

# Metamorphosis of global challenges

In January-February 2025, construction, trade and transportation were the main growth drivers of the Belarusian economy. The gross domestic product of our country grew by more than three percent over this period. Growth trends continue in the sphere of high technologies and industry. In March this year, Belarus renewed the government, which has been set serious tasks. The most important of them include: sustainable economic growth; ensuring efficient operation of every enterprise; even and sustainable development of all Belarusian regions; creating conditions for attracting foreign and domestic investment; increasing exports of goods and services, including to new markets; developing effective international trade and economic cooperation. Special attention in this plan will be paid to diversification of export-import supplies in the markets of third countries, the "far arc". It is already known that in the near future high-level contacts will be made with Pakistan, Oman, Guinea-Bissau, Vietnam, Zimbabwe, among others. How some of these tasks are being realized in practice by Belarus today is the subject of the proposed study.



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*International economic cooperation and Belarus*

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## **One District - One Project" initiative as a tool for liberating local initiative**

The "One District - One Project" initiative has been in place since 2022, when the head of the Belarusian state instructed the Ministry of Economy of Belarus together with regional executive committees to form a list of projects to be implemented in each Belarusian region. Among the tasks set for the implementation of this initiative are the creation of jobs, retention of personnel in a particular region, as well as the preservation of competencies of the region. Also, "the tasks include the creation of new export-oriented products and the development of related industries. Any production contributes to the development of related industries - transportation, logistics, trade, energy, services"<sup>1</sup>. In addition, import substitution is an important condition in today's situation.

It should be reminded that the "One District - One Project" program is designed for the current five-year period. And already in 2026 its results will be summarized. Since the beginning of 2023, the number of projects under this initiative was 129. Then this list was increased to 156, and at the end of the year it expanded to 190 projects, the cost of which is about eight billion Belarusian rubles. And this is not the limit, as "about two dozen more projects should appear in the list. The work is going on all the time"<sup>2</sup>. And as of January 1, 2024, 28 investment projects have already been implemented, and for the first quarter of this year - six more. By

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<sup>1</sup> Socio-economic development of regions and import substitution: tasks of the initiative "One district - one project" [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/sotsialno-ekonomicheskoe-razvitiye-regionov-i-importozameschenie-zadachi-initsiativy-odin-rajon-odin-634027-2024>

<sup>2</sup> Ministry of Economy: the program "One district - one project" will include about two dozen more initiatives [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/minekonomiki-v-programmu-odin-rajon-odin-proekt-budet-vkljucheno-esche-okolo-dvuh-desjatkov-initsiativ-634147-2024/>

the end of the year it was planned to complete 55. "More than 2 thousand jobs have already been created under the realized projects. In general, more than 9 thousand jobs are to be created under the "One District - One Project" initiative"<sup>3</sup>.

As of the fall of 2024, 208 projects were already in this program. The planned total amount of investments by the end of 2025 for this initiative is almost nine billion Belarusian rubles. Of this program, 38 projects have already been implemented and put into circulation. "This year, almost Br0.5 billion have been mastered. In total, in 2024 <...> should invest Br1.5 billion under this program"<sup>4</sup>.

Among the Belarusian regions we can single out the leaders in terms of the number of implemented initiatives. Gomel and Minsk regions have five projects each, and Vitebsk region - four. To be more precise, "in Minsk region it is Barysau, Dzerzhynski, Kopylski, Smolevichi districts. Three or more projects are created there. In general, 2 or more projects are created in each district of the country"<sup>5</sup>. Among the already realized initiatives, the majority of them are production-oriented projects. If we look at the sectors, they include woodworking, metallurgical production, production of machinery and equipment, processing of agro-industrial products, production of medical products, and pharmaceuticals. Among the most successful projects are the enterprise on creation

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<sup>3</sup> Under the initiative "One district - one project" 34 projects have already been realized [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/po-initiative-odin-rajon-odin-proekt-realizovano-uzhe-34-proekta-633766-2024/>

<sup>4</sup> Pushnyakova, A. Golovchenko: the program "One district - one project" is aimed at liberating local initiatives / A. Pushnyakova // [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/golovchenko-programma-odin-rajon-odin-proekt-napravlena-na-raskreposchenie-initsiativy-na-mestah-657380-2024/>

<sup>5</sup> Leaders among oblasts: where the potential of the initiative "One district - one project" has been realized [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/lidery-sredi-oblastej-gde-realizovan-potentsial-initsiativy-odin-rajon-odin-proekt-633813-2024/>

of technical carbon of Omsk Carbon Mogilev IOOO, furniture production with elements of digital factory of Olsa OJSC. "In the Gomel region a large production facility for the creation of cheese and dairy products was realized, in the Vitebsk region - a broiler poultry farm, in the Minsk region - Slutsk cheese factory. A large woodworking complex in Grodno region was also realized this year"<sup>6</sup>.

If we talk about specific projects in the same **Minsk region**, 46 projects included in the initiative "One district - one project" were being implemented there in 2023. "Their realization provides for the creation of more than 2 thousand jobs"<sup>7</sup>. Interestingly, investors in the capital region invest most of all in the manufacturing industry, as well as in housing construction. They account for more than half of the projects. Projects in agriculture, forestry and fisheries can also be noted. "Both state-owned enterprises and private businesses invest in regional projects. Foreign investors are also attracted. There is an increase in foreign direct investment"<sup>8</sup>. Among those completed last year in the capital region we note the project in Krupsky district - the organization of production of terraced board. As well as the realized project on production of milk powder with capillary-porous structure at the Kopyl branch of Slutsk cheese factory. As

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<sup>6</sup> The Ministry of Economy named the most successful initiatives "One district - one project" [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/minekonomiki-nazvalo-samyje-usheshnye-initsiativy-odin-rajon-odin-proekt-633981-2024/>

<sup>7</sup> In Minsk region in 2023 46 projects were implemented under the program "One district - one project" [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/v-minskoj-oblasti-v-2023-godu-realizovyyalos-46-proektov-po-programme-odin-rajon-odin-proekt-635036-2024>

<sup>8</sup> Investors in Minsk region invest most of all in the processing industry [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/investory-v-minskoj-oblasti-bolshe-vsego-vkladyvajutsja-v-obrabatyvajushuju-promyshlennost-633940-2024/>

a result of its realization 32 workplaces were created. In addition, the enterprise already supplies products to China, Turkey and Kazakhstan.

And already at the beginning of 2024, three more projects were implemented in Minsk region, including in Kopyl district, where a new line for production of sawn timber was opened, and "its annual capacity is 18 thousand cubic meters of finished sawn timber (1.5 thousand cubic meters per month). <...> Thanks to the project, 22 new jobs with decent wages will be created in the region"<sup>9</sup>. In general, in Minsk region this year it was planned to complete about 15 investment projects in the production of vehicles, food, pharmaceutical products and preparations, electrical equipment, plastic products. And also in 2024 under the initiative "One district - one project" "it is planned to continue realization of 47 investment projects. The volume of investments is Br1.7 billion. The projects are planned to create more than 2 thousand jobs"<sup>10</sup>.

In mid-autumn 2024, it was noted that in the capital region by the end of this year will be implemented a dozen and a half investment projects that are export-oriented, as well as import-substituting and innovative. The program "One District - One Project" has already included 53 investment projects worth just under two billion Belarusian rubles in 23 districts of the capital region, which will create more than two and a half thousand jobs.

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<sup>9</sup> In Kopyl leskhoz opened a new production for the production of sawn timber [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/v-kopylskom-leshoze-otkryli-novoe-proizvodstvo-po-vypusku-obreznyh-pilomaterialov-633821-2024/>

<sup>10</sup> In Minsk region this year it is planned to complete 16 investment projects of the program "One district - one project" [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/v-minskoj-oblasti-v-etom-godu-planiruetsja-zavershit-16-investproektov-programmy-odin-rajon-odin-proekt-635314-2024>

Currently, seven projects have already been implemented, where more than two hundred jobs have been created. "And by the end of 2024 it is planned to complete the implementation of 14 projects, in 2025 - 15"<sup>11</sup>.

In **Vitebsk region**, as mentioned above, four projects of the "One District - One Project" program were completed in 2023. In particular, it is the construction of a slaughterhouse of the Vitebsk poultry farm. And it has already started a new project - the construction of a feed mill. The production and processing of dairy products in the form of a line of soft cheeses was organized in Gorodok. Also last year "a complex for advanced processing of worn-out tires and rubber products was opened in Novopolotsk at the UE "Biomehzavod of household secondary resources", where about 60 jobs were created. In Beshenkovichi a project for 20 jobs - production of food flavorings was implemented"<sup>12</sup>. In addition, in 2023 in this area continued the implementation of 24 projects of this program. And by the end of this year it is planned to complete the implementation of 12 projects in 10 regions. "These include production of clothing products in Dokshitsy, production of perfume products in Dokshitsy district, in Sharkovski district - production of juices"<sup>13</sup>. The modernization of the Obolsk ceramic plant in Shumilinsk district will also be completed, and a line of

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<sup>11</sup> In Minsk region 14 investment projects under the program "One district - one project" will be implemented by the end of the year [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/v-minskoj-oblasti-k-kontsu-goda-budet-realizovano-14-investproektov-po-programme-odin-rajon-odin-proekt-661592-2024/>

<sup>12</sup> The Vitebsk Regional Executive Committee told what was implemented under the program "One district - one project" in 2023 [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/v-vitebskom-oblispolkome-rasskazali-cto-realizovano-po-programme-odin-rajon-odin-proekt-v-2023-godu-633972-2024/>

<sup>13</sup> In Vitebsk region 12 projects of the program "One district - one project" will be completed by the end of the year [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/v-vitebskoj-oblasti-do-kontsa-goda-zavershat-12-proektov-initsiativy-odin-rajon-odin-proekt-631195-2024/>

new whole-milk products will be organized on the basis of the Postavy dairy plant.

In **Gomel region** in 2024, nine projects have already been implemented under the program "One district - one project", which includes a total of 33 production projects with a total cost of more than one and a half billion Belarusian rubles and where the creation of 1,425 new jobs is envisaged. And work on 24 projects continues. "In the first half of the year, Br15 million was allocated for their implementation. This is a little more than the amount planned for this period"<sup>14</sup>. An important detail: in Gomel region the list of projects is constantly updated. In particular, "based on the results of additional study in the region, proposals have been made to include eight more initiatives in the target plan"<sup>15</sup>. If we talk about specific examples, we can mention the enterprise "Rechitsa Textile", where an investment project is being implemented to organize the production of blankets and towels, which is part of the program "One district - one project". "The first stage of the local project has already been successfully implemented: in March 2024 the site reached its design capacity"<sup>16</sup>.

In **Mogilev voblast**, 31 investment projects will be implemented under the program "One district - one project" with

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<sup>14</sup> In the Gomel region Br15 million were allocated for projects under the program "One district -- one project" in the first half of the year [Electronic resource]. - 2024.

- URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/v-gomelskoj-oblasti-na-proekty-po-programme-odin-rajon-odin-proekt-v-i-polugodii-napravili-br15-mln-653056-2024/>

<sup>15</sup> Nine investment projects under the program "One district - one project" have already been implemented in Gomel region [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/v-gomelskoj-oblasti-na-proekty-po-programme-odin-rajon-odin-proekt-v-i-polugodii-napravili-br15-mln-653056-2024/>

<sup>16</sup> Chebotar: the state consistently increases the production potential of the regions [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/chebotar-gosudarstvo-posledovatelno-naraschivaet-proizvodstvennyj-potentsial-regionov-654678-2024/>

a total cost of just under one and a half billion Belarusian rubles. "As of September 1 this year, nine projects from this list were implemented in the region with a total amount of Br447.5 million of investments in fixed assets and the creation of 907 new jobs. Including seven projects launched last year and two - this year"<sup>17</sup>. And five more projects are planned to be completed by the end of this year. Among the already completed projects is the innovative production of confectionery products with the installation of a line at the UE "Krasny esudovik - Slavgorod". This project has already "reached its design capacity, started to pay all financial obligations and is by far the brightest example of the national program of development of the south-east of Mogilev region"<sup>18</sup>. In total, over 35 million Belarusian rubles have been invested in the project. The new profitable production of jelly marmalade today produces more than thirty types of products, including more than 60 percent of innovative products. More than 70 percent of the products are sold on the domestic market, the rest is supplied abroad. About 130 new jobs have been created at the enterprise.

As for **Brest region**, for example, only in **Brest** itself several projects will be implemented under the program "One district - one project". "On the basis of the science and technology park it was planned to produce complex 3D casting molds, robotic complexes, pumps from composite materials. The first part of the project has been realized. The topic of pumps is at the stage of

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<sup>17</sup> Five projects under the program "One district -- one project" will be completed by the end of the year in Mogilev region [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/pjat-proektov-po-programme-odin-rajon-odin-proekt-zavershat-do-kontsa-goda-v-mogilevskoj-oblasti-666749-2024/>

<sup>18</sup> Krutoy told about the priorities of development of the south-east of Mogilev region on the example of Slavgorod district [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/krutoj-na-primere-slavgorodskogo-rajona-rasskazal-o-prioritetah-razvitiya-jugo-vostoka-mogilevskoj-666767-2024/>

development"<sup>19</sup>. In the same year three more projects from this program were supported. They are the construction of the production building of "AgroPischeProm" LLC, the expansion of the medical center "Novamed" and the spa complex of the Status center.

**Pinsk** has taken up four projects from this program. One of them is implemented by Zubr Energy LLC. It is about the reconstruction of production facilities. "The first start-up complex has already been completed, 175 new jobs have been created. For the second start-up complex it was decided to make a production facility instead of a warehouse. Work on the project is underway, equipment has been ordered"<sup>20</sup>. Taking these points into account, it is possible to reach a capacity of about three million batteries per year. Also on the list is a project for the construction of an enterprise for the production of plastic components for batteries. CJSC "Amkodor-Pinsk" is modernizing its production capacities. An integration project for the production of hydraulic pumps has been launched.

In **Baranavichy**, the list "One Region - One Project" includes the investment project of Barhim OJSC to expand production with reconstruction of liquid detergents output. The first stage has been completed. By the end of the year it is expected to launch new production of concentrated liquid detergents. "Within the framework of the second stage of the project

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<sup>19</sup> "Our work is aimed at the future". Lobodinsky told about Brest's investment projects [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/nasha-rabota-natselena-na-perspektivu-lobodinskij-rasskazal-ob-investproektah-bresta-672089-2024/>

<sup>20</sup> Production of accumulators, pumps, furniture. What projects the investment portfolio of Pinsk is filled with [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/proizvodstvo-akkumuljatorov-nasosov-mebeli-kakimi-proektami-napolnen-investitsionnyj-portfel-pinska-672072-2024/>



implementation, Barkhim, together with Belresurs, is considering the possibility of organizing the production of industrial chemistry. marketing research is being conducted, market capacity and production possibilities are being determined jointly with RUE "Institute of Meat and Dairy Industry"<sup>21</sup> .

All these facts suggest that the "One District - One Project" program, which is being implemented in Belarus, will continue to develop. The Ministry of Economy is already holding a round of consideration of plans for 2025 and at the same time emphasizes that "the key thing for us is projects in the field of technological security, localization. We will literally pencil out what can be made from our raw materials, materials, more in-depth to set tasks for the construction of new enterprises"<sup>22</sup> . Especially since any project of this program performs an import-substituting function. Also. All these examples show that these projects are aimed at liberating local initiative in the regions. This is the most important element of further development of each Belarusian district, which is involved in the implementation of the "One District - One Project" initiative.

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<sup>21</sup> They plan to make airplanes and refrigerators. What other investment projects are realized in Baranavichy [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/planirujut-delat-samolety-i-holodilniki-kakie-esche-investproekty-realizujut-v-baranovichah-672049-2024/>

<sup>22</sup> Chebotar: the program "One district - one project" will be supplemented by new initiatives [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/chebotar-programmu-odin-rajon-odin-proekt-dopolnjat-novye-initsiativy-635398-2024>

## Strong regions are the future of the country

In December 2024, a field meeting of the Expert Advisory Council under the Presidium of the Council of the Republic of Belarus, which was held in the urban settlement of Kopys, Orsha district, Vitebsk region, reviewed the progress of the "One District - One Project" initiative, which gives a new impetus to the development of Belarusian regions and strengthens the economy not only of enterprises, but also of districts as a whole. Recall that in 2021-2023 in Belarus within the framework of this initiative "28 such projects were implemented, this year [2024] 180 projects are being implemented for a total amount of Br7.2 billion"<sup>23</sup>. Behind these figures are the opening of production facilities and enterprises, which make it possible to fix personnel in these settlements, villages, small towns and agro-towns.

For example, in **Minsk** region alone, 16 projects worth over 170 million Belarusian rubles have already been implemented in the course of this program and more than 400 jobs have been created. In particular, the production of wooden products for palletizing ceramic products of the UE "**Kerawood**" was opened in **Berezinsk** district. A line for the production of wooden pallets was purchased for the activity of this enterprise. "The cost of the project amounted to more than Br4 million. As a result of opening of the new production enterprise, 70 jobs were created"<sup>24</sup>.

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<sup>23</sup> Kochanova: behind the development of regions - the future of our country [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/kochanova-za-razvitiem-regionov-budushee-nashej-strany-683617-2024/>

<sup>24</sup> From auto components to candy. In Minsk region 16 projects under the program "One district - one project" have been implemented [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/ot-avtokomponentov-do-konfet-v-minskoj-oblasti-realizovano-16-proektov-po-programme-odin-rajon-odin-690163-2025/>

Two projects were implemented in **Borisov** District. The first one - "Creation of production of a new generation of automotive components meeting the requirements of Euro-5, Euro-6 and higher environmental standards for promising models of passenger cars, commercial vehicles, trucks, agricultural and special vehicles" - is included in the State Program of Innovative Development for 2021-2025 and has an export-oriented and import-substituting orientation. Over four years, **OJSC BATE, the managing company of Avtokomponenty Holding**, has acquired more than 50 units of the latest equipment, most of which are numerically controlled machine tools, electroplating and welding equipment, an annealing furnace, sheet-stamping press machines and electric discharge machines. The total amount of investments under the project is more than 20 million Belarusian rubles.

The second project is called "Creation of high-performance production of intelligent automotive components and systems for motor vehicles of Euro-5 and Euro-6 ecological class". Its cost is more than 12 million Belarusian rubles. Mastering of this production in **Ekran OJSC** will allow to cover a new market segment, to increase production volumes, to improve the quality of manufactured products, to realize import substitution of similar products. Within the framework of the project implementation 45 units of technological equipment were purchased, the local network was modernized, three stages of launching the processes of the software product "Automated system of management of design and technological preparation of production" were implemented, pilot operation of the processes was carried out.

In **Volozhin** district - in the township of **Ivenets** - the implementation of the project "Organization of import-substituting production of confectionery products" in the **branch of OJSC "Confectionery Factory "SLODYCH"** worth more than five million Belarusian rubles was completed. Here "they plan to produce nine types of candies: lemon, strawberry and apple flavored candies in stick form, pastilles "raspberry - lemon", "strawberry - banana" and "apple - pineapple", as well as caramel with apple, cherry and orange fillings"<sup>25</sup>. The peculiarity of this innovative and import-substituting project is that soft caramel has not been produced in Belarus so far. And an innovative production of milk powder with capillary-porous structure has been organized in **Kopyl** district. "This is an import-substituting and export-oriented project. The production is mainly focused on China, Turkey, Kazakhstan. The geography of such supplies is constantly being expanded by investors"<sup>26</sup>.

One more fact. In November 2024, the first stage of the site No. 1 "Innovative closed-cycle quail farm" of JSC "**Soligorsk Poultry Farm**" was opened. The fact is that this joint-stock company is continuously increasing production and sales of quail egg processing products with a high level of added value. Currently, these products account for 47 percent of the gross harvest. "Thanks to the modernization of the quail egg processing shop and the commissioning of a quail egg boiling and cleaning

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<sup>25</sup> District scale project: Ivenets became the birthplace of Belarusian soft caramel [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/proekt-rajonnogo-masshtaba-ivenets-stal-rodinoy-belorusskoj-mjagkoj-karameli-678573-2024/>

<sup>26</sup> Next year 15 initiatives "One district - one project" are planned to be realized in Minsk region [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/v-sledujuschem-godu-v-minskoj-oblasti-planirujetsja-realizovat-15-initsiativ-odin-rajon-odin-proekt-674606-2024/>

line, production capacity allows the company to process at least 90 million quail eggs."<sup>27</sup> . The construction of the quail farm will make it possible to utilize existing reserves to increase the production of quail eggs, both smoked and boiled in marinade.

**Vitebsk** region includes 35 projects of this initiative, which the region should implement by the end of the five-year period. So, in some districts two projects are being implemented each. And this list will be further expanded. Meanwhile, in **Beshenkovichi** district within the framework of the initiative opened an enterprise "**Scorpio-Kvetka**" for the production of food flavorings, which took the former school building for the implementation of the investment project. And to date, more than 20 jobs have already been created. "The opening of such small enterprises makes it possible to bring unused facilities into turnover, including in rural communities"<sup>28</sup> .

Two participants of the initiative "One District - One Project" are successfully working in **Orsha** District - in the settlement of **Kopys: LLC "MILKCOP START"** and **woodworking site No. 2 of Orsha leskhoz**. The first one is engaged in cheese production; residents of Kopysi and neighboring settlements work there. The second one has recently opened a drying complex with a boiler house. "The increase in the volume of wood drying, the possibility to sell it at a higher cost are undoubted pluses that gave another impetus for development. It is

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<sup>27</sup> Kochanova: "One district - one project" strengthens the economy not only of enterprises, but also of the district as a whole [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/kochanova-odin-rajon-odin-proekt-ukrepljaet-ekonomiku-ne-tolko-predpriyatij-no-i-rajona-v-tselom-678347-2024/>

<sup>28</sup> Pharmaceuticals and animal husbandry. What sectors are the most promising for the creation of new industries in Vitebsk region [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/farmatsevtika-i-zhivotnovodstvo-kakie-otrasli-naibolee-perspektivny-dlja-sozdaniya-novyh-proizvodstv-v-685256-2024/>

also important that new jobs have been created"<sup>29</sup>. And a new juice production facility will be established in the **Sharkovshchinsky** district. "The construction readiness of the facility is about 80%, equipment has already been purchased, both construction works are being carried out at the same time and landscaping is being carried out"<sup>30</sup>. It is expected that in a year the enterprise will be operational.

In **Brest** region, the initiative has also given an impetus to all regions to create new production facilities. For example, four projects are already underway in **Pinsk**. In **Gantsevichy** district, "an innovative large-scale project related to blood plasma processing is being implemented"<sup>31</sup>. In **Stolin** district, within the framework of this initiative, a new production facility - **KB Stolin LLC** - for metalworking was established in 2023, and in 2024 "an investment project for the expansion of the greenhouse complex of **KFH OlshanyAgro** was completed ahead of schedule"<sup>32</sup>. In the **Berezovsky** district, **Berezastroymaterialy OJSC** has mastered the production of large-format ceramic tiles of the same quality as European samples.

**The Brest Science and Technology Park (BSTP)** under the program "One Region - One Project" works in three areas at

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<sup>29</sup> Kochanova on the initiative "One district - one project": without economy there will be nothing [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/kochanova-ob-initsiative-odin-rajon-odin-proekt-bez-ekonomiki-ne-budet-nichego-683695-2024/>

<sup>30</sup> Sergeenko: the program "One district - one project" gives a new impetus to the development of regions [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/sergeenko-programma-odin-rajon-odin-proekt-daet-novyj-tolchok-k-razvitiyu-regionov-679225-2024/>

<sup>31</sup> How the initiative "One district - one project" is realized in Brest region [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/kak-realizutsja-initsiativa-odin-rajon-odin-proekt-v-brestskoj-oblasti-684389-2024/>

<sup>32</sup> Chebotar: the state will continue to create comfortable conditions for the emergence of new industries in the regions [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/chebotar-gosudarstvo-prodolzhit-sozdavat-komfortnye-usloviya-dlja-pojavleniya-v-regionah-novyh-684101-2024/>

once. The first of them is the production of complex 3D molds. The equipment has already been purchased there and production has already started - piece products, which are necessary for enterprises in various industries. The technopark has also mastered the production of robotic complexes, working in tandem with its residents. Emphasis is placed on the processing industry. One of the main partners is Savushkin Product OJSC, which on the basis of BNTP produces development and assembly of robotic complexes, primarily for its own consumption. And the technopark provides services of a collective use center for preparation and manufacturing of component parts. More than 70 sets of robotic complexes have already been produced in a year and a half. About 40 more are planned to be produced in 2025. In addition, robotic complexes help to optimize and automate production processes. For example, robot manipulators are programmed for sorting, labeling products on conveyor lines and other processes. Currently, work is underway to create a production facility for pumps made of composite materials. A prototype is scheduled for production in 2025 and will be subjected to testing. This is one of a range of pumps for the refining industry. Based on the test results, it will be possible to understand how to further develop this project and reach the design capacity. Its perspective is more long-term. Within the framework of the business project development, reaching the design capacity is expected by 2032. "Pumps made of composite materials are mainly used for chemical, oil refining industry. They are more resistant to aggressive environment. Such pumps are not produced in Belarus, they are imported. The expediency of development of this direction is actual. The topic is not simple, the range of pumps

is quite large. Now we are approving and preparing design documentation, purchasing additional equipment, test stands"<sup>33</sup> . We would also like to add that the reconstruction of the technopark building continues in BNTP. It remains to complete work on five floors. It will house production sites, offices, recreation and entertainment space, and an exhibition center. In general, the technopark has more than 50 residents who work in various sectors of the economy, including education, healthcare, high technology, processing, and manufacturing.

In **Gomel** region, 25 projects of this initiative have already been implemented. For example, in **Buda-Koshelevsky** district, a private enterprise produces plastic products, which is already expanding production. "A rather interesting project has been implemented in **Gomel** district for the production of pita bread, phyllo dough. 155 jobs have been created"<sup>34</sup> . In general, Gomel region has formed an investment portfolio of 103 projects of the initiative "One district - one project", which are expected to open two and a half thousand jobs.

And in **Grodno** region the production of glass containers using innovative energy-efficient and resource-saving technologies has been mastered at the **Grodno glass factory**, where "more than 100 jobs have been created"<sup>35</sup> . In **Svisloch** district a new woodworking plant plans to produce more than 250

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<sup>33</sup> . Production of robotic complexes was established in Brest [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/proizvodstvo-robototekhnicheskikh-kompleksov-naladili-v-breste-691079-2025/>

<sup>34</sup> In Gomel region 25 projects of the initiative "One district - one project" have already been realized [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/v-gomelskoj-oblasti-uzhe-realizovano-25-proektov-initsiativy-odin-rajon-odin-proekt-684936-2024/>

<sup>35</sup> Chebotar: in half of the country's districts at least 2 investment projects are realized [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/v-polovine-rajonov-strany-realizujutsja-minimum-po-dva-investproekta-initsiativy-odin-rajon-odin-proekt-687331-2025/>



thousand cubic meters of sawn timber using waste-free technology.

Finally, within the framework of the "One District - One Project" program, three large investment projects are planned to be implemented at the enterprises of the **Bellesbumprom Concern**: at the Svetlogorsk Pulp and Paper Mill, the Spartak Paper Mill, and the Newsprint Plant. The first of the projects is related to the erection of a paper production shop at the Svetlogorsk Pulp and Paperboard Mill. "The project provides for the installation and launch of a paper machine for the production of kraft-bag microstapled paper with a capacity of 160 thousand tons per year from sulphate pulp of own production. The industry intends to complete the project by 2027"<sup>36</sup>. The next in line investment project involves the construction of the second stage of production of sanitary-hygienic papers from 100% pulp at the Spartak paper mill. The project completion date is 2026. The third project under the "One District - One Project" initiative will be implemented at the Newsprint Plant in Shklov. Here, the first paper machine will be modernized to re-profile production: instead of thermomechanical pulp, the enterprise will produce bleached chemical-thermomechanical pulp. The plant will master the production of offset paper, super calendered paper, base paper for coating, improved newsprint, light and medium coated paper. The project is scheduled till 2027. Also. At the enterprise "Ivatsevichdrev" in November 2024 has already launched a large-scale investment project under the initiative "One district - one

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<sup>36</sup> Three investment projects are realized in woodworking under the initiative "One district - one project" [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/tri-investproekta-realizujut-v-derevoobrabotke-po-initsiative-odin-rajon-odin-proekt-692735-2025/>

project", which implies the introduction of a new line for laminating chipboard of its own production. And another one is planned, providing for the appearance of a new production of these boards.

As for the prospects of the "One District - One Project" initiative as a whole, 123 more projects are planned to be implemented in Belarus by the end of 2025. It is expected that new production facilities will appear in the regions or existing ones will be modernized with the expansion and production of new types of products. In November 2024, the Ministry of Economy of Belarus and stakeholders developed proposals to clarify the criteria for inclusion of projects in this list and its adjustment. Taking into account the specifics of the districts, commercial facilities of transportation and logistics infrastructure, tourism and recreation, and medical services will be created. As a result of the realization of each project "at least five new jobs should be created or at least five additional people should be employed"<sup>37</sup>. It is planned that the list will eventually include 217 projects with investments worth more than eight billion Belarusian rubles and will create more than 10.5 thousand jobs. We would like to emphasize once again that all these projects "are aimed at liberating local initiative in the regions. This is the most important element of further development of each Belarusian district, which is involved in the implementation of the initiative "One District - One Project"<sup>38</sup>. At the same time, this program will be supplemented and constantly

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<sup>37</sup> Chebotar: the implementation of the initiative "One district - one project" should be under constant control [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/chebotar-hod-realizatsii-initsiativy-odin-rajon-odin-proekt-dolzhen-byt-na-postojannom-kontrole-678321-2024/>

<sup>38</sup> Zalessky, B. From programs to concrete projects. Features of positive trends in the economy of Belarus / Boris Zalessky. - LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2024. - C. 11.

expanded during 2025. And there is every reason to believe that it can indeed be scaled throughout the country into a "Regional Initiative". After all, this would be in keeping with its spirit.

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## In order to develop new production facilities and large enterprises

In 2024, Belarus produced import-substituting products worth about thirty billion dollars. Belarusian enterprises sold most of these products for export. And in 2025, the Ministry of Economy of Belarus expects an even higher figure - "more than\$ 31 billion in equivalent"<sup>39</sup> . It should be reminded that import substitution is an indispensable element of the development of Belarusian industries and regions, as it is aimed at increasing export potential, expanding the range and improving the quality of products, re-equipping enterprises, and reducing the import component in the cost of finished products.

For example, in the **woodworking and pulp and paper industries** last year import substitution affected 52 commodity positions. In this list one could see chipboard and fiberboard, plywood, joinery, doors, corrugated paper and cardboard, sacks, sack kraft paper, napkins and paper towels, wallpaper, packaging paper, different types of cardboard, pulp and other goods. In the **concern "Bellesbumprom"** when replacing imported products, one of the main priorities is the introduction of new technologies and production of innovative products. In particular, in 2024 it launched a line for the production of laminated particleboards, the surface of which has a unique effect of naturalness and imitates natural wood cut, deep pores and other natural materials - concrete, fabric, marble, natural leather, as well as various textures and decorative elements with a variety of tactile and visual effects,

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<sup>39</sup> Belarus in 2024 produced import-substituting products worth about \$30 billion [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-v-2024-godu-vypustila-importozameschajuschej-produktsii-na-summu-okolo-30-mlrd-691877-2025/>

synchronized decors. Products of this class have not been produced in Belarus before, and analogs were imported as a product of high price segment. By 2030, the concern plans to launch the production of decorative laminates by high-pressure method. This type of plastic is used to create furniture, table tops, floor coverings, wall panels, doors, window sills. It is used in the automotive industry, car building and even shipbuilding. Such plastics are characterized by high mechanical strength and resistance to moisture, scratches, chemicals and ultraviolet radiation. The product is unique and has not been produced in our country so far. "In general, the output of innovative products at the enterprises of Bellesbumprom is growing. According to statistical data, in 2024 the share of shipped innovative products in the total volume amounted to 18.4% with the target of 12.5%"<sup>40</sup>

Another example of an enterprise from this industry. OJSC "Mozyr Woodworking Plant"<sup>41</sup> currently produces coniferous substrate blown insulation and heat insulation boards made of natural wood fiber, which are import-substituting. "The insulation board production line produces more than 200,000 cubic meters of finished products annually, which are high quality, environmentally friendly and meet the requirements of international norms. In 2024, exports of the company's products increased by 25% compared to 2023"<sup>41</sup>. And the geography of supplies numbers about 20 countries.

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<sup>40</sup> Psheniy, A. A quarter of the world loves our furniture and paper! How woodworking enterprises work today / A Psheniy // [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/interview/view/chetvert-mira-ljubit-nashi-mebel-i-bumagu-kak-rabotajut-segodnja-predpriyatija-derevoobrabotki-9567/>

<sup>41</sup> Stake on import substitution: enterprises of Gomel region increase wood processing [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/photonews/view/stavka-na-importozameschenie-predpriyatija-gomelschiny-naraschivajut-pererabotku-drevesiny-41260/>

At the end of last year, **Belgospishcheprom** assured that the work on supplying the domestic market with new types of import-substituting products will continue in 2025. Moreover, much has already been done in this direction. "In 2024, enterprises of the confectionery industry produced over 36 thousand tons of import-substituting products, having mastered 50 types of sweets - chocolate, candy, wafer, bars, halva, marmalade..."<sup>42</sup>. Previously mastered positions were imported exclusively from abroad. In 2025, the factory "Red Foodservice" in Bobruisk will continue to expand its halvic line, adding a new flavor - cocoa. The work with innovative sugar-free products, which are in demand among adherents of a healthy lifestyle, will also be promoted, as the factory will start producing more marmalade with reduced energy value. In the first quarter of this year, the factory is set to complete the installation of an automatic line for the production of dragees, which will significantly expand the product range. And there they will also produce an analogue of the famous dragee with milk and dark chocolate in a crispy colored glaze. Small candies will be different: with peanuts, explosive caramel and in yogurt shell. This year at the facilities of the factory "Krasny Izhevik" in Slavgorod they will continue the production of import-substituting innovative product - jelly marmalade with all kinds of fillings and gelatinizers: on the basis of pectin, on gelatin, on modified starch, with collagen. The production of marmalade without added sugar will also be launched there. In 2025, the Slodych factory at its production site in the town of Ivenets will diversify the assortment

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<sup>42</sup> Vasilevskaya, V. Dubai-style candies, marshmallows with Irish cream. What is in the top of sweet novelties? / V. Vasilevskaya // [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/konfety-po-dubajski-zefir-s-irlandskim-kremom-cto-tope-sladkih-novinok-693017-2025/>

of caramel by adding the original flavor "elderberry-lemon" and will start producing jelly candies with juice and candy sweets with sour coating.

The situation in foreign markets has given a powerful impetus to the development of the Belarusian **light industry** as well, becoming an incentive for active import substitution, localization of production facilities and improvement of industrial infrastructure. For this purpose, enterprises are being modernized and automated, emphasis is placed on robotization of processes, modern technologies are being introduced, and the range of products is being expanded. In particular, we are talking about the Baranovichi Cotton Production Association, where in 2024 the first in the country automated line for sewing bed linen was installed, "and the Belvest shoe factory introduced robotic complexes that perform leather cutting"<sup>43</sup>. Or another example. Thus, for 2025-2027 Zhlobin sewing factory planned the implementation of the project "Modernization of production with the development of a new type of product "baseball cap", for which this product is innovative and import-substituting. "Due to the launch of the new product when reaching the design capacity it is planned to increase the production of import-substituting products by \$270 thousand"<sup>44</sup>.

In **Vitebsk** region in 2024, import-substituting products were produced by more than 80 enterprises, including 53 small and medium-sized businesses. In particular, the production of goods

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<sup>43</sup> Bamboo fiber began to be introduced at the enterprises of the Belarusian light industry [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/bambukovoe-volokno-nachali-vnedrjat-na-predpriyatijah-belorusskogo-legproma-692285-2025/>

<sup>44</sup> Fashionable baseball caps will start to be produced at Zhlobin sewing factory [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/modnye-bejsbolki-nachnut-vypuskat-na-zhlobinskoj-shvejnoj-fabrike-691713-2025/>

under this program was carried out by: "Prodexim" Ltd. and "Ivasi-Plus" UE - salted and smoked fish, fish preserves; confectionery factory "Vitba" - wafer products and biscuit rolls; "Gluboksky MCC" - canned milk and cheese; "Savushkin-Orsha" - several types of cheese; and "Savushkin-Orsha" - canned milk and cheese. - several types of cheese. "Other import-substituting products include canned meat for baby food from Orsha Meat Canning Plant , poultry meat semi-finished products from Vitebsk Broiler Poultry Factory, clothes for children - "Belle-Bimbo Plus" and footwear production - "Managing Company of Holding "Belarusian Leather and Footwear Company "Marko", as well as "Krasny Oktyabr"<sup>45</sup> ."

Vitstroitehmash PUE has also long thought about the creation of import-substituting equipment. Now they are much more actively engaged in this business, as they already have the necessary equipment and production facilities. Two years ago, the company built a separate shop for the assembly of car elevators. And it already has its own unique developments. "Vitebsk produces a 56-meter high elevator, which has no analogues in Belarus and in the CIS countries. This equipment is indispensable for power engineers when carrying out high-rise repair works"<sup>46</sup> . Vitstroytekhmash also produces the proven crane-manipulator units Dvina and truck cranes under the brand Vizit. Last year the company presented at one of the international exhibitions these

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<sup>45</sup> Organizations of Vitebsk region began to produce more import-substituting products [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/organizatsii-vitebskoj-oblasti-stali-vypuskat-bolshe-importozameschajuschej-produktsii-659597-2024/>

<sup>46</sup> Pushnyakova, A. Always on the rise. What heights conquers automobile equipment from "Vitstroytekhmash" / A. Pushnyakova // [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/vsegda-na-podjeme-kakie-vysoty-pokorjaet-avtotekhnika-ot-vitstroytehmasha-688280-2025/>



units and a new product - a telescopic hoist for 36 meters, which immediately found a customer. One more novelty has recently been released - these are hoists that will be used to return streetcar cars that have fallen off the rails back to their place.

Production of import-substituting products - a sterilizer for solutions, a complex for disinfection and destruction of disposable medical devices, a mobile irradiator - was established in Vitebsk JSC "Vityaz". One of the newest developments of the enterprise is a steam sterilizer with vertical loading and chamber volume of 75 liters. The plant has previously mastered a 100-liter sterilizer with horizontal loading. It can be used for sterilization of instruments and overalls. The novelty is designed mainly for processing of medical liquids and solutions. In the near future, it will undergo clinical trials in three health care institutions. The specialists will evaluate its performance and give their opinion. It should be noted that no one produces such equipment in Belarus. It is planned to supply it in the second half of 2025. Another import-substituting novelty is a mobile irradiator, which is an analog of the wall-mounted ultraviolet lamp, which is used for quartz treatment in hospital wards. This novelty has an advantage: it is on mobile supports or wheels, so one irradiator can be used in all available wards. In addition, this year "the company began to develop a device that destroys used disposable syringes, needles, catheters. In it, such products are exposed to high voltage after use. They disintegrate and turn, in fact, into crumbs. The device will increase the protection of medical personnel, in particular in treatment rooms"<sup>47</sup>. Vityaz has also started supplying another innovation -

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<sup>47</sup> Pushnyakova, A. Sterilization, disinfection, utilization. What import-substituting medical equipment is produced in Vitebsk / A. Pushnyakova // [Electronic resource].

a complex for neutralization of used medical devices, which consists of a sterilizer and a destructor, shredding the items neutralized in the sterilizer, reducing the volume of waste by ten times or more. This reduces the cost of their further disposal. All medical equipment from Vityaz primarily goes to the Belarusian market, as well as to the market of post-Soviet countries.

In 2024, **Brest** region also increased the production of import-substituting products - by 5.5 percent. It should be noted that in 2023 the output of these products in the region provided "the volume at the level of\$ 980 million with an increase of more than 10% to the previous year"<sup>48</sup>. In **Brest** itself, last year, within the framework of the import substitution program, the enterprise "Brestmash" "mastered the production of silicone spigots. "Anrex", which used to produce cabinet furniture, created a workshop for the production of upholstered furniture"<sup>49</sup>. The Brest site of the meat processing plant is being reconstructed, modernization of the production facilities of "Hephaestus" group and expansion of the capacities of "AgroPischeProm" continue.

In the **Minsk** region in 2024, the Mountain Wax Plant from Pukhovichi district in the direction of "import substitution" continued cooperation within the framework of road maps signed with domestic enterprises of the Ministry of Industry system and Belenergo State Production Association. The results of the

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- 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/sterilizatsiya-dezinfektsiya-utilizatsiya-kakoe-importozameschajuschee-medoborudovanie-vypuskajut-v-694047-2025/>

<sup>48</sup> Brest region enterprises in 2023 increased the output of import-substituting products [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/predpriyatija-brestskoj-oblasti-v-2023-godu-narastili-objemy-vypuska-importozameschajuschej-produktsii-607604-2023/>

<sup>49</sup> Production, construction, transportation. Lobodinsky told about the development of Brest in 2024 [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/proizvodstvo-stroitelstvo-transport-lobodinskij-rasskazal-o-razvitii-bresta-v-2024-godu-686514-2025/>

implementation of this program over the past year revealed positive dynamics in increasing the company's market share in the republic. Thus, "the growth rate of the plant's production of import-substituting products in 2024 in relation to 2023 amounted to more than 115%. Now the enterprise faces no less ambitious tasks to work with domestic manufacturers"<sup>50</sup>. In 2025, about a third of all the enterprise's products will be innovative. Its list includes new types of products developed and put into production - transformer oil, wax emulsion, candles for garden heating, as well as products with improved properties.

And in the agro-town of Gatovo, Minsk district, in 2024, the company Effective Packaging Systems put into operation a state-of-the-art production complex designed to produce corrugated, polyamide casings for the meat and dairy industry. The construction took place under the "One District - One Project" program, which is aimed at developing new industrial facilities across the country. "The launch of the new shop is an important step in the import substitution program, which is aimed at reducing dependence on foreign supplies of packaging materials. Due to this, LLC "Effective Packaging Systems" produces polyamide casing for sausages and frankfurters, which is much cheaper than imported analogs"<sup>51</sup>. These products are already in demand not only in the domestic market, but also in the countries of the

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<sup>50</sup> "In 2025, about a third of products will be innovative". Mountain wax plant develops Asian markets [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/v-2025-godu-okolo-treti-produktsii-budet-innovatsionnoj-zavod-gornogo-voska-osvaivaet-aziatskie-rynki-690670-2025/>

<sup>51</sup> Valach, M. We visited a factory where they make packaging for sausages, milk and sodas. What else do they produce there? / M. Valakh // [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/pobyvali-na-predpriyatii-gde-delajut-upakovku-dlja-kolbasy-moloka-i-gazirovki-chto-esche-tam-vypuskajut-694467-2025/>

Commonwealth of Independent States, Asia, Africa and Europe. The main advantage of such packaging is full protection from moisture and oxygen due to the barrier properties of a combination of polyethylene and polyamide layers. Also polyamide shell provides the product with an attractive marketable appearance, easy transportation and ease of use in production.

In 2025 and in **Mogilev** region the implementation of import-substituting production projects will become the basis for the development of new production facilities and large enterprises. In particular, "the plans include creation of bleached chemical-technological mass production, reconstruction of the mothballed capital structure for a specialized building for production of construction materials with engineering and transport infrastructure"<sup>52</sup>. The same list includes investment projects implemented by large republican enterprises: OJSC "Mogilevliftmash" - high-tech production of a new series of electric motors; OJSC "Belshina" - production of all-metal cord tires of radial design; OJSC "Olsa" - production of import-substituting products with the introduction of technology for manufacturing electric-welded pipes and metalworking. And Bobruisk Plant of Tractor Parts and Units (BZTDiA), which is part of the holding of Minsk Tractor Plant, has set up production of import-substituting disk wheels. We are talking about a new version of the disk wheel. These disks are used on chisel-disk units. "BZTDiA replaced the supply of disk wheels of European production. The customer benefited from shorter delivery times

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<sup>52</sup> New productions and jobs. What import-substituting projects will appear in Mogilev region [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/novye-proizvodstva-i-rabochie-mesta-kakie-importozameschajuschie-proekty-pojavjatsja-v-mogilevskoj-685474-2024/>

for finished products and a competitive price"<sup>53</sup> . For 2025 it is planned to realize at least 500 pieces of the new version of this disc wheel.

In **Grodno** region shows an example of innovative development and manufacturability of products of JSC "Lidselmash Holding Management Company", which offers a variant of improving the technology of harvesting the main types of fodder. For this purpose the enterprise has developed a unique product - comb rake-rollers GVG-9,5. An important stage of innovative development of the holding was also "creation and mastering of production of mobile grain dryer SM-38. These are productive mobile units suitable for drying of all types of grain crops. Mobile grain dryers are installed and set up in 2-3 days without additional investments and approvals. Easy to maintain, they can be moved both within the warehouse and work in the field"<sup>54</sup> . As part of expanding the range of steel panel radiators, Lidselmash is now conducting a spot analysis of the needs of the current market and consumer expectations in order to produce a new size steel panel radiator that will enable it to reach new audience segments. The new steel panel radiators - 400 mm - will not only meet modern requirements, but will also set new trends in the field of heating, providing maximum comfort and warmth in every home.

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<sup>53</sup> Bobruisk plant of tractor parts and units has established the production of import-substituting wheels [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/bobrujskij-zavod-traktornyh-detalej-i-agregatov-naladil-vypusk-importozameschajuschih-koles-694604-2025/>

<sup>54</sup> Trubitsky, R. How "Lidselmash" multiplies the century-old traditions of mechanical engineering / R. Trubitsky // [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/comments/view/kak-lidselmash-priumnozhaet-vekovye-traditsii-mashinostroenija-9577/>

Let us summarize the results. Let us remind you that import substitution is one of the key priorities of Belarus' development in the near future. "Back in December 2021, the Belarusian government defined strategic directions of work and worked out specific tasks in this direction"<sup>55</sup>. And today this policy in Belarus is developing quite successfully. At the same time, import-substituting products are not only in demand in our country, but also have a good export potential. In addition, they use local raw materials and actively involve scientific developments in their production.

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<sup>55</sup> Zalessky, B. The space of cooperation. Chronicle of economic interaction between the Republic of Belarus and the Commonwealth of Independent States / Boris Zalessky. - Palmarium Academic Publishing, 2024. - C. 189.

## Export diversification strongholds - Asia, Africa, Latin America

The Belarusian economy showed growth above the global average for two consecutive years - in 2023 and 2024. The main drivers were industry, construction, trade and transportation activities. "At the end of 2024, the foreign trade turnover of goods and services of Belarus amounted to more than \$100 billion, increasing by 5.1% compared to 2023"<sup>56</sup>. At the same time, domestic exports increased by three and a half percent to almost \$50 billion compared to 2023. Belarusian goods and services were exported to 154 countries, and "in 2024, for the first time, products were supplied to 14 new countries"<sup>57</sup>.

Among the sectors of the national economy, **industry** can be highlighted. Last year, the geography of exports of enterprises of the Ministry of Industry system totaled 67 countries, including the resumption of deliveries to 15 markets to which there were no exports in 2023. "The balance of foreign trade is positive - more than \$3.2 billion"<sup>58</sup>. For example, the growth rate of supplies of the department's enterprises to African countries increased one and a half times, to Asia - 1.4 times. For further diversification of exports, the Ministry of Industry "identified countries - reference

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<sup>56</sup> Foreign trade turnover of goods and services of Belarus for 2024 increased by 5.1% and exceeded \$100 billion [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/vneshnetorgovij-oborot-tovarov-i-uslug-belarusi-za-2024-god-uvelichilsja-na-51-i-prevysil-100-mlrd-694899-2025/>

<sup>57</sup> Golovchenko: Belarusian products were exported to more than 150 countries in 2024 [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/golovchenko-belorusskaja-produktsija-v-2024-godu-eksportirovalas-bolee-chem-v-150-stran-mira-689588-2025/>

<sup>58</sup> Efimov: in 2024 the profitable and profitable work of the organizations of the Ministry of Industry system is provided [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/efimov-v-2024-godu-obespechena-rentabelnaja-i-pribylnaja-rabota-organizatsij-sistemy-minprom-698977-2025/>

points and promising countries for cooperation in Asia, Africa, Latin America"<sup>59</sup>.

If we talk about specific enterprises, we can name **JSC "Managing Company of Bobruiskagromash Holding"**, where "according to the results of 2024, the export growth rate amounted to 114.2%, and this year it is planned to increase by another 8.6%"<sup>60</sup>. The main volume of machinery produced in Bobruisk is supplied to the domestic market, as well as to the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States. In addition, the company's positions on the markets of the countries of the far arc are also strengthening, as currently the machinery produced by the holding "Bobruiskagromash" operates in more than 50 countries of the world. And the geography of supplies is constantly expanding. In 2025 it is planned to enter a number of African markets. Already now the portfolio of orders has been formed to ensure full production capacity in 2025, with most of the products to be sold to African countries, Russia and Kazakhstan.

Speaking of Africa, one can also mention the **Minsk Tractor Plant**, which annually increases its production to the countries of the continent and is now finalizing "the shipment of equipment under a large contract for 2 thousand units with Nigeria"<sup>61</sup>. The enterprise is preparing to sign a new document similar in volume of deliveries. Tractors are also actively supplied

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<sup>59</sup> Asia, Africa, Latin America: the reference points for export diversification told Efimov [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/azija-afrika-latinskaja-amerika-ob-opornyh-tochkah-dlja-diversifikatsii-eksporta-rasskazal-efimov-698981-2025/>

<sup>60</sup> "Bobruiskagromash" plans to increase exports by almost 9% this year [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/bobrujskagromash-planiruet-narastit-eksport-pochti-na-9-v-etom-godu-697497-2025/>

<sup>61</sup> MTZ every year expands the geography of exports to the African continent [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/mtz-s-kazhdym-godom-rasshirjaet-geografiju-eksporta-na-afrikanskij-kontinent-692083-2025/>



to Zimbabwe. Two 350 hp BELARUS tractors with attachments have already been shipped to Kenya. Togo, Mali, South Africa, Madagascar are next in line. In February of this year "during negotiations with the Minister of Agriculture of Ghana the parties agreed to develop a program of mechanization of the agrarian sector"<sup>62</sup> of this African country.

In terms of export program implementation, we should also note that "today **Lidselmash Holding** is fulfilling a large order for supplies to Nigeria - 500 maize seeders and 300 mounted sprayers"<sup>63</sup>. In addition to the African vector, the holding has signed a major contract with Uzbekistan. And 36 cotton cultivators have already been shipped. The contract has been extended for another forty units.

The positive dynamics of the **agro-industrial complex of Belarus** in 2024 showed that the increase in production allowed not only to meet the needs of the domestic market, but also "to increase exports of food products and agricultural raw materials by 14.4%. We received \$8.5 billion in foreign currency earnings, which is \$1 billion more than in 2023"<sup>64</sup>. In general, food shipments were made to 117 countries, including 19 countries for the first time. If we talk only about **dairy products**, last year Belarusian dairy processors shipped six million tons of milk and milk products for export, expanding the geography of supplies to

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<sup>62</sup> Minsk Tractor Plant is interested in expanding cooperation with the Republic of Ghana [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/minskij-traktornyj-zavod-zainteresovan-v-rasshirenii-sotrudnichestva-s-respublikoj-gana-696644-2025/>

<sup>63</sup> What large orders "Lidselmash" is working on, the general director told [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/nad-kakimi-krupnymi-zakazami-rabotaet-lidselmash-rasskazal-gendirektor-699019-2025/>

<sup>64</sup> Export of Belarusian food and agricultural raw materials in 2024 increased by more than 14% [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/eksport-belorusskogo-prodovolstvija-i-selhozsyryja-v-2024-godu-vyros-bolee-chem-na-14-700084-2025/>

69 countries. "The share of dairy products in total food exports amounted to 40.3%"<sup>65</sup>. Algeria, Mexico, Kuwait, Nigeria, Kenya opened their markets for Belarusian dairy products.

In the past year, Belarusian **food industry** enterprises continued to successfully penetrate the markets of the countries of the far arc. In general, the exports of **Belgospisheprom** Concern grew by 11%, and over the five-year period they increased one and a half times. Geographically, the export portfolio is represented by 53 countries. In 2024, the Concern's enterprises "supplied their products to Morocco, South Africa, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Ethiopia, Equatorial Guinea. New markets include Afghanistan, Jordan, Bahrain, the Philippines, Brazil, Cuba and Chile"<sup>66</sup>. In 2025, Belgospisheprom will again emphasize the African continent.

Among Belarusian concerns in terms of exports, we can also mention **Bellesbumprom**, which shipped abroad about 72% of the total volume of products in 2024. Diversification of sales markets allowed the enterprises of the concern to ensure supplies to the markets of 46 countries. "In January-November last year, the export of goods of the Concern's organizations as a whole reached the level of 107.6 percent to the corresponding period of 2023. The share of supplies to the CIS countries was formed at the level of

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<sup>65</sup> Belarus exported 6 million tons of milk and dairy products to 69 countries in 2024 [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-v-2024-godu-eksportirovala-6-mln-tonn-moloka-i-molochnyh-produktov-v-69-stran-697543-2025/>

<sup>66</sup> The list includes the Philippines, Brazil, Cuba, Chile. Belarusian food industry opened new markets in 2024 [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: [https://www.belarus.by/ru/business/business-news/v-spiske-filippiny-brazilija-kuba-chili-belorusskij-pisheprom-otkryl-v-2024-godu-novye-rynki\\_i\\_0000186578.html](https://www.belarus.by/ru/business/business-news/v-spiske-filippiny-brazilija-kuba-chili-belorusskij-pisheprom-otkryl-v-2024-godu-novye-rynki_i_0000186578.html)

77%"<sup>67</sup> . In general, the "five" states, where the products of "Bellesbumprom" were supplied, included Russia, China, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan.

