well as chemistry and petrochemicals”¹⁴⁹. Presentations were given to forum participants by representatives of the Ministry of Industry of the Republic of Belarus, the “Belneftekhim” concern, as well as the enterprises “Gomselmash”, “MAZ”, “BELAZ”, “METZ named after V.I. Kozlov”, “Mogilevliftmash”, “BMZ”, “Grodno-Azot”, “Belshina” and “Gomel Chemical Plant”. It was also announced there that “assembly production of Belarusian machinery is planned to be established in Colombia”¹⁵⁰.

Finally, in April 2026, the 5th Belarus-Latin America Forum took place in Moscow, attended by diplomats from 14 countries in the Latin American region, at which “particular attention was paid to the economic dimension of cooperation, promising areas and new forms of interaction”¹⁵¹. The fact is that, as announced at the forum, the Belarusian side is working to restore

¹⁴⁷ Pivovarov, E. Shestakov spoke about the foundations on which Belarus’s cooperation with Latin America should be based / E. Pivovarov // [Online resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/politics/view/shestakov-rasskazal-o-tom-na-cto-doi-zhno-opiratsia-sotrudnichestvo-belarusi-s-latinskoj-amerikoi-629853-2024/>

¹⁴⁸ Pivovarov, E. Shestakov: Belarus is ready to cooperate with all Latin American countries / E. Pivovarov // [Online resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/politics/view/shestakov-belarus-gotova-sotrudnicat-so-vsemi-stranami-latinskoj-ameriki-629860-2024/>

¹⁴⁹ On the Fourth Belarus–Latin America Forum [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://russia.mfa.gov.by/ru/embassy/news/cd7c13ad45e9e020.html>

¹⁵⁰ Pivovarov, E. Plans to set up an assembly plant for Belarusian machinery in Colombia / E. Pivovarov // [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/sborochnoe-proizvodstvo-beloruskoj-tehniki-planiruet-sia-sozdat-v-kolumbii-707952-2025/>

¹⁵¹ On the 5th Belarus-Latin America Forum [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://www.mfa.gov.by/press/news/mfa/c5897e2e2494223b.html>

trade turnover figures to pre-pandemic levels. “For reference: trade turnover with Latin American countries amounted to \$1.4 billion in 2019, of which Belarusian exports accounted for \$764.3 million. In 2025, we achieved a 1.4-fold increase in trade turnover with Latin American countries compared with 2024”¹⁵². And there is every reason to believe that this upward trend will continue in the coming years.

At the 5th forum, the Belarusian side proposed a completely predictable, reliable and mutually beneficial partnership with the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. This is all the more so given that there are already numerous examples of successful cooperation. In particular, in **Venezuela**, Belarusian specialists have implemented a number of large-scale projects in the field of mechanical engineering. A cluster has been established covering Belarusian engineering, the construction of industrial and residential facilities, the promotion of agricultural technologies and the extraction of mineral resources. In 2025, a Belarusian working group was set up to handle food supplies and cooperation with this South American country in the field of agriculture. And as early as July last year, the Belarusian confectionery manufacturers ‘Kommunarka’ and ‘Spartak’ received their first trial consignments of cocoa beans from Venezuela¹⁵³. So cooperation between the two countries in the agricultural sector is set to continue.

In **Ecuador**, a particularly striking example is the work carried out by the Belarusian company “Belorusneft” in the oil sector of this Latin American country. Thanks to Belarusian drilling technologies, a national record for Ecuador was set in March this year. Specialists from the Well Construction Management Centre of the oil and gas production division of the “Rechitsaneft” division of “Belorusneft” and JSC “Service Oil Ecuador Ecuaservoil S.A.” drilled an ‘8.5-inch diameter lateral well with a total length of 5,494.7 feet in a single section’ at the Armadillo field and ran a 7-inch diameter production casing string with a total length of 5,671.91 feet. The national record was certified by the international organisation Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) Ecuador Section¹⁵⁴. The introduction of advanced Belarusian drilling technologies, as well as the coordinated work of contractors and competent technical and geological solutions at every stage, played a significant role in achieving this milestone. The use of digital solutions was of particular importance in setting the Ecuadorian national

¹⁵² Pivovarov, E. Belarus is increasing its trade turnover with Latin America. What figures have been achieved? / E. Pivovarov // [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-narashchivaet-tovarooborot-s-latinskoj-amerikoi-kakih-pokazatelej-udalos-dostich-775588-2026/>

¹⁵³ “Kommunarka” and “Spartak” have received their first trial consignments of cocoa beans from Venezuela [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/kommunarka-i-spartak-poluchili-pervye-probnnye-partii-kakao-bobov-iz-venesuely-727387-2025/>

¹⁵⁴ Belarusian oil workers set a record in Ecuador [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/beloruskie-neftianiki-ustanovili-rekord-v-ekvadore-768650-2026/>

record. This has enabled round-the-clock remote monitoring, assessment and real-time adjustment of drilling parameters online. Belarusian specialists are collaborating with the state-owned company ‘Petroecuador’. This collaboration is yielding productive results in oil and gas production and economic benefits, whilst also creating conditions for technology transfer between our country and the countries of Latin America.

In recent years, significant progress has been made in developing economic ties with **Nicaragua**. Joint projects involving the supply of Belarusian machinery – including construction, freight and municipal vehicles – are being successfully implemented. To date, this amounts to more than 370 units of machinery. It should be recalled that the first consignment of 128 units of machinery from the Minsk Automobile Plant was delivered in August 2025. The machines were transported to Central America by sea. “The machinery shipped included water tankers, concrete mixers, flatbed lorries and dump lorries”¹⁵⁵. Last November, the first consignment of machinery from the “AMKODOR” holding company also arrived in Nicaragua, comprising 12 “AMKODOR 211” multi-purpose side-turning loaders, 12 ‘AMKODOR 352’ front-end single-bucket loaders and 4 ‘AMKODOR 332S4’ multi-purpose loaders. All this machinery was manufactured to tropical specifications, taking into account the climatic conditions, high humidity and specific operating conditions in this Central American country. “The machines have been adapted to the customer’s requirements and are ready for operation under intensive conditions”¹⁵⁶. The next stage involved pre-delivery preparation and training for local specialists, which staff from the “AMKODOR” holding company are conducting jointly with Nicaraguan mechanics. This format of collaboration ensures a high level of service and technical support at the machines’ operating sites.

Incidentally, the second batch of AMKODOR machinery was delivered to Nicaragua at the end of December 2025. “The delivery comprised 4 ‘AMKODOR 352’ front-end loaders, 8 ‘AMKODOR 732’ backhoe loaders and 24 ‘AMKODOR 211’ skid-steer loaders”¹⁵⁷. This year, the Belarusian company plans to ship around 250 units of machinery to Nicaragua. And in February 2026, the third consignment of this machinery – ‘11 AMKODOR 211 multi-purpose skid-steer loaders, 6 excavator-backhoe loaders AMKODOR 732, 9 front-end single-bucket

¹⁵⁵ Belarus has supplied Nicaragua with 128 MAZ vehicles [Online resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-predala-nikaragua-128-edinitis-tehniki-maz-734041-2025/>

¹⁵⁶ “AMKODOR” has delivered its first consignment of machinery to Nicaragua [Online resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/amkodor-postavil-pervuiu-partiiu-mashin-v-nikaragua-748654-2025/>

¹⁵⁷ Second consignment of “AMKODOR” machinery delivered to Nicaragua [Online resource]. – 2025. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/vtoraia-partiia-tehniki-amkodor-predana-v-nikaragua-756758-2025/>

loaders AMKODOR 352, 4 self-propelled twin-drum AMKODOR 6622V vibratory rollers and 3 AMKODOR EO-3223A single-bucket excavators¹⁵⁸ – are already on site and undergoing running-in. All this equipment will be used for the construction and maintenance of motorways and local roads, as well as for keeping the street and road network clean and tidy. And finally: in March this year, the Minsk Automobile Plant announced that it was preparing to supply its vehicles to this country. “The total value of contracts signed with Nicaragua amounts to around \$100 million”¹⁵⁹. All these facts indicate that Belarus and Nicaragua are gradually opening up new opportunities for effective long-term cooperation.

There are also promising prospects in Belarus’s relations with **Brazil**. Suffice it to say that between January and November 2025, trade turnover between the two countries practically ‘reached \$766 million, having increased by almost 25 per cent compared with the same period in 2024. At the same time, the share of Belarusian exports is quite significant – over \$700 million, which is 30 per cent higher than the figures for the same period in 2024’¹⁶⁰. Exports to Brazil consist mainly of potash and nitrogen fertilisers, X-ray equipment, linen fabrics, control or measuring instruments, and profile projectors. Imports from Brazil consist mainly of specialised goods, coffee, frozen beef, acyclic alcohols and fruit juices. This year, the Brazilian side hopes to resume cooperation with

Belarus in the field of air transport. After all, the airline ‘Belavia’ actively uses Brazilian Embraer aircraft for medium-haul flights. This is all the more so given that Embraer aircraft make up a significant part of the fleet alongside Boeing.

There are also prospects for developing Belarusian-Brazilian ties in other areas. For example, in academic and scientific relations. Back in 2024, ‘a memorandum of understanding and cooperation was signed in Minsk between the Federal University of the State of Minas Gerais and three Belarusian universities’¹⁶¹. And in March this year, the Belarusian side held talks with representatives of the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on increasing the volume and broadening the range of mutual trade. Within the framework of scientific and technical cooperation, particular attention was

¹⁵⁸ A new consignment of AMKODOR machinery has arrived in Nicaragua [Online resource]. – 2026. – URL:

<https://belta.by/economics/view/v-nikaragua-pribvaja-novaja-partija-tehmiki-amkodor-763503-2026/>

¹⁵⁹ MAZ is preparing to deliver a consignment of machinery to Nicaragua [Online resource]. – 2026. – URL:

<https://belta.by/economics/view/inaz-gotovit-postavku-partii-tehmiki-v-nikaragua-769782-2026/>

¹⁶⁰ Brazilian Ambassador: We hope to resume cooperation between Belarus and Embraer [Online resource]. – 2026. – URL:

<https://belta.by/economics/view/posol-brazilii-my-nadeemsia-vozobnovit-sotrudnichestvo-mezhdu-belarusiu-i-embraer-762267-2026/>

¹⁶¹ Ambassador: Brazil sees good prospects for developing academic and scientific ties with Belarus [Online resource]. –

2024. – URL:

<https://belta.by/society/view/posol-brazilii-vidit-horoshie-perspektivy-razvitiia-akademicheskikh-i-nauchnykh-svjazei-s-belarusiu-635086-2024/>

paid to applied areas: the digital transformation of the social and financial sectors, as well as the introduction of innovative solutions in the agro-industrial complex and medicine. “An agreement has been reached to establish direct contacts between research institutes and educational establishments in both countries to assess the prospects for conducting joint fundamental research”¹⁶². With a view to establishing cooperation in the field of innovation, the prospects for the participation of Belarusian high-tech companies – including those based at the High-Tech Park and the ‘Velikiy Kamen’ Industrial Park – in relevant events organised by Brazil were discussed.

The parties also intend to step up regional cooperation. In particular, an agreement was reached last year to organise a visit to Minsk by a business delegation to discuss specific areas of cooperation, including smart agriculture, biotechnology and medicine, as well as ‘the signing of an agreement establishing a twinning relationship between Minsk and Brasília’¹⁶³. And in February this year, the head of the Belarusian diplomatic mission in this South American country met with the leadership of the Bahia state government, during which practical steps were discussed to develop mutually beneficial trade and economic cooperation in the agricultural, engineering and logistics sectors, with a focus on the state’s economic needs that hold promise for Belarusian manufacturers. In particular, “special attention was paid to increasing exports of Belarusian fertilisers, the possible establishment of joint ventures to produce agricultural machinery for small and medium-sized farms, the organisation of supplies of quarry dump trucks for the mining sector, the purchase by Belarusian consumers of Brazilian fruit, seafood and coffee”¹⁶⁴, as well as utilising the capabilities of Brazilian ports to increase the volume of bilateral trade. The Brazilian side also expressed interest in establishing cooperation in the fields of medicine, pharmacology, education and tourism.

As regards partnership ties with **Cuba**, the Belarusian side continues to develop cooperation, particularly in the field of pharmaceuticals. A number of joint projects have been set up and enterprises are being developed. Belarus purchases the best Cuban medicines. The Cuban side has registered more than 50 medicinal products. In the spring of

¹⁶² Expanding trade. Brazil explores prospects for joint projects with Belarus [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://belta.by/politics/view/rasshirenie-tovarooborota-v-brazili-rassmotreli-perspektivy-sovmestnykh-belarusi-ru-proektov-770715-2026/>

¹⁶³ Minsk and Brasília intend to sign an agreement establishing sister-city ties [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL:

<https://belta.by/economics/view/minsk-i-braziliya-namereny-podpisat-soglasenie-ob-ustanovlenii-pobratimskikh-svyez-718029-2025/>

¹⁶⁴ Export of fertilisers and agricultural machinery for farmers. In which areas is the Brazilian state of Bahia prepared to cooperate with Belarus [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://belta.by/politics/view/eksport-udobrenij-agrotehnika-dlia-femerov-v-kakih-sferah-brazilskii-shtat-bahia-gotov-sotrudnichestv-763304-2026/>

2025, the international exhibition and trade fair ‘Health for All’ took place in Havana, where Belarus was widely represented by enterprises from the ‘Belfarmprom’, ‘Akademfarm’ of the National Academy of Sciences. And in August last year, the Belarusian Glass Company supplied a consignment of products to the Cuban company FARMACUBA Importing-Exporting Company. “Samples of type B ampoules (with volumes ranging from 1 ml to 20 ml) were sent to Cuba. The Cuban side highly praised the quality, reliability and compliance with international standards of the Belarusian ampoules, and expressed its readiness to proceed with the first commercial order”¹⁶⁵. And in January 2026, a consignment of “the first 40-foot containers of Belarusian medical ampoules, totalling around 7 million units, for injectable medicines manufactured by OJSC ‘Belmedsteklo’” was dispatched¹⁶⁶. To ensure the valuable cargo arrived in perfect condition, sturdy packaging made of cellular polypropylene was specially purchased for it.

Another fact: in collaboration with the Cuban side, tractor assembly has been organised in the Olgin region. The first batch was assembled at the end of 2024, and the second at the beginning of 2025. Furthermore, “Bobruiskagromash” and “AMKODOR” are exploring the possibility and conducting direct negotiations regarding the establishment of machinery assembly plants in Cuba. An interesting area is cooperation in Cuba’s mining sector. In this context, the Belarusian side is proposing various options for cooperation: outsourcing, leasing arrangements for supplies, and possibly the establishment of joint production facilities. It has already reached a preliminary agreement “with Cuban partners to hold talks on the possibility of jointly developing new nickel deposits with friendly countries. This will involve the supply of our transport technologies and machinery, as well as the establishment of service and repair centres with the capacity to manufacture various components and assemblies on site”¹⁶⁷.

Now, regarding cooperation with **the Dominican Republic**. This country is the largest economy in the Caribbean, where the tourism sector plays a key role. In 2025, trade in agricultural produce between Belarus and the Dominican Republic consisted almost entirely of imports into our country of fruit, berries and cocoa paste. “Belarus’s export potential is hampered by geographical distance and high logistical costs, particularly when

¹⁶⁵ Belarusian glass company begins cooperation with Cuba [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL:

<https://belta.by/economics/view/beloruskaja-stekolnaja-kompanija-nachala-sotrudnichestvo-s-kuboi-733950-2025/>

¹⁶⁶ First consignment of Belarusian medical ampoules shipped to Cuba [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL:

<https://belta.by/economics/view/pervaja-partija-beloruskih-meditsinskih-ampul-otomuzhena-na-kubu-757235-2026/>

¹⁶⁷ Supply of food and equipment. How Belarus is developing cooperation with Cuba [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL:

<https://belta.by/economics/view/postavka-produktov-pitanija-tehniki-kak-belarus-razvivaet-sotrudnichestvo-s-kuboi-730683-2025/>

transporting frozen goods. Nevertheless, the parties have identified areas of mutual interest, focusing on products that can withstand long-distance transport¹⁶⁸. As early as April this year, the parties discussed an area of mutual interest – the supply of dried milk mixtures for infant and adult nutrition. This product category is ideally suited to the requirements of the Dominican market: a long shelf life, compact logistics, and high demand from tourism infrastructure businesses – hotels, restaurants and social institutions. Belarus's partners from the Dominican Republic are interested in dairy products, primarily dried milk mixtures, which can be transported over long distances without any loss of quality. This is a strategically important sector for this Caribbean country, given the growing demand for high-quality food. In this regard, the Belarusian side offered its Dominican partners not only standard products but also turnkey solutions: ready-made mixtures for the production of yoghurt, quark, ice cream and reconstituted milk. In addition, the possibility of producing cheese and butter in small consumer packs, branded under the trade names of Dominican tour operators – a format in high demand in the hotel and restaurant sectors – is being explored. The parties have agreed to address issues relating to tariff regulation, logistics arrangements and customs procedures as a matter of urgency. Systematic work to agree on supply terms and adapt products to the needs of the Dominican market will therefore help to overcome logistical barriers and take bilateral cooperation in the agri-food sector to a whole new level.

Last year, Belarus managed to increase its trade in agricultural machinery with **Argentina** quite significantly to meet the needs of the agricultural sector. Several major assembly projects are on the agenda. In March this year, the parties discussed possible ways of intensifying bilateral cooperation in the fields of politics and the economy, as well as in developing the legal framework. Agriculture, including agricultural machinery manufacturing, was cited as one of the areas of interest to the Argentine side. And “our country is ready to share with its Argentine partners its expertise in agriculture, veterinary medicine, and the production of animal feed and vaccines”¹⁶⁹. Let us hope that joint steps to develop direct links between the business communities of Belarus and Argentina will take place as early as this year.

Another interesting partner for Belarus in South America is **Peru**. In 2021, a sales and service centre for Belarusian machinery was opened in that country.

¹⁶⁸ Belarus intends to expand exports of dried milk mixtures to the Dominican Republic [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-namerena-razvivat-eksport-suhikh-molochnykh-smesei-v-dominikamu-774615-2026/>

¹⁶⁹ Pivovarov, E. Argentina shows interest in Belarusian agricultural machinery manufacturing / E. Pivovarov // [Electronic resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/argentina-proiavilaet-interes-k-belorusskomu-selhozmaschinostroenii-u-770704-2026/>

Tractor deliveries have begun, and an order book for construction and haulage machinery is being built up. In 2023, the Minsk Tractor Works expressed an interest in entering the Peruvian market, whilst representatives of the country's government bodies confirmed that 'there is a need to procure agricultural, municipal and specialised machinery'¹⁷⁰. The main issue is the supply of spare parts and the establishment of warranty and post-warranty servicing. Plans include staff training and technical cooperation with the Central University of Peru. In March 2026, Minsk and Lima discussed cooperation in the fields of politics, the economy and trade, support within the framework of international organisations, and the development of a legal and contractual framework. The Belarusian side proposed "exploring the possibility of a more detailed examination of areas where our country's expertise would be of greatest interest to Peru"¹⁷¹ and supported the view that new areas of cooperation should be sought.

Finally, we must not forget another potential partner for Belarus on the American continent: **Mexico**. In March 2026, the two sides discussed relations in the political, trade and economic spheres, as well as in the humanitarian field. "Agriculture, the IT sector and tourism were identified as promising areas for cooperation <...>"¹⁷². It is worth recalling that in the 1980s, the Minsk Tractor Works supplied 1,000 tractors to this country, after which there were only sporadic deliveries. In June last year, representatives of the Belarusian enterprise visited the Mexican 'Toluca' industrial park, where they established contacts with a view to resuming exports and subsequently promoting BELARUS machinery in Mexico. At the same time, the "Minsk" Free Economic Zone and the "Toluca" industrial park signed a cooperation agreement aimed at "expanding trade and investment cooperation, including participation in joint projects, business events, and trade and investment missions"¹⁷³. This is all the more relevant given the size of the Mexican market. Incidentally, in September 2024, representatives of the Belarusian capital met with Mexican diplomats. At this meeting, it was stated that Minsk is interested in developing partnership relations with Mexico, particularly in the trade and economic sphere, as "cooperation with Mexico opens up numerous opportunities for collaboration across various

¹⁷⁰ MTZ is interested in establishing a presence in the Peruvian market [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL:

<https://belta.by/economics/view/mtz-zainteresovan-v-prisutstvi-na-rvnke-peru-590369-2023/>

¹⁷¹ Pivovarov, E. Agricultural machinery manufacturing and beyond. Belarus and Peru intend to seek new areas of cooperation / E. Pivovarov // [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://belta.by/politics/view/selhoz mashinostroenie-i-ne-toлько-belarus-i-peru-namereny-jskat-novye-tochki-vzaimodelstvija-763871-2026/>

¹⁷² Pivovarov, E. Agriculture, the IT sector, tourism. Which sectors hold promise for Minsk and Mexico City / E. Pivovarov // [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://belta.by/politics/view/seiskoe-hozijstvo-i-IT-sektor-turizm-kakie-sfery-mogut-stat-perspektivnymi-dlia-minska-i-mehiko-769556-2026/>

¹⁷³ MTZ is exploring opportunities to resume exports to Mexico [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/special/economics/view/mtz-izuchaet-vozmozhnosti-dlia-vozobnovlenija-eksporta-v-meksiku-722999-2025/>

sectors of the economy”¹⁷⁴. For example, in agriculture, the manufacture of medical equipment and pharmaceuticals, and in the field of digitalisation. So, in 2026, it appears that the Belarusian-Mexican partnership may reach a new level of cooperation.

Let us now return to the 5th Belarus–Latin America Forum, at which the Belarusian side proposed to its Latin American partners not merely to supply a wide range of agricultural machinery, but to implement comprehensive solutions “to raise the level of agricultural mechanisation, including the introduction of advanced agricultural technologies, as well as the development of service infrastructure and staff training”¹⁷⁵. In the context of growing urbanisation, Belarus also proposed solutions for the development of urban transport infrastructure. These include, in particular, electric buses and trolleybuses with autonomous driving capabilities. The development of joint ventures and assembly plants is seen as a promising area, the implementation of which may be accompanied by elements of localisation of production in specific countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. And finally. Statistics show that in Belarus, exports of goods and services over the first two months of 2026 – January and February – increased by 13 per cent. At the same time, ‘exports to countries in Latin America and the Caribbean are growing rapidly (by 27.9 per cent)’¹⁷⁶. This shows that Belarus’s drive for economic cooperation with the countries of this region is, in fact, only just beginning, and is founded on friendship and mutual understanding.

¹⁷⁴ Trade, the economy and healthcare. Kukharev outlined areas for cooperation with Mexico [Online resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/torgovo-ekonomicheskaja-sfera-meditsina-kukharev-oboznachil-napravlenija-sotrudnichestva-s-meksiko-660219-2024/>

¹⁷⁵ Pivovarov, E. Mechanical engineering, construction and oil extraction: what landmark projects has Belarus carried out in Latin America? / E. Pivovarov // [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/mashinostroenie-stroitelstvo-i-dobycha-nefti-kakie-znakovye-proekty-realizovala-belarus-v-latinskoj-775604-2026/>

¹⁷⁶ In Belarus, exports of goods and services increased by 13 per cent in January–February [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/v-belarusi-eksport-tovarov-i-uslug-v-i-anvare-fevrale-uvlechilsja-na-13-777784-2026/>

CHAPTER 8

Belarus: prioritising strong regions – new industries, new jobs

One of the seven state priorities of the Republic of Belarus – the fifth, which was established not only in previous years but also for the next five years – concerns strong regions. The main instrument of regional development in our country is the implementation of investment projects which, through new production facilities, strengthen the regional framework for the sustainable development of the Belarusian state. It is worth recalling that during the previous five-year plan, particular emphasis was placed in Belarus on the **‘One District – One Project’** initiative. During this period, ‘over a hundred projects were implemented and around 4,900 new jobs were created’¹⁷⁷. Let us now look at the specific Belarusian regions that have managed to fulfil the challenging objectives of this initiative.

In 2025, the **Minsk Region** led the way in terms of the number of “One District – One Project” initiatives. There, 51 projects were planned, with investment totalling over two billion Belarusian rubles and the creation of more than two thousand jobs. By early November of last year, 26 projects had already been ‘implemented’. In 2025, 10 projects were successfully completed, and it is planned to implement a further 10 or so by the end of the year, possibly even more¹⁷⁸. By the end of the year, 29 investment projects had been implemented, to which a further five will be added. “The total value of all projects is approaching the Br700 million mark. Around 1,200 jobs have been created at the new production facilities”¹⁷⁹.

Pharmaceutical production has emerged as the most attractive sector within this programme. It is in this sector that the largest projects have been implemented in the Nesvizh and Cherven districts. In particular, a modern pharmaceutical manufacturing plant in the Nesvizh district – the foreign unitary enterprise ‘Medinterplast’ – is already yielding tangible results. “A large-scale business plan worth 27.5 million has been implemented in just over two years – from the initial idea and development of the architectural design to its realisation”¹⁸⁰. Meanwhile, in the Soligorsk district, a project is

¹⁷⁷ Chebotar: the investment policy of the new five-year plan is aimed at strengthening the economic potential of the regions [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/special/economics/view/chebotar-investitsionnaya-politika-novoi-piatletki-natsionalnaya-ukrepleniye-ekonomicheskogo-753749-2025/>

¹⁷⁸ How many projects under the ‘One District – One Project’ initiative have been implemented in the Minsk Region? [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/skolko-proektov-no-initsiative-odin-raion-odin-proekt-realizovano-v-minskoi-oblasti-747396-2025/>

¹⁷⁹ More than 180 investment projects are planned for the Minsk Region in 2026 [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/v-minskoi-oblasti-v-2026-godu-planiruyut-realizovat-bolee-180-investproektov-755635-2025/>

¹⁸⁰ District-wide project: by autumn, around 30 new medicines will be produced in Nesvizh [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/proekt-raionnogo-masshtaba-k-oseni-okolo-30-novyyh-lekarstvennyh-preparatov-budut-vypuskat-v-nesvizhe-729173-2025/>

underway to create an innovative closed-cycle quail farm with automated collection and packaging of marketable eggs. The total quail population currently stands at 600,000. “Once the project is fully operational, it is planned to produce at least 175 million quail eggs annually”¹⁸¹. The facility will create around 50 new jobs.

In the **Grodno Region**, the list drawn up under the ‘One District – One Project’ initiative comprises 29 investment projects with a total value of around 1.2 billion Belarusian rubles, which are expected to create 1,153 new jobs. By the start of 2026, 19 of these had already been completed. Notable among these are investment projects “to establish a glass container production facility in Grodno, build a wood-processing plant in the Svisloch District, produce plastic products in the Grodno District, organise the production and processing of poultry products in the Lida District, and set up a laminated plywood production facility in the Smorgon District”¹⁸².

And in November 2025, as part of this initiative, a modern medical centre specialising in ophthalmic microsurgery was opened in Grodno. “The medical centre, covering an area of 1,200 square metres, is equipped with state-of-the-art, high-tech equipment that meets international quality and safety standards. The opening of the facility has provided employment for around 50 specialists, with the prospect of further staff expansion”¹⁸³. The medical facility is equipped with innovative imaging systems, laser and ultrasound technology, as well as digital platforms for storing and analysing medical data, enabling accurate diagnosis and effective treatment in the shortest possible time. The clinic is packed with technology. This includes diagnostic technologies – comprehensive examinations of the eyes, diagnostics ranging from the most basic issues to in-depth diagnosis of retinal pathologies and problems with intraocular pressure, as well as laser treatment methods. Several unique lasers are installed here, including one of the most advanced excimer lasers currently available on the market. The centre’s operating theatre is also equipped with state-of-the-art technology.

Between 2026 and 2028, a further nine projects will be completed in the Grodno region as part of this initiative. Notable among these are major projects such as the construction of a dry baby food production facility at

¹⁸¹ Quail farm, innovations in production. The Soligorsk poultry farm has set a course for modernisation [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL:

<https://belta.by/special/economics/view/peredelinaia-ferma-innovatsii-v-proizvodstve-soligorskaiia-ptitsefabrika-vziala-kurs-na-modernizatsiiu-729012-2025/>

¹⁸² 19 investment projects have been implemented in the Grodno Region under the ‘One District – One Project’ programme [Electronic resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/v-grodnenskoj-oblasti-realizovano-19-investproektov-po-programme-odin-raion-odin-proekt-763481-2026/>

¹⁸³ The Eye Microsurgery Centre was established in Grodno thanks to the ‘One District – One Project’ initiative [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/tsentr-mikrohirurгии-glaza-poi-avilsi-a-v-grodno-blagodari-a-initiative-odin-rai-on-odin-proekt-747364-2025/>

OJSC ‘Bellakt’ in Volkovysk, the refurbishment of a production workshop at OJSC ‘Oshmyany Meat Processing Plant’, and the construction and operation of a container terminal near the Svisloch railway station in the Svisloch District. During the same period, “a project to introduce advanced technologies and organise an efficient process for applying protective and decorative coatings will be implemented at Smorgon Aggregate Plant OJSC, whilst a poultry meat processing plant will be established at the ‘Ostrovets Turkey’ farm”¹⁸⁴.

In the **Gomel Region**, over the past five-year period, thanks to the implementation of the ‘One District – One Project’ initiative, ‘24 projects were carried out in 21 districts of the region. More than 1,430 new jobs were created, and over Br1.2 billion was invested’¹⁸⁵. For example, in the urban settlement of Lelchitsy, a young construction company – LelStroyGarant LLC – “opened a sawmill providing 20 jobs and, last year [2025], earned over \$400,000 from supplying planks and timber abroad, accounting for 12.5 per cent of the region’s exports”¹⁸⁶. Over the past year, the company increased its output by 28 per cent, whilst exports to Russia, Uzbekistan and Georgia rose by almost 17 per cent. In 2027, it plans to expand its business further by constructing a workshop for metal structures for buildings and other constructions, which will also be export-oriented. Meanwhile, the Khoyniki Hydraulic Equipment Plant, part of “MTZ-HOLDING”, completed the “One District – One Project” programme last year with a project that “will be able to largely meet the domestic market’s demand for covers and brackets. Furthermore, participation in the project enabled the plant to create 10 additional jobs”¹⁸⁷. The cost of this project is almost three and a half million Belarusian rubles.

Here is another example. At the ‘Dobrush Paper Mill “Hero of Labour”’ branch of OJSC ‘Management Company of the “Belarusian Wallpaper” Holding’, ‘a production facility for coated packaging board has been established, up to 90 per cent of whose output is exported – to Russia, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan and other countries. The raw materials

¹⁸⁴ Wood processing, glassware production, poultry meat processing. What investment projects have been implemented in the Grodno Region [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://belita.by/regions/view/derevoobrabotka-proizvodstvo-steklotary-pererabotka-miassa-mititsy-kakie-investirovki-realizovany-v-759418-2026/>

¹⁸⁵ Over 1,400 jobs have been created under the ‘One District – One Project’ programme in the Gomel Region over five years [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://belita.by/regions/view/bolee-14-tys-rabochih-mest-sozdano-po-programme-odin-raion-odin-proekt-v-gomelskoi-oblasti-za-piat-let-761683-2026/>

¹⁸⁶ A district-wide project: a small business in Lelchitsy has become one of the region’s top five exporters [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://belita.by/economics/view/proekt-raionnogo-masshtaba-chastnaya-lesonilka-v-lelchitsah-obespechila-125-eksporta-regiona-761647-2026/>

¹⁸⁷ The Khoyniki Hydraulic Equipment Plant will complete the ‘One District – One Project’ programme by the end of August [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belita.by/specia/economics/view/hoinikskii-zavod-gidroapparatury-zavershit--the-‘one-district-one-project’ programme-by-the-end-of-August-728677-2025/>

are sourced locally – aspen and birch pulp¹⁸⁸. A cardboard production facility has been set up from scratch, with over 350 million dollars invested and 260 jobs created. Today, one in three of the factory’s employees is involved in the production of innovative products, and salaries are among the highest in the region. In 2024, having invested 1.7 million Belarusian rubles, the enterprise commissioned an additional format-cutting machine to increase the output of sheet cardboard, thereby expanding its customer base.

Meanwhile, at the Rechitsa Hardware Factory, as part of the ‘One District – One Project’ programme, an investment project was carried out to create additional capacity for the production of hardware products, which was implemented in two phases. The first phase began in 2023, and the project was fully completed by the end of 2025. “The first phase involved expanding the production of fasteners using existing facilities. In effect, this meant increasing output to boost export volumes. It was successfully completed in 2023. The second phase is entirely new; it enables the production of a new type of product”¹⁸⁹. The plant has begun producing fasteners with diameters ranging from 18 to 24 millimetres. The project has created an additional 20 jobs. The plant’s new capacity enables it to export products to countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

In the Mogilev Region, over the past five-year period, as part of this initiative, “25 projects were implemented, 1,100 jobs were created and around 1 billion Belarusian rubles of investment were utilised”¹⁹⁰. Among the completed projects are the modernisation of technical carbon production at OOO “Omsk Carbon Mogilev”, the launch of fish production at UN “Rybkhoz Paluzh”, the construction of modern complexes for rainbow trout farming, and the installation of fish farming complexes in the Khotim, Cherikov and Krasnopol districts. Furthermore, as part of the ‘One District – One Project’ initiative, KMB-Vostok Ltd has completed the construction of a fibre-cement panel production facility. Meanwhile, ‘Meta Mining Alfa’, a resident of the High-Tech Park, has successfully implemented a project to build a mining farm. The facility has already been commissioned, creating more than 20 jobs¹⁹¹.

¹⁸⁸ District-wide project: Dobrush Paper Mill has tripled its production volumes over the past five years [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL:

<https://belta.by/economics/view/proekt-raionnogo-masshtaba-dobrushskaya-himazhnaia-fabrika-za-platfletku-utrofla-obiemy-proizvodstva-765377-2026/>

¹⁸⁹ New types of fasteners and a fleet of equipment. An import-substitution project has been implemented at the Rechitsa Metalworks [Electronic resource]. - 2026. - URL:

<https://belta.by/regions/view/novye-vidy-krepzha-i-park-oborudovaniia-importozameschaischii-proekt-realizovali-na-rechitskom-766298-2026/>

¹⁹⁰ Over the five-year period, 25 projects were implemented in the districts of the Mogilev Region under the ‘One District – One Project’ initiative [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/za-platfletku-v-raionah-mogilevskoi-oblasti-po-initsiative-odin-rai-on-odin-proekt-realizovano-25-764218-2026/>

¹⁹¹ Ministry of Economy: the implementation of promising investment projects creates new drivers of regional economic growth [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL:

As for the **Brest Region**, by the start of 2026, 19 out of 29 planned projects had been implemented as part of the ‘One District – One Project’ initiative. In particular, in Mikashevichi, Luninets District, “a second automated production line for paving slabs, concrete kerbs and blocks using the vibro-pressing method has been installed, with a capacity of 25,000 cubic metres of products per year. It offers dozens of options for shapes, colours and unique combinations thereof – the so-called ‘colour mix’¹⁹². Meanwhile, in the agricultural settlement of Olshany in the Stalinsky District, a greenhouse complex was built under the ‘One District – One Project’ programme to enable year-round tomato cultivation. ‘The 4.2-hectare greenhouse complex <...> was built at the “OlshanyAgro” peasant farm. The possibility of installing a supplementary lighting system in the greenhouses is being explored. Other farmers in the Stalinsky District are also showing interest’¹⁹³.

Finally, 35 investment projects were planned for implementation in the **Vitebsk Region**. As of 1 January 2026, 24 had been implemented. These included “the launch of production facilities for food flavourings in Beshenkovichi, lubricating oils in the Gluboksky District, electrical engineering products in the Braslavsky District, perfumery and clothing in the Dokshitsky District, and fish products in the Chashniksky District”¹⁹⁴. This list also includes projects to modernise the woodworking facilities at the Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve in the Lepel District, the introduction of ‘Industry 4.0’-based technology for the production of metal structures by the Novopolotsk Plant of Technological Metal Structures; the organisation of production of new product types at OJSC “Obolsk Ceramic Plant”; and the production of dairy products at OJSC “Postav Dairy Plant”.

In addition, a business plan for the advanced processing of local raw materials was implemented in Dubrovno. In the summer of 2025, a second automated production line was launched to produce 1,300 tonnes of cottonised flax fibre per year. “Thus, at OJSC ‘Dubrovno Flax Mill’, the latest stage of modernisation has been completed. This process began in 2022 with the commissioning of the first cottonisation line, with a capacity of 1,100 tonnes, which enabled the enterprise to increase its revenue by a third

<https://belta.by/economics/view/minekonomiki-realizatsija-perspektivnyh-investproektov-sozdaet-novye-tochki-rosta-ekonomiki-regionov-727331-2025/>

¹⁹² A district-wide project: the production of tricolour tiles is being set up in Mikashevichi, whilst a milk-drying plant is being built in Luninets [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/proekt-raionnogo-masshtaba-vvpusk-trehtsvetnoi-plitki-osvaivaut-v-mikashevichah-a-v-luninets-stroiat-751164-2025/>

¹⁹³ A tomato-growing complex has been built in Olshany under the ‘One District – One Project’ programme [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/kompleks-dlia-vyrashchivaniia-tomatov-postroili-v-olshanah-po-programme-odin-raion-odin-proekt-752199-2025/>

¹⁹⁴ The ‘One District – One Project’ programme continues to be actively implemented in Belarus [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://sdgs.by/regional-news/v-belarusi-prodolzhaetsya-aktivnaya-realizatsiya-programmy-odin-raion-odin-proekt/>

and paid for itself within a year”¹⁹⁵. Meanwhile, a new plant producing cold-pressed juices has opened in Sharkovshchina. The plant was established, once again, as part of the ‘One District – One Project’ initiative. ‘Implementation of the investment project “Multidisciplinary Fruit and Vegetable Processing Plant” began in 2022. During construction, unused assets were put to productive use. The plant has created 20 new jobs”¹⁹⁶. It is planned that 65 per cent of the output will be exported, with the remainder sold on the domestic market. At present, apples are being processed, but next year the plant will use berries, and in the spring – birch sap. In the future, the plant will also produce dried fruit and healthy fruit products with honey. The completion of a further three phases of the project is planned over the next two years. Once the entire project is complete, more than 50 new jobs will be created.

Let us now turn to the new programme for Belarusian regions – the **“Regional Initiative”** – which is replacing the “One District – One Project” scheme and features a simplified administrative decision-making process. The selection criteria for these investment projects are as follows: ‘implementation outside the capital and regional centres; high significance for the region’s socio-economic development; the creation of new production facilities or the modernisation of existing ones; and the creation of at least five new jobs’¹⁹⁷. The funding instrument is the ‘Investment Development’ loan product, which includes new financial instruments – ‘Strong Regions’, ‘Tourism Potential’ and ‘Technological Self-Sufficiency’.

Since the start of 2025, around 350 applications have been received under this initiative, of which around 50 were submitted in January–February of this year. “180 applications with a total value of around 4 billion Belarusian rubles have been approved. <...> Most of the ‘Regional Initiative’ projects are manufacturing-oriented. These include, in particular, the food industry, wood processing, the production of building materials, machinery and equipment, and chemical manufacturing”¹⁹⁸. Seven business ideas in the service sector have also been included in the pool: leisure and entertainment organisations, and medical services. Forty-seven investment projects

¹⁹⁵ A district-wide project: in Dubrovno, flax is being turned into cotton, and they’re making a decent profit from it [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL:

<https://belta.by/economics/view/proekt-raionnogo-masshtaba-v-dubrovno-len-prevraschajut-v-hlonok-i-neploho-na-etom-zarabatyvajut-756602-2025/>

¹⁹⁶ Pushnyakova, A. Up to 65 per cent of production is for export. A factory producing freshly squeezed juices has opened in Sharkovshchina / A. Pushnyakova // [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/do-65-produktsii-na-eksport-predprii-atie-po-proizvodstvu-sokov-priamogo-otzhima-otkrylos-v-747316-2025/>

¹⁹⁷ From wood processing to tourism. Which investment projects have been included in the ‘Regional Initiative’ pool [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/ot-derevoobrabotki-do-turizma-kakie-investirovki-voshli-v-pul-regionalnoi-initsiativy-731331-2025/>

¹⁹⁸ Ministry of Economy: 180 projects have been included in the ‘Regional Initiative’ pool [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/minekonomiki-180-proektov-stali-chastiiu-pula-regionalnoi-initsiativy-766082-2026/>

included in the ‘Regional Initiative’ list have already received the necessary funding from banks, whilst active work is underway with organisations regarding the remainder.

Among the leaders in this regard is **the Minsk Region**, where the ‘Regional Initiative’ project already ‘includes 45 investment projects worth 1.8 billion Belarusian rubles. The creation of 1,500 modern jobs is envisaged’¹⁹⁹. Investment projects will be implemented in the food industry, wood processing, machinery manufacturing, the production of building materials and the chemical industry. For example, two projects have already been included in the Starodorozhsky District. There are also projects in the Kopyl and Myadel districts. “The latter is known for its tourism, which is why a tourism-related project has been included as part of the initiative. The same can be said of the Nesvizh District, which also has a focus on tourism – three projects have already been included”²⁰⁰. Meanwhile, in the Dzerzhinsk District, a private company plans to open a medical centre as part of the “Regional Initiative”. By mid-March, two investment projects had already been implemented: a paving slab production facility has been set up in the Soligorsk District, and a vegetable vacuum-packing plant in Starye Dorogi.

An important fact: in many Belarusian regions, between four and seven projects are planned. “The undisputed leader among the districts is **Bobruisk**, with 13 projects. Another telling example is **Pinsk**, where eight projects are set to be implemented. This level of activity has been largely facilitated by the construction of an industrial park”²⁰¹. However, in one in three Belarusian districts, no such initiatives have yet been observed. Let us hope that this situation will change in the near future, as the Ministry of Economy receives around 50 applications every month. So the scope of the “Regional Initiative” will very soon expand dramatically to every corner of our country. And then the fifth priority of the Programme for the Socio-Economic Development of Belarus for 2026–2030 – ‘Strong Regions’ – will take on a new dimension, helping to balance the development of all Belarusian regions and boost their economic potential.

¹⁹⁹ 45 investment projects will be implemented in the Minsk Region in 2026 as part of the “Regional Initiative” [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/v-minskoi-oblasti-v-2026-godu-realizuiut-45-investproektov-v-ramkah-regionalnoi-initsiativy-767319-2026/>

²⁰⁰ How many projects in the Minsk Region have already been included in the pool for implementation under the “Regional Initiative” [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/skolko-proektov-v-minskoi-oblasti-uzhe-vklucheno-v-pul-dlia-realizatsii-po-regionalnoi-initsiativ-748991-2025/>

²⁰¹ The Ministry of Economy has revealed which region leads in investment projects [Electronic resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/kakoi-iz-regionov-lidit-po-investproektam-rasskazali-v-minekonomiki-768001-2026/>

Belarus's Free Economic Zones: a variety of approaches to successful business

Free Economic Zones (FEZs), as an institution of the market economy, occupy a special place in the Republic of Belarus. They were established with the aim of attracting investment into the creation and development of export-oriented and import-substituting industries based on new and advanced technologies. As of early 2026, 426 enterprises with a workforce of nearly 136,000 people were registered in six Belarusian FEZs. Exports of goods by residents of these FEZs in 2025 approached nine billion dollars²⁰². Their experience shows that they have already become a vital instrument for the development of the Belarusian national economy, stimulating industrial growth, increasing the number of jobs, facilitating the introduction of cutting-edge technologies and promoting exports. Let us examine this experience using a number of SEZs as examples.

The **“Gomel-Raton” SEZ** is not merely a business hub, where 60 enterprises with foreign capital from ten countries currently operate, but also a system with a comprehensive service infrastructure, where investors receive support at every stage – from professional business planning and marketing to efficient customs clearance. Suffice it to say that in 2025, around 500 new jobs were created at enterprises based in this SEZ, ensuring ‘technological sovereignty and

import substitution, which have become a reality thanks to <...> production lines [of the SEZ’s resident enterprises]”²⁰³. Meanwhile, the volume of industrial output in the SEZ grew by almost seven per cent compared with 2024 levels.

And the share of exports last year stood at just under 58 per cent. “Today, the products <...> of residents are in demand in more than 45 countries worldwide. A positive trend in exports has emerged, laying the foundations for scaling up in 2026”²⁰⁴. Furthermore, exports of goods abroad by SEZ residents already account for more than 40 per cent of the total export volume of the entire Gomel Region. For example, at the Dobrush ‘Hero of Labour’ paper mill, which forms part of OJSC ‘Management Company of the “Belarusian Wallpaper” Holding’, a ‘production line for coated packaging board was established in 2025, with up to 90 per cent of its output being

²⁰² Zaleski, B. The Geometry of Growth. A Systemic Approach and Key Tasks for the Development of Belarusian Exports / Boris Zaleski. - LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2026. - p. 3.

²⁰³ Around 500 new jobs were created at companies based in the “Gomel-Raton” Free Economic Zone in 2025 [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/okolo-500-novyh-rabochih-mest-sozdali-na-predpriyatiiah-rezidentah-sez-gomel-raton-v-2025-godu-769209-2026/>

²⁰⁴ Products manufactured by residents of the ‘Gomel-Raton’ Free Economic Zone are in demand in more than 45 countries worldwide [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/produtsiia-rezidentov-sez-gomel-raton-vostrebovana-bolee-chem-v-45-stranah-mira-769203-2026/>

exported²⁰⁵. They also set up a cardboard production facility from scratch, with over 350 million dollars invested to create 260 jobs. There are other interesting examples as well.

In particular, in June last year, a resident of this SEZ – OAO ‘Tomelsteklo’ – completed the construction of a production line for polished glass. This marked the final stage of an investment project to modernise the company’s equipment. ‘The state-of-the-art furnace with automated control features certain design characteristics that ensure economical operation and efficient use of heat’²⁰⁶. The company received its first batch of glass as early as August. The commissioning of this production line – one of the most advanced in the world – will significantly boost production efficiency and strengthen OAO Tomelsteklo’s position in the international market, enabling it to compete successfully with European companies.

Last summer, another SEZ resident – OAO “Raton” – modernised its range of automotive mirrors. One of the product types recently developed by the company is designed for OAO “BELAZ” mining dump trucks operating in northern conditions. ‘Mirror products are just a small segment of our multi-faceted production, but a unique one’²⁰⁷. Car mirrors first appeared in the company’s product range in the 1970s. Since then, not only have they maintained their achievements, but they have also expanded their potential by retaining their own design bureau.

And this year, another SEZ resident – OJSC ‘Gomelagrokomplekt’ – plans to commission a new workshop where it will produce feed dispensers, seed drills, silage cutters, and trailers for transporting cattle and pigs. “Prototypes are already being tested on the holding’s farms; the opening of the new facility will enable production volumes to be increased”²⁰⁸. Furthermore, in March 2026, a new SEZ resident – SapAero LLC – announced the establishment of a centre for the maintenance and repair of aviation equipment in Belarus. The aim of the investment project is to establish and subsequently operate a centre for the maintenance and repair of aviation equipment or aircraft based at Gomel Airport. “The investment amounts to

²⁰⁵ A resident of the ‘Gomel-Raton’ SEZ has tripled its production volumes over the five-year period [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://gomelraton.com/press-center/news/rezident-sez-gomel-raton-za-pyatiletku-utrofl-obemny-proizvodstva/>

²⁰⁶ Gomelsteklo OJSC, a resident of the ‘Gomel-Raton’ Free Economic Zone, has completed the construction of a production line for polished glass [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://www.gomelraton.com/press-center/articles/rezident-sez-gomel-raton-oao-gomelsteklo-zakonchilo-stroitelstvo-linii-no-proizvodstvu-polirovannogo/>

²⁰⁷ A resident of the “Gomel-Raton” Special Economic Zone is modernising its range of rear-view mirrors for heavy goods vehicles [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://www.gomelraton.com/press-center/articles/rezident-sez-gomel-raton-moderniziruet-linevku-avtozherkal-dlya-boishegruzov/>

²⁰⁸ OJSC “Gomelagrokompakt”, a resident of the “Gomel-Raton” SEZ, plans to commission a new workshop in 2026 [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://gomelraton.com/press-center/news/rezident-sez-gomel-raton-oao-gomelagrokompakt-v-2026-godu-planiruet-vvesti-v-ekspluatatsiyu-novyy-ts/>

1.52 million euros. The investment project is expected to create 22 jobs”²⁰⁹.

As for the infrastructure of this SEZ, work continued in 2025 to lay the foundations for the development of its residents. Firstly, in December last year, a new distribution substation on Lepeshinskogo Street in Gomel was commissioned. “This facility will serve as a reliable source of energy for manufacturing and mark another step towards modernising our city’s electricity grid infrastructure”²¹⁰. Secondly, in September, work began here on the road reconstruction project on 3rd Vitebskaya Street, where the narrow two-lane carriageway will soon be replaced by a modern four-lane road with new lighting and storm drains. The project is scheduled for completion in the fourth quarter of 2026.

And there’s more. In 2025, the “Gomel-Raton” Special Economic Zone (SEZ) began drawing up a roadmap for the development of this business hub up to 2030, which is intended to “deliver a qualitative leap: identify new investment priorities, take the infrastructure to a new level and strengthen the competitiveness of residents in global markets”²¹¹. And this year, a decision was taken in this SEZ to implement a key project for the near future – a multimodal industrial park. This will not simply be another construction project. The plan is to create “an ecosystem that will combine new production facilities with warehousing, office and exhibition infrastructure”²¹². For new businesses and start-ups, the park will provide a fast-track launch. After all, there will be ready-to-use production premises where manufacturing operations can be set up quickly. For existing residents, this means new opportunities for the storage, delivery and distribution of their products. The implementation of this project will lay the foundations that will enable the “Gomel-Raton” SEZ to remain a magnet for the most cutting-edge businesses.

It remains only to add that the targets set for this SEZ for 2026 are ambitious. “For instance, export growth is expected to reach 4 per cent, whilst investment in fixed capital at constant prices is projected to rise by 8 per cent. Wages are set to rise by 13 per cent”²¹³. These targets can be achieved if the

²⁰⁹ A resident of the “Gomel-Raton” Free Economic Zone is to establish an aircraft maintenance centre at Gomel Airport [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://gomel-region.gov.by/ru/economics-ru/view/rezident-sez-gomel-raton-sozdast-isent-texovsluzhivaniia-aviatexniki-na-baze-gomelskogo-aeroporta-55441-2026/>

²¹⁰ Energy security, efficient logistics. How the infrastructure of the ‘Gomel-Raton’ Special Economic Zone is developing [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/energeticheskai-bezopasnost-udobnaia-logistika-kak-razvivaetsia-infrastruktura-sez-gomel-raton-769213-2026/>

²¹¹ Enhancing competitiveness in foreign markets. What challenges will the development strategy for the ‘Gomel-Raton’ Special Economic Zone address? [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/special/economics/view/povysit-konkurentosposobnost-na-vneshnfn-rvnrak-kakie-zadachi-reshit-strategia-razvitiia-sez-gomel-725680-2025/>

²¹² Plans are in place to create a multimodal industrial park in the ‘Gomel-Raton’ Special Economic Zone [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/multimodalnyi-promyshlennyi-nark-planiruiut-sozdat-v-sez-gomel-raton-769221-2026/>

²¹³ Growth in exports, investment and higher wages. The head of the “Gomel-Raton” SEZ has set out the targets for 2026 [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://belta.by/special/economics/view/prirrost-eksporta-investitsii-uvlechienie-zarplat-rukovoditel-sez-gomel-raton-nazval-zadachi-725680-2025/>

activities of the SEZ's residents reach new heights, enabling them to remain competitive both within the Gomel Region and across Belarus as a whole.

As for the enterprises in the **'Mogilev' SEZ**, 2025 proved to be a fairly stable and successful year for them. The figures bear this out. Firstly, during this period, SEZ residents exported goods worth over one billion dollars. Moreover, over the first three quarters of last year, the share of exports to the Eurasian Economic Union market stood at 'just over 87 per cent'. Exports of goods to Tajikistan increased 3.4-fold, to Saudi Arabia 2.7-fold, to China 1.8-fold, to Latvia 1.6-fold, and to Slovakia 1.4-fold'²¹⁴. Secondly, they invested over 330 million Belarusian rubles in fixed assets, which indicates the development and modernisation of these enterprises. This has helped them to introduce a number of interesting innovations. In particular, OJSC "Olsa" has started producing electrically operated medical beds, whilst OJSC "Mogilevliftmash" has begun manufacturing high-speed lifts. Meanwhile, 'BelEmsa' Ltd, in addition to its wide range of sanitary and hygiene products, has started producing nappies, whilst 'Bezalatum' Ltd has launched the production of insulation made from the natural material basalt'²¹⁵. Thirdly, last year, the "Mogilev" SEZ paid considerable attention to the development of engineering and transport infrastructure. One of the key projects in this context was the construction of biological treatment facilities for surface water in the fourth section, which ensured the treatment of water from industrial sites, roads and the surrounding area.

Fourthly, in 2025, the SEZ welcomed seven new companies with a declared investment volume of almost seven million euros, which enabled the creation of over 110 new jobs. By the end of January 2026, 53 organisations had already been registered there. "Forty-one residents are carrying out production activities, whilst the remainder are in the pre-investment and construction phases"²¹⁶. In February and March of this year, a further three enterprises were registered in the "Mogilev" SEZ. First, "System Automation" Limited Liability Company and the foreign limited liability company

'SDT BelM'²¹⁷, which will ensure an inflow of additional capital into the economy of the Mogilev Region and contribute to the expansion of the labour market. This was followed by 'AS-Product' LLC, which plans to

[na-2026-eod-769219-2026/](#)

²¹⁴ Five new residents have joined the 'Mogilev' SEZ this year [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/njant-novkh-rezidentov-nojavilos-v-sez-mogilev-v-etom-godu-749098-2025/>

²¹⁵ Vasilkova, E. The 'Mogilev' SEZ – a home for your business / E. Vasilkova // Mogilev Bulletin. – 2026. – 18 Feb. – p. 7.

²¹⁶ Residents of the 'Mogilev' Free Economic Zone exported goods worth approximately \$1.1 billion in 2025 [Online resource]. – 2026. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/rezidenty-sez-mogilev-v-2025-godu-eksportirovali-tovarov-na-summu-pori-adka-11-mird-761492-2026/>

²¹⁷ Two new residents have joined the ranks of the "Mogilev" Free Economic Zone [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://fezmogilev.by/services/sobytiva/dv33a-novkh-rezidenta-nopolnili-rvady-svobodnov-ekonomicheskoy-zony-mogilev/>

manufacture translucent aluminium structures. Production is due to commence this year. The products will be used for glazing buildings and structures. They will be made to order, depending on the dimensions, quantities and type of glass required by the customer in each specific case. In particular, ‘the company intends to produce aluminium structures using energy-saving, sun-protective, impact-resistant and multifunctional glass, as well as stained-glass systems’²¹⁸. In addition, “AS-Product” intends to manufacture fire-resistant doors which, thanks to the use of innovative technologies, will retain their resistance to fire and smoke for a long time. Construction has also recently begun in this SEZ on a large-scale complex for the production of oriented strand board (OSB). The company ‘Ultra Plai OSB’, which has been a resident of this SEZ since 2011, plans to produce over 600,000 cubic metres of product per year. As for the SEZ’s plans for 2026, they centre primarily on two areas. Firstly, the development of lean manufacturing. This spring, the ‘Mogilev’ SEZ saw the opening of Belarus’s first regional centre of excellence for lean manufacturing, established as part of the Productivity Improvement Programme under the international technical assistance project ‘Promoting the Adoption of Fourth Industrial Revolution Technologies in the Mogilev Region of Belarus’. This project is being implemented with expert and financial support from the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO). A training facility called the ‘Production Processes Factory’ has been set up within the SEZ. “This is a practice-oriented educational environment that simulates real production processes and is designed for the comprehensive mastery of the principles and tools of lean manufacturing”²¹⁹. Since April, lessons on the basics of lean manufacturing have been introduced in educational institutions across the Mogilev Region. Training will be provided here under five educational programmes tailored to specific target audiences: ‘school pupils, university students, workers and engineering technical staff at enterprises, social sector workers and office staff’²²⁰. Secondly, the FEZ plans to develop its engineering, transport and industrial infrastructure. An industrial park for FEZ residents is currently being established in the Mogilev Region. “This will be a rather interesting project, with industrial space totalling around 150,000 square metres. This represents

²¹⁸ Stained-glass production to begin near Mogilev [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://officelife.media/news/70518-pod-mogilevom-zapustyat-proizvodstvo-vitrazhey/>

²¹⁹ The Mogilev community has been joined by specialists in lean manufacturing [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL:

<https://fezmogilev.by/services/sobytiya/mogilevskoe-soobshchestvo-popoinizos-snetsialistami-v-oblasti-herezhivogo-proizvodstva/>

²²⁰ Karpekov, S. Lean manufacturing – an investment in the future / S. Karpekov // Mogilev Bulletin. – 2026. – 25 Feb. – p. 7.

a significant leap forward and a new stage in the development of the free economic zone, particularly in terms of the structural provision of services for our potential investors”²²¹. It is already known that the new park will be located on the vacated premises of the polyester yarn factory of OJSC “Mogilevkhimvolokno”. To ensure the use of the very latest technologies and solutions in the design and operation of the industrial park, a decision has been taken to hold a competition for start-up projects on the theme ‘A modern, smart and efficient industrial park’. This competition was announced in March this year at the ‘Mogilev’ Free Economic Zone.

It features several categories: “Solutions for communication between the management company and residents”, “Solutions for organising movement within the park”, “Integrated energy and resource management systems”, “Smart park”, “New building materials and renovation technologies”, “Digital twin and presentation of the park”, “Waste Management Solutions”. “The site of the industrial park under development is a closed, perimeter-fenced area comprising a single-storey production building with a floor area of 150,000 square metres and a three-storey administrative and amenity building with a total floor area of 7,800 square metres”²²².

The implementation of the industrial park project envisages the development of sectors in high demand. These include the creation of a centre for the processing of industrial waste: the installation of a system for crushing wood waste; the installation of equipment for compressing paper and cardboard waste; the installation of equipment for processing textile waste into wadding; and the creation of an electronic platform for the exchange of secondary resources between enterprises based in the SEZ. In addition, there are plans to introduce technologies for monitoring ambient air quality, which will enable the monitoring of maximum permissible emission concentrations by both the park’s residents and all enterprises located in the fourth section of the SEZ, as well as the monitoring of energy consumption and the condition of utility networks. There are also plans to introduce ‘green’ technologies, set up a charging point for electric vehicles and create recreational areas.

All these plans indicate that the systematic approach in the “Mogilev” enables the positive trend in capital inflows to be maintained and attracts new residents specialising in innovative technologies and the principles of sustainable development; it also confirms the SEZ’s status as a key

²²¹ The development of lean manufacturing and the establishment of an industrial park. How the ‘Mogilev’ Special Economic Zone will develop [Electronic resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/razvitiye-berezhlivogo-proizvodstva-formirovanie-promyshlennogo-parka-kak-budet-razvikatsya-sez-mogilev-761504-2026/>

²²² The “Mogilev” Special Economic Zone has announced a start-up competition [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/konkurs-startapov-obiavila-sez-mogilev-767283-2026/>

investment hub in the Mogilev Region, where favourable conditions and existing incentives provide a conducive environment for the implementation of large-scale projects and the sustainable development of SEZ residents.

Let us now turn our attention to the “Vitebsk” **Special Economic Zone**, which was established back in 1999. Over the last five-year period, it has ranked among the top three SEZs in Belarus in terms of growth rates for key performance indicators, providing favourable conditions for attracting new and high technologies and advanced international expertise in the production of goods and services, whilst stimulating exports and the development of import-substituting industries. Fifty-three investment projects are being successfully implemented within the SEZ, involving capital from eleven countries, including Germany, Poland, the United States of America, the Czech Republic, Russia, the United Kingdom, Israel, Latvia, Canada, Cyprus, the Netherlands, as well as Belarus. Currently, more than sixteen thousand people are employed by organisations based in the SEZ. The main production sectors covered by the investment projects under way include the fuel, veterinary, chemical, light and food industries, mechanical engineering, science and scientific services, and electronics, which are located across 17 sites in Vitebsk, Novopolotsk and Postavy, as well as in the Orsha, Polotsk, Miory and Tolochin districts.

The key objective for the Vitebsk Special Economic Zone for 2025 was clearly defined as ‘increasing investment in fixed assets by no at least 1.5 times that of the previous year, including through the implementation of new projects’²²³. Even then, there was talk of major projects to be carried out by SEZ residents. In particular, this included “a fish processing plant, with initial investment here amounting to around \$25 million. A Belarusian-Chinese electric vehicle manufacturing plant is to be established in the Polotsk district. The project involves an investment of around \$107 million and the creation of 240 jobs”²²⁴. The discussion centred on the production of electric vehicles for agriculture, housing and communal services, and light-duty vehicles (up to three tonnes) for all types of services. There was also mention of an import substitution project – a Belarusian-Italian enterprise that will produce 3P soles and arch supports for the footwear industry.

In 2025, a further four Belarusian organisations were registered as residents

²²³ Infrastructure and investment. Ministry of Economy on key objectives for economic zones in the Vitebsk Region [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/infrastruktura-i-investitsii-minekonomiki-o-kljuchevyh-zadachah-dlia-ekonomicheskikh-zon-vitebskoi-704846-2025/>

²²⁴ Electric cars, fish processing. What investment projects are being implemented by SEZ residents in the Vitebsk Region [Online resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/elektrokar-y-nererabotka-ryby-kakie-investirovki-realizuiut-rezidenty-sez-v-vitebskoi-oblasti-676924-2024/>

of the “Vitebsk” SEZ, with a total investment in fixed assets of just under 130 million Belarusian rubles. Among them is the company “RDF-Region”, which will construct a site for the production of technical soil and recycled crushed stone. “AMARANT LLC is expanding its production of polypropylene products. Bion Healthcare LLC is setting up a pharmaceutical production facility. FORMSPRAV LLC will undertake the construction of a plywood factory. A total of 176 jobs will be created at these enterprises”²²⁵.

Negotiations also continued on seven

investment projects by enterprises planning to register in the SEZ, with a total investment of around 300 million Belarusian rubles and the creation of 517 jobs. These include the production of grinding balls, electronic components, and solid-board cones for the textile and chemical industries, as well as metalworking, electric vehicles and electric buses, motor oils and catalysts, and shiitake mushrooms.

Meanwhile, in March, the “Vitebsk” SEZ registered its first resident of 2026. Under its new status, Biomika LLC will expand its production capacity for veterinary medicines. This project will be implemented at one of the sites in Vitebsk in the area of Petrusya Brovka Street. The investment is estimated at one million euros. This will enable a roughly one-quarter increase in the output of innovative and import-substituting veterinary medicines for industrial livestock farming, as well as for the pet segment”²²⁶.

It is worth noting that, today, one in ten residents in this SEZ is developing production in the pharmaceutical sector. This area of activity is one of the priorities in the Vitebsk Region’s Socio-Economic Development Programme for the period up to 2030. For this reason, particular attention is being paid here to attracting potential investors to this sector. Incidentally, in March this year, representatives of the SEZ administration, together with residents Belkarolin LLC and Bion Healthcare LLC, took part in the India–Belarus Pharmaceutical Business Forum. As a result, ‘agreements were reached on organising a business mission by a pharmaceutical

to the administration of the ‘Vitebsk’ SEZ in June of this 227.

Returning to the results of this SEZ’s activities, it should be noted that in 2025 the target for the growth rate of investment in fixed capital was exceeded by almost ten per cent, amounting to 256 million Belarusian rubles. These are investments in the real sector of the economy – in new equipment

²²⁵ Aniskovich, E. Four Belarusian enterprises have joined the ‘Vitebsk’ Special Economic Zone this year. They will create 176 jobs / E. Aniskovich // [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belita.by/economics/view/v-sez-vitebsk-v-etom-godu-pojavilis-chetvye-belorusskikh-nredpriiatia-oni-sozhdadut-176-rabochih-mest-751222-2025/>

²²⁶ Kochetov, S. ‘Biomika’ LLC has joined the pool of resident pharmaceutical enterprises in the ‘Vitebsk’ SEZ / S. Kochetov // [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://www.vitbichi.by/news/ekonomika/pul_farmatsevticheskikh_predpriyatij_rezidentov_sez_Vitebsk_popolnilo_ooo_biomika/

and in job creation. “The greatest contribution to achieving this target was made by the enterprises ‘Morskie Sezony’, the Orsha Flax Mill, and ‘VIK-Zdorovye for Animals’, ‘Polotsk-Steklovolokno’, PO ‘Energokomplekt’”^{227 228}. The target for the current year is to attract over 300 million Belarusian rubles in investment in fixed assets, which will be achieved both through the development and modernisation of existing production facilities and through the launch of projects by new companies from China, the United Arab Emirates and Iran. Furthermore, documents have already been prepared for the establishment of an Investment Development Agency under the administration of the ‘Vitebsk’ Free Economic Zone, which will operate as a republican unitary enterprise and be responsible for attracting investment both to the northern region of Belarus as a whole and to the free economic zone in particular. All this will help not only to maintain competitiveness but also to take the Vitebsk Region to a new level of development.

Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange: the number of trading participants is growing steadily

In 2026, the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange (BUCE) is expanding the number of participants in electronic trading. In the first four months of this year, 322 foreign companies from 25 countries have already been accredited on the Belarusian exchange platform, including: 36 from China, 24 from Azerbaijan, 19 from Uzbekistan and 14 from Kazakhstan. The influx of new foreign trading participants is largely driven by growing demand for Belarusian products. “First and foremost, these are dairy products, meat products, sawn timber, flax fibre, feed additives and sugar”²²⁹. Overall, as of early May 2026, just under forty thousand business entities had been accredited on the BUTB, including 9,372 from 83 countries.

Looking at specific regions, there has been an increase in the volume of trading on the BUTB with all companies from Belarus’s partner countries within the **Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU)**. Over a two-month period, they concluded transactions totalling just under two hundred million dollars, which is 11 per cent more than during the same period in 2025. A positive trend in stock exchange trade turnover is evident with all EAEU member

²²⁷ Participation of the administration of the “Vitebsk” SEZ in the India–Belarus Pharmaceutical Business Forum [Electronic resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://fez-vitebsk.by/press-room/meroprivatiya/indivsko-belorusskiv-farmatsevticheskiy-delovoy-forum/>

²²⁸ Murashkina, V. The “Vitebsk” SEZ summarised its production and economic performance for 2025 and set out development targets for the current year / V. Murashkina // [Electronic resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://www.vitbichi.by/news/ekonomika/v_Vitebsk_summarised_the_results_of_its_industrial_and_economic_activity_for_2025_and_determined_the_pa/

²²⁹ More than 300 new foreign companies began trading on the BUTB in 2026 [Electronic resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://belia.by/economics/view/bolee-300-novyyh-inostrannykh-kompaniy-nachali-torgovat-na-butb-v-2026-godu-779065-2026/>

states. The highest growth rate compared with January–February last year was achieved in trade with **Kyrgyzstan**. “Thanks to active purchases of Belarusian meat and dairy products and sawn timber, as well as supplies of raw materials for the textile industry to Belarus, Kyrgyz trading participants have increased the value of their transactions on the exchange platform almost ninefold”²³⁰. An interesting detail: Kyrgyzstan has become one of the top five foreign sellers of raw materials for the textile industry on the BUTB trading platform. Producers from this Central Asian country mainly sell unbleached calico – a cotton fabric used in the manufacture of workwear, work gloves, industrial sacks, furniture covers and other similar products – via the exchange platform. “Over the past year, the total value of transactions for the sale of unbleached calico from Kyrgyzstan on the BUTB reached around \$1 million, and over the first four months of 2026 – \$0.6 million”²³¹. Overall, however, the foreign trade potential of Belarus and Kyrgyzstan has not yet been fully utilised. For this reason, in order to further increase the volume of mutual exchange trading, it is necessary, firstly, to expand the pool of Kyrgyz trading participants and, secondly, to supplement the range of goods involved in export and import transactions with new, promising items. Furthermore, in 2026, three new Kyrgyz residents applied to participate in exchange trading on the BUTB, and by mid-May, 44 companies from that country had already been accredited there.

As for **Kazakhstan**, trade turnover with that country increased 3.5-fold – mainly due to imports of Belarusian sugar, which accounted for 36 per cent of the total value of exchange transactions. In trade with **Armenia**, the main drivers of growth were, on the one hand, supplies of milk powder to that country’s market and, on the other, the sale of large consignments of ferroalloys to industrial enterprises in Belarus. As a result, Belarusian-Armenian exchange trade volume increased 2.2-fold. The total value of transactions by **Russian** participants over the first two months of 2026 rose by two per cent.

Among other countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, **Azerbaijan** is also worth noting. ‘According to the results of exchange trading in January–April 2026, Belarusian agribusiness enterprises increased their exports to Azerbaijan by a factor of 4.2 in value terms. As a result, the share of agricultural produce in the structure of exchange trade between

²³⁰ Belarus has increased the volume of stock market trading with all its EAEU partners [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL:

<https://belta.by/special/economics/view/belarus-uvlechila-obiemv-birzhevoi-torgovli-so-vsemi-partnerami-po-caes-772274-2026/>

²³¹ Exchange trade turnover between Belarus and Kyrgyzstan rose by 25 per cent in January–April [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://www.belarus.by/ru/business/business-news/birzhevoi-tovarooborot-belarusi-i-kyrgyzstana-v-ianvare-aprele-uvlechilsia-na-25-1213164.html>

Belarus and Azerbaijan increased 3.6-fold...²³². It should be noted that, as recently as two years ago, sawn timber accounted for the entire volume of exchange exports from Belarus to Azerbaijan. However, since last year, the situation has gradually begun to change, and agricultural products have started to account for an increasing share of trade between the two countries. These are primarily milk powder, butter and beef. Against the backdrop of active participation in trading by Azerbaijani importers, the share of agricultural products in the structure of trade with this South Caucasus country reached 11 per cent over the first four months of this year. By way of comparison, in January–April 2025 it stood at just three per cent.

Alongside the increase in supplies of Belarusian goods to the Azerbaijani market, a promising area of cooperation is attracting local producers to the BUTB who are prepared to sell products in demand in Belarus through exchange auctions. In addition to vegetables, fruit, dried fruit and nuts, the Belarusian side is extremely interested in imports of cotton fibre from Azerbaijan. After all, local companies are capable of posing serious competition to other suppliers, primarily from Central Asia, as there are some fairly strong producers on the Azerbaijani market. Incidentally, in April this year, the Azerbaijani Novex Group, comprising four manufacturing and one distribution company, announced its intention to sell fruit juices and concentrates through BUTB. This producer is a major player in the food market, supplying a wide range of soft drinks, tinned fruit and vegetables, sauces and flour-based products not only to Azerbaijan but also to many countries around the world. “Through the exchange platform, the Azerbaijani holding company plans to reach the main consumers of juice products in Belarus and organise regular sales of both ready-made juices and nectars, as well as raw materials for their production – primarily pomegranate and apple concentrates”²³³. It should be noted that, as of 11 May 2026, 215 residents of Azerbaijan were accredited on the BUTB, including one with the status of an exchange broker.

Among Asian countries, **China** has shown a high level of activity on the Belarusian exchange market this year. Suffice it to say that “the total value of exchange transactions between Belarusian and Chinese companies accredited on the BUTB exceeded \$77 million between January and April 2026”²³⁴.

²³² Belarusian agricultural enterprises have quadrupled their exports to Azerbaijan via BUTB [Online source]. - 2026. - URL:

<https://belta.by/economics/view/belorusskie-selhozpredpriiatiia-v-chetvire-raza-uvlechili-eksport-v-azerbaidzhan-cherez-butb-779982-2026/>

²³³ A major Azerbaijani food producer intends to enter the Belarusian stock market [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/kрупnyi-azerbaidzhanskii-proizvoditel-produktov-pitaniia-nameren-vviti-na-birzhevoi-rynok-belarusi-774553-2026/>

²³⁴ The value of stock market transactions between Belarusian and Chinese companies exceeded \$77 million in January–April [Online source]. - 2026. - URL:

This is almost forty per cent more than in the corresponding period of 2025. The key factor driving the positive growth in stock exchange trade between the two countries was the supply of Belarusian agricultural produce to the Chinese market. In January–February of this year, Chinese importers purchased agricultural commodities on the exchange totalling 18 million dollars, which is seven times more than in the same period of 2025. Items such as flax fibre and flax shives, chilled and frozen beef, beef offal, mink skins, dried milk and butter are in particularly high demand. Incidentally, ‘whilst last year seven trading organisations from China regularly purchased these products through the exchange, this year the pool of regular buyers from the PRC has increased to 19 companies’²³⁵. Another factor behind China’s activity on the BUTB is the sale in Belarus of import-substituting products manufactured by Chinese producers. Overall, however, Belarusian exports continue to dominate the structure of exchange transactions, accounting for almost 90 per cent. In monetary terms, this amounts to just under 70 million dollars. The growth rate compared to January–April last year stands at almost 130 per cent. Furthermore, as of mid-May this year, 386 Chinese business entities had been accredited on the BUTB – an increase of 39 new entities since the start of 2026. However, these figures are set to improve in the very near future, as in May this year the BUTB agreed a cooperation deal with the Chinese province of Gansu. ‘The most promising areas of cooperation have been identified as mutual supplies of agricultural produce, as well as the procurement of equipment for the food industry’²³⁶. At present, the lion’s share of transactions involving agricultural products is accounted for by items such as flax fibre, meat products, fur raw materials, dried whey and butter, whilst the range of goods is constantly expanding. Attracting importers and exporters from Gansu Province to the exchange platform will contribute to the further diversification of the commodity structure of Belarusian-Chinese exchange trade and will enable an increase in its volumes in both physical and monetary terms. The use of exchange instruments at an inter-regional level should have a positive impact on the dynamics of Belarusian-Chinese exchange trade in goods. Furthermore, agreements have been reached on using the exchange mechanism to organise supplies of Belarusian dairy products and feed additives to Gansu Province. The Belarusian Union of Commodity Exchanges (BUCE) also has certain

<https://belta.by/special/economics/view/summa-birzhevyh-sdelok-mezhdu-kompanijami-belarusi-i-kitajskaja-77-mln-za-1-anvar-anrel-780738-2026/>

²³⁵ BUTB notes high demand for Belarusian agricultural produce in China [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL:

<https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-otmechaet-vysokii-spros-na-belorusskui-u-selhozproduktii-u-Kitajskaja-771290-2026/>

²³⁶ Belarus and the Chinese province of Gansu to develop exchange-based trade [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL:

<https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-kitajskaja-provintsija-gansu-budet-razvivat-birzhevoi-vektor-torgovli-781632-2026/>

expectations this year regarding increased activity by **Indian** companies on the Belarusian exchange market. In February this year, one of the largest importers and distributors of softwood sawn timber in this South Asian country – Medashe1 – announced its participation in exchange trading in timber products on the BUTB. This Indian trading participant imports around 100,000 cubic metres of sawn timber annually from Europe and the Americas, and eight warehouse complexes with a total area of 14,000 square metres, located in Mumbai, Chennai and Mundra, are used to store this volume of timber. Medashe1 is currently seeking additional sources of sawn timber supplies, and Belarus, with its well-developed timber industry, is of great interest to the Indian importer. It should be noted that, in terms of the development of exchange-traded exports of wood products, India is one of the most promising markets for Belarus, primarily due to the scale of domestic demand and the high purchasing power of local importers. With a population of one and a half billion people, the country ranks among the world's largest economies, with steadily growing timber consumption, which could reach 32 million cubic metres by 2030. For reference, as at the end of February this year, India was 'represented by 14 companies at BUTB, six of which were accredited in 2025. Over the past year, the value of exchange transactions concluded by these companies reached \$4.8 million, three times the figure for 2024'²³⁷. Purchases of Belarusian sawn timber accounted for around thirty per cent of the exchange trade turnover between Belarus and India.

Another Asian country – **Turkey** – plans to step up its cooperation with Belarus in the exchange sector this year. Back in February, the Turkish Embassy and the Belarusian Union of Commodity Exchanges (BUCTE) discussed the results of Turkish companies' participation in exchange trading in 2025–2026 and identified promising areas for cooperation, the implementation of which will help to strengthen trade and economic relations and boost mutual trade between Belarus and Turkey. Following the meeting, an agreement was reached to step up joint efforts between the BSTB and the Turkish Embassy to develop exchange trading between the two countries. As at the end of February, "128 Turkish residents were accredited with the BUTB. By the end of 2025, the value of exchange transactions by Turkish traders had risen by 27 per cent to \$26.5 million"²³⁸. Sawn timber, dried milk, dried whey, flax fibre, wheat gluten, 'vet-blue' leather and ferrous

²³⁷ A major Indian importer of sawn timber is set to enter the Belarusian exchange market [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/krupnyi-indijski-importer-plomaterialov-vvidet-na-birzhevoi-rynok-belarusi-766283-2026/>

²³⁸ Belarus plans to develop stock market trading with Turkey [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-nanimet-razvivat-birzhevuiu-torgovliu-s-turtsiei-766834-2026/>

metal scrap were exported to Turkey via the exchange. In turn, Turkish companies mainly supplied raw materials for the textile industry to Belarus. So let us hope that this year will bring us new and interesting results in Belarusian-Turkish exchange trading.

The first four months of 2026 saw a marked surge in interest from **European** businesses in the Belarusian exchange market. This trend continued in May. On an annualised basis, the total value of exchange transactions by companies from European countries increased by more than one and a half times. In particular, ‘for Germany, the growth rate compared to January–April 2025 stood at 122 per cent. In Belarus, German residents mainly purchased milk powder, dried whey, butter and casein, whilst supplying maize seeds and food-grade lactose’²³⁹. In addition to **German** residents, companies from 13 European countries concluded exchange transactions on the BUTB during this period. The most popular Belarusian commodities among European participants were milk powder, rapeseed oil, flax fibre, beet pulp and molasses, whilst Belarus mainly imported agricultural seeds and herbicides.

For example, the first transaction involving the sale of flax fibre to **Poland** was recorded as far back as July 2025. ‘The purchase amounted to 400 tonnes, worth \$1.5 million, making this the largest transaction of its kind since the introduction of exchange trading in flax processing products’²⁴⁰. Further growth in exports of products from the Belarusian flax industry is being facilitated by a pilot project for the export of flax fibre via the BUTB, as provided for by a Belarusian government decree dated 21 July 2025. Leading domestic producers of short and long fibres are participating in the project, and the Orsha Flax Mill has been designated as the sole operator responsible for placing orders for the sale of these products on the exchange’s trading system.

In 2026, Belarus and **Hungary** will expand the range of commodities traded on the exchange. In 2025, Hungarian exchange participants used the Belarusian exchange platform exclusively to purchase zinc-containing waste. At the same time, compared with the first eight months of 2024, the value of contracts concluded increased two and a half times. New areas of growth for exchange-traded trade between Belarus and Hungary will be the supply of veterinary medicines and seeds to the Belarusian market. Both product groups are in high demand among domestic enterprises in the agri-industrial

²³⁹ BUTB notes a surge in interest from European businesses in the Belarusian stock market [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-otmechaet-vsplesk-interesa-evropeiskogo-biznesa-k-birzhevom-rynku-belarusi-781540-2026/>

²⁴⁰ Poland has begun purchasing Belarusian flax fibre through exchange trading [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/polsha-nachala-zakupat-belorusskoe-inovolokno-na-birzhevnyh-torgah-729443-2025/>

sector, which is reflected accordingly in transaction volumes. For instance, “between January and August 2025, Belarusian residents purchased veterinary medicines on the exchange totalling Vg120 million, which is 24 per cent more than in the same period of 2024. Exchange sales of seeds for sowing also showed a marked increase compared with the previous [2024] year – up 17 per cent, to 241 million BYN”²⁴¹. The most sought-after items were maize, rapeseed, beet and perennial legume seeds. Both Belarusian and foreign suppliers acted as sellers: from Belgium, Germany, Denmark, Serbia and France. With a view to expanding the pool of Hungarian producers represented on the BUTB (), a cooperation agreement has been reached with the Hungarian Export Promotion Agency, which will facilitate Hungarian businesses’ entry onto the Belarusian e-platform. Incidentally, 25 Hungarian residents are currently accredited on the BUTB.

Another interesting partner for BUTB in Europe is **Serbia**. In October 2025, a BUTB broker’s certificate was issued for the first time to a company from this Balkan country. A Serbian producer, importer and distributor of food products was granted the status of a professional trading participant; the company had already been regularly purchasing milk powder and butter on the Belarusian exchange platform for over two years. Initially, the company planned to act as a link between Belarusian dairy processing enterprises and Serbian consumers of dairy products, performing key functions such as such as attracting new importers to the BUTB, assisting Serbian residents in concluding exchange transactions, and providing transport and logistics support for exchange contracts between Belarusian and Serbian businesses. Looking ahead, the new BUTB broker intends to gradually expand the range of goods procured from Belarus, as well as explore the possibility of supplying Belarusian products not only to Serbia but also to other countries on the Balkan Peninsula. In 2025, exchange trading with Serbia demonstrated high growth rates. Thus, ‘compared with January–September 2024, the value of transactions by Serbian participants in exchange trading increased 2.5-fold. Belarusian exports dominate the structure of exchange trade, accounting for 65 per cent in value terms’²⁴². Skimmed milk powder, whole milk powder, dried cream and butter were supplied to the Serbian market via the exchange. In turn, Serbian companies sold agricultural seeds and plant protection products in Belarus.

The arrival of an accredited exchange broker in Serbia will, of course, have a

²⁴¹ Belarus and Hungary to expand the list of commodities traded on the exchange [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-vengriia-rasshiriat-nerechen-tovarov-birzhevoi-torgovli-736522-2025/>

²⁴² The Belarusian Stock Exchange (BUTB) has accredited the first brokerage firm in Serbia [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/special/economics/view/butb-akkreditovala-pervuiu-brokerskuiu-kompaniiu-v-serbii-741077-2025/>

positive impact on the number of Serbian users of the exchange platform, as well as on the growth in trading volumes, since a broker typically represents the interests not of just one or two, but of a whole range of companies.

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