

In turbulent conditions

The current geopolitical situation in the world in the Republic of Belarus is assessed as a systemic crisis of the international situation, which is becoming more and more global in nature. Among the main challenges here are: strengthening of rivalry and deepening of the deficit of trust between the leading international players and centers of power, "smoldering" regional conflicts and emergence of new pockets of instability; aggravation of economic contradictions, "trade wars", application of sanctions and counter sanctions; threat of collapse of the international arms control system and return to the arms race; appearance of fundamentally new threats to international security in cyberspace. In these difficult conditions, official Minsk continues to maintain and strengthen the course of ensuring the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Belarusian state, conducting an independent and balanced multi-vector foreign policy, developing integration processes in the Eurasian space, their interfacing with other associations and projects.

This book has been translated with Artificial Intelligence.



Professional experience in journalism - forty five years. Now - Associate Professor of the International Journalism Department of the Journalism Department of the Belarusian State University. Areas of research: modern international relations, international journalism, international information exchange, export of media products and services.



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Boris Zalesski

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Potential for interstate interaction in an era of globalization

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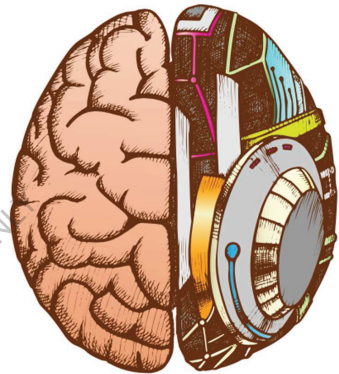
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Belarus: prospects for cross-border regional cooperation and media

In the Republic of Belarus, regional mass media traditionally have a strong impact on their audience. According to First Deputy Minister of Information of the Republic of Belarus P. Legkoi, "in terms of their influence on public consciousness and audience coverage they are not inferior to the republican ones¹. This largely explains the large-scale tasks that the Belarusian regional press faces today in terms of reflecting the peculiarities of the state policy of regional development in Belarus, one of the most important components of which is the deepening of **cross-border cooperation** with foreign partners, which implies, among other things, adequate development of the international segment of Belarusian regional journalism. At the same time, representatives of the media sphere should proceed from a number of basic provisions set out in policy documents.

It should be reminded that at the legislative level in the Republic of Belarus the following is understood as transboundary cooperation: firstly, interaction with foreign countries at the regional and local levels in order to promptly solve border problems, attract foreign investment to improve the border and transport infrastructure, create commercial organizations with foreign investment; secondly, development and implementation of regional technical assistance projects funded by international organizations and programmes; thirdly, development and implementation of regional technical assistance projects funded by international organizations and programmes.²

The National Strategy for Sustainable Socio-Economic Development of the Republic of Belarus for the Period until 2030, which defines the goals, stages and directions of the transition of the Belarusian state to a post-industrial society and innovative development of the economy, identifies the regions of the country as the place where a solid foundation for further sustainable development has yet to be created based on the modernization of the system of economic relations and effective management to ensure a balance between their social, economic and ecologically safe regions. The strategic goal of the Belarusian regional policy is to develop each region in an integrated manner and to reduce the existing regional disparities, taking into account

¹ Easy, P. Regional mass media should not concede to the republican ones (in Russian) / P. Elegky // [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/opinions/view/regionalnye-smi-ne-dolzheny-ustupat-respublikanskim-6366/>

² Law of the Republic of Belarus "Main directions of domestic and foreign policy of the Republic of Belarus" [Electronic resource]. - - 2005. - URL: <http://laws.newsby.org/documents/laws/law0361.htm>

the effective use of its resource potential and competitive advantages in order to ensure high standards of living for the population, conservation of nature and the positive contribution of regions to national competitiveness and security.

It is assumed that until 2030 the regional development policy in Belarus will be implemented in two stages. Within the framework of the first - until 2020 - it is planned to form and support regional development centers, reduce interregional differentiation in the living standards of the population, restructure the regional economy, create favorable conditions for the development of entrepreneurial activity, strengthen the resource base of local budgets, address the problems of regions lagging behind the national average, overcome infrastructure and institutional barriers in the socio-economic development of regions, and increase the efficiency of regional development.

At the second stage - until 2030 - the policy of development of the regions of Belarus will be focused on "expanding local self-government in addressing socio-economic, environmental and ecological problems, reducing subsidization of areas and ensuring high living standards in all regions³. At the same time, the main long-term objectives will be to: improve the administrative and territorial division; deepen the specialization of the economies of the districts that reveal their potential opportunities and competitive advantages in the domestic and foreign markets for goods and services; advance the development of cities and districts that serve as the centers of territorial clusters; raise the social standards of living of the population as they grow; differentiate them taking into account the peculiarities of population settlement, primarily for rural areas. The Basic Provisions of the Programme of Socio-Economic Development of the Republic of Belarus for 2016-2020 set a task - "by concentrating resources on key areas capable of ensuring maximum development of the territories, effective use of local resource potential and competitive advantages" to⁴ create economic growth centers in Belarusian regions, where modern production structures, engineering and social infrastructure facilities will be concentrated. Thus the most important direction of the regional policy is defined as development of the basic networks and objects of power, transport, telecommunication and other infrastructure according to the strategy of development of the concrete region. This is due to the fact that infrastructure development in conjunction with the location of production facilities will allow for the development of areas with difficult economic conditions and will reduce the gap in living standards and quality of life in cities of different categories and rural areas. And support for the most lagging regions will be expressed in the placement there of new

³ National Strategy for Sustainable Social and Economic Development of the Republic of Belarus for the period up to 2030. - Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Belarus. - Minsk, 2015. - - C. 115.

⁴ Basic provisions of the programme of socio-economic development of the Republic of Belarus for 2016-2020 [Electronic resource]. - - 2016. - URL: <http://shod.belta.by/programma/>

organizations, branches and workshops of existing industries related to the servicing of agriculture and forestry, processing of their products, production of products from local raw materials, development of services for the population and tourism. It is also important that key projects involving foreign investment and involving inefficiently used as well as vacant production facilities in the investment process are envisaged for the implementation of the strategic directions of regional development. In particular, "foreign investors will be attracted, including through active inter-regional Sino-Belarusian contacts, in order to implement projects important for regional development, create tourist and social infrastructure facilities. An additional source of financing for such projects will be loans from China"⁵.

In total, more than 60 centres for economic growth are planned to be established in the regions of Belarus, which should cover two thirds of the country. In the process of their formation three complementary vectors will be taken into account: firstly, creation of these centers in those districts and cities where there is a potential for this; secondly, creation of jobs outside the centers of economic growth within one hour availability; thirdly, creation of comfortable conditions throughout the country, which will require a developed modern infrastructure. In this regard, investment activities will have to be based on the coordination of three policies: scientific and technological, industrial and regional. To implement them, Belarus has set a task to develop a plan of industrialization of the regions, the foundation of which will consist of three main blocks: "The first one is to identify priority economic activities, technological niches, corresponding to them specific projects that will be offered to businesses to choose for implementation. The second is the placement of selected projects based on district specialization and taking into account their personnel, production and raw material potential. At the same time, balanced development of regions should become one of the main conditions. The third is the formation of a package of stimulating measures at the national and regional levels for the implementation of projects"⁶. If to speak more specifically about the prospects of development of the Belarusian regions, the following picture is drawn here.

In **Brest region** the priority development should be given to mining industry, agro-industrial complex, mechanical engineering, woodworking and furniture production, transport and logistics, tourism. The centers of economic growth will be the cities of Brest, Baranovichi, Pinsk and adjacent districts, as well as Berezovsky, Pruzhansky,

⁵ Programme of Social and Economic Development of the Republic of Belarus for 2016-2020 // Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus [Electronic resource]. - - 2016. - URL: http://www.government.by/upload/docs/program_ek2016-2020.pdf

⁶ In Belarus more than 60 centers of economic growth can be created in the regions - Zinovskiy [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/v-belarusi-mozhet-byt-sozdano-bolee-60-tsentrov-ekonomicheskogo-rosta-v-regionah-zinovskij-272081-2017/>

Ivatsevichi, Kobrinsky and Luninets districts. Among the major investment projects here: modernization of CJSC "Pinskdev Holding Company" aimed at increasing the output of plywood and bent-glued parts up to one hundred thousand cubic meters per year; continuing construction of a mining and processing plant on the basis of Sitnitskoye deposit; creation of "Beldan" IOO - an agro-industrial organization for slaughtering and processing of bacon pork with the capacity of 80 heads per hour; providing a full cycle of production of lead-accumulator batteries in JLLC "Exaid Technologies"; reconstruction of the palace and park ensemble "Soveiki" by forces of NWO "LadaGarant".

The economic growth in **Vitebsk region** will be ensured, first of all, in oil refining and petrochemistry, energy, footwear production, agro-industrial complex, metallurgy, machine-building, tourism. Vitebsk and Novopolotsk, as well as Vitebsk, Orsha, Braslav, Verkhnedvinsk, Glubokoe, Miorsky, Lepelsky, Polotsk, Postavsky and Chashnik districts should become investment attraction centers. As for the main investment projects, we are talking, first of all, about the completion of the reconstruction of the vacuum unit of the AVT-2 unit for processing the residual fuel oil and construction of the slow coking complex at Naftan, OJSC, modernization of the Orsha flax mill and construction of the production plants: metal sheet and white tin - MMPZ Group LLC in Miorsky district; metal structures - in Polotsk district; trade equipment - in Modern-Expo LLC.

Oil refining and oil production, mining and chemical industry, metallurgy and machine building, pulp and paper industry, wood processing and alternative energy should become the key areas of development in the **Gomel region**. Gomel has been identified as the economic growth centers, as well as the districts of Gomel, Mozyr, Rechitsa, Rogachevsk, Zhlobin, Svetlogorsk, Kalinkovichi, Dobrush and Zhitkovichi. And among the main investment projects are...: reconstruction of the main technological units of electric steelmaking shops No. 1 and No. 2 and construction of a complex of special steels in JSC "Belarusian Steel Works" - the management company of the holding "Belarusian Metallurgical Company"; creation of two crushed stone plants in Lelchitsy district; the plant for the production of sulphate bleached cellulose on the basis of Svetlogorsk Pulp and Paper Mill with the capacity of 400 thousand tons per year; the complex of hydrocracking of heavy oil residues in Mozyr Oil Refinery; technical re-equipment of the branch "Dobrush Paper Mill "Hero of Labor" of JSC "Management Company of Holding "Belarusian Wallpaper" with the organization of production of coated and uncoated cardboard.

As for **Grodno region**, there will be a fundamentally new industry for the whole Belarus - nuclear power, as well as chemical production, agro-industrial complex,

woodworking, tourism. The centers of economic growth will be not only Grodno, but also Grodno, Lidsky, Ostrovets, Mostovsky, Smorgonsky, Volkovysky, Slonimsky districts. Speaking about the main investment projects, among them we would like to mention the completion of technical re-equipment of phthalic anhydride production with the increase of capacity up to 48 thousand tons per year in JSC "Lakokraska", construction of a shop for production of nitric acid in JSC "GrodnoAzot", implementation of the project in Skidel on production of pharmaceutical forms - pills and capsules in JSC "Novalok", reconstruction of the hotel and restaurant complex "Grodno".

In **Minsk voblast**, chemical production, pharmaceuticals and fine chemicals, automotive and agro-industrial complex, transport and logistics, as well as tourism should get ahead of the development. Economic growth centers will be established in Zhodino, Borisov, Minsk, Smolevichi, Soligorsk, Dzerzhinsk, Molodechno, Slutsk, Pukhovichi, Logoy, Nesvizh, Myadel and Volozhin districts. The key investment projects of the Minsk Region will be the construction of the Chinese-Belarusian Industrial Park "Velikiy Kamen", mining and processing plant Slavkaliy in Lubansky district, a plant for the production of cars NVAO Belzhi, milk processing plant Nesvizh Baby Food LLC, transport and logistics complex in the free economic zone "Minsk", as well as the reconstruction of the ampoule production in OJSC "Borisovsky Plant of Medicines".

The Mogilev region will develop through chemical production, production of rubber and plastic products, construction materials, foodstuffs, woodworking with economic growth centers in Mogilev, Bobruisk, as well as in the regions - Mogilev, Bobruisk, Osipovichi, Shklovsk, Bykhov, Goretzky. In the area it is assumed: to reconstruct the production facilities for rubber products in Krichev with an increase in model footwear production from polyvinyl chloride up to 250 thousand pairs per year; to build a complex for the production of polyester products in JSC "Mogilevkhimvolokno"; to expand the production of chicken broilers in the branch "Servulaks Agro" NVAO "Servulaks"; Upgrade casting and machining equipment at the Bobruisk Machine-Building Plant, OJSC; continue the implementation of the Programme for Social and Economic Development of the South-East Region of the Mogilev Region, under which twelve projects are planned to be implemented by 2020 to create new organizations and production facilities in the sphere of small and medium-sized business, six - in industry, more than thirty - in agriculture.

Finally, the priority development in **Minsk** will be given to mechanical engineering, high-tech areas - microelectronics, instrumentation, computing and telecommunications, pharmaceuticals, as well as medicine and services. The largest

project implemented with the participation of foreign capital in the Belarusian capital should be the construction of an experimental multifunctional complex "Minsk-Mir", which "involves the construction of more than 2 million square meters of housing, 600 thousand square meters of space for administrative and public business purposes, including an international financial center⁷. This will create a strategic platform for doing business in the Republic of Belarus, will contribute to the development of the domestic financial market and related services - tourism, banking, insurance, outsourcing - which will provide an additional incentive to attract foreign investors. "The investment in the project will amount to about \$3.5 billion."⁸

In mechanical engineering, a number of capital enterprises will be brought to a new level through comprehensive modernization. Among them: OJSC "Minsk Motor Plant Holding Management Company" - thanks to mastering the production of high-precision, high-strength cast iron and the development of small diesel engines with a capacity of up to 75 horsepower; OJSC "Minsk Automobile Plant" - the management company of the holding "Belavtomaz" - through the reconstruction of the production of cabins for MAZ family vehicles; Open Company "Factory of automobile trailers and bodies "MAZ-Kupava" - by means of introduction of technology of hydrocarbonic foaming at manufacture of isothermal panels of vehicles; Open Society "the Minsk bearing factory" - on the basis of technical re-equipment and the further development of roller-spherical manufacture of bearings; Open Society "Factory of hydrotechnical transfers" - on the basis of the organization of manufacture of gear boxes.