Export growth is one of the priority development vectors for the Belarusian **construction sector** as well. In 2024, thanks to measures to diversify export flows and expand the geography of foreign trade relations, it was possible to achieve positive dynamics in the growth rate of exports of construction, engineering and architectural services. "For the year, exports were formed at the level of \$997.6 million, or 138.9% to the same period last year with the target of 107%. Positive balance was provided in the amount of \$503.7 million, and this is the best result for the last eight years"<sup>68</sup> . Taking into account the foreign economic situation, the main direction for increasing Belarusian construction exports is still Russia. Voronezh, Kaluga, Smolensk, Bryansk, Kursk, Leningrad, Kaliningrad, Nizhny Novgorod and Moscow Regions, Primorsky and Krasnodar Territories, Moscow and St. Petersburg are among the most promising regions for Belarusian contractors to enter. For example, in Kaluga region Belarusian builders are constructing residential neighborhoods "Vesnushki", "Prosto Kosmos", "Annenki", "Malinovka". In May 2024, with the participation of Belarusian specialists, work was completed on the Federal Technopark of Vocational Education in Kaluga, which "is a modern site with an area of 28 thousand square meters, which houses 30 laboratories with high-tech equipment for training

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<sup>67</sup> About 72% of Belarusian woodworking products are exported [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/eksportiruetsja-okolo-72-produktsii-belorusskoj-derevoobrabotki-692632-2025/>

<sup>68</sup> Belarus in 2024 increased exports of construction, engineering and architectural services [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-v-2024-godu-narastila-eksport-stroitelnyh-inzhenernyh-i-arhitekturnyh-uslug-702696-2025/>

teachers and apprentices from all over Russia for 15 industries - from microelectronics to heavy engineering"<sup>69</sup> .

Brestzhilstroy specialists have already built a number of residential houses in the Kaliningrad region, and in the Kursk region, housing construction works are being carried out by Mozyr House-Building Plant. In the Bryansk region a residential house has appeared through the efforts of Gomel House-Building Plant, and in St. Petersburg a whole "Belarusian Quarter" has been erected. A "Belarusian Quarter" will also appear in Voronezh region, the project is in the process of implementation in the eco-village Lushnikovka. In addition, last June Belarusian builders completed the construction of the stadium "Fake!" for ten thousand seats in this regional center. There are also ongoing projects in this region: in June 2025, Belarusian builders will deliver a kindergarten for 600 seats in Voronezh. In Nizhny Novgorod region - in Arzamas - in December 2024, a school for one and a half thousand seats was built by the efforts of Belarusians. Agreements have also been reached to build schools in other towns of the region - Balakhna and near Kstovo, and the possibilities for Belarusian specialists to build model physical fitness centers in the municipal districts of the region are being discussed. And in Primorsky Krai in 2024, Institute Belgosproekt carried out preliminary design of a regional hockey center and a boxing center that will appear in Vladivostok and a 419-bed multidisciplinary hospital for the city of Nakhodka.

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<sup>69</sup> Schools, kindergartens, stadiums. What social objects are built by Belarusian builders in the regions of Russia [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/shkoly-detsady-stadiony-kakie-sotsobekty-vozvodjat-belorusskie-stroiteli-v-regionah-rossii-702773-2025/>

Another interesting fact about Belarusian exports. It is well known that Belarus is one of the world leaders in **peat extraction** and a leader in the production of **fuel briquettes**. Two million tons are extracted annually in our country. In addition to the domestic market, peat products and are also supplied abroad. In total - to 18 countries, including China, Russia, Turkey, Georgia. "If we take the volumes, last year they amounted to 120 thousand tons worth about \$10 million"<sup>70</sup> . Beltopgaz organizations plan to further increase these supplies in 2025. To maintain and increase export volumes, they are working on diversification: they are actively engaged in entering the Chinese market, increasing supplies to Russian consumers, and working with new clients in countries such as Vietnam, Uzbekistan, and Turkey. "As of today, three peat plants - Glinka, Vitebsktorf, Turshovka - have been accredited for deliveries to China. We are considering entering the markets of Central Asia, Middle and Far East countries"<sup>71</sup> . The enterprises of the association in these regions present their production capabilities at international specialized exhibitions. Only in 2024, under the contracts signed at these exhibitions, peat products worth 407 thousand dollars were shipped to consumers. In particular, based on the results of the international exhibition MUSIAD EXPO held in Istanbul in November 2024, a number of agreements were reached. An agreement was signed with GLS GRUP A.S. "to increase the supply of peat products and testing of liquid and dry humates in the amount of 200 kilograms. Also

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<sup>70</sup> Belarus supplies peat products to 18 countries [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-postavljaet-produktsiju-iz-torfa-v-18-stran-697593-2025/>

<sup>71</sup> Organizations of "Beltopgaz" in 2025 plan to increase the export of peat products [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/organizatsii-beltopgaza-v-2025-godu-planirujut-naraschivat-eksport-torfoproduktov-702455-2025/>

agreements were reached on long-term cooperation with the company DY GRUP"<sup>72</sup>. After the tests, the Belarusian side will develop a special formulation, which will become the basis for planting of greenery and landscape design. In 2025 it is also planned to participate in specialized agrotechnical exhibitions, which will significantly expand markets in the near future.

Among the Belarusian regions in this regard, one can single out **Gomel** region, which increased exports of goods and services in 2024 by almost nine percent, and this amounted to almost four and a half billion dollars. "The geography of supplies: for goods it is 75 countries, for services 119 countries of the world. The main directions are the Russian market and the markets of EAEU partner countries, China. There are products of Gomel enterprises also on the African continent"<sup>73</sup>. The main export commodity positions of Gomel region are metal products, meat and dairy products, equipment and mechanical devices, plastics and their products, mineral fertilizers, paper, cardboard and their products, timber and sawn timber, cellulose, as well as services of automobile, railway, pipeline transport, construction, tourist, computer, telecommunication services, services in the field of education and health care. For example, only exports of the region's agricultural products grew by 20 percent last year. Enterprises of the agro-industrial complex of the region have mastered "new markets: Algeria, Hong Kong, Cuba, Kuwait,

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<sup>72</sup> Belarus signed an agreement to increase supplies of peat products to the Turkish market [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-podpisala-soglashenie-ob-uvlichenii-postavok-torfjanoy-produktsii-na-turetskij-rynok-680408-2024/>

<sup>73</sup> By goods 75 countries, by services 119. Krupko on the geography of exports of the Gomel region [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/po-tovaram-75-stran-po-uslugam-119-krupko-o-geografii-eksporta-gomelskoj-oblasti-701919-2025/>

Lebanon, Libya, the Netherlands, Singapore, Japan. In total, the geography of exports exceeded 40 countries of the world"<sup>74</sup> .

And the enterprises of **Brest region** in 2024 increased exports by almost 10 percent compared to 2023. Despite the objective difficulties, the work in foreign markets is characterized by good dynamics. "Foreign trade turnover of goods and services of Brest region in 2024 amounted to \$6.8 billion, growth rate - 109.2%. At the same time, exports amounted to \$4.3 billion, the rate - 109.4%. The foreign trade surplus amounted to \$1.8 billion"<sup>75</sup> . Positive dynamics, in particular, is observed in foreign trade with Kazakhstan. Exports of goods with Brest brand in 2024 increased by more than 15 percent. Good work has been done in Uzbekistan, where export volumes increased by more than forty percent. One of the main partners of Brest region is Russia. Enterprises of the southwestern region increased exports there by almost 10 percent. China is traditionally a strategic partner of Brest region. The enterprises of the region systematically increase their presence in this country. Export volumes to the Celestial Empire have increased 1.6 times since the beginning of the five-year plan.

All these numerous facts eloquently show that the increase in exports by Belarusian enterprises remains one of the priority vectors for the development of the national economy. Especially since already in January 2025 "\$3.4 billion worth of goods and services were sold abroad, including \$2.7 billion worth of goods

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<sup>74</sup> Algeria, Singapore, Japan. What new markets have mastered the agro-industrial complex of Gomel region in 2024 [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/alzhir-singapur-japonija-kakie-novye-rynki-osvoil-apk-gomelskoj-oblasti-v-2024-godu-701922-2025/>

<sup>75</sup> Brest region enterprises in 2024 increased exports by almost 10% [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/predpriyatija-brestskoj-oblasti-v-2024-godu-narastili-eksport-pochti-na-10-701811-2025/>

and \$0.7 billion worth of services"<sup>76</sup>. In the near future, Belarusian exporters will pay special attention to the development of trade and economic cooperation with African countries and other countries of the "far arc" and the creation of their own infrastructure for promoting exports abroad.

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<sup>76</sup> Foreign trade turnover of goods and services of Belarus exceeded \$7 billion in January [Electronic resource]. - - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/vneshnetorgovyj-oborot-tovarov-i-uslug-belarusi-v-janvare-prevysil-7-mlrd-701402-2025/>



## **Technoparks as an innovative tool for export and import-substituting products**

In the Republic of Belarus today such subjects of innovation infrastructure as technoparks are dynamically developing, which occupy a key position in the development of innovative entrepreneurship in the country. "As of January 1, 2025, there were 23 innovation infrastructure entities operating in Belarus, including 16 science and technology parks, five technology transfer centers, the Belarusian Innovation Fund and the National Center for Intellectual Property"<sup>77</sup>. They operate in the capital, in all regional cities of the country, as well as in several large district centers. A branch network of technoparks is being developed: in Bobruisk and Molodechno - technopark "InKata" LLC, in Baranovichi - CJSC "Brest Scientific and Technological Park". The residents of the technoparks are engaged in a variety of areas: production of medical equipment, production of laser-optical equipment and machinery, manufacturing of components and equipment for automotive transport, instrumentation and machine building. Software development, design and production of electronic control systems and power electronics are also among their areas of activity. For example, in 2024, two new production facilities were commissioned in Borisov and Kobrin. These are export-oriented and import-substituting production of programmable control elements and diagnostics of electrical equipment for motor vehicles - in JSC "Ekran", as well as high-precision and durable welded joints of hydraulic cylinder parts - in

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<sup>77</sup> Shlychkov, S. What conditions for the development of technoparks have been created in Belarus / S. Shlychkov // [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/comments/view/kakie-usloviya-dlja-razvitiya-tehnoparkov-sozdany-v-belarusi-9550/>

JSC "SALEO-Kobrin". In addition, the production of mixed fodders and premixes at BNBK CJSC and equipment for magnetic-abrasive treatment of rotational surfaces and complex shapes of machine parts and devices at Polimag UE were brought to their design capacity.

Another interesting fact: "From 2016 to 2023, the volume of products manufactured by residents of technoparks increased 11 times, with innovative products produced last year [2023] for more than Br300 million, which is six times more compared to the 2016 indicators"<sup>78</sup>. In addition, technoparks together with residents have created almost five thousand jobs, of which over four thousand are created by residents of technoparks. In the first half of 2024, "the number of residents of technoparks increased by four organizations and amounted to 268. The total number of employees increased by 279 from the 2023 level and amounted to 5602"<sup>79</sup>. In these six months, output was produced by 50 projects, which generated 1.7 times more output than in the first half of 2023. Of the total sales volume, one-third was supplied for export.

And as of January 1, 2025, the number of residents of technoparks amounted to 275. The total number of their employees increased by 1,067 people, or 20 percent from the level of 2023, and amounted to 6,390 people. "The volume of production output by residents of technoparks increased by more than 20% compared to the previous year and amounted to about Br1 billion. Technopark residents shipped products worth about Br460 million

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<sup>78</sup> Technoparks of Belarus in 2023 produced innovative products for more than Br300 million [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/tehnoparki-belarusi-v-2023-godu-proizveli-innovatsionnoj-produktsii-bolee-chem-na-br300-mln-668431-2024/>

<sup>79</sup> SCST: Br8.9 products of technopark residents per Br1 of budget financing [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/gknt-na-br1-bjudzhetnogo-finansirovaniya-prihoditsja-br89-produktsii-rezidentov-tehnoparkov-664087-2024/>

for export, which is 46% of the total output. Compared to 2023, this indicator increased by 29%"<sup>80</sup>. In order to improve the work of technoparks in 2025, the State Committee for Science and Technology plans to assist in promoting the developments of technopark residents at exhibition events and ensure the organization of their participation in the expositions of Belarus and related events - cooperation exchanges, presentations of scientific organizations and their developments - both in the country and abroad.

Now let us get acquainted with some subjects of innovation infrastructure of our country. First of all - in the capital. On the territory of **Minsk** there are three technoparks subordinated to the Ministry of Education and the main one - **Minsk City Technopark**. These structures working in the sphere of science and education have significant scientific potential, which is realized not only in Belarus, but also for export. And the Minsk City Technopark, in its turn, creates conditions for innovative business, providing infrastructure at the expense of the innovation fund of the capital. And the interaction between these subjects is already being built. In the future it is planned to strengthen it so that scientific developments could find practical application, create innovative products and bring income to the city. Special attention is paid to the production of import-substituting products. The production of medical joints, which used to be a problem area but has already been successfully established in the **technopark**

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<sup>80</sup> Residents of technoparks in Belarus in 2024 increased the output of products by more than 20% [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/rezidenty-tehnoparkov-belarusi-v-2024-godu-uvlechili-vypusk-produktsii-bolee-chem-na-20-696813-2025/>

**of the Belarusian National Technical University**, can be cited as an example.

Among the key issues being considered today in the context of this topic is the lack of territories in the capital. Now the possibility of locating production facilities on the basis of the city technopark is being considered in order to consolidate all innovative structures and build effective interaction. Minsk has set a task - "to create three more technoparks. <...> Among the possible formats of new sites are considered both universal and narrow-profile technoparks"<sup>81</sup>. For example, there is an idea to create a competence center in the main technopark, so that companies can use common equipment, rather than buying it individually. This will optimize costs and speed up the development of new products.

The Belarusian capital is already actively working on the creation of a new site for the technopark, which will be located on the territory of the former vegetable warehouses on Central Street. These warehouses have been used since the war times. This facility will make it possible to accommodate new residents, as well as to relocate some of the existing enterprises from Partizansky Avenue. Among them are companies belonging to the fifth and sixth technological mode. The industrial technopark envisages creation of ready conditions for high-tech productions. Already now applications have been received from future residents, among which there are both companies expanding their operations and completely new productions. "The work is divided

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<sup>81</sup> "Scientific developments should find practical application". Lazarevich on the work of Minsk technoparks [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/nauchnye-razrabotki-dolzhny-nahodit-prakticheskoe-primeneniye-lazarevich-o-rabote-minskih-tehnoparkov-695481-2025/>

into stages: the first buildings are planned to be erected in 2025, and by 2026 to start the second phase of construction. <...> If the original goal was to complete by 2029, it is obvious that it will happen much earlier"<sup>82</sup> .

One of the key advantages of the new site is its convenient location: Radialnaya Street and Partizansky Prospekt pass nearby, and Avtozavodskaya metro station is within walking distance. This will provide convenient logistics both for cargo delivery and removal, and for personnel logistics. The technopark site itself will consist of two parts: one is located on Tsentralnaya Street, 47, where the dismantling of old storage facilities is already underway and preparing the territory for construction; the second is on Tsentralnaya Street, 46, which will cover about five hectares. As a result, more than 40 thousand square meters of production facilities will be created. As for the specialization of future residents, a kind of hub for the production of automotive equipment is already being formed here. We are talking about enterprises that will create special equipment for servicing oil wells, flushing pipelines, producing components for electric trucks and buses, batteries. In addition, the technopark will focus on the production of equipment for food, chemical and other industries. The project also takes into account the need to consolidate the efforts of various technoparks of the capital, including university technoparks. A building has been allocated here for residents who previously worked at the sites of the Belarusian State University, the Belarusian National Technical University, and the Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radioelectronics.

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<sup>82</sup> The modern technopark will appear on the place of former vegetable storages in Minsk [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/sovremennyj-tehnopark-pojavitsja-na-meste-byvshih-ovoschehranilisj-v-minske-699130-2025/>

In addition to production, an important aspect remains the marketing of products, including exports. The Minsk Technopark is establishing cooperation with similar sites in Russia and Uzbekistan. The process of introducing the enterprises to each other is underway, which will give new cooperative ties and expand competencies in the creation and promotion of products.

**The Brest Science and Technology Park (BSTP)** already has more than 50 residents working in various sectors of the economy, including education, healthcare, high technology, processing, and manufacturing. Here, for example, the production of robotic complexes for the processing industry has been established in three areas. The first of them is the production of complex 3D casting molds. Equipment has been purchased and production has begun. Piece products are produced, which are needed by enterprises in various industries. BNTTP has also mastered the production of robotic complexes. Here the technopark works in tandem with its residents. Emphasis is placed on the processing industry. The technopark provides "collective use center services for the preparation and manufacture of component parts. More than 70 sets of robotic complexes have already been produced in a year and a half. About 40 more are planned to be produced in 2025"<sup>83</sup>. Robotic complexes help to optimize and automate production processes. For example, robotic manipulators are programmed for sorting, labeling products on conveyor lines. At present the work on creation of production of pumps from composite materials is in progress. This year it is planned to produce a prototype, which will be subjected to tests. It

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<sup>83</sup> Zalesky, B. New frontiers of partnership. Prospects of internal and external economic development of Belarus / Boris Zalesky. - LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2025. - C. 8.

will be one of the pumps of the line for oil refining industry. Within the framework of the business project development, it is expected to reach the design capacity by 2032. It should also be noted that the reconstruction of building of the technopark in Brest is continuing. There are five floors left to be completed. It will house production sites, offices, recreation and entertainment space, and an exhibition center.

In **Baranavichy** and **Pinsk**, the first buildings of industrial parks are planned to be put into operation in 2025. These facilities are included in the State Investment Program. The industrial park in **Baranavichy** is called **Burshtyn**. It is a branch of the **Brest Science and Technology Park**. The project provides for the construction of three production and administrative-laboratory buildings and an automated warehouse complex. At the first stage, networks and communications were connected, the construction of the first building is being finalized. "In 2022-2024 about Br28 mln. This year it is planned to allocate more than Br30 mln. It is expected that in the first half of the year the first production building will be put into operation"<sup>84</sup>. Internal works are being completed at the facility, connection to communications networks, and the adjacent territory is being landscaped. In October 2024, a pool of potential residents has been formed to fill the industrial park. "In the organization of production on the premises of the first building of the industrial park showed interest in the company engaged in the processing of TMR and production of polymer composites. The list of potential residents also includes private

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<sup>84</sup> Innovative production will be located in industrial parks in Baranovichi and Pinsk [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/innovatsionnye-proizvodstva-razmestjatsja-v-industrialnyh-parkah-v-baranovichah-i-pinske-696414-2025/>

enterprises manufacturing mobile cellular communication stations, production of low-voltage complete devices, production of ventilation equipment"<sup>85</sup> . And in January 2025 they also announced a competitive selection of residents for the industrial park. It is assumed that it will accommodate organizations of any form of ownership, including individual entrepreneurs who are engaged in innovative activities. Manufactured products can be both import-substituting and export-oriented. The results of the competition will be summarized in the near future. In general, "industrial park "Burshtyn" will be built by 2028. It will be able to accommodate medium and large-scale production"<sup>86</sup> . In the future, residents will be able to scale up on the unused areas of the city's industrial enterprises or build their own production on the 70 hectares specially allocated for this purpose.

As for the industrial park in **Pinsk**, it will consist of four production buildings. They will be located "in the industrial zone of Pinsk, the site is selected on Kozubowski Street"<sup>87</sup> . Almost 12 million Belarusian rubles have been invested in the construction of the park in 2022-2024. In 2025 more than 20 million Belarusian rubles is envisaged for financing. The general contractor - Construction Trust No. 2 - has already started internal works in the first building. It is planned to complete the facility in the third quarter of this year. The area of the building is about five and a

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<sup>85</sup> The pool of potential residents of the industrial park in Baranovichi has been formed [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/sformirovan-pul-potentsialnyh-rezidentov-industrialnogo-parka-v-baranovichah-672052-2024/>

<sup>86</sup> The competitive selection of residents for the industrial park of Baranovichi is announced [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/objjavlen-konkursnyj-otbor-rezidentov-dlja-industrialnogo-parka-baranovichej-689951-2025/>

<sup>87</sup> Industrial park started to build in Pinsk [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/industrialnyj-park-nachali-stroit-v-pinske-640595-2024/>



half thousand square meters. There can be several residents here, depending on how much territory is needed for this or that production. And now there is already a contest of potential residents, which can be various companies: from small production facilities to large-scale ones. A second production building is being built in parallel. In general, the industrial park in Pinsk can give an impetus to the development of the economy not only of the city, but also of the Polesie region as a whole. After all, this construction will entail the creation of highly productive and highly paid jobs. So, the production facilities, which will be located on these sites, will become a part of cooperation chains in various industrial areas not only in Pinsk, but also in the whole Brest region.

It should be noted that "in the future in our republic they plan to create new technoparks and their branches in order to develop technological infrastructure to provide services to residents"<sup>88</sup>. So the model of industrial parks in Baranovichi and Pinsk is of great interest. It is quite original. At the International Conference of Free Economic Zones in Mogilev in September 2024, it was noted that these two pilot projects represent a model that can be scaled to all Belarusian regions. And in Baranovichi and Pinsk, "the first residents will enter these parks in 2025. 80% of the space there has already been reserved by potential residents"<sup>89</sup>.

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<sup>88</sup> Zaleskii, B. Growth points of the Belarusian economy in the dynamics of global challenges / Boris Zaleskii. - LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2024. - C. 34.

<sup>89</sup> NAIP: the model of industrial parks in Baranovichi and Pinsk can be used in other regions [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/naip-model-promyshlennyh-parkov-v-baranovichah-i-pinske-mozhno-budet-ispolzovat-v-drugih-regionah-664360-2024/>

And one more interesting question. In October 2024 in Minsk on the margins of the seminar "Innovations in the real sector: Financing, Stimulation and Accounting" its participants - representatives of Minsk City Technopark, small business incubator LLC Legal Group "Law and Order", RUSP "Agency for Development and Investment Promotion" - Technopark "Coral", CJSC "Technological Park Mogilev", LLC "InKata", PE "Remago" - signed a memorandum of intent to create the Republican Association of Technoparks and subjects of innovation activity, to "take into account the importance of establishing closer cooperation and mutually beneficial partnership in the innovation segment in order to create new business opportunities, cooperate to solve common and private tasks and strive to establish and develop cooperation in areas of mutual interest"<sup>90</sup>. All this suggests that the development and support of innovative entrepreneurship and innovation infrastructure is becoming a crucial factor in the country's economic security and ensuring its technological sovereignty.

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<sup>90</sup> Association of technoparks and subjects of innovation activity will appear in Belarus [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/assotsiatsija-tehnoparkov-i-subjektov-innovatsionnoj-dejatelnosti-pojavitsja-v-belarusi-668380-2024/>

## **International Economic Forums as a path to investment projects and promising proposals**

Annual international regional economic forums in Belarus have already become an obvious necessity so that representatives of state bodies, business circles and foreign partners could find common ground, get acquainted, communicate and come to the conclusion of mutually beneficial agreements. Last autumn, such forums were held in several Belarusian regional centers, which showed a high interest in international cooperation, in establishing and expanding trade, economic and investment interaction.

In September 2024, the annual **Gomel Economic Forum** was held for the 18th time, which has become a recognized and authoritative platform for discussing topical issues of international trade and economic, investment interaction, establishment of reliable long-term interregional and cooperation ties. During its history this forum has turned into the main business event of Gomel region, "which has 107 signed documents for the amount of\$ 2 billion 600 million, creation of thousands of jobs. And <...> not only in large cities, such as Gomel, Zhlobin, Mozyr, Rechitsa and Svetlogorsk, but also in distant from the center Lelchitsy, Zhitkovichy districts"<sup>91</sup>, as well as in affected by the Chernobyl accident. In general, pursuing a consistent policy of strengthening mutual contacts and friendly relations with foreign partners, the Belarusian southeastern region at the level of the region, cities and district centers has already concluded more than 250 international

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<sup>91</sup> Krupko about Gomel forum: a solid basis for the creation of a smart economy [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/krupko-o-gomelskom-forume-prochnaja-osnova-dlja-sozdaniya-umnoj-ekonomiki-662391-2024/>

cooperation agreements with two dozen countries. "Behind this figure is the creation of joint ventures, the performance of research and development work..."<sup>92</sup> . And since the beginning of 2024, Gomel region has already received 18 official delegations from seven countries.

This time, the economic forum in the city above Sozh brought together more than 400 participants from 16 countries, where, along with regular partners, representatives of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, China, Vietnam, India, Iran, Mongolia, Pakistan, the United Arab Emirates, and Zimbabwe took part. The business program was devoted to the key issues of the Belarusian region in the sphere of industry, export, innovations and investments, as well as the work of small and medium-sized businesses. The plenary part of the forum focused on the prospects and possible areas of cooperation between Gomel region and foreign partners. Important aspects of business ties were also discussed at the thematic sections, which were devoted to production and construction potential, tourism and social sphere, small and medium business. Especially saturated section of the forum was the topic of investments. Suffice it to say that "there are more than 80 objects for investment, mostly in the real sector of the economy. It is no coincidence: it is the industrial complex that is the locomotive of the region's economy"<sup>93</sup> .

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<sup>92</sup> Krupko: more than 250 international agreements were concluded at the level of Gomel region and district centers [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/krupko-na-urovne-gomelskoj-oblasti-i-rajsentrov-zakljucheno-bolee-250-mezhdunarodnyh-dogovorov-662333-2024/>

<sup>93</sup> More than 80 objects for investment are offered at the Gomel Economic Forum [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/bolee-80-objektov-dlja-investirovaniya-predlagajut-na-gomelskom-ekonomicheskom-forume-662389-2024/>

For example, in Lelchitsy district they offer a project to develop a deposit of ultra-presh water. This is a real opportunity to compete with world-renowned brands. Such production facilities have not yet been created either in Belarus or in neighboring countries. The water has extremely low mineralization, it can be used in dietary and children's nutrition. There is an explored deposit of gypsum in Petrikov district, which has already been prepared for industrial development. According to the results of preliminary exploration in the western and eastern sections of the mineral reserves are 120 and 125 million tons respectively. The objectively favorable position of the deposit - 11 kilometers from the railway station and near the Pripyat River - was also noted. Organization of production of primary aluminum and its alloys on the basis of the deposit of bauxite-dawsonite ores "Zaozerne" is an actual offer for investors in the Yelsky district. "According to forecasts, the deposit contains over 182 million tons of ore. Two mining options are available to potential investors: the shaft method and through a borehole"<sup>94</sup>. Especially since the demand for aluminum is constantly growing. The range of aluminum applications is from aviation and space to construction and chemical industries

Returning to the prospects and possible areas of cooperation between Gomel region and foreign countries, we should note that Kazakhstan was among the active participants of the forum from the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, whose potential for cooperation with the Belarusian southeastern region

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<sup>94</sup> "Transparent gold", gypsum, aluminum. What subsoil riches are offered in the Gomel region to investors [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/prozrachnoe-zoloto-gips-aljuminij-kakie-bogatstva-nedr-predlagajut-v-gomelskoj-oblasti-investoram-662828-2024/>

is simply enormous. This, first of all, concerns the issues of production cooperation and agriculture. For example, "in Kazakhstan, within the framework of cooperation, an assembly production of machinery has been set up jointly with Gomselmash, which is successfully developing"<sup>95</sup>. Within the framework of the economic forum, the parties agreed that the number of joint projects will increase.

The partners from Uzbekistan informed the forum about the development of a new project with Belarus. The prerequisite for active interaction was the memorandum on cooperation and creation of investment projects signed about six months ago between the free economic zones (FEZ) Kokand and Homel-Raton. The Uzbek FEZ was established in 2017. And now it is interested in the experience of Gomel producers in the industry of mechanical engineering, as well as milk processing. Currently negotiations on the creation of a joint project with the Belarusian company are ongoing. Apparently, "a Belarusian-Uzbek investment project on milk processing, production of milk powder, cheese, kefir..." will soon be realized.<sup>96</sup>

If we talk about partners of Homiel region in Asian countries, we should first of all mention China. Within the framework of the economic forum, in particular, the representatives of the Chinese province of Hebei defined the guidelines for new directions of strengthening cooperation with

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<sup>95</sup> Gomel region intends to expand cooperation with partners from Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/gomelskaja-oblast-namerena-rasshirjat-sotrudnichestvo-s-partnerami-iz-kazahstana-662369-2024/>

<sup>96</sup> It will turn out to be a superproduct. The representative of FEZ "Kokand" announced a new Belarusian-Uzbek project [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/poluchitsja-superprodukt-predstavitel-sez-kokand-anonsiroval-novyj-belorussko-uzbekskij-proekt-662558-2024/>

Homiel region. "There is an interest in the development of cooperation in the field of woodworking. In one of the cities of the province there is a large furniture production, respectively, < ... > great needs in the purchase of wood..."<sup>97</sup>. In addition, there is a bearing manufacturing plant in the Chinese region. And in this respect, there could be another area for potential cooperation with Belarusian partners.

The intention to strengthen cooperation on various positions with prospective partners from Mongolia was outlined by the Homel side at the forum, emphasizing that 2024 became a starting point for intensifying cooperation and raising it to a qualitatively new level, as well as this year opened a new page in the history of Belarusian-Mongolian partnership ties. Interesting prospects are seen "in agriculture, industry, and food production"<sup>98</sup>. We are talking about specific agreements: from supplies of Gomselmash mowers to studying the maintenance and feeding of farm animals in the best farms of Mozyr district.

As for the United Arab Emirates (UAE), it is the main trade partner of the Belarusian southeastern region among the Arab states of the Persian Gulf. Suffice it to say that "only exports of dairy products produced in the Gomel region increased almost ninefold at the end of last [2023] year"<sup>99</sup>. Homiel enterprises and

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<sup>97</sup> Promsector and woodworking. Gomelshchina and the Chinese province of Hebei outlined the sphere for integration [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/promsektor-i-derevoobrabotka-gomelschina-i-kitajskaja-provintsija-hebej-nametili-sfery-dlja-integratsij-662539-2024/>

<sup>98</sup> From machinery to sweets. What are the points of contact between Gomel region and Mongolia [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/ot-tehniki-do-sladostej-kakovy-tochki-soprikosnovenija-gomelskoj-oblasti-i-mongolii-662425-2024/>

<sup>99</sup> Export of dairy products of Homiel producers in the UAE increased almost nine times by the end of 2023 [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/eksport-molochnoj-produktsii-gomelskih-proizvoditelej-v-oe-vyros-pochti-v-devjat-raz-po-itogam-2023-662349-2024/>

organizations also supply the UAE with flour confectionery and carpentry products, provide computer and construction services. Speaking about the most promising areas of partnership with Homiel, the Emirati side mentioned such areas of cooperation as agricultural technologies, food products, food security, "green technologies", clean energy, as well as interregional cooperation, as the parties are planning to adopt an important document in the nearest future - "a memorandum on the establishment of twinning relations between Homiel and the Emirate of Fujairah"<sup>100</sup>.

Another vector of strengthening international ties with African countries was also outlined at the 18th Gomel Economic Forum. In particular, it was about Zimbabwe. The fact is that in 2023 Gomel agricultural machinery has proved itself perfectly on the fields of this South African country. After all, with the help of this machinery "last year farmers in Zimbabwe gathered a record harvest of wheat. The Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water Resources and Rural Development of Zimbabwe gave such a high assessment of the joint government program on mechanization of the agricultural sector with Belarus"<sup>101</sup>. By the end of this year, another 80 units of Gomselmash machinery will be delivered to this African country from the Belarusian southeastern region.

Summarizing the results of the 18th Gomel Economic Forum, we would like to emphasize that this annual event gives both the region and each enterprise of the region an opportunity to

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<sup>100</sup> Homiel and Fujairah plan to establish twinning relations [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/gomel-i-fudzhejra-planirujut-ustanovit-pobratimskie-otnoshenija-662476-2024/>

<sup>101</sup> "Gomselmash" intends to supply a large batch of machinery to Zimbabwe by the end of the year [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/gomselmash-nameren-postavit-v-zimbabwe-krupnuju-partiju-tehniki-do-kontsa-goda-662341-2024/>



"develop, produce more products and increase exports, so that enterprises strengthen, grow and be financially stable in this difficult period"<sup>102</sup>, as well as to find new cooperation partners and establish joint production projects, giving an additional impetus to strengthening international economic and socio-cultural ties.

Also in September 2024, **the Grodno International Economic Forum** was held under the motto "Modern Realities and New Opportunities", which brought together more than forty heads of enterprises, business owners, specialists of foreign economic and legal services, sales and marketing departments, as well as representatives of the diplomatic corps of Kazakhstan, Russia, Pakistan, India, Iran, Zimbabwe, Palestine, guests from sister cities, representatives of business circles of China, Azerbaijan, Russia, Turkey. This forum has become a platform for open dialog to provide an opportunity to discuss mechanisms of cooperation in various spheres. In particular, the thematic sections "Free economic zones as a driver of economic development of regions", "Electronic commerce as a tool for export promotion", "Industrial and health tourism" spoke about the expansion of vectors on which mutually beneficial ties will move forward.

If we talk about Grodno Region as a whole, it has achieved the highest growth of gross regional product in 2024 among other Belarusian regions - more than 108 percent. In Grodno region a lot of attention is paid to the development of cities. In particular, Lida district became one of the three leaders in Belarus in the

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<sup>102</sup> Krupko: Gomel Economic Forum gives an additional impetus to the development of international relations [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/krupko-gomelskij-ekonomicheskij-forum-daet-dopolnitelnyj-impuls-v-razvitii-mezhdunarodnyh-svjazej-662566-2024/>

development of cities with a population exceeding 80 thousand people. Besides, the program "One District - One Project" is being successfully implemented in the region. In fact, it has already gone beyond its name. Practically every second district has two or three modern projects"<sup>103</sup> . And in terms of exports, the region has already increased supplies abroad by three percent in 2024. Today Grodno region's products are present in the markets of more than a hundred countries of the world and are actively entering the states of Asia, Africa and Latin America. Suffice it to say that this year "exports to the countries of the far arc have increased significantly: twice - to China, three times - to India"<sup>104</sup> .

Speaking in particular about Grodno itself - the place of the international forum, this city with an open economy maintains trade and economic relations with 109 countries of the world. Its enterprises annually export products worth more than one billion dollars. Grodno is actively strengthening international ties. An important fact: over the last four years, cooperation agreements have been signed with three Chinese cities (Lanzhou, Haikou and Lohe), two Russian cities (Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, Krasnodar), one Azerbaijani city (Gabala). In Grodno itself large investment projects on creation of new enterprises and productions have been realized and continue, social facilities are being built, new and existing infrastructure is being created and improved. "The realities of today give an incentive to rebuild, to find new

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<sup>103</sup> Chebotar at the international forum in Hrodna: we have a high-quality economy, and it attracts investors [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/chebotar-na-mezhdunarodnom-forume-v-grodno-una-kachestvennaja-ekonomika-i-ona-privlekaet-investorov-659331-2024/>

<sup>104</sup> Grodno region in the current year has doubled exports to China, three times - to India [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/grodnenskaja-oblast-v-tekuschem-godu-v-dva-raza-narastila-eksport-v-kitaj-v-tri-raza-v-indiju-659407-2024/>

approaches to development, to reboot, to lay a new foundation for successful growth. Grodno presented at the forum proposals for potential investors on vacant land plots, real estate objects..."<sup>105</sup> . The effectiveness of the trade and economic policy of the regional center is also evidenced by several cooperation agreements signed, for example, with the Azerbaijani city of Gabala and the Chinese city of Lunan in September 2024.

Within the thematic section of the forum - "Free Economic Zones as a Driver of Regional Economic Development" - the examples of successful realization of investment projects by residents of FEZ "Grodnoinvest" were discussed. "The priority in the work of this FEZ is the development of investment sites in the districts"<sup>106</sup> . It is expected that by the end of the current five-year period FEZ residents will provide a significant increase in investments, exports and salaries of the enterprises' employees. And during the Regional Universal Exhibition of Grodno's achievements organized at the forum, where about forty leading enterprises and organizations of the city showed their products, services and innovative developments to the residents of the region and foreign guests, 16 of them were residents of FEZ "Grodnoinvest". In particular, "the residents presented their trade and economic potential: OAO "Grodorgmash", OOO "PCC Consumer Products Navigator", OOO "Biocom", OOO "Cozy Eurodom Premium", OOO "TehnoKhimReagentBel", PT OOO

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<sup>105</sup> Six agreements with foreign partners concluded at the economic forum in Hrodna [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/shest-soglashenij-s-zarubezhnymi-partnerami-zakljucheny-na-ekonomicheskom-forume-v-grodno-659365-2024/>

<sup>106</sup> Ministry of Economy: the priority in the work of FEZ "Grodnoinvest" is the development of investment sites in the districts [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/minekonomiki-prioritet-v-rabote-sez-grodnoinvest-razvitie-investitsionnyh-ploschadok-v-rajonah-672104-2024/>

"Tayfun", CJSC "NPO "Vektor", Terrazit Plus LLC, JV CJSC Bigan, ServicePromPak LLC, Medlen LLC, Belkard OJSC, Conte Spa JLLC, Gronitex OJSC, ZOV-LENEVROMEBEL JLLC and EUEcoPak LLC"<sup>107</sup>. It remains to add that at the plenary session of the forum, cooperation agreements were signed between the Administration of FEZ Grodnoinvest and the Municipal People's Government of Lunan, the Representation of the Nizhny Novgorod Region in Belarus and the Turkish company Vin Logistic.

And the experience of the Grodno branch of the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange (BUTB) was presented at the thematic section of the forum - "Electronic Trade as a Tool for Export Promotion". It should be noted that at the end of eight months of 2024 the amount of export transactions made by economic entities of Grodno region on the BUTB "exceeded\$ 155 million, which is 13.4 times more than in January-August 2023"<sup>108</sup>. The bulk of sales came from agriculture and woodworking products. The share of these commodity groups in the structure of exchange exports of Hrodna enterprises amounted to almost 90 and 10 percent respectively. This year, companies from 19 countries purchased goods of Grodno producers at the exchange trades. Dairy products, sugar, meat products, rapeseed oil and cut softwood lumber were in the greatest demand among foreign importers. So, participation in the Grodno International Economic Forum gave an additional opportunity to inform not only Grodno

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<sup>107</sup> Grodno International Economic Forum was held with the participation of FEZ "Grodnoinvest". [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://grodnoinvest.by/press-center/grodnenskiy-mezhdunarodnyj-forum-sostoyalsya-pri-uchastii-sez-grodnoinvest/>

<sup>108</sup> Exchange export of enterprises of Grodno region has grown 13 times [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/birzhevoj-eksport-predpriyatij-grodnenskoj-oblasti-vyros-v-13-raz-659464-2024/>

enterprises, but also non-residents of the Republic of Belarus about the possibilities of exchange trading.

Returning to the motto of this economic forum in Grodno - "Modern realities and new opportunities", we emphasize that Grodno region is a dynamically developing territory with huge opportunities and comfortable business climate. "The key task of exporting enterprises is new geography and new logistic relations"<sup>109</sup>. So this forum was another concrete step to build long-lasting relationships with prospective international partners in terms of mutually beneficial cooperation.

Finally, in October 2024, **Mogilev** hosted two international forums at once: the **15th economic forum - "Mill of Success"**; the **2nd cooperation forum - on import substitution of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) member states**. In the first case, this forum is a traditional presentation platform for production and investment projects of Mogilev region and the most promising proposals in the sphere of trade and economic, investment and industrial cooperation. The second one is aimed at finding alternative suppliers of products - raw materials, equipment, components - for exporting companies, establishing strong cooperative ties between producers and consumers of SCO enterprises. The participants of these international events were representatives of authorities, diplomats and businessmen from such countries as China, Tajikistan, India, Iran, Pakistan and Russia. The sections of the forum discussed "issues of sectoral problems, import substitution, support for exporters, new logistics

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<sup>109</sup> Sidorkevich, D. Plenary session opened a series of events of the Grodno International Economic Forum / D. Sidorkevich // [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: [https://grodnonews.by/news/vlast/plenarnoe\\_zasedanie\\_otkrylo\\_cheredu\\_meropriy\\_atiy\\_grodnenskogo\\_mezhdunarodnogo\\_ekonomicheskogo\\_foruma\\_.html](https://grodnonews.by/news/vlast/plenarnoe_zasedanie_otkrylo_cheredu_meropriy_atiy_grodnenskogo_mezhdunarodnogo_ekonomicheskogo_foruma_.html)

routes and transport corridors, financial market instruments, urgent tasks of the process of integration of regional business into the global economic space"<sup>110</sup>

It should be noted that the holding of these authoritative forums of economic and cooperative orientation testifies to the fact that annually and constantly growing interest in the economy of Mogilev region, which has managed to restructure its work in new conditions and entered the trajectory of sustainable growth. Suffice it to say that "2023 the region ended the year with the growth rate of gross regional product 101.6%, this year to this base it is growing at a rate of 105.8%"<sup>111</sup>. Today, the Mogilev region specializes in the production of agricultural machinery, chemical products and fabrics, wood products and food production. Two of the three Belarusian cement plants are located in the region. All Belarusian tires and elevators are also produced there.

Within the framework of the 15th economic forum "Mill of Success" new specific business ideas were announced, which may soon be realized with international participation. It is about the implementation of "projects for the production of fodder additives, organic soils and fertilizers, the creation of new complexes of meat direction for the purpose of further processing of beef and its delivery for export, as well as the creation of production facilities for advanced wood processing and tourism development"<sup>112</sup>.

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<sup>110</sup> New markets, import substitution. Two major economic forums will be held in Mogilev [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/novye-rynki-sbyta-importozameschenie-dva-krupnyh-ekonomicheskikh-foruma-projdu-v-mogileve-667334-2024/>

<sup>111</sup> "Presenting Mogilev region and Belarus". Two major economic forums opened in Mogilev [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/prezentuem-mogilevskuju-oblast-i-belarus-dva-krupnyh-ekonomicheskikh-foruma-otkrylis-v-mogileve-668921-2024/>

<sup>112</sup> Isachenko about "Mill of Success": the forum became a platform for meetings with reliable friends and new partners [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL:

Moreover, for an open dialog in this Belarusian region there are all the necessary tools for business support: free economic zone "Mogilev", Mogilev regional development agency, Mogilev branch of the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry. They create favorable conditions and promote the development of ties between the business community and foreign partners and investors.

Another unique advantage of Mogilev region is the south-eastern region, which includes seven districts where exclusive favorable conditions have been created. Among other things - the return to the investor of 35 percent of the costs incurred in the implementation of the project is guaranteed, salary deductions for both organizations and employees are reduced, and the procedure for granting land plots and real estate is simplified. Finally, the construction of all necessary infrastructure - electricity, gas, water, roads - will be done entirely at the expense of the budget.

As for the 2nd Cooperation Forum on Import Substitution of SCO Member States, several key areas were formulated in Mogilev, which will contribute to a more effective joint use of the emerging opportunities of this international organization. First, it is industrial cooperation and investment cooperation. After all, the division of production into stages and components according to the principle of relative advantages will allow not only to optimize production processes, but also to increase the competitiveness of goods on international markets. Secondly, it is the development of transport and logistics infrastructure, as the modernization of transport corridors and the creation of logistics hubs will

significantly reduce the time and costs of goods delivery. Thirdly, it is personnel cooperation, exchange of knowledge and experience in the field of training specialists. And "Belarus, as a new full member of the SCO, is ready to make maximum efforts to improve the organization's efficiency in the spheres of economy and security, using for this purpose its transit, industrial and scientific potential, as well as the experience of peacekeeping and multilateral diplomacy"<sup>113</sup>.

Let us recall that our country has a number of preferences: six free economic zones, the High Technology Park, attractive operating regimes in small and medium-sized cities and rural areas, the Brest-Orsha Special Economic Zone, and the China-Belarus Great Stone Industrial Park. So today a window of opportunity is opening for both Belarus and other SCO countries in terms of industrial cooperation and active development of import-substituting projects to explore new horizons for interaction and strive for constructive dialog and knowledge exchange. For reference, we note that "the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, with almost 40% of the world's population and about 30% of the world's GDP, offers huge opportunities for trade and investment"<sup>114</sup>. And this forum in Mogilev offered a wide range of support for joint initiatives and quality conditions for investment to eventually achieve significant joint results.

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<sup>113</sup> "External restrictions open a window of opportunity". Naumovich at the economic forum in Mogilev [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/vneshnie-ogranichenija-otkryvajut-okno-vozmozhnostej-naumovich-na-ekonomicheskom-forume-v-mogileve-668949-2024/>

<sup>114</sup> "When there is economic interest, everything else develops". Participant of the economic forum in Mogilev [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/kogda-est-ekonomicheskij-interes-razvivaetsja-vse-ostalnoe-uchastnik-ekonomicheskogo-foruma-v-mogileve-668917-2024/>



To summarize. All these facts show that international economic forums in Belarus, and some of them have already existed for more than 15 years, give new impulses to the development of regions, strengthening of the innovation economy, as well as stimulate regional initiatives with international participation to ensure sustainable development of territories.

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## Serbia: in search of new niches of interaction

Serbia is Belarus's key economic partner in the Balkans. In November 2024, official Minsk and Belgrade celebrated the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. After 2019, when the work of the Belarus-Serbia Intergovernmental Commission (IGC) on trade and economic cooperation was put on pause, the parties nevertheless interacted quite actively in various areas - **in science and technology and innovation, Belarusian food exports, agro-industrial sector, exchange and exhibition activities.**

Recall that in December 2019, the heads of state of Belarus and Serbia agreed to significantly intensify efforts to increase the volume of bilateral trade, implement initiatives to create joint production facilities and launch mutual investment projects during the official visit of the Belarusian delegation to Belgrade. At that time, the talks resulted in the signing of a package of eight documents on the development of bilateral cooperation in various sectors. A characteristic detail: half of them concerned the scientific sphere. Among them - "a memorandum of understanding on cooperation in the field of innovation and development of digital technologies, agreements on scientific and technical cooperation between the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, the Ministry of Education, Science and technological development of Serbia"<sup>115</sup>.

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<sup>115</sup> . Matievsky, M. Belarus and Serbia signed a package of documents after the meeting of the presidents, half of them - in the field of science / M. Matievsky // [Electronic resource]. - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-serbija-podpisali-posle-vstrechi-prezidentov-paket-dokumentov-polovina-v-sfere-nauki-371489-2019/>

The intergovernmental program of cooperation in the field of education for 2020 signed at the same time complemented them.

In general, cooperation between the two countries in the **scientific, technical and innovation sphere** has been developing since the signing of the relevant intergovernmental agreement in 1996 between Belarus and then Yugoslavia. Only for five years - from 2015 to 2019 - "23 joint scientific and technical projects were implemented, including in the field of agrarian and biological, physical and mathematical, chemical sciences and information technologies"<sup>116</sup>. The State Committee for Science and Technology of the Republic of Belarus noted at the time that "Belarusian national priority areas in science, technology and innovation largely coincide with Serbian ones. These are, first of all, energy, medicine and pharmacy, information and communication technologies, bio- and nanotechnologies"<sup>117</sup>.

The executive program of scientific, technical, and innovation cooperation for 2020-2021 signed in December 2019 by the Belarusian State Committee for Science and Technology and by the Serbian Ministry of Education, Science, and Technological Development was intended to give a powerful impetus to the development of Belarusian-Serbian partnerships in the scientific sphere. Within its framework, ten joint scientific and technical projects were supposed to be implemented in areas such

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<sup>116</sup> Belarus and Serbia will sign the program of scientific and technical cooperation for 2020-2021 in autumn [Electronic resource]. - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-serbija-oseniju-podpishut-programmu-nauchno-tehnicheskogo-sotrudnichestva-na-2020-2021-gody-359969-2019/>

<sup>117</sup> Belarus and Serbia discussed the prospects of scientific, technical and innovation cooperation [Electronic resource]. - 2019. - URL: [http://www.gknt.gov.by/news/2019/belarus\\_i\\_serbiya\\_obsudili\\_perspektivy\\_nauchno\\_tekhnicheskogo\\_i\\_innovatsionnogo\\_sotrudnichestva/](http://www.gknt.gov.by/news/2019/belarus_i_serbiya_obsudili_perspektivy_nauchno_tekhnicheskogo_i_innovatsionnogo_sotrudnichestva/)

as agriculture and food, biotechnology, nanomaterials, laser and chemical technologies.

At the 9th meeting of the Belarusian-Serbian **Commission for Scientific and Technical Cooperation** held in December 2019, the parties also agreed to jointly move towards new strategic goals in high technology, pharmacy, optics, and bioorganic chemistry. Especially since in 2018, Belarusian and Serbian scientists also carried out ten scientific and technical projects, of which five in physical and mathematical sciences, three in agrarian and biological sciences, and two in chemical and earth sciences. "On the Belarusian side, the executors of seven projects are organizations of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, three projects are organizations of the Ministry of Education"<sup>118</sup> .

It should be noted that such a coordinating structure of the Belarusian-Serbian interaction as the **working group for the development of cooperation in agriculture and food**, the fifth meeting of which was held in Belgrade in December 2019, also focuses on the development of scientific **and** innovation ties. At it, the parties, discussing the issues of veterinary and phytosanitary science, crop production and seed production, interaction between agrarian universities, agreed to work out possible options and prospects for cooperation between research organizations of the two countries, including in the field of breeding and seed production of alfalfa and sugar beet. Attention to these topics is explained by the fact that recently cooperation in this sphere has been developing very intensively. Suffice it to say that for three

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<sup>118</sup> Belarus and Serbia will carry out 10 joint scientific and technical projects in 2020-2021 [Electronic resource]. - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-serbija-v-2020-2021-godah-vypolnjat-10-sovmestnyh-nauchno-tehnicheskikh-proektov-371346-2019/>

quarters of 2019, "the trade turnover of agricultural products and foodstuffs between the two countries increased by more than 30% compared to the same period of 2018. Exports tripled and amounted to\$ 3.597 million. Belarus supplies Serbia with potatoes, seeds, butter, onions, shallots, leeks, garlic"<sup>119</sup>.

As for education, the parties see priority areas of cooperation in expanding partnerships between specific educational institutions of the two countries, active information exchange on basic and supplementary education for adults, supplementary education for children and youth, as well as inclusive and vocational education. In particular, the Belarusian side is interested in the Serbian experience "in introducing international educational programs into the national system of education"<sup>120</sup>. The cooperation agreement between the Janka Kupala State University of Grodno and the University of Belgrade, signed in December 2019 in the Serbian capital, will also contribute to the solution of the task. This document provided for "cooperation between the universities in the field of educational and scientific activities, as well as in the use of best practices and implementation of scientific developments in the educational process"<sup>121</sup>. Note that in the national ranking of universities in Serbia, Belgrade University is ranked first.

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<sup>119</sup> Serbia is interested in supplies of Belarusian milk [Electronic resource]. - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/serbija-zainteresovana-v-postavkah-belorusskogo-moloka-371388-2019/>

<sup>120</sup> Belarus - Serbia: priorities of cooperation [Electronic resource]. - 2019. - URL: <https://edu.gov.by/news/belarus--serbiya-prioritety-sotrudnichestva/>

<sup>121</sup> Yanka Kupala GrSU signed a cooperation agreement with the University of Belgrade [Electronic resource]. - 2019. - URL: <https://www.grsu.by/component/k2/item/31876-grgu-imeni-yanki-kupaly-zaklyuchen-dogovor-o-sotrudnichestve-s-belgradskim-universitetom.html>

<sup>122</sup>Five years later, in November 2024, Minsk hosted the 11th meeting of the joint Belarusian-Serbian commission **for scientific and technical cooperation**, where it was noted that from 2014 to 2024, 57 Belarusian-Serbian scientific and technical projects in technical, physical and mathematical, agrarian and biological, chemical, and nanomaterials, materials science, and information technology areas were implemented, and in the first 10 months of 2024, "exports of high-tech goods from Belarus to Serbia almost doubled, Back in 2021, a competition of joint scientific and technical projects for 2022-2024 was agreed upon, and then successfully conducted. As a result, "the implementation of 12 joint projects in such areas as medicine, informatics, new materials and biotechnology"<sup>123</sup> was finalized. And the parties identified information and communication technologies, artificial intelligence, biotechnology, energy, engineering and agriculture as priority areas of joint activities for 2025-2026. In this regard, a new contest of joint Belarusian-Serbian scientific and technical projects for the next two years was announced at the 11th meeting of the commission. It will be held in the following areas: "artificial intelligence, information and communication and interdisciplinary technologies based on their application; biotechnology; energy, renewable energy sources, ecology and rational use of natural resources; mechanical engineering, engineering technologies,

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<sup>122</sup> Export of high-tech goods from Belarus to Serbia almost doubled [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/eksport-tovarov-vysokogo-tehnologicheskogo-urovnja-iz-belarusi-v-serbiju-vyros-pochti-vdvoe-676446-2024/>

<sup>123</sup> Belarus and Serbia finalize 12 joint projects in the spheres of medicine, informatics and biotechnology [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-serbija-zavershajut-12-sovmestnyh-proektov-v-sferah-meditsiny-informatiki-i-biotehnologij-654346-2024/>

instrumentation and innovative materials; agriculture, agro-industrial and food technologies"<sup>124</sup> .

As for cooperation on **Belarusian food exports** to the Serbian market, the volume of supplies from Belarus is steadily growing. Among the main export items: dairy products, including cheese, milk powder, animal oil, as well as yeast and fresh potatoes. "Over the past four years, the turnover of food and agricultural raw materials between Belarus and Serbia has tripled, including exports of domestic food products to Serbia increased by 63.3% in the first 11 months of 2024"<sup>125</sup> . The parties believe that cooperation in the agro-industrial **sector** and food supplies should be intensified, including through the Belarusian-Serbian **working group for cooperation** in this area. In January 2025, in order to intensify trade and economic ties and discuss topical issues of bilateral interaction, the Belarusian side proposed to consider the possibility of holding the next, **sixth**, meeting of the sectoral group for cooperation in the agro-industrial sphere in the near future in order to develop partnerships in crop production, increase the volume of dairy products supplies, as well as in **exchange** and **exhibition activities**.

It should be noted that in 2024, Belarus and Serbia intensified cooperation in **exchange trade**. In particular, "compared to 2023, the amount of transactions increased more than 37 times - mainly due to supplies of Belarusian dairy products

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<sup>124</sup> The contest of joint Belarusian-Serbian scientific and technical projects has been announced [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/objjavlen-konkurs-sovmestnyh-belorussko-serbskih-nauchno-tehnicheskikh-proektov-680253-2024/>

<sup>125</sup> Belarusian food exports to Serbia increased by 63% over 11 months last year [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: [https://www.belarus.by/ru/business/business-news/eksport-belorusskogo-prodovolstva-v-serbiju-za-11-mesjatsev-proshlogo-goda-vyros-na-63\\_i\\_183993.html](https://www.belarus.by/ru/business/business-news/eksport-belorusskogo-prodovolstva-v-serbiju-za-11-mesjatsev-proshlogo-goda-vyros-na-63_i_183993.html)

to the Serbian market. Skimmed milk powder and whole milk powder were in the greatest demand. These items accounted for 64% of sales of Belarusian goods to Serbia"<sup>126</sup> . In January 2025, the two countries expanded the commodity nomenclature of exchange trade. Two new positions - herbicides and seeds for sowing - appeared in the structure of the exchange turnover. Until then, Serbian companies have been acting on the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange (BUTB) exclusively as importers, buying Belarusian lumber, milk powder, butter and cheese through it. The plan is to increase the volume and diversify the structure of the Belarusian-Serbian exchange turnover, involving new commodity positions that are in demand in the markets of the two countries. For example, Serbia is interested in purchasing Belarusian meat and dairy products, rapeseed oil, feed additives, leather semi-finished products, and scrap metals. Belarus, in turn, is ready to import agricultural seeds, plant protection products, corn, polymers, technical oils, and non-ferrous metals from Serbia.

For reference, it should be noted that "since the beginning of [2025] year, traders from Serbia have already concluded exchange transactions totaling \$1.6 million. The bill includes exports of Belarusian dried milk, as well as supplies of beet seeds and herbicides to Belarus. By the way, last year the exchange trade turnover between Belarus and Serbia increased more than 37 times - from \$110 thousand in 2023 to \$4.1 million in 2024"<sup>127</sup> . The

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<sup>126</sup> Belarus and Serbia expanded the commodity nomenclature of exchange trade [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-serbija-rasshirili-tovarnuju-nomenklaturu-birzhevoj-torgovli-687941-2025/>

<sup>127</sup> Increase the volume and diversify the structure: Belarus and Serbia activate exchange trade [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/narastit-objem-i-raznoobrazit-strukturu-belarus-i-serbija-aktivizirujut-birzhevuiu-torgovlju-690582-2025/>



partners intend to develop the exchange vector of cooperation by accrediting new traders from Serbia to the BUTB, and in the future - a stock broker, who will inform Serbian business about the advantages of exchange trading and assist in concluding transactions. Also, with the support of the Serbian side, it is planned to establish partnership relations between BUTB and the Novi Sad Commodity Exchange, which will make it possible to join efforts to popularize exchange instruments among business entities of Belarus and Serbia.

Speaking about cooperation between Belarus and Serbia in **exhibition activities**, it should be noted that in May 2023, the exposition of Belarusian producers **Made in Belarus** was presented at the **International Agricultural Trade Fair Novi Sad** in Novi Sad, Serbia's second largest city. It has been held annually since 1957 and attracts approximately 150,000 visitors and over 1,500 exhibitors. "It is among the top five leading exhibitions in Europe and among the top ten exhibitions in the world. The event aims to highlight the agriculture industry, introduce visitors to high quality products and current trends in agribusiness"<sup>128</sup> . Among the main sections of the exhibition are food and beverages, equipment for food industry, agricultural machinery, equipment and equipment, oil refining products, farming, animal husbandry, cultivation of vegetable, fruit plants, chemicals for food industry, agricultural fertilizers and plant protection products, technologies and equipment for packaging, transportation and storage of food

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<sup>128</sup> Belarusian producers will take part in the largest agricultural exhibition in Serbia [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belorussskie-proizvoditeli-primut-uchastie-v-krupnejshej-selskohozjajstvennoj-vystavke-v-serbii-553678-2023/>

products, design and construction in the sectors of agriculture and food industry.

Belarus presented scientific organizations, producers of petrochemical and industrial products at this exhibition. "Among the participants are the State Committee for Science and Technology (GU "Belarusian Institute of System Analysis and Information Support"), organizations of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, institutions of the Ministry of Education, as well as petrochemical enterprises "Grodno Azot", Mountain Wax Plant, "Belshina", "Lakokraska", "Mogilevkhimvolokno"<sup>129</sup>. The open area displayed samples of agricultural machinery from the flagships of the Belarusian industry - Minsk Tractor Plant, Bobruiskagromash and Lidagroprommash. As part of the exhibition, a Serbian-Belarusian business forum was held in Novi Sad, where it was emphasized that the parties have "significant potential to intensify bilateral cooperation in such areas as logistics, veterinary medicine, wholesale trade, science, food industry, meat and dairy production"<sup>130</sup>. In addition, an agreement on cooperation between the free economic zones Grodnoinvest and Novi Sad was signed at the forum. All this shows that the parties have a real interest and concrete proposals for the development of cooperation and realization of joint projects.

In January 2025 in Minsk at the meeting of the co-chairs of the Intergovernmental Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation A. Karpovich and N. Popovich noted that the parties

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<sup>129</sup> The national exposition of Belarus is presented at the agricultural exhibition in Serbia [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/natsionalnaja-ekspozitsija-belarusi-predstavlena-na-selhozvystavke-v-serbii-567630-2023/>

<sup>130</sup> Belarus and Serbia discussed the development of trade and economic cooperation [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-serbija-obsudili-razvitie-torgovo-ekonomicheskogo-sotrudnichestva-567510-2023/>

were ready to resume active cooperation between the two republics in a number of areas, primarily in the economy, and "agreed to hold a meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission"<sup>131</sup> in the first half of 2025 with the global goal of increasing trade turnover. To ensure a systematic approach in joint work, a roadmap will be developed, which Belarus and Serbia will sign during the meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation. And this document will become a reliable foundation for finding new niches in the Belarusian-Serbian effective interaction.

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<sup>131</sup> Dairy products, timber, transportation, tourism. Belarus and Serbia have identified points of growth in mutual trade [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/molochka-lesomaterialy-transport-turizm-belarus-i-serbija-opredelili-tochki-rosta-vo-vzaimnoj-torgovle-690546-2025/>

## **Uzbekistan: cooperation develops upward**

In August 2024, the second Uzbek-Belarusian Women's Business Forum was held in Tashkent, where about one hundred representatives of the business community and government agencies took part from the Belarusian side alone. It should be recalled that the first similar forum was held in September 2023 in Minsk and was dedicated to the theme "Women in Business - Potential for the Development of Business Cooperation between Belarus and Uzbekistan", where "14 memorandums and agreements on cooperation were signed, including an agreement on the establishment of a joint leather and footwear production facility, and 15 contracts worth more than Br90 million, or 350 billion Uzbek soums were concluded"<sup>132</sup>.

This time the theme of the Women's Forum was "From Traditional Business to Green Business". In the context of this theme, it was noted that Belarus and Uzbekistan approach the issue of building a green economy responsibly, backing it up with real deeds. For example, they annually increase trade turnover, mutually ensuring the output of competitive products and developing production cooperation, localization of Belarusian and Uzbek industries in each other's territories, and increasing the share of investments. Among the priorities of green economic growth the parties consider joint activities on development, introduction and use of nature-saving technologies, development of ecological services, ecotourism and agro-ecotourism. Also, "it

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<sup>132</sup> Kochanova: Uzbek-Belarusian women's business forum fully meets the spirit of the time [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/kochanova-uzbeksko-belorusskij-zhenskij-biznes-forum-polnostju-otvechaet-duhu-vremeni-656964-2024/>

would be advisable to work on the creation of a farm-laboratory of biodesign, where the selection of new types of crops, including agricultural crops, climate-adaptive technologies and approaches to improving the resilience of territories to the negative impact of anthropogenic and natural factors"<sup>133</sup>. This was discussed at six thematic sections of the forum, based on the main areas of cooperation between the two countries: engineering, light industry, agriculture, chemistry and woodworking, medical and educational services, tourism. And here were noted interesting results of bilateral cooperation, following the results of which it was planned "to sign more than 60 agreements and memorandums for the amount of about\$ 50 million"<sup>134</sup>.

In particular, within the framework of this forum such sphere of joint interest as education was considered. At the plenary session, the parties voiced the task to expand the practice of mutual exchanges and internships of students, teachers, specialists of various services and agencies, and to intensify cooperation within the framework of joint educational programs. Especially since Belarus is interested in increasing the number of Uzbek students in Belarusian universities, as well as in "attracting personnel from Uzbekistan to Belarusian enterprises, for example, in the light industry and mechanical engineering, with the possibility of their prompt training and retraining for the green economy in a wide

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<sup>133</sup> Kochanova: Belarus and Uzbekistan approach the construction of green economy in good faith [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/kochanova-belarus-i-uzbekistan-podhodjat-k-stroitelstvu-ekonomiki-zelenogo-tipa-dobrosovestno-656993-2024/>

<sup>134</sup> Narbayeva: more than 60 agreements are planned to be signed as a result of the II Uzbek-Belarusian Women's Business Forum [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/narbaeva-po-itogam-ii-uzbekske-belorusskogo-zhenskogo-biznes-foruma-planiruetsja-podpisat-bolee-60-657064-2024/>

range of specialties"<sup>135</sup> . In particular, Minsk Automobile Plant already employs 300 specialists from Uzbekistan.

Speaking specifically about the interaction between institutions of higher education, it was noted at the second Forum of Regions of Belarus and Uzbekistan, which took place in February 2024, that a few years ago, only a few dozen Uzbek citizens studied in our republic, while "today, about 5 thousand students are educated at joint faculties. We are talking about expanding the areas of training and maximizing the use of the potential of Belarusian universities"<sup>136</sup> . To date, more than 400 contracts and agreements have been signed. A forum of rectors was held, and "the opening of a branch of Vitebsk State University - one of the leading universities of the country - in Uzbekistan is on the agenda"<sup>137</sup> .

Another telling example can be cited in this context. Last summer, Grodno State University (HGU) hosted the first graduation of students studying under the joint program of HGU and Tashkent Law University. For reference, it should be noted that these students were recruited to study under the 2+1+1+1 scheme back in 2020. "The guys studied in Grodno for the first two years, then one year in Tashkent and completed their studies also in GrSU. Thus, they mastered all disciplines under the

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<sup>135</sup> Belarus is ready to assist in training of specialists in demand in Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/belarus-gotova-okazat-pomosch-v-obuchenii-vostrebovannyh-v-uzbekistane-spetsialistov-656992-2024/>

<sup>136</sup> Belarus is ready to create enterprises in Uzbekistan for commercialization of scientific developments [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/belarus-gotova-sozdavat-v-uzbekistane-predpriyatija-dlja-kommertsializatsii-nauchnyh-razrabotok-616330-2024/>

<sup>137</sup> "Everything is in our power". Snopkov assessed the possibility of increasing trade turnover with Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/vse-v-nashih-silah-snopkov-otsenil-vozmozhnost-uvlichenija-tovarooborota-s-uzbekistanom-657036-2024/>

Belarusian program and the necessary subjects under the Uzbek one. As a result, they received two diplomas in international law, which gives them the opportunity to work in their home country, Uzbekistan, as well as in Belarus..."<sup>138</sup> . Several people completed their studies with excellent results and received the corresponding diplomas. Some of them will continue their studies in master's programs. And the implementation of this program will continue. We would like to add that eight joint educational programs are being implemented in SDSU, where 216 people are studying: 144 students from Tashkent State Law University, 37 students from Karshi State University, 32 students from Kokand State Pedagogical Institute named after Mukimi, three master's students from Tashkent Institute of Chemical Technology.

Another relevant topic that was raised during the Second Uzbek-Belarusian Women's Business Forum was cooperation between the regions of the two countries. At the scheduled meeting of the forum it was emphasized that the parties need to more actively involve the scientific and expert-analytical communities in the topic of green business, including "to develop people's diplomacy, initiate and monitor the building of twinning ties between the cities of Belarus and Uzbekistan. This approach will contribute to the development of common promising business solutions, including the creation of new markets and the promotion of joint products to the markets of third countries"<sup>139</sup> . Moreover,

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<sup>138</sup> 54 graduates of GrSU and Tashkent Law University received diplomas of two universities at once [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/diplomy-srazu-dvuh-vuzov-poluchili-54-vypusknika-grgu-i-tashkentskogo-juridicheskogo-universiteta-644190-2024/>

<sup>139</sup> Kochanova: it is necessary to build twinning ties between the cities of Belarus and Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/special/society/view/kochanova-nuzhno-vystraivat-pobratimskie-svjazi-mezhdu-gorodami-belarusi-i-uzbekistana-657003-2024/>

the second Forum of Regions of Belarus and Uzbekistan adopted documents that develop multidisciplinary cooperation between the regions of the two countries on the implementation of projects in the agro-industrial complex, electrical engineering and textiles, healthcare and pharmaceuticals, urban development, public utilities, as well as "road maps will be adopted and working groups will be created in each area"<sup>140</sup>. And already after this February forum, it was possible to note a number of examples of how Belarusian and Uzbek regions carry out effective interaction.

Thus, in April 2024 Gomel and Fergana regions signed a roadmap of cooperation and approved a plan of activities for 2024-2025, which "implies deepening and expansion of bilateral trade and economic, scientific and technical, cultural and humanitarian cooperation"<sup>141</sup>. At the same time an agreement on cooperation between the free economic zones "Kokand" and "Gomel-Raton" was signed and contracts for more than six and a half million Belarusian rubles were concluded. Note that the two regions have been developing ties since 2019. And during this time, "exports of Homel products to Fergana region have grown 4.5 times"<sup>142</sup>. In the future, the parties outlined several key areas in which they will build cooperation: the creation of a joint dairy enterprise, supply of products of Homel machine-building enterprises, furniture production, organization of trading houses in Homel and Fergana.

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<sup>140</sup> Zaleskii, B. Realization of economic potential in the conditions of global turbulence / Boris Zaleskii. - LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2024. - C. 32.

<sup>141</sup> The leaders of Gomel and Fergana regions signed a road map of cooperation [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/rukovoditeli-gomelskoj-i-ferganskij-oblastej-podpisali-dorozhnyu-kartu-sotrudnichestva-629168-2024/>

<sup>142</sup> Gomel and Fergana regions concluded contracts for more than Br6.5 million [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/gomelskaja-i-ferganskaja-oblasti-zakljuchili-kontrakty-bolse-chem-na-br65-mln-629575-2024/>



As for the interaction between the two capitals - Minsk and Tashkent - in February 2024, they signed an agreement on establishing twinning ties and a plan of measures in trade, economic, scientific, technical and cultural cooperation for 2024-2025. And already in April, a delegation from Tashkent came to Minsk to study Minsk's experience in various spheres of urban economy. Especially since "Uzbekistan is implementing a large-scale project "New Tashkent", which involves the construction of a city based on modern achievements of architecture on the territory of almost 20 thousand hectares"<sup>143</sup> . For this reason, the Uzbek partners were interested in everything: the width of streets, organization of traffic, dispatching of traffic lights, the activity of the "One Window" system. The Belarusian capital revealed its experience in other areas as well: service 115, enterprises producing municipal and passenger vehicles. In addition, "the possibilities of industrial cooperation were discussed, in particular in the sphere of woodworking and furniture production, supply of baby food, creation of a trade house of Uzbekistan in Minsk"<sup>144</sup> . So the twinning ties between the two capitals are beginning to develop on an upward trajectory. And this is only pleasing.

Finally, the Second Women's Forum emphasized topics of scientific-technical and production-cooperation cooperation. In particular, the Institute of Microbiology of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus (NAS) signed an agreement on scientific

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<sup>143</sup> Kukharev: Minsk is ready to share with Tashkent the experience of work in housing and communal services, urban development, digitalization [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/kuharev-minsk-gotov-podelitsja-s-tashkentom-opytom-raboty-v-zhkh-gradostroitelstve-tsifrovizatsii-628286-2024/>

<sup>144</sup> Trade, industrial cooperation, exchange of experience. Kukharev outlined the directions of cooperation with Tashkent [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/kuharev-na-vstreche-s-poslom-oboznachil-napravlenija-sotrudnichestva-s-regionami-uzbekistana-623983-2024/>

and technological cooperation with the Institute of Microbiology of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan and an agreement with the Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan on scientific cooperation in the study of means of peptide nature as an alternative to antibiotics. And "Institute of meat and dairy industry signed an agreement on scientific and technical cooperation, an agreement was reached on joint implementation of a number of scientific projects, including in the field of biochemistry of meat and dairy, fish projects"<sup>145</sup> .

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

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<sup>145</sup> Scientists of Belarus and Uzbekistan will cooperate in the field of microbiology and biochemistry [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/uchenye-belarusi-i-uzbekistana-budut-sotrudnichat-v-oblasti-mikrobiologii-i-biohimii-656830-2024/>

common solvents based on esters and alcohols, which has no analogues, was also presented.

Vitebsk State Technological University presented nanofibrous materials of various structures obtained by electroforming and intended for use in medicine and cosmetology to create innovative drugs. Polotsk State University showed at the exhibition-presentation a protective wax for rubbers, which is an ingredient of rubber mixtures for the manufacture of automobile tires. In terms of properties it corresponds to imported protective wax. "The organization of production will allow to exclude imports to Belarus in the amount of 210 tons per year and reduce the cost by 50% due to cheaper domestic raw materials"<sup>146</sup>. Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno presented composite materials based on various polymer matrices for the production of industrial products. The National Research Center for Materials Science of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus demonstrated gem-quality artificial emeralds, the single crystals of which have characteristics close to the precious natural stone.

And the Belarusian State University (BSU) showed "more than ten unique inventions in the field of medicine, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, technological equipment..."<sup>147</sup>. In particular, the line of microbial biopreparations included products widely demanded in the agro-industrial complex. For example, "Bactogen" is designed to protect vegetable crops from bacterial and fungal

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<sup>146</sup> Gavrilova, V. From biopreparations to medical products: what Belarusian developments will be presented at the business forum in Tashkent / V. Gavrilova // [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/comments/view/ot-biopreparatov-do-medizdelij-kakie-belorusskie-razrabotki-prezentujut-na-biznes-forume-v-tashkente-9344/>

<sup>147</sup> BSU will present innovative developments at the exhibition in Tashkent [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/bgu-predstavit-innovatsionnye-razrabotki-na-vystavke-v-tashkente-656636-2024/>

diseases. In addition, the stand presented the plant growth and quality regulators for increasing yield "Gulliver", "Stimul", "MaxImmun" and "Korneplus", as well as the biopreparation "Nemacid", which is aimed at controlling such a pest as gall nematode. This is the only remedy in Belarus against this parasite, authorized for use in private farms. Another exhibit was food products of the "Food of the Smart City" series. It includes dry compositions of pre-chopped or crushed dried vegetables, herbs, spices, salt and other ingredients. These phytocomplexes have immunomodulatory effect and contribute to the normalization of the functions of the musculoskeletal apparatus, nervous and immune systems. Besides, the visitors of the exhibition-presentation could familiarize themselves with synthetic insect pheromones for controlling forest and garden pests, resource-saving technological equipment for production of products from elastic, integral and rigid polyurethane foams, new functional materials based on secondary resources.

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

JSC, as well as diesel-generator sets of Minsk Motor Plant JSC"

<sup>148</sup>

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

Back in late winter and early spring of this year, the 25th International Specialized Exhibition "Construction - UzBuild" was held in Tashkent - in the exhibition complex "Uzexpocentre", where a collective exposition of Belarus was organized, represented by "five flagships of the Belarusian industry: Mogilevliftmash, Energokomplekt, Bellesexport, Newsprint Plant and a branch of Gomeldrev - "Parquet Plant"<sup>149</sup>. Belarusian enterprises demonstrated their products: elevators, lifting, electrical and LED equipment, cable and wiring products, sawn timber, cylindrical wood, fuel products (wood chips, pellets), glued beam houses, frame-panel houses, solid laminated parquet, engineering board, moldings. Also at this exhibition were presented individual stands of economic entities from Belarus - "Keramin OJSC, <...> Energokomplekt PO, Portman LLC (trade

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<sup>148</sup> Ten enterprises of the Ministry of Industry will present their products at the II Uzbek-Belarusian Women's Business Forum [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/desjat-predpriyatij-minproma-prezentujut-produktsiju-na-ii-uzbeksko-belorusskom-zhenskom-biznes-forume-655386-2024/>

<sup>149</sup> The exposition of Belarus is presented at the international construction exhibition Uz-Build in Tashkent [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/ekspozitsija-belarusi-predstavlena-na-mezhdunarodnoj-stroitelnoj-vystavke-uzbuild-v-tashkente-618287-2024/>

mark UNIDOORS), as well as Rechitsa Metizny Zavod OJSC"<sup>150</sup>

A month later, at the end of March 2024, in Tashkent, enterprises from Belarus took part in the 23rd international exhibition UzFood 2024, where more than 280 companies from 26 countries participated. "The exposition Belarus. The Taste of Nature was formed by 15 Belarusian enterprises and their branches representing well-known domestic brands"<sup>151</sup>. They presented a product line of meat and dairy products, cheeses, juices and desserts.

And in April, three business forms were held here at once. First, it was the 25th International Exhibition "Education and Profession - 2024", which is one of the largest in Uzbekistan, where this time "more than 100 universities from almost 20 countries, including Belarus"<sup>152</sup>. The exposition of the Belarusian National Technical University (BNTU) included an information stand, presentations, master classes and consultations. After all, the number of students from this Central Asian country is growing every year not only at BNTU, but also at other Belarusian higher education institutions.

Secondly, it is the 28th International Exhibition "Healthcare - TINE 2024", which is a unique platform where specialists have an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the latest medical

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<sup>150</sup> Belarusian enterprises presented their products and services at the construction exhibition in Tashkent [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/beloruskie-predpriyatija-predstavili-svoju-produktsiju-i-uslugi-na-stroitelnoj-vystavke-v-tashkente-618480-2024>

<sup>151</sup> Belarusian food products are presented at the exhibition in Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/beloruskie-produkty-pitanija-predstavleny-na-vystavke-v-uzbekistane-623805-2024/>

<sup>152</sup> Opportunities of education in Belarus are presented at the international exhibition in Tashkent [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/vozmozhnosti-obuchenija-v-belarusi-predstavleny-na-mezhdunarodnoj-vystavke-v-tashkente-628698-2024/>

technologies. More than three thousand companies have already participated in the exhibition since its foundation, the geography of participants has covered almost all continents, including Europe, Asia, America and Africa. This year more than 250 companies from 15 countries took part in the exhibition. Our republic was represented at this forum by BSU, whose stand demonstrated 20 scientific developments. The exposition included achievements of scientists and researchers in the field of medicine and chemistry. Among them - medicines, medical equipment, pharmaceutical substances. For example, hemostatic wipes to stop bleeding, which "are intended for use in as an additional means during surgical interventions to stop capillary, venous and small arterial bleeding, as well as for household bleeding. The wipes are made of sterile absorbable cloth of white or yellowish-white color, made by controlled oxidation of cellulose"<sup>153</sup>. Visitors of the exhibition could also get acquainted with the innovative drug to accelerate regeneration of damaged tissues "Foscelantan", which accelerates wound healing in boils, abscesses, carbuncles, fistulas, thermal burns, trophic ulcers. The exhibits also included the drug "Antispike" for the prevention of adhesions during abdominal surgery, anti-tumor drugs "Cisplacel", "Prospidelong" and "Temodex", phytosols and mixtures based on natural spicy and aromatic raw materials, designed to correct the nutrition of preschool and school-age children, athletes and the elderly.

Thirdly, it is the international specialized exhibition "INNOPROM. Central Asia", which brought together more than

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<sup>153</sup> About 20 scientific developments of BSU will be presented at the international exhibition of health care in Tashkent [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/okolo-20-nauchnyh-razrabotok-bgu-predstavjat-na-mezhdunarodnoj-vystavke-zdravoohranenija-v-tashkente-628163-2024/>

400 exhibitors and presented 28 collective expositions, among which was Made in Belarus, where "more than 10 Belarusian enterprises and their branches, representing well-known domestic industrial brands"<sup>154</sup> participated. In particular, samples and developments of one of the flagships of the Belarusian industry - the enterprise for the production of quarry machinery BELAZ OJSC - the managing company of the holding BELAZ-Holding - were presented. Gomselmash Holding - the largest manufacturer of agricultural machinery, which is among the leaders of the world market of combines and other complex agricultural machinery - was also presented at this forum. OJSC "Minsk Tractor Plant" demonstrated modernized, updated and special versions of tractor machinery, and the specialized enterprise for design, production of starters and generators for carburetor and diesel engines of trucks, cars, buses, agricultural machinery and special equipment - OJSC "BATE" - products of a number of branches, including OJSC "Borisov Plant "Autohydroamplifier", OJSC "Belkard", OJSC "Rudensk", OJSC "Vitebsk Plant of Electrical Measuring Devices". OJSC "BMZ" showed a wide range of metal products, each type of which combines innovations and long-term experience of the company's developments. Samples of metal-cutting machine tools and CNC machining centers, universal console milling machines were presented at the stand of JSC "StankoGomel". Developments in the sphere of production of power distribution transformers and other electrical equipment were demonstrated by the enterprise "V.I. Kozlov MPTZ" JSC.

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<sup>154</sup> Belarus presented industrial developments at the exhibition "INNOPROM. Central Asia." [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-predstavila-promyshlennye-razrabotki-na-vystavke-innoprom-tsentralnaja-azija-629623-2024/>



LLC "Cooling Systems Plant" presented radiators for cooling of power systems and products successfully used in cooling systems of mining dump trucks, tractors, drilling rigs, diesel generators, block power plants, traction transformers of electric locomotives, compressor stations. BKM Holding, which specializes in the production of electric transport - electric buses, trolleybuses, streetcars, electric trucks and charging infrastructure - demonstrated large-scale product models at the exhibition, including a low-floor single-section streetcar with two motor bogies. An assortment of wristwatches, alarm clocks, processing parts and printed circuit boards was presented by Minsk Watch Factory. In addition, within the framework of this forum, Belarusian participants held a number of meetings to consolidate partnership points.

As we can see, Belarus and Uzbekistan maintain high dynamics in the development of bilateral ties in the field of exhibition activities, which is reflected in the trade and economic balance. For statistics, we note that since 2016, the trade turnover of the parties "increased by 5.5 times and in 2022 for the first time exceeded the half-billion mark. The growth of mutual trade last year amounted to 15%, and in January - September this year - almost 13%"<sup>155</sup>. At the same time, Minsk and Tashkent intend to further deepen this interaction to cover new promising areas of cooperation.

Returning to the decisions of the second Uzbek-Belarusian Women's Business Forum, we would like to emphasize that it

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<sup>155</sup> Ambassador: the dynamics of Belarusian-Uzbek relations is very high [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://subs.belta.by/Republ.nsf/59e33ed42f57f8c5422569f8002b86f7/4142892f5e53f61843258bcd0069ee26!OpenDocument>

addressed areas across a wide spectrum: the real sector of the economy, machine building, tourism, and health care. The investment agenda is also gradually growing. Suffice it to say that "Belarus has been investing in Uzbekistan's development multiple times over the past 5 years. <...> Only here in Uzbekistan there are about 180 organizations with capital from Belarus"<sup>156</sup> . All this suggests that bilateral Belarusian-Uzbek economic cooperation is steadily developing and is aimed at a new level of mutual trade turnover.

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<sup>156</sup> Chebotar: Belarus and Uzbekistan confirm interest in developing cooperation in all areas [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/chebotar-belarus-i-uzbekistan-podtverzhajut-interes-k-razvitiyu-sotrudnichestva-po-vsem-napavlenijam-657018-2024/>

## **Kazakhstan: to ensure high dynamics of trade and industrial cooperation**

Belarus and Kazakhstan are strategic partners and allies. The relations between Minsk and Astana are systematically moving forward, developing cooperation and taking it to a new level of interaction. In June 2024, during the working meeting of the heads of the governments of the two countries R. Golovchenko and O. Bektenov, the parties agreed to make every effort to further increase the dynamics of the bilateral partnership and stated that "Belarus and Kazakhstan are able to increase trade turnover to \$ 1.5 billion"<sup>157</sup>. Already in November 2024, a new working visit of the Kazakh government delegation to Minsk took place, where the parties agreed to ensure positive dynamics of bilateral trade. After all, the economies of Belarus and Kazakhstan have significant potential to increase and diversify trade flows and expand the range of goods supplied. Suffice it to say that Minsk and Astana "several years ago crossed the threshold of \$ 1 billion in mutual trade. <...> In fact, today we have no spheres left that would not be covered by interaction"<sup>158</sup>.

One of the concrete results of this visit was the signing of **the roadmap between the two governments on the development of trade and economic cooperation for 2025-2029**, which envisages intensification of interaction in the spheres of production cooperation, agriculture, transport, communications

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<sup>157</sup> Golovchenko: Belarus and Kazakhstan can increase trade turnover up to \$1.5 billion [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/golovchenko-belarusi-i-kazahstanu-po-silam-narastit-tovarooborot-do-15-mlrd-638669-2024/>

<sup>158</sup> Golovchenko: Belarus and Kazakhstan need to ensure positive dynamics of bilateral trade [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/golovchenko-belarusi-i-kazahstanu-nuzhno-obespechit-polozhitelnuju-dinamiku-dvustoronnej-torgovli-675371-2024/>

and will allow to enlarge the pool of joint projects, establish even closer ties between the business communities of the two countries, including in the construction industry, high technology, and transit area. This program, which has been developed not for two years, as before, but for the entire five-year period, was discussed in late May 2024 in Minsk at the 18th meeting of the Intergovernmental Belarus-Kazakhstan Commission (IGC) on Trade and Economic Cooperation.

It should be noted that the Belarusian-Kazakh trade turnover declined slightly in 2023 due to a number of reasons. For this reason, the parties formulated at a high level the main task for the nearest period - "to ensure the restoration of positive dynamics of bilateral trade and to take measures to replenish mutual supplies of sagging commodity items. One of the key drivers of intensification of trade and economic cooperation is interaction in the industrial sector"<sup>159</sup>. An important detail: to date, the Belarusian-Kazakh industrial cooperation includes 14 projects totaling \$275 million. But this, as they say, is not yet evening.

For reference, we note that "trade turnover of the two countries amounted to \$1.1 billion by the end of 2023, including exports of Belarus - \$867 million. Our country supplies mainly tractors, machines and mechanisms for harvesting and threshing of agricultural crops, cheese and cottage cheese, milk and cream, sausages and meat products, furniture, semi-finished products made of non-alloy steel"<sup>160</sup>. In addition, 55 enterprises with

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<sup>159</sup> Relations between Belarus and Kazakhstan have always been based on friendship, mutual trust and respect - Roman Golovchenko [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/11054>

<sup>160</sup> Belarus and Kazakhstan will discuss the possibility of creating an industrial cooperation fund [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-kazahstan-obsudjat-vozmozhnost-sozdaniya-fonda-promyshlennoj-kooperatsii-619287-2024/>

Kazakh capital are registered in Belarus, including 17 joint ventures and 38 foreign enterprises, while in Kazakhstan there are more than 170 subjects of the commodity distribution network of domestic enterprises. Cooperation projects on joint production of tractor, agricultural, automobile and trailer, fire and rescue equipment, as well as elevator equipment are being implemented.

In this context, it should be noted that one of the most important areas of cooperation between the two countries is agriculture. First of all, we are talking about the supply of food products from Belarus to the Kazakh market. Figures show that "exports of Belarusian agricultural and food products to Kazakhstan in 2023 amounted to almost a quarter of a billion dollars"<sup>161</sup>. The network of sales of Belarusian products is actively developing, the number of specialized stores, sections of supermarkets is growing. "In total, there are 270 branded retail facilities in Kazakhstan, where products under Belarusian brands are sold..."<sup>162</sup>.

In addition, Belarus is ready to actively cooperate with Kazakhstan on localization of agricultural machinery production. It should be reminded that "the existing joint production capacities already allow to produce within 10 thousand tractors and 1 thousand combines per year in Kazakhstan"<sup>163</sup>. As a positive

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<sup>161</sup> Golovchenko: we expect a transition to deeper cooperation with Kazakhstan in the agro-industrial complex [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/golovchenko-rasschityvaem-na-perehod-k-bolee-glubokomu-sotrudnichestvu-s-kazahstanom-v-apk-638683-2024/>

<sup>162</sup> Milk, clothes, confectionery. What Belarusian products are popular in Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/molochka-odezhda-konditerskie-izdelija-kakaja-belorusskaja-produktsija-populjarna-v-kazahstane-640064-2024/>

<sup>163</sup> Snopkov: Belarus is ready to actively cooperate with Kazakhstan in localization of agricultural machinery production [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/snopkov-belarus-gotova-aktivno-sotrudnichat-s-kazahstanom-v-lokalizatsii-proizvodstva-selhoztekhniki-638115-2024/>

example, we can mention the creation of a full-cycle production of cabins for tractor equipment in the city of Kostanai. Back in March 2024 in this Kazakh city Minsk Tractor Plant opened a workshop of cabins and a new machine assembly line "on the basis of the company "Machine-Building Plant MTZ-Kazakhstan". Today there are three assembly plants of BELARUS tractors in Kazakhstan"<sup>164</sup> . The cabins to be manufactured in Kostanai, "Machine-building plant MTZ-Kazakhstan" plans to use both in its own production and supply to other joint ventures - companies "Kazakhstan Agro Innovation Corporation and "SemAZ". And in the same Kostanai "in the near future it is planned< ...> to organize a project for the production of engines of Minsk Motor Plant"<sup>165</sup> . The Belarusian side, taking into account the large market of passenger vehicles and updates in this direction in Kazakhstan, proposes to work out a project with Kazakh partners "with Belkommunmash - on trolleybuses, streetcars, electric buses, which they produce"<sup>166</sup> . The next topic - a network of charging stations - is also suggested here. After all, Belarus also has the necessary competencies in this respect.

In November 2024, during the visit of the Kazakh government delegation to Minsk, the Belarusian side also proposed to create joint production of fire and rescue equipment and agricultural loaders. "The partner from the Belarusian side is

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<sup>164</sup> A new assembly line of BELARUS tractors will be opened in Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/v-kazahstane-otkrojut-novuju-liniju-sborki-tractorov-belarus-620534-2024/>

<sup>165</sup> Golovchenko: production of MMZ engines is planned to be organized in Kazakhstan's Kostanai [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/golovchenko-proizvodstvo-dvigatelej-mmz-planiruetsja-organizovat-v-kazahstanskom-kostanae-638677-2024/>

<sup>166</sup> Construction of cars, housing, farms. What are the prospects for cooperation between Belarus and Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/stroitelstvo-mashin-zhilija-ferm-kakie-perspektivy-sotrudnichestva-belarusi-i-kazahstana-640062-2024/>

ready to act as a well-known manufacturer - the company "Pozhsnab", whose equipment has already proven itself in Kazakhstan. In addition, AMKODOR OJSC together with a number of Kazakh enterprises are working on the issue of organizing a new production of agricultural loaders in Kazakhstan"<sup>167</sup>. Belarusian manufacturers have other proposals for the development of production cooperation, including the production of components for vehicles and tractors. As for the supply of finished products, Belarusian enterprises are ready to meet Kazakhstan's needs in municipal, logging, road-building machinery and grain drying complexes. They are ready to provide support for putting machinery into operation, operator training, warranty and service support.

As noted above, an important area of cooperation between Belarus and Kazakhstan is the agricultural sector. In addition to the already traditional supplies of agricultural machinery and food products, during the November talks, the two sides agreed to explore the possibility of cooperation in providing Kazakhstan with the necessary amino acids and premixes produced by the Belarusian National Biotechnology Corporation. Cooperation in sorting and processing of municipal waste, water treatment and purification is also promising. All the more so because "the Belarusian enterprise Sifania-Ecotechnika has already implemented projects in a number of cities in Kazakhstan to process solid domestic waste and produce demanded goods from

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<sup>167</sup> Golovchenko offered Kazakhstan to create joint production of fire-fighting equipment and agricultural loaders [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/golovchenko-predlozhit-kazahstanu-sozdat-sovmestnye-proizvodstva-pozharnoj-tehniki-i-selhozpogruzchikov-675373-2024/>

it - from bags to paving tiles"<sup>168</sup> . And enterprise "Polimerkonstruktsiya" from Belarus, which successfully operates in different parts of the world, is ready to offer equipment and technologies for water treatment for various industries and housing and communal services.

During the visit, the guests of honor from Kazakhstan also familiarized themselves with the capabilities of the Belarusian High Technology Park (HTP) and the developments of its residents. Among them is Mind Games Soft LLC, which produces professional digital simulators using virtual reality technologies for industry, education and safe life activities. Products include digital simulators for agricultural, logging, mining and emergency rescue equipment of such enterprises as Gomselmash, Minsk Tractor and Automobile Plants, AMKODOR and Belaruskali. And the developers and operators of the ecosystem of new financial instruments OOO "Oplati" presented the work of payment services through mobile and web solutions aimed at the use of electronic money in Belarus. "The unique payment system allows users to pay for utilities, transportation costs and other purchases through a mobile application without the need to use physical cards"<sup>169</sup> and united all the necessary banking services in one application. Another HTP resident - LLC "CometaRad" - presented a software complex for processing, three-dimensional reconstruction, transmission and storage of medical diagnostic images 3D MeD

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<sup>168</sup> Golovchenko: Belarus is ready to supply amino acids to Kazakhstan and implement projects in housing and communal services [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/golovchenko-belarus-gotova-postavljat-v-kazahstan-aminokisloty-i-realizovyyat-proekty-v-zhkh-675377-2024/>

<sup>169</sup> High visit to the world of high technologies. Heads of the Governments of Belarus and Kazakhstan visited HTP [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: [https://www.park.by/press/news/vysokiy\\_vizit\\_v\\_mir\\_vysokikh\\_tekhnologiy\\_pvt\\_posetili\\_glavy\\_pravitelstv\\_belarusi\\_i\\_kazahstana/](https://www.park.by/press/news/vysokiy_vizit_v_mir_vysokikh_tekhnologiy_pvt_posetili_glavy_pravitelstv_belarusi_i_kazahstana/)



with 3D modeling technology based on the work of artificial intelligence. In addition, developers from R-NOKS LLC showed innovative solutions for monitoring atmospheric air quality using machine learning, Big Data, and the Internet of Things.

Returning to the decisions taken in November in Minsk between Belarus and Kazakhstan, we note two more documents: the **action plan on interaction in the sphere of cultural and humanitarian cooperation for 2025-2026** and the **cooperation agreement between the Belarusian National Agency for Tourism and the Kazakh National Company Kazakh Tourism**. In addition, "as a result of the working visit of the Kazakh government delegation to Belarus, contracts worth more than\$ 90 million were signed"<sup>170</sup>. In total, the parties signed 20 documents.

And one more touch to the visit of the Kazakh government delegation to Minsk. The parties agreed to hold the **first Kazakhstan-Belarus Regions Forum** in the near future, as this is "a very effective format that allows to significantly advance interaction in various spheres"<sup>171</sup>. At the already mentioned 18th meeting of the IGC it was noted that the parties have all the necessary prerequisites and opportunities for a significant increase in bilateral interaction aimed at intensifying joint work in various areas of partnership ties. At the same time, the parties also agreed to intensify interregional ties, the potential of which has not yet been fully utilized. For reference, it should be noted that to date about 25 cooperation agreements have already been signed

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<sup>170</sup> Contracts for more than\$ 90 mln signed following the visit of the delegation of Kazakhstan to Belarus [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/kontrakty-na-bolee-chem-90-mln-podpisany-po-itogam-vizita-delegatsii-kazahstana-v-belarus-675470-2024/>

<sup>171</sup> Golovchenko: Belarus and Kazakhstan plan to hold the Forum of Regions [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/golovchenko-belarus-i-kazahstan-planirujut-provesti-forum-regionov-675354-2024/>

between the regions of Belarus and Kazakhstan. Let us see how the Belarusian regions will approach the upcoming important event.

Let's start with the **Belarusian capital**. Kazakhstan is already implementing a number of important and significant projects in the economic sphere, which operate within the framework of industrial cooperation with the active participation of such Minsk enterprises as tractor and automobile plants and AMKODOR. In particular, in May 2024 in Kostanai city a new workshop for production of cabins for BELARUS tractors was opened on the site of "Machine-Building Plant MTZ-Kazakhstan" LLP. This is the second stage of this project. Joint work began back in 2018. And a total of four stages will be realized until 2027. The opening of a new workshop for the production of cabins for BELARUS tractors means the emergence of another high-tech production and the creation of additional jobs on Kazakh soil. Thus, "as of today 150 of them have already been created. Upon completion of the fourth stage of the project, they are expected to exceed 500"<sup>172</sup>.

Another interesting project in the development of interregional cooperation between **Minsk** and partners from this Central Asian country could be the construction of the so-called "Kazakhstani quarter" in the Belarusian capital. A place for it has already been identified in Minsk within the boundaries of Zheleznodorozhnaya, Dubravinskaya, Grushevskaya and Pryamaya streets. "The Committee of Architecture and Urban

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<sup>172</sup> A new workshop for the production of cabins for BELARUS tractors appeared in Kazakhstan's Kostanai [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/novyj-tseh-po-proizvodstvu-kabin-k-traktoram-belarus-pojavilsja-v-kazahstanskom-kostanae-637069-2024/>

Planning has agreed on the architectural and planning concept of the object, providing for the construction of more than 39.2 thousand square meters of apartment housing with an open-air parking garage for 300 parking spaces"<sup>173</sup>. It should be added that the Kazakhstani side has already approved the conceptual design. And by the end of 2024 it is planned to complete the design.

Kazakhstan is one of the most important economic partners of **Mogilev** Region and ranks second in the foreign trade turnover and exports of the Belarusian region among the countries of the Eurasian Economic Union. The main items of Mogilev exports to this country are tires, dairy products, meat poultry, elevators, spare parts for cars and tractors, pumps, chipboard. Fruitful cooperation has been established also at the level of large-scale production facilities. In particular, "for JSC "Mogilevliftmash" Kazakhstan is one of the main sales markets, there are two assembly plants - in the cities of Aktobe and Almaty"<sup>174</sup>. In 2023, about 350 elevators were delivered there. But the potential of the Mogilev enterprise is much greater: it is ready to participate more actively in the program for the replacement of elevator equipment, as well as to supply its products for new construction. Bobruisk Belshina is also ready for further cooperation. In 2023, despite the fall in export prices more than twice, the enterprise sold 51 thousand more tires to Kazakhstan than in 2022. Also. To date, Mogilev region has signed cooperation agreements with only two regions of

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<sup>173</sup> Belarus and Kazakhstan plan to expand political and cultural interaction [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-kazahstan-planirujut-rasshirjat-politicheskoe-i-kulturnoe-vzaimodejstvie-663284-2024>

<sup>174</sup> Integration and joint productions. Isachenko on cooperation of the Mogilev region with Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://belta.by/politics/view/integratsija-i-sovmestnye-proizvodstva-isachenko-o-sotrudnichestve-mogilevskoj-oblasti-s-kazahstanom-607349-2023/>

Kazakhstan - Turkestan and East Kazakhstan. And there is confidence that at the first Forum of Regions of the two countries these documents will be colored with new colors.

**Gomel Region** intends to expand cooperation with partners from Kazakhstan. In this regard, it should be reminded that in September 2024, the annual Gomel Economic Forum was held for the 18th time. Among the active participants from the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States was Kazakhstan, "the potential for cooperation with the Belarusian southeastern region is simply enormous. This, first of all, concerns issues of industrial cooperation and agriculture"<sup>175</sup>. In particular, within the framework of cooperation, Kazakhstan has set up an assembly production of machinery together with Gomselmash, which is successfully developing. Within the framework of the economic forum, the parties agreed that the number of joint projects will increase. Apparently, this dialog between the interested parties will continue at the First Forum of Regions of Belarus and Kazakhstan.

**Brest region** is also interested in closer cooperation with Kazakhstan in various areas. In particular, it is about increasing investment cooperation of the Kazakh side with Brest region in the field of agricultural production, processing of agricultural products in order to "invest in the field of dairy production, given the great competence and high potential that the Belarusian side has in this area. Another interesting sector is the production of building materials, floor coverings, ceramic tiles, sanitary ware"<sup>176</sup>

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<sup>175</sup> Zalessky, B. From programs to concrete projects. Features of positive trends in the economy of Belarus / Boris Zalessky. - LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2024. - C. 49.

<sup>176</sup> Investments, technologies, tourism. Brest region and Kazakhstan are aimed at closer cooperation [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL:

. The parties also have great potential in the sphere of transit, tourism, travel and health improvement. In short, there are still many points for strengthening cooperation. So Brest Oblast, to all appearances, will approach the first Forum of Regions of Belarus and Kazakhstan with new interesting projects and promising proposals.

Let us summarize the results. The working visit of the Kazakh government delegation to Belarus in November 2024 showed that the two countries of the post-Soviet space have long built strong, friendly and partnership ties. And today they continue to implement the promising areas included in the Roadmap of the two governments on the development of trade and economic cooperation for 2025-2029 in order to reach a qualitatively new level of interaction.

## Kazakhstan: enter new projects, in order to mutually benefit

Belarus and Kazakhstan today demonstrate great potential for mutually beneficial cooperation in various sectors, from agriculture to high technologies and innovative developments. Joint investment projects in machine-building, chemical and petrochemical industries are being successfully implemented. During the 18th meeting of the Intergovernmental Belarusian-Kazakhstan Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation, which was held in Minsk in May 2024, it was also noted that "it is necessary to continue and expand the practice of holding interregional business investment forums, exhibitions and fairs..."<sup>177</sup>. In this context, it should be said that our republic actively participates in this Central Asian country in many international exhibition events. For example, "the total exposition of Belarus at exhibitions in Kazakhstan in 2023 amounted to almost 1 thousand square meters, about 50 Belarusian enterprises took part"<sup>178</sup>. And this has become a significant contribution to the piggy bank of bilateral economic interaction.

The most representative international event in Kazakhstan in 2023 in the exhibition sphere was **the first international industrial forum "INNOPROM. Kazakhstan"**, which took place in September in the Expo Center of the Kazakh capital. The participants included enterprises and companies from 20

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<sup>177</sup> Agro-industrial complex, culture and education. In what spheres Belarus and Kazakhstan will strengthen mutual cooperation [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/apk-kultura-i-obrazovanie-v-kakih-sferah-belarus-i-kazahstana-budut-ukrepljat-vzaimnoe-sotrudnichestvo-638164-2024/>

<sup>178</sup> From agro-industrial complex to high technologies. Myatlikov named promising areas of cooperation with Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/ot-apk-do-vysokih-tehnologij-myatlikov-nazval-perspektivnye-napravlenija-sotrudnichestva-s-kazahstanom-637976-2024/>

countries, including Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Hungary, Myanmar, Vietnam, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran, China, Russia, presented in such thematic sections of the exhibition as mechanical engineering, metallurgy and materials, energy solutions, chemical industry technologies, information and telecommunication technologies, machine-tool construction and infrastructure development. 32 Belarusian enterprises and institutions of the Ministry of Industry, the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) of Belarus, the State Committee for Science and Technology, and the Ministry of Education also presented their products and technologies. "The national exposition of Belarus was spread over an area of 742 square meters (210 square meters - in the pavilion, 532 square meters - on the outdoor area"<sup>179</sup> .

The specifics of this exhibition were characterized by its innovative nature. For this reason, the products presented by the Belarusian participants of the forum included interesting technical and scientific novelties. In particular, 20 enterprises of the Belarusian Ministry of Industry showed samples of export equipment, and "the total amount of commercial documents (agreements, protocols, contracts) <...> amounted to about\$ 64 million"<sup>180</sup> . For example, JSC "Managing Company of Horizont Holding" demonstrated two directions of its products - consumer electronics and equipment, as well as professional products that go for transportation, namely automotive and aviation electronics.

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<sup>179</sup> The International Industrial Forum "INNOPROM. Kazakhstan" [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/v-astane-otkrylsja-mezhdunarodnyj-promyshlennyj-forum-innopro-m-kazakhstan-590049-2023/>

<sup>180</sup> Enterprises of the Ministry of Industry on "INNPRO.M. Kazakhstan" concluded contracts for \$64 million [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/predpriyatija-minprom-a-na-innopro-m-kazakhstan-zakljuchili-kontrakty-na-64-mln-591102-2023/>

For the first direction specialists of Horizont "for two days signed contracts for the amount of\$ 25 million. We are talking about the supply of consumer electronics to eight retail chains in Kazakhstan"<sup>181</sup>. In the second direction, the Belarusian company received an order to produce electronics for automobiles. This indicates that interest in Belarusian products in the Kazakh market remains traditionally high.

At this exhibition, Gomselmash also demonstrated machinery that is already assembled in Kazakhstan. The fact is that in order to develop industrial cooperation in this Central Asian country, joint assembly of combine harvesters under the Essil brand is already underway. "This is a very successful project, we are assembling 4.3 thousand units. <...> Now the level of localization is already up to 40%. Harvesters, inclined chambers, hoppers are fully localized"<sup>182</sup>. And in the future it is planned to supply updated harvesters of the 4th class.

To expand its presence in Kazakhstan - this is the task for Mogilevliftmash OJSC, whose specialists participated in this exhibition. The Mogilevliftmash enterprise already has "assembly production, dealers and distribution network, but it is not enough..."<sup>183</sup>. Cooperation should be developed further. Moreover, the market of Kazakhstan is very large. There is a big construction there and a lot of elevators need to be replaced. For

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<sup>181</sup> Predko: production of "Horizon" will be realized by trade networks of Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/predko-produktsija-gorizonta-budet-realizovyvatsja-torgovymi-setjami-kazahstana-590599-2023/>

<sup>182</sup> "Gomselmash" will supply Kazakhstan with updated combine harvesters [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/gomselmash-postavit-v-kazahstan-obnovlennye-zernoubo-rochnye-kombajny-590179-2023/>

<sup>183</sup> "Mogilevliftmash" plans to sell to Kazakhstan up to 700 elevators a year [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/mogilevliftmash-planiruet-prodavat-v-kazahstane-do-700-liftov-v-god-590005-2023/>



this reason "Mogilevliftmash" potentially sets the task to sell up to 700 elevators annually.

Such Belarusian exporter as Atlant CJSC intends to strengthen cooperation with Kazakhstan. At the forum "INNOPROM. Kazakhstan" forum, the company presented household appliances. An important fact: Atlant has concluded "contacts with all major retail chains. In particular, for 8 months [2023] in this country <...> shipped 20 thousand refrigerators, 3 thousand washing machines"<sup>184</sup>. The Belarusian supplier intends to further strengthen this cooperation. And Minsk Tractor Plant showed a wide range of its new equipment and "signed a commercial contract for the delivery to the address of LLP "Machine Building Plant MTZ - Kazakhstan" 1.5 thousand units of cab kits for\$ 3 million"<sup>185</sup>.

As for the enterprises of Bellegprom concern, following the forum "INNOPROM. Kazakhstan", agreements were reached on increasing supplies of Belarusian fabrics for various purposes to the Kazakh market, as well as "on the placement of an "island" with Belarusian light industry goods in the hypermarket "Magnum". It is planned that the products of Orsha Flax Factory, Vitebsk Carpets, Dobrush Porcelain Factory, BPHO OJSC will be presented there"<sup>186</sup>. In addition, the negotiations resulted in signing a memorandum of cooperation between Bellegprom

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<sup>184</sup> "Atlant" intends to increase cooperation in Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/atlant-nameren-naraschivat-sotrudnichestvo-s-kazakhstanom-590085-2023/>

<sup>185</sup> MTW will supply 1.5 thousand units of cab kits for \$3 mln to Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/mtz-postavit-v-kazakhstan-15-tys-edinits-kabinokomplektov-na-3-mln-590218-2023/>

<sup>186</sup> Bellegprom" enterprises have increased supplies to Kazakhstan by more than a third since the beginning of the year [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/predpriyatija-bellegproma-s-nachala-goda-uvlechili-postavki-v-kazakhstan-bolee-chem-na-tret-590675-2023/>

Concern and Global-Spetsodezhda LLP and Union of Kazakhstan Manufacturers of Personal Protective Equipment. It may be added that for three quarters of 2023 the Concern's enterprises shipped nine million dollars worth of goods to Kazakhstan. Export growth is 131 percent.

Speaking about the joint stand of Belarusian scientific organizations and educational institutions at the exhibition "INNOPROM. Kazakhstan", it should be noted that six organizations subordinate to the NAS of Belarus were represented there - Optron plant, Optics, Optoelectronics and Laser Technology State Research and Production Association, United Institute of Informatics Problems of the NAS of Belarus, Minsk Research Institute of Radio Materials, Aviation Technologies and Complexes CJSC, Center for System Analysis and Strategic Research of the NAS of Belarus, as well as three universities - Belarusian State University, Belarusian State Technological University, Belarusian State University of Technology, and Belarusian State University of Science and Technology. They showed "several thematic blocks: unmanned aerial vehicles, electric transportation and component base, industrial technologies, microelectronics, laser technology, artificial intelligence and IT-technologies, biotechnology and pharmacology, technologies for space exploration"<sup>187</sup>.

In particular, an ultralight aircraft was demonstrated - a gyroplane model "Yastreb", which is designed for border patrols, cargo transportation, aerial survey, forestry monitoring and fire

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<sup>187</sup> Shakhonovich, A. For the first time in Kazakhstan. What Belarus will present at the exhibition "INNOPROM. Kazakhstan" in Astana / A. Shakhonovich // [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://belta.by/comments/view/vpervye-v-kazahstane-cto-belarus-predstavit-na-vystavke-innoprom-v-astane-8893/>

protection. "In the short term - operation as an air cab"<sup>188</sup> . Compared to airplanes and helicopters, this gyroplane has a number of advantages: ease of control in all ranges of operation, no vibrations and "stalling on the wing", many variations of horizontal flight speeds. There is also no need for special preparation of a site for takeoff, the device can be landed on unprepared country roads, soil, water and snow.

Among other presented developments of CJSC "Aviation Technologies and Complexes" it was possible to see Agrodron A60-X - a complex for spraying the field using ultra-small volume technology, which has a number of advantages over traditional methods of plant protection agent application. In total, more than 70 developments of the organizations of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and institutions of the Ministry of Education were presented as part of the national exposition of Belarus.

Now let's see what other interesting international exhibitions were held with Belarusian participation in Kazakhstan over the past two years. For example, the exposition of Belarusian producers under the brand Belarus - The Taste of Nature was presented at the **Kazakhstan International Exhibition "Food, Beverages, Ingredients, Packaging and Equipment for the Food Industry" - InterFood Astana** in Astana at the end of May 2023. This forum is a traditional meeting place for specialists from different countries in the food, processing and packaging industry. More than 70 companies from Armenia, Belarus, Vietnam, Germany, Kazakhstan, China, Malaysia, Russia, Russia,

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<sup>188</sup> Gavrilova, V. Scientific and technical developments of Belarus will be presented at the exhibition "INNOPROM. Kazakhstan" / V. Gavrilova // [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/nauchno-tehnicheskije-razrabotki-belarusi-predstavjat-na-vystavke-innoprom-kazahstan-589784-2023/>

Uzbekistan and China presented at their stands novelties of product portfolios, innovations in the food industry, beverages, ingredients and modern packaging technologies. The Belarusian exposition showed "a variety of products from Volkovysk, Grodno, Slonim meat processing plants and JV JSC "Spartak": sausages, meat semi-finished products, confectionery products"<sup>189</sup>. The exhibition included a business program including conferences, presentations, master classes and tastings of product lines.

A year later - at the end of May 2024 - at the same international exhibition - **InterFood Astana** - food industry leaders from 15 countries demonstrated the goods and services of more than 80 food manufacturers and brands. The honorable region of the exposition forum was the "European Union with the presentation of European goods from 30 producers of the countries - members of the association"<sup>190</sup>. And in the exposition Belarus. The Taste of Nature exposition, a wide range of products was presented by Belarusian meat and dairy companies: Slutsk Cheese Factory OJSC and Slonimsky Meat Processing Plant OJSC.

One of the most visited and widely publicized agricultural events in Kazakhstan - the **International Exhibition of Agriculture and Food Industry "KazFarm/KazAgro-2023"** - was held in October in Astana, where 250 companies from 20 countries participated and where the best developments were

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<sup>189</sup> Exposition Belarus - The Taste of Nature at the exhibition InterFood Astana [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.cci.by/o-palate/novosti/ekspozitsiya-belarus-the-taste-of-nature-na-vystavke-interfood-astana/#>

<sup>190</sup> Belarusian enterprises are presented at the international exhibition InterFood Astana in Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/beloruskie-predpriyatija-predstavleny-na-mezhdunarodnoj-vystavke-interfood-astana-v-kazahstane-637677-2024/>

presented, from seeds and embryos to finished products of crop, livestock and processing industries. The participants from our country were LLC "Agropolikhim", LLC "RTiflex", LLC "Tekhmash", Minsk Motor Plant. And the Belarusian state association on pedigree animal breeding "Belplemzhivobedinenie" and RSUE "Gomelgosplempredpriyatie" organized an exposition stand with demonstration of video materials, which acquainted the guests and visitors of the exhibition with pedigree animal breeding of the Republic of Belarus"<sup>191</sup>. Negotiations were held with the heads of Kazakhstani breeding organizations and issues of mutually beneficial cooperation were discussed

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

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<sup>191</sup> KazFarm/KazAgro-2023" Exhibition was held in Astana on October 19-21 [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.mshp.gov.by/printv/ru/news-ru/view/19-21-oktjabrja-v-gastana-proshla-vystavka-kazfarm-kazagro-2023-9164-2023/>

processing plant demonstrated already favorite meat products, including beef steaks and new types of semi-smoked sausages. Grodno Meat Processing Plant offered beef sausage with prunes. Pinsk meat processing plant surprised visitors with products from game meat. "Among the novelties are meat paste and Italian series of sausages from Veles-Mit". Boiled sausage with pistachios according to the Italian recipe aroused special interest among the visitors of the exhibition. Enterprises of the dairy industry - Bellact, Molochnye Gorki, Lida Dairy Canning Plant - brought milk, cheese, butter, dried baby food, milk powder"<sup>192</sup>. Bellakt presented its new products on the Kazakh market - frozen cheese cakes, dessert paste with cocoa and hazelnut and a new line of glazed cheesecakes. Goretsky food combine for the first time brought to Kazakhstan its legendary line of Exponenta products, rich in protein and functional characteristics. Dairy Horki presented not only its traditional line of whole-milk products, but also a new series of lactose-free products, including cottage cheese, sour cream and butter. Among the novelties we should mention clarified butter presented in glass packaging. By the way, at the professional competition-tasting "The Best Product of FoodExpo Qazaqstan-2023", which was held on the opening day of the exhibition, the company "Molochnye Gorki" was awarded a diploma in the category "Dairy Products", and Goretsky Food Combine received an award in the category "Best Sour Milk Drinks". Traditionally, this exhibition was accompanied by a rich business program, participation in which gave the representatives of Belarusian business an opportunity to exchange experience and

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<sup>192</sup> Belarus presented its exposition at the food exhibition in Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-predstavila-ekspozitsiju-na-prodovolstvennoj-vystavke-v-kazahstane-597496-2023/>

vision of further development of the food industry. In particular, a business session "Sustainable Development of Food Industry Enterprises" was held and direct negotiations between trade networks and distributors were held in the retail center.

A year later, in mid-November, **the 26th Food Industry Exhibition - FoodExpo Qazaqstan-2024** - was held, where Belarusian enterprises of meat processing, dairy and confectionery industries participated in the exposition Belarus. The Taste of Nature. They were represented by eight companies, among which one could see flagships and well-known brands - Volkovysk, Grodno, Oshmian, Pinsk and Slonim meat processing plants. Turovsky Dairy Plant presented at the exhibition a product line of cheeses for consumers of the professional market and chain retail. Under the auspices of the enterprise a thematic location Show-Kitchen was organized, within the framework of which cooking of pizza with these cheeses was demonstrated. OJSC "Minsk Dairy Plant No. 1" presented novelties of 2024 - Edelweiss cheese in various spices, "Imeruli" cheeses and cheeses with the addition of goat's milk. The company showed a lactose-free product line including milk, cottage cheese, sour cream and butter. "Also presented are unique cheeses without added sugar, the assortment of which was supplemented with two new types: cottage cheese glazed without added sugar with fillers "mango-orange-ginger" and "blueberry-ejevica" with a mass fraction of fat of 20%"<sup>193</sup> . Spartak presented a product line without added sugar: bitter chocolate with collagen, with strawberry and hazelnut, assortment

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<sup>193</sup> Belarusian enterprises became participants of the large exhibition of food industry in Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/beloruskie-predpriyatija-stali-uchastnikami-krupnoj-vystavki-pischevoj-promyshlennosti-v-kazahstane-675060-2024/>

series of mini granola bars, wafer bars, No sugar cookies with flax seeds and bran, and Truffles candies without added sugar.

Let us summarize the results. All these exhibitions 2023-2024 organized in Kazakhstan have shown that the participation of enterprises from Belarus in these business forums provides an opportunity not only to exchange experience with Kazakh partners and vision of further development in the most relevant sectors of the economy, but also provides access to specific bilateral cooperation projects. Moreover, the parties see great potential for cooperation, thanks to the exhibition events, which have significant potential and unique opportunities for mutual benefit.

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## **Kyrgyzstan: the potential for cooperation is there, it's a matter of realization**

Kyrgyzstan is an important partner of Belarus in Central Asia, and the relationship with it is developing positively in all areas. In November 2024, Bishkek hosted the 12th meeting of the Intergovernmental Belarusian-Kyrgyz Commission (IGC) on Trade and Economic Cooperation, where its participants paid special attention to the development of industrial cooperation, the formation of a favorable climate for investment, and the increase in trade turnover between the countries through a large-scale increase in the supply of Belarusian products. For reference, we note that for three quarters of 2024, "the trade turnover between Belarus and Kyrgyzstan increased by 14.1% compared to the same period of 2023 and amounts to almost \$ 135 million"<sup>194</sup>. Among the successful domestic exporters that are dynamically increasing their supplies to the Kyrgyz market are the enterprises of the Belarusian Production and Trade Concern of Forestry, Woodworking and Pulp and Paper Industry "Bellesbumprom". "Mainly board products and sawn timber are supplied to this Central Asian country. For 7 months of 2024, exports to Kyrgyzstan increased 1.3 times"<sup>195</sup>.

Recall that at the 11th IGC meeting, held in August 2023 in the Belarusian capital, the parties noted a noticeable intensification of interaction and outlined several important areas of cooperation: the growth of trade turnover and development of industrial

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<sup>194</sup> Sivak: trade turnover between Belarus and Kyrgyzstan increased by 14.1% in January-September [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/sivak-tovarooborot-belarusi-i-kyrgyzstana-za-janvar-sentjabr-vyros-na-141-678763-2024/>

<sup>195</sup> Belarus is increasing supplies of woodworking products to Kyrgyzstan [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-naraschivaet-postavki-produktsii-derevoobrabotki-v-kyrgyzstan-664450-2024/>

cooperation. Then at the end of 2022, "trade turnover exceeded\$ 160 million and increased by 56% compared to 2021. <...> In the first half of the year, we added\$ 19 million..."<sup>196</sup> . And in terms of industrial cooperation was noted the organization of joint production of elevator equipment of JSC "Mogilevliftmash" on the Kyrgyz land. The degree of localization of production has reached 25 percent in less than a year, the production plan is 100 elevators.

At the same time, the parties identified a large untapped potential for cooperation in the industrial sector. In particular, Kyrgyzstan offered all the necessary conditions for the establishment of joint cooperative industrial enterprises. Especially since "mechanisms of special investment contracts of the Industrial Development Fund, subsidiary support measures aimed at attracting private investment in industry have already been formed and implemented, and an export support infrastructure has been created"<sup>197</sup> . The foundation for any production are mineral and raw material reserves, and in Kyrgyzstan there are more than 100 raw material products concentrated, which makes it possible to open enterprises with a high level of localization of manufactured products. The country mainly concentrates titanium, gold, copper, antimony, tin and other minerals - tungsten, silicon, uranium, fuel and energy raw materials. There are prospects for organizing iron mining.

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<sup>196</sup> Sivak: trade turnover between Belarus and Kyrgyzstan is growing, we plan to develop industrial cooperation [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/sivak-tovarooborot-mezhdu-belarusiju-i-kyrgyzstanom-rastet-planiruem-razvivat-i-promkoooperatsiju-584179-2023/>

<sup>197</sup> Torobaev outlined what joint productions could be created by Belarus and Kyrgyzstan [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/torobaev-oboznachil-kakie-sovmestnye-proizvodstva-mogli-by-sozdat-belarus-i-kyrgyzstan-584198-2023/>

In addition, at the 11th IGC meeting, the possibility of organizing a textile cluster and implementing a leather and wool processing project was voiced. It is necessary to make a small remark in this regard. "In 2022, Belarusian clothing exports to Kyrgyzstan amounted to a record\$ 5.1 million, which is 8.4 times higher than in 2021. The main sub-items supplied were women's and children's dresses made of machine or hand-knitted cotton, men's and children's pants, overalls, shorts and breeches made of cotton, men's and children's shirts also made of cotton"<sup>198</sup>. For this reason, the Belarusian side will rely on these commodity items when planning new exports.

Returning to the 12th IGC meeting, we would like to emphasize that the Belarusian side also voiced its proposals on the implementation of joint trade and economic projects and expressed readiness "to increase supplies of agricultural machinery, municipal and other equipment, to develop industrial cooperation projects in other areas. There are good prospects for the creation of joint production of electrical products"<sup>199</sup>. For this purpose, within the framework of the IGC meeting the banks of the two countries signed a basic agreement on the general terms of granting export credits, which "envisages the creation of a universal financial infrastructure to support domestic exports"<sup>200</sup>. And already AMKODOR is considering the possibility of

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<sup>198</sup> Dresses, shirts, breeches - all made of cotton. What are the prospects for Belarusian clothes in the market of Kyrgyzstan? [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/platija-rubashki-bridzhi-vse-iz-hlopkakakie-perspektivy-u-belorusskoj-odezhdy-na-rynke-kyrgyzstana-640865-2024/>

<sup>199</sup> Sivak: Belarus is ready to increase supplies of municipal and agricultural machinery to Kyrgyzstan [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/sivak-belarus-gotova-naraschivat-postavki-kommunalnoj-i-selhoztehniki-v-kyrgyzstan-678782-2024/>

<sup>200</sup> Belarus and Kyrgyzstan signed an agreement on export credits [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-kyrgyzstan-podpisali-soglasenie-ob-eksportnyh-kreditah-678790-2024/>

implementing joint projects in Kyrgyzstan, including the creation of production facilities and service centers to maintain AMKODOR machinery. "Such a step will strengthen industrial cooperation and expand opportunities for the development of economic ties between the countries"<sup>201</sup>.

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

A characteristic feature of the development of cooperation between the two countries in the exchange sphere is the regular expansion of the nomenclature of goods involved in mutual trade. "Initially, these were only supplies of sunflower seeds to Belarusian agricultural organizations, but over the past few years, a number of new positions have appeared in the structure of

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<sup>201</sup> "AMKODOR" will consider the possibility of creating joint projects with Kyrgyzstan [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/amkodor-rassmotrit-vozmozhnost-sozdaniya-sovmestnyh-proektov-s-kyrgyzstanom-666338-2024/>

exchange transactions"<sup>202</sup> . In particular, ferrous metal products manufactured in Kyrgyzstan began to be imported to Belarus through exchange trading, while Belarusian exporters began to successfully sell sawn timber, sugar, and now dairy products to Kyrgyz traders. And in October 2024, the first deal on the sale of textile raw materials by a Kyrgyz resident was concluded at BUTB. "The counterparty to the transaction was one of the largest domestic light industry enterprises, and the subject of the purchase was calico - unprocessed fabric from cotton fiber"<sup>203</sup>

In general, 30 Kyrgyz economic entities are currently accredited at the exchange, five of which participated in exchange trading for the first time in 2024. "According to the results of 10 months of 2024, the exchange trade turnover with Kyrgyzstan increased 2.4 times, up to \$5.7 million. Almost 65% of this amount was provided by export supplies of Belarusian butter"<sup>204</sup> . At the 12th meeting of the IGC it was decided to give additional impetus to the development of the Belarusian-Kyrgyz exchange trade, including by joining efforts with the Kyrgyz Stock Exchange, which is considering the possibility of launching trading in the commodities market and is interested in studying the experience and technologies of the BUTB. In this regard, the Belarusian and Kyrgyz stock exchanges reached a preliminary agreement to sign

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<sup>202</sup> Kyrgyzstan purchased the first batches of Belarusian dairy products at the exchange trading [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/kyrgyzstan-zakupil-pervye-partii-belorusskoj-molochnoj-produktsii-na-birzhevyh-torgah-641884-2024/>

<sup>203</sup> Kyrgyzstan expanded the commodity nomenclature of exchange trade with Belarus [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/kyrgyzstan-rasshiril-tovarnuju-nomenklaturu-birzhevoj-torgovli-s-belarusiju-667300-2024/>

<sup>204</sup> Belarus and Kyrgyzstan will strengthen the exchange vector of cooperation [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-kyrgyzstan-usiljat-birzhevoj-vektor-sotrudnichestva-678941-2024/>

a cooperation agreement in 2025, which will become the basis for further joint work of the exchange platforms of the two countries.

Let us summarize the results. The decisions of the 12th meeting of the Intergovernmental Belarusian-Kyrgyz Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation showed that the parties have a significant potential to take their interaction to higher levels both in terms of growth of trade turnover and implementation of significant initiatives in industrial cooperation and implementation of new infrastructure projects.

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## **China: cooperation in science, technology and innovation reaches a new level**

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

This plan contains 89 activities that will involve 140 organizations - 59 Belarusian and 81 Chinese. These include the leading scientific centers of the two countries, sectoral agencies and their subordinate organizations, and large technology corporations. In particular, in the field of information and communication technologies, the plan envisages the development of cooperation between the Ministry of Communications and Informatization of Belarus and the Chinese corporations Huawei Technologies, ZTE and PhotonSpeak on software development, expansion of cooperation in the field of information and communication technologies, including the application of 5G/6G technologies. On the Belarusian side, this work will involve the High Technology Park, the Velikiy Kamen industrial park, Beltelecom and Promsvyaz enterprises. In addition, in August 2024, a memorandum of understanding on strategic cooperation in

the field of information and communication technologies was signed by the Ministry of Communications and Informatization of Belarus and the Ministry of Industry and Informatization of China, which "envisages the promotion of cooperation in digital transformation, cloud technologies, artificial intelligence, digital medicine, ICT training"<sup>205</sup>. It is also planned to cooperate on the development of smart cities, the creation of joint production facilities for high-tech products, and a Chinese-Belarusian platform for cooperation in the field of information and communication technologies.

The Ministry of Industry of Belarus together with the Center for International Economic and Technical Cooperation of the Ministry of Industry and Informatization of the People's Republic of China envisages the creation of a joint platform for the implementation of Sino-Belarusian industrial cooperation to find partners, transfer technologies, and develop cooperation with Chinese companies on the supply of technological equipment. It should be reminded that "in March 2023 Belarus and China signed a comprehensive strategy of joint industrial development, and in November 2023 - a detailed plan to interface the industrial policies of the two countries"<sup>206</sup> to develop industrial cooperation, including through joint productions in Belarus and China, attracting high-tech competencies for the implementation of investment projects at Belarusian enterprises and establishing direct interaction between the parties. This program already

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<sup>205</sup> Belarus and China signed a memorandum of understanding in the field of ICT [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-kitaj-podpisali-memorandum-o-vzaimoponimanii-v-oblasti-ikt-656109-2024/>

<sup>206</sup> Ministries of Industry of Belarus and China: the plan for cooperation can be updated, detailed and expanded [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/minpromy-belarusi-i-kitaja-plan-posotrudnichestvu-mozhet-byt-aktualizirovan-detalizirovan-i-rasshiren-644949-2024/>



consists of 30 specific projects in machine-tool building, automobile manufacturing, petrochemicals and woodworking. In particular, already "the entire cluster of domestic machine-tool enterprises - from the Gomel Machine-Tool Plant to "Krasniy Borets" in Orsha - is involved in the implementation of joint industrial development projects with China"<sup>207</sup> . Also, the decisions taken will allow to reformat the textile industry, as viscose together with flax and chemical fibers will create fabric for Belarusians, which will become the foundation of the textile and clothing industry of the country.

In general, "15 new strategic-level investment projects worth up to three billion dollars are under active consideration with Chinese partners"<sup>208</sup> . Among the most important are: the third stage of the project on deep grain processing of the Belarusian National Biotechnology Corporation, construction of plants for the production of bleached kraft pulp and particleboard, organization of modern automated casting, production of engines, polypropylene, carbide, sodium chlorate, hydrogen peroxide, soda ash.

As for existing Belarusian enterprises, for example, Minsk Tractor Plant (MTZ) is interested in establishing joint production facilities in China. In September 2024, a roadmap for the development of a 350-horsepower tractor with permanent magnet electric drive was signed. MTZ is ready to implement this project

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<sup>207</sup> Machine tools, pulp, automobile. What significant projects Belarus and China are realizing [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/stanki-tselluloza-avtomobil-kakie-znakovye-proekty-realizujut-belarus-i-kitaj-671355-2024/>

<sup>208</sup> Snopkov: strategic projects with China for \$3 billion are designed for the medium term [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/snopkov-strategicheskie-proekty-s-kitaem-na-3-mlrd-rasschitany-na-srednesrochnuju-perspektivu-655954-2024/>

with the China-Belarus High-Tech Aerospace Research and Development Center. Also, another joint production may be established in China - for assembly of BELARUS caterpillar tractors"<sup>209</sup> . In addition, the Belarusian company will buy equipment in China for more than 840 million Belarusian rubles to modernize the melting system for the first foundry shop, automatic continuous sandblasting chamber with rotary tables. "MTZ's workshops will be replenished with 15 lathes, 7 horizontal, 4 milling-centering and 3 horizontal CNC milling machining centers. Over the past year and a half, the company has received eight CNC machines [from China]."<sup>210</sup> .

Other machine-building enterprises of the republic are also open to production cooperation with Chinese companies. In particular, to organize "joint production of engines for trucks and cars in Belarus"<sup>211</sup> . In this regard, mutually beneficial options for cooperation with Guangxi Yuchai Machinery Group Co., Ltd. are already being worked out in order to reach a strategic bilateral project providing for deep localization.

Another interesting example is Belshina, which together with the Belarusian State Technological University (BSTU) is strengthening its partnership with leading Chinese tire companies and scientific organizations of this country. Back in April this year, Belshina and BSTU signed a memorandum of cooperation with

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<sup>209</sup> MTZ is interested in the creation of joint production facilities in China [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/mtz-zainteresovan-v-sozdanii-sovmestnyh-proizvodstv-v-kitae-662915-2024/>

<sup>210</sup> MTZ will purchase more than 30 pieces of equipment from China [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/mtz-zakupit-bolee-30-edinits-oborudovaniya-iz-kitaja-662946-2024/>

<sup>211</sup> Naumovich: Belarusian machine-building enterprises are open to cooperation with Chinese companies [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/naumovich-belorusskie-predpriyatija-mashinostroeniya-otkryty-k-kooperatsii-s-kitajskimi-kompanijami-665797-2024/>

the Qingdao University of Science and Technology and the Chinese company MESNAC - the leading manufacturer of rubber equipment in the Celestial Empire with a global geography of supply. In this document, the parties envisage cooperation in the field of education, as well as research and development on improving the properties of elastomeric compositions for tires and rubber products. It means that the Belarusian tire manufacturer and one of the best universities in Belarus for training engineering personnel, including for the chemical industry, are working together on improving the quality of rubber compounds, producing new sizes of agricultural tires, as well as improving the performance characteristics of oversized tires for the purpose of effective import substitution. By signing the memorandum, the parties plan to implement joint projects related to "improving the performance of all-metal cord extra-large tires of 57-inch diameter radial design, using original technologies and equipment of the leading Chinese manufacturer"<sup>212</sup>. The memorandum is expected to bring the parties to a new level of cooperation. Given the prospective participation of Qingdao University of Science and Technology and the Belarusian State Technological University in the projects, emphasis will also be placed on scientific research in the tire industry and the training of highly qualified personnel for production.

The adopted plans also "provide for the establishment in Minsk of a project office of the Chinese Center for Transfer of technologies of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization member

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<sup>212</sup> "Belshina" together with BSTU strengthens partnership with leading Chinese tire companies [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belshina-sovmestno-s-bgtu-ukrepljajet-partnerstvo-s-veduschimi-kitajskimi-shinnymi-kompanijami-627709-2024/>

states, the activities of which are supervised by the Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China"<sup>213</sup> . This will facilitate both the attraction of advanced foreign technologies to Belarus and the commercialization of the results of Belarusian scientific and innovation organizations' activities abroad. In the field of medicine, the Ministry of Health of Belarus and the Center for International Exchange and Cooperation of the State Health Committee of China will cooperate on the exchange of innovations and technologies. And Belneftekhim Concern together with the Oil and Gas Resources Research Center of the Chinese Geological Survey will cooperate in the exchange of technologies for geological research, exploration and development of oil and gas resources

In addition, the parties will continue to develop the Great Stone Park as an international industrial and logistics cluster with a focus on investment, technology, and the development of traditional and innovative Chinese medicine. "Today, the park has 134 residents from 13 countries with an investment volume of \$ 1.5 billion. More than half of the residents are companies with Chinese capital"<sup>214</sup> . In the first seven months of 2024, 18 new companies have already come to the park. It should be noted that in July of this year a meeting of the working group on the industrial park was held, which outlined the priority areas for the further growth of Velikiy Kamen. Among the main prospects is the attraction of new residents from China with their advanced experience and anchor

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<sup>213</sup> Start of the Years of Cooperation between Belarus and China in Science, Technology and Innovation [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/dan-start-godam-sotrudnichestva-belarusi-i-knr-v-oblasti-nauki-tehnologij-i-innovatsij-656188-2024/>

<sup>214</sup> Roman Golovchenko: In the conditions of instability in the world Belarus and China continue to build mutually beneficial cooperation [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <http://pda.government.gov.by/ru/content/10994>

projects that will be able to gather their partners around them. The second direction is to continue building the Great Stone infrastructure to prepare sites for new production facilities. Especially since "the construction of the infrastructure of the first stage of the central part of the park is to begin, as well as the creation of a multimodal rail terminal"<sup>215</sup>. Thirdly, it is the development of the medical cluster in the industrial park. Suffice it to say that in the first half of 2024, five companies have already joined the medical cluster of Veliky Kamen, and new Chinese companies are on their way.

Finally, in order to increase the economic efficiency of joint activities, the Belarusian State Committee for Science and Technology and the Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China will hold a competition of flagship scientific and technological projects. For this purpose, "20 projects for joint implementation in 2024-2026 in the fields of ICT, biotechnology and medicine, mechanical engineering, new materials" have been approved<sup>216</sup>. Based on the results of this competition it is planned to select three large-scale joint projects, the results of which should be the creation of advanced technologies and the organization of joint ventures or industrial technology centers. Based on the results of joint research and development, Belarus and China will "work on the creation of joint

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<sup>215</sup> Chebotar: "Great Stone" is one of the key priorities for the development of Belarusian-Chinese cooperation [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/chebotar-velikij-kamen-odin-iz-kljuchevyh-prioritetov-razvitiya-belorussko-kitajskogo-sotrudnichestva-649217-2024/>

<sup>216</sup> Belarus and China approved 20 joint scientific and technical projects for 2024-2026 [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-kitaj-utverdili-20-sovmestnyh-nauchno-tehnicheskikh-proektov-na-2024-2026-gody-656073-2024/>

legal entities, which will be used to manufacture products to enter the Belarusian, Chinese, and maybe even third markets"<sup>217</sup> .

In line with this theme, a branch of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus (NAS) will be established in China, which will become a Sino-Belarusian cooperation platform to promote interaction between universities, research institutes and enterprises of the two countries in the field of education, scientific research and implementation of achievements. "The main areas of cooperation within the branch are aerospace engineering and space sciences, materials science and composite materials, optics and optoelectronics, production of high-tech equipment and advanced devices, microelectronics and digital intelligence, biotechnology and pharmacology"<sup>218</sup> . In this regard, such cooperation mechanisms as exchange of highly qualified Chinese and Belarusian experts, organization of training of highly qualified researchers, joint training of masters and doctoral students, organization of internships and training, initiation of joint research and development by the organizations of the parties, promotion of mutual introduction of technologies and achievements, establishment of joint laboratories within the framework of the "Belt and Road" initiative will be envisaged. For this purpose, in August this year a framework agreement on strategic cooperation was signed between NAS of Belarus and the State Administration of the People's Republic of China for Foreign Experts, which is aimed at attracting exports by organizing technical internships for

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<sup>217</sup> Belarus and China will create legal entities for the production of products based on joint developments [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-kitaj-budut-sozdavat-jurlitsa-dlja-proizvodstva-produktsii-na-osnove-sovmestnyh-razrabotok-656197-2024/>

<sup>218</sup> A branch of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus will be created in China [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/filial-nan-belarusi-sozdadut-v-kitae-656108-2024/>

Chinese researchers in the Great Stone Industrial Park and relevant research organizations of NAS of Belarus on a contractual basis. The main areas for internships are: space utilization and exploration, new energy sources and advanced power engineering, optoelectronics and high-tech equipment, intelligent manufacturing, new materials, digitalization and artificial intelligence.

All these documents and the launch of several new industrial projects indicate that the parties see the integration of Belarusian competencies and Chinese technologies as a key element in building a joint future. It is clear that "the implementation of a comprehensive strategy for joint industrial development and the preparation of detailed plans for industrial policy interface <...> will give concrete practical content to the new status of relations between the two countries - an all-weather and comprehensive strategic partnership"<sup>219</sup>. For this reason, cooperation with China will allow Belarus to implement ambitious plans for modernization and technical re-equipment.

Returning to the results of the official visit of Premier Li Qiang of the State Council of the People's Republic of China to Belarus, it should be noted that in addition to the documents revealing the potential for developing and deepening industrial cooperation, scientific, technical and innovation interaction, agreements, memorandums and plans were signed in Minsk in other areas as well. For example, this is an intergovernmental agreement on trade in services and investment, which provides for the creation of a free trade zone in services between the two

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<sup>219</sup> Roman Golovchenko: Trade turnover between Belarus and China has grown 140 times in 30 years [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/10993>

countries, a transparent, liberal and favorable investment regime to attract investment. Also, the Belarusian Ministry of Economy and the Chinese State Committee for Development and Reform signed a "practice-oriented cooperation plan to strengthen the interface between the Belt and Road Initiative and the National Strategy for Sustainable Socio-Economic Development of Belarus. The document contains about 60 measures and projects to be implemented between the competent agencies of the two countries..."<sup>220</sup>

As for the Belarusian-Chinese regional dimension, "in-depth plans for the joint development of the provinces of China and the regions of Belarus" were signed in Minsk<sup>221</sup>. First, between Minsk Region and the city of Chongqing, where the following projects will be implemented: production of reagents and equipment for diagnostics, unmanned aerial vehicles, car seats, preparations of traditional Chinese medicine, and assembly of industrial robots. Secondly, between Mogilev region and Shaanxi province, where the main directions of development in trade and economic and investment spheres, education and culture are defined. Seven more similar in-depth plans for the joint development of Belarusian and Chinese regions were also supported in this context.

So Belarus and China, continuing to build mutually beneficial cooperation, in these August days of 2024, identified further specific tasks, plans and prospective directions, showing

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<sup>220</sup> BNBK and "Great Stone": Belarus and China agreed on new major investment projects [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/bnbk-i-velikij-kamen-belarus-i-kitaj-dogovorilis-o-novyh-krupnyh-investproektah-656105-2024/>

<sup>221</sup> Zalessky, B. Dynamics of successful partnership. Internal and external reserves of progressive movement of the Belarusian economy / Boris Zalessky. - LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2024. - C. 43.



the exemplary nature of all-weather and all-round strategic partnership in the new era, despite the overall unstable situation in the global economy.

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## China: universities strengthen cooperation

In March 2023, the Republic of Belarus and the People's Republic of China (PRC) signed the Joint Declaration on the Further Development of an All-Weather Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in a New Era, which outlines a new path of cooperation between Minsk and Beijing in various sectors, including trade, economy, and investment. And today they are already actively carrying out practical interaction, including in the educational sphere. In particular, over the past two years, many significant events have been held in this context: two meetings of the Belarusian-Chinese Association of Universities, a forum of rectors of Belarus and China in Minsk, the seventh meeting of the commission on cooperation in education of the Belarusian-Chinese Intergovernmental Cooperation Committee in Beijing and Dalian. And "over the past five years, the number of students from China studying in Belarus has tripled. At the moment there are already more than 12 thousand of them"<sup>222</sup>. And there are more than a thousand Belarusian students studying in the Celestial Empire.

One of China's strategic partners in Belarus in the field of education is **Belarusian State University** (BSU), which as of early November 2024 has already signed 133 cooperation agreements with 74 Chinese institutions, developing scientific, expert, and cultural contacts. In the last three months of 2024 alone, BSU has established new partnerships, as well as developing existing ones. For example, in October, two new

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<sup>222</sup> The number of students from China has tripled in Belarus over the last five years [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/v-belarusi-za-poslednie-pjat-let-v-tri-raza-vyroslo-chislo-studentov-iz-kitaja-669005-2024/>

cooperation documents were signed with **Chongqing University** and **Chongqing Institute of Foreign Business and Economics**. In the first case, the memorandum of understanding provides for academic exchange of students, teachers, implementation of joint educational, research programs and projects, exchange of information, teaching materials and scientific reports, organization of conferences, seminars, workshops, courses, preparation of collective publications. In the second case, the memorandum regulates the intentions of the parties to develop educational and scientific partnership and the development of joint training programs for Chinese citizens. It is expected that "exchange of experience in the fields of international business, intellectual engineering, foreign languages and foreign trade, literature and creativity, management, mathematics and computer science, art and design, television and integrated media will allow universities to use modern approaches and programs in training students"<sup>223</sup>.

In November, BSU signed a memorandum with **Peking University** on the opening of the **Belarusian-Chinese Center for Fundamental Scientific Research**, which will become a key structure in bilateral cooperation in basic sciences. Its functioning will make it possible to strengthen scientific cooperation between the two countries, attract leading and young scientists, research workers and teams to implement joint projects in promising areas in mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology and medicine. "The center will result in multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary fundamental and applied development and research. This will increase the efficiency of joint training of specialists at different

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<sup>223</sup> BSU concluded cooperation agreements with leading universities of China [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/bgu-zakljuchil-soglashenija-o-sotrudnichestve-s-veduschimi-vuzami-kitaja-667159-2024/>

levels of education, will promote the exchange of educational and scientific resources, the quality of training of scientific personnel"<sup>224</sup> .

In the same November, the Chinese capital hosted a detailed discussion on the establishment of a joint research center for humanitarian exchange between China and Belarus, involving BSU and **Beijing Foreign Studies University**. The parties have already considered the final organizational and legal issues on the opening of the center. "Its activity will create a unique platform for training linguistic specialists to work with artificial intelligence, conducting scientific research on topical topics in the field of humanities"<sup>225</sup> . In addition, negotiations were held with Chinese **corporation Jing Ying** on the organization of joint training of Chinese students in educational programs of BSU and considered the possibility of opening a joint educational preparatory center in **Hebei province**, where Chinese citizens could learn Russian as a foreign language and take preparatory courses for admission to a master's degree program of the Belarusian university.

Finally, in December 2024, BSU, firstly, signed an agreement with **Guangzhou University of Commerce and Industry (GCCU)** on the implementation of a joint educational program of general higher education, which provides for comprehensive cooperation between the parties in the field of education, science and cultural and educational activities. It should

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<sup>224</sup> BSU and Peking University will create a center of fundamental scientific research [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/bgu-i-pekinskij-universitet-sozdatut-tsentr-fundamentalnyh-nauchnyh-issledovanij-673112-2024/>

<sup>225</sup> Innovation and educational centers of BSU will appear in China [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/innovatsionnye-i-obrazovatelnye-tsentry-bgu-pojavjatsja-v-kitae-673790-2024/>

be noted that this Chinese university has about 27 thousand students in 35 bachelor's degree specialties in economics, management, engineering, literature, art, pedagogy. The library fund of the university is more than three million books. The educational process of GTPU is provided by more than two thousand teachers, 98 percent of whom have a scientific degree of master or doctor. As for the signed agreement, "the key point of the document is the opening of a joint educational program "1+3" in the specialty "management". The curriculum of this program assumes four-year education in the Russian language, whereby the training of first-year students will be carried out at the State Technical University, and students of 2-4 years - at the Belarusian State University"<sup>226</sup> . At the end of the training, graduates will receive a diploma of general higher education from BSU, which is recognized by both parties.

Secondly, BSU signed an agreement on joint training of students with the **Institute of Innovative Education (IIE)** in Sanya, Hainan Province, which regulates the implementation of joint educational programs in the "1+3" format. Recall that the IIE is a Belarusian-Chinese institute, which was established in March 2024 with the participation of BSU and the **Hainan Center of Excellence in International Education in Sanya**. This collective initiative is focused on cooperation between the two countries in the field of education, developing exports of educational services and increasing the contingent of Chinese citizens in Belarusian universities. It is expected that "this institute will become a center

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<sup>226</sup> BSU and Guangzhou University will open a joint educational program on management [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/special/society/view/bgu-i-guanchzhouskij-universitet-otkrojut-sovmestnuju-obrazovatelnuju-programmu-po-menedzhmentu-680651-2024/>

for attracting other universities, including foreign ones. At the moment, Chinese citizens from Hainan Province are preparing for admission to BSU and taking courses in Russian language"<sup>227</sup> . And there are plans to assign the status of a legal entity to the Institute and reorganize it into a branch of BSU in China, which will qualitatively improve international cooperation in sphere of education and expand the vectors of interaction. Especially since Chinese regions are now showing a wide interest in IIE's activities. "Since September [2024], schools in Beijing city, Yunnan, Guangdong, Hebei, Shaanxi, Shandong, Henan, Fujian, Zhejiang provinces, Shanghai and Chongqing cities, and Ningxia Autonomous Region have become partners of the Institute..."<sup>228</sup> . The opening of the branch will intensify the implementation of programs for joint training of Chinese applicants in Russian/English using information and communication technologies, launching academic exchanges, holding joint educational forums, open lectures, development of business initiatives within the framework of joint Belarusian-Chinese economic and industrial relations.

Thirdly, BSU has intensified cooperation with other Chinese universities - **East China Pedagogical University (ECPU), Chongqing Institute of International Business and Economics** and **Hainan Institute of Software Technology**. In particular, the interaction with VKPU is developing thanks to the cooperation agreement signed in 2011 and is enshrined in the

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<sup>227</sup> Agreement on joint training of students signed by BSU and Chinese Institute of Innovative Education [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/soglashenie-o-sovmestnoj-podgotovke-studentov-podpisali-bgu-i-kitajskij-institut-innovatsionnogo-684104-2024/>

<sup>228</sup> Belgosuniversity plans to open branches in China [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/belgosuniversitet-planiruet-otkryt-filialy-v-kitae-683983-2024/>

student exchange program. "One of the main results of the fruitful joint work of the two universities was the opening of the Center for the Study of Belarus on the basis of VKPU. The main Belarusian university has equipped the institution with necessary literature, state symbols of Belarus and cultural and historical items"<sup>229</sup> . The December negotiations with these universities resulted in a package of documents regulating the interaction between the parties in the field of education, science and joint realization of projects. For example, with Hainan Institute of Software Technologies it is planned to exchange students, master students, invite teachers and researchers for joint work on research and educational projects. In addition, the signed document regulates the processes of exchange of information, educational materials, joint scientific and educational events and preparation of publications.

All these facts show that in general BSU in 2024 strengthened its presence in the global academic space, contributed to the "development of international communications and the formation of a sustainable positive image of the university abroad"<sup>230</sup> , including the People's Republic of China. Today the university has about five and a half thousand students from 40 countries, and the volume of exports of educational services has almost doubled.

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<sup>229</sup> BSU and East China Pedagogical University intensify cooperation [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/bgu-i-vostochno-kitajskij-pedagogicheskij-universitet-aktivizirujut-sotrudnichestvo-684461-2024>

<sup>230</sup> The results of international activities are presented in BSU [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://bsu.by/news/itogi-mezhdunarodnoy-deyatelnosti-predstavleny-v-bgu-d/>

## Mongolia: a year of breakthrough solutions

The past year 2024 was a breakthrough in the development of interstate relations between Belarus and Mongolia, when in June, for the first time in history, the Belarusian leader paid a state visit to this East Asian country. Recall that since the establishment of Belarusian-Mongolian diplomatic relations in January 1992, Minsk and Ulan Bator have been actively developing trade and economic cooperation, building partnerships between Belarusian and Mongolian regions, strengthening inter-parliamentary contacts, and continuing to implement joint projects in the field of education. Nevertheless, in January 2024, at the **7th meeting of the joint Belarusian-Mongolian intergovernmental commission (IGC)** on trade and economic cooperation in Minsk, its participants noted that the mutual trade turnover did not reflect the potential of Belarus and Mongolia. And for this reason, the task was set - everything should be done to make the relationship between the two countries strategic.

In March 2024, an official visit of a Belarusian delegation headed by the head of the Foreign Ministry to Mongolia took place, during which an agreement was reached to bring the relations between Minsk and Ulaanbaatar to a higher level in order to intensify the whole range of contacts between the parties at the level of industries, economic entities and business circles. In fact, it was said that "a new stage is beginning in relations between Belarus and Mongolia"<sup>231</sup>. In this regard, the two countries planned to develop a roadmap for cooperation until 2026, where among the projects will be prescribed the supply of Belarusian

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<sup>231</sup> Aleinik: a new stage begins in the relations between Belarus and Mongolia [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/politics/view/aleinik-v-otnoshenijah-belarusi-i-mongolii-nachinaetsja-novyj-etap-621446-2024/>



agricultural machinery and equipment, municipal and road repair machines, emergency response equipment, elevator equipment, quarry equipment, a full cycle of creation of high-class and highly efficient agricultural production complexes specially adapted to the needs and requirements of Mongolian customers. The fact is that "Mongolia is actively developing, so there is a growing interest of Mongolian consumers in goods, including high-efficiency machinery and foodstuffs"<sup>232</sup>. In this context, the parties have already discussed the possibility of opening specialized trading platforms both in Minsk and Ulaanbaatar.

But the most urgent issue for this East Asian country is the development of the agro-industrial sector, as they intend to modernize a lot of things in agriculture, especially in the livestock industry, so that it goes from extensive nomadic to intensive state, as well as to create joint production of agricultural machinery for the subsequent equipping of Mongolian farms. Within the framework of this visit it was noted that the sectoral ministries of the parties "have prepared a road map for the development of cooperation in agriculture, there are prescribed projects and steps for their implementation. These include the construction of new and modernization of existing full-cycle dairy farms, supplies of cattle of Belarusian selection, veterinary drugs, seeds, specialized equipment, training and professional development of Mongolian specialists, and, of course, supplies of agricultural machinery"<sup>233</sup>.

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<sup>232</sup> Belarus and Mongolia will develop a road map of cooperation until 2026 [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/politics/view/belarus-i-mongolija-razrabotajut-dorozhnyju-kartu-sotrudnichestva-do-2026-goda-621451-2024>

<sup>233</sup> What are Belarus and Mongolia ready to offer each other? Details of Aleinik's talks in the government [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/politics/view/chto-belarus-i-mongolija-gotovyy-predlozhit-drug-drugu-podrobnosti-peregovorov-alejnika-v-pravitelstve-621640-2024/>

There are already several production facilities in Mongolia that cooperate with Belarus. For example, the APU plant for the production of dairy, carbonated and alcoholic beverages, which uses milk powder from Belarus to produce dairy products and Belarusian malt for beer production. In March 2024, Minsk Tractor Plant signed a roadmap with the Ministry of Agriculture and Light Industry of Mongolia to organize supplies of tractors with a capacity of 80-350 horsepower and ploughs, which reflects the plan of supplies for 2024-2025 with the prospect of cooperation until 2027. In the same March, the Belarusian side held talks with the Mongolian state-owned Agricultural Corporation to supply breeding cattle, milking equipment, and construction of dairy and cattle production facilities for the needs of Mongolian farmers.

In addition, as part of this topic, following the meetings in March 2024 in Ulan Bator, the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange (BUTB) planned to diversify its commodity structure and increase the volume of exchange deliveries of Belarusian agro-industrial products to the Mongolian market. Especially since "in September 2023, the first Mongolian stockbroker - United Meres Machinery, which has been working in the Belarusian market for quite a long time..."<sup>234</sup> . And the first transaction involving a resident from Mongolia was concluded in January 2024. But so far only products of Belarusian sugar mills have been supplied to the Mongolian market. Almost one and a half thousand tons of this product were sold for a total of more than \$770 thousand. The work in this direction will be continued in the near

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<sup>234</sup> Zalessky, B. Ideology of pragmatism. Features of partnership in the Belarusian economy: internal and external segments / Boris Zalessky. - LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2024. - C. 146.

future. Besides, "Mongolia is interested in importing Belarusian milk powder and butter. An agreement on cooperation on these commodity items has already been reached with four potential buyers - large food industry enterprises"<sup>235</sup> .

A separate topic is the interaction between Belarus and Mongolia in the sphere of emergency response. It is known that "thanks to the work of Belarusian equipment, more than 13 thousand people have already been rescued and property damage worth over\$ 20 million has been prevented"<sup>236</sup> . The parties discussed several areas of prospective cooperation in this area. First, Mongolian partners are interested in purchasing special fire-fighting equipment of Pozhsnab LLC on the basis of MAZ OJSC chassis, as well as other equipment and special clothing. The parties were preparing to sign a new contract. We are talking about the delivery of more than 100 units of Belarusian fire-fighting equipment. Second, there is great interest in continuing training programs for Mongolian specialists on the basis of specialized institutions of Belarus.

Among other promising areas of Belarusian-Mongolian interaction in Ulaanbaatar were discussed: cooperation in the mining industry; modernization of elevator infrastructure in residential buildings. In addition, "emphasis was placed on the supply of municipal and passenger vehicles for the needs of Ulaanbaatar. Also, the Mongolian side was offered the

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<sup>235</sup> BUTB plans to increase exports of agricultural products to Mongolia [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/butb-planiruet-uvlechit-eksport-belorusskoj-selhozproduksii-v-mongoliju-622030-2024/>

<sup>236</sup> How Belarusian machinery helps to save people in Mongolia and where our milk powder is used. New details about Aleinik's visit [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/politics/view/kak-belorusskaja-tehnika-pomogaet-spasat-ljudej-v-mongolii-i-gde-ispolzujut-nashe-suhoe-moloko-novye-621781-2024/>

possibilities of the Belarusian side to supply rolling stock for the subway"<sup>237</sup>. In the humanitarian field, Minsk and Ulaanbaatar outlined projects "in the light of those large-scale state programs that are currently being implemented in Mongolia at . Including the Billion Tree Program, which requires special training of forestry workers"<sup>238</sup>. In short, the parties agreed to expand the legal framework of the relations between Belarus and Mongolia and accelerate the work towards the signing of about ten bilateral documents - in agriculture, education, inter-university cooperation, emergency response, between law enforcement agencies and scientific institutions of the two countries.

In June 2024, the Presidents of the two countries signed the **Treaty on Friendly Relations and Cooperation between the Republic of Belarus and Mongolia** in Ulaanbaatar as part of the state visit of the Belarusian delegation. At the same time, the parties considered in detail the whole range of bilateral relations and signed 14 different documents on the development of interaction in various areas, one of which was the **roadmap of cooperation between Belarus and Mongolia until 2026**. In addition, the following documents were adopted: a memorandum of cooperation between the State Secretariat of the Security Council of Belarus and the Apparatus of the National Security Council of Mongolia; intergovernmental agreements on mutual recognition and exchange of driving licenses, on mutual recognition of education documents. **Two more roadmaps of**

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<sup>237</sup> Belarus plans to supply municipal and passenger vehicles to Mongolia [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-planiruet-postavljat-v-mongoliju-kommunalnuju-i-passazhirskuju-tehniku-621673-2024/>

<sup>238</sup> Transcript of the approach to the press of Minister S. Aleinik within the framework of the official visit to Mongolia (March 15, 2024, Ulan Bator) [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: [https://mfa.gov.by/press/news\\_mfa/b1f3b3594a37a807.html](https://mfa.gov.by/press/news_mfa/b1f3b3594a37a807.html)

**cooperation** were also signed: the first one - **in the field of education** at the level of specialized ministries for 2024-2026; the second one - **in the field of agro-industrial complex** for a similar three-year period. Finally, "an agreement on scientific and technical cooperation was concluded between the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the Ministry of Education and Science of Mongolia, and an agreement on scientific and technical cooperation was signed with the Mongolian Academy of Sciences. A number of other memorandums were signed. They concern cooperation in the spheres of justice, tourism, environmental protection, prevention and elimination of emergency situations, protection of industrial property"<sup>239</sup>.

Speaking about the **road map of cooperation between the two countries**, we note that "it contains more than 50 measures and projects in 16 sectors and areas of activity"<sup>240</sup>. To implement it, in Ulan Bator, the Belarusian Ministry of Industry and the Mongolian Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry adopted an action plan for the realization of the economic part of the map, which defined the directions of trade and economic interaction - the main area of mutual interest of the two countries. "The purpose of the document is to systematize Belarusian-Mongolian agreements on promising economic projects in one document and to give impetus to their implementation in 2024 and

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<sup>239</sup> Presidents of Belarus and Mongolia signed a treaty on friendship and cooperation between the two countries [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/president/view/prezidenty-belarusi-i-mongolii-podpisali-dogovor-o-druzhbe-i-sotrudnichestve-dvuh-stran-638585-2024/>

<sup>240</sup> The head of the Belarusian Foreign Ministry estimates the effect of Lukashenko's visit to Mongolia in tens of millions of dollars [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/politics/view/glava-mid-belarusi-otsenivaet-effekt-ot-vizita-lukashenko-v-mongoliju-v-desjatki-millionov-dollarov-639780-2024/>

beyond"<sup>241</sup>. In particular, it envisages cooperation on the supply of Belarusian machinery in various areas, as well as other Belarusian and Mongolian products - foodstuffs, light industry goods, pharmaceuticals, and medical equipment. There are also plans to export Belarusian machinery for the Mongolian mining industry, agricultural machinery and equipment, and machinery for emergency response. The sides also discussed the establishment of joint assembly plants in Mongolia, including tractors, cars, elevators, and dump trucks.

Speaking about the **roadmap for cooperation in the agro-industrial complex**, we have already pointed out above that the most urgent task for this East Asian country now is the development of the agro-industrial sector. "First of all, Mongolia plans to modernize the livestock industry. And this requires equipment, new farms and complexes"<sup>242</sup>. For this purpose, the parties plan to create a joint production of agricultural machinery for the subsequent equipping of Mongolian farms. Recall that back in January 2024 at the 7th meeting of the IGC it was noted that Belarus will open a specialized center in Mongolia. "It will be an assembly of agricultural machinery, a multi-brand center in Mongolia, where all machinery and all technology will be presented, from sowing to harvesting crops. It's a wide range of cooperation. This includes seed production, livestock breeding,

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<sup>241</sup> Rogozhnik and Bolorchuluun signed an action plan for the implementation of the economic part of the roadmap [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/rogozhnik-i-bolorchuluun-podpisali-plan-meroprijatij-po-realizatsii-ekonomicheskoy-chasti-dorozhnoj-638692-2024/>

<sup>242</sup> Gorelik, D. Distant but close? Why Lukashenko is flying to Mongolia and what prospects are opening between the countries / D. Gorelik // [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/interview/view/dalekaja-no-blizkaja-zachem-lukashenko-letit-v-mongoliju-i-kakie-perspektivy-otkryvajutsja-mezhdu-stranami-9239/>

light industry, quarry equipment"<sup>243</sup>. The second direction is meat and dairy. A cattle-breeding farm based on Belarusian technologies is planned to be built in Mongolia. It is designed for 600 cattle of loose housing. The third area is veterinary drugs. There is potential for cooperation in this area through Belvitunifarm, which produces a wide range of vaccines and drugs.

Speaking about the **roadmap for cooperation in education**, it should be noted that direct interaction between higher education institutions of Belarus and Mongolia is currently realized within the framework of 12 inter-university agreements. In June, an agreement between the governments of the two countries on mutual recognition of educational documents was adopted. In addition, "Hrodna State University named after Yanka Kupala and the Mongolian University of Science and Technology signed an agreement on cooperation. Both universities intend to create a working group and develop a roadmap"<sup>244</sup>.

In general, the Vitebsk State Medical University, Belarusian State University, Belarusian National Technical University, Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radioelectronics (BSUIR) and Mozyr State Pedagogical University named after I.P. Shamyakin are already implementing promising research projects with Mongolian educational institutions. In particular, BSUIR together with the Mongolian University of Science and

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<sup>243</sup> Belarus plans to open a multi-brand center in Mongolia and help in building a farm [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/belarus-planiruet-otkryt-v-mongolii-multibrendovyj-tsentr-i-pomoch-v-stroitelstve-fermy-638351-2024/>

<sup>244</sup> Educational departments of Belarus and Mongolia intensify personnel training for pedagogy and science [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/obrazovatelnye-vedomstva-belarusi-i-mongolii-aktivizirujut-podgotovku-kadrov-dlja-pedagogiki-i-nauki-638522-2024/>

Technology submitted a new scientific work to the contest of the Belarusian Republican Fund for Fundamental Research and the Mongolian Fund of Science and Technology. And I.P. Shamyakin Moscow State Pedagogical University together with the Mongolian Academy of Sciences are developing a project in the field of agronomy. Other universities - the Belarusian State Agrarian Technical University (BSATU), the Pushkin Brest State University, and the Masharov Vitebsk State University - are also interested in cooperating with Mongolian partners in such areas as information and computer technologies, physics and radiophysics, chemistry and chemical technologies, ecology, biotechnology, medicine, pharmacy, agro-industrial and food technologies, and social sciences and humanities. "In March of this [2024] year a group of managers and specialists of one of the farms in Mongolia was trained at BGATU on advanced training program "Innovative technologies in animal husbandry and fodder production""<sup>245</sup>. We would like to add that the signed roadmap includes a clause on the development of academic mobility of students and teachers. Thus, Belarusian educational institutions are ready to organize training at the preparatory department for foreign students in English or Russian. A distance learning format with a program course of eight to ten months is possible. At the same time, professional staff will be trained for specific enterprises.

During the state visit of the Belarusian delegation to Ulaanbaatar in June 2024, Belarus and Mongolia agreed to intensify cooperation in the **environmental sphere** in such areas

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<sup>245</sup> Belarus and Mongolia signed an agreement on mutual recognition of documents on education [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-mongolija-podpisali-soglashenie-o-vzaimnom-priznanii-dokumentov-ob-obrazovanii-638719-2024/>



as green economy, maximizing the use of waste through its involvement in economic turnover, preservation of landscape and biological diversity, and mineral exploration and mining. Earlier, in the interests of the Mongolian side under the contract with the Belarusian Republican Foundation for Fundamental Research, a research work was carried out on the topic "Humic preparations on the basis of peat, coal for green arrangement of desert territories, environmental protection". "The aim of the work was theoretical and experimental substantiation of the composition of humic preparations as natural compounds for green arrangement of desert territories of Mongolia"<sup>246</sup>. In June, the Belarusian side handed over to the Mongolian partners a report containing the theoretical results of the work, including a preliminary assortment of woody plants resistant to moisture deficit, soil salinity and other unfavorable soil and climatic conditions close to the conditions of Mongolia. And proposed to continue work in this direction to test the developed assortment of salt- and drought-tolerant plants directly in specific natural and climatic conditions of the regions of this East Asian country.

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

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<sup>246</sup> Belarus and Mongolia are interested to cooperate in the environmental sphere [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-mongolija-zainteresovany-sotrudniczat-v-prirodoohrannojsfere-638714-2024/>

archaeology"<sup>247</sup> . So scientific technical ties between the two countries will get an additional impetus for cooperation.

Returning to the state visit of the Belarusian delegation to Ulaanbaatar in June 2024, we note that a **joint Mongolian-Belarusian business forum** was held on its margins to discuss the prospects for cooperation between the business communities of the two countries. Forty Belarusian enterprises were represented at the forum, where 13 commercial documents were "signed. The total amount is \$ 20 million. <...> For comparison: the entire trade turnover between Belarus and Mongolia at the end of 2023 amounted to about \$ 30 million"<sup>248</sup> . This package of commercial contracts and agreements included proposals, including those of Belarusian industrial enterprises. In particular, "a memorandum of intentions was signed between BELAZ OJSC, its representative in the region - United Meres Machinery LLC and Ovoot Tolgoi Resources, and a memorandum of cooperation between Mogilevliftmash OJSC and the Mongolian elevator organization Best Fashion Elevators LLS"<sup>249</sup> . Also a memorandum of cooperation was signed by JSC "UKH "BobruiskAgromash" and Mongolian KOGS "Agricultural Corporation", as the main interest for the market of this East Asian country are machines for fodder preparation. And "since 2021 more than 250 units of forage

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<sup>247</sup> The contest of Belarusian-Mongolian scientific and technical projects for 2024-2025 has been announced [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/objjavlen-konkurs-belorussko-mongolskih-nauchno-tehnicheskikh-proektov-na-2024-2025-gody-623638-2024/>

<sup>248</sup> Mongolian-Belarusian business forum has already brought about \$ 20 mln to the piggy bank of bilateral relations [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/mongolo-belorusskij-biznes-forum-uzhe-prines-okolo-20-mln-v-kopilku-dvustoronnih-otnoshenij-638654-2024/>

<sup>249</sup> Export potential of the enterprises of the Ministry of Industry presented at the Belarusian-Mongolian business forum [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/eksportnyj-potentsial-predpriyatij-minproma-prezentovan-na-belorussko-mongolskom-biznes-forume-638695-2024/>

harvesting agricultural machinery of "Bobruiskagromash" have been shipped to Mongolia"<sup>250</sup> . In the same package there was an agreement to sign a contract for approximately 14.5 million euros for the supply of fire and rescue equipment. The fact is that the Mongolian partners received "about €12 million worth of Belarusian equipment in 2020. And it is successfully used here, and in difficult conditions"<sup>251</sup> .

It should be said that after the visit of the Belarusian delegation to the Mongolian capital, Belarus and Mongolia promptly started to implement the agreements in a wide range of areas. Already in September 2024, the parties "agreed to supply Belarusian machinery and equipment for industry, agriculture, machinery for emergency response"<sup>252</sup> , and also discussed the purchase of special machinery for fire and disaster response in Belarus. In the same September, the exposition of Belarusian manufacturers **Made in Belarus** was presented at the **Ulaanbaatar Partnership 2024** international multi-sectoral exhibition held in Ulaanbaatar.

This exhibition forum covered a wide range of thematic sections - from the food sector to healthcare, construction and heavy industry. And Belarus is among the main traditional participants of this exhibition. This time MAZ OJSC presented a

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<sup>250</sup> "Bobruiskagromash" is working out deliveries to Zimbabwe and Mongolia [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/bobrujskagromash-prorabatyvaet-postavki-v-zimbabwe-i-mongoliju-640079-2024/>

<sup>251</sup> Rogozhnik about Belarusian equipment in Mongolia: our advantage in reliability [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/rogozhnik-o-belorusskoj-tehnike-v-mongolii-nashe-preimushchestvo-v-nadezhnosti-638625-2024/>

<sup>252</sup> Development Bank: ready to offer comfortable conditions for financing supplies from Belarus to Mongolia [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/bank-razvitija-gotovyye-predlagat-komfortnye-uslovia-finansirovaniya-postavok-iz-belarusi-v-mongoliju-662879-2024/>

production line of cargo, passenger, special and trailer vehicles. "As part of the Made in Belarus exposition, one of the world market leaders in the production of agricultural machinery - OJSC "Gomselmash", presenting developments and machinery, including combine harvesters GS12A1, GS400 and G5, self-propelled mowers CS100, CS200"<sup>253</sup>. BKM Holding showed a scale model of trolleybus model 32100D of Olgerd series with increased autonomous travel up to twenty kilometers. The sphere of design and production of professional machines, equipment for catering and trade facilities, food industry was presented by the specialized enterprise - JSC "Torgmash". Among the exhibits of Beltopgaz, peat products for non-fuel purposes were demonstrated: peat of various fractions, peat nutrient soils and covering material for growing champignons on the basis of peat. During the exhibition, Belarusian participants held effective business meetings and negotiations with representatives of major trading companies of Mongolia, within the framework of which new projects of trade and economic interaction were outlined. .

All these facts show that "2024 has become a turning point in the development of Belarusian-Mongolian ties"<sup>254</sup>. Having signed an agreement on friendly relations and cooperation in June last year, Belarus and Mongolia are reaching a higher and qualitatively new level of bilateral relations, which opens up

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<sup>253</sup> Made in Belarus exposition is presented at the multidisciplinary exhibition in Mongolia [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/ekspozitsija-made-in-belarus-predstavlena-na-mnogootraslevoj-vystavke-v-mongolii-664105-2024/>

<sup>254</sup> Grishkevich. A. Mongolian cashmere and Belarusian milk. The Ambassador of Mongolia told about the exchange of goods and ties with Belarus / A. Grishkevich // [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/intervju-mongolskij-kashemir-i-belorusskoe-moloko-posol-mongolii-rasskazal-pro-obmen-tovarami-i-688751-2025/>

promising opportunities to create more favorable conditions for the development of trade, economic and cooperation projects.

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## Pakistan: Towards Regionalization economic integration

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

The parties intend to develop **production cooperation** as one of the priority areas. In particular, the Belarusian side plans to organize two assembly plants for tractors on Pakistani soil. "It will be a model range up to 60 hp and over 100 hp, which are in high demand in the Pakistani market,"<sup>255</sup>. Note that in 2025, Minsk Tractor Plant (MTZ) will supply at least 2.7 thousand machines up to 60 horsepower. And "the growth rate of exports of BELARUS tractors for the first nine months of 2024 amounted to 107.9% compared to the same period last year [2023]"<sup>256</sup>. In addition, in November, MTZ signed a memorandum of cooperation with Pakistani companies Green Corporate Initiative Limited and

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<sup>255</sup> Not only tractors. What assembly plants of Belarus may appear in Pakistan? [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/ne-tolko-traktory-kakie-sborochnye-proizvodstva-belarusi-mogut-pojavitsja-v-pakistane-678297-2024/>

<sup>256</sup> MTZ will supply to Pakistan at least 2.7 thousand tractors BELARUS in 2025 [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/mtz-postavit-v-pakistan-ne-menee-27-tys-traktorov-belarus-v-2025-godu-679583-2024/>

Heavy Industries Taxila, which defines specific terms and an algorithm of actions to implement the project of assembly production of more powerful Belarusian machines. After all, "tractors over 100 hp have not been supplied to Pakistan on a permanent basis before. And the organization of assembly production has long-term mutually beneficial prospects"<sup>257</sup>.

Pakistani partners were also offered to organize a joint venture for the production of trailed and mounted agricultural machinery, which together will allow to perform the whole range of technological works. And there are serious plans to supply trucks, quarry and road-building machinery, municipal machines. An agreement was signed in Islamabad to start assembly production of Belarusian engines for tractor assembly plants and supply to the secondary market of Pakistan. Pakistani partners are also very interested in passenger vehicles, especially in Belarusian electric buses. This country plans to eventually replace passenger transport with internal combustion engines with environmentally friendly vehicles. So, in this part, it is possible to offer not only electric passenger vehicles, but also the Belarusian network of charging infrastructure organized according to the "smart city" principle.

In terms of **transport cooperation**, Belarus and Pakistan are working on the organization of the so-called "seamless" cargo logistics. It is known that cargo deliveries from our republic to this South Asian country are quite complicated. And "now the parties are working so that the enterprises could reduce their costs of

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<sup>257</sup> The assembly production of BELARUS tractors is planned to be organized in Pakistan [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/sborochnoe-proizvodstvo-traktorov-belarus-planiruetsja-organizovat-v-pakistane-678120-2024/>

supplying goods to Pakistan and from Pakistan to Belarus"<sup>258</sup> . In November last year in Islamabad, an intergovernmental agreement on international road communication was signed, which defines the procedure for transportation. It is planned that the two countries will actually halve the period of cargo delivery. The calculation is this. "Yes, road transportation is more expensive than sea transportation, but at the same time it moves at a much higher speed, i.e. actually half as fast as sea transportation. In the future, Belarus and Pakistan would also like to establish a railroad connection: in this case logistics will become more profitable"<sup>259</sup> .

Returning to the Belarusian-Pakistani documents signed in November 2024, there are two more important agreements: on scientific and technical cooperation - between the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) of Belarus and the Pakistan Academy of Sciences; on cooperation in science and technology - between the NAS and the Pakistan Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. And already in January 2025, a competition of joint Belarusian-Pakistani scientific and technological projects for 2025-2027 was announced, which "will be held in the following areas: new materials, nano- and biotechnologies, renewable energy sources, industrial chemistry, mining, smart agriculture and precision farming, information and communication technologies, medicine and pharmaceuticals, food security, water management, environmental protection"<sup>260</sup> . This will be a

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<sup>258</sup> Belarus and Pakistan are working on the creation of "seamless" freight logistics [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-pakistan-rabotajut-nad-sozdaniem-besshovnoj-gruzovoj-logistiki-677983-2024/>

<sup>259</sup> Belarus and Pakistan will halve the time of cargo delivery [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-pakistan-vdvoe-sokratjat-srok-dostavki-gruzov-678276-2024/>

<sup>260</sup> The contest of Belarusian-Pakistani scientific and technical projects for 2025-2027 has been announced [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL:



concrete step towards deepening the science and technology ties between Belarus and Pakistan.

Another topic related to the visit of the Belarusian delegation to Islamabad in November 2024 was the **business forum between Belarus and Pakistan**, which was attended by more than 40 representatives of domestic enterprises representing such areas of cooperation as machine building, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, veterinary drugs, and light industry. An interesting fact was noted at this forum. In 2023, Belarusian exports to Pakistan increased two and a half times. In the first half of 2024 - plus 13 percent or more than \$17 million. "The total trade turnover between the countries in 2023 amounted to almost \$ 50 million"<sup>261</sup>. And here is the result of this forum: eight documents totaling more than 17 million dollars were signed.

Among those signed was a distribution agreement on cooperation for five years between Bellakt Open Joint Stock Company and Nutrifood & Pharmaceuticals. Beltsvetmet OJSC and the logistics company Raas International Trading signed a contract for the supply of white tinplate for 2025. In the industrial sector, the following documents were signed: a memorandum of intent between Belshina and Shahzad Trade Links to sell Belshina products in the Pakistani market; a cooperation agreement between Minsk Motor Plant and the same Pakistani company to supply Belarusian products in 2025. In the field of medicine, Belmedpreparaty RUE signed a memorandum of cooperation with

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<https://belta.by/society/view/objjavlen-konkurs-belorussko-pakistanskikh-nauchno-tehnicheskikh-proektov-na-2025-2027-gody-689099-2025/>

<sup>261</sup> Belarusian enterprises at the business forum in Pakistan reached agreements for \$ 17 mln [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belorusskie-predpriyatija-na-biznes-forume-v-pakistane-dostigli-dogovorennostej-na-17-mln-677972-2024/>

Bio Medical System in the field of registration and supply of medicines. Business contacts have also been established in the field of veterinary drugs supply - Belvitunifarm OJSC and Mustafa Brothers signed a relevant contract"<sup>262</sup> .

Within the framework of this forum, Pakistani business associations saw a significant potential for the development of electronic exchange trade with Belarus in order to use the full range of opportunities of the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange (BUTE) to conclude import-export deals, establish new business contacts and obtain up-to-date price and marketing information. At the same time, "the products of the timber industry of Belarus are of the greatest interest to Pakistani business circles. In this regard, it is planned to focus on attracting major Pakistani timber importers to BUTB in order to organize their regular participation in the exchange trading in sawn timber"<sup>263</sup> . This will be done with the support of the All Pakistan Timber Sellers Association, which has expressed its willingness to help inform the industry about the opportunities and benefits of the exchange mechanism. Similar arrangements have been made with the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Pakistan Commodity Exchange. For statistical purposes, only two companies from Pakistan are currently accredited at the Belarusian Exchange. So the most important task at this stage is to increase the number of Pakistani traders. Already at this forum, several

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<sup>262</sup> Industry and medicine. What the companies of Belarus and Pakistan agreed on at the forum in Islamabad [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/promyshlennost-i-meditsina-o-chem-dogovorilis-kompanii-belarusi-i-pakistana-na-forume-v-islamabade-678090-2024/>

<sup>263</sup> Pakistani business is ready to join the exchange trade with Belarus [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/pakistanskij-biznes-gotov-vkljuchatsja-v-birzhevuju-torgovlju-s-belarusju-678024-2024/>

Pakistani companies trading in ferrous metal products have announced their intention to sell them through the BUTB.

In February 2025, Minsk hosted the **8th meeting of the Joint Belarus-Pakistan Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation**, where the prospects for bilateral **cooperation in** a wide range of areas were discussed. During this meeting, the parties noted that Belarus and Pakistan "have extensive interaction in the areas of agriculture, technology, industrial sector and growth in various sectors for the overall mutual benefit of both countries"<sup>264</sup>. Recall that in November 2024, during the visit of the Belarusian leader to Pakistan, the task was set to transfer all protocol agreements into the format of practical implementation with the signing of relevant agreements and contracts aimed at increasing bilateral trade turnover. For reference, it should be noted that the trade turnover between Belarus and Pakistan in 2024 "grew by 4.6% to \$50.3 million, with 70% of it being <...> products of industrial enterprises"<sup>265</sup>.

At the 8th meeting of the commission, the Belarusian side expressed its interest in increasing supplies of industrial products, working out options for "creating service centers and joint assembly plants"<sup>266</sup>, including electric vehicles, as well as its readiness to share knowledge and experience in science and technology, education, and professional training with Pakistani

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<sup>264</sup> What directions of economic cooperation with Belarus Pakistan plans to develop [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/kakie-napravlenija-ekonomicheskogo-sotrudnichestva-s-belarusiju-planiruet-razvivat-pakistan-694839-2025/>

<sup>265</sup> Trade turnover between Belarus and Pakistan increased by 4.6% last year [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/tovarooborot-belarusi-i-pakistana-za-proshlyj-god-vyros-na-46-694826-2025/>

<sup>266</sup> Joint productions and agriculture. Kushnarenko on the prospects of cooperation with Pakistan [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/sovместnye-proizvodstva-i-selskoe-hozjajstvo-kushnarenko-o-perspektivah-sotrudnichestva-s-pakistanom-694824-2025/>

partners. And already on the margins of the commission meeting it was stated that "Pakistan is interested in the supply of BELARUS tractors with a capacity of more than 100 hp" [4].<sup>267</sup> [4]. At MTZ, a delegation from this South Asian country discussed plans to organize assembly production of Belarusian machines on Pakistani soil and to increase the supply of tractors to the Pakistani market. In February of this year, MMZ also signed a contract with the Pakistani company Shahzad Trade Link for the supply of spare parts and discussed promotion, sales, and service of the company's products in Pakistan, as "expanding cooperation with Pakistani companies in industry provides excellent potential for further sustainable growth of both countries."<sup>268</sup> .

And in May 2025, Belarusian enterprises will participate in a collective exposition at the **International Trade and Industrial Fair (ITIF)** in the Pakistani city of Karachi, which "will help in finding new partners and developing initiatives with existing counterparties"<sup>269</sup> . ITIF is considered the leading international specialized exhibition in the South Asian region. Its major sections include agriculture, automotive, machine tools, energy, metallurgy, construction, mining, petrochemicals. More than 350 companies from China, Iran, United Arab Emirates, Turkey,

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<sup>267</sup> Pakistan is interested in the supply of BELARUS tractors with a capacity of more than 100 hp. [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/pakistan-zainteresovan-v-postavkah-traktorov-belarus-moschnostju-bolee-100-ls-695124-2025/>

<sup>268</sup> Promotion, sales, service. What directions Minsk Engine Plant will develop in Pakistan [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/prodvizhenie-prodazhi-servis-kakie-napravleniya-budet-razvivat-minskij-motornyj-zavod-v-pakistane-696802-2025/>

<sup>269</sup> "This is the leading industrial exhibition in South Asia". Belarusian enterprises present their products in Karachi [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/eto-veduschaja-promyshlennaja-vystavka-v-juzhnoj-azii-belorusskie-predprijatija-prezentujut-697211-2025/>

Belgium, Germany take part in it annually, and the number of visitors exceeds 40 thousand.

At the 8th meeting of the commission it was also noted that among the priorities of cooperation between the two countries is cooperation in the field of agriculture, which includes not only the supply of food products, but also products for animal husbandry, seed production, additives and veterinary drugs. And the Pakistani side is interested in expanding bilateral partnerships in this area. We would add that "in 2024, the trade turnover of food and agricultural commodities between the states has already increased by 36.5% compared to the level of 2023"<sup>270</sup> . Interestingly, the largest share of Belarusian exports to this South Asian country was occupied by supplies of baby food, namely cereal porridge. Exports of Belarusian milk and dairy products to Pakistan also grew threefold in 2024. These include deliveries of skim milk powder and whey. Domestic producers intend to increase export supplies to this country and expand the range of goods of mutual trade. For this reason, active bilateral work on certification, production and supply of veterinary vaccines of domestic production is already underway. Opportunities for cooperation in livestock breeding and fishery were also discussed. Having considered the areas of cooperation in detail, the parties made a number of specific decisions.

A few days after the 8th meeting of the Joint Commission, the **5th meeting of the Belarus-Pakistan Commission for Cooperation in Science and Technology** was held, where the parties reviewed the current state and prospects of scientific and

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<sup>270</sup> Belarus in 2024 increased export of dairy products to Pakistan three times [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-v-2024-godu-narastila-eksport-molochki-v-pakistan-v-tri-raza-695200-2025/>

technical cooperation between the two countries. It should be noted that "by 2025, three joint scientific and technical projects in the field of organic farming, nanotechnologies in electronics, new materials were successfully implemented between leading institutes of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, the Belarusian State University and the Pakistan Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, the National University of Science and Technology of Pakistan"<sup>271</sup>. And the priority areas of joint activities for 2025-2026 have already been defined. Among them are artificial intelligence, medicine, biotechnology, energy, engineering and agriculture. In this regard, as mentioned above, a contest of joint Belarusian-Pakistani scientific and technical projects for 2025-2027 was announced in January 2025.

To summarize, it should be added that over the past nine years, the two sides have already held eight meetings of the joint Belarusian-Pakistani commission for trade and economic cooperation. In addition, there have already been eight working groups between the countries, which have been developing cooperation across a wide range of interaction. All this should contribute to the expansion of the trade and economic partnership and the implementation of a joint approach to regional economic integration.

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<sup>271</sup> Medicine and biotechnology. Belarus and Pakistan have defined the priorities of scientific and technical partnership [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/meditsina-i-biotehnologii-belarus-i-pakistan-opredelili-prioritety-nauchno-tehnicheskogo-partnerstva-695854-2025/>

## United Arab Emirates: open up new economic opportunities

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is Belarus' most important partner in the **Middle East**. The two countries seek to strengthen cooperation in various areas. This is evidenced, **first**, by the existing legal framework of the Belarusian-Emirati relations. As of the end of November 2024, the parties had already "signed 14 agreements and 26 memoranda of understanding in political, economic and cultural areas"<sup>272</sup>. **Second**, Belarus and the UAE are seeking to increase mutual trade. Among the already signed documents there are a number of economic agreements that are aimed at promoting trade turnover and opening markets. In this regard, we note that "the volume of trade turnover in non-oil goods between the two countries in 2023 increased five times compared to 2022"<sup>273</sup>. **Third**, the volume of Emirati investments in the real sector of the Belarusian economy has increased in recent years, which allowed the UAE to rank third in terms of foreign investments. **Fourth**, the two sides have established cooperation in the field of food security. After all, "Belarus exports agricultural and food products to the UAE, which contributes to achieving the goals of the national food security strategy, which the UAE has identified as one of its priorities until 2051"<sup>274</sup>. **Fifth**, enterprises

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<sup>272</sup> Grishkevich, A. Ambassador: the strategies of the UAE and Belarus are aimed at diversity enhanced by scientific and technological progress / A. Grishkevich // [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/posol-strategii-oae-i-belarusi-napravleny-na-raznoobrazie-usilivaemoe-nauchno-tehnicheskimi-progressom-678974-2024/>

<sup>273</sup> Grishkevich, A. Ambassador of the UAE: Belarus has economic potential and a lot of investment opportunities / A. Grishkevich // [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/posol-oae-belarus-obladaet-ekonomicheskimi-potentsialom-i-mnozhestvom-investitsionnyh-vozmozhnostej-679014-2024/>

<sup>274</sup> Grishkevich, A. Ambassador of the UAE: in recent years the volume of Emirati investments in the real sector of the Belarusian economy has increased / A. Grishkevich // [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL:

and businessmen of the two countries take part in economic forums and exhibitions held in the territory of both countries, which facilitate the establishment of contacts between businessmen and investors from the two countries, which strengthens trade turnover, increases its volume and positively affects the economy of both countries. In recent years, Belarusian exporters have been particularly active in two international exhibitions in the UAE - **Gulfood** and **IDEX**.

**Gulfood International Food and Beverage Exhibition** is the world's largest and most influential annual industry event. The exhibition brings together food manufacturers, importers, distributors and restaurateurs. The show is particularly popular with visitors from the Gulf region, as more than 95 percent of food here is imported. In February 2023, this exhibition forum gathered in Dubai for the **28th time**, where "more than 5 thousand companies from 125 countries"<sup>275</sup> and where the Belarusian exposition **Belarus - the Taste of Nature** was presented. The export potential of the Grodno region enterprises, which are part of the Grodnomyaslomolprom holding, was presented on the largest scale. Among the participants of the exposition were dairy producers OJSC "Molochny Mir", OJSC "Lidsky Dairy Canning Plant" and its branches - "Smorgon Dairy Products" and "Novogrudskiye Dairy", as well as Volkovysk OJSC "Bellakt", OJSC "Babushkina Krynka" - the managing company of the holding "Mogilev Dairy Company "Babushkina Krynka" and

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<https://belta.by/economics/view/posol-oae-v-poslednie-gody-objem-emiratskih-investitsij-v-realnyj-sektor-ekonomiki-belarusi-679016-2024/>

<sup>275</sup> Belarusian exposition is presented at the exhibition of food industry in Dubai [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belorusskaja-ekspozitsija-predstavlena-na-vystavke-pischevoj-promyshlennosti-v-dubae-551618-2023/>



OJSC "Rogachev Dairy Canning Plant". The meat industry was represented by Slonim meat processing plant and Volkovysk meat processing plant. Confectionery products were demonstrated to the guests of the exhibition by SOAO Kommunarka. The products were also brought to Dubai by FIRMA AVS, the managing company of Grodnoyasomolprom holding, Lidakhleboprodukt OJSC and Smargon Bread Products Plant. In addition, Santa Breme and Savushkin Product took part with a separate exhibition stand. Among the new products from Belarusian companies were dry milk mixes for ice cream and yogurt from Babushkina Krynka, beef steaks from Volkovysk meat processing plant, and protein candies from Kommunarka.

Within the framework of this exhibition, domestic enterprises agreed to supply their products to distributors, wholesale buyers and food manufacturers from various countries of the world. Rogachev Milk Canning Plant signed a contract of intentions with a UAE resident company for the supply of canned milk in the assortment for the approximate amount of 500 thousand dollars. The enterprise also held negotiations with companies from Singapore, Kenya, New Zealand, Libya and China. Possibilities of condensed milk supply have been discussed with Qatari chains. The company from Saudi Arabia expressed special interest in condensed milk with natural coffee. OJSC "Babushkina Krynka" - the managing company of the holding "Mogilev Dairy Company" "Babushkina Krynka" held negotiations on the supply of dairy products to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, India, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Israel following the results of the exhibition. The company also reached agreements with Indonesia on shipment of milk powder for almost one million dollars. In

addition, the business of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Syria, Turkey, as well as entrepreneurs of Iraq and Ghana were interested in baby food from Volkovysk Bellakt OJSC. Preliminary agreements on milk powder supplies to China worth about two million dollars were reached. Kommunarka Confectionary Factory agreed to supply products to Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, UAE, Palestine, Pakistan and India. The novelty of the Belarusian factory - protein candies without sugar - aroused the interest of the visitors of the exhibition. Slonim meat processing plant held talks with companies from Malaysia, UAE, New Zealand, Uzbekistan, China, Azerbaijan and Egypt, while Volkovysk meat processing plant held talks with potential partners from China, Saudi Arabia, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Uzbekistan and Canada. "In total, Belarusian enterprises signed contracts worth more than \$4 million at the exhibition"<sup>276</sup>. We would like to add that Belarus presented the exposition of domestic producers Belarus - The Taste of Nature for the eighth consecutive year.

**The 29th International Exhibition of Food and Beverages Gulfood 2024** in Dubai last February gathered again more than five thousand participants from 127 countries. This time Belarusian companies presented a wide range of dairy products, including those made of milk powder, assorted cheeses and desserts for the guests of the exhibition. Savushkin Product presented at the exhibition a wide range of natural dairy products - both novelties and products that are already familiar to customers in the UAE. OJSC "Minsk Dairy Plant No. 1" presented a lactose-

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<sup>276</sup> Belarusian enterprises concluded contracts for more than \$4 million at the exhibition in Dubai [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/beloruskie-predpriyatija-na-vystavke-v-dubae-zakljuchili-dogovory-na-bolee-chem-4-mln-552857-2023/>

free line of products, vegetable-based drinks, and for the first time - dry milk shakes. JSC "Lida Dairy Canning Plant" and its branches exhibited a specialized product line of dried milk and other dried milk products, butter, frozen cottage cheese, cheese in assortment. Also, in addition to the classic product line, Molochny Mir OJSC presented new products: lactose-free cheese and whipping cream. At the stand of Volkovysk OJSC "Bellact" were demonstrated line of products for the nutrition of infants, pregnant women and nursing mothers. The assortment line of cheeses, butter, canned milk products with Belarusian condensed milk, beloved in many countries, was presented at the stand of Rogachev MCC OJSC. The branch of the enterprise - "Kalinkovichi Dairy Plant" - showed "fast-soluble skimmed milk powder and whole milk powder in new packages: 1 kg and 400 g pet cans, as well as in 25 g stick packs"<sup>277</sup>. Lidakhleboprodukt's stand presented wheat and rye flour, pasta made of hard and soft wheat varieties, and flour semi-finished products. Among the presented products are new products: vegetable fiber and wheat germ flakes. Slonim meat processing plant presented beef, sausage products, canned meat and meat-sauce products. During the Gulfood exhibition, representatives of Belarusian companies held meetings and negotiations with distributors and wholesale buyers from many countries of the world.

In February 2025 at the **30th anniversary International Exhibition of Food and Beverages Gulfood 2025** in Dubai was presented already "more than 1 million items of products and goods from 5.5 thousand exhibitors from 129 countries, more than

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<sup>277</sup> Belarusian exposition is presented at the exhibition of food industry in Dubai [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belorusskaja-ekspozitsija-predstavl>

130 thousand visitors from 195 countries"<sup>278</sup>. In the tenth time the exclusive partner and organizer of the participation of Belarusian enterprises in the international exhibition Gulfood presented an updated exposition **Belarus. The Taste of Nature**, made in the image of an openwork house, stylistically decorated with elements from the arts and crafts of Belarusians - vytynanka, which by decision of the Intergovernmental Committee in 2024 included in the list of intangible cultural heritage of UNESCO. 13 Belarusian enterprises presented their products.

Within the framework of the exhibition the cheese with white mold from the enterprise Minsk Dairy Plant No. 1 OJSC, which has just appeared on the market of Belarus, was presented to the public - managing company of the First Dairy holding. Among the exclusive novelties of the company are also cheeses with blue mold. First Dairy presented, among other things, dried dairy products from natural cow's milk, hard cheeses, butter, glazed cheeses, sterilized line of dairy products. Innovative dairy products - vitamin D3 enriched dairy candies, as well as dried dairy products and classic cheeses - were demonstrated by OJSC "Babushkina Krynka". The company also demonstrated new products, including: cheese with paprika, girolle with chanterelles and Norwegian cheese. Especially for the exhibition the company exhibited glazed cottage cheese curds with different flavors. Dairy products, liquid and dry baby food, dessert group, including cheese, cakes, chocolate sausage, popular dessert paste, were presented by the flagship of the industry - Volkovyssk OJSC

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<sup>278</sup> Unique raw materials, dessert paste, exclusive flour. What Belarus presented at the exhibition Gulfood [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/unikalnye-syry-desertnaja-pasta-ekskljuzivnaja-muka-chto-belarus-predstavila-na-vystavke-gulfood-696467-2025/>

Bellakt. In addition to the well-known products, new products were presented: dry baby food, milk candies, coffee and cocoa drinks, as well as dry specialized drinks for the nutrition of middle-aged and elderly people and young people. A wide product line of sausages, beef semi-finished products, canned products was shown by Slonim meat processing plant. At the stand were presented new finished products that meet the requirements of the system of voluntary certification "Halal". Lidakhleboprodukt OJSC presented flour, flour semi-finished products, mixed fodder and premixes, including a novelty - ptitim from hard wheat varieties; Smorgon Bread Products Plant presented oat flour, flour from whole micronized grain of wheat and rye, rapeseed oil, assortment line of instant flakes; OJSC "Milkavita" - a wide range of dry dairy products, ultra-pasteurized milk and cream, butter, cheeses, including aged cheeses; Lida Dairy Canning Plant - a product line of dry dairy products, sweet butter, cottage cheese, a number of cheese novelties from the branch - the company "Novogrudskie Dary". Lactose-free milk and a number of assortment products, including marketable cases of Kalinkovich dairy plant, were shown by Rogachev dairy canning plant, holder of the State Quality Mark. Slutsky Cheese Factory offered a wide range of dry dairy products, glazed cheese, sweet butter and chocolate butter, ultra-pasteurized milk, lactose-free line - milk, butter, yoghurts, hard and extra-hard cheeses. Molochny Mir paid special attention to a number of product offerings, including lactose-free sterilized milk, cheeses with original fillings, and milk powder in innovative packaging designed specifically for ease of use in the retail segment.

Another interesting fact about the participation of the Belarusian side in the 30th International Food Exhibition Gulfood: following the participation of the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange (BUTB) in this exhibition forum, agreements were reached to increase exports of domestic agricultural products to the United Arab Emirates and other countries of the Middle East. To this end, on the fields of Gulfood negotiations were held with more than 30 companies-distributors of agro-industrial products, many of which expressed willingness to use the electronic platform BUTB to purchase Belarusian milk powder, whey powder and frozen meat semi-finished products. Expanding the pool of Emirati importers accredited on BUTB will create prerequisites for increasing the volume of exchange exports to the UAE, which reached \$43 million in 2024. Last year, participants from the UAE were among the top five largest buyers of Belarusian goods at the exchange trading. At the same time, the share of agricultural products in the total volume of transactions concluded by Emirati companies amounted to 80 percent, while the remaining 20 percent was provided by the export of sawn timber. Speaking about goods of the agricultural group, "in 2024, mainly skimmed milk powder and amino acids were supplied to the UAE through the exchange. In 2025, whole milk powder was added to these items. Active work is underway to increase sales of Belarusian-made amino acids; since the beginning of the year the amount of exchange transactions for their sale in the UAE exceeded \$20.5 million"<sup>279</sup>. It only remains to add that as of

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<sup>279</sup> BUTB will help the growth of supplies of Belarusian agricultural products to the Middle East market [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-pomozhet-rostu-postavok-belorusskoj-selhozproduktii-na-rynok-blizhnego-vostoka-696695-2025/>

February 1, 2025, 33 residents from this Middle Eastern country have already been accredited at BUTB. In addition, during the Gilfood exhibition, BUTB agreed to establish a partnership with the Dubai Gold and Commodities Exchange to create additional opportunities to attract UAE business circles to the exchange commodity market of Belarus.

As for the **IDEX** exhibition forum, it is the largest international exhibition of armaments and military equipment. In February 2023, the Belarusian stand in Abu Dhabi displayed "modern and promising innovative developments of nine enterprises of the defense sector of the country's economy, as well as natural and mock-up samples of products of such Belarusian manufacturers as OJSC AGAT - Control Systems, OJSC KB Radar and OJSC 140 Repair Plant"<sup>280</sup>

Two years later - in February 2025 - at the **IDEX 2025 international exhibition of armaments and military equipment**, Belarus presented already "more than 150 diverse samples of armaments and military equipment that meet the most advanced global trends in the development of armaments"<sup>281</sup>. In particular, the Belarusian arms manufacturers showed wheeled and tracked robots, as well as the Berserk robotic firing complex, which allows effective fire against manpower or low-flying drones and helicopters. The complex is highly maneuverable, with high cross-country capability. This allows the "Berserk" to be used,

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<sup>280</sup> Belarusian innovative developments are presented at the international exhibition IDEX-2023 in the UAE [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/beloruskie-innovatsionnye-razrabotki-predstavleny-na-mezhdunarodnoj-vystavke-index-2023-v-oae-551861-2023/>

<sup>281</sup> More than 150 samples of weapons and equipment will be presented by Goskomvoenprom in the UAE at the IDEX exhibition [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/bolee-150-obraztsov-vooruzheniya-i-tehniki-predstavit-goskomvoenprom-v-oae-na-vystavke-index-695015-2025/>

among other things, to protect the perimeter of an object. "The maximum distance of the robot from the operator's position is 5 km in line of sight and 1 km in a mixed urban environment. The aiming range is up to 1 km. But the UAV recognizes from a distance of 3 km. Armored vehicles or helicopters respectively from 6 km and 10 km"<sup>282</sup> . Another Belarusian novelty at IDEX 2025 is the Sapphire rocket-propelled grenade launcher system, which has such advantages as "light weight, multifunctional warhead, programmable explosive device, through which realizes both contact and trajectory modes of operation. Another feature of the Sapphire is the ability to cluster and fire in salvo"<sup>283</sup> . In addition, there is a high potential to adapt the product to various carriers. Within the framework of this exhibition, the Belarusian State Committee for Military Industry held negotiations with the independent Emirati state organization Tawazun Council, which closely cooperates with the UAE Ministry of Defense and security services, during which "emphasis was placed on the creation of joint high-tech products based on the existing competencies of the parties"<sup>284</sup> , as well as with Edge Holding, where priority projects were identified and specific practical steps for their further implementation were worked out.

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<sup>282</sup> Belarusian arms manufacturers will present wheeled and caterpillar robots at the exhibition in the UAE [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/beloruskie-oruzhejniki-predstavjat-na-vystavke-v-oe-kolesnyh-i-gusenichnyh-robotov-695184-2025/>

<sup>283</sup> . Belarusian grenade launcher system "Sapphire" will be presented at the exhibition of military equipment in the UAE [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/beloruskij-granatometnyj-kompleks-sapfir-predstavjat-na-vystavke-voennoj-tehniki-v-oe-695383-2025/>

<sup>284</sup> Goskomvoenprom and Emirati Tawazun are interested in creating joint high-tech products [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/goskomvoenprom-i-emiratskij-tawazun-zainteresovany-v-sozdanii-sovmestnyh-vysokotekhnologichnyh-produktov-696935-2025/>



All these facts show that cooperation between Belarus and the UAE has continued to develop progressively in recent years. "At the same time, bilateral contacts are characterized by trustworthiness, wide coverage of topics and areas, and active dynamics"<sup>285</sup>. In 2025, the two countries plan to hold the next meeting of the Belarusian-Emirati Business Council, and the UAE Culture Days in Minsk are also scheduled. In addition, there is a significant prospect in the development of bilateral interregional cooperation, further strengthening of interaction in the field of food security, expansion of constructive interaction in the field of standardization and certification. So, the parties are ready to implement joint initiatives and projects that open up new economic opportunities for Belarus and the United Arab Emirates.

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<sup>285</sup> Belarus and the UAE plan to hold a meeting of the business council in 2025 [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-oae-planirujut-provesti-v-2025-godu-zasedanie-delovogo-soveta-679011-2024/>

## **Iran: additional momentum and positive dynamics**

The 17th meeting of the mixed Belarusian-Iranian intergovernmental commission (IGC) on economic cooperation was held in Minsk in January 2025, following which Belarus and Iran agreed on a plan for further cooperation in promising areas. "The document includes interaction in 2025 in a wide range of areas, including trade and industry, agriculture, electricity, transportation, healthcare, education, sports..."<sup>286</sup>

Recall that at the 16th IGC meeting, which was held in October 2023 in Tehran, the parties "agreed on a plan for further cooperation in promising areas of partnership"<sup>287</sup>, which included the implementation of about 40 measures in the areas of industrial cooperation, agriculture and veterinary medicine, health care and pharmaceuticals, transport and cooperation through chambers of commerce and industry, of which to date more than 30 have already been implemented or are in the final stages of implementation, and on the rest is actively contracted And at the 17th meeting of the IGC the parties again agreed to "find new points of growth, which will significantly increase trade turnover between the two states"<sup>288</sup>. The Belarusian side is interested not only in supplies of domestic goods, in agricultural machine building - tractors, combines, trailed and attached devices, but also

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<sup>286</sup> Golovchenko: Belarus is set for long-term and sustainable partnership with Iran [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/golovchenko-belarus-nastroena-na-dolgosrochnoe-i-ustojchivoe-partnerstvo-s-iranom-689041-2025/>

<sup>287</sup> Zalessky, B. Dynamics of successful partnership. Internal and external reserves of progressive movement of the Belarusian economy / Boris Zalessky. - LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2024. - C. 15.

<sup>288</sup> Creation of industries and trade. Yefimov on the prospects of cooperation between Belarus and Iran [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/sozdanie-proizvodstv-i-torgovlja-efimov-o-perspektivah-sotrudnichestva-belarusi-i-irana-688902-2025/>

seriously considers Iranian sites and Iranian partners in terms of organization and transfer of competences for manufacturing of knowledge-intensive products, for example, in agricultural machine building. And Iran "has huge opportunities and potential in petrochemical industry, production of agricultural and mining machinery, knowledge-intensive goods, pharmaceuticals, production of medical equipment, construction materials"<sup>289</sup>. Engineering, construction, tourism, health care and education services are also developed at a high level in the country. So Iran is ready to cooperate with Belarus in all these areas.

It should be noted that, starting from 2022, there has been a steady growth in the volume of mutual Belarusian-Iranian trade. In 2022, it tripled compared to 2021. In 2023, these volumes increased again. And "in 2024 the trade turnover increased by 25% compared to the previous year"<sup>290</sup>, amounting to about 107 million dollars. And this dynamics can develop even further. Especially since both Belarus and Iran demonstrate major achievements in economy, science and technology. For example, Iran's petrochemical industry is the second largest in the region in terms of production. It "can support itself by 85% both in the production of equipment for the oil and gas and petrochemical industries and in the production of catalysts, which are exported to other countries. 97% of the medicines needed are also produced inside

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<sup>289</sup> Trade House and Visa Facilitation. Iran counts on active cooperation with Belarus [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/torgovyj-dom-i-uproschenie-vizovogo-rezhima-iran-rasschityvaet-na-aktivnoe-sotrudnichestvo-s-belarusiju-688936-2025/>

<sup>290</sup> Alireza Sanci: political and economic relations between Iran and Belarus continue to develop dynamically [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/alireza-sanci-politicheskie-i-ekonomicheskie-otnoshenija-mezhdu-iranom-i-belarusiju-prodolzhajut-695226-2025/>

Iran<sup>291</sup>. This country is also among the world leaders in the production of medical isotopes for the treatment of cancer and neurological diseases. There are about ten thousand innovative companies operating in Iran. It is the second Muslim country in the world in terms of scientific production. And Iranian universities have more than three million students.

Returning to the 17th meeting of the IGC, the parties discussed a number of specific projects. First, Iran is ready to increase the volume of purchase of potash fertilizers in Belarus, which are in demand in the country's agriculture. "The importer is the Ministry of Agriculture of Iran, which buys this product and is ready to increase the volume of its purchase"<sup>292</sup>. In 2023, the parties have already signed a contract for the supply of 400 thousand tons of these fertilizers.

Secondly, the Iranian side is interested in supplying Belarus with its cars. Thirdly, "Iran is interested in establishing a joint production of tractors with Belarus"<sup>293</sup>. And this issue is already in the initial stage of development. Fourth, Iran and Belarus have already discussed the topic of intensifying contacts "in the field of pharmaceuticals, which is well developed in Iran - 97% of the necessary drugs are produced <...> in the country"<sup>294</sup>. And they

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<sup>291</sup> Alireza Sanei: Iran despite sanctions shows major achievements in economy, science and technology [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/alireza-sanei-iran-vopreki-sanktsijam-demonstriruet-krupnye-dostizhenija-v-ekonomike-nauke-i-695223-2025/>

<sup>292</sup> Ambassador: Iran is ready to increase the purchase of potash fertilizers in Belarus [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/posol-iran-gotov-narastit-objemy-zakupki-v-belarusi-kalijnyh-udobrenij-694790-2025/>

<sup>293</sup> Alireza Sanei: Iran is interested in establishing a joint tractor production with Belarus [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/alireza-sanei-iran-zainteresovan-v-sozdanii-sovmestnogo-s-belarusiju-proizvodstva-tractorov-694854-2025/>

<sup>294</sup> Sanei, A. Belarus and Iran have reached the medium of the four-year roadmap. What is the asset and what are the plans? / A. Sanei // [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/interview/view/belarus-i-iran-dobralis-do-mediuma-chetyrehletnej-dorozhnoj-karty-cto-v-aktive-i-kakie-plany-9580/>

have established a joint working group of health ministries to discuss in detail the issues of interaction in this regard.

Fifth, the parties are interested in developing the transit potential of both countries. In particular, Iran is building a section of the Resht-Astara railroad and along the route towards the port of Chabahar. "This one of the largest ports in the country is a key element in the international transit corridor North-South"<sup>295</sup>. And Belarus is interested in opening a direct air service on the route Tehran - Minsk - Tehran. After all, Iran occupies a favorable geographical position and for our country is a bridge connecting Belarus with the Persian Gulf states. So, in the future, the opportunities of the two countries to facilitate transportation will only develop.

Sixth, in February 2025, an agreement to intensify the Belarusian-Iranian business agenda was reached during a series of meetings between the delegation of the National Marketing Center (NMC) and Iranian partners in Tehran to expand the channels of bilateral interaction. With the Trade Development Organization, the partners agreed to exchange visits of expert delegations, which will lead to the elaboration of joint steps to support exporters of both countries. In particular, the parties started working out an agreement on the supply of cable and wire products. This was discussed between the business circles of Belarus and Iran at the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture. During the business visit to Iran, Belarusian business was represented in various sectors: from confectionery and cable-wire

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<sup>295</sup> Belarus and Iran are interested in the development of transit potential of the two countries [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-iran-zainteresovany-v-razvitiitranzitnogo-potentsiala-dvuh-stran-688928-2025/>

products to logistics services and investment attraction. During the talks, the parties discussed a number of important issues aimed at strengthening economic ties, expanding opportunities for mutually beneficial cooperation between enterprises and diversifying markets.

Thus, agreements were reached to promote Belarusian confectionery products on the Iranian market. "Active cooperation is underway towards the creation of joint project in the construction sector, in particular, the production of high-tech equipment. Negotiations concerning the logistics sector were additionally held in the Iranian Federation of Transport and Logistics"<sup>296</sup>. Successful cooperation between the companies of both countries will strengthen their positions in the international market, expand their geographical presence and increase the competitiveness of their enterprises. NCM signed a bilateral memorandum with the Tehran Chamber of Commerce and Industry, which consolidated the indicated intentions and other plans of the parties, it was based on a number of successfully held joint events. In addition, NCM signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Iranian Businessmen's Assembly, which "notes the readiness of both countries to help greater involvement of companies in the business dialog, including through participation in events for the business community"<sup>297</sup>.

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<sup>296</sup> Belarus and Iran are working out an agreement on the supply of cable and wire products [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-iran-prorabatyvajut-soglashenie-po-postavkam-kabelno-provodnikovoj-produktsii-698766-2025/>

<sup>297</sup> Belarus and Iran agreed to expand business cooperation and intensify contacts within the SCO [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-iran-dogovorilis-rasshirit-biznes-sotrudnichestvo-i-aktivizirovat-kontakty-po-linii-shos-696396-2025/>

And in May this year, a major international exhibition Iran Agrofood will be held - one of the largest annual specialized exhibition events in the country, which covers the entire food production chain: from agricultural equipment to finished products. Among the main sections of the exhibition are: food and beverages, food ingredients, food and beverage production equipment and technology, agricultural machinery, agricultural technology, accessories and equipment for hospitality and catering venues, packaging and more. "In 2024, 847 companies from 12 countries, namely Russia, China, Iran, UAE, Turkey, India, Thailand, Spain, Italy, Austria, Germany and Denmark participated in the exhibition. The exposition occupied 22 pavilions and the number of visitors exceeded 40 thousand"<sup>298</sup>. The participation of Belarusian enterprises in the collective exposition will certainly make it possible to inform a wide range of potential foreign partners about the production and export potential of Belarus, establish direct contacts with foreign countries, and lay the foundation for long-term mutually beneficial cooperation.

Let us summarize the results. The 17th meeting of the Joint Intergovernmental Commission on Economic Cooperation held in Minsk in January this year showed that Belarus and Iran have a huge potential for further deepening of bilateral contacts and can reach a new level of strategic interaction. Moreover, the membership of the two countries in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Iran's membership in BRICS and Belarus' status as

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<sup>298</sup> From ingredients to packaging. The potential of agriculture and food industry of Belarus will be presented in Tehran [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/ot-ingredientov-do-upakovki-potentsial-selskogo-hozjajstva-i-pischeproma-belarusi-prezentujut-v-699525-2025/>

a partner country in this organization, Belarus' participation in the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) and Iran's status as a observer in the EAEU also open up new opportunities for effective partnership ties. In fact, the EAEU itself plans to hold the first meeting of the joint committee with Iran in September 2025 in Minsk, where they will approve roadmaps for the development of cooperation in areas of mutual interest, which will "include such promising areas as simplification of border customs procedures, industrial cooperation, elimination of technical barriers to trade, cooperation in the field of SPS regulation, electronic trade, digital trade"<sup>299</sup> . All this will undoubtedly help to bring additional impetus and positive dynamics to Belarusian-Iranian interaction.

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<sup>299</sup> Pivovar, E. The first meeting of the joint committee of the EAEU and Iran is planned to be held in September in Minsk / E. Pivovar // [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/pervoe-zasedanie-sovmestnogo-komiteta-eaes-i-irana-planirujut-provesti-v-sentjabre-v-minske-698088-2025/>



## **Myanmar: the challenge is to grow multidisciplinary collaboration**

In September 2024, the Republic of Belarus and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar celebrated a significant date - 25 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations. On this occasion, the parties exchanged messages in which they demonstrated "readiness to convert political dialog into increased interaction in trade and economic, cultural, scientific, educational and other spheres"<sup>300</sup>. It should be noted that the treaty-legal base of bilateral relations is still at the stage of formation and counts only eight interstate, intergovernmental and interdepartmental agreements. Among other facts of recent history, we can recall that in November 2013, the first and so far the only meeting of the Joint Belarusian-Myanmar Committee on Trade and Economic Cooperation was held in Yangon, the economic capital of this Southeast Asian country.

In January 2025, at a bilateral business forum in the same Yangon, Belarus and Myanmar agreed to intensify cooperation this year. In particular, "the Myanmar side expressed great interest, first of all, in pharmaceuticals, agricultural technology, education"<sup>301</sup>. After all, 55 million people live in Myanmar, so quite a few Belarusian goods have great prospects for promotion in the market of this country. In March this year, a representative delegation of Myanmar headed by Chairman of the State Administrative Council and Prime Minister of Myanmar M.A.

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<sup>300</sup> On the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Belarus and Myanmar [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: [https://www.mfa.gov.by/press/news\\_mfa/e44d21e4892be601.html](https://www.mfa.gov.by/press/news_mfa/e44d21e4892be601.html)

<sup>301</sup> Pharmaceuticals and agriculture. Belarus and Myanmar agreed to intensify cooperation this year [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/farmatsevtika-i-selskoe-hozjajstvo-belarus-i-mjanma-dogovorilis-ob-aktivizatsii-sotrudnichestva-v-688646-2025/>

Hlaing came to the Belarusian capital and said that his country aims to expand interaction with Belarus by developing multi-sectoral cooperation. It should be noted that "the volume of mutual trade with Myanmar reached \$34.6 million in 2024, having increased by more than 90% compared to 2023. At the same time, exports of domestic products amounted to \$22.7 million, which is almost four times more than a year earlier"<sup>302</sup>.

During the talks held in the Belarusian capital, the Myanmar leader proposed a number of specific areas that have great potential for the development of joint activities. First of all, it is about agriculture and mechanical engineering. Since agriculture is the main activity for Myanmar's economy, the country is interested in the transfer of Belarusian technologies in the agro-industrial complex and the production of agricultural equipment and machinery, as well as the purchase of various kinds of fertilizers. "The use of modern Belarusian technologies, competencies and machinery will <...> further strengthen Myanmar's position as one of the leaders in growing rice and legume crops, contribute to strengthening food security, and increase exports"<sup>303</sup>. There was also a proposal to invest in the Myanmar economy to organize various industries. For example, in the cultivation and processing of rubber for tire production, as well as "in the manufacture of concrete, which Myanmar imports in significant quantities every year"<sup>304</sup>.

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<sup>302</sup> Min Aung Hline: Myanmar aims to expand cooperation with Belarus [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/politics/view/min-aun-hlajn-mijanma-natselena-na-rasshirenie-sotrudnichestva-s-belarusju-700834-2025/>

<sup>303</sup> Min Aung Hline offered Belarus to invest in the economy of Myanmar [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/min-aun-hlajn-predlozhit-belarusi-investirovat-v-ekonomiku-mijanmy-700882-2025/>

<sup>304</sup> Min Aung Hline: Myanmar is very interested in improving relations with Belarus in the economic sphere [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL:

Myanmar is also interested in supplies of cargo and passenger vehicles from Belarus. Moreover, the Belarusian side is willing not only to organize these supplies of industrial products, but also to go deeper - to organize assembly plants in this country. In particular, a document on the intention to set up an assembly of Belarusian tractors in Myanmar was signed during the visit. It is planned to organize this production with a capacity of 600 units per year. At the first stage there will be 300. An important detail - "at the first stage the level of localization of tractors in Myanmar will be about 45%. <...> In the future, localization is planned to increase to 60%"<sup>305</sup>. A contract has already been signed for the delivery of one unit each of three tractor models for testing on the Myanmar market. This year a site will be selected for the realization of this project. In addition to tractors, accordingly, it will be necessary to supply mounted and trailed working tools both for work in the agrarian sphere and for the needs of public utilities. The Belarusian side offered its partners in Myanmar the technology of all agricultural works and not only. Wherever a tractor is used, a plume of mounted and trailed work tools will be offered, which will make it possible to carry out a large volume of work.

Belarus is also ready to supply this Southeast Asian country with food products - milk powder and baby food. And already "within the framework of the visit to our country, agreements have been reached to supply 1 thousand tons of milk powder from our

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<https://belta.by/economics/view/min-aun-hlajn-so-storony-mijanmy-est-bolshoj-interes-uluchshit-otnosheniya-s-belarusju-v-sfere-700858-2025/>

<sup>305</sup> Yefimov: the capacity of assembly production of Belarusian tractors in Myanmar will amount to 600 units per year [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/efimov-moschnost-sborochnogo-proizvodstva-belorusskih-traktorov-v-mijanme-sostavit-600-edinits-v-god-700806-2025/>

enterprises in 2025"<sup>306</sup> . In turn, Myanmar is interested in exporting other products to the Belarusian market. "This is fish, shrimp, other seafood - supplying them to Belarus< ...> . We are talking about supplying Belarus with rice, which is traditionally cultivated in Myanmar"<sup>307</sup> .

In addition, Belarus intends to expand the supply of pharmaceuticals to Myanmar. The fact is that cooperation with Myanmar in the healthcare sector is organized along several vectors, one of which is pharmaceutical production. Three Belarusian organizations are currently cooperating with Myanmar: Belmedpreparaty, Minskindercaps and Borisov Medical Preparations Plant. Four domestic medicines are registered in Myanmar. There are plans to expand this list to at least twelve. And already at the Belarusian-Myanmar forum in March this year "an agreement on registration of medicines was signed between Belmedpreparaty RUE and Apex Care Company with an annex on 6 anticancer drugs"<sup>308</sup> .

By the way, in Minsk, at the already mentioned business forum in March, enterprises and companies of the two countries signed 13 bilateral documents. Among them is a "memorandum of understanding between MTZ and Myanmar Empire, which provides for the assembly of BELARUS tractors. They also signed

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<sup>306</sup> Myanmar is interested in purchasing Belarusian dried milk and baby food [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/mjjanma-zainteresovana-v-zakupke-belorusskogo-suhogo-moloka-i-detskogo-pitanija-700816-2025/>

<sup>307</sup> From precious stones to shrimp. Ryzhenkov told that Belarus is interested in Myanmar [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/ot-dragotsennyh-kamnej-do-krevetok-ryzhenkov-rasskazal-cto-belarus-interesuet-v-mjjanme-700823-2025/>

<sup>308</sup> Belarus intends to expand the supply of pharmaceuticals to Myanmar, multiplying the number of export positions [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/belarus-namerena-rasshirit-postavki-farmpreparatov-v-mjjanmu-v-razy-uvelichiv-chislo-eksportnyh-700827-2025/>

a contract for delivery of three tractors of 451, 522, 820 models worth about \$50 thousand for performance tests and determination of required technical characteristics"<sup>309</sup>. Volkovysk-based Bellakt OJSC and Myanmar Empire adopted a memorandum of understanding on the supply of milk powder and baby food to Myanmar. The companies of the two countries have also signed a number of documents on supplies of cord fabric, equipment for the production of milk powder, cream, condensed milk and other products, as well as seafood to Belarus. Memorandums of understanding were signed between Belarusian and Myanmar higher education institutions.

Following the March talks in Minsk, Belarus and Myanmar adopted a package of documents that develops the contractual and legal framework of the bilateral relations. In particular, "a memorandum of intentions on joint actions to develop Belarusian-Myanmar cooperation was signed. An agreement on mutual protection of classified information"<sup>310</sup>. In addition, the following agreements were adopted: agreements on cooperation - between the Ministry of Sports and Tourism of Belarus and the Ministry of Sports and Youth of Myanmar, between the Ministry of Justice of Belarus and the Ministry of Legal Affairs of Myanmar; memorandum of understanding - between the Ministry of Agriculture and Food of Belarus and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation of Myanmar. In general, "Belarus and

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<sup>309</sup> Tractors, milk powder, equipment. What the companies of Belarus and Myanmar agreed on at the business forum [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/traktory-suhoe-moloko-oborudovanie-o-chem-dogovorilis-kompanii-belarusi-i-mijanmy-na-biznes-forume-700741-2025/>

<sup>310</sup> Package of documents on cooperation concluded between Belarus and Myanmar [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/politics/view/paket-dokumentov-o-sotrudnichestve-zakljuchen-mezhdu-belarusiju-i-mijanmoj-700875-2025/>

Myanmar agreed to work out a concrete plan for the development of cooperation"<sup>311</sup> , in order to interact dynamically in all areas of partnership. And already this year the work of the intergovernmental committee on trade and economic cooperation will be resumed, as well as a joint commission on innovation and scientific and technical cooperation will be created . And this is just the beginning.

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<sup>311</sup> Belarus and Myanmar agreed to work out a concrete plan of cooperation development [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/politics/view/belarus-i-mjanma-dogovorilis-razrabotat-plan-razvitija-sotrudnichestva-700843-2025/>

## **Minsk Free Economic Zone: ambitious tasks and promising projects**

There are many attractive investment sites in the Republic of Belarus, which are key investment attraction points for the creation of modern export-oriented and import-substituting industries. The free economic zone (FEZ) "Minsk", whose residents conduct business in various areas of the Belarusian economy - "machine building, microelectronics, radio electronics, metalworking, pharmaceutical industry, woodworking, chemical industry, printing and packaging, production of cable products and innovative types of agricultural machinery..<sup>312</sup>

It should be reminded that for the current year the administration of FEZ "Minsk" set very ambitious tasks for the residents - "growth of investments in fixed assets by 5%, export of goods by 8%, salaries of employees by 11.5%, creation of about 550 new jobs, registration of 10 new residents"<sup>313</sup>. And already for three quarters of 2024 exports of goods of 107 FEZ enterprises increased by almost 11 percent, foreign trade turnover increased by almost five percent and amounted to more than four billion dollars. "During this period, residents of FEZ "Minsk" mastered about Br323 million of investment in fixed assets, which is more than 70 percent higher than the corresponding period of 2023. Enterprises of the free economic zone from January to September produced products and services by 27.3% more than last year,

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<sup>312</sup> Buben, A. What is FEZ "Minsk" today and what is its contribution to the country's economy / A. Buben // [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/interview/view/chto-segodnja-predstavljaet-soboj-sez-minsk-i-kakov-ee-vklad-v-ekonomiku-strany-9200/>

<sup>313</sup> Abramenko: FEZ "Minsk" should actively attract "anchor" investors on ready investment sites [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/abramenko-sez-minsk-nado-aktivno-privlekat-jakornyh-investorov-na-gotovye-investploschadki-631595-2024/>

created 373 new jobs"<sup>314</sup> . In addition, ten residents were registered during this period with a declared investment volume of about 50 million dollars.

It should be noted that the growth in the number of new FEZ participants began back in the summer of 2024, when five residents were registered there in a variety of areas: from the production of paint and varnish materials, secondary crushed stone and wire to the production of jewelry and dry animal feed. First of all, it is **LLC "Paint and varnish factory Condor"**. Under this investment project, a new enterprise is being created to produce finishing materials - enamels, paints, primers, varnishes, fillers and adhesives used in construction, finishing and decorative works. "It is planned to set up production of 35 positions of goods. The start of production activity is planned for the second half of 2026. The realization of the investment project provides for the creation of 50 jobs"<sup>315</sup> . The largest consumers of these paint and varnish materials will be enterprises of machine building, bridge building, railway transport, representatives of the oil refining and gas industry and manufacturers specializing in the production of mineral fertilizers.

Secondly, it is **SpetstehikaGroup LLC**, which plans to expand the production capacity of the enterprise, purchase equipment for secondary crushed stone, arrange a site and construct a building. The new line will increase production

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<sup>314</sup> FEZ "Minsk" enterprises for nine months increased export of goods by almost 11% [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/predpriyatija-sez-minsk-za-devjat-mesjatsev-uvlechili-eksport-tovarov-pochti-na-11-674843-2024/>

<sup>315</sup> Production of paint and varnish materials will be launched by a new FEZ "Minsk" resident [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/proizvodstvo-lakokrasochnyh-materialov-zapustit-novyy-rezident-sez-minsk-651775-2024/>



volumes, which will reduce the cost of delivery and increase the attractiveness for consumers in terms of better meeting the demand for construction materials. "The main consumers of the plant's products are highway construction companies, building trusts and individuals. The project will create ten new jobs."<sup>316</sup> . Production activities are scheduled to begin in the fourth quarter of 2025.

Thirdly, it is **BELMETALL OJSC**, which will organize the production of welding wire and general purpose wire with the reconstruction of the calibration warehouse building into a hardware production shop. The investment project provides for the production of products with enhanced consumer properties due to the use of quality raw materials on the most modern high-tech equipment. "At least 86 jobs will be created at the enterprise. The facilities under the project are planned to be put into operation in 2025"<sup>317</sup> . The main consumers of welding wire will be industrial enterprises of machine building, carriage repair enterprises, manufacturers of metal structures for the construction industry, installation organizations, repair enterprises of the agro-industrial complex.

Fourth, it is **Goldpas LLC**, which will organize its own production of gold products for sale to non-CIS countries, including the United Arab Emirates, India, and China. "The start of production activities of the company is scheduled for the fourth

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<sup>316</sup> A new resident of FEZ "Minsk" will specialize in the production of secondary crushed stone [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/na-proizvodstve-vmorichnogo-schebnja-budet-spetsializirovatsja-novyj-rezident-sez-minsk-657751-2024/>

<sup>317</sup> A new resident of FEZ "Minsk" will be engaged in the production of wire [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/novyj-rezident-sez-minsk-zajmetsja-proizvodstvom-provoloki-645157-2024/>

quarter of 2024"<sup>318</sup> . The company's production capacity is designed to meet high customer demand. By 2028, it is planned to increase jewelry production by 3.6 times.

Fifth, it is **Bekdash Azot LLC**, which specializes in the production of dry animal feed. The purpose of this investment project is to organize production of dry dog and cat food intended for balanced daily nutrition. "Within the framework of the project realization 24 workplaces will be created. The start of production activity is planned for 2025"<sup>319</sup> . In terms of technical characteristics, the production will be minimally wasteful. The producers plan to buy raw materials from meat processing plants and farmers in the regions. Successful implementation of the project will ensure the growth of Belarus' production and export potential.

In the fall of this year, several more residents appeared in FEZ Minsk. In September, **Silikontek LLC** was registered, which will produce high-quality rubber products made of silicone. "The new resident plans to produce up to 80 tons of products per year. The project will create 10 jobs"<sup>320</sup> . Today the company's main sales market is the Belarusian market. Having received the FEZ resident status, the company intends to develop export of finished products. The start of production activities is planned for the first quarter of 2025.

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<sup>318</sup> A new resident of FEZ "Minsk" will be engaged in the production of jewelry [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/novyj-rezident-sez-minsk-zajmetsja-proizvodstvom-juvelirnyh-izdelij-650006-2024/>

<sup>319</sup> Dry fodder for animals will be produced by a new FEZ "Minsk" resident [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/suhie-kormadlja-zhivotnyh-budet-vypuskat-novyj-rezident-sez-minsk-641157-2024/>

<sup>320</sup> High-quality silicone rubber products will be produced in FEZ "Minsk". [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/vysokokachestvennye-rezinotekhnicheskie-izdelija-iz-silikona-nachnut-proizvodit-v-sez-minsk-661511-2024/>

In October, two more residents were registered in the FEZ. This is **BELSOYUZHIM LLC**, which organizes packing of caustic soda, "used in various industrial processes, to be sold not only to large enterprises, but also to medium and small wholesale consumers, including dairy enterprises, food industry, enterprises of services and educational institutions"<sup>321</sup>. It should be noted that there is no such enterprise in Belarus yet. The project will create more than 20 jobs. The start of production activities is scheduled for the end of 2026.

The second new FEZ resident in October is **Kinson Technology LLC**, which will produce bumpers for all models of BELGEE and Geely cars. Creation of own production of bumpers for cars on the territory of the plant "BELGEE" will increase the level of production localization, reduce the dependence of production on foreign components and the cost of finished products, as well as avoid the risks of damage to bumpers during transportation from China. "The realization of the project implies the creation of 12 jobs. The enterprise plans to start its operations in the second quarter of 2025"<sup>322</sup>. An important detail: today cars produced by BELGEE occupy leading positions in sales on the Belarusian market, as they have accounted for more than half of total car sales for the last two years.

And already in November, two more residents appeared in the FEZ. **MarketGroupBel LLC** will set up production of cargo vehicles, ranging from dump trucks and flatbed trucks to

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<sup>321</sup> A complex for the production of chemical products will appear in FEZ "Minsk" [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/kompleks-po-proizvodstvu-himicheskoy-produktsii-pojavitsja-v-sez-minsk-666530-2024/>

<sup>322</sup> Large-size plastic parts for BELGEE and Geely will be produced by a new FEZ "Minsk" resident [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/krupnogabaritnye-plastikovye-detali-dlja-belgee-i-geely-budet-proizvodit-novyj-rezident-sez-minsk-668207-2024/>

specialized machinery: garbage trucks, truck towers and more. Chinese companies will be the suppliers of vehicle kits. The chassis and components of Belarusian and own production, as well as those of the world's leading manufacturers will be used for the production of vehicles. After all, the organization of domestic production of machinery is of great importance in the creation of competitive high-tech industries, meets the needs of the country's economy in creating jobs and in the production of import-substituting commercial vehicles demanded by the market. "The project envisages the creation of 25 jobs. The start of production activities is scheduled for the first quarter of 2025"<sup>323</sup> .

The second November resident, **AlexTransAlliance LLC**, will provide containerized cargo handling services: loading and unloading operations, container storage, including photofixing, and support for document processing. The enterprise will be located in Minsk district in close proximity to the railroad tracks. The creation of the center will reduce the load on the nearby transport and logistics infrastructure, increase the variability and maneuverability of logistics operations, and strengthen the stability of container freight traffic. "Within the framework of the investment project realization more than 30 working places will be created. The start of production activities is scheduled for the fourth quarter of 2026"<sup>324</sup> .

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<sup>323</sup> A new resident of FEZ "Minsk" organizes the production of commercial cargo transport [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/novyj-rezident-sez-minsk-organizuet-proizvodstvo-gruzovogo-kommercheskogo-transporta-673171-2024/>

<sup>324</sup> Transport and logistics center in the free economic zone will be organized by a new resident of FEZ "Minsk". [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/transportno-logisticheskij-tsentr-v-svobodnoj-ekonomicheskoy-zone-organizuet-novyj-rezident-sez-minsk-676803-2024/>

In addition to registering new residents, FEZ Minsk 2024 is also actively developing international ties. In particular, in September it signed a memorandum of cooperation with **FEZ "Bishkek"**, which is aimed at developing interaction between the FEZs "on issues of promoting business development, business environment and business climate, implementation of joint investment projects and establishment of enterprises with foreign investment on the territory of the parties"<sup>325</sup>. And promising areas of cooperation, opportunities for Belarusian-Kyrgyz business partnership and realization of joint projects have already been discussed.

There was also an interesting interaction between FEZ Minsk and Tajik **FEZ Sughd**. It should be reminded that "in September 2023 the capital FEZ expanded interaction with partners from Tajikistan, when on the margins of the Belarusian-Tajik business forum three agreements on cooperation with FEZ "Sughd", "Kulyab", "Dangara" were signed at once"<sup>326</sup>. And already in June this year Tajik partners from FEZ "Sughd" in Minsk specifically discussed promising areas of cooperation and opportunities for industrial cooperation between the residents of the parties.

In 2024, FEZ Minsk also participated in a number of international business events, where promising niches of cooperation between FEZ residents and partners from other countries were considered. In particular, in March this year at the

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<sup>325</sup> FEZ "Minsk" and FEZ "Bishkek" signed a memorandum of cooperation [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/sez-minsk-i-sez-bishkek-podpisali-memorandum-o-sotrudnichestve-662236-2024/>

<sup>326</sup> Zalessky, B. Ideology of pragmatism. Features of partnership in the Belarusian economy: internal and external segments / Boris Zalessky. - LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2024. - C. 11.

Belarusian-Turkish business forum FEZ specialists held negotiations with companies from Turkey, which specialize "in the production of packaging materials, parts for automotive and agricultural machinery, furniture, catering and logistics services"<sup>327</sup>. It turned out that Turkish business was interested both in supplying products to the Belarusian market and in purchasing a number of goods, in particular, woodworking and food processing products.

At the Belarusian-Hungarian business forum held in May in the Belarusian capital and attended by 24 Hungarian companies, residents of FEZ Minsk held talks "on the development of cooperation in agriculture, construction and woodworking, machine building, medicine and pharmaceuticals, investment opportunities"<sup>328</sup>. And this forum showed interesting prospects for the development of economic interaction.

<sup>329</sup>In June at the Belarusian-Azerbaijani business forum, where only from the side of Belarus participated more than 100 enterprises and organizations covering all sectors and areas of activity - agriculture, food, engineering, metallurgy, woodworking, construction and production of building materials, chemical, pharmaceutical and light industry, as well as wholesale and retail trade, "in the course of B2B negotiations the management of FEZ "Minsk" administration discussed with

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<sup>327</sup> FEZ "Minsk" at the Belarusian-Turkish business forum [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.fezminsk.by/news/rukovodstvo-administratsii-sez-minsk-prinimaet-uchastie-v-belorussko-turetskom-biznes-forume-kotoryy/>

<sup>328</sup> FEZ "Minsk" at the Belarusian-Hungarian Business Forum [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.fezminsk.by/news/sez-minsk-na-belorussko-vengerskom-biznes-forume/>

<sup>329</sup> FEZ "Minsk" took part in the Belarusian-Azerbaijani business forum and B2B negotiations [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.fezminsk.by/news/sez-minsk-prinyala-uchastie-v-belorussko-azerbaydzhanskom-biznes-forume-i-v2v-peregovorakh/>

Azerbaijani partners the opportunities and conditions of participation in the Republic of Belarus.

<sup>330</sup>And at the IV Forum of the Heads of Regions of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) member states, which took place in September 2024 and where about five hundred people from Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, India and other countries, as well as business representatives from Nigeria, the United Arab Emirates and Japan participated, the opportunities of FEZ "Minsk" were presented, both in the framework of potential investment and in the framework of industrial cooperation development, in order to deepen "interregional cooperation in trade and economic, investment and economic cooperation". For reference: at present this international organization unites ten countries with a population of more than three and a half billion people.

Within the framework of the topic of international interaction of FEZ "Minsk" residents, let us cite one more interesting fact. In May 2024, FEZ resident - JV CJSC "Unison" - launched the production of cars under the brand VGV Sinotruk. This Chinese passenger vehicle concern - China National Heavy Duty Truck Group Co. Ltd (Sinotruk) - is the second largest manufacturer in China. In this case we are talking about the production of seven-seat family cars at the price of a compact crossover. It is planned to produce them about thirty thousand units per year. "In the future, the company envisages the production of a number of other VGV Sinotruk models, including

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<sup>330</sup> FEZ "Minsk" presents its opportunities to the participants of the IV Forum of the Heads of Regions of the SCO Member States [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.fezminsk.by/news/sez-minsk-predstavlyayet-vozmozhnosti-svobodnoy-ekonomicheskoy-zony-uchastnikam-iv-foruma-glav-region/>

a four-wheel drive pickup truck, as well as plans to produce electric cars"<sup>331</sup>. The Chinese partners expect to continuously deepen cooperation. Moreover, the Belarusian side is fully entrusted with the support and promotion of this project.

Finally, a promising investment project of the Afghan company Zafaran Pharmaceuticals, which is interested in trade, production and investment activities, as well as "considers the possibility of building a pharmaceutical company in the FEZ"<sup>332</sup>. This firm has been operating in the healthcare sector for more than 25 years and is one of the five largest pharmaceutical companies in Afghanistan. The company is licensed to produce more than 60 different medicines, specializing in generics, capsules, dry suspensions and injectables. So it may turn out to be an interesting Belarusian-Afghan partnership in the field of pharmacy.

All these facts show that in FEZ "Minsk" serious work is carried out to develop new types of products through the implementation of new investment projects, as well as through diversification of investment activities of residents to further develop this territory, where the course on modernization and technical re-equipment of existing production facilities and introduction of new modern technologies is taken as a basis.

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<sup>331</sup> FEZ "Minsk" resident launched the production of cars under the brand VGV Sinotruk [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.fezminsk.by/news/rezident-sez-minsk-zapustil-proizvodstvo-avtomobiley-pod-brendom-vgv-sinotruk/>

<sup>332</sup> Afghan company is interested in cooperation with FEZ "Minsk" [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/afganskaja-kompanija-zainteresovana-v-sotrudnichestve-s-sez-minsk-625003-2024/>



## **Free economic zones: goal - realization of projects based on new technologies**

In 2024, free economic zones (FEZs) in the Republic of Belarus remained the key centers of capital attraction in the regions of the country, where about 440 residents from more than 30 countries were operating, investing over \$13 billion in the implementation of their projects. They accounted for "5.3% of gross domestic product, 19.2% of industrial production, 3.8% of fixed capital investment, and 21.9% of exports of goods. FEZ residents are employed most of all in the manufacturing industry (86.4%), followed by trade (4%)"<sup>333</sup>. In total, more than 136 thousand people worked there. Last year, Belarusian FEZs showed a record volume of foreign trade turnover - \$14 billion. In addition, a record level was achieved in terms of total exports of residents' goods - almost nine billion dollars.

Investment activity in the FEZ has also intensified. The inflow of capital in the implementation of promising projects increased by nine percent. "Among the most large-scale ones are the development of production of JSC INTEGRAL in Minsk, construction of transport and logistics building in Minsk district, expansion of technical carbon production in Mogilev district, reconstruction of the complex of shops for the production of mineral fertilizers in Gomel and food products in Brest"<sup>334</sup>. And 36 enterprises became new FEZ residents in 2024. Their total

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<sup>333</sup> Residents of FEZ in Belarus are almost 440 organizations [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/rezidentami-sez-v-belarusi-javlajutsja-pochti-440-organizatsij-695893-2025/>

<sup>334</sup> FEZ residents of Belarus in 2024 formed a record volume of foreign trade turnover [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/rezidenty-sez-belarusi-v-2024-godu-sformirovali-rekordnyj-objem-vneshnetorgovogo-oborota-697065-2025/>

investment portfolio reached 230 million dollars and provided for the creation of more than two thousand new jobs. These projects are realized in the spheres of wood and metal processing, machine building, chemical and polymer industry, production of charging infrastructure for electric transport. To maintain the investment attractiveness of FEZ, the demand for these sites through infrastructure development is also increasing. "Over the past three years, 16 infrastructure facilities have been built with state support (about Br160 million), including 10 in the energy sector"<sup>335</sup>. And starting from 2024, four new power substations are being built - in Brest and Pinsk, as well as in Minsk and Smarhon districts.

Among the leaders at the end of **the** past year we can name **FEZ Minsk**, which showed high results of its residents' activity in 2024. **First**, the volume of production increased by 20 percent and amounted to more than 12.5 billion Belarusian rubles. In particular, the FEZ is implementing large investment projects for the production of X-ray equipment, electric buses, electronic equipment, radio electronic products, household appliances. **Secondly**, foreign trade turnover of more than one hundred FEZ residents is more than five and a half billion dollars. "At the same time, the volume of exports increased by 5 percent and amounted to about 3 billion dollars. The balance of foreign trade in goods is positive - about 400 million dollars"<sup>336</sup>. In this context, the issue of import substitution is also one of significant and promising, as most FEZ participants are focused on the production of these

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<sup>335</sup> Chebotar: residents of Belarusian FEZs have invested over \$13 billion [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/rezidenty-belorusskih-sez-investirovali-svyshe-13-mlrd-687352-2025/>

<sup>336</sup> New investment projects and bet on innovations: FEZ "Minsk" - a comfortable climate for business [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://fezminsk.by/news/novye-investproekty-i-stavka-na-innovatsii-komfortnyy-klimat-dlya-biznesa/>

goods. We are talking, for example, about cable products with a wide range of applications, hydraulic control equipment, charging stations for electric cars, pumping units, printing inks, microwave ovens. **Thirdly**, the inflow of foreign direct investment for 2024 in FEZ "Minsk" amounted to almost 145 million dollars, which makes it possible to implement innovative projects. Among the significant ones are the initiatives implemented by ADVIN Smart Factory CJSC, BELJI CJSC, Belkommunmash Holding Management Company OJSC, INTEGRAL - the management company of INTEGRAL Holding, and N-TV UE

**Fourthly**, last year 15 new companies became residents of this FEZ with the total volume of declared investments - more than 70 million dollars and 514 new workplaces. These enterprises are engaged in implementation of investment projects on production of products from polymeric and composite materials, transport means, parts for cars, chemical products, secondary crushed stone, rubber products from silicone, finishing materials, jewelry, metal pipes, wire, dry fodder, charging stations for electric cars and sanitary-hygienic means

In particular, in the first half of December 2024, a new FEZ resident was registered - **Prodi LLC** - a manufacturer of products from polymer and composite materials. The purpose of its project is "to create a modern high-efficiency production of plastic products with engineering support, allowing to conduct end-to-end engineering from design project to the finished product with the use of 3D-modeling programs"<sup>337</sup>. The fact is that LLC "Prodi" is

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<sup>337</sup> The new resident of FEZ "Minsk" will produce products from polymer and composite materials [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/novyj-rezident-sez-minsk-budet-proizvodit-izdelija-iz-polimernyh-i-kompozitsionnyh-materialov-681765-2024/>

engaged in modernization of the whole model range of Amkodor road-building machinery with the development of design projects and 3D-models of plastic parts for interior and exterior. Implementation of this investment project will make it possible to expand the program of manufactured products with development of new products for consumers in the sphere of industrial production, construction, transport and consumer goods. The technology and equipment purchased for the project realization are unique and allow to produce the whole range of plastic parts used in machine building and other branches of economy. The realization of the project implies the creation of about 100 jobs. The third part of the manufactured products will be exported to the Commonwealth of Independent States and non-CIS countries.

In the second half of December last year, a resident enterprise, **Onco Solutions LLC**, specializing in the production of antitumor drugs in parenteral sterile forms, was opened in this FEZ. The launch of production will allow to meet the needs of Belarus in a number of anticancer drugs. The main task of the new resident is to produce medicines in demand in Belarus, Russia, Kazakhstan, Armenia, Kyrgyzstan for the treatment of oncological diseases. "Production output is planned both for export to EAEU countries, near and far abroad, and for import substitution purposes. The share of export supplies after the launch of production will amount to 80%"<sup>338</sup>. The production capacity allows to produce half a million bottles of finished products annually. The total investment costs of the project amounted to

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<sup>338</sup> December 20, 2024 the grand opening of the enterprise-resident of FEZ "Minsk" "Onco Solutions", which implements an investment project for the production of medicines for the treatment of oncological diseases [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://fezminsk.by/news/20-dekabrya-2024-goda-sostoyalos-torzhestvennoe-otkrytie-predpriyatiya-rezidenta-sez-minsk-onko-solyu/>

over 50 million Belarusian rubles, and more than 35 new jobs have already been created.

Already in February 2025, two more residents were registered in FEZ Minsk. The first one - **Precision Machines LLC** - will launch machine-tool production and parts machining section in the FEZ. After all, this company "is engaged in the production of machine tools for metal processing with numerical program control of turning and milling group. Automated equipment capable of performing the most complex operations according to a given program without direct human participation has the widest application in the production sphere"<sup>339</sup>. The company will be located in the Fanipol area. Production activities are scheduled to start in the first quarter of 2025. A significant share of production will be supplied abroad. The share of exports in total revenue is expected to be about half.

The second FEZ resident in February - **ZELDEN LLC** - is implementing an investment project for the production of complete administrative and residential modules for the erection of buildings. "The resident company plans to build a production and warehouse complex, to develop, design and manufacture complete administrative and household modules for large-format construction sites and residential modules for use in the tourism sector"<sup>340</sup>. The main sales market will be the countries of the Eurasian Economic Union, as well as the markets of the far abroad.

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<sup>339</sup> Investors from Russia will produce machine tools in FEZ "Minsk" [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/investory-iz-rossii-budut-vypuskat-stanki-v-sez-minsk-698685-2025/>

<sup>340</sup> Investment project for the production of modules for the erection of buildings will be realized in FEZ "Minsk". [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/investproekt-po-proizvodstvu-modulej-dlja-vozvedeniya-zdaniy-realizujut-v-sez-minsk-699114-2025/>

The enterprise will be located on the FEZ site in the Fanipol area, and the start of production activities is scheduled for 2029.

Note that the territory of FEZ "Minsk" is more than 2650 hectares on 21 land plots in Minsk and Minsk region. Today the main point of growth for investment activities of residents is the tenth plot in the area of Fanipol. In 2025, the construction of the eighth street will continue there and two more streets - No. 9 and No. 13 - will be designed. All this suggests that "in FEZ "Minsk" serious work is carried out to master new types of products through the implementation of new investment projects, as well as through the diversification of investment activities of residents"<sup>341</sup> , in order to, expanding the possibilities of industrial cooperation, to implement effective projects based on new modern technologies.

The past year was also productive for **FEZ "Mogilev"**, where 50 organizations were registered at the beginning of this year. "In 2024, eight new residents were registered with the volume of declared investments in fixed assets of 14.5 million euros"<sup>342</sup> . In particular, back in March last year, three manufacturing companies were registered at once. First, it is **LLC "Bellanya"**, which plans to organize the production of packaging materials from plastic. The start of production is scheduled for January 2027. Secondly, it is **MRKM West LLC**, which will carry out the production of bodies and trailer equipment. "The project will create 275 new jobs. The planned average headcount

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<sup>341</sup> Zalessky, B. Key investment points. Realization of the potential of free economic zones of Belarus on the acceleration track / Boris Zalessky. - LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2024. - C. 49.

<sup>342</sup> Results of FEZ "Mogilev for 2024, prospects for 2025 [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://fezmogilev.by/services/sobytiya/itogi-deyatelnosti-sez-mogilev-za-2024-god-perspektivy-2025-goda/>

in 2028 will be 300 people."<sup>343</sup> . Thirdly, it is "**Extraline**" LLC, which will create the production of polymer products, and the number of new jobs is about thirty.

In May 2024, another resident was registered in the FEZ - **Transfest LLC**, which organizes the production of "body and trailer equipment <...> in Bobruisk"<sup>344</sup> . And in October last year a new FEZ participant - **private enterprise "Bazaltum"** - started an investment project to organize the production of basalt-based insulation. After all, "basalt wool is one of the best insulation and soundproofing materials"<sup>345</sup> , which is absolutely not subject to burning and melting. For this reason, this material is used in modern construction of residential houses and public facilities. In November and December 2024, two more residents were registered in the FEZ - **Tova LLC** with a business plan to create wire production and **PolymerBoom LLC**, which "is implementing an investment project to organize the production of self-adhesive materials"<sup>346</sup>

Another interesting fact about the FEZ "Mogilev" occurred last November, when **BelEmsa LLC**, a resident of the FEZ since 2011, became the winner of the national contest "Entrepreneur of the Year". This is "the first and only enterprise in Belarus for the

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<sup>343</sup> Ldova, E. Three new residents are registered in FEZ "Mogilev" / E. Ldova // [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.vestnikmogileva.by/novosti/novosti-kompaniy/tri-novyh-rezidenta-zaregistirovany-v-sez-mogilev>

<sup>344</sup> A new resident is registered in FEZ "Mogilev" [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://fezmogilev.by/services/sobytiya/v-sez-mogilev-zaregistirovan-novyy-rezident/>

<sup>345</sup> Private enterprise "Bazaltum" - a new resident of FEZ "Mogilev" [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://fezmogilev.by/services/sobytiya/chastnoe-predpriyatie-bazaltum-novyy-rezident-sez-mogilev/>

<sup>346</sup> PolymerBum LLC - a new resident of FEZ "Mogilev" [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://fezmogilev.by/services/sobytiya/ooo-polimerbum-novyy-rezident-sez-mogilev/>

production of disposable diapers for children"<sup>347</sup> , which also produces a wide range of sanitary-hygienic products - diapers for adults, wet wipes, wet toilet paper. To date, the specific weight of import-substituting products in the total production volume tends to almost 100 percent. "Since the beginning of activity as a resident, the enterprise has invested 32.5 million euros in fixed capital"<sup>348</sup> . Only from 2021 to 2024, the number of employees there increased almost 2.5 times and reached almost 480 people.

In February 2025, BelEmsa LLC launched a line for the production of absorbent disposable diapers. This production was created in accordance with the investment agreement signed within the framework of the International exhibition Musiad Expo 2024 in Istanbul between administration of FEZ "Mogilev" and the enterprise, which in January 2025 purchased the necessary equipment, carried out commissioning of the line and received the first samples of new products. The production capacity of the installed equipment allows to produce over 10 million units of products per month. Now 16 workplaces have been created here. Within a month and a half it is planned to reach full capacity and work in round-the-clock mode. Accordingly, the number of products will double. Half of it will be shipped for export. "The production capacity of the enterprise allows today to produce 25 million adult diapers per month, 20 million children's diapers-panties, 10 million pieces of children's diapers, 3 million wet

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<sup>347</sup> BelEmsa LLC is recognized as the winner of the National contest "Entrepreneur of the Year" [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://fezmogilev.by/services/sobytiya/ooo-belemsa-priznan-pobeditелеm-natsionalnogo-konkursa-predprinimatel-goda/>

<sup>348</sup> Strahar: only in partnership with the state it is possible to develop enterprises and the country [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/strahar-tolko-v-partnerstve-s-gosudarstvom-mozhno-razvivat-predpriyatija-i-stranu-696638-2025/>



wipes. The products come out under different brand names and fully cover the needs of the Belarusian consumer, while the rest is exported (about 80% of sales)"<sup>349</sup>. We can only add that four enterprises are currently implementing investment projects with the participation of Turkish capital on the territory of FEZ "Mogilev". In addition to the production of sanitary-hygienic and medical products, they are also developing the production of packaging materials and rubber products used as a sealant in the manufacture of translucent constructions.

<sup>350</sup>For 2025, the Ministry of Economy of Belarus has set four key tasks for this FEZ: maintaining positive dynamics of the main financial and economic indicators of residents, forming a pool of key investment projects and ensuring control over the efficiency of their implementation, attracting new investors with export-oriented projects to free investment sites and strengthening the work on infrastructure development, as well as "it is necessary to scale up successful experience in the implementation of business projects on inefficiently utilized sites. This suggests that residents of FEZ "Mogilev" will continue to demonstrate effective work on implementing innovations and lean production principles in order to increase labor productivity, producing export and import-substituting products.

Residents of **FEZ Gomel-Raton** also showed good results in 2024. It should be reminded that currently 62 investment

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<sup>349</sup> A new line for the production of absorbent disposable diapers was launched in FEZ "Mogilev" [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/novuju-liniju-po-proizvodstvu-vpityvajuschih-odnorazovyh-pelenok-zapustili-v-sez-mogilev-696635-2025/>

<sup>350</sup> Maintaining the dynamics and attracting investors. The Ministry of Economy set the tasks of FEZ "Mogilev" for 2025 [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/sohranenie-dinamiki-i-privlechenie-investorov-v-minekonomiki-postavili-zadachi-sez-mogilev-na-2025-god-695271-2025/>

projects are being implemented at various stages in this FEZ. With the participation of foreign capital from 12 countries, 24 enterprises are working there. "In 2024, FEZ residents invested Br298 million in production. Almost 20% of them - at the expense of foreign sources. The volume of foreign direct investment amounted to \$107.3 million, which is 64.3% of the total inflow of foreign direct investment in region"<sup>351</sup>. In 2025 the FEZ intends only to increase investments. Last year the FEZ produced almost 7.5 billion Belarusian rubles worth of goods. This is one fifth of the industrial output of Gomel region. It should be noted that the resident enterprises employ almost 30 thousand people. At the same time, 490 people will be hired for additional jobs in 2024. And the supply of FEZ residents outside Belarus has increased by more than 15 percent. Last year "exported goods worth \$1.6 billion"<sup>352</sup>. The biggest consumers of these products are the countries of the Eurasian Economic Union. Goods are also now being shipped to China, as well as to African countries.

On the eve of 2025, the **transport unitary enterprise Khimtrans** was registered as the 64th resident of this FEZ, which "will implement an investment project for the organization of technological cargo transportation and formation of phosphogypsum dumps"<sup>353</sup>. And already this year the FEZ resident - SvetlogorskKhimvolokno **OJSC** - has mastered the

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<sup>351</sup> Almost Br300 mln invested in production by residents of FEZ "Gomel-Raton" in 2024 [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/pochti-br300-mln-investirovali-v-proizvodstvo-rezidenty-sez-gomel-raton-v-2024-godu-698510-2025/>

<sup>352</sup> To Russia, Africa, China. Export of goods of FEZ "Gomel-Raton" residents increased by 15.6% in 2024 [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/v-rossiju-afriku-kitaj-eksport-tovarov-rezidentov-sez-gomel-raton-vyros-na-156-v-2024-godu-698517-2025/>

<sup>353</sup> New resident in the outgoing year [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://gomelraton.com/press-center/residents/novyy-rezident-v-ukhodyashchem-godu/>

production of a new type of import-substituting products - immobilization fixing splints designed for quick fixation of limbs in case of fractures, sprains, dislocations at the stages of pre-hospital care. These fixation splints are included in the State Register of Medical Devices and Medical Equipment of Belarus. "In general, in 2024, the share of innovative products of SvetlogorskKhimvolokno in the volume of shipped products amounted to 23.3%. Additionally, three new types of products were developed and included in the list: polyolefin coextrusion film, agro-fabric from polypropylene yarns and immobilization compact tires"<sup>354</sup> . It should be noted that SvetlogorskKhimvolokno OJSC is a part of Belneftekhim Concern and is one of the largest diversified enterprises of the petrochemical complex of the country. The products manufactured here - polyester yarns, fabrics and fabrics, nonwoven materials, polypropylene containers, disposable gloves, synthetic gypsum - are in stable demand in the domestic and foreign markets.

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<sup>354</sup> FEZ resident "Gomel-Raton" has mastered the production of a new type of import-substituting products [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://gomelraton.com/press-center/news/rezident-sez-gomel-raton-osvoil-proizvodstvo-novogo-vida-importozameshchayushchey-produktsii/>

## **Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange: Asian-African vector of cooperation**

In 2024, the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange (BUTB) increased its activity on different continents, where it showed good rates of sales of export goods from Belarus to foreign business partners. "Among the reasons for the successful activity of the exchange platform are the increase in the number of non-resident buyers, the opening of new markets, and the introduction of additional commodity positions..."<sup>355</sup>

Positive trends in this context have been noted in **East Asia**. In particular, cooperation with the **People's Republic of China (PRC)** is one of the priority tasks of the BUTB. This is evidenced by the high positive dynamics of trade turnover and a significant number of Chinese companies using the opportunities of the Belarusian exchange platform. As of January 1, 2025, 247 residents of this country, including three stock brokers, were accredited on the BUTB. In 2024, the volume of transactions of Chinese traders amounted to about 135 million dollars, which is 1.7 times more than in 2023. This level was achieved largely due to the factors that contribute to the increase in Belarusian-Chinese exchange trading:

- 1) The successful operation of the BUTB representative office in Shanghai;
- 2) active interaction with Chinese regions,
- 3) the transition of exchange trade between Belarus and China to a wide range of multi-commodities.

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<sup>355</sup> Zalessky, B. Priorities of multidirectionality. Chronicle of international economic cooperation of Belarus with interested partners on different continents / Boris Zalessky. - LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2024. - C. 573.

As for the BUTB representative office in Shanghai, it was established in 2023. And today "its specialists are already constantly participating in the largest industry exhibitions, forums, conferences and other business events in China"<sup>356</sup> , providing direct contact with representatives of Chinese business, additional opportunities to inform potential bidders about BUTB's tools and services, as well as facilitating interaction with already accredited companies. During the first year of its representation, the Chinese direction of BUTB has significantly intensified - "almost 90 new bidders, <...> export transactions at\$ 2-3 million weekly"<sup>357</sup> . In November 2024, at the 7th China International Import Expo in Shanghai, the specialists of the representative office held numerous meetings with Chinese companies interested in purchasing Belarusian-made meat and dairy and oil and fat products, as well as sawn timber and cellulose at the exchange trading. And there can be no doubt that in 2025 we will see new effective results of this BUTB structure .

Speaking about BUTB's cooperation with Chinese regions, we can cite a few relevant facts on this topic. In November 2024, BUTB signed a memorandum of understanding with the Investment Attraction Center of Enshi Prefecture, Hubei Province. By adopting this document, the parties "intend to join efforts to popularize exchange trading among representatives of the business community of this region of the PRC and take measures to promote the entry of Chinese business entities to the electronic

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<sup>356</sup> Zaleskii, B. Geography of stock exchange trade in Belarus. Chronicle of international cooperation / Boris Zalesky. - LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2024. - C. 51-52.

<sup>357</sup> The number of Chinese bidders increased 1.6 times during the work of the BUTB representative office in Shanghai [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/za-vremja-raboty-predstavitelstva-butb-v-shanhae-chislo-kitajskih-uchastnikov-torgov-vyroslo-v-16-raza-673733-2024/>

platform of BUTB"<sup>358</sup> . It should be reminded that agriculture, metallurgy, machine building, textile industry are developing well in this province, and the extensive transportation and logistics infrastructure allows to quickly deliver goods to other regions of China. All this creates prerequisites for mutually beneficial cooperation between the Belarusian Exchange and business circles of Hubei Province.

The agreement to organize mutual exchange trade in agricultural products and industrial goods in November 2024 was reached following the results of BUTB's negotiations with business circles of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region (XUAR). It was planned to focus on attracting to the Belarusian exchange platform the enterprises of the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps (XPC), which not only plays an important role in the economy of XUAR, but also makes a significant contribution to the development of foreign trade potential of the PRC as a whole. Negotiations have already been held with a number of large companies of the SPSC interested in purchasing Belarusian meat and dairy products and rapeseed oil through BUTB. Also, "the possibility of selling industrial chemicals, workwear and electronics produced in XUAR in the domestic market of Belarus is being worked out. For this purpose, the exchange platform of industrial and consumer goods, which has been regularly used by Chinese manufacturers of spare parts and components for industrial equipment since 2024, will be used"<sup>359</sup>

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<sup>358</sup> BUTB intends to develop exchange trade with the Chinese province of Hubei [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-namerena-razvivat-birzhevujutorgovlju-s-kitajskoj-provintsiej-hubej-673638-2024/>

<sup>359</sup> Belarus and Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region will establish trade through BUTB [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL:

. Interesting fact: last year China ranked sixth in the number of companies accredited on the BUTB and second in the volume of exchange turnover with Belarusian traders. Further growth of the indicators is planned to be ensured through even more active cooperation with the PRC regions.

Recently, the BUTB has been paying special attention to establishing contacts with producers of ferrous and non-ferrous rolled metal products, which account for about 85 percent of the turnover of the metal products section. At the end of October 2024, "based on the results of meetings with Chinese metallurgists it is planned to organize their participation in exchange trading for the domestic market of Belarus, which will increase the volume of metal supply on the exchange platform, increase the level of competition among foreign suppliers and create more favorable conditions of purchases for Belarusian enterprises of the real sector of the economy"<sup>360</sup>. Speaking about imports of metal products from China, taking into account the structure of exchange transactions in 2024, steel rolled products are of the greatest interest for Belarusian consumers. These include hot-rolled sheet, rebar, round, electric-welded pipe, angle and channel. As for the metals themselves, they are, first of all, aluminum, tin, nickel, zinc, as well as ferroalloys, such as ferromanganese, ferromolybdenum and ferrochrome. In January-September last year, the amount of transactions in this area amounted to almost BYR23 million.

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<https://belta.by/economics/view/torgovlju-cherez-butb-naladjat-belarus-i-sintszjan-ujgurskij-avtonomnyj-rajon-676369-2024/>

<sup>360</sup> BUTB will provide additional opportunities for import of steel products from China [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-obespechit-dopolnitelnye-vozmozhnosti-dlja-importa-metalloproduktov-iz-kitaja-671737-2024/>

In total, for ten months of 2024, the amount of exchange transactions in the direction of "Industrial and consumer goods" BUTB "exceeded Br967 million, which is 35% more than in the same period of 2023. The largest sales volumes were provided by vehicles, special machinery, spare parts and components for industrial equipment, industrial tools, electronics and video and audio recording equipment"<sup>361</sup>. Also in this area, namely textiles, the pool of foreign sellers using the BUTB platform was enriched by another Asian country in early November 2024, when a Chinese manufacturer of raw materials sold its products on BUTB for the first time. The amount of the transaction for the supply of polyurethane membrane with knitted mesh to one of the Belarusian textile enterprises amounted to about one and a half million Belarusian rubles. The entry of Chinese suppliers to the exchange certainly contributes to the increase in the concentration of supply at the auction and will have a positive impact on the dynamics of the Belarusian-Chinese trade turnover in the future.

However, it should be recognized that in 2024, Belarusian-made timber products prevailed in the structure of BUTB's trade turnover with Chinese partners with a specific weight of 95%. At the same time, importers of woodworking products from China are ready to increase the volume of lumber purchases, as they are attracted to BUTB by the opportunity to purchase these products directly from Belarusian producers at transparently formed market prices, as well as a number of related services that simplify doing business in Belarus. For this reason, for example, a large trading

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<sup>361</sup> Geography of suppliers of raw materials for the Belarusian textile industry expanded at the BUTB [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/geografija-postavschikov-syrja-dlja-belorusskoj-tekstilnoj-promyshlennosti-rasshirilas-na-butb-677213-2024/>



company from Shandong Province, specializing in the import and distribution of wood raw materials and wood products in the Celestial Empire, in 2024 "concluded exchange transactions for the purchase of softwood sawn timber with a total volume of 11 thousand cubic meters, and from 2025 plans to participate even more actively in trading"<sup>362</sup>, in order to reach even higher figures, including by expanding the size range of sawn timber. In general, in the first 11 months of 2024, Chinese residents were the top five largest importers of Belarusian wood products at the BUTB. During this period, they purchased these products one and a half times more than in the same period of 2023. And at the beginning of 2025, the pool of buyers of sawn timber from China, who regularly participate in export trade sessions, already numbers about 85 companies.

Another interesting observation: in 2024, the key trend in exchange trade between Belarus and China was a pronounced transition to multicommodity trading. For example, "if a year ago, exports of Belarusian sawn timber accounted for almost the entire volume of exchange trade with China, now the structure of transactions has become more diversified. In particular, the share of agricultural products is gradually growing - mainly due to the sale of domestic dairy products to the Celestial Empire"<sup>363</sup>. Just at the end of November 2024, the first 23 tons of Belarusian butter were sold with the help of BUTB to a Chinese importer of dairy

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<sup>362</sup> Chinese business is ready to increase purchases of Belarusian lumber products at the exchange trading [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/kitajskij-biznes-gotov-naraschivat-zakupki-belorusskoj-piloproductsii-na-birzhevyh-torgah-679946-2024/>

<sup>363</sup> Transition to multi-commodity: China began to buy Belarusian butter on BUTB [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/perehod-k-multitovarnosti-kitaj-nachal-pokupat-na-butb-belorusskoe-slivocnoe-maslo-679094-2024/>

products in Qingdao, Shandong Province. This company had previously purchased milk powder and whey powder at BUTB auctions. Taking into account the successful experience of using the Belarusian exchange platform, it decided to expand the range of purchased goods. And in December 2024, the first deal for the sale of meat products in China was concluded on the BUTB, when the Chinese importer purchased semi-finished beef meat - 25 tons, and the seller was a large meat-processing enterprise from Brest region. In general, in 2024, the Chinese direction of agricultural exports developed both quantitatively and qualitatively. "Thus, the amount of transactions compared to 2023 increased sixfold, to \$2.1 million, and the commodity portfolio was supplemented with butter, dried milk whey and meat products"<sup>364</sup>

In turn, Chinese manufacturers began to supply Belarus not only ferrous rolled metal products, but also various components and spare parts for industrial equipment and electrical engineering. In January 2025, the first stock exchange deal was concluded on BUTB to purchase components for electric vehicle charging stations directly from a Chinese manufacturer. The cost of the equipment amounted to 893 thousand Belarusian rubles. The fact is that the sphere of electric transportation, including charging infrastructure for electric cars, is being actively developed in Belarus. This implies the purchase of relevant equipment, and China is known to be the world leader in this field. Therefore, in order to assist Belarusian enterprises in organizing imports of charging stations and their components from China, a number of Chinese manufacturers were accredited to participate in the

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<sup>364</sup> Belarusian meat products were first sold to China through BUTB [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/beloruskie-mjasoprodukty-vpervye-prodany-v-kitaj-cherez-butb-685396-2024/>

bidding. This transaction was "part of a set of measures to develop the industrial-consumer direction of exchange trade between Belarus and China, which was successfully launched in mid-2024 and is gradually gaining momentum. Thus, at the end of last year, the amount of exchange transactions on imports of equipment, spare parts and components from China reached \$1 million"<sup>365</sup>. So, in 2025, the interaction between the Belarusian exchange platform and Chinese partners will, to all appearances, traditionally develop along an upward trajectory. All this is evidence of the growing interest of Chinese business in the Belarusian exchange market, which has a positive impact on the dynamics of mutual trade. Currently, the share of the Chinese market in the total volume of exchange exports is eleven percent, which puts China in second place in this indicator. And this is not the limit.

In another **East Asian** country, BUTB acquired a new partner - the **Mongolian Commodity Exchange (MCE)**, with which it signed a memorandum of cooperation in 2024 to share experience, information and technologies, to facilitate direct contacts between economic entities of the two countries, to hold business events, to create favorable conditions for Belarusian and Mongolian companies to participate in exchange trading, and to implement joint projects aimed at strengthening trade and economic relations between the two countries. The parties plan to "develop a roadmap for cooperation with a list of specific

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<sup>365</sup> Chinese electric vehicle charging equipment manufacturer sold products on BUTB for the first time [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/kitajskij-proizvoditel-zarjadnogo-oborudovanija-dlja-elektromobilej-vpervye-prodal-produktsiju-na-butb-688167-2025/>

measures, which will become the basis for further interaction between the commodity exchanges of Belarus and Mongolia"<sup>366</sup> .

In 2024, BUTB intensified cooperation with two **South Asian** countries - **India and Pakistan**. In particular, in November last year, the Belarusian exchange platform agreed on a preliminary list of areas of cooperation with the **Indian Chamber of International Business (ICIB)** to focus on attracting the Indian business community to make import and export transactions with goods on BUTB. "For India it is lumber, flax fiber, synthetic yarns and plastic products, while for Belarus it is rice, food raw materials, horticultural products and cotton yarn"<sup>367</sup> . In addition, in December last year, BUTB and ICIB agreed on accreditation of an exchange broker to not only attract new Indian traders to the Belarusian platform, but also to facilitate the activities of four Indian companies already accredited there.

By the way, one of them in early November 2024 concluded the first deal for the purchase of lumber. A Delhi-based manufacturer of lumber and floor coverings concluded a contract for three thousand cubic meters using the mechanism of exchange-targeted transactions. Prior to that, woodworking products were not sold to the Indian market through exchange trades, although India is undoubtedly an attractive export destination for Belarusian woodworking companies. "Every year this South Asian country imports about 30 million cubic meters of timber from abroad. <...>

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<sup>366</sup> Commodity exchanges of Belarus and Mongolia concluded a memorandum of cooperation [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/товарные-биржи-беларуси-и-монголии-заклужили-меморандум-о-сотрудничестве-639163-2024/>

<sup>367</sup> BUTB and the Indian Chamber of International Business agreed on areas of cooperation [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-i-indijskaja-palata-mezhdunarodnogo-biznesa-soglasovali-napravlenija-sotrudnichestva-678777-2024/>

Softwood species common in Belarus are especially in demand, which opens up wide opportunities for supplying domestic lumber products to the Indian market"<sup>368</sup> . It is noteworthy that a targeted mechanism was used to conclude the first deal with an importer from India, which implies a simplified accreditation procedure at the stock exchange and a symbolic rate of exchange fee from the buyer in the amount of one Belarusian ruble. In general, the volume of transactions on BUTB with Indian companies "at the end of 11 months [2024] amounted to\$ 1.6 million. <...> Accordingly, the potential for expansion of the range of bidders and growth of trade turnover is enormous"<sup>369</sup> . So the parties plan to achieve much higher results in 2025.

BUTB intends to intensify cooperation in the field of exchange trading in the new year with two new partners from **Pakistan**. First, with the **Pakistan Mercantile Exchange (PMEX)**. In November 2024, the parties discussed the possibility of implementing mutually beneficial joint projects, as well as "the issue of settlement of exchange transactions, including the use of various financial mechanisms to secure obligations"<sup>370</sup> . For further cooperation, a memorandum of understanding will be signed, which will define the key tasks, principles, directions and forms of joint work of the two exchanges.

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<sup>368</sup> India started buying Belarusian lumber through BUTB [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/indija-nachala-pokupat-belorusskie-pilomaterialy-cherez-butb-673332-2024/>

<sup>369</sup> BUTB plans to accredit a stockbroker in India [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-planiruet-akkreditovat-v-indii-birzhevoego-brokera-683642-2024/>

<sup>370</sup> BUTB and Pakistan Commodity Exchange agreed to intensify cooperation [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-i-pakistanskaja-tovarnaja-birzha-dogovorilis-ob-aktivizatsii-sotrudnichestva-674954-2024/>

Second, with the **Pakistan Timber Traders Association (APTTA)**. Last December, BUTB and APTTA agreed to assist in informing the Pakistani business community about the possibilities of using exchange instruments. The Pakistani side believes that "import of Belarusian lumber products, given their high demand in Pakistan, can become a starting point for long-term mutually beneficial cooperation between Belarusian and Pakistani businesses in the exchange sector"<sup>371</sup>. So this agreement will give due impetus to the development of trade and economic contacts between the two countries.

Now let's move to **Central Asia**. The development of exchange trade between Belarus and Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan in 2024 was marked by high dynamics. Only for eight months of the past year, the total amount of transactions of traders from these "five" amounted to \$56 million, which is almost four times more than in the same period of 2023. Moreover, the growth of exchange turnover was observed in all countries of the region. For example, "the volume of transactions with **Tajikistan** increased in value terms by 6 times. In Belarus, Tajikistan companies mainly bought softwood sawn timber, while cotton yarn was sold for export. In addition, in September the first exchange contracts were concluded for the supply of Belarusian dried milk and whey to Tajikistan"<sup>372</sup>. In the same September, the first non-resident Tajik stock broker was accredited on the BUTB. This will make it possible to attract

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<sup>371</sup> BUTB to collaborate with the Forest Products Traders Association of Pakistan [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-budet-sotrudniczat-s-assotsiatsiej-torgovtsev-lesoproduktsiej-pakistana-684173-2024/>

<sup>372</sup> BUTB accredited the first stock broker in Tajikistan [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-akkreditovala-pervogo-birzhevogo-brokera-v-tadzhikistane-660324-2024/>

importers of lumber and agricultural products from this Central Asian country.

The growth of exchange turnover is noted on BUTB transactions with **Uzbek** enterprises in 2024: 55 million dollars, which is three times more than in 2023. It is interesting that "in January 2024, 97 Uzbek companies were accredited at the exchange, and by the end of December they had already become 177. Increased interest in exchange trading is the result of comprehensive information work with the business community of Uzbekistan"<sup>373</sup>. As a result, last year the range of goods bought and sold on the BUTB by Uzbek companies expanded. In particular, from the middle of 2024, Belarusian skimmed and whole milk powder started to be sold to the Uzbek market. The amount of transactions in August-December exceeded four million dollars. As for imports, last year Uzbekistan actively supplied Belarus with raw materials for the textile industry - cotton carded yarn and wool fabric. The amount of transactions on these items increased one and a half times by 2023.

As for **Kazakhstan**, it is the largest buyer of sugar on the BUTB. In particular, only "in January-May 2024 Kazakhstani participants of exchange trading purchased 29 thousand tons of white granulated sugar, which is 4.7 times more than in the same period of 2023"<sup>374</sup>. Within the framework of the 24th Kazakhstan International Exhibition "Foodstuffs, beverages, ingredients, packaging and equipment for food industry" - InterFood Astana 2024, which was held in Astana in May, representatives of BUTB

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<sup>373</sup> The volume of exchange trade between Belarus and Uzbekistan has tripled [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/objem-birzhevoj-torgovli-belarusi-i-uzbekistana-uvlichilsja-v-tri-raza-688691-2025/>

<sup>374</sup> BUTB expects to increase exports of Belarusian agricultural products to Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-rasschityvaet-uvlichit-eksport-belorusskoj-selhozprodukcii-v-kazahstan-637599-2024/>

held negotiations on cooperation with a number of Kazakhstani enterprises interested in purchasing products of agro-industrial complex on exchange trading. The matter concerns import of dairy products and sugar, as well as other foodstuffs produced in Belarus in the future. For reference, we note that as of May 1, 2024, 122 residents of Kazakhstan, including one brokerage company, were accredited on the BUTB.

In 2025, BUTB intends to intensify business ties with partners from **Kyrgyzstan**, although last year the exchange trade indicators were not bad either. According to the results of 10 months of 2024, the exchange trade turnover with this Central Asian country "increased 2.4 times, to \$5.7 million. Almost 65% of this amount was provided by exports of Belarusian butter. The popular commodity items imported to Kyrgyzstan through the exchange also included granulated sugar, skimmed milk powder and rennet cheese"<sup>375</sup>. As of the beginning of November 2024, 30 residents of Kyrgyzstan were accredited at the BUTB, five of which participated in the exchange trading for the first time last year. It is planned to give additional impetus to the development of Belarusian-Kyrgyz exchange trade by involving new liquid positions in mutual trade, expanding the range of Kyrgyz traders and deepening inter-exchange cooperation. It is a question of joining efforts with the Kyrgyz Stock Exchange, which is considering the possibility of launching trading on the commodity market and is interested in studying the experience and technologies of the BUTB. In this regard, the Belarusian and Kyrgyz stock exchanges reached a preliminary agreement to sign

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<sup>375</sup> Belarus and Kyrgyzstan will strengthen the exchange vector of cooperation [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-kyrgyzstan-usiljat-birzhevoj-vektor-sotrudnichestva-678941-2024/>



a cooperation agreement in 2025, which will become the basis for further joint work of the exchange platforms of the two countries.

Among BUTB's active partners in the **South Caucasus is Azerbaijan**. "Over 10 months of 2024, companies from this country concluded exchange transactions for more than \$91 million, exceeding the figure of January-October last year by two and a half times. Moreover, all of these were exports of Belarusian goods - mainly woodworking products, which accounted for 90% of supplies"<sup>376</sup>. The growth of sales at BUTB is primarily due to the expansion of the circle of regular customers from Azerbaijan. After all, there are almost one and a half times more of them. At the beginning of November 2024, 132 residents from this country were accredited here. Thus, the number of bidders from Azerbaijan has increased by 41 companies since the beginning of the year. Another detail: earlier Azerbaijani participants mainly bought lumber and dairy products at the exchange. But in November last year the first deals on export of meat by-products were registered on BUTB. The seller was one of the leading meat-processing enterprises of Brest region, and the buyer was an Azerbaijani trade organization specializing in the import of meat and meat products for the food industry. The total volume of purchase under the two transactions amounted to 18 tons. So the expansion of the commodity nomenclature in the segment of meat and meat products opens up new opportunities for the development of exchange trade between Belarus and Azerbaijan in 2025.

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<sup>376</sup> Belarusian meat products first realized in Azerbaijan through BUTB [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/beloruskaja-mjasoproduktsija-vpervye-realizovana-v-azerbajdzhan-cherez-butb-673064-2024/>

**Turkey is** among the promising partners of BUTB in the **Middle East**. Suffice it to say that as of November 1, 2024, 102 residents of this country were accredited on the Belarusian exchange platform. In January-October last year, "the exchange turnover of Turkish companies reached \$17 million. This is 2.5 times more than in the same period of 2023, and the growth driver was not one but several commodity directions. Thus, Belarus supplied Turkey with lumber, sugar, wheat gluten, dried milk, ferrous metal scrap and flax fiber, while imports of polyester yarn and threads, which are in demand in the textile industry of Belarus, were purchased"<sup>377</sup>.

In November 2024, **the Istanbul Commodity Exchange (ISTIB)** confirmed its interest in joint work with BUTB on all topical aspects of the bilateral and multilateral agenda, and plans to add new promising positions to the list of bilateral areas of cooperation, especially in the segment of agro-industrial complex. And in the same November, the first successful trades in linen products for export took place at the ISTIB. During the trading session, **a Turkish textile company** purchased two lots of cottonized flax fiber with a total volume of more than 35 tons, and the seller was one of the leading Belarusian enterprises of the flax industry. It should be noted that the last time this commodity was traded in the foreign market on the BUTB back in 2005. Now "with the help of the exchange mechanism it is planned to expand export opportunities of Belarusian flax processors and to ensure more effective price formation for their products. The first trading

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<sup>377</sup> BUTB and Istanbul Commodity Exchange to promote cooperation in BRICS [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-i-stambulskaja-tovarnaja-birzha-budut-razvivat-sotrudnichestvo-v-briks-678324-2024/>

session on the sale of flax fiber for export demonstrated the demand for Belarusian products and the readiness of foreign importers to work through the exchange"<sup>378</sup>. It remains to add that further work on the development of export exchange trade in flax fiber will be carried out in two directions: expanding the pool of foreign buyers and attracting Belarusian flax mills to the exchange.

Finally, let's meet BUTB's partners on the African continent. Back in July 2024, three companies from **Kenya in East Africa** successfully passed the accreditation procedure at BUTB. Until then, residents of this country did not participate in exchange trading. Now it is planned to send meat and dairy products and other food products of domestic production to the East African countries through the Belarusian electronic platform, while supplies of Kenyan coffee, vegetables and fruits will be organized to the Belarusian market. The fact is that it is advisable to start exchange trade with a new country with highly liquid products, capable of ensuring a stable commodity flow in both directions already at the start. "In the case of Belarus and Kenya, it is, of course, agricultural products, both raw materials and goods with higher added value"<sup>379</sup>. Kenyan companies in Belarus are primarily interested in dried dairy products, frozen meat semi-finished products and cereals, while from Kenya they are ready to supply coffee beans and fruit and vegetable products, including avocados and mangoes

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<sup>378</sup> Belarusian flax fiber for the first time sold for export through BUTB [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belorusskoe-lnjanoe-volokno-pervye-prodano-na-eksport-cherez-butb-676512-2024/>

<sup>379</sup> First companies from Kenya accredited for BUTB [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/pervye-kompanii-iz-kenii-akkreditovany-na-butb-648277-2024/>

In **West Africa**, BUTB partnered with interesting partners from **Nigeria** and **Ghana** in the fall of 2024. In the first case, it is the **Nigerian Commodity Exchange (NCX)**, with which the Belarusian platform will initially exchange information, experience and best practices. These include, in particular, the organization and conduct of spot exchange trading in agricultural products, metals, minerals and industrial goods in the domestic market and for export. Recall that "the Nigerian Exchange floor trades predominantly commodities such as cocoa beans, coffee beans, wheat, maize, cotton, millet and rice, while highly processed products are also widely traded on the BUTB"<sup>380</sup> . In addition, BUTB and NCX intend to assist Belarusian and Nigerian companies interested in purchasing or selling goods using the exchange mechanism. It is clear that these activities will contribute to strengthening trade and economic ties between Belarus and Nigeria and create prerequisites for the growth of mutual trade turnover.

In November 2024, BUTB and the **Ghana Commodity Exchange (GCX)** identified promising areas of cooperation between the two electronic platforms in terms of mutual exchange trade and technology transfer. Taking into account the nomenclature of goods that are currently represented on the platforms of BUTB and GCX, the parties intend to focus on agricultural products, as "this commodity group provides a wide field for cooperation in both export and import directions, which fully meets the interests of the two countries"<sup>381</sup> . Moreover, the

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<sup>380</sup> BUTB to collaborate with the Nigerian Commodity Exchange [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-budet-sotrudnichat-s-nigerijskoj-tovarnoj-birzhej-672175-2024/>

<sup>381</sup> Commodity exchanges of Belarus and Ghana have identified promising areas of interaction [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL:

Ghanaian side expressed its readiness to assist in attracting to the BUTB auction producers of such items in demand in Belarus as soybeans, corn and rice, while Ghana plans to supply Belarusian meat products, flour products and wheat gluten. Thus, the partners intend to take new concrete steps to implement joint projects in the near future in order to open new markets and reliable sources of import supplies on the African continent.

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## **Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange: stable expansion of participants bidding brings success**

A stable inflow of foreign participants of the Belarusian exchange market has shown that 2024 was one of the most successful years in the activities of the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange (BUTB). This is evidenced by the figures. First, active work to expand the presence of foreign firms on the Belarusian exchange platform attracted residents from eight new countries, previously not represented on the trading floor. These are manufacturing and trading companies from Venezuela, Vietnam, Iraq, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Oman and Saudi Arabia. Secondly, the total number of foreign business entities accredited at BUTB has increased by almost 1,100 companies to reach 7,945 by the end of 2024. Third, already this year, the positive dynamics in this context continues. In January 2025, 75 new participants from abroad came to Belarusian exchange trading. And in early February, the first company from Indonesia was accredited at the BUTB. The new participant of exchange trading plans to use the opportunities of the Belarusian trading platform to buy lumber and dairy products"<sup>382</sup> . Thus, the geography of foreign clients of BUTB has once again expanded and now covers 79 countries. As of February 1 of the current year , 35513 companies, including 8020 foreign participants, have already been accredited on the Belarusian exchange platform.

One of the key areas of BUTB's work on the external circuit is the development of exchange trade within the **Eurasian**

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<sup>382</sup> BUTB accredits the first company from Indonesia [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-akkreditovala-pervuju-kompaniju-iz-indonezii-695107-2025/>

**Economic Union** (EAEU). This is evidenced, in particular, by the number of companies from the Union accredited at the exchange, as well as the constant increase in the volume of exchange turnover. At the beginning of 2025, 4,258 participants from Russia, 146 from Kazakhstan, 48 from Armenia and 30 from Kyrgyzstan were "accredited at BUTB". At the same time, positive dynamics of mutual exchange trade volumes has been achieved with almost all EAEU countries. In particular, trade turnover with Russia increased 3.5 times, with Kazakhstan - 4.2 times, with Kyrgyzstan - 2.4 times"<sup>383</sup>. In 2024, the total amount of exchange transactions between Belarusian enterprises and economic entities of other EAEU countries amounted to more than one billion dollars, which is 3.3 times more than the same indicator of 2023 and is a record result in the history of the BUTB. Nevertheless, the Belarusian exchange platform will continue to increase the turnover of cooperation with the countries of the Eurasian Five in 2025.

For example, with **Kazakhstan**. According to exchange trade statistics, in 2024, imports of Kazakh products accounted for less than one percent of the total volume of exchange trade turnover of the two countries. At the same time, "as of February 24, 2025, 154 residents of Kazakhstan were accredited on BUTB. In 2024, the amount of transactions concluded by Kazakhstani participants of exchange trading amounted to \$29 million, which is four times more than in 2023"<sup>384</sup>. In this context, it is planned

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<sup>383</sup> Exchange trade turnover of Belarus with the EAEU countries increased more than three times [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/birzhevoj-tovarooborot-belarusi-so-stranami-eaes-vyros-bolee-chem-v-tri-raza-689299-2025/>

<sup>384</sup> Belarus and Kazakhstan intend to increase the volume of exchange trade [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-kazakhstan-namereny-naraschivat-objemy-birzhevoj-torgovli-698367-2025/>

to work out in detail the list of export-oriented goods produced in Kazakhstan in order to identify the most promising positions, which it is advisable to supply to Belarus through exchange trading. After all, grain, flour, ferrous and non-ferrous metal products, coal - all this will be in demand among Belarusian consumers, and BUTB will help to cut off unnecessary intermediary links and contribute to the strengthening of trade and cooperation ties between enterprises of Kazakhstan and Belarus. For this purpose, it is necessary to intensify efforts to inform small and medium-sized businesses in Kazakhstan about the opportunities for trading on the Belarusian exchange platform.

And already in March this year, BUTB signed two documents in Astana with two leading exchange platforms in Kazakhstan - Eurasian Trading System (ETS) Commodity Exchange JSC and Caspian Commodity Exchange JSC. In the first case - a cooperation agreement, in the second - a memorandum of cooperation. These documents "will serve as a legal foundation for the development of mutually beneficial inter-exchange cooperation Belarus and Kazakhstan, aimed at expanding the practice of application of electronic exchange instruments, involvement of economic entities of the two countries in exchange trading and increasing mutual exchange turnover"<sup>385</sup>. This indicates that this interaction is reaching a qualitatively new level, which will result in a multiple growth of exchange trade volumes, strengthening of bilateral trade and economic relations and broader opportunities for doing business. In the near future, the

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<sup>385</sup> BUTB signed documents on cooperation with two leading exchange platforms of Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-podpisala-dokumenty-o-sotrudnichestve-s-dvumja-veduschimi-birzhevymi-platformami-kazahstana-700392-2025/>



parties intend to form working groups to draw up roadmaps with lists of specific measures to implement the cooperation agreement and memorandum of cooperation. The priority is to facilitate mutual access of Belarusian and Kazakh companies to the commodity exchange markets of both countries.

In the same March, a Belarusian-Kazakhstani seminar in Astana examined the role of exchange trading in developing and strengthening trade and economic cooperation between Belarus and Kazakhstan. The event was attended by over 50 representatives of Kazakhstani business interested in working on the BUTB, and where all the key aspects of organizing and conducting exchange trading were discussed and relevant commodity positions for mutual electronic trade between the two countries were outlined. Thus, "in terms of exports the main efforts are planned to focus on increasing supplies of Belarusian lumber, meat and dairy products and feed additives, and in terms of imports - on purchases of Kazakhstan metal products, coal, cereals, meal and oilseeds for industrial processing"<sup>386</sup>. It should be noted that by results of January-February 2025 the amount of deals of Kazakhstan traders increased by 36 percent. Imports of Belarusian dried milk, butter, sugar, and sawn timber dominated the structure of the exchange trade turnover between Belarus and Kazakhstan.

As for other countries of the **Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)**, **Uzbekistan** should be singled out. As of the end of February 2025, 188 residents from this Central Asian country have already been accredited on BUTB, three of which

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<sup>386</sup> Belarus and Kazakhstan will strengthen the exchange direction of trade and economic cooperation [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-kazahstan-usiljat-birzhevoe-napravlenie-torgovo-ekonomicheskogo-sotrudnichestva-700133-2025/>

have the status of stockbrokers. "Last year, Uzbek exchange traders concluded transactions totaling \$54.8 million, which is three times more than the same indicator in 2023. In 2025, there is already almost a twofold increase in trade turnover: \$9.6 million in January this year against \$5.2 million in January 2024"<sup>387</sup>. In February this year, a delegation from BUTB took part in the 26th international construction exhibition UzBuild in Tashkent and in the 4th international specialized exhibition AGROPRO EXPO in Samarkand, where agreements were reached to increase supplies of Belarusian lumber and agricultural products to the Uzbek market. It was also noted that Uzbek business circles are interested in using exchange trading instruments to purchase and sell a wide range of commodities and non-raw materials. In particular, in addition to importing woodworking products, representatives of Uzbek business expressed readiness to purchase meat products and feed additives on BUTB and place orders for the sale of food raw materials, including nuts and dried fruits. The plan is not only to increase the number of participants of exchange trading from this country, but also to diversify the structure of the Belarusian-Uzbek exchange turnover, which will ensure its sustainable positive dynamics in the long term. After all, in 2024, Uzbekistan ranked fourth after Russia, China and Azerbaijan in terms of the amount of exchange transactions concluded on the BUTB. Over 90 percent of all transactions were purchases of Belarusian lumber, milk powder and sugar. And mainly cotton yarn, which is in high demand among textile industry enterprises, was supplied to

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<sup>387</sup> Business of Uzbekistan will expand its presence on the Belarusian exchange platform [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/biznes-uzbekistana-rasshirit-prisutstvie-na-belorusskoj-birzhevoj-ploschadke-698799-2025/>

Belarus through the exchange. The issue of expanding the range of goods involved in exchange trade between the two countries, both in the direction of exports and imports, is relevant.

As for **Moldova**, 62 residents from this CIS country are currently accredited with the BUTB. Moldova is undoubtedly a promising destination for Belarusian products, and the range of goods supplied to this country through exchange trading is expanding every year. For example, in 2023, the first transactions for the purchase of Belarusian sugar were made, and in 2024, a trial batch of skim milk powder was sold to the Moldovan market. In February 2025, "during a trading session for the sale of dairy products for export, the Moldovan participant concluded two trial transactions with a total volume of 20 tons. The seller was a large milk processing enterprise from Grodno region"<sup>388</sup>. The appearance of such a position as butter in the structure of the exchange trade turnover of Belarus and Moldova will have a positive impact on the dynamics of mutual trade volumes and will make it possible to attract more representatives of Moldovan business specializing in import and distribution of agricultural products to the exchange platform.

**China** should be singled out among the main partner countries of BUTB from the "far arc", which showed good results on the Belarusian exchange platform in 2024. After all, the export of products from Belarus to the Celestial Empire through BUTB grew 1.6 times - up to almost 130 million dollars at the end of last year. "The largest volume of transactions fell on the products of the timber industry, namely softwood lumber. In addition, during

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<sup>388</sup> Belarusian butter was first sold to Moldova through BUTB [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belorussskoe-slivochnoe-maslo-uvpervye-prodano-v-moldovu-cherez-butb-696416-2025/>

the last year, milk powder, butter, milk cream powder and semi-finished beef meat products were actively supplied to the Chinese market through exchange trading"<sup>389</sup> . This year too, Chinese business continues to show increased interest in Belarusian-made goods: in the first two weeks of January, exchange transactions totaling more than three and a half million dollars were already made.

In February 2025, the BUTB accredited a new stock broker from Zhejiang Province - Wenzhou Ruijun Steel Co. Ltd. - to expand the range of Chinese metallurgical enterprises selling products demanded in Belarus at the exchange trading. This company has been cooperating with the commodity exchange since 2021 and has considerable experience in applying the exchange mechanism in supplying rolled metal products to the market of our republic. It is assumed that in the status of broker "Wenzhou Ruijun Steel" will focus on attracting Chinese producers of rolled steel to the exchange platform, which will contribute to an increase in the supply of these products at the exchange trading and, as a consequence, will provide more favorable terms of purchase for domestic consumers. The fact is that against the background of a decline in global demand for steel products, Chinese producers have begun to take an active interest in the Belarusian market and use exchange trading as an entry point. And only "in 2024, 90 new companies from the Celestial Empire came to the trades, while the exchange import of Chinese metal to Belarus increased in value terms by almost six times compared to 2023. The structure of transactions was dominated by

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<sup>389</sup> Belarus 1.6 times increased exchange exports to China in 2024 [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-v-16-raza-velichila-birzhevoj-eksport-v-kitaj-za-2024-god-691039-2025/>

pipe and sheet rolled products"<sup>390</sup> . Of course, the emergence of a broker specializing in metal products will have a positive impact not only on the sales of Chinese metal in Belarus, but will also give an additional impetus to the development of cooperation between our countries in the exchange sector.

And in March of this year, the first deal was made to sell technical casein to the Chinese market with the help of BUTB. The purchase volume amounted to 21 tons. "The seller was one of the leading milk processing enterprises of Minsk region, and the buyer was a trading company from Beijing, specializing in import and distribution of dairy products"<sup>391</sup> . Expansion of the commodity nomenclature of exchange exports to China is associated with a stable growth of traders from this country. Thus, since the beginning of 2025, 12 new residents have already been accredited at the BUTB. Such interest of Chinese business in the Belarusian exchange platform not only contributes to the increase in the level of competition in the course of trading, but also creates favorable conditions for the emergence of additional commodity items supplied to China through the exchange. In the development of exchange trade between Belarus and China continues, and the appearance of technical casein in the structure of sales is one of the practical results of this work. For reference, we would like to add that as of March 1, 2025, 259 PRC residents were accredited on the BUTB, including four with the status of stock brokers.

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<sup>390</sup> BUTB expands cooperation with Chinese metal producers and accredited a new broker [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-rasshirjaet-sotrudnichestvo-s-kitajskimi-metalloproizvoditeljami-i-akkreditovala-novogo-brokera-693325-2025/>

<sup>391</sup> Belarusian casein for the first time sold to China through the exchange [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/beloruskij-kazein-pervyye-prodan-v-kitaj-cherez-birzhu-700342-2025/>

Continuing the topic of Belarusian-Chinese interaction in stock exchange trading, we would like to note that in February this year BUTB agreed to cooperate with the association of organizations of Chinese compatriots "Huatsiao". This is a "non-profit organization established under the leadership of the Chinese Embassy in Belarus. The members of the association are Chinese citizens permanently residing in Belarus, as well as legal entities with Chinese capital"<sup>392</sup>. It will assist BUTB in expanding the circle of exchange trading participants from China, as well as inform Chinese business about the opportunities and advantages of the exchange platform in accordance with its competence. BUTB, in its turn, is ready to undertake the whole range of issues related to the organization and support of export-import activities of Chinese residents in Belarus, including consulting, marketing support, search for business partners, training in the basics of exchange trading and assistance in concluding transactions.

In 2025, BUTB, apparently, intends to intensify interaction in exchange trading with another non-CIS country - **India**. At the beginning of this year, 8 Indian companies were accredited on the Belarusian electronic platform, 6 of which will join the exchange in 2024. The total amount of exchange transactions concluded by Indian residents last year amounted to \$1.6 million. At the same time, since the beginning of the current year the Belarusian-Indian trade turnover has already approached \$1 million. The entire volume of exchange sales was provided by export deliveries of

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<sup>392</sup> BUTB will cooperate with the association of organizations of Chinese compatriots [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-budet-sotrudniczat-s-assotsiatsiej-organizatsij-kitajskih-sootechestvennikov-694280-2025/>

Belarusian sawn timber"<sup>393</sup>. In January 2025, a major Indian importer of sawn timber - Singla Timbers - announced its readiness to deepen cooperation with BUTB. It is not only about increasing the volume of purchases of Belarusian sawn timber products, but also about exploring other promising segments of the commodity market in order to conclude import and export deals. The company started to participate in exchange trading about a year ago. And already on the basis of 11 deals it has managed to fully assess the potential of BUTB as a tool of interaction with Belarusian enterprises. In this regard, the Indian importer is ready to make the next step and plans to buy pallet board from 2025. Now this item is mainly imported to India from Australia in the amount of 50-60 thousand cubic meters monthly. In addition, the company would like to engage in exports and supply goods from India and neighboring countries to Belarus. In particular, has a great experience of cross-border trade in nuts. So this product will be in high demand on the Belarusian market.

And in February 2025, BUTB concluded the first deal for the sale of textile raw materials from India in the domestic market of Belarus. "A pilot purchase of 20 tons of combing tape (topsa) was made by one of the domestic light industry enterprises, and the seller was a large producer of wool and acrylic yarn from the Indian state of Punjab"<sup>394</sup>. This transaction showed how the use of the exchange mechanism helped the Belarusian enterprise to promptly purchase the necessary raw materials directly from a

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<sup>393</sup> Indian businesses are interested in expanding activities with BUTB [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/indijskij-biznes-zainteresovan-v-rasshirenii-dejatelnosti-s-butb-690860-2025/>

<sup>394</sup> Indian textile raw material manufacturer sold its products on BUTB for the first time [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/indijskij-proizvoditel-tekstilnogo-syrja-vpervye-prodal-svoju-produktsiju-na-butb-699298-2025/>

foreign producer. Secondly, it is a significant step in the development of Belarusian-Indian exchange trade, since so far the basis of exchange trade between our countries has been sawn timber, which has been supplied to the Indian market since November last year. It should be assumed that the emergence of a new promising commodity position will give additional impetus to cooperation between Belarus and India in the exchange sphere and will have a positive impact on the dynamics of the volume of transactions concluded by Indian traders.

In the same February of the current year, the BUTB Center for Exchange Education for the first time held a practical seminar on exchange trading for representatives of Indian business, thus expanding the geography of export of educational services. The event was held online in English, with traders from a textile manufacturer in the state of West Bengal acting as listeners. This Indian company plans to supply its products to the Belarusian market through the exchange platform. So one of the BUTB's objectives for this year is already being realized: the Indian direction of exchange trading is reaching a qualitatively new level, which "implies an increase in the number of accredited companies, ensuring positive dynamics of trade turnover and expanding the list of goods purchased and sold by Indian participants"<sup>395</sup> . Conducting specialized training events for Indian residents not only contributes to obtaining a more significant economic effect from their participation in exchange trading, but also makes a significant contribution to the popularization of the exchange

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<sup>395</sup> BUTB expands the geography of export of educational services [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://www.butb.by/news/2025/butb-rasshirila-geografiiyu-eksporta-obrazovatelnykh-uslug/>



mechanism in the context of the development of trade and economic cooperation between the countries.

In 2024, BUTB was able to actively promote interaction with another far abroad country - **Turkey**. "First, the turnover of Turkish traders doubled: from \$9.6 million in 2023 to \$20.8 million in 2024. Secondly, the nomenclature of goods involved in exchange trading has become more diversified"<sup>396</sup>. At the moment, 107 Turkish residents are accredited on BUTB. And in the first two months of this year, the amount of transactions of Turkish companies on the Belarusian exchange increased one and a half times compared to the same period in 2024, reaching a mark of almost five million dollars. Exports from Belarus were dominated by softwood sawn timber, flax fiber and ferrous metal scrap, while carded yarn, which is in demand in the Belarusian textile industry, was mainly imported from Turkey. In addition to wood products, the Turkish market started to receive Belarusian sugar, wheat gluten, skim milk powder and flax fiber, while the import direction was strengthened by the purchase of textile raw materials by Belarusian light industry enterprises. In 2024, 38 new companies from Turkey joined the pool of BUTB users, which also had a positive impact on the dynamics of exchange turnover between the two countries. For high growth rates of the Belarusian-Turkish exchange trade in the long term, the plans include closer cooperation with the MÜSİAD association, which unites over 60 thousand Turkish companies, which will open new

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<sup>396</sup> Exchange trade turnover of Belarus and Turkey has increased one and a half times since the beginning of 2025 [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/birzhevoj-tovarooborot-belarusi-i-turtsii-vyros-v-poltora-raza-s-nachala-2025-goda-701676-2025/>

opportunities for economic entities of Belarus and Turkey, providing them with a convenient platform for joint business.

In short, the positive trends in the expansion of the presence of foreign firms on the Belarusian exchange platform in 2024 show that in the current year at BUTB exchange traders will not only increase the volume of sales to traditional markets, but also open new areas of supply.

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## **Asia: international exhibitions shape the export agenda**

In 2025, Belarusian exporters will take part in forty international exhibitions on different continents. In this case, we will focus on **Asia**, which is a capacious, promising and rapidly expanding market for Belarusian goods and services, as well as for attracting investments into the country's national economy. Already in February this year, international exhibition forums with Belarusian participation were held in two Asian countries - the **United Arab Emirates** and **Turkey**.

At the **30th International Exhibition of Food and Beverages Gulfood in Dubai**, where six thousand exhibitors from more than 130 countries participated and where "13 Belarusian enterprises presented their products"<sup>397</sup>, exporters from Belarus signed million-dollar contracts and opened new markets for themselves. In particular, the enterprise OJSC "Minsk Dairy Plant No. 1", the managing company of the holding company "First Dairy Plant No. 1". - managing company of the holding company "First Dairy" signed contracts for the supply of skimmed milk powder to Egypt for seven million dollars and sterilized milk to the United Arab Emirates for one million dollars. "Rogachev Milk Canning Plant and its branch Kalinkovich Dairy Plant signed contracts worth more than \$1.1 million. The products will be supplied to the UAE, Bangladesh, Jordan, the USA, Kazakhstan and Cuba"<sup>398</sup>. During the exhibition, negotiations were held and

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<sup>397</sup> Zalessky, B. Contours of reliable partnership. Reserves of successful interaction between Belarus and Asian countries / Boris Zalessky. - LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2025. - C. 128.

<sup>398</sup> Million-dollar contracts and new markets. What results Belarus achieved at the exhibition Gulfood [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/millionnye-kontrakty-i-novye-rynki-kakih-rezultatov-dobilas-belarus-na-vystavke-gulfood-v-dubae-698943-2025/>

an agreement was reached for the Slonim meat processing plant to supply 500 thousand cans of canned beef to the Uzbek market in 2025.

At the end of February 2025, the **International Istanbul Yarn Fair** was held in **Istanbul**, a comprehensive event showcasing a wide range of yarns and filaments such as cotton, viscose, acrylic, wool, polypropylene, polyamide, linen, silk, which are predominantly used in the textile and apparel industry in Turkey and the Eurasia region. The exhibition gathered more than 500 companies, over 20 thousand specialists and representatives of industry manufacturers who presented a wide range of yarns and raw materials for textile products, technical projects and solutions. Companies from Germany, Italy, China, Russia were widely represented here. In total, manufacturers from more than 80 countries participated. Special equipment, new technologies, computer and software necessary for modern spinning production aroused the interest of specialists. Here were "presented fashion trends and the latest products, including ecological yarns and yarns from bamboo, soybean fibers, organic cotton, recycled materials, which have left an indelible mark in the garment industry over the past 10 years"<sup>399</sup>

Belarus was represented at this exhibition by the flagships of the petrochemical industry: "Naftan" OJSC, the largest producer of oil products; "SvetlogorskKhimvolokno" OJSC and "Mogilevkhimvolokno" OJSC, leaders in the production of textile and technical products; "PolotskKhimvolokno" OJSC and

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<sup>399</sup> Belarus is preparing a thematic exposition for participation in the yarn exhibition in Istanbul [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/belarus-gotovit-tematicheskiju-ekspozitsiju-dlja-uchastija-v-vystavke-prjazhi-v-stambule-688103-2025/>

"Mogilevkhimvolokno" OJSC, producer of glass fiber and products based on it; "Polotsk-Steklovolokno" OJSC, and "Grodno Azot" OJSC, a specialized enterprise for the production of mineral fertilizers, which showed "a range of synthetic fibers and threads, polymer composites, heat-resistant threads, which have no analogues in the world, glass fibers and products based on them, acrylic and polyester fibers used in the production of yarn and artificial fur"<sup>400</sup>. Within the framework of this exhibition, business meetings with representatives of chemical and textile industry associations in Turkey and B2B sessions with foreign partners were organized for the Belarusian exposition participants.

And in March this year Belarusian products were presented in **Japan** - within the framework of the **50th international exhibition of food and beverages FOODEX Japan**, which was held in **Tokyo**, and which is the main event in the food industry in the Asia-Pacific region. This exhibition forum brought together almost three thousand companies from 70 countries. Among the participants are representatives from Europe, Asia, America and Africa: Sweden, Finland, Portugal, Malaysia, China, South Africa, Egypt, Vietnam, the United States, Brazil, Germany. For the first time in a long time after the pandemic restrictions, there was also an exposition of Belarus. The Taste of Nature. Our country demonstrated "the products of the flagships of the dairy industry, among them the well-known enterprises of the holding "Grodnoyasomolprom": one of the largest in the CIS producers of baby food, dairy products, food for pregnant and lactating women

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<sup>400</sup> Belarusian enterprises present their potential at the exhibition of yarn and fiber in Istanbul [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/beloruskie-predpriyatija-prezentujut-potentsial-na-vystavke-prjazhi-i-volokna-v-stambule-698757-2025/>

- Volkovysk OJSC "Bellakt", an enterprise producing a wide range of dairy products from OJSC "Lida Dairy Canning Plant"<sup>401</sup>. A wide range of products was presented by one of the leaders of the dairy industry of the Republic of Belarus - the company JSC "Molochny Mir", including the continuation and consolidation of partnerships with Japanese business representatives on dry products: whey powder, skim milk. At the exhibition the company presented elite hard cheeses "Parmesan", "Maasdam", cheese with black truffle, natural milk, natural cream and whipping cream, frozen cheese, as well as innovative product - lactose-free natural milk. The enterprise also offered regional representatives cooperation on frozen products from natural milk and cream, such as ice cream, including protein ice cream. OJSC "Soligorsk Poultry Factory", which holds leading positions in the production of chicken and quail eggs and their processed products, presented its exclusive products.

In the next two spring months, Asia will host two more international exhibition forums with Belarusian participation - in **Vietnam** and **Indonesia**. In April this year, a collective exposition of Belarus will be organized in **Hanoi** at the **International Multi-Sectoral Exhibition Vietnam Expo**, which is the leading business event in Southeast Asia. "The list of thematic sections is the most diverse: food industry, agriculture, engineering, energy, metallurgy, petrochemicals, construction, scientific and technical developments, medicine and pharmaceuticals"<sup>402</sup>. And **Jakarta** in

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<sup>401</sup> Belarusian enterprises present their potential at the exhibition of food and drinks in Tokyo [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/beloruskie-predpriyatija-prezentujut-potentsial-na-vystavke-produktov-pitanija-i-napitkov-v-tokio-701534-2025/>

<sup>402</sup> Food industry, engineering, medicine: collective exposition of Belarus will be organized at the exhibition in Hanoi [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL:

May will host the **Food+Beverage Indonesia International Food and Beverage** Exhibition, one of the largest exhibition events in the country, where local and foreign companies will present traditional and new food and beverage products, food ingredients, advanced technologies and equipment to a wide specialized audience: representatives of government agencies, chambers of commerce, food chains, hotel and restaurant businesses. "In 2024, more than 200 companies from six countries, namely China, Thailand, Malaysia, Japan, Spain and Sweden, took part in the exhibition, and the number of visitors exceeded 30 thousand"<sup>403</sup>. The thematic sections of this exhibition will include: meat and dairy products, seafood, confectionery, alcoholic and soft drinks, groceries, snacks, food additives and ingredients, healthy food, equipment and technology of food production, packaging. Recall that Indonesia is the country with the largest economy in Southeast Asia. According to data for 2024, the country ranked fourth in terms of population in the world and seventh in purchasing power parity. In the past year, there was an increase in the population's consumption of dairy products, meat and fish. In addition, the demand for sports and functional food products, including those with high fiber and protein content, increased. Thus, the participation of Belarusian enterprises and organizations in the collective exposition within the framework of the Food+Beverage Indonesia exhibition will contribute to the promotion of domestic products in the Indonesian market, establishment of new business

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

<sup>403</sup> Meat, milk, sweets, snacks: Belarusian food and beverages are presented in Indonesia [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/mjaso-moloko-sladosti-sneki-belorusskie-produkty-pitanija-i-napitki-prezentujut-v-indonezii-699970-2025/>

contacts with potential partners, increase and diversification of exports.

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## **Africa: to build mutually beneficial cooperation**

Africa is a promising partner with which Belarus should build long-term mutually beneficial cooperation. In 2025, Belarus intends to significantly intensify its partnership with African countries in a number of areas. After all, this continent has enormous resources and opportunities. Suffice it to say that "half of the 50 fastest growing countries in the world in 2022 are from Africa. The Republic of Belarus has something to offer to the rapidly developing market of this region, which is confirmed by the multi-million contracts and agreements reached recently"<sup>404</sup>.

At the international legal forum "Africa: Legal Subtleties of Doing Business" held in the Belarusian capital in October 2024 and attended by more than 240 participants, it was noted that today the African market generates a steady demand for food, machinery, equipment, agricultural machinery, mineral products, chemical products, metals. And Belarus has great opportunities for its development. Suffice it to say that "in January-August 2024, Belarusian exports increased 4 times and amounted to almost half a billion dollars"<sup>405</sup>. At the same time, Belarus is ready for more advanced forms of interaction, offering a comprehensive approach to the development of cooperation, working for the future and a

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<sup>404</sup> Belinterexpo told what exhibitions Belarusian exporters will go to in 2024 [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/v-belinterekspo-rasskazali-na-kakie-vystavki-otpravjatsja-belorusskie-eksportery-v-2024-godu-598179-2023/>

<sup>405</sup> Belarus surpassed the level of peak 2019 exports to Africa [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-prevzoshla-uroven-pikovogo-2019-goda-po-eksportu-v-sotrudnichestve-s-afrikoi-671648-2024/>

gradual move "away from simple trade in favor of investment cooperation and industrial cooperation"<sup>406</sup> .

In this context, the Belarusian side's desire to maximize its efforts to encourage domestic suppliers of export products to show their potential at international exhibitions in the countries of the African continent, which are one of the effective ways to develop trade and economic relations between the countries, comes to the fore. Moreover, "Africa is a priority region for Belarusian companies to develop cooperation and establish business communication. Moreover, the interest of African companies in Belarusian products is obvious"<sup>407</sup> . This can be judged by looking at how business entities from Belarus participated in a number of international exhibition forums on the African continent in 2023-2024.

For example, in April 2023, Belarusian enterprises demonstrated their products and services at the **Zimbabwe International Trade Fair** in **Zimbabwe**. The Belarusian exposition Made in Belarus was presented by such companies as Bellact, Lidakhleboproduct, Smarhon Bakery, BELAZ - the managing company of BELAZ-HOLDING, Sohra, AMKODOR - the managing company of the holding, Aftertrade, Minskintercaps, Borisov Medical Products Plant, Kamvol, and Mogotex. For example, Bellakt showed milk porridge, dry milk formula for children, while Lidakhleboprodukt showed its flour-milling products and semi-finished flour products at the multidisciplinary

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<sup>406</sup> Myatlikov: Africa is a promising partner for long-term cooperation [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/mjatlikov-afrika-perspektivnyj-partner-dlja-dolgosrochnogo-sotrudnichestva-671631-2024/>

<sup>407</sup> Kurash, N. Namibia, Tanzania, DPRK: what countries Belinterexpo plans to open for exhibitors this year / N. Kurash // [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/interview/view/namibija-tanzanija-kndr-kakie-strany-belinterekspoplaniruet-otkryt-dlja-eksponentov-v-etom-godu-9259/>

exhibition. Smorgon Bread Products Combine - oat flour and cereals. The machine-building industry was represented at the exhibition by the Belarusian Automobile Plant and Sohra, a group of companies that maintains Belarusian quarry machinery in various countries of the world. Also at the Made in Belarus exposition, the authorized supplier of Belarusian machinery, , demonstrated the machinery of such well-known Belarusian brands as Minsk Tractor Plant and AMKODOR, in particular, the Belarus-2022.3 energy-intensive tractor, the supplies of which were launched to the Zimbabwean market in 2022. Belarusian light industry enterprises brought a wide range of fabrics to southern Africa. "Kamvol" familiarized the visitors of the exhibition with fabrics of school and women's assortment, and "Mogotex" - with textile fabrics of the highest class, "which can be an excellent alternative to fabrics from China, India, Malaysia." Also the company manufactures both working clothes and clothes for power structures"<sup>408</sup> "Minskintercaps" and Borisov Medical Preparations Plant presented novelties of medicines at the exhibition.

And in North Africa - in **Algeria** - in June 2023, the **54th FIA International Exhibition** took place, where about a thousand companies from 40 countries participated. The National Exposition of Belarus included 11 enterprises representing various industries. MAZ OJSC, the managing company of BELAVTOMAZ holding company, demonstrated at the exhibition the catalog of its trucks characterized by reliability, efficiency and innovative solutions. JSC "Belarusian

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<sup>408</sup> Belarus presents its products and services at the exhibition in Zimbabwe [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-predstavljaet-svoi-produkty-i-uslugi-na-vystavke-v-zimbabve-563849-2023/>

Metallurgical Plant - managing company of the holding company "BMK" (BMZ) presented advanced metallurgical technologies and quality rolled metal products. Slutsk Cheese Factory OJSC and Minsk Dairy Plant No. 1 OJSC showed their high-quality dairy products. And the collective stand of the State Committee for Science and Technology presented the developments of the institutions of the Ministry of Education and organizations of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, which demonstrated "more than 30 scientific, technical and innovative developments"<sup>409</sup>. Organizations and institutes were interested in the opportunity to establish business contacts with industrial enterprises of various sectors, educational institutions, and technoparks.

In particular, the exposition of the Belarusian State University included products developed in the laboratories of research institutes and faculties of the university. "This is a multifunctional complex "Alma Mater-2", synthesized carbon materials, heat-resistant composite materials based on solid phosphate binders, nanoscale technology of diamond processing of structural composite materials, non-ferrous metals and alloys..."<sup>410</sup>. Smart Windows were shown as a natural exhibit. The invention has no analogues in the post-Soviet space. They can be used as an alternative to conventional glass structures. The innovative development protects the room from sunlight,

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<sup>409</sup> FIA exhibition became a platform for negotiations and meetings between Belarusian and Algerian companies [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/vystavka-fia-stala-ploschadkoj-dlja-peregovorov-i-vstrech-mezhdu-belorusskimi-i-alzhirskimi-kompanijami-573076-2023/>

<sup>410</sup> Scientific and technical developments of BSU will be presented at the 54th International Industrial Exhibition "FIA-2023" [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://bsu.by/news/nauchno-tehnicheskie-razrabotki-bgu-predstavlyat-na-54-y-mezhdunarodnoy-promyshlennoy-vystavke-fia-2-d/>

penetration of ultraviolet radiation and partially blocks infrared rays. This allows the user to do away with curtains and blinds. The innovation can also be used as an information board to replace paper price tags in shopping centers. Changing the price and the name of goods throughout the retail outlet from a centralized control unit on the computer is done remotely. The visitors of the exhibition were also presented radio-absorbing materials of "KUP" series. They are designed to protect aircraft from electromagnetic radiation, have low density, high elasticity, have thermal resistance up to 400-450 degrees and chemical resistance to acids, alkalis, solvents.

In April 2024, the same **Algeria** hosted the **International Food Industry Exhibition DJAZAGRO**, where the participants of the exposition of Belarusian producers Belarus. The Taste of Nature presented a wide range of goods and services, offering products tailored to the specifics of the region. Among the Belarusian companies were "presented well-known domestic enterprises and companies of the food industry: OJSC "Babushkina Krynka" - the managing company of the holding "Mogilev Dairy Company "Babushkina Krynka", Volkovyssk OJSC "Bellakt", OJSC "Lida Dairy Canning Plant", OJSC "Soligorsk Poultry Farm""<sup>411</sup>. The exposition also presented the largest spot exchange in Eastern Europe and the only commodity exchange in Belarus - the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange. The exhibition showed that Algeria is of interest to Belarus as a proven partner with a huge market. After all, more

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<sup>411</sup> Belarusian enterprises presented their potential at the exhibition of food industry in Algeria [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/beloruskie-predpriyatija-predstavili-potentsial-na-vystavke-pischevoj-promyshlennosti-v-alzhire-629938-2024/>

than 40 million people live in this country. In this regard, "Belarusian producers of dairy products and other foodstuffs have good prospects in Algeria. There are special plans for industrial cooperation. The creation of joint production facilities for trucks and agricultural machinery is currently under consideration"<sup>412</sup>.

And in **Kenya** last June, at the **25th International Exhibition BUILD EXPO AFRICA 2024**"in the engineering equipment and goods section, the Republic of Belarus [was] represented by the stand of Mashkhimprom LLC and UMKA Company LLC"<sup>413</sup>. In the same June, Belarusian companies presented their potential at two major forums in **South Africa - Africa's Big 7** and **SAITEX 2024**. It is an interesting detail that "in 2013 and 2015, the national exposition of Belarus was demonstrated at Africa's Big 7 and SAITEX"<sup>414</sup>. Given the active interaction between Belarus and BRICS member countries and the expansion of business partnerships within the framework of this organization, the Made in Belarus exposition is becoming a key link in promoting domestic products and goods in South Africa and the region as a whole.

As for the first exhibition - **Africa's Big 7** - it is the leading specialized international forum in the food and beverage sector in the region, identifying opportunities for coordination and building

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<sup>412</sup> Terentyev, S. Milk, technology and scientific developments / S. Terentyev // [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/comments/view/moloko-tehnika-i-nauchnye-razrabotki-posol-belarusi-o-proryve-belorusskih-tovarov-v-alzhir-8770/>

<sup>413</sup> Belarusian companies participate in the International exhibition "BUILD EXPO AFRICA 2024" in Kenya [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belorusskie-kompanii-uchastvujut-v-mezhdunarodnoj-vystavke-buildexpo-africa-2024-v-kenii-639801-2024/>

<sup>414</sup> Belarusian enterprises present their potential at the two largest exhibitions in South Africa [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belorusskie-predpriyatija-prezentujut-potentsial-na-dvuh-krupnejshih-vystavkah-v-juar-619553-2024/>

new business relationships between food producers, retailers and the catering industry. Africa's Big 7 united about four thousand participants, 170 exhibitors from 20 countries. The main thematic sections of the exhibition were raw materials for food production, production and sale of food products, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages for trade and catering, catering, technological solutions in retail and catering, agriculture and fertilizers. Belarus was represented by "the largest holding company Minsk Crystal OJSC - the managing company of the holding company Minsk Crystal Group and the flagship of the Belarusian wine industry Minsk Sparkling Wine Plant OJSC, presenting a range of dessert drinks and liqueur and vodka products"<sup>415</sup>.

**SAITEX** is a multi-sectoral exhibition serving as a platform for business negotiations and business interaction between foreign and local manufacturers, wholesale organizations, suppliers and buyers to establish import and export links in the region. The thematic sections of SAITEX included industrial production, light industry, electronics and household appliances, care and decorative cosmetics, tools and equipment for construction and repair, IT-technologies, tourist services, insurance, financial, investment, logistics and business services, agency support of import and export operations. More than 160 exhibitors and 4.3 thousand visitors from several dozens of countries took part in this forum. Belarus was represented by brands "Naftan", "Belshina",

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<sup>415</sup> Belarusian enterprises participate in the largest international exhibition of South Africa Africa` s Big 7 [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/beloruskie-predprijatija-uchastvujut-v-krupnejshej-mezhdunarodnoj-vystavke-juar-africas-big-7-640514-2024/>

Gomel Chemical Plant, "Grodno Azot", "PO Energokomplekt""<sup>416</sup>

In July 2024, Belarusian enterprises took part in the **FILDA** international exhibition in **Angola**, an important event in the economic life of South Africa. This multi-sectoral project is designed for a wide range of exhibitors. The exhibition brought together "more than 1.3 thousand companies from 18 countries of Africa, Europe, America and Asia"<sup>417</sup>. Even before the beginning of the exhibition the organizers paid special attention to the flagship of the Belarusian machine building - JSC BELAZ - the managing company of the BELAZ-HOLDING holding and its sales representatives within the framework of the Belarusian exposition, as the machinery from the famous domestic plant is time-tested at the Angolan mining quarries. After all, the development, production and sales of Belarusian dump trucks of large and extra large payload capacity, special and specialized machinery, as well as other heavy transport equipment used in mining, construction, metallurgical and other industries are among the most demanded and confidently hold leading positions in the world. As a result, the BELAZ delegation carried out active work on "establishing new business relations, replenishing the order portfolio, studying the requests of mining enterprises of the Republic of Angola and other states of Southern Africa"<sup>418</sup>.

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<sup>416</sup> Industrial giants of Belarus present their potential at the multi-sectoral exhibition SAITEX in South Africa [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/promyshlennye-giganty-belarusi-prezentujut-potentsial-na-mnogootraslevoj-vystavke-saitex-v-juar-640602-2024/>

<sup>417</sup> More than 1.3 thousand companies, 18 countries. Made in Belarus exposition at the exhibition in Angola interested business [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/bolee-13-tys-kompanij-18-stran-ekspozitsija-made-in-belarus-na-vystavke-v-angole-zainteresovala-biznes-650112-2024/>

<sup>418</sup> Study of requests and business relations: BELAZ presents its industrial potential at the exhibition in Angola [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL:



Among the Belarusian goods presented at this exhibition were also shown the products of CEFI LLC - a leading manufacturer of medical products for first aid in emergency situations, disaster medicine, and tactical medicine. Beldekorkosmetics LLC presented beauty products - a line of the Belarusian brand of decorative cosmetics and face and body care cosmetics LiLo, founded in 2017. One of the highlights of the Belarusian exposition Made in Belarus was the products of representatives of the domestic food industry. Thus, the assortment line of products was presented by Lidakhleboproduct OJSC - the leading manufacturer of flour, pasta and fodder products in Belarus with more than 30 years of successful development. The company has experience of cooperation with partners all over the world and delivery of products to the port/warehouse of the buyer. The exposition Made in Belarus offered "a wide range of goods and product solutions (non-cooked porridge, cereals, grits, flour, rapeseed oil) from one of the largest Belarusian producers of flour-milled grain, fodder and oil and fat products - the unitary production enterprise Smorgon Bread Products Plant"<sup>419</sup>.

In September 2024, the **International Exhibition of the latest technologies in mining and mineral processing MINEXPO AFRICA** was held in the largest city of **Tanzania** - Dar es Salaam, where the stand of the Belarusian Automobile Plant was presented and where the most significant innovative

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<https://belta.by/economics/view/izuchenie-zaprosov-i-delovye-svjazi-belaz-prezentuet-promyshlennyj-potentsial-na-vystavke-v-angole-650150-2024/>

<sup>419</sup> Belarusian enterprises presented their potential at the multi-sectoral exhibition in Angola [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/beloruskie-predprijatija-predstavili-potentsial-na-mnogootraslevoj-vystavke-v-angole-649948-2024/>

developments for the mining industry were shown. It should be noted that this industry today is one of the most rapidly developing areas of the country's economy. After all, "Tanzania is the 4th largest gold producer in Africa after South Africa, Ghana and Mali, plus, according to experts, there is a great potential for exploration and development of minerals, especially diamonds, nickel and coal"<sup>420</sup>. So, there were many people interested in Belarusian new machinery, equipment, services and modern transportation solutions for the development of deposits and extraction of mineral resources at the exhibition.

Finally, last December in **Egypt**, the exposition of Belarus. The Taste of Nature was presented within the framework of the largest **International Trade Fair of Food and Beverages Food Africa Cairo - 2024**, which took place in Cairo and brought together about one thousand exhibitors from more than 30 countries, including Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, China, Russia, Turkey, Italy, Greece, France, Spain, Switzerland, Japan. It should be said that this exhibition forum over the years has deservedly received the status of a well-known exhibition brand, which is an effective business platform that brings together representatives of Egypt, the Middle East, North Africa and foreign partners of the world level. This shows that Egypt is a major regional player interested in purchasing Belarusian goods and services.

In this case, the exposition Belarus. The Taste of Nature brought together a number of well-known enterprises of

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<sup>420</sup> BELAZ presented Belarusian industrial potential at the exhibition in Tanzania [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belaz-predstavil-belorusskij-promyshlennyj-potentsial-na-vystavke-v-tanzanii-661272-2024/>

Grodnoyasomolprom holding and flagships of the Belarusian food industry. Bellact, the largest manufacturer of baby food and dry specialized products for pregnant women and nursing mothers, athletes, middle-aged and elderly people, students, was presented at the exhibition. Within the framework of Food Africa Cairo the company presented a wide range of products, including milk formulae for infants, instant cereal, skimmed and whole milk powder, butter, coffee and cocoa-containing drinks, milk candies. Kashi, instant cereals, cereals and rape seed products, fodder products and mixed fodder were shown by Smorgon Bread Products Plant. Lidakhleboprodukt demonstrated bakery semi-finished products, complex bakery mixes, flour and cereals, pasta, premixes and mixed fodder. The assortment product line, including beef meat, cuts and beef by-products, canned products was presented by one of the leaders of the meat processing industry of Belarus - Volkovysk meat processing plant. One of the leaders of the dairy sector - Minsk Dairy Plant No. 1, a managing company of the First Dairy Holding. - the managing company of "First Dairy" holding in Cairo exhibited skimmed milk powder, whole milk powder, milk whey powder. Whole milk powder, whey powder, casein powder, as well as a range of curds, cheeses and butter were offered by Lida Dairy Canning Plant. A wide product line, including ice cream and dry mixes for ice cream, butter, was presented by Slutsk Cheese Factory. In addition, on the first day of the Cairo exhibition, "a number of agreements and contracts were signed with the participation of Lida Dairy Canning Plant and Minsk Dairy Plant No. 1. For example, First Dairy signed a contract with a large Egyptian company to supply

skimmed milk powder and whole milk powder to the markets of Egypt, Kuwait and Yemen for the amount of \$1 mln"<sup>421</sup> .

All these facts show that the exposition Belarus. The Taste of Nature has already proven itself on the African continent. And in 2025, Belarusian exporters, to all appearances, will visit more exhibition venues in African countries. After all, "Belarus has every chance to exceed \$ 1 billion exports to Africa by the next [2025] year"<sup>422</sup> . For reference, we note that this year the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry intends to organize national expositions in 25 countries, including "eight international exhibitions in Africa"<sup>423</sup> , including Egypt, South Africa, Ethiopia, and Kenya. There are plans for Belarusian exporters to participate in exhibitions in Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Namibia, and Tanzania. "The possibility of< ...> participation in the second half of the year is also being discussed with the organizers of the exhibition in Uganda"<sup>424</sup> . Let's hope that cooperation between Belarus and its African partners will get a significant impetus this year, including thanks to Belarusian expositions, which create good prerequisites for the development of trade and economic relations.

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<sup>421</sup> Famous dairy and million-dollar contracts: Belarusian food conquers the African market [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/znamenitaja-molochka-i-millionnye-kontrakty-belorusskoe-prodovolstvie-pokorjaet-afrikanskij-rynok-680216-2024/>

<sup>422</sup> Ministry of Economy: we have every chance to exceed \$ 1 billion exports to Africa by next year [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/minekonomiki-u-nas-est-vse-shansy-prevysit-1-mlrd-eksporta-v-afriku-k-sledujuschemu-godu-673839-2024/>

<sup>423</sup> BelCCI plans to organize expositions in 25 countries this year [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/beltp-planiruet-organizovat-ekspozitsii-v-25-stranah-688338-2025/>

<sup>424</sup> "Belinterexpo" plans to organize about 40 expositions at international exhibitions in 2025 [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belinterexpo-planiruet-organizovat-okolo-40-ekspozitsij-na-mezhdunarodnyh-vystavkah-v-2025-godu-688738-2025/>

As for Africa itself, we must note the continent's deepening integration. Since the beginning of 2021, the African Continental Free Trade Area, which is the largest in the world and brings together 55 countries of the African Union and eight regional economic communities, has been in operation. It is "designed to stimulate the processes of pan-African industrialization at both national and regional levels, to create and develop competitive industries"<sup>425</sup> and is aimed at creating a single market with a population of about 1.3 billion people and a combined gross domestic product of about \$3.4 trillion. The operation of the African Continental Free Trade Area is expected to increase the size of the African economy to 29 trillion dollars by 2050. This suggests that interaction with this association can have a significant impact on the dynamics of trade and cooperation between Belarus and its partners on the continent. One can only add to this that in 2024 "a program of action to promote cooperation between Belarus and African countries for 2024-2026 was approved, as well as a road map of cooperation with all reference countries"<sup>426</sup>. This suggests that Belarus and Africa are serious and for a long time.

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<sup>425</sup> Cooperation with the African Union receives additional impetus [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: [https://eec.eaunion.org/comission/department/dep\\_razv\\_integr/novosti/sotrudnich\\_estvo-s-afrikanskim-soyuzom-poluchaet-dopolnitelnyy-impuls/](https://eec.eaunion.org/comission/department/dep_razv_integr/novosti/sotrudnich_estvo-s-afrikanskim-soyuzom-poluchaet-dopolnitelnyy-impuls/)

<sup>426</sup> Belarusian exports to African countries have grown almost four times since the beginning of the year [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belorususkij-eksport-v-strany-afriki-s-nachala-goda-vyros-pochti-v-chetyre-raza-669953-2024/>

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## **Uganda: we need to move towards the realization of joint projects**

Uganda is one of the least developed countries in East Africa, which has an ambitious goal of achieving medium economic development in the near future. Its population exceeded 44 million at the beginning of 2021. The main sector of the economy is agriculture, where 82 percent of workers are employed, and the natural resources are "copper, cobalt, niobium, gold, tungsten, hydropower, fertile land"<sup>427</sup>. Back in 2013, the Vision 2040 national development program was adopted there, outlining a course of modernization and technology attraction. And now this country is making concrete efforts to improve its socio-economic situation. One of the factors of growth of the Ugandan economy is foreign economic activity, primarily trade. "The country has managed not only to increase but to diversify its exports, intensify regional economic cooperation, and enter new regional markets"<sup>428</sup>. In addition, the roadmap for this program outlines eight key projects that define the main directions of science and technology development. These include:

- 1) creation of "smart cities" based on the development of high technologies and related infrastructure,
- 2) development of large irrigation systems in different parts of the country;
- 3) Modernization of the phosphate industry in Tororo town and iron ore industry in Muko and Kabale towns;

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<sup>427</sup> A brief characterization of the economy of Uganda [Electronic resource]. - 2021. - URL: [https://kenya.mfa.gov.by/ru/export\\_uganda/](https://kenya.mfa.gov.by/ru/export_uganda/)

<sup>428</sup> Byasharova, A.R. Uganda: socio-economic development, trade, international regional cooperation / A.R. Byasharova, L.V. Achalova // International Trade and Trade Policy. - 2021. - Vol. 7. - №3(27). - C. 40.

4) Establishment of modern urban and industrial infrastructure in five regional towns - Gulu, Mbale, Kampala, Mbarara, Arua, and five strategic towns - Hoima, Nakasongola, Fortportal, Moroto, Jinja;

5) Project development with the introduction of modern transportation and logistics management technologies to establish four international airports, a standard gauge railway network with high-speed trains, an oil refinery and associated pipeline infrastructure, a multi-level paved national highway network linking major cities and other strategic locations;

6) Establishment of globally competitive skill development centers to improve the quality of human resources;

(7) Construction of nuclear and hydroelectric power plants at Ayago, Isimba, Karuma and Murchison Bay;

8) establishment of science and technology parks in each regional city.

For Belarus, this country is a potential and promising partner in East Africa. Official Minsk and Kampala established diplomatic relations in 1998. In February 2025, a Belarusian delegation headed by Prime Minister R. Golovchenko visited Uganda to discuss a fairly wide range of issues of bilateral cooperation with a focus on promising opportunities in agriculture, pharmaceuticals, information technologies, education, and to achieve the desired results. And several important documents were signed in Kampala to, first of all, promote the existing great potential for the development of bilateral economic interaction.

First, the governments of Belarus and Uganda agreed to coordinate trade and economic partnerships and concluded a corresponding agreement to "establish a strong, workable



intergovernmental committee to discuss and support projects in the economic sphere"<sup>429</sup> . Secondly, an intergovernmental memorandum on cooperation in food security was signed. The fact is that cooperation between the two countries in the field of agriculture can lead to a significant increase in food production and exports. After all, "Uganda has excellent conditions for agriculture - suitable climate and fertile soils"<sup>430</sup> . At the same time, the country faces typical problems for African countries. The population is growing rapidly and needs to be fed, treated, educated. "The country's land resources are underutilized, intensive mechanization of agriculture, industrialization of the economy, extraction and purification of water resources, and waste treatment are required"<sup>431</sup> . For this reason, for example, during the visit of the Belarusian delegation to the Ugandan capital, the parties discussed the possibility of organizing the production of Belarusian tractors here. "One of the topics was cooperation in agriculture. They also talked about dairy products"<sup>432</sup> .

Other documents signed in Kampala include a number of interdepartmental memoranda, including: on political

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<sup>429</sup> Golovchenko will pay official visits to Uganda and Qatar [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/golovchenko-posetit-s-ofitsialnymi-vizitami-ugandu-i-katar-697115-2025/>

<sup>430</sup> Golovchenko: It is important for Belarus and Uganda to create an intergovernmental committee to support joint projects [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/politics/view/golovchenko-belarusi-i-ugande-vazhno-sozdat-mezhpravkomitet-dlja-soprovozhdenija-sovmestnyh-proektov-697750-2025/>

<sup>431</sup> Cooperation in agriculture. What Golovchenko offered to the President of Uganda [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/kooperatsija-v-selskom-hozjajstve-chto-golovchenko-predlozhit-prezidentu-ugandy-697762-2025/>

<sup>432</sup> Production of Belarusian tractors can be organized in Uganda [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/proizvodstvo-belorusskih-traktorov-mogut-organizovat-v-ugande-697763-2025/>

consultations - between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Belarus and Uganda; on military-technical cooperation - between the State Military-Industrial Committee of Belarus and the Ministry of Defense and Veterans Affairs of Uganda; on cooperation in the peaceful use of atomic energy - between the Ministry of Energy of Belarus and the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development of Uganda; on mutual understanding - between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Belarus and Uganda; on cooperation in the peaceful use of atomic energy - between the Ministry of Energy of Belarus and the Ministry of Defense and Veterans Affairs of Uganda; on cooperation in the peaceful use of atomic energy - between the Ministry of Energy of Belarus and the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development of Uganda

Besides, this East African country has adopted a digital development program. And "the experience of the Republic of Belarus can really be in great demand here in terms of infrastructure development and provision of telecommunication services, because our Belarusian communication satellite Belintersat has a good coverage in Africa, particularly in Uganda"<sup>433</sup>. The experience of the Belarusian Hi-Tech Park will also be in demand in this country. Thus, the two countries have a lot of opportunities to realize all the existing achievements and find new solutions in order to implement new joint projects.

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<sup>433</sup> Ministry of Communications: Belarusian experience of digital development can be in great demand in Uganda [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/minsvjazi-belorusskij-opyt-tsifrovogo-razvitiya-mozhet-byt-ochen-vostrebovan-v-ugande-697664-2025/>

## **Eurasian Economic Union: priority areas of integration**

In January 2025, the Republic of Belarus assumed the chairmanship of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) for the third time. Let us recall that during the previous presidency of our republic in this international organization, the Strategic Directions for the Development of Eurasian Integration were adopted, which will be completed in 2025.<sup>434</sup> And in the same year the foundation is being laid for the start of a new stage and the realization of the Declaration on further development of economic processes within the EAEU until 2030 and for the period until 2045 "Eurasian Economic Way", which was signed by the heads of states of the Eurasian "five" at the end of 2023 and where they outlined "specific and clear goals: further construction of a common Eurasian market, providing it with key goods and resources, the development of cooperation, the formation of a common transport and logistics space and a common financial market".

In its address on Belarus' chairmanship of the EAEU in 2025, the Belarusian side identified nine main priorities that should be the focus of common attention this year and the consistent implementation of which will contribute to the further development of Eurasian integration and the expansion of mutually beneficial cooperation: 1) technological potential and cooperation; 2) food security; 3) common transport space and logistics; 4) level playing field and transparent competition; 5) protection of the domestic market; and 6) protection of the internal

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<sup>434</sup> The leaders of the EAEU countries adopted a declaration on the further development of the Union until 2030 and for the period until 2045 [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://belta.by/president/view/lidery-stran-caes-prinjali-deklaratsiju-o-dalnejshem-razvitii-sojuza-do-2030-go-i-na-period-do-2045-607074-2023/>

market. Let us familiarize ourselves with some of them in more detail.

Back at the meeting of the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council (EIC) in December 2024, the Belarusian side emphasized that "one of the areas that should be in the focus of close attention is **industrial cooperation and ensuring technological sovereignty**. Without solving this task, there are no prospects for the development of our union"<sup>435</sup>. For reference, we note that in 2024 the EAEU will be 10 years old. Over these years, the combined gross domestic product (GDP) of the P5 countries has grown by 12.5 percent. "Mutual trade within the EAEU has doubled over the 10-year period, while trade with third countries has grown by more than 60 percent"<sup>436</sup>. At the January (2025) MEA meeting, it was emphasized that trade, financial and production ties in the association have demonstrated resilience and economies have demonstrated the ability to adapt to the new changing conditions. In particular, "the aggregate GDP of the EAEU grew by 4% in 2024, which is higher than the global average growth rate (3.2%) and the initial forecasts"<sup>437</sup> and will reach almost 100 billion dollars by 2026. Nevertheless, the Belarusian side, as the presiding member of the union, will contribute even more actively to joint efforts to develop the

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<sup>435</sup> Pivovar, E. Golovchenko: without the development of industrial cooperation and technological sovereignty the EAEU has no development prospects / E. Pivovar // [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/golovchenko-bez-razvitiya-promkkooperatsii-i-tehnologicheskogo-suvereniteta-u-eaes-net-perspektiv-682567-2024/>

<sup>436</sup> Igor Petrishenko: Belarus has always been an active promoter of integration ideas in the Eurasian space [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://www.government.by/ru/content/11118>

<sup>437</sup> Economic growth rates of the EAEU for the second year in a row above the world average [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/tempy-ekonomicheskogo-rosta-eaes-vtoroy-god-podryad-vyshe-srednemirovykh/>

EAEU's technological potential and form a common space of cooperative interaction in all sectors of the economy.

Speaking about **food security**, we note that at the already mentioned January (2025) meeting of the IGC it was decided to work on the issue of expanding the mechanisms of financial support for joint cooperation projects to the agro-industrial complex and its infrastructure in order to promote cooperation on food production, development of trade and logistics infrastructure. Among the highest priority areas of cooperation are "development of breeding and seed production of agricultural plants, livestock breeding, processing of agricultural products, improvement of agro-industrial complex infrastructure"<sup>438</sup>. The application of financial support mechanisms in the agro-industrial complex will make it possible to develop own technologies, build effective supply chains of products and resource supply.

A very important priority of Belarus' chairmanship in the EAEU in 2025 is the **common transport space and logistics**. The fact is that Eurasian transport corridors are the backbone of the transport infrastructure in the association, ensuring the formation of a common transport space and the development of the transit potential of the Eurasian Five. They "account for about 70% of the volume of transit traffic in the EAEU, which emphasizes the importance of synchronization in the development of the national sections of each country"<sup>439</sup>. The Belarusian side believes that the effective functioning of the logistics complex and transportation

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<sup>438</sup> The EAEU discusses the use of mechanisms of financial support for cooperation projects in the agro-industrial complex [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/v-caes-rasshryaetsya-primenenie-mekhanizmov-finansovoy-podderzhki-kooperatsionnykh-proektov/>

<sup>439</sup> EAEU develops Eurasian transport corridors [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/caes-razvivaet-evraziyskie-transportnye-koridory/>

system is an important factor of economic growth in the union and promotion of Eurasian products to foreign markets, "it is a stable functioning of the transport and logistics system, adapted to the reorientation of commodity flows to friendly jurisdictions of the countries of the East, Asia-Pacific region, Global South"<sup>440</sup>. For this reason, the EAEU should actively develop promising areas for joint industrial cooperation - new railway rolling stock for cargo transportation, sea vessels of various classes and purposes, cargo and passenger aircraft, modern fleet of passenger wheeled vehicles.

Recall that in August 2022, the heads of government of the Eurasian Five countries agreed on a list of priority integration transport projects of the EAEU, which includes seven projects from all member states, of which six relate to the construction or reconstruction of highways of international importance, one - railway. In February 2024, at the meeting of the Eurasian MEA in Almaty, the heads of government of the EAEU countries approved the expansion of the list of priority integration infrastructure projects in the field of transport, which are designed to ensure increased transport connectivity of the Union's states, promotion of transit and export-import transportation. Then Kazakhstan presented projects aimed at the development of the eastern international transport corridor North - South with the introduction of new railroads. These projects involve modernization of the existing railway infrastructure on the sections Orsk - Kandygash - Makat - Beineu - Bolashak, Iletsk-1 - Aktobe, Chelyabinsk -

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<sup>440</sup> Pivovarov, E. Golovchenko: EAEU needs new airplanes, sea vessels, railroad rolling stock / E. Pivovarov // [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/golovchenko-caes-nuzhny-novye-samolety-morskie-suda-zheleznodorozhnyj-podvizhnoj-sostav-682570-2024/>

Tobol - Nickeltau and Aksarayskaya - Makat, Shalkar - Beineu - Mangystau, belonging to the North-South corridor, as well as the construction of the railway line Darbaza - Maktaaral and second railway tracks on the section Kazaly - Arys. The Kyrgyz side then "proposed to include two projects: reconstruction of the bypass road of Bishkek city and construction of a railroad from Balykchy to Jalal-Abad, connecting railroad infrastructure of the north and south of the republic. The implementation of the projects will make it possible to create a unified internal railway network of the country and increase the capacity of transit routes through Kyrgyzstan"<sup>441</sup> . All these projects will make transit more comfortable and significantly reduce the costs of cargo owners when moving cargo through the territory of the EAEU countries. This is an opportunity for them to become a link between the markets of Europe, Asia and the Middle East.

In this context, we can also mention "the interstate program **"Eurasian electric bus"** developed by Belarus. The implementation of this pilot project has already begun"<sup>442</sup> . And this cooperation project, as well as others, will also develop. It is important that the products manufactured within the framework of this project will be considered as originating from the EAEU member state, which will ensure the possibility of access of such products to public procurement in the territory of the EAEU member states. For reference, we would like to add that in 2023, "Eurasian Agroexpress" increased exports of high-margin food

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<sup>441</sup> Pivovar, E. Prime-ministers of the EAEU expanded the list of priority transportation projects / E. Pivovar // [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/premier-ministry-eaes-rasshirili-perechen-prioritetnyh-transportnyh-proektov-613274-2024/>

<sup>442</sup> Belarus counts on the development of the project "Eurasian electric bus" [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/belarus-rasschityvaet-na-razvitie-proekta-evrazijskij-elektrobus-689054-2025/>

products from the EAEU countries by 6% <...>. The largest export growth was shown by grain legumes (by more than 4 times), as well as oil and fat products (by about 20%)<sup>443</sup>, as well as fruit and vegetable and canned food, chicken meat and beef. Total transportation volumes then exceeded 450 thousand tons. The main direction of transportation under the project at that time was China. Also in 2023, container trains were delivered along the eastern branch of the North-South international transportation corridor towards India and Iran. A pilot delivery to Uzbekistan was worked out, and shipments to the United Arab Emirates were being worked out. And in March 2024 Iran joined the project. Then it was a question of supplying EAEU products to this country, as well as the organization of large-scale volumes of transportation of Iranian vegetables and fruits to the market of the "five" countries. "Relevant goods are present on the shelves of stores even today. However, with the involvement of the Eurasian Agroexpress, agricultural products will be delivered more quickly, with better quality and fewer intermediaries"<sup>444</sup>.

And at the same time, in March 2024, the Belarusian logistics operator Beltamozhservice and the autonomous non-profit organization for assistance in the development of agro-industrial activities "Eurasian Agrologistics" signed a memorandum on strategic partnership and cooperation for joint development of the integration project of accelerated rail and multimodal transportation of food cargoes "Eurasian

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<sup>443</sup> Pivovarov, E. EAEU countries will continue the realization of the project "Eurasian Agroexpress" [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/strany-eaes-prodolzhat-realizatsiju-proekta-evrazijskij-agroekspres-613290-2024/>

<sup>444</sup> Pivovarov, E. Iran joins the realization of the EAEU project "Eurasian Agroexpress" [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/iran-podkljuchaetsja-k-realizatsii-proekta-eaes-evrazijskij-agroekspres-619975-2024/>



Agroexpress". The cooperation involves attracting volumes of agricultural products and assistance in organizing the transportation of agrarian cargo and food for export and counter-import in accelerated container and other freight trains, as well as by road, rail and mixed transport. "The companies plan to cooperate in the sphere of foreign trade, transportation and logistics on the routes of international transport corridors East-West and North-South, develop cooperation in the field of customs clearance of foreign trade cargoes and develop joint trade and logistics projects with the EAEU, CIS, SCO, BRICS and other friendly countries"<sup>445</sup>. After all, this project is aimed at developing exports of agricultural products from producers of EAEU member states to China, Uzbekistan, Vietnam and other countries of Southeast and Central Asia using the integration component. Thus, Belarus, as the country presiding over the EAEU in 2025, attaches great importance to this pilot project.

Within the framework of this year's chairmanship of Belarus, the necessary conditions for **international cooperation** of the Eurasian Five in all its formats will also be developed, creating additional conditions for the promotion of the Union's goods to foreign markets. For this purpose, potential of agreements on free trade zones with third countries will be fully utilized. To date, "agreements on free trade zones have been concluded with China, Vietnam, Singapore, Serbia, Iran (temporary agreement). Negotiations are underway with Indonesia, UAE, Tunisia, Morocco, Pakistan, India. In total, more than 30 countries are

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<sup>445</sup> Memorandum on the development of the project "Eurasian Agroexpress" signed at the exhibition in Moscow [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/memorandum-o-razviti-proekta-evrazijskij-agroekspress-podpisali-na-vystavke-v-moskve-622368-2024/>

interested in concluding free trade agreements with EAEU member states"<sup>446</sup>. And these contacts are only growing.

In particular, the EAEU in 2025 plans to discuss issues of industrial-technological cooperation, joint development of new technologies, and cooperation on digitalization of economies with such an integration association as **BRICS**. After all, "it is industry as a driver of economic growth that concentrates high-tech and knowledge-intensive competencies"<sup>447</sup>. In January 2025, the parties agreed to coordinate preparations for the meeting of the BRICS and EAEU industry ministers.

One more fact. At present, the procedures necessary for the free trade agreement between the EAEU and **Iran** to enter into force have already been finalized. They will soon be finalized in Iran as well. And then the document will work very soon. In order to realize the full available potential growth of trade and economic interaction, it is now necessary "not only to develop cooperation on issues of mutual interest at the interstate level, but also to assist in strengthening contacts between business circles of partner countries"<sup>448</sup>. This will make it possible to achieve full disclosure of existing agreements.<sup>449</sup> In this context, we can only add that at the end of February 2025, Tehran will host the III International

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<sup>446</sup> Petrishenko: EAEU needs to fully utilize the potential of agreements on free trade zones [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/petrishenko-caes-neobhodimo-v-polnoj-mere-zadejstvovat-potentsial-soglashenij-o-zonah-svobodnoj-689067-2025/>

<sup>447</sup> ECE-Brazil cooperation within BRICS opens new opportunities [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/sotrudnichestvo-cek-i-brazilii-v-ramkakh-briks-otkryvaet-novye-vozmozhnosti/>

<sup>448</sup> Andrei Slepnev: "The EAEU has completed the procedures necessary for the entry into force of the free trade agreement with Iran" [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/andrey-slepnev-caes-zavershil-neobkhodimye-dlya-vstupleniya-v-silu-soglasheniya-o-svobodnoy-torgovle/>

<sup>449</sup> EEC invites business representatives to take part in the International Exhibition "Eurasia" in Tehran [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/cek-priglasiaet-predstaviteley-biznesa-prinyat-uchastie-v-mezhdunarodnoy-vystavke-evraziya-v-tegeran/>

Exhibition "Eurasia" at the Central Exhibition Complex, which "aims to strengthen economic relations between the countries of the Eurasian Economic Union, Shanghai Cooperation Organization, BRICS and the Gulf States to promote more effective cooperation in the fuel and energy, agro-industrial, machine-building, transport and logistics complexes, in the field of information technology, as well as in the field of information and communication technologies. In 2023, the Eurasia exhibition was visited by about 14 thousand people.

Again in January 2025, the Council of the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) adopted an order to form a joint research group to study the feasibility of concluding a free trade agreement with the **Tunisian Republic**. Preliminary analysis shows that "the transition to a preferential trade regime may allow the Eurasian Economic Union to increase supplies of grains, oilseeds, finished food products, metals, forestry products and petrochemicals to the Tunisian market, while allowing the partner to increase exports of fresh fruits, nuts and certain categories of industrial goods"<sup>450</sup>.

And already in early February 2025, in-depth negotiations between the EEC and **Serbia** took place. "The parties agreed to promote the creation of optimal conditions for mutually beneficial trade and economic cooperation"<sup>451</sup> and reviewed the preparation of the first meeting of the Joint Committee, as well as other high-

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<sup>450</sup> The EEC Council approved the formation of a joint research group to study the feasibility of a free trade agreement with Tunisia [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/sovet-eek-odobril-formirovanie-sovmestnoy-issledovatel'skoy-gruppy-dlya-izucheniya-tselesoobraznosti/>

<sup>451</sup> Bakytjan Sagintaev discussed with Nenad Popovic joint activities for 2025 [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/bakytzhan-sagintaev-obsudil-s-nenadom-popovichem-sovmestnye-meropriyatiya-na-2025-god/>

level events in 2025. Note that the Agreement on free trade zone between the EAEU and this Balkan country was signed in October 2019 and entered into force in July 2021

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

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## **Eurasian Economic Union: vectors of cooperation - Latin America and Africa**

Leaders of the Eurasian Economic Union countries at the December (2024) meeting of the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council approved the main directions of the Eurasian Economic Union's (EAEU) international activities for 2025. The priority areas include "continuing the dialogue on trade and economic issues with the nearest neighbors, developing cooperation with the Union's observer states, deepening cooperation with key integration associations in Eurasia, Africa..."<sup>452</sup>. The EAEU countries count on active international positioning of the association also with the states and integration associations of Latin America and the Caribbean to develop the established mechanisms of cooperation, including within the framework of memorandums, declarations and trade agreements. An important detail: "Now the share of Latin American countries in the EAEU trade turnover is only 3%, although the potential for cooperation is huge"<sup>453</sup>.

It should be recalled that by the beginning of 2025, the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) has formed an extensive network of interaction with the states and integration associations of Latin America and the Caribbean through the conclusion of memorandums of cooperation. At the governmental level - with Chile, Peru and Cuba; at the ministerial level - with Ecuador and

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<sup>452</sup> Approved the Main directions of the EAEU international activities for 2025 [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/utverzhdenny-osnovnyye-napravleniya-mezhdunarodnoy-deyatelnosti-caes-na-2025-god/>

<sup>453</sup> EEF-2023: EAEU and Latin America outlined new priorities for cooperation [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/eeef-2023-caes-i-latinskaya-amerika-oboznachili-novye-prioritety-sotrudnichestva/>

Argentina; at the level of integration structures - with the Andean Community, the Latin American Economic System, the Southern Common Market, the Pacific Alliance and the Secretariat for Economic Integration in Central America. Let us familiarize ourselves with some of them.

Back in 2018, the ECE signed a memorandum of understanding with the **Latin American Economic System (SELA)**, an intergovernmental regional organization founded in 1975 that brings together 25 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean: Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Chile, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela. The LACEC was the first regional intergovernmental entity in Latin America and the Caribbean with which the ECE adopted a document of understanding aimed at "sharing experiences in regional economic integration, aiming at the sustainable and inclusive development of regional integration groupings, jointly developing a methodology for the calculation of integration indices"<sup>454</sup>, as well as on cooperation on regional and interregional trade, fair competition development, regional market development, and regional economic integration. Statistics state that "in 2021, the Union's foreign trade turnover with Latin American countries increased by 54.4% to \$16.9 billion, including Union exports up 2.2 times to \$8.7 billion and imports up 17.3% to \$8.3 billion"<sup>455</sup>.

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<sup>454</sup> Eurasian Economic Commission signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Latin American Economic System [Electronic resource]. - 2018. - URL: [https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/29-05-18-3/?sphrase\\_id=350633](https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/29-05-18-3/?sphrase_id=350633)

<sup>455</sup> SPIEF-2022: specific proposals to stimulate trade and investment cooperation between the EAEU and Latin America under the new economic reality [Electronic

In June 2024, the parties discussed the overlapping benchmarks for the development of the associations, as well as the potential for cooperation in a number of economic areas and decided to first hold joint thematic seminars. Six months later - in December - the first such meeting was held under the title "EAEU-LAEC: Best Integration Practices", where participants exchanged experience "in such areas as transport and financial infrastructure, logistics, food security, technological cooperation in industry and agriculture, tourism and health care"<sup>456</sup>. The practice of these seminars will be continued in 2025.

**Cuba** should be named among the LABEC countries that are actively developing cooperation with the EAEU. In January 2024, the third meeting of the Joint Commission on Cooperation between the EEC and the Government of Cuba was held, during which they discussed "issues of promoting trade and economic cooperation, cooperation in agro-industrial complex, tourism, industry, technical regulation, circulation of medicines and medical devices"<sup>457</sup>. The parties agreed to give the cooperation a practice-oriented nature by identifying and implementing joint projects, primarily in such areas as industry, agro-industry, energy and infrastructure. We would like to add that the EAEU-Cuba cooperation already "covers 34 areas of cooperation, including trade, banking, finance, biotechnology, agriculture, information

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resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/pmef-2022-vyrobotany-konkretnye-predlozheniya-po-stimulirovaniyu-torgovo-investitsionnogo-sotrudnich/>

<sup>456</sup> Representatives of the Commission and the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System discussed best practices [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/predstaviteli-komissii-i-latinoamerikano-karibskoy-ekonomicheskoy-sistemy-obsudili-luchshie-praktiki/>

<sup>457</sup> EAEU and Cuba intend to diversify trade and economic interaction [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/caes-i-kuba-namereny-diversifitsirovat-torgovo-ekonomicheskoe-vzaimodeystvie/>

and communication technologies. The EAEU's trade turnover with Cuba in 2023 amounted to \$290 million"<sup>458</sup> .

<sup>459</sup>And already in September 2024, within the framework of the EAEU-Cuba Business Dialogue, it was noted the possibilities of establishing joint ventures in Cuba to enter the consumer market of the entire Latin American region, which "could be engaged in the production of citrus fruits, pork and poultry meat, modernization of Cuban industrial production, digital transformation of the economy, production of organic fertilizers and other goods for export both to EAEU countries and third countries of the region, as well as generation of electricity using solar energy. But for this purpose it is necessary to work closely on such areas as legal relations in the field of land use and intellectual property, operation of mobile communications and payment systems in Cuba, opening of bank branches, improvement of logistics, including the entry of vessels flying the flags of third countries into seaports, and regulation of the Cuban labor market. So in 2025, the systemic dialogue will continue on topical issues, which will include "issues of intensification of trade and economic cooperation, implementation of agreements in priority areas of interaction (pharmaceuticals, circulation of medicines and medical devices, technical regulation, logistics, industrial cooperation, informatization, tourism), strengthening

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<sup>458</sup> EAEU and Cuba intend to deepen cooperation [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/caes-i-kuba-namereny-uglubit-vzaimodejstvie-640962-2024/>

<sup>459</sup> New opportunities for the development of trade and economic cooperation discussed during the business dialog "EAEU - Cuba" [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/novye-vozmozhnosti-razvitiya-torgovo-ekonomicheskogo-sotrudnichestva-obsudili-v-khode-biznes-dialoga/>



cooperation of business circles and joint activity on international platforms"<sup>460</sup> .

Another country in the LAEC, which is going to actualize cooperation with the EAEU, is **Nicaragua**. In January 2024, the parties signed memorandum of cooperation, which defines such key areas of cooperation development as customs and technical regulation, industry, agro-industry, SPS measures, consumer protection. It should be noted that the EAEU trade turnover with Nicaragua has positive dynamics. From January to October 2023, exports of the Eurasian Five to this country increased by 14%, while imports more than doubled. Exports are dominated by medicines, cars and parts for them, nitrogen fertilizers, sunflower oil, oil products; imports include peanuts, coffee, tobacco products and raw materials, knitwear and textiles"<sup>461</sup> . And already in December 2024, the first meeting of the joint working group on interaction was held, where the issues related to the activation of trade and economic cooperation in the field of pharmaceuticals, industry, agro-industrial complex were considered. The main emphasis was placed on the establishment and development of direct contacts between business circles in such promising areas of cooperation as "creation of digital platforms for e-commerce, introduction of innovations, processing of food raw materials, garment production, chemical and furniture industry, as well as agro-industrial complex and energy"<sup>462</sup> . It is planned that in the

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<sup>460</sup> EEC and Cuba discussed plans to deepen the dialog [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/cek-i-kuba-obsudili-plany-uglubleniya-dialoga/>

<sup>461</sup> EEC and the Government of Nicaragua signed a Memorandum of Cooperation [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/cek-i-pravitelstvo-nikaragua-podpisali-memorandum-o-vzaimodeystvii/>

<sup>462</sup> EAEU and Nicaragua develop trade and economic cooperation [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/caes-i-nikaragua-razvivayut-torgovo-ekonomicheskogo-sotrudnichestvo/>

future the parties will sign a relevant memorandum, which will strengthen channels of communication with key business associations of the EAEU countries and Nicaragua.

Now let's look at the **Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR)**. It is a trade union of South American countries founded in 1991. Today it includes Argentina, Brazil, Venezuela, Paraguay and Uruguay. The total population of the association - more than 300 million people, and the combined gross domestic product exceeds three trillion dollars. The EEC and Mercosur signed a memorandum on trade and economic cooperation back in 2018. In the first eight months of 2024, trade turnover between the two sides grew by almost 17 percent. In November 2024, specific proposals for cooperation were discussed during the talks between representatives of the EEC and Mercosur. Among the areas of cooperation that are of particular interest is the study of experience in organizing the exchange of information between the customs services of Mercosur member countries, as well as in the digitalization of customs infrastructure. It should be noted that **Brazil** plays the "first violin" in this international organization. Suffice it to say that "Brazil accounted for 87.9% of the total trade turnover of the EAEU and Mercosur in January-August [2023]. The EAEU's trade turnover with Brazil for the first 8 months of 2024 increased by 15.9% compared to the same period in 2023. EAEU exports to Brazil increased by 32.1%"<sup>463</sup>. And in 2025, it seems that there is a possibility of concluding a bilateral memorandum between the EEC and Brazil.

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<sup>463</sup> EEC and Brazil defined vectors of customs cooperation [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://eec.eacunion.org/news/eeek-i-braziliya-opredelili-vektory-tamozhennogo-sotrudnichestva/>

Lastly. In 2021, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between ECE and the **Secretariat for Economic Integration in Central America (SIECA)**, which aims to "intensify cooperation in areas such as mutual trade, technical regulation and standardization, industry and agribusiness, and macroeconomics"<sup>464</sup>. This international organization was formed in October 1993. Its members are Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama and El Salvador. And "the signing of the memorandum is a first step to boost trade and investment cooperation and, in the long term, to insert into global value chains"<sup>465</sup>. In May 2024, ECE and SIECA representatives agreed, as a further step to deepen cooperation, to hold a joint workshop to exchange integration experiences, which will allow to better learn about each other's economic opportunities. After all, in the first half of 2025, **Costa Rica** has already become the chair of SIECA, which "will contribute in every possible way to deepening the dialog between the two integration structures"<sup>466</sup>. So this joint seminar is in the near future.

Assessing all these facts, it is safe to say that the functioning of the EAEU as a pole of economic attraction in the international arena is already actively developing and will continue "with interested international integration associations and organizations, as well as countries seeking equal and constructive partnership"<sup>467</sup>

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<sup>464</sup> ECE and the Secretariat for Economic Integration in Central America signed a Memorandum of Understanding [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/eeek-i-sekretariat-po-ekonomicheskoy-integratsii-v-tsentralnoj-amerike-podpisali-memorandum-o-vzaimoponimanii/>

<sup>465</sup> Zalessky, B. Looking ahead. Features of multi-vector partnership in modern conditions / Boris Zalessky. - LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2021. - C. 21.

<sup>466</sup> EAEU and Costa Rica are interested in the development of economic cooperation [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/eaes-i-kosta-rika-zainteresovany-v-razviti-ekonomicheskogo-sotrudnichestva-/>

<sup>467</sup> Declaration on the further development of economic processes of the Eurasian Economic Union until 2030 and for the period until 2045 "Eurasian Economic Way"

, which include partners from Latin America and the Caribbean and who want to promote joint projects with all states of the Eurasian Economic Union.

In 2025, the EAEU also intends to intensify the expansion of mutual cooperation, increase trade volumes, and establish an integration dialogue with the countries of the **African Union (AU)** and international regional organizations on the continent. Especially since "trade and economic cooperation between the EAEU and the AU is of mutual strategic interest to the parties, based on the similarity of many competencies and areas of integration construction"<sup>468</sup>. The fact is that in November 2024 representatives of the EEC and the AU Commission (AUC) discussed the practical aspects of preparing a new memorandum on cooperation, which will contribute to the realization of trade and economic potential of the Eurasian Five countries and Africa.

It should be recalled that the African Union was established in 2002, uniting 55 states of the continent. Among the declared objectives of the AU are the protection of sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of member states, strengthening peace, security and stability, accelerating political and socio-economic integration on the continent, promoting democratic principles and institutions, promoting coordinated approaches of African countries on the world stage, creating the necessary conditions to ensure Africa's dignified role in the global economy. The Memorandum of Understanding between the EEC and the AUC

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[Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: [https://docs.eaeunion.org/docs/ru-ru/01443175/ms\\_26122023](https://docs.eaeunion.org/docs/ru-ru/01443175/ms_26122023)

<sup>468</sup> EEC and the African Union Commission discussed the development of trade and economic cooperation [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/eeek-i-komissiya-afrikanskogo-soyuza-obsudili-voprosy-razvitiya-torgovo-ekonomicheskogo-sotrudnichestv/>

was signed in October 2019. And already "in 2021, the EAEU's foreign trade turnover with African countries increased by 21.9% (to \$18.9 billion), exports by 24% (to \$15.4 billion) and imports by 13.7% (to \$3.5 billion)"<sup>469</sup> .

In November 2024, at the session "EAEU-Africa: identifying key points of interaction with countries and regional integration associations of the continent", it was emphasized that the logic of the dialogue between the Eurasian "five" with African partners is to promote trade and economic cooperation, as "integration is a tool that makes the economy more stable, reveals competitive advantages, and makes a significant contribution to economic growth"<sup>470</sup> . По этой причине было предложено в качестве первого шага предпринять меры к сокращению дефицита информации о коммерческих возможностях и упрощению процедур доступа на рынки, содействовать установлению прямых контактов между ассоциациями деловых кругов, активизировать взаимодействие с участием институтов развития, а также отраслевое сотрудничество в сферах, представляющих взаимный интерес, и углубить диалог с интеграционными структурами африканского континента, в том числе с Экономическим сообществом государств Центральной Африки, Африканским э

At the already mentioned session in November 2024, representatives of the EAEU and the **Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)** agreed "to start work on

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<sup>469</sup> EAEU and Africa intend to develop cooperation in food security issues [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/caes-i-afrika-namereny-razvivat-sotrudnichestvo-v-voprosakh-prodovolstvennoy-bezopasnosti/>

<sup>470</sup> Eldar Alisherov: "The logic of the EAEU dialog with partners in Africa is to promote trade and economic cooperation" [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/eldar-alisherov-logika-dialoga-caes-s-partnerami-v-afrike-sodeystvovat-razvitiyu-torgovo-ekonomichesk/>

formalizing cooperation by developing a memorandum and a plan of joint activities for the coming years"<sup>471</sup> . Also, the EAEU Business Council and the association of business circles of the ECCAS will work on the issue of concluding a joint document on cooperation. We would like to add that this international organization - ECCAS - was established in 1994 on the basis of the Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa. Participating countries: Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Cameroon, Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe. The stated objectives of this structure are to develop integration processes, promote their comprehensive deepening with reliance on their own economic strengths, and move towards the creation of a common market.

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

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<sup>471</sup> ECE establishes direct interaction with subregional integration structures in Africa [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://eec.eacunion.org/news/cek-nalazhivaet-pryamoe-vzaimodeystvie-s-subregionalnymi-integratsionnymi-strukturami-afriki/>

As early as the end of 2023, at the talks between representatives of the EEC and Afreximbank, it was emphasized that "promising joint projects for companies from EAEU states and African countries could be the production of chemical products, machinery and equipment, including agricultural machinery, cultivation of crops and livestock products, their transportation, as well as such areas as exploration, mining and processing of minerals, energy, electronic services..."<sup>472</sup>. But the solution of these problems should begin with the elimination of "bottlenecks" limiting trade between regions, including joint work on the optimization of logistics chains, certification and expertise, the search for mutually beneficial forms of payments for trade transactions using national currencies, including digital currencies, the development of other issues of providing financial services related to foreign trade supplies, primarily in the field of freight and insurance, the establishment of direct correspondent relations between the financial sector, the establishment of direct correspondent relations between the financial sector, and the establishment of direct correspondent relations between the financial sector and the private sector.

In order to attract entrepreneurs to joint projects, it is necessary to promote awareness of each other's trade and economic opportunities and mechanisms of price formation for major exchange goods by using information systems to search for potential partners and goods, mutual recognition of ratings, as well as conducting joint Eurasian business missions to African countries. At the same time, the parties agreed to continue to

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<sup>472</sup> EEC and Afreximbank intend to develop trade and economic cooperation [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://eec.eacunion.org/news/eeek-i-afreksimbank-namereny-razvivat-torgovo-ekonomicheskoe-sotrudnichestvo/>

develop a constructive dialog in the field of economic activities in the EAEU and AU, including through joint events and information exchange, as well as to work on deepening cooperation between the EEC and Afreximbank in order to reach a more effective and practice-oriented trade and economic cooperation at the level of the EAEU and Africa. And already in November 2024, the parties "agreed to work on the formation of a plan of joint events to offer business platforms for direct communication"<sup>473</sup> in 2025.

Finally, in the new year, **the EAEC** expects to promote partnerships with the **Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)**, which has 21 member states: Burundi, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Kenya, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Madagascar, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, Sudan, Swaziland, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. In July 2022, the EEC and the COMESA Competition Commission signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Competition Policy and Enforcement, which "opens up new opportunities for closer agency collaboration"<sup>474</sup>. In July 2024, the parties outlined "a common goal of promoting sustainable development of their regions through economic integration"<sup>475</sup> and outlined prospects for cooperation in 2025.

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<sup>473</sup> EEC and the African Export-Import Bank intensify cooperation [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/EEK-i-afrikanskiy-eksportno-importnyy-bank-aktiviziruyut-vzaimodeystvie/>

<sup>474</sup> EEC and COMESA signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Competition Policy and Enforcement [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/EEK-i-komesa-podpisali-memorandum-o-vzaimoponimani-i-v-oblasti-konkurentnoy-politiki-i-pravoprimeneni/>

<sup>475</sup> EEC and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) will expand opportunities for dialog between the parties [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/EEK-i-obschij-rynok-vostochnoj-i-juzhnoj-afriki-komesa-rasshirjat-vozmozhnosti-dlja-dialoga-storon-640960-2024/>



In general, the realization of the high potential for the development of trade and economic cooperation between the EAEU and African countries shows that it is taking place in the context of constructive dialogue, including through joint events and information exchange, elaboration of issues of deepening and expanding cooperation between the parties.

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## **Eurasian Economic Union-Asia: to develop robust partnership schemes**

As one of the key directions of prospective integration construction, the Declaration on further development of economic processes within the **Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU)** until 2030 and for the period until 2045 "Eurasian Economic Way" identifies the task of positioning the EAEU as one of the centers for the formation of the **Greater Eurasian Partnership**, which involves the involvement of all interested regional and global economies in trade, logistics and economic interaction in mutually beneficial formats "Mutual benefit, voluntariness, respect for national sovereignties, transparency and the combination of concrete benefits are the inherent principles of a new type of integration"<sup>476</sup>. The Greater Eurasian Partnership is becoming an effective means of protecting the common economic interests of Asian countries, a platform for their consolidation in the name of a stable and secure future for the continent as a whole and for any state in the region. And modern Asia is 45 independent countries, which are characterized by unevenness both in the size of territory, population, and in the level and pace of development. At the same time, this continent is considered one of the most dynamically developing regions of the world. For this reason, the EAEU is finding new forms and ways of economic cooperation here, primarily in the financial, economic and transportation and logistics spheres, including with **Iran** and the states of **the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)**.

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<sup>476</sup> Sergey Glazyev: "The Grand Partnership is a driver of the formation of a new world economic structure" [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/sergey-glazev-bolshoe-evraziyskoe-partnerstvo-drayver-formirovaniya-novogo-mirokhozaystvennogo-ukla/>

In particular, in December 2024, the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council decided to grant **Iran** the status of an observer state to the EAEU. It should be noted that such status is granted to a state interested in mutually beneficial trade and economic cooperation with the EAEU and its members and the convergence of legal regulation. "Currently, Cuba and Uzbekistan also have observer state status at the EAEU"<sup>477</sup>.

For reference, we note that back in 2018, the EAEU and Iran adopted their first joint document - a temporary free trade agreement, which was "localized, covered few items and did not provide for zero duty rates..."<sup>478</sup>. In December 2023, the parties signed a free trade agreement, which opened up a wide range of new opportunities and "will significantly improve the competitiveness of goods of the EAEU member states and through this increase exports to Iran"<sup>479</sup> and in general will contribute to the growth of trade turnover, intensification of cooperation and investment cooperation.

In April 2024, the Council of the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) approved an action plan aimed at implementing this agreement, which provides for deepening cooperation between the business communities of the parties. In order to create a business dialogue platform, the existing memorandum of cooperation between the EAEU Business

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<sup>477</sup> Iran received the status of an observer to the EAEU [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/iran-poluchil-status-nabljudatelja-pri-caes-685429-2024/>

<sup>478</sup> Pivovarov, E. EEC: free trade zone between the EAEU and Iran can be created by the end of the year / E. Pivovarov // [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/eez-zona-svobodnoj-torgovli-mezhdu-caes-i-iranom-mozhet-byt-sozdana-do-kontsa-goda-566030-2023/>

<sup>479</sup> EAEU agreement with Iran on free trade signed in St. Petersburg [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/soglasenie-caes-s-iranom-o-svobodnoj-torgovle-podpisano-v-sankt-peterburge-607037-2023/>

Council and the Iranian Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mining and Agriculture dated September 25, 2019 has been amended. "Activities under this platform will be carried out taking into account such areas of sectoral interaction as cooperation in transportation, development of multimodal transportation, joint projects in research and development, establishment of cooperation ties between enterprises, projects of the fuel and energy complex, as well as energy efficiency, energy saving and renewable energy, education, medicine, telecommunications"<sup>480</sup> . Additionally, the sides prepared a plan of joint trade facilitation activities, including business forums, exhibitions and business missions. In addition, the Iranian side proposed to hold a presentation of the EAEU in 2025 in Tehran to "raise awareness among Iranian business circles about the Eurasian agenda, as well as opportunities for foreign businesses. This initiative is aimed at strengthening mutually beneficial cooperation and expanding commercial ties between EAEU countries and Iranian partners"<sup>481</sup> .

Among the interesting initiatives on the part of the EAEU, in which Iran is already involved, is the Eurasian Agroexpress project. It should be recalled that the implementation of the joint project of the EAEU member states to implement accelerated rail and multimodal transportation "Eurasian Agroexpress" for the development of regular mutual supplies of agricultural products and food, as well as export supplies in the Asian and European

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<sup>480</sup> Pivovarov, E. The EEC Council approved the plan to implement the free trade agreement with Iran / E. Pivovarov // [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/soviet-cek-utverdil-plan-po-realizatsii-soglashenija-o-svobodnoj-torgovle-s-iranom-627572-2024/>

<sup>481</sup> EEC and Iran discussed cooperation plans [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://eec.eacunion.org/news/cek-i-iran-obsudili-plany-sotrudnichestva/>

directions, was supported by the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council in February 2022. And in February 2023, the project was scaled to the routes of the North-South corridor. In this context, we are talking about the supply of products from the countries of the Union to Iran, as well as the organization of large-scale transportation of Iranian fruits and vegetables to the market of the Eurasian Five countries. The fact is that with the help of this project "agricultural products will be delivered more quickly, with better quality and fewer intermediaries"<sup>482</sup>. In this regard, it is planned to organize interaction with a large Iranian holding, which can either directly enter the project or act as a "single window" to organize the supply of agro-industrial products of the "five" countries to Iran and export Iranian products in the opposite direction.

All these facts show that Iran is gradually becoming one of the EAEU's important partners. Suffice it to say that "over the past five years of operation of the temporary trade agreement, trade turnover between the EAEU and Iran has more than doubled - from \$2.4 billion in 2019 to \$5.2 billion in 2023"<sup>483</sup>. The most promising areas of interaction between the parties are the development of transport and logistics infrastructure, expansion of cooperation between enterprises, cooperation in the agro-industrial complex, oil refining and petrochemical industries, scientific research and development. In addition, statistics for 2024 show that for ten months the trade turnover still "increased

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<sup>482</sup> Pivovar, E. Iran joins the EAEU project "Eurasian Agroexpress" / E. Pivovar // [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/iran-podkljuchaetsja-k-realizatsii-proekta-caes-evrazijskij-agroekspress-619975-2024/>

<sup>483</sup> Pivovar, E. The EEC is confident in the entry of trade between the EAEU and Iran to a new level / E. Pivovar // [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/v-cek-uvereny-v-vyhode-torgovli-caes-i-irana-na-novyj-uroven-637183-2024/>

by 12.8%, exports of goods to Iran increased by 16%, imports - by 8%"<sup>484</sup> .

One last thing. Belarus ratified a free trade agreement between the EAEU and Iran in July 2024 to ensure diversification of export supplies by removing tariff and non-tariff barriers on access to the market of this country for a wide list of goods, as well as improving conditions for trade and economic cooperation. "Opening up the Iranian market by zeroing duties will provide exporters of Belarus with more competitive conditions for supplying goods"<sup>485</sup> . By removing tariff barriers, Iran, whose population has already passed the 80-million mark, can already successfully trade with Belarus. And the Belarusian side has a great chance to promote its machine-building and food products, while enjoying good preferences.

Now let us look at the current issues of interaction between the Eurasian Economic Union and the **Association of Southeast Asian Nations**. In November 2024, the Malaysian capital Kuala Lumpur hosted the EAEU-ASEAN Business Dialogue, which was attended by more than 350 representatives of political, business and academic circles of the parties. And where it was noted that trade between the two integration platforms demonstrates steady growth at double-digit rates, which indicates a great potential for the development of multi-vector dialog, both at inter-integration and at the country level. The key driver of this process is the business community, as "joint EAEU and ASEAN expert and

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<sup>484</sup> Bakytzhan Sagintayev: "Dialogue with Iran has the potential for development in a number of directions" [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://eec.eacunion.org/news/bakytzhan-sagintaev-dialog-s-iranom-imeet-potentsial-razvitiya-po-tselomu-ryadu-napravleniy-/>

<sup>485</sup> Belarus ratified the EAEU free trade agreement with Iran [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-ratifikirovala-soglashenie-osvobodnoj-torgovle-eaes-s-iranom-645885-2024/>

business platforms allow to create direct communication between entrepreneurs, eliminate information barriers and create a space of trust. The key task facing the two associations today is to create transparent and clear conditions for business community interaction"<sup>486</sup> .

Recall that ASEAN is an economic association formed in 1967. The members of the association are Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines, Brunei Darussalam, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar and Cambodia. Papua New Guinea and East Timor have observer status. This is one of the largest regional integration associations in Asia with a total gross domestic product exceeding two and a half trillion dollars and a population of about 625 million people. We would like to add that the memorandum of understanding between the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) and ASEAN in the field of economic cooperation was signed in November 2018 in Singapore, which created the foundation for the formation of a dialog platform to discuss a wide range of issues of interaction between integration blocs on the scale of the Eurasian continent. And to implement the memorandum, the Program of cooperation for 2020-2025 was adopted, which "covers such areas as customs legislation and law enforcement, trade policy, business activities, technical and antitrust regulation, SPS measures, energy, functioning of domestic markets"<sup>487</sup> .

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<sup>486</sup> Business Dialogue of the EAEU and ASEAN was held in Malaysia [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/biznes-dialog-caes-i-asean-sostoyalsya-v-malayzii/>

<sup>487</sup> EAEU and ASEAN plan to develop trade and economic cooperation [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/caes-i-asean-planiruyut-razvivat-torgovo-ekonomicheskoe-sotrudnichestvo/>

In November 2023, the round table "Economic Agenda of the EAEU and ASEAN: Overlapping Interests" highlighted such promising areas of cooperation as technology platforms, food production and information technology being created in the Eurasian Five countries. And "the planned launch of a single energy market in the EAEU is potentially interesting for ASEAN countries, which import oil and natural gas, and drug manufacturers from ASEAN countries have the opportunity to work in the EAEU's single pharmaceutical market with a capacity of 10 billion US dollars"<sup>488</sup>. In addition, if we take into account that EAEU by 2045 aims to become a self-sufficient, safe, harmoniously developed and attractive macro-region of the polycentric world, achieving economic, technological and intellectual leadership with a high level of well-being of the population, then such a task statement, given the large territory, population, economic potential and dense transport networks of these integration associations, determines new prospects for economic cooperation and civilizational connectivity. Possible mechanisms for the realization of promising areas of cooperation could be the creation of a global free trade zone between them, as well as technological partnership.

In June 2024, within the framework of the EAEU-ASEAN Business Dialogue, its participants noted that "the two associations need to create a new dimension of dialog, which will allow to multiply the volume of trade turnover and eliminate existing barriers. These include problems in international settlements and

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<sup>488</sup> Sergey Glazyev: "The EAEU-ASEAN Dialogue Improves Economic Connectivity in Eurasia" [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://eec.caeunion.org/news/sergey-glazev-dialog-caes-i-asean-uluchshaet-ekonomicheskuyu-svyazannost-v-evrazii/>



information barriers for business representatives"<sup>489</sup> . And the development of network forms of interaction with the participation of business and scientific circles of the parties will help to bring cooperation to a qualitatively new level. At the same time, more attention should be paid to the diversification of trade and economic interaction, deepening the dialog and exchange of practical experience in the field of innovation, digital transformation and increasing market transparency. All the more so because at the moment the points of growth and mutual strengthening of the economies of the member countries of the two associations are such areas as cooperation in the sphere of energy efficiency, food security, transportation, logistics, finance and tourism.

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

In particular, 2025 will mark 10 years since the conclusion of the Free Trade Agreement between the EAEU countries and **Vietnam**. During this time, the positive dynamics in this area has

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<sup>489</sup> Sergey Glazyev at SPIEF-2024: "EAEU and ASEAN can use network formats to intensify interaction" [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/sergey-glazev-na-pmef-2024-eaes-i-asean-mogut-ispolzovat-setevye-formaty-dlya-aktivizatsii-vzaimodey/>

shown good growth. Suffice it to say that "in 2023, trade turnover increased 1.6 times compared to 2016, and in the first half of 2024 there was an increase in this indicator by 17% compared to the same period of 2023"<sup>490</sup>. At the same time, the arrangements outlined in this agreement currently provide preferences for about 90 percent of the commodity nomenclature, ensuring duty-free access for virtually all trade.

Back at the fifth meeting of the EAEU-Vietnam Joint Committee on the Implementation of the Free Trade Agreement, held in November 2023, the parties agreed to intensify work on major investment projects, which will undoubtedly provide prospects for further growth in mutual supplies of products. At the same time they discussed "issues of additional liberalization of access of goods to each other's markets, protective measures, sanitary and phytosanitary regulation, climate agenda, exchange of information in the field of investment"<sup>491</sup>, as well as existing technical barriers to trade, issues of electronic exchange of customs information and rules of origin of goods. In terms of sanitary and phytosanitary regulation, the participants of the meeting considered problems, including access of meat products from Belarus to the Vietnamese market.

In July 2024, the first meeting of the regular EAEU-Vietnam dialog on market access issues related to the area of technical barriers to trade, products of the pharmaceutical and automotive industries was held in Hanoi. Based on the results of

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<sup>490</sup> Bakytzhan Sagintayev held talks with Prime Minister of Vietnam Pham Minh Tinh [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/bakytzhan-sagintaev-provel-peregovory-s-premer-ministrom-vetnama-fam-min-tinem/>

<sup>491</sup> Andrey Slepnev: "Further increase in the volume of trade with Vietnam will be facilitated by the realization of joint investment projects" [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: [https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/andrey-slepnev-dalneyschemu-velicheniyu-obemov-torgovli-s-vetnamom-budet-sposobstvovat-realizatsiya-/](https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/andrey-slepnev-dalneyschemu-velicheniyu-obemov-torgovli-s-vetnamom-budet-sposobstvovat-realizatsiya/)

the dialog, the parties "managed to significantly increase understanding of Vietnam's regulatory systems on specific issues and identify possible further actions to improve conditions for access of EAEU products to the Vietnamese market"<sup>492</sup> . And in the October 2024 talks, the parties noted the effectiveness of various tools for the development of trade and customs administration, including the introduction and application of digital solutions. And now joint work is underway to prepare a document on the electronic exchange of information on issued certificates between the EAEU and Vietnam. So in 2025, this interaction will undoubtedly reach new heights.

As for **Indonesia**, the EEC concluded a memorandum of cooperation with it in October 2019 to address the issues of trade facilitation, customs and technical regulation, development of financial markets. And in September 2022, the EEC Council decided to start negotiations with this country to conclude a free trade agreement. After all, "Indonesia is the largest economy in ASEAN and the fourth largest in the world in terms of population, so trade relations with this Asian state have significant potential"<sup>493</sup> . And from April 2023 to July 2024, five rounds of negotiations on a free trade agreement between the EAEU and Indonesia have already taken place. In September 2024, the participants of the Indonesia-EAEU Digital Dialogue noted that "the future agreement lays down mechanisms to strengthen cooperation and cooperation ties between the businesses of our

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<sup>492</sup> EAEU discussed with Vietnam the issues of access to the market of automotive and pharmaceutical products [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://eec.eaunion.org/news/eaes-obsudil-s-vetnamom-voprosy-dostupa-na-rynok-avtomobilnoy-i-farmaceuticheskoy-produkcii/>

<sup>493</sup> Zalessky, B. Export Growth Strategy. Opportunities and challenges of open economy in modern conditions / Boris Zalessky. - LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2023. - C. 5.

countries in the areas of telecommunications, innovation, digital technologies and e-commerce"<sup>494</sup> and will facilitate the establishment of links between digital companies to share solutions, technologies, expertise and explore new opportunities for cooperation. It appears that in 2025 the EAEU and Indonesia will reach the final stage of signing this important document.

Finally, **Myanmar** expressed interest in cooperation with the EAEU as early as 2021, and in June 2023 signed a memorandum of cooperation with the Eurasian Five, which "provides for cooperation in such areas as customs, technical regulation, application of sanitary, veterinary-sanitary and quarantine phytosanitary measures, financial markets, transportation, energy, agro-industrial complex..."<sup>495</sup>. On the basis of this document, the parties are already beginning to address specific tasks to remove barriers to trade, exchange information, and work out cooperation mechanisms for the creation of new projects and investments. In April 2024, at the first meeting of the joint working group on interaction, it was noted that "Myanmar has a geographically favorable position - it neighbors such economically powerful countries as India and China, is located as a bridge connecting Southeast Asia and the Eurasian market"<sup>496</sup>. For this reason, the establishment of direct large-scale and continuous cooperation through business circles will allow to intensify trade and economic interaction between Myanmar and

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<sup>494</sup> EEC supports the interaction of business communities of the EAEU and Indonesia [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://eec.eacunion.org/news/EEK-podderzhivaet-vzaimodeystvie-biznes-soobshchestv-caes-i-indonezii/>

<sup>495</sup> EEC and Myanmar signed a memorandum of cooperation [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://eec.eacunion.org/news/EEK-i-myanmar-podpisali-memorandum-o-vzaimodeystvii/>

<sup>496</sup> EAEU and Myanmar develop trade and economic cooperation [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://eec.eacunion.org/news/caes-i-myanmar-razvivayut-torgovo-ekonomicheskoe-sotrudnichestvo/>

the EAEU states, develop cooperation in the field of construction, transportation links, creating conditions for settlements in national currencies. The idea of business to establish trading houses was also supported, which will increase the supply of goods.

At the negotiations in June 2024, representatives of Myanmar expressed interest in "expanding exports of agricultural products to the EAEU market in order to strengthen food security in the countries of the region"<sup>497</sup>, as well as in cooperation in the production of medicines and pharmaceutical technologies and cooperation in the regulation of this area. And already at the first joint seminar of the EEC and Myanmar in December 2024, they discussed common approaches to a single customs regulation in the EAEU, the application of the "single window" mechanism and the implementation of interstate electronic exchange of information in the customs sphere. It should be noted that the high rate of development of the parties' dialog within the framework of the implementation of the memorandum on interaction and the great potential of the format of joint seminars "allows not only to carry out information exchange, but also to identify points of economic activity and effectively form proposals for the draft agenda of the next meeting of the joint working group"<sup>498</sup>. In 2025, the practice of joint seminars between the EEC and Myanmar on finance, the digital economy, and agribusiness will continue in order to deepen interaction in key areas of cooperation,

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<sup>497</sup> Sergey Glazhev: "The key task of cooperation between the EAEU and Myanmar is to eliminate the problem of trade imbalance and involvement of business circles in the sectoral dialog" [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://eec.eacunion.org/news/sergey-glazhev-klyuchevaya-zadacha-sotrudnichestva-eaes-i-myanmar-ustranenie-problemy-torgovogo-disbal/>

<sup>498</sup> The cycle of joint seminars between ECE and Myanmar has started [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://eec.eacunion.org/news/startoval-tsikl-sovmestnykh-seminarov-eek-i-myanmar/>

increase the volume of trade turnover between the EAEU countries and Myanmar and eliminate imbalances in mutual trade.

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

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