In the field of microelectronics and instrumentation it is planned to implement projects on the development of a branch of the Scientific and Technical Center "Belmicrosystems" JSC "Integral" - the managing company of the holding "Integral", the creation of a promising technology of enclosing integrated circuits and integration into the production of industrial, special and dual-purpose products, the development of epitaxial structures and the development of bipolar technology on wafers with a diameter of 150 mm. By 2020, it is planned to implement a pilot project aimed at forming an innovation and industrial cluster of high technologies in the Belarusian capital in the field of complex medical equipment, safety systems, non-destructive testing equipment and analytical instrumentation, which will unite high-tech instrumentation organizations in Minsk, as well as scientific organizations and educational institutions with a strong research base and significant human resource potential. The implementation of this pilot project by 2020 should "ensure revenues from the sale of goods (works and services) in the amount of \$450 million, create 1,000

⁷ Program of Social and Economic Development of the City of Minsk for 2016-2020 [Electronic Resource]. - 2017. - URL: <http://pravo.by/document/?guid=125510=D917o00834911=15=0>

⁸ It's the same place.

new jobs, increase the share of innovative products shipped in the total volume of shipped products to 90 percent⁹. In general, in the five years to 2020 the economy of the Belarusian capital "will attract at least \$38.1 billion of foreign investments, including more than \$4.8 billion of direct foreign investments (FDI) on a net basis"¹⁰.

The deepening of cross-border cooperation of Belarusian regions should be seamlessly integrated into the development of international cooperation and external economic relations of the Republic of Belarus as a whole, the most important criteria of which are sustainable growth rates of exports of goods and services and the achievement of a positive balance of foreign trade in goods and services. In this regard, until 2020 the attention of the regions of Belarus will be focused on: expanding and diversifying trade and economic ties with various countries, regional unions and international economic organizations; developing economic integration within the Eurasian Economic Union; maintaining good-neighbourly relations and close cooperation with the Russian Federation; expanding comprehensive cooperation with the countries of the European Union, including within the framework of the Eastern Partnership initiative; further intensifying trade with the countries of the European Union, including in the framework of the Eastern Partnership initiative; and intensifying trade with the Russian Federation. In the second phase - until 2030 - it is the deepening of cross-border cooperation in all areas of trade, economic, scientific, technological and environmental activities that should become an essential factor in sustainable development. This will contribute to the creation of flexible commercial structures with the attraction of external investments for the improvement of infrastructure; improvement of cross-border trade, tourism; effective cooperation in the cultural, social and environmental spheres; formation of a common socio-cultural space; development of joint cross-border regional policies. Under these conditions, it is the regional media that should become the most important part of mass communication in order to play its social and political role in the consolidation of society in terms of addressing the large-scale development tasks of the regions of Belarus in the next 12-15 years.

⁹ Program of Social and Economic Development of the City of Minsk for 2016-2020 [Electronic Resource]. - 2017. - URL: <http://pravo.by/document/?guid=125510=D917o00834911=15=0>

¹⁰ Minsk plans to attract at least \$38 billion of foreign investment in 2016-2020 [Electronic Resources4res]. - 2017. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/minsk-planiruet-privlech-v-2016-2020-godah-ne-menee-38-mlrd-inostrannyh-investitsij-252054-2017/>

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Belarus - Eurasian Economic Union: regional cooperation and media

Today the Belarusian regional press is faced with large-scale creative tasks to cover all stages of the implementation of the state policy of regional development in Belarus, "one of the most important components of which is the deepening of cross-border cooperation with foreign partners, which implies, among other things, adequate development of the international segment of Belarusian regional journalism¹¹. At the same time, the interaction of Belarusian regions with foreign partners should be seamlessly integrated into the development of international cooperation of the Republic of Belarus as a whole, the most important criteria of which are sustainable growth rates of exports of goods and services, as well as achievement of a positive balance of foreign trade in goods and services.

In this regard, the Belarusian regional mass media have a very broad thematic spectrum, which in the near future should be fully reflected in the pages of urban, district and regional newspapers. We will highlight in this regard those areas that emphasize the geography of interregional cooperation and which are discussed in the National Strategy for Sustainable Socio-Economic Development of the Republic of Belarus for the period up to 2030¹²: expansion of comprehensive cooperation with the regions of the European Union and especially within the framework of the Eastern Partnership initiative, as well as with the regions of the countries of the "Neighbourhood Belt" - Poland, Lithuania, Latvia; deepening of cooperation with the regions of the countries participating in the mega-project "One Belt, One Way". But perhaps, so far, the most real development of large-scale economic integration is observed with the regions of the Eurasian Economic Union countries (Russia, Kazakhstan, Armenia, Kyrgyzstan) and especially with the Russian subjects of the federation within the Union State.

As for the **Eurasian Economic Union**, from the very beginning of its existence in terms of developing integration measures, it was considered that the level of regional cooperation is an indicator of the relevance and effectiveness of measures of supranational regulation, because historically there has been an economic basis for the implementation of integration measures to stimulate regional development and

¹¹ Zalessky, B. Media reflection of the peculiarities of cross-border cooperation of the regions of Belarus / B. Zalessky // *Zhurnalistyka-2018: stan, problems i prospects: mateyryalyaly 20 th Mizhnar. nauk.-prekt. can.*, Minsk, 15-16 pages. 2018 / Redk.: V.M. Samusevich (adk. red.) [iinsh.]. - Minsk : BDU, 2018. -- C. 291.

¹² National Strategy for Sustainable Social and Economic Development of the Republic of Belarus for the period up to 2030. - Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Belarus. - Minsk, 2017. -- C. 137.

interregional cooperation, as well as the potential for expanding cooperation in various areas and spheres of the economy at the level of regions of the EAEC member countries. As a result, "consideration of regional aspects allows for more effective implementation of measures to stimulate new areas of mutual trade, the construction of industry production chains, the formation of transport corridors and planning the location of infrastructure facilities and in the future to ensure social development and improve living standards"¹³.

If we talk about the bilateral format of inter-regional cooperation within the Eurasian Economic Union, the unconditional leader and impetus for the development of the entire Eurasian integration here is the interaction of the regions of Belarus and **Russia** within the framework of the Union State. Suffice it to say that by mid-2018, the Belarusian regions maintained "direct trade and economic relations with 80 regions of the Russian Federation, of which 70 - on the basis of long-term cooperation agreements."¹⁴and the top ten major trading partners included Moscow and St. Petersburg, the Republics of Tatarstan and Bashkortostan, the Perm Region, as well as the Bryansk, Kaluga, Moscow, Smolensk and Tyumen Regions.

The growing potential of Belarusian-Russian interregional cooperation was particularly demonstrated by the results of the Fifth Forum of Regions of Belarus and Russia, which took place in Mogilev in October 2018 and covered such main thematic areas as: agrarian policy, unification and harmonization of legislation, digital economy, youth policy, international activities and economic security. It should be noted that today, to a large extent, it is from the point of view of the Belarusian and Russian media that the Forum of Regions is defined as "a key project of regional cooperation between Belarus and Russia, an effective platform for a partnership dialogue on economic integration and interregional cooperation"¹⁵. And this is not an unfounded statement. Suffice it to say that at the mentioned forum in Mogilev contracts were signed for more than half a billion dollars.

The fact that 76 more documents were added to the legal framework of the Belarusian-Russian interregional cooperation within the framework of the fifth forum also speaks volumes. In particular, the Mogilev Regional Council concluded agreements on

¹³ Main directions of the EAEC economic development until 2030. - Eurasian Economic Commission. - - M., 2015. - - C. 42.

¹⁴ Myasnikovich, M. Rabota na Result / M. Myasnikovich // Priority directions of regional cooperation as a key factor of the allied construction: inform.-integratsiyu project / comp. Gusev, B. Zalessky. - Minsk: Biznesosset, 2018. - - C. 5.

¹⁵ Myasnikovich, M. Regional Forum has become an effective platform for dialogue on the issues of integration and interregional cooperation / M. Myasnikovich // [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <http://www.sovrep.gov.by/ru/interview-ru/view/forum-regionov-stal-effektivnoj-ploschadkoj-dlja-dialoga-po-voprosam-integratsii-i-mezhregionalnogo-256/>

cooperation and development of relations with the legislative assemblies of the Kaluga Region and the Krasnodar Territory. The Grodno Oblast Council will cooperate with the Kaliningrad Oblast Duma in trade, economic, scientific, technical and cultural spheres. The Gomel Regional Council and the Legislative Assembly of the Nizhny Novgorod Region, as well as the Mogilev Regional Executive Committee and the Government of the Novosibirsk Region have defined similar areas for cooperation. But we are also talking not only about the integration of the regional or regional level, but also about the fact that "small cities are involved in this process, which cooperate quite actively, and not only in the field of humanitarian relations, and building economic ties¹⁶. As a result, it turns out that today, at the interregional level, cooperation between the Belarusian regions and the absolute majority of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation has already been established. But how is it fully reflected in the pages of the regional press of Belarus? The issue is topical, with great unrealized potential.

The coverage in the Belarusian regional press of cooperation between the regions of Belarus and its partners in **Kazakhstan**, another member of the Eurasian Economic Union, with which the Treaty on Social and Economic Cooperation until 2026 was signed in November 2017, aimed at implementing a qualitatively new stage in bilateral relations, including at the regional level, should become very diverse. It is worth recalling here that back in 2000, Belarus and Kazakhstan signed an Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Press and Information, which in 2017 was supplemented by a provision that attached "special importance to the expansion of cooperation in the field of mass media between the two states"¹⁷ and which came into force in October 2018.

The thematic range of publications in the regional press could be very broad in this regard. This is also the activity in Kazakhstan of joint assembly facilities with the participation of the Belarusian side, which at the end of 2018 numbered eight, including the production of JSC BelAZ, JSC MTZ, JSC Gomselmash, JSC MAZ, JSC MCH Bobruiskagromash to produce quarry, mine, special utility and fire equipment, tractors, combines, engines, balers, medical equipment. This is also the implementation of a project of the Kazakhstan-Belarus Industrial and Technological Park of Agricultural and Municipal Machinery in Kokshetau, Akmola Oblast, the first phase of which was launched in 2016. This includes several dozen joint scientific and technical projects in

¹⁶ Matveev, V. Over 70 regional agreements were signed at the V Forum of Belarusian and Russian Regions / V. Matveev // [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/politics/view/bole-70-regionalnyh-soglashenij-podpisano-na-v-forume-regionov-belarusi-i-rossii-321404-2018/>

¹⁷ Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Government of the Republic of Belarus on cooperation in the field of mass media [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <http://pravo.by/document/?guid=125510=I017000711=1>

Kazakhstan, with extensive use of Belarusian technologies, innovations and scientific developments. In this regard, we recall that Belarus and Kazakhstan should reach the turnover of at least one billion dollars in 2020. Minsk and Astana believe that "to achieve this goal, it is necessary to use the potential of inter-regional cooperation"¹⁸.

The topics of Belarusian-Kazakh interregional cooperation may be especially topical for the press of Gomel, Grodno and Mogilev regions. In particular, in 2014 the Memorandum of Cooperation in Agriculture was adopted by Grodno and Akmola regions. In November 2016, the Gomel Oblast Executive Committee signed a cooperation agreement with the Pavlodar Oblast Akimat. Mogilev region concluded similar agreements with South Kazakhstan (2003) and East Kazakhstan (2009) regions. The Belarusian Mogilev and the Kazakh Family also have a cooperation agreement. Such figures testify to the effectiveness of interregional cooperation between the Mogilev region and its Kazakh partners. For three quarters of 2018 "foreign trade turnover between economic entities of the region and Kazakhstan increased by 57% and amounted to \$82.8 million, while exports to Kazakhstan increased by 52.4%"¹⁹. In many ways, such significant figures were the reason for the opening in November 2018 in Mogilev of the Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Kazakhstan, which will help to give new impetus to the development of Belarusian-Kazakh interregional cooperation. But what is the reflection of all these documents and results in the regional press? "They are not always adequately reflected in the media sphere. And this then has an impact on reducing the interest of partners and on the continuation of cooperation as a whole"²⁰.

The intensification of interregional cooperation is an important component in strengthening bilateral trade-economic and cultural cooperation with **Armenia**, another member state of the Eurasian Economic Union. Suffice it to say that as of today "21 agreements on twinned relations have been signed between the cities and regions of Belarus and Armenia"²¹. Thus, back in 2008 within the framework of the development of cooperation between Minsk region and Syunik region the sister agreements on cooperation were signed with Borisov, Nesvizh, Soligorsk, Slutsk and Myadel regions with such Armenian cities as Kapan, Goris, Agarak, Sisian and Meghri

¹⁸ Belarus is interested in establishing new joint ventures with Kazakhstan - Myasnikovich [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-zainteresovana-v-sozdanii-novyh-sovmestnyh-predpriyatij-s-kazahstanom-mjasnikovich-323707-2018/>

¹⁹ Kulyagin, S. Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Kazakhstan was opened in Mogilev / S. Kulyagin // [Electron resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://belta.by/politics/view/pochetnoe-konsulstvo-respubliki-kazahstan-otkryli-v-mogileve-325498-2018/>

²⁰ Zalessky, B. International Relations and Media. Vectoriality of foreign policy in the conditions of global crisis of confidence / B. Zalessky. - Palmarium Academic Publishing, 2018. - - C. 57.

²¹ Trade and economic relations [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: http://armenia.mfa.gov.by/ru/bilateral_relations/trade_economic/

respectively. Moreover, "in May 2011 the list of Belarusian and Armenian regional partners was supplemented by Osipovich district and Sevan city, in June 2012 - Vitebsk region and Lori marz, cities of Orsha and Spitak, Vitebsk and Vanadzor, and in October 2012 - Lepel district and Tashir, Braslav district and Stepanavan"²².

Taking into account the fact that the Belarusian-Armenian trade turnover has been growing in recent years, that in order to maintain this positive trend, the parties need to reach a higher level of cooperation and establish joint production facilities, and Belarus is ready to take part in the renovation of Armenia's passenger equipment fleet and in the programme of elevator facilities renovation, parliamentarians of the two countries intend to update the agenda of interregional Belarusian-Armenian cooperation in 2019. In particular, it means that "the work on the agreement on the establishment of sisterly relations between Minsk and Yerevan will be accelerated. It is now under consideration of the Armenian side"²³. Turning to the analysis of the implementation of already existing agreements, the regional press of Belarus and Armenia could proceed from the fact that the Belarusian-Armenian interregional cooperation as a whole contributes to the intensification of joint business activity, the restoration of lost production ties, humanitarian and human contacts, ensures the promotion of bilateral economic projects and the creation of joint competitive products that are in demand both in domestic markets and in third countries.

Finally, in July 2018, Belarus signed an agreement on cooperation in the field of information with another member country of the Eurasian Economic Union, **Kyrgyzstan**, to encourage regular exchange of information materials on political, economic, social and cultural life of both countries, as well as to develop cooperation between the editorial offices. At the same time, "the Kyrgyz side also proposed a new direction of cooperation in the field of information. This is particularly true of cooperation at the regional journalism level²⁴. The thematic portfolio of publications in the regional press of Belarus and Kyrgyzstan in this regard can be quite diverse, says many facts, based on the statement that "Kyrgyz-Belarusian relations are developing

²² Zalesskiy, B.L. Belarusian international journalism: features, tendencies, prospects: educational method / B.L. Zalesskiy. - Minsk: BSU, 2014. - - C. 221.

²³ Belarus is ready to take part in the renewal of the passenger machinery park of Armenia [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-gotova-uchastvovat-v-obnovlenii-parka-passazhirskoj-tehniki-armenii-334782-2019/>

²⁴ Belarus and Kyrgyzstan signed an agreement on cooperation in the field of information [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-kyrgyzstan-podpisali-soglashenie-ot-sotrudnichestve-v-sfere-informatsii-309989-2018/>

dynamically on a wide range of issues, including political and diplomatic sphere, economy, cultural and humanitarian sphere"²⁵.

For example, in 2017 Belarusian exports to this Central Asian country exceeded 300 commodity items: from dairy products and trucks to chipboards, furniture, and wallpaper. There are more than 50 representative offices of the subjects of the commodity distribution network and distributors of Belarusian enterprises. In November 2016, assembly production of MTZ tractors and service center for agricultural machinery on the basis of Bishkek enterprise "Avtomash Radiator" was opened here. At the same time, "UPP Niva-Holding" (Soligorsk) registered with the Ministry of Justice of Kyrgyzstan a Belarusian enterprise OOO "Niva-Shakhtospetsstroy", which plans to produce equipment for the mining industry and hydraulic engineering from components manufactured by the enterprise "Niva-Holding"²⁶. The plans include the establishment of an assembly facility for Belarusian grain harvesters on Kyrgyz soil, which was the subject of the signed Memorandum of Cooperation between the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Industry and Land Reclamation of Kyrgyzstan, Gomselmash OJSC and the dealer of the Belarusian enterprise Avtomash Radiator LLC.

In addition, at the eighth session of the Kyrgyz-Belarusian Intergovernmental Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation, held in October 2018 in Bishkek, the Belarusian side proposed to Kyrgyz partners to implement a joint project on the establishment of a dairy processing plant, interest in which was immediately expressed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Industry and Land Reclamation of the Kyrgyz Republic. In this case we are talking about the organization of an enterprise in this Central Asian country, which could produce milk, ice cream, sour milk products - kefir, yoghurt, sour cream, cottage cheese, soft cheese on the basis of Belarusian raw materials, as well as specially developed technology in Belarus. And "in the future it is planned to enter the Chinese market with the products of this enterprise"²⁷. In addition, consistently developing regional economic ties with partners in Kyrgyzstan, the Belarusian side in August 2018 delivered to the Kyrgyz capital 15 low-floor trolleybuses produced by JSC "Belkommunmash," where the training of drivers of the Bishkek trolleybus department will also be organized. Interesting detail: this

²⁵ Matveev, V. Foreign Ministers of Belarus and Kyrgyzstan confirmed their intention to intensify bilateral cooperation / V. Matveev // [Electronic resource]. - -- 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/politics/view/glavy-mid-belarusi-i-kyrgyzstana-podtverdili-namerenie-aktivizirovat-dvustoronnee-sotrudnichestvo-324657-2018/>

²⁶ Interview of Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the Republic of Belarus to the Kyrgyz Republic A. Strachko to the information-analytical magazine "Market conjuncture" (№1, 2018) [Electron resource]. - -- 2018. - URL: <http://mfa.gov.by/press/smi/ba775717cb6a991b.html>

²⁷ Belarus offers Kyrgyzstan a joint project to establish a milk processing enterprise [Electronic resource]. - -- 2018. -- URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-predlagaet-kyrgyzstanu-sovmestnyj-proekt-posozdaniju-molokopererabatyvajuščego-predpriyatija-322349-2018/>

"technique was purchased under the project "Development of public transport of Bishkek city", financed by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development"²⁸.

The agreement on cooperation between the Belarusian National Centre for Marketing and Price Study and the exhibition company BI Expo from Bishkek is aimed at expanding the Belarusian-Kyrgyz cooperation in the exhibition and fair activities. The agreement aims at encouraging Belarusian exporters to actively participate in international exhibitions and fairs held annually in Kyrgyzstan. In 2018 the exposition of producers from Belarus has already been presented at the international food industry exhibition FoodExpo Kyrgyzstan, which is the most important industry event in this country. The products were demonstrated in the Kyrgyz capital by JV "Spartak" OJSC, "Skidelskiy Agro-Industrial Complex" OJSC, "Oshmyanskiy Meat Processing Plant" OJSC, "Management Company of Holding "Concern Brestsmyasomolprom" OJSC, "Smorgon Dairy Products" OJSC - branch of "Lida Dairy Canning Plant" OJSC, "Pinskiy Meat Processing Plant" OJSC. Apart from Belarusian exporters, companies from Bulgaria, Indonesia, Italy, Kazakhstan, Russia, Turkey, Uzbekistan, France, Sri Lanka and Uzbekistan participated. This business forum was visited by about three and a half thousand people, 95% of whom are professionals of the food industry.

Perhaps, thanks to this exhibition as well, "the trade turnover between Belarus and Kyrgyzstan in January-October 2018 amounted to \$98.49 million, the bulk of which falls on Belarusian exports (\$90.96 million)".²⁹As the most important positions in Belarusian supplies to the Kyrgyz market are milk and dried condensed cream, butter, cheese and sugar curd. It should be noted that in April 2019 the exposition of Belarusian enterprises will be again presented at the FoodExpo Kyrgyzstan-2019 within such thematic sections as food, equipment for food industry, goods and services for equipping public catering enterprises, packaging products, halal industry.

In April 2018, Belarusian exporting enterprises also took part in the MedExpo International Specialized Exhibition in Bishkek. Among them were ALC "Belsept", JSC "Gomselmash", Republican Scientific and Practical Center of Neurology and Neurosurgery of the Ministry of Health of Belarus, JSC "Exon", LLC "Arvitmedikl". Representatives of the Belarusian medical and pharmaceutical industries were brought to Kyrgyzstan by the fact that in 2017 the state program to modernize the health care system was launched in this country, and therefore by the end of 2018 it was planned

²⁸ In Bishkek 37 trolleybuses manufactured in Belarus and Russia were delivered [Electronic resource]. -- 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/v-bishkek-postavili-37-trollejbusov-belorusskogo-i-rossijskogo-proizvodstva-313496-2018/>

²⁹ Belarus will take part in the exhibition Food Expo Kyrgyzstan in Bishkek [Electronic resource]. -- 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-primet-uchastie-v-vystavke-foodexpo-kyrgyzstan-v-bishkeke-333552-2019/>

to "purchase modern medical equipment and quality medicines for \$7 million³⁰. That is why the presentation of medical and pharmaceutical products was very useful.

Let's sum it up. In this study we cited the facts of rapid development and growth of interregional cooperation of Belarus with partners only from the Eurasian Economic Union countries - Russia, Kazakhstan, Armenia, Kyrgyzstan. If we add to them the similar trends observed today in the regions of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the European Union, the "far arc", the Economic Belt of the Silk Road, all of them will convincingly testify to the obvious: such a concept as "international regional journalism", which is still unfamiliar to hearing even in the professional media environment, should find its real contours in the media practice of the information and communication space of the Belarusian regions as soon as possible, so that its representatives could be competent in the information and communication sector.³¹that, as a result, the Eurasian theme - life and activity in the regions of the Eurasian Economic Union countries - becomes relevant to regional media structures and, accordingly, for their readers, viewers and listeners.

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³⁰ Belarus will take part in MedExpo and FoodExpo exhibitions in Kyrgyzstan [Electronic resource]. - – 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-primet-uchastie-v-vystavkah-medexpo-i-foodexpo-v-kyrgyzstane-297380-2018/>

³¹ Zalessky, B. Belarus - Russia: edges of integration. Chronicle of allied construction / B. Zalessky. - LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2016. - – C. 96.

Belarus - China: committee decisions

networking as a current media topic

In November 2018, the third meeting of the Belarusian-Chinese Intergovernmental Committee on Cooperation was held in Beijing, where the parties agreed: firstly, to expand mutual trade; secondly, to increase mutual investments; thirdly, to strengthen interregional ties; fourthly, they signed an action plan for the Year of Education between Belarus and China in 2019. Let us say at once that the parties undoubtedly have the necessary prerequisites for successful implementation of the tasks set out in each of these vectors of development, which makes them the object of close attention of representatives of the international segment of Belarusian and Chinese journalism, whose professional duty is to adequately cover the implementation of the entire set of plans aimed at achieving the level of comprehensive strategic partnership and mutually beneficial cooperation in Belarusian-Chinese relations.

As for the **expansion of mutual trade**, the goal set by the Belarusian side is as follows: "The volume of Belarusian exports to China should reach \$5 billion in the medium term³². It is expected to be achieved in several directions at once, one of which is to increase the supply of Belarusian agricultural products to Chinese consumers. Suffice it to say that Belarus has sent \$52 million worth of food to China for three quarters of 2018. And by the end of the fourth quarter, this figure should actually double. At the same time, "the leading position in Belarusian exports is occupied by dairy products, whose supplies have increased by 9 times compared to the same level in 2017³³. The fact that in November 2018 the third train with Belarusian dairy products, consisting of 41 containers with the total weight exceeding one thousand tons, arrived in Chongqing, China, also contributed to such rapid dynamics. It is also encouraging in this regard that "the parties agreed to reach a weekly schedule of trains to Chongqing with Belarusian agricultural products in the near future³⁴. In addition, the Belarusian

³² Grishkevich, A. The volume of Belarusian export to China in the medium term should reach \$5 billion - Snopkov / A. Grishkevich // [Electron resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <http://news.21.by/economics/2018/11/06/1648136.html>

³³ Ministry of Agriculture: exports of Belarusian agricultural products to China at the end of the year will reach \$100 million [Electron resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/minselhozproduksport-belorusskoj-selhozproduksii-v-kitaj-po-itogam-goda-dostignet-100-mln-324799-2018/>

³⁴ The train with Belarusian dairy products arrived in Chongqing [Electron resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/poezd-s-belorusskoj-molochnoj-produksiej-pribyl-v-chuntsin-324784-2018/>

JSC "Meat and Dairy Company" and a joint venture Sinoby Agriculture signed a contract for the supply of dairy products in 2019 for \$30 million.

The expansion of the product line in Hebei Province in 2019 through the joint venture "Zunshen Gomel Agricultural Machinery Enterprise" LLC, based on the joint capital of Gomselmash OJSC and Zunshen Industrial Corporation, will make a significant contribution to the **mutual investment**. Recall that the framework agreement on the establishment of this enterprise was signed in 2014, and a year later there was a strategic agreement, the implementation of which led in 2016 to the start of production of joint products - forage harvesting and cob harvesting machines. In three years, about five hundred harvesters have been collected from Gomselmash's machine sets. By April 2019, it is planned to add 290 and 450 horsepower forage harvesters to the range of manufactured machinery. For this purpose, a new production building has already been built in Hebei Province's Wei Xiang County, which will enable to increase the production of agricultural machinery to one and a half thousand a year. "Chinese partners are planning to build another building, which will expand production capacity to 3 thousand combines"³⁵.

In terms of **strengthening interregional ties**, the cooperation between the Mogilev region and Hunan Province can be very effective and promising, where the parties intend to focus on such strategic areas as the economy, investment and tourism. At the same time, in the first stage, the efforts of the region and the province will be focused on accelerated development of tourism. The fact is that the parties are sure: "There is a connection between the trends of tourism development and the general state of the economy, so this direction is chosen as one of the strategic for strengthening and development of joint cooperation"³⁶. That is why, in terms of infrastructure projects, business people from Hunan Province have already been offered to build hotels, cultural and entertainment complexes, even a restaurant of Chinese cuisine in the Mogilev region, where tourists from China could feel comfortable. And the next step in developing this interregional investment cooperation could be projects to process local raw materials and produce food products, with the prospect of exporting them to China and other countries. For this purpose, about two hundred sites are already being offered to Chinese investors.

³⁵ The Junshen Gomel agricultural machine building company intends to expand its product line [Electronic Resource] in 2019. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/predpriyatje-selhozmaszinstroenija-tszunshen-gomel-namereno-v-2019-godu-rasshirit-linejku-produktsii-325877-2018/>

³⁶ Kulyagin, S. Mogilev region and Chinese province Hunan intend to accelerate development of mutual tourism (in Russian) / S. Kulyagin // [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/mogilevskaja-oblast-i-kitajskaja-provintsija-hunan-namereny-uskorit-razvitie-vzaimnogo-turizma-325776-2018/>

In November 2018, Minsk and Shanghai signed an agreement of intent to establish friendly relations. According to the parties, this document is very important for developing closer trade contacts and implementing specific projects: "It will be a platform for the development of our relations in all spheres."³⁷ Representatives of the Chinese city are interested in Minsk experience in industry, metalworking, machine-building. And the Belarusian capital is interested in partnership with investors from Shanghai "in terms of urban infrastructure management, "Smart City" system, transport system, improvement, management of municipal solid waste"³⁸. Earlier Minsk had already signed agreements on the establishment of twinned relations with such cities of China as Changchun, Beijing, Shenzhen, as well as on the establishment of cooperation - with Shenyang.

An important detail: the signing of the November agreement was preceded by the trade and economic forum "Sails of Shanghai" held in September 2018 in Minsk, where representatives of this Chinese city said that "given the current good Belarusian-Chinese relations, the implementation of new joint projects, including with Shanghai businessmen, has great prospects"³⁹. This trade and economic forum has brought together in the Belarusian capital more than 130 domestic and Chinese companies interested in cooperation in mechanical engineering, construction, information technologies, chemical industry, environmental protection, light industry, food, jewelry production. Chinese manufacturers of electronics and household appliances, clothing and fabrics, packaging for medical equipment, cosmetics, toys, jewelry, as well as importers of cars, electrical and welding equipment, computer equipment, interested in finding business partners in Belarus, came to Minsk to participate in the forum.

It is also symbolic that the signing of this agreement took place during the first China International Import Expo, held in Shanghai, at which a solid list of Minsk enterprises and organizations was presented. Among them are Minsk Tractor Plant, Minskkhlebprom, Kommunarika, Minsk Automobile Plant, Integral, Minsk Dairy Plant №1. The voluminous portfolio of its developments in the field of instrumentation, automation of production, medicine, agriculture - more than thirty - demonstrated in

³⁷ The agreement on cooperation between Minsk and Shanghai will take the partnership to a new level - Jiang Ping [Electronic Resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/soglashenie-otsotrudnichestve-minska-i-shanhaja-vyvedet-partnerstvo-na-novyj-uroven-tszjan-pin-321797-2018/>

³⁸ Minsk counts on Shanghai's assistance in the modernization of urban infrastructure [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/minsk-rasschityvaet-na-pomosch-shanhaja-v-modernizatsii-gorodskoj-infrastruktury-321799-2018/>

³⁹ Grishkevich, A. Forum "Sails of Shanghai" in Minsk will contribute to realization of the joint projects (in Russian) / A. Grishkevich // [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/forum-parus-shanhaja-v-minske-posposobstvuet-realizatsii-sovmestnyh-proektov-lin-sjan-317232-2018/>

Shanghai and the Belarusian State University, located, as it is known, in Minsk. In particular, the exhibition of imported goods and services showed his medical unit of general hyperthermia "Bird-M", designed for the complex treatment of various forms of cancer in specialized clinics. Among the innovations of BSU were also presented in Shanghai "phytosols for correction of the increased threshold of taste sensitivity to table salt, edible packaging films, a series of veterinary biopreparations for the treatment and prevention of diseases of agricultural and domestic animals, antitumoral drugs, hardware and software complex" Calibration "⁴⁰.

An interesting continuation of cooperation between Minsk and Shanghai can be obtained at the level of partnership of individual districts of these cities. In this case, we are talking about the Soviet district of the Belarusian capital and Channin Shanghai, which signed a framework agreement on cooperation in September 2018. Interestingly, "cooperation between the two districts began in 1994 when the first cooperation agreement was signed. During this time, trade turnover has increased several times"⁴¹. This time, the parties expressed interest in implementing a number of joint projects. In particular, Magic of Light LLC offered Chinese businessmen a partnership in the production of protective holograms. Considers to find partners in Shanghai and Minsk OJSC "Promsvyaz" to participate in the project to bring the production of the enterprise to the Chinese-Belarusian industrial park "Great Stone". An investment proposal for the establishment of a multifunctional medical and scientific-practical center was made by the company Medical Initiative.

Apparently, another district of Minsk - Frunzenski, which signed an agreement on twinning with the Chinese city of Jilin, located in the province of Girin, in September 2018, will significantly intensify its international contacts in the near future. The document adopted by the parties envisages the development of trade and economic relations and cultural exchange. And "among the promising areas are joint projects in the construction industry, education, tourism, food supplies"⁴².

Cooperation between the Chinese province of Zhejiang and the Belarusian Minsk Oblast, which signed an agreement on establishing friendly relations back in May 2015, promises to be very effective. Then, assessing the prospects for the development of

⁴⁰ More than 30 scientific and technical developments will be presented by BSU at the exhibition of imports in China [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/bole-30-nauchno-tehnicheskikh-razrabotok-predstavit-bgu-na-vystavke-importa-v-kitae-324163-2018/>

⁴¹ Sovetskiy district of Minsk and Channin Shanghai district signed an agreement on cooperation [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/sovetskij-rajon-minska-i-rajon-channin-shanhaja-podpisali-soglashenie-o-sotrudnichestve-317462-2018/>

⁴² Frunzenski district of Minsk and Chinese Jilin signed an agreement on twinned connections [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/frunzenskij-rajon-minska-i-kitajskij-tszilin-podpisali-soglashenie-o-pobratimskih-svjazjah-318157-2018/>

these bilateral interregional ties, the Chinese side stated that "Zhejiang Province intends to make significant investments in the economy of Minsk region.⁴³In this regard, he will encourage his businessmen in every possible way, as well as invited partners from the capital region "to jointly develop tourism"⁴⁴. A year later, the Borisov plant of medical products, located in Minsk voblast, began negotiations with the company "Menovo" from Zhejiang province on the implementation of a joint project for the production of medicines. And today this project is already starting to take shape more and more clearly.

In January 2018, another result of cooperation between the Minsk Region and Zhejiang was the opening of a center for traditional Chinese medicine at the Minsk Regional Clinical Hospital in the village of Lesnoy, Minsk District, where Chinese colleagues have already begun to transfer years of experience in traditional medicine and their skills, which allows Belarusian specialists to improve and expand the list of medical services. More specifically, in four treatment rooms and the office of reflexotherapists "patients are offered to undergo the procedure of classical acupuncture (acupuncture), laser puncture, electropuncture, vacuum reflex therapy, hirudotherapy, auriculoreflexotherapy"⁴⁵. In addition, "the Center of Traditional Chinese Medicine is also planned to open on the basis of the Minsk Regional Center of Medical Rehabilitation "Zagorie"⁴⁶.

In November 2018, the Belarusian capital region, taking into account the interest of Chinese partners in the supply of dairy and meat products - ice cream, beef and poultry - from Belarus, said it was ready to load with its agricultural products container trains, which were returned from Europe to China. As for the prospects of this cooperation, the partner regions "plan to implement joint projects in tourism, trade, industrial production, agriculture, medicine, culture and transport logistics"⁴⁷.

Another important point is that cities and districts located on their territory are beginning to provide considerable support to the interaction between the Belarusian

⁴³ Zhejiang Province intends to make significant investments in the economy of Minsk Oblast [Electronic Resource]. - - 2015. - URL: <http://investinbelarus.by/press/news/provinciya-chjeczyan-namerena-napravit-v-ekonomiku-minskoy-oblasti-znachitelnye-investicii/>

⁴⁴ Zhejiang Province offers Minsk region to cooperate in tourism [Electronic resource]. - - 2015. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/provintsija-chzhetszjan-predlagaet-minskoj-oblasti-sotrudnicat-v-sfereturizma-2646-2015/>

⁴⁵ The Center of Chinese Medicine was established on the basis of Minsk Regional Hospital [Electronic Resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <http://www.viazda.by/ru/news/20180112/1515764769-centr-kitayskoy-mediciny-sozdan-na-baze-minskoy-oblastnoy-bolnicy>

⁴⁶ The Centre of Traditional Chinese Medicine [Electronic Resource] was opened in Minsk. - - 2018. - URL: <https://politring.com/region/12002-v-minske-otkrylsya-centr-tradicionnoy-kitayskoy-mediciny.html>

⁴⁷ Minsk region expects to implement a project with Chinese Ningbo on production of medical drugs [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/minskaja-oblast-rasschityvaet-realizovat-s-kitajskim-ninbo-proekt-po-vypusku-medpreparatov-326994-2018/>

region and the Chinese province. In particular, in the same 2015 the Memorandum on establishing friendly relations was signed by Smolevichi district and the city of Iu. Curiously, just twenty years ago, this Chinese city in Zhejiang Province was "a little-known agricultural settlement, and nowadays it is a rapidly developing center of international middle and small wholesale trade"⁴⁸. Here, in the southeast of China, is the world's largest indoor wholesale market "Yiu International Trade City", the uniqueness of which lies in the fact that, without leaving the walls of the shopping center, the buyer can choose the right product from a huge range of products, make a wholesale deal and organize the shipment of products to any destination. At the same time, "a huge range of products is presented in the ultra-modern complex Futian on an area of 2.6 million square meters. About 58 thousand trading stands are located on 5 floors. The length of the building itself is about 4 km"⁴⁹. Now it is clear why today the Belarusian side is already discussing the issues of "increasing the supply of dairy and other food products of Minsk region to the Chinese market through the site of the pavilion of Belarusian goods of the company "Kingston" in the international market of goods of the city of Iu"⁵⁰.

In November 2018, Belarusian Borisov and Chinese Ningbo signed an agreement on establishing friendly relations. "The Parties agreed to develop multilateral ties and cooperation in trade, economy, education, culture, tourism, sports, health care, urban development, environmental protection, as well as to promote mutual prosperity"⁵¹. Apparently, the parties have the potential to implement such a scenario. After all, Ningbo is a major Chinese port city in Zhejiang Province. Four sea port complexes are located here at once. One of the largest is the Beilun, where the car factories of the company "Gili" are located, which are well known in Belarus. And the city's gross domestic product in 2017 reached almost 145 billion dollars - a figure that speaks for itself. In short, this city also has a lot to learn from. And not just Borisov.

Speaking about the action plan for the Year of Education of Belarus and China in 2019, signed during the third meeting of the Belarusian-Chinese Intergovernmental Committee on Cooperation, it should be noted that the very opening of the Year of

⁴⁸ Belarus plans to sell goods in the Chinese center of medium and small wholesale trade Iu [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-planiruet-realizovyvat-tovary-v-kitajskom-tsentre-srednej-i-melkooptovoj-torgovli-iu-242556-2017/>

⁴⁹ Grishkevich, A. International trading town of Chinese goods may appear in Bolbasovo / A. Grishkevich // [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/mezhdunarodnyj-torgovnyj-gorodok-kitajskih-tovarov-mozhet-pojavitsja-v-bolbasovo-262012-2017/>

⁵⁰ About inter-regional cooperation of Minsk region with Zhejiang province [Electron resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <http://minsk-region.gov.by/ru/glavnyj-novosti/item/36377-nikolay-rogaschuk-htoby-nazad-konteynery-ne-shli-pustymi>

⁵¹ Borisov and Chinese city of Ningbo have established friendly relations [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/borisov-i-kitajskij-gorod-ninbo-ustanovili-druzhestvennye-svjazi-326980-2018/>

Education is planned to be held in January 2019 on the basis of Dalian Polytechnic University, which should continue the implementation of a whole range of measures to establish direct ties between Belarusian universities and institutions of higher education of China, and eventually raise the whole range of Belarusian-Chinese universities to a new level. Speaking about the development of partnerships in this field, it should be noted that "the Chinese education system is unique in its kind. Unlike in Western Europe, it cultivates not so much individuality as discipline and devotion to collective interests. This model has proven its worth: the overall level of education development in China is above the world average"⁵². In this regard, the interest of the Belarusian side in the planned activities is obvious not only to get acquainted closer with the Chinese experience, but also to compare it with its own. To this end, it is planned to significantly intensify in 2019 the work on expanding the presence of Belarusian educational institutions in the Chinese educational market through such formats of cooperation as opening representative offices of universities, joint faculties, centers of study of Belarus. In addition, the Belarusian national exhibition "may take a central place at the largest international exhibition" China Education Expo ", which is traditionally held in October in four major cities in China: Beijing, Chengdu, Shanghai and Guangzhou"⁵³.

As for new forms of cooperation between higher education institutions of the two countries and new participants, a number of promising projects were implemented by the parties as early as 2018. These include, for example, the agreement signed by F. Skorina State University of Gomel and Nanjing University of Science and Technology in December 2018 on joint training of researchers of higher qualification (Ph.D.) and on double international guidance for writing and defending Ph.D. theses, according to which "the parties will organize joint training of researchers of higher qualification in the most promising areas: physics, chemistry, physics and chemistry"⁵⁴. The basic element of this training will be postgraduate studies at these universities, and the topics of PhD dissertations will be determined by the partner universities. The result of this interaction will be an opportunity to obtain a PhD degree from both Gomel and Nanjing universities. And the results of research will become the property of two universities and will be published in international scientific collections.

In October 2018, the cooperation agreement was signed by Baranovichi State University and Nanchan Technological Institute, which "intend to develop cooperation

⁵² China [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://export.by/china>

⁵³ Features of organization of ideological and educational work in higher education institutions in 2018/2019 academic year. - RIVSH, 2018, P. 7.

⁵⁴ Gomel and Nanjing Universities will start a joint PhD training [Electronic Resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/gomelskij-i-nankinskij-universitety-nachnut-sovmestnuju-podgotovku-kandidatov-nauk-328395-2018/>

in technical field - in information systems and technologies, automation of technological processes⁵⁵. In addition, the Chinese side expressed interest in studying the Belarusian methodology of ion-plasma nitriding, environment, mechanisms of socio-economic stability. As a result, the partners agreed to form a joint team of scientists in each of the selected areas.

In September 2018, the Centre for the Study of Belarus was opened at Ankhov University with the assistance of the Consulate General of the Republic of Belarus in Shanghai and the Pushkin Brest State University. It is expected to become "a broad platform for the development of inter-university research, educational, cultural cooperation, as well as the strengthening and expansion of regional ties between the Brest region and Anhui Province of China"⁵⁶. In turn, it is planned to open a center for the study of China at the Pushkin Brest State University. In this way, Brest residents are putting into practice the provisions of the cooperation agreement signed in September 2017 with Anhov University. According to the parties, the opening of such centers will contribute to a deeper understanding of the cultural traditions of the Belarusian and Chinese peoples, strengthen relations between the region and the province in the humanitarian sphere, and will open "new opportunities for academic exchange of students, cooperation of teachers in the scientific sphere"⁵⁷. It should be added that the first center for the study of Belarus in China was opened back in 2012 at the East China Pedagogical University in Shanghai, with which in November 2018 was "signed a program of cooperation of Belarusian universities <...> for the development of the Center for Study of Belarus.

As we can see, the thematic spectrum of the Belarusian-Chinese interaction is growing up like a chain reaction. And this sets very difficult tasks for journalists of both countries in terms of adequate media articulation, prompt and high-quality coverage of the processes of cooperation between Belarus and China. In order to successfully cope with their decision, representatives of Belarusian and Chinese media are also trying to find new solutions to strengthen partnerships. Among them, in particular, is the agreement on cooperation between the Publishing House "Belarus Today" and the Chinese news agency Xinhua, signed in September 2018. Let this not be the first document of such a plan, because about 20 years ago an agreement on cooperation

⁵⁵ Baranovich State University will cooperate with Nanchansk Technological Institute [Electronic Resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/baranovichskij-gosuniversitet-budet-sotrudnichat-s-nanchanskim-tehnologicheskim-institutom-320995-2018/>

⁵⁶ Grishkevich, A. The Centre for Belarus studies was opened in Anhui University in China / A. Grishkevich // [Electron resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/tsentr-izuchenija-belarusi-otkrylsja-v-anhojskom-universitete-v-kitae-318426-2018/>

⁵⁷ The Center for China Studies is planning to open in Brest State University [Electronic mode]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/tsentr-izuchenija-kitaja-planirujut-otkryt-v-brestskom-gosuniversitete-314837-2018/>

between the Belarusian Telegraph Agency ELTA and Xinhua was signed. But "this cooperation was filled with interesting projects for both sides, in BELTA there was a news line in Chinese"⁵⁸. That is why the current agreement should be seen as a new level of cooperation between the Belarusian and Chinese mass media. All the more so because it speaks not only about the exchange of information, but also multimedia materials, about creation of new rubrics on cooperation between Belarus and China. In particular, the newspapers of the Publishing House "Belarus Today" should call such a column "Window to China. It should be assumed that this experience of creative interaction with colleagues from the Celestial Empire will be continued in publications of regional and departmental levels of Belarus.

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⁵⁸ "Belarus Today" and the Xinhua news agency will cooperate [Electronic Resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-segodnja-i-informagentstvo-sinhua-budut-sotrudnichat-317352-2018/>

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Belarus - France:

from deep dialogue to effective solutions

In the Republic of Belarus, relations with France are traditionally considered in the context of constructive interaction on all issues of bilateral and multilateral cooperation, relying "on further deepening the dialogue and increasing the level of contacts"⁵⁹. And in 2018, the parties took a number of important steps in this direction. First, the Senate of France and the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus have agreed on considerable intensification of bilateral inter-parliamentary cooperation. They singled out "promotion of economic relations and attraction of French investments into economic projects in Belarus" as the most important priorities of partnership development⁶⁰. Secondly, in 2018, for the first time in the history of bilateral relations, friendship groups were established in the Council of the Republic and the Senate of France, which testifies to the desire of the Belarusian and French sides to give a new impetus to bilateral relations. Third, the Joint Belarusian-French Commission on Economic Cooperation and the business forum of the two countries' business people that regularly meets have significantly increased their activities in terms of coordinating bilateral partnership ties. This is quite eloquently evidenced by the third meeting of the joint commission and the fifth business forum, held in October 2018 in Minsk.

The participants of the meeting of the commission summed up the results of joint work over the past two years in the field of trade, economic and investment cooperation, as well as outlined priority areas of partnership development, including trade, environment, agriculture, transport, tourism, banking and financial sphere, as well as "inter-regional relations and development of legal framework of bilateral cooperation"⁶¹.

Speaking about the results, the parties noted several positive trends in the development of Belarusian-French partnership ties. First, mutual trade between the two countries has steadily increased over the past two years: by 28 per cent in 2017 and by almost 15 per cent in the first eight months of 2018, exceeding \$260 million. At the same time,

⁵⁹ Congratulations to the President of France Emmanuel Macron [Electronic Resource]. - - 2018. - URL: http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/pozdravlenie-prezidentu-frantsii-emmanuelju-makronu-19118/

⁶⁰ The problem of regional security was discussed at the meeting of Myasnikovich with the President of the French Senate [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/politics/view/problematika-regionalnoj-bezopasnosti-obsuzhdena-na-vstreche-mjasnikovicha-s-prezidentom-senata-325177-2018/>

⁶¹ On holding the third session of the Joint Belarusian-French Commission on Economic Cooperation [Electronic Resource]. - - 2018. - URL: http://mfa.gov.by/press/news_mfa/dff75390f947ce6c.html

back in 2017, "the growth of Belarusian exports amounted to 155%, the positive dynamics of exports in 2018⁶². This happened primarily due to such positions as transport, computer, telecommunication and information services. In addition, 250 items of goods are now delivered from Belarus to France. An interesting detail: at a meeting in Minsk, the French side suggested doubling trade with Belarusian partners in the next five years, believing that "promising areas of cooperation could be agriculture, insurance, transport, supply of equipment and machinery"⁶³.

Second, there are positive developments in attracting French investment in the Belarusian economy, which increased by more than 75% in the first half of 2018 and amounted to four and a half million dollars. At that "40 organizations with French investments are registered in Belarus"⁶⁴.

As for the development of the legal framework of the Belarusian-French relations, until recently there have been 21 documents: from the Protocol on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations (1992) to the Memorandum on Cooperation between the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Belarus and the French National Chamber of Court Executors (2017). Within the framework of the third meeting of the joint commission the parties have supplemented this list of bilateral documents with an intergovernmental agreement on international road transport of passengers and cargo, the draft of which was agreed back in the 1990s and now "legally fixes the existing agreements between Belarus and France in the field of international road transport"⁶⁵.

The fifth Belarusian-French business forum, which took place on the same October days in Minsk, has added its bright colors to the trade, economic and investment components in the activities of the joint commission. The forum was attended by about 40 French businessmen interested in developing cooperation with Belarusian partners in such areas as energy, food, wood processing and light industry, construction and engineering, petrochemical industry, tourism, legal and consulting services, aircraft construction, it-technology. This is evidenced by the documents accepted in the fields of the business forum.

⁶² Interview of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Belarus to the French Republic P. Latushko to the agency "Minsk-Novosti" (October 26, 2018) [Electron resource]. -- 2018. - URL: <http://mfa.gov.by/press/smi/b683fba5967f5743.html>

⁶³ France proposes to double the trade turnover with Belarus [Electronic resource] in the next five years. -- 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/frantsija-predlagaet-v-blizhajshie-pjat-let-udvoit-tovarooborot-s-belarusju-323245-2018/>

⁶⁴ Igor Petrishenko met with the State Secretary to the Minister of Europe and Foreign Affairs of France [Electronic resource]. -- 2018. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/8349>

⁶⁵ Belarus and France signed an interstate agreement on international road transport [Electronic resource]. -- 2018. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/politics/view/belarus-i-frantsija-podpisali-mezhpravosoglashenie-o-mezhdunarodnyh-avtomobilnyh-perevozkah-323221-2018/>

First, the National Centre for Marketing and Price Study of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belarus and the French business association MEDEF International signed a memorandum of understanding, which "will contribute to increasing the number of French investments in the Belarusian economy" and will⁶⁶ help to develop cooperation in agriculture, energy and construction. Secondly, the forum participants concluded two framework agreements in the field of education and culture.

Thirdly, a concrete result of the fifth business forum was the contract signed by the branch "Domostroenie" RUE "Newspaper Factory" (Shklov) with the French company SARL Logibat, which is engaged in the construction of residential settlements in their country, for the supply in 2018-2019 about 60 sets of frame-board houses for a total of one million euros. It is interesting that "the first two houses from the Belarusian Shklov were sent to France back in 2015⁶⁷. In the next five years the company plans to sell about 650 houses in France. In total, in the first eight months of 2018, Concern Bellesbumprom, which includes "Domostroenie", exported to the French market products for three million dollars - furniture, wooden structures, windows and doors.

As we can see, the development of interregional ties has become one of the priorities on the agenda of the fifth Belarusian-French business forum and the third session of the Joint Belarusian-French Commission on Economic Cooperation. This is explained by the fact that it is the regions of the two countries that today make their most important contribution to the growth of mutual trade between Belarus and France observed over the past two years, as "the regions understand the pragmatism of relations. There's people just walking on the ground."⁶⁸ Specifically, the twinning relations currently connect such cities of the two countries as Minsk and Lyon, Homel and Clermont-Ferrand, Brest and Brest, Partisanski district of Minsk and Turkuen, Central district of Minsk and Nevers.

The undoubted flagship of interregional cooperation with French partners is the Belarusian capital, where 39 economic entities with the participation of French capital are registered, including 24 joint ventures and 15 foreign enterprises. In the first eight months of 2018, trade turnover between Minsk and France increased by a quarter, while exports - even by 37.1%. During the same period, the economy of the Belarusian

⁶⁶ The National Centre for Marketing and the Business Association of France have signed a Memorandum of Understanding [Electronic Resource]. -- 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/natsionalnyj-tsentr-marketinga-i-biznes-assotsiatsija-frantsii-podpisali-memorandum-o-vzaimoponimanii-323213-2018/>

⁶⁷ Shklovskoye "Domostroenie" will deliver a new batch of wooden houses to France [Electron resource]. -- 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/shklovskoe-domostroenie-podpishet-soglashenie-o-postavke-novoj-partii-derevjannyh-domov-vo-frantsiju-323174-2018/>

⁶⁸ We are at the crossroads of mutual interests: Latushko about cooperation with France [Electronic resource]. -- 2016. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/beloruskie-ulitki-perekrestok-interesov-i-sharl-de-goll-latushko-o-razvitii-sotrudnichestva-s-222884-2016/>

capital received more than one million dollars of direct French investments, which is twice as much as during the same period in 2017. Here it is appropriate to recall that an agreement on friendly relations between Minsk and Lyon was signed over forty years ago. In 2016, under the auspices of the 40th anniversary of the establishment of these twinning ties to enhance trade, economic and investment cooperation between the regions of the two countries "the Belarusian capital hosted the First Belarusian-French Interregional Forum, which was attended by more than 50 representatives from the French side and about 80 - from the Belarusian side"⁶⁹.

And today Minsk offers its French partners to take up several joint projects at once. In the Belarusian capital, it is understood that "an important sector of innovation in France is the environment".⁷⁰ and the green economy is seen there as an engine of economic growth. In particular, we are talking about the possible participation of French companies in the projects of reconstruction of the Minsk treatment plant and construction of a waste processing plant. Reconstruction of the Minsk wastewater treatment plant - the most complex industrial and domestic wastewater treatment facility - is planned to begin in 2019, to improve the efficiency of wastewater treatment, reduce the environmental impact of this facility, to build a biogas complex and a waste incineration complex. As for the implementation of the project in the field of municipal solid waste management, it is planned to build a waste processing plant with the volume of processing up to 800 tons per year.

The French, as you know, have the most modern technology in this regard. In addition, Belarus and France already have experience of mutually beneficial partnership in the field of environmental protection, including the management of hazardous waste. "In 2012, 823 tons of waste containing hazardous chemicals were taken to the factory of the French company Tready and destroyed there. This has reduced by 17% the total amount of waste containing polychlorinated biphenyls in Belarus"⁷¹. Besides, the mentioned company participated in the implementation of the international technical assistance project on liquidation of the temporary storage warehouse of potentially hazardous pesticides in the village of Mizgiri, Slonim district, Grodno region. The agreement signed back in 2016 between the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of Belarus and the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Sea

⁶⁹ Minsk offers French companies to participate in the projects of reconstruction of the treatment plant and recycling [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/minsk-predlagaet-frantsuzskim-kompanijam-uchastie-v-proektah-rekonstruktsii-ochistnoj-stantsii-i-323285-2018/>

⁷⁰ Ambassador of France on visa-free regime, Minsk agreements and the Belarusian language [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/politics/view/posol-frantsii-o-bevizovom-rezhime-minskih-soglashenijah-i-belorusskom-jazyke-237950-2017/>

⁷¹ Belarus and France will develop cooperation in the environmental sphere [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-frantsija-budut-razvivat-sotrudnichestvo-v-prirodohrannoj-sfere-311222-2018/>

of France on cooperation in environmental protection and sustainable development can and should give additional impetus to Belarusian-French interaction in this area.

The fact that the Belarusian capital's cooperation with its French partners may soon significantly expand is also proved by this fact. In November 2017, Minsk was visited by a representative delegation of companies from France, which consider the Belarusian market as potentially interesting for its development. When announcing this visit, the French side made no secret that "the geographical location of Belarus, its economic, scientific and, of course, human resources are important arguments for French exporters and investors"⁷². In particular, the company JT Finances did not rule out the possibility of creating an enterprise in Belarus, "supplying transporters for automatic payment of roads"⁷³. Interesting offers were brought to Minsk then by other well-known brands - Alteo, Atos, Airbus Helicopter Vostok, La Fonte Ardennaise, Secmair, Servier, Schneider Electric.

The fact that the intensification of Belarusian-French interregional cooperation has become one of the important components of the positive dynamics of trade and economic cooperation between the two countries, observed today, is also confirmed by the fact that over the past two years the number of French and French-Belarusian companies operating in Belarus, including such large companies as Renault, Lactalis, Danone, has increased from 40 to 63, while the list of commodity items of Belarusian exports to France, as noted above, is already two and a half. But the parties still believe that "Belarusian-French trade and economic relations do not meet the potential of the two countries"⁷⁴. Even today, not only Minsk, but also other regions of Belarus and France can and should make their considerable contribution to increasing the bilateral trade. They certainly have the necessary capacity for that.

Thus, in November 2018, a quarter of Belarusian wooden houses was opened in the French city of Villeux, located in the Lorraine region. Interestingly, at the suggestion of the Belarusian side, this quarter was named after Jean Gilbert - an outstanding physician, botanist and biologist. "This man was the creator of one of the first hospitals, a hospital in Grodno, and one of the first botanical gardens in Eastern Europe. In Grodno there is a monument in honor of Jean Gilbert, there is a square of the same

⁷² Grishkevich, A. Representatives of the largest French companies will visit Belarus on November 14-15 / A. Grishkevich // [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/predstaviteli-kрупnejshih-frantsuzskih-kompanij-14-15-nojabrja-posetjat-belarus-275346-2017/>

⁷³ Mikhalchuk, L. Business France: Many French companies are just discovering the Belarusian market / A. Mikhalchuk // [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belrynok.by/2017/11/18/business-france-mnogie-frantsuzskie-kompanii-tolko-otkryvayut-dlya-sebja-belorusskij-rynok/4133/>

⁷⁴ Belarus and France will intensify inter-parliamentary cooperation [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/politics/view/belarus-i-frantsija-aktivizirujut-mezhparlamentskoe-sotrudnichestvo-325720-2018/>

name"⁷⁵. In total, 71 residential buildings were built in Lorraine by mid-November 2018 from Belarusian materials. In particular, a street of 17 Belarusian houses has already been built in Okur-Mulen.⁷⁶...where the first tenants settled back in the first quarter of 2018.

These wooden houses are made by the branch "Domostroenie" of Shklovsk Newspaper Plant. They have good thermal insulation characteristics, and their installation together with other construction works takes up to three months. Since all the main elements of the frame-panel house are made in Shklovo, the construction site in Lorraine remains only to mount ready-made structures. "Such a house does not shrink and can be erected at any time of year. <...> Their service life with full observance of construction technology is 30-50 years" . Perhaps for these reasons, Lorraine now has plans to increase construction to 132 houses by the end of 2019, to sign a contract for the supply of Belarusian tiles, which will be used for decoration of houses, as well as kitchens made in Belarus to equip houses. In general, "in 2017, \$16 million of Belarusian furniture, houses and other wooden products were delivered to France, and for 9 months of this year - more than \$17 million"⁷⁷.

All these facts are very eloquent evidence of what points in the development of interregional cooperation with French partners are emphasized in Mogilev region, where JLLC Unimilk Shklov - one of the enterprises of the main French investor in Belarus - Danone company, which successfully operates in Shklov and intends to further develop. And the parties are already discussing "the issue of possible cooperation and partnership in domestic waste processing and drinking water treatment"⁷⁸.

Among other Belarusian regions seriously interested in developing cooperation with partners from France is Brest Oblast, where three enterprises with French capital operate. It is a subsidiary of the already well-known corporation Danone Pruzhany JLC and two small enterprises in Brest. Cooperation in mechanical engineering, light industry, chemical and perfume and cosmetics industry, in which France is one of the

⁷⁵ Interview of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Belarus to the French Republic P. Latushko to the agency "Minsk-Novosti" (October 26, 2018) [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <http://mfa.gov.by/press/smi/b683fba5967f5743.html>

⁷⁶ The first stone was laid in France to build a quarter of Belarusian wooden houses [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/pervyj-kamen-zalozhen-vo-frantsii-v-stroitelstvo-kvartala-iz-belorusskih-derevjannyh-domov-276022-2017/>

⁷⁷ A quarter of Belarusian wooden houses appeared in French Villeu [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/kvartal-belorusskih-derevjannyh-domov-pojavilsja-vo-frantsuzskom-vilrju-324661-2018/>

⁷⁸ Kulyagin, S. Mogilev region and France are going to emphasize the development of economic cooperation / S. Kulyagin // [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/mogilevskaja-oblast-i-frantsija-namereny-sdelat-aktsent-na-razvitii-ekonomicheskogo-sotrudnichestva-251920-2017/>

world leaders, seems promising⁷⁹. In addition, the Brest branch of the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the summer of 2018 expressed its great interest in "establishing ties with the French Chamber of Commerce and Industry. It could be Brest, Lyon, Strasbourg."⁸⁰

Another area of Brestchina's partnership with France is medicine. At the end of 2017, the Brest Regional Hospital and the University Clinic of Strasbourg concluded that it was necessary to sign a cooperation agreement in order to "give it a new impetus and a systemic character"⁸¹. And this interaction began with the fact that ten employees of Brest regional hospital - seven doctors and three nurses - were trained in Strasbourg, which lasted up to one and a half months. Brest surgeons, anesthesiologists and pulmonologists have mastered new techniques in diagnostics and treatment of diseases of lungs, rendering anesthesiological aid at operations. As a result, the links between Brest and Strasbourg doctors based on personal contacts reached the level of a significant social project.

As far back as 2016 it was announced about the intention to "sign an agreement between the Minsk region and the region of Upper France"⁸². And in early December 2018, a representative delegation of heads of enterprises from this region came to Minsk to continue these contacts and possible joint projects. The seriousness and multiplicity of intentions of businessmen from Upper France is evidenced by the fact that "the areas of interest of the French delegation include the automotive industry and international transport, distribution of industrial materials and packaging equipment, industrial cooperation, services for industrial enterprises, credit and financial services, decor and sale of luxury cosmetic products"⁸³. Another partner of Minsk region in France may appear in the region Center - the Loire Valley, where in September 2018 in the department of Endre-e-Loire was held a demonstration of the Belarusian capital region in trade and economic spheres, as well as "presentation of products of food

⁷⁹ Vechorko, S. French businessmen are offered to invest capital in Brest region OJSC / S. Vechorko // [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/frantsuzskim-biznesmenam-predlagajut-vkladyvat-kapital-v-oao-brestskoj-oblasti-227920-2017/>

⁸⁰ The development of interregional ties strengthens relations between Belarus and France - Lejeune [Electronic Resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/razvitie-mezhregionalnyh-svjazej-ukrepit-otnoshenija-belarusi-i-frantsii-lezhen-308504-2018/>

⁸¹ Brest Regional Hospital and University Clinic of Strasbourg will sign a cooperation agreement [Electronic Resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/brestskaja-oblastnaja-bolnitsa-i-universitetskaja-klinika-strasburga-podpishut-dogovor-o-277163-2017/>

⁸² Minsk Oblast can establish twinning relations with the region of Upper France [Electronic resource]. - - 2016. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/minskaja-oblast-mozhet-naladit-pobratimskie-otnoshenija-s-regionom-verhnjaja-frantsija-221581-2016/>

⁸³ Grishkevich, A. Cooperation with Belarus in IT sphere is attractive for France - Ambassador / A. Grishkevich // [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/dlja-frantsii-privlekatelno-sotrudnichestvo-s-belarusiju-v-it-sfere-posol-327534-2018>

industry enterprises of the Minsk region, investment and tourism potential of the region⁸⁴.

The French side is also interested in intensifying cooperation with Vitebsk Oblast, where joint projects in flax processing, a sector where France has advanced technologies, may become a real sphere of cooperation. In addition, both sides see cooperation in the production of medicines as promising. The starting point here is that "annually about \$20 million worth of medical raw materials is supplied to Vitebsk region from French producers"⁸⁵.

The establishment and development of interregional Belarusian-French ties is also very effectively facilitated by the practice of creating honorary consulates which has already been established today. It should be noted that the existing format of honorary consulates in the Republic of Belarus is generally regarded as an important and effective tool to expand the Belarusian presence abroad, "to seek new opportunities for economic growth, new partners to implement a new strategy to ensure the systematic diversification of foreign trade⁸⁶. So it is the Embassy of the Republic of Belarus in France that has accumulated an interesting experience of creating a whole system of such structures in one state. According to the head of the Belarusian diplomatic mission in this European country P. Latushko, it is "through honorary consulates, through regional contact we can develop economic ties⁸⁷. That is why "the opening of honorary consulates is an important and necessary tool to enhance the dialogue between people and countries"⁸⁸.

It should be reminded that the first Honorary Consulate of Belarus in France was opened in 2015 in Lyon - one of the largest administrative-territorial, political, economic and cultural regional centers of France, the agglomeration of which has 1 million 253 thousand residents and with which Belarus has long-standing historical ties. The activities of the Honorary Consul in Lyon are carried out in the consular district, which includes the Rhône-Alpes region, and the main task is "to promote

⁸⁴ The Ministry of Defence and the French department of Endre-e-Loire plan to expand trade and economic relations [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/minoblistpolkom-i-frantsuzskij-departament-endr-e-luar-planirujut-rasshirjat-torgovo-ekonomicheskije-318037-2018/>

⁸⁵ Bogacheva, O. France is interested in activation of cooperation with Vitebsk region / O. Bogacheva // [Electron resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/frantsija-zainteresovana-v-aktivizatsii-sotrudnichestva-s-vitebskoj-oblastju-299991-2018/>

⁸⁶ Zalesky, B. Borders of Sustainable Partnership. Part II / B. Zalesky. - LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2018. - - C. 4.

⁸⁷ Transcript of the interview of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Belarus to France Pavel Latushko to the program "Picture of the World" on the TV channel "RTR-Belarus" (December 12, 2015) [Electronic resource]. - - 2015. - URL: <http://mfa.gov.by/press/smi/d0ab2a8cf81749f7.html>

⁸⁸ Interview of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Belarus to the French Republic P. Latushko to the agency "Minsk-Novosti" (October 26, 2018) [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <http://mfa.gov.by/press/smi/b683fba5967f5743.html>

economic cooperation through contacts between business circles of the two countries, implementation of joint projects in the field of culture and education, consular and legal assistance to citizens of Belarus⁸⁹. Already in 2016, on the initiative of the Honorary Consul, an agreement on cooperation between the M. Tank Belarusian State Pedagogical University and the Higher School of Teaching and Education of the Academy of Lyon was signed in this region.

The second Honorary Consulate of Belarus in France was opened in October 2017 in the city of Bordeaux, the territory of which became the New Aquitaine region - the third largest gross domestic product in this country. The primary project, the implementation of which was immediately taken up by a new structure, is the study of the possibility of "export deliveries of products of the glass factory "Neman", as well as mineral water of Belarusian enterprises⁹⁰. Besides, there is a great potential for cooperation of Belarusian partners with this region of France in agriculture, engineering, science and education.

In December 2017, a third similar structure appeared in Marseille - one of the largest industrial, scientific and cultural centers of France, the second largest city in the country in terms of population. The Honorary Consulate of Marseille has extended its activities to a district that "includes the departments of Bouche-du-Rhône, Var, the Haute-Alpes, Vaucluse, the Alpes de Provence of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region".⁹¹ which is generally one of the key French trade and economic regions. Its gross domestic product exceeds 150 billion euros.

The fourth French city, where in December 2018 another Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Belarus was opened, was Biarritz, located in the south-west of France near the border with Spain, in the historical region of New Aquitaine, and washed by the waters of the Bay of Biscay. Since 1912 it has had the official status of a climatic and balneological resort in France and is famous for its mild climate, sandy beaches, unconventional medicine and mineral waters. This is why "employment in Biarritz is mainly related to the tourism sector"⁹².

⁸⁹ The Honorary Consulate of Belarus was opened in French Lyon [Electronic Resource]. - - 2015. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/pochetnoe-konsulstvo-belarusi-otkrylos-vo-frantsuzskom-lione-173804-2015>

⁹⁰ The Honorary Consulate of Belarus [Electronic resource] has been opened in French Bordeaux. - - 2017. - URL: <https://naviny.by/new/20170930/1506782954-vo-francuzskom-bordo-otkryto-pochetnoe-konsulstvo-belarusi>

⁹¹ On opening of the Honorary Consulate of Belarus in Marseille [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://france.mfa.gov.by/be/embassy/news/a7c1eb9186dc9eb8.html>

⁹² City of Biarritz in France [Electronic resource]. - - 2015. - URL: <http://www.gorodamira.biz/goroda/159-gorod-biarric-vo-francii.html>

In addition, the Belarusian side plans to open another number of honorary consulates in several French cities, including Metz - "one of the regional capitals of France. It may happen in 2019."⁹³ Here it is appropriate to remind that Metz is the "economic heart" of the region of Lorraine in the north-east of France, which is the leader in the country in iron ore and coal mining, iron and steel smelting, and is characterized by a variety of connections with Germany: "It is in this neighboring country thousands of Lorraine inhabitants go to work every day <...>, from here they sell a significant part of their production, continuing to successfully operate industrial enterprises.

One more detail: France also sees the format of honorary consulates as an important tool to promote its national interests in Belarus. This is evidenced by the fact that in October 2014, the Honorary Consulate of this country was opened in Brest, the choice of which cannot be called accidental. According to the French side, the geographical location of Brest on the border with the European Union, as well as "the status of the city, perhaps the most important on the road axis connecting Paris with Moscow, is an undeniable advantage and creates all the necessary prerequisites for a deep, constant exchange"⁹⁴.

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⁹³ Interview of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Belarus to the French Republic P. Latushko to the agency "Minsk-Novosti" (October 26, 2018) [Electronic resource]. - -- 2018. - URL: <http://mfa.gov.by/press/smi/b683fba5967f5743.html>

⁹⁴ The Honorary Consulate of France [Electronic Resource] opened in Brest on October 24. - -- 2014. - URL: <https://by.ambafrance.org/24-oktyabrya-v-Breste-otkrylos>

Belarus - Rostov region: opportunities for collaboration

Rostov region in the Republic of Belarus is called one of the key partners among the regions of the Southern Federal District of the Russian Federation. To a large extent, this is due to the fact that among the main directions of the international activities of the region, the priority is "strengthening economic and humanitarian ties within the framework of cross-border cooperation and expanding partnerships with CIS countries"⁹⁵. There are about three thousand legal entities - participants of foreign economic activity in the region, which back in 2016 carried out export-import operations with 149 countries, including the Republic of Belarus, which, along with Turkey, Ukraine, Switzerland, Egypt, China and Kazakhstan, is one of the first seven states - the main trading partners of the Rostov region.

The parties signed an agreement on cooperation in trade, economic, scientific, technological and cultural fields back in April 2002. Since then, relations between the Republic and the Rostov region have been developing quite consistently and systematically, which is greatly facilitated by the activities of the established joint working group, the regulations of which presuppose the holding of annual joint meetings, where the issues of cooperation development between enterprises and organizations of the Republic of Belarus and the Rostov region in such areas as trade and economic relations, medicine, education, culture and sports are considered.

Productive interaction between the parties after the signing of the agreement soon led to the registration of several joint ventures with Belarusian capital in Rostov region. "This is Atlant-Yug CJSC, which sells refrigeration equipment produced in Belarus. This is LLC BelarusYugService, selling and servicing Belarusian tractors and other agricultural machinery. This is Trading House BMZ LLC, a representative of the largest metallurgical plant in Belarus, which supplies the Russian market with construction fittings and imports components for metallurgical production to Belarus. This is OOO "BelAvtoMaz", which represents Minsk Automobile Plant, sells its products and subsequent service"⁹⁶.

⁹⁵ Ministry activity - International cooperation of Rostov region [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://mineconomikiro.ru/a25.php>

⁹⁶ Pavlatenko, G. It is necessary to exchange experience on rendering support to small and medium business entities / G. Pavlatenko // Belarus - Russia: cooperation of regions: inform.-integr. project / com. B.L. Zalesky, E.A. Korovkin, M.E. Korovkin. - Minsk: BelTA, 2010. - - C. 219.

Since 2011, a branch of the Embassy of the Republic of Belarus in the Russian Federation has been functioning in Rostov-on-Don, which contributed to strengthening interaction between the parties. In June 2011, an Agreement on cooperation was signed between the State Enterprise "Regional Information and Analytical Center" and the Belarusian RUE "National Centre for Marketing and Price Study". And in November of the same year NIAEP and the Ministry of Architecture and Construction of the Republic of Belarus signed a protocol on the participation of the Belarusian construction complex in the construction of facilities - power units 3 and 4 of the Rostov NPP - for the period 2011-2012.

In 2011, the main export positions of Rostov citizens in the Belarusian market included: electric machines and equipment and their parts; animal or vegetable fats and oils and products of their splitting; food products; coal; chemical products; ferrous and non-ferrous metal products; lamps and electronic tubes. And from Belarus to the Rostov region were actively supplied: engineering products; aluminum and aluminum products; equipment and mechanical devices, parts for boilers; products made of ferrous metals; rubber, rubber and rubber products; dairy products, eggs of birds, natural honey; food products of animal origin; vegetables; finished products from meat and fish; plastics and plastic products; paper products; synthetic fibers and products made of them; electrical machinery and equipment. In addition, Belarusian manufacturers supplied more hygiene products, cosmetics, electrical goods, household appliances, furniture.

Such enterprises of the region as LLC PK "Novocherkassk Electric Locomotive Plant", LLC "Combine Plant "Rostselmash", OJSC "Energomashinostroitelny Alliance", CJSC "Don-Tex" successfully cooperated with partners from Belarus. At the same time, OOO Belneftekhim-RUS continued to supply Belarusian-made polyethylene products to enterprises in Rostov-on-Don. "And on October 1, 2010 in Oktyabrsky district, Rostov region, a joint Russian-Belarusian company "BelaRus-South" for the assembly of tractors "Belarus 320" was opened⁹⁷. It was planned to create a trade and logistics center for the sale of Belarusian products in the Southern Federal District on the basis of BeltechTorg. A land plot in Bataisk, Rostov region, was even allocated for its construction.

⁹⁷ Gavrilenko, E. The range of goods from Belarus is rather wide and is not limited only to clothes and foodstuffs (in Russian) / E. Gavrilenko // Customs Union: regional interaction. View from Russia: inform.-integr. project / edited by interviewer: B. Zalessky, M. Valkovsky, A. Mostovoy. - Minsk : Theseus, 2012. -- C. 164.

Record trade turnover "between the region and the republic was achieved in 2012, amounting then to 423.3 million dollars⁹⁸. It should be reminded that the same year the meeting of the Belarusian leader A. Lukashenko with the Governor of Rostov region V. Golubev, which was a landmark for the interaction of the parties, took place. It was noted that "it is necessary to reach the level of implementation of joint economically integrated projects and programs. Utilize the synergy of our production, technological and intellectual resources"⁹⁹. At the same time, the parties identified the most promising areas of cooperation, one of which is the agro-industrial complex, where they identified opportunities for joint projects on modernization and development of agricultural infrastructure, production base, introduction of advanced technologies for production and processing of agricultural products. The fact is that at that time the Rostov citizens took the initiative to become a pilot site for the implementation of the Union State programs in the agricultural sector, where two programs have already been implemented, aimed at the introduction of modern technologies, primarily in agriculture, the development of promising resource-saving environmentally friendly technologies, equipment for the production of biologically complete feeds, as well as to improve the efficiency of food production through the processing of their waste on the basis of advanced technologies. Another area of cooperation is the participation of Belarusian organizations in programs for the development of roads, implementation of transport infrastructure projects, water supply and drainage systems, as well as construction of residential, social, cultural and sports facilities in the Russian region. Possibilities of cooperation in transport sphere aroused special interest then, as such large projects as construction of airport complex and modernization of Rostov universal port were being prepared in Rostov region.

As a result, the parties concluded that they could significantly increase the volume of mutual trade by implementing a number of joint projects: first, by organizing the assembly of Belarusian elevators in Rostov region and setting up a further system of their service; second, by joining efforts to produce agricultural machinery; third, by implementing a major integration project to produce turkey meat; and fourth, by jointly producing steel structures and panels at the production site in Klimovichi, Belarus. As perspective then projects on creation in Rostov-on-Don of the joint venture on manufacture of confectionery products, and also joint manufacture on manufacture of sunflower, rapeseed oil have been named. And in the following years, a number of

⁹⁸ Golubev, V. Significant potential of bilateral cooperation exists in the sphere of agriculture / V. Golubev // Interaction of regions: Union State - the locomotive of the Eurasian integration: inform.-integr. project / ess., interviewing : B. Zalessky, M. Valkovsky, A. Greshnikov. - Minsk: Biznesosset, 2016. -- C. 235.

⁹⁹ Alexander Lukashenko met with Governor of Rostov Oblast Vasily Golubev [Electronic Resource]. - -- 2012. - URL: http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/aleksandr-lukashenko-vstretilsja-s-gubernatorom-rostovskoj-oblasti-vasilijem-golubevym-974/

concrete steps were taken to implement the plans. In particular, with the help of the Belarusian company Beltranslift, 513 lifts were replaced and installed in the housing and communal services of Rostov region in 2013-2014. In 2015-2016, this Russian region has purchased 43 Belarusian buses with a large capacity and 15 trolleybuses.

Nevertheless, in 2016 the volume of mutual trade has slightly decreased - to 339 million dollars. For this reason, when signing the Road Map of Cooperation for 2017-2019 in Minsk in May 2017, the parties clearly outlined plans for the medium term in terms of increasing trade turnover: "We have all the possibilities to bring it up to \$500 million over the next two years to 2019"¹⁰⁰. At the new meeting of the Belarusian leader with the Governor of Rostov, the two sides expressed a mutual firm belief that the parties have every opportunity to "significantly increase the volume of trade and economic cooperation in the coming years and master new promising areas of interaction"¹⁰¹. In particular, it was about "bringing back to life the joint production of energy-saturated tractors in Bataisk".¹⁰²To implement the plans to build a bypass road around Rostov-on-Don with the participation of the Belarusian side, to develop cooperation in breeding livestock. As for the resumption of assembly production of Belarusian tractors in Bataisk, it is worth recalling that the Trading House of Minsk Tractor Works owns "a production site in Rostov region, prepared for the assembly of energy-saturated equipment - tractors of 5 and 6 traction classes with capacity from 300 to 500 hp. The Russian side is considering the possibility of subsidizing production from budgets of different levels"¹⁰³.

Among the most effective ways to increase the volume of mutual trade between the Republic of Belarus and the Rostov region, the Road Map of Cooperation for 2017-2019 also indicates the transition from regional interaction at the level of two states - Belarus and Russia - to effective partnerships at the level of cities and districts, which can provide new incentives and prospects, as they allow "to strengthen existing

¹⁰⁰ Matveev, V.V. The potential of cooperation with Belarus is huge - governor of Rostov region (in Russian) / V.Matveev // [Electron resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/politics/view/potencial-sotrudnichestva-s-belarusju-gromadnyj-gubernator-rostovskoj-oblasti-246760-2017/>

¹⁰¹ Meeting with the Governor of the Rostov region Vasily Golubev [Electron resource]. - - 2017. - URL: http://president.gov.by/ru/search_ru/getExtendedResults/?query=earch_type=type_all_wordsroup=0rom_day=11rom_month=5rom_year=2017o_day=11o_month=5o_year=2017earch_type_sort=desearch_ok.x=31&search_ok.y=5&search_mode=&search_node=news&search_node_id=374&search_title_name=events

¹⁰² Meeting with the Governor of the Rostov region of Russia [Electron resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/7227>

¹⁰³ Rostov region is interested in assembly production of BELARUS tractors [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/rostovskaja-oblast-zainteresovana-v-sborochnom-proizvodstve-tractorov-belarus-246848-2017/>

contacts and develop new economic ties, unite creative and intellectual potential, strengthen trust and mutual respect.¹⁰⁴

One of the first documents in this regard, the Partnership Development Agreement, was signed between Rostov-on-Don and Gomel in 2009. Five years later, when this document expired, the parties adopted a new treaty, already open-ended, agreeing that "cooperation between partner cities will henceforth be more tightly bounded and meetings more frequent"¹⁰⁵. The main directions of interaction between Rostov-on-Don and Gomel were defined as "mutual deliveries of agricultural machinery, road-building machinery and agricultural products"¹⁰⁶.

In 2012, on the margins of the seventh joint meeting of the Working Group on Cooperation between the Republic of Belarus and the Rostov region, Zernograd district of Rostov region and Goretzky district of Mogilev region signed the Treaty on Fraternal Relations, which outlined their intention to develop comprehensive cooperation not only in the field of culture, but also in science, between agricultural universities working in these areas: "They have already found common points of contact. They have plans for further development in the economic field. There is a breeding center in Zernograd district, where new varieties of wheat and grains are bred. They are interested in Belarusian corn and winter crops. In the future, connections will also be established here"¹⁰⁷.

At the same time, in 2012, Kogalnitsky district of Rostov region and Smolevichi district of Minsk region signed an Agreement on establishing direct cooperation in order to direct their efforts "to enhance information exchange and mutual cooperation in the field of economic development, management, health care, education, culture, regional planning, environmental protection, development of the districts as a whole, expansion of direct contacts between representatives and public organizations of the twin districts"¹⁰⁸.

Finally, in late June 2018, Minsk and Rostov-on-Don signed a twinning agreement aimed at improving trade and economic relations, cooperation in the social sphere and

¹⁰⁴ Voronina, T. Twinning of Minsk and Rostov-on-Don will be a logical step - economist / T. Voronina // [Electron resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <http://eurasia.expert/pobratimstvo-minska-i-rostova-na-donu-budet-logichnym-shagom-ekonomist/>

¹⁰⁵ Lucik, A. Rostov-on-Don + partner cities = new prospects of the constructive cooperation (in Russian) / A. Lucik // [Electron resource]. - - 2015. - URL: <http://rostov.mk.ru/articles/2015/09/29/rostovnadonugorodapartnery-novye-perspektivy-konstruktivnogo-sotrudnichestva.html>

¹⁰⁶ Signing of agreements on cooperation between the city of Rostov and the cities of Gomel, Volgograd and Glasgow [Electron resource]. - - 2015. - URL: <http://www.don-plaza.ru/ru/press/news/881/>

¹⁰⁷ Belarusians of Russia: View from Rostov-on-Don [Electronic resource]. - - 2014. - URL: <http://www.soyuz.by/news/region/1054.html>

¹⁰⁸ Smolevichi [Electronic resource]. - - 2012. - URL: <http://kagl-rayon.donland.ru/news/2012/09/05.aspx>

partnerships. According to the parties, this document "opens up even more opportunities for the two cities, including the implementation of projects in the field of urban management, cooperation between secondary and higher educational institutions, sports events and festivals. Besides, it is planned to develop fair trade"¹⁰⁹. The facts show that previously Minsk and Rostov citizens had longstanding mutually beneficial relations. Rostov enterprises exported sunflower oil, women's clothing, paintwork to the Belarusian capital. Food and shoes, engineering and chemical products were supplied from Minsk to the Don. Only in 2017, the Rostov administration bought 75 Minsk low-floor buses with large capacity for transportation of tourists and residents during the 2018 World Cup. As a result, "trade turnover of Rostov-on-Don enterprises with Belarusian companies in 2017 amounted to \$143.6 million"¹¹⁰. And in April 2018, a direct flight between Minsk and Rostov-on-Don was opened. Since then, the airplanes of the Belarusian air carrier regularly depart from the Rostov airport on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays, while from Minsk - on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. It should be assumed that both the opening of direct air service and the signing of the Treaty on twinned relations will allow the enterprises of Minsk and Rostov-on-Don to cooperate more actively and create new joint projects, which in turn will lead to an increase in bilateral trade turnover.

Among other areas of cooperation, the parties intend to pay attention to the development of cooperation in scientific and educational spheres. Especially since the Southern National Centre of the Russian Academy of Sciences has been cooperating with the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus for many years. "Interaction with Belarusian scientists is developing most dynamically under the Agreement on Scientific and Technical Cooperation between the State Scientific Institution "Institute of Mechanics of Metal and Polymer Systems named after M. Gorky". This project was supported by the 6th Framework Programme of the European Commission <...>, with the participation of scientists from the Republic of Belarus, Germany, Lithuania, Russia and other countries".

The cooperation between Belarusian and Rostov scientists in the field of agriculture is very promising, where the Federal State Budget Scientific Institution "All-Russian Scientific Research Institute of Viticulture and Winemaking of Ya.I. Potapenko Estate"

¹⁰⁹ Brewery, E. Minsk and Rostov-on-Don have established the twinned relations / E. Brewery // [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/minsk-i-rostov-na-donu-ustanovili-pobratimskie-otnoshenija-308489-2018/>

¹¹⁰ Will Minsk and Rostov-on-Don become twin cities? [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://regnum.ru/news/2371856.html>

¹¹¹ Barteniev, V.V. Barteniev // Single economic space: integration of the regions: inform.-integ. project / edited by interviewer: B.Zalesskiy, M.Valkovskiy, A.Mostovoy. - Minsk: Biznesosset, 2013. - - C. 200.

signed an agreement on scientific cooperation with the Republican Scientific Production Subsidiary Unitary Enterprise "Fruit Farming Institute", which provides for the exchange of initial selection material of fruit, berry crops and grapes. In addition, back in 2015, Novocherkassk Engineering and Reclamation Institute named after A.K. Kortunov FSBEI HPE "Don State Agrarian University" and the Belarusian RUE "Reclamation Institute" conducted work on the exchange of experience in research work and participation in scientific conferences. Since 2016, the Don Experimental Station named after L.A. Zhdanov of the All-Russian Research Institute of Oilseeds Crops named after V.S. Pustovoi has established cooperation with Belarusian enterprises on the issues of selection, variety testing of early-ripening hybrids of sunflower, oil flax, rapeseed and soybean.

About three dozen signed agreements and contracts include cooperation of Rostov region higher educational institutions with Belarusian educational and scientific institutions. These documents provide for the development and implementation of joint scientific projects and training programmes to improve education on the basis of new information and pedagogical technologies and concepts, the implementation of joint publications, the exchange of published scientific and methodological literature, and the holding of scientific seminars, conferences and symposiums to share good practices. In particular, in April 2011 the Agreement on cooperation between the Faculty "Nanotechnologies and Composite Materials" and the Department "Technology of Structural Materials" of the Don State University and the Belarusian Institute of Powder Metallurgy was signed, which provides for the implementation of innovative, research and development and design works, improvement of scientific, technical and professional level of employees. Fruitful creative ties have also been established between Rostov and Belarusian State Economic Universities.

All these facts testify to the fact that the Republic of Belarus and the Rostov region still have considerable opportunities for expanding mutually beneficial cooperation, mastering new promising areas of interaction and deepening the existing partnership ties both in trade and economic, production and operational, as well as scientific and technological spheres in order to successfully accomplish the tasks set for increasing the mutual trade turnover in the coming years.

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Belarus - Kazakhstan:

current media topics

bilateral cooperation

The Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Press and Information was signed by Belarus and Kazakhstan back in 2000. In this document, the parties agreed to maintain and encourage partnerships between media editors and news agencies in order to promote "the formation of a single or common information space and the strengthening of friendly relations between the two brotherly peoples of Belarus and Kazakhstan"¹¹². In April 2014, the legal framework of the Belarusian-Kazakh relations in the media sphere was supplemented by another document - an agreement between the Belarusian Telegraph Agency and the agency "Kazinform," which "implies cooperation in the exchange of information, photo materials and other media content, in addition, the parties have agreed on internships for journalists"¹¹³. And in November 2017, a new version of the intergovernmental agreement was adopted, the preamble of which states that the parties attach "particular importance to increased cooperation in the field of media between the two States"¹¹⁴. And this reflects the current stage of development of information spaces of Belarus and Kazakhstan, and also lays a serious legal basis for expanding cooperation between agencies and organizations of the two countries in the direction of mutual presence in the media space of each other.

The appearance of the new agreement on cooperation in the field of mass media is significant because it took place in the year of 25 years since the establishment of Belarusian-Kazakh diplomatic relations - in November 2017, when the presidents of Belarus and Kazakhstan signed the Agreement on social and economic cooperation until 2026 with a program of specific activities for its implementation for the same period. "This policy document is intended to consolidate the prospective relations of the two countries and open new opportunities for the development of comprehensive

¹¹² Zalesskiy, B.L. Belarusian international journalism: features, tendencies, prospects / B.L. Zalesskiy. - Minsk, BSU, 2014. - - C. 186.

¹¹³ BelTA and Kazinform have agreed on cooperation [Electronic resource]. - - 2014. - URL: <http://bsj.by/2014/04/belta-i-kazinform-dogovorilis-o-sotrudnichestve/>

¹¹⁴ Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Government of the Republic of Belarus on cooperation in the field of mass media [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: http://egov.kz/wps/portal/!ut/p/b0/04_Sj9CPyKssy0xPLMnMz0vMAfjic7PyChKtUvKTS3NT80r0w_Wj9KNgPM8U_cgAQzMEDEAzMQBJ5STmpZcmpqfjRxaV6hfk5lqUOyoqAahz7G/#z6.

cooperation".¹¹⁵As the parties have come to the conclusion that the base of bilateral partnership established since 1992 allows today Minsk and Astana to move to a new technological level of interaction with an emphasis on innovation and high technology. All the more so because during the three quarters of 2017 the trade turnover between the countries increased at once by almost 65 percent and amounted to about 500 million dollars. However, according to the heads of state, even this positive dynamics does not yet correspond to the potential of integration cooperation between Belarus and Kazakhstan. That is why the governments of both countries have a tense task - to bring the volume of mutual trade turnover to one billion dollars in the next two or three years by implementing promising projects in various fields: petrochemistry, agriculture, energy, transport, logistics and new technologies. At the same time, the main engine of bilateral economic cooperation will remain industrial cooperation, in which the Belarusian side has declared its readiness to increase the level of localization of joint products in Kazakhstan, which will create additional jobs there. By the way, "today 260 Belarusian enterprises work in Kazakhstan"¹¹⁶. Actually, this document defines today the direction of actions of the Belarusian and Kazakh mass media on coverage of the subject of bilateral cooperation, which should get a powerful development in the coming years.

Specific ways of solving the task of increasing the volume of Belarusian-Kazakh mutual trade were thoroughly considered by the parties at the business forum, the largest in the history of cooperation between Belarus and Kazakhstan, which took place in Minsk in November 2017 and was attended by about 400 representatives of business circles of the two countries. 55 Belarusian enterprises presented more than 100 advanced developments, each of which deserves the attention of representatives of the media sphere.

There are great prospects for increasing Belarusian supplies to Kazakhstan, for example, in the woodworking industry. Suffice it to say that in the period from January to September 2017, the enterprises of the Belarusian concern Bellesbumprom increased exports of their products to the Kazakh market by 42.3% or up to \$18.3 million. It is noteworthy that "the enterprises of the concern supply to Kazakhstan almost all types of woodworking products, first of all furniture, which occupies more than 60% of the

¹¹⁵ Official talks with Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/ofitsialnye-peregovory-s-prezidentom-kazaxstana-nursultanom-nazarbaevym-17546/

¹¹⁶ Relations between Belarus and Kazakhstan have reached a high strategic level - Nazarbayev [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/politics/view/otnosheniya-belarusi-i-kazahstana-vyshli-na-vysokij-strategicheskij-uroven-nazarbaev-278130-2017/>

total export volume. On the second position in terms of sales volumes - chipboards¹¹⁷. And then follow wood-fiber boards, plywood, lumber, doors, windows, wallpaper, paper, cardboard, matches. And practically each of these export positions in the Kazakhstan market shows a systematic growth of volumes.

Another solid export item from Belarus to Kazakhstan is trucks and agricultural machinery. Thus, within the framework of the already called Belarusian-Kazakh business forum, the Belarusian Automobile Plant and AstanaBelAZService LLP signed a contract for the supply of 25 dump trucks worth almost \$25 million to this Central Asian country. In addition, according to the signed memorandum between the Minsk Automobile Plant and Hyundai Trans Auto, it is planned to supply 100 truck sets of dump trucks and municipal vehicles to Kazakhstan in 2018. Finally, in the same 2018 Minsk Tractor Works will ship two thousand of its machines to the Belarusian Tractor Trading House LLP, and Gomselmash will ship 500 machine sets to the Kazakh AgromashHolding JSC. It is also important that the Gomel residents have provided their partners - Agromashholding JSC - with exclusive dealer rights to sell the entire range of their products in Kazakhstan, which will allow them to seriously expand the range of exported combines. It is a question, in particular, that "to a southern part of Kazakhstan to deliver technics for rice harvesting"¹¹⁸. Gomselmash has such a machine, which is now being prepared for mass production.

Belarus and Kazakhstan also have ambitious plans for cooperation in the development of digital transport corridors to Western and Northern Europe, which is very important given the geographical location of both countries along the Silk Road economic belt. The strategic goal here is to double the volume of container transit to transport "1 million containers a year by 2020 and 2 million by 2025"¹¹⁹. It is important that the average container from Central Asia reaches Western Europe in two weeks. The parties intend to cope with this task through coordinated work with Chinese and Russian colleagues. This means that the topic of creating digital transport corridors is becoming for many years relevant not only for international journalists in Belarus and Kazakhstan, but also for their colleagues in Russia and China.

¹¹⁷ Enterprises of Bellesbumprom increased exports to Kazakhstan by 42.3% in January-September [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/predpriyatija-bellesbumproma-v-janvare-sentjabre-uvlechili-eksport-v-kazahstan-na-423-278065-2017/>

¹¹⁸ Dylenok, Yu. The exclusive dealer of "Gomselmash" in Kazakhstan became JSC "Agromashholding" / Yu.Dylenok // [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/ekskljuzivnym-dilerom-gomselmasha-v-kazahstane-stalo-ao-agromashholding-278165-2017/>

¹¹⁹ Dylenok, Yu. Belarus and Kazakhstan are intensifying cooperation in development of the digital transport corridors (in Russian) / Yu. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-kazahstan-aktivizirujut-sotrudnichestvo-v-razvitii-tsifrovyh-transportnyh-koridorov-278213-2017/>

The Treaty on Social and Economic Cooperation between Belarus and Kazakhstan signed in November 2017, until 2026, and aimed at "implementing a qualitatively new stage in bilateral relations, involving the mutual penetration of capital with an emphasis on innovation and high technology".¹²⁰ As mentioned above, it implies that the strategic Belarusian-Kazakh partnership will continue to be the locomotive of the projects that allow creating joint products with high added value and providing employment. At the end of 2017, eight joint assembly facilities were operating in Kazakhstan, where "assembly of quarry, mine, special utility and fire-fighting equipment, tractors, combines, engines, balers, and medical equipment" was arranged¹²¹. It should be noted at once that the specific experience of each of them can and should remain in the focus of media attention of the two countries, both at the central and regional levels. But unfortunately, that has not been observed yet. And there's a lot to tell your readers, your audience, your listeners.

Thus, one of the obvious Belarusian leaders of presence in the market of Kazakhstan is the Minsk Automobile Plant, which in 2010 opened in Astana "Trade House MAZ - Kazakhstan" LLP and to date has formed its own distribution network in this country, which includes nine dealers, as well as a network of 12 authorized service stations for the maintenance of Belarusian automotive equipment. A logical continuation of this cooperation was the opening in June 2017 in Almaty at the auto assembly plant of Hyundai Trans Auto Company, part of the Astana Motors Group, of the production of heavy dump trucks MAZ 5516X5 and MAZ 6501N9 "with a capacity of 20 tons. In doing so, a complete cycle of welding, assembly and painting is performed"¹²².

Next example. Even earlier - in 2007 - cooperation between the Belarusian Gomselmash OJSC and the Kazakh Agromash Holding JSC started. For ten years, the Belarusian-Kazakh joint assembly plant, which is located in the city of Kostanai on the basis of JSC "Agshromash Holding," managed to collect more than three thousand combine harvesters. And this is provided that the capacity of the Kazakh market in this technique is one thousand new machines per year. In 2018, the joint venture will master the production of two more new models of agricultural machinery. In this case we are talking about the models KZS-575 and KZS-10. "These machines will expand the

¹²⁰ Review of the results of the foreign policy of the Republic of Belarus and activities of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2017 [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <http://mfa.gov.by/publication/reports/a8a5169b6e487b3b.html>

¹²¹ Matveeva, N. Relations between Belarus and Kazakhstan have acquired allied and strategic character - Bulegenov / N. Matveeva // [Electron resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/politics/view/otnoshenija-belarusi-i-kazahstana-priobrel-i-sojuznicheskij-i-strategicheskij-harakter-bulegenov-266564-2017/>

¹²² Production of MAZ automotive equipment [Electronic resource] has been launched in Kazakhstan. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/v-kazahstane-zapuscheno-proizvodstvo-avtotehniki-maz-256106-2017/>

range of combine harvesters that are produced in Kostanay, which will allow a more flexible response to the needs of the local market¹²³.

Another good example of the development of bilateral mutually beneficial Belarusian-Kazakh cooperation was the commissioning in 2016 of the first stage of the project to create the Kazakhstan-Belarus Industrial and Technological Park of Agricultural and Municipal Equipment. Implementation of this major investment project began in 2012 - in order to organize in Kokshetau city of Akmola region under the licenses of a number of Belarusian plants "a full cycle of production line for the assembly of trailers, balers, attachments, roll and fodder implements, excavators, loaders of various sizes and modifications"¹²⁴. The first phase of the project is almost 10 thousand square meters of area. "About 230 new jobs will be created after the second phase is put into operation and the enterprise is fully loaded"¹²⁵. The parties are confident that the successful implementation of this project will make it possible to create a powerful cluster of Belarusian-Kazakh machine-building in Kokshetau, and will serve as a good example to spread this positive experience of industrial cooperation to other areas of interaction as well. In particular, "it is planned to create similar parks for the production of passenger buses, quarrying and mining equipment, road-building machinery"¹²⁶. Implementation of these plans is another thematic direction of publications in the Belarusian and Kazakh press.

In total, several dozen joint scientific and technical projects are planned to be implemented in the coming years with a wide use of Belarusian technologies, innovations and scientific developments. In particular, the project "on creation of joint

¹²³ Sidorchik, V.V. Two new models of the grain harvesters will be mastered at the Belarusian-Kazakh joint venture in 2018 (in Russian) / V.Sidorchik // [Electron resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/newscompany/view/dve-novye-modeli-zernouborochnyh-kombajnov-osvojat-na-belorussko-kazahstanskom-sp-v-2018-godu-278818-2017/>

. How the economy of Kazakhstan is being raised in the field [Electronic resource]. - - 2016. - URL: https://forbes.kz/process/economy/kak_v_polevyih_usloviyah_podnimayut_ekonomiku_kazahstana/¹²⁴

Production of MAZ automotive equipment [Electronic resource] was launched in Kazakhstan. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/v-kazahstane-zapuscheno-proizvodstvo-avtotehniki-maz-256106-2017/>

¹²⁴ Sidorchik, V.V. Two new models of the grain harvesters will be mastered at the Belarusian-Kazakh joint venture in 2018 (in Russian) / V.Sidorchik // [Electron resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/newscompany/view/dve-novye-modeli-zernouborochnyh-kombajnov-osvojat-na-belorussko-kazahstanskom-sp-v-2018-godu-278818-2017/>

¹²⁴ . How the economy of Kazakhstan is being raised in the field [Electronic resource]. - - 2016. - URL:

¹²⁵ Akashin, V.Minsk - Kokshetau: mutually beneficial project (in Russian) / V.Akashin // [Electron resource]. - - 2016. - URL: <http://apgazeta.kz/2016/10/01/minsk-kokshetau-vzaimovgodnyj-proekt/>

¹²⁶ Interview with Anatoly Nichkasov, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Belarus to the Kazakh news agency Khabar (11 June 2014) [Electronic resource]. - URL: <http://mfa.gov.by/press/smi/d8d30fc5ce4d68be.html>

production of unmanned aerial complexes"¹²⁷ with organization of their production in Kazakhstan is planned. Joint cooperation projects in the oil sector, including geological exploration, well operation, introduction of various methods of production intensification and enhanced oil recovery, which were discussed at the meeting of the heads of government of the two countries, A. Kobyakov and B. Kobyakov, may also become new areas of successful work of Belarusian companies with Kazakh partners. Sagintaeva in August 2017 in Astana. In total today in Kazakhstan still "in an active phase of formation there are six joint assembly productions".¹²⁸This demonstrates the very high willingness of the parties to continue the active search for new forms of production cooperation. At the same time, a lot will depend on the ability of the regions of the two countries to realize the potential of cooperation. Accordingly, the role of the regional press of the two countries in providing media support for the implementation of these cooperative prospects is increasing many times over.

Recall that in 2016, the trade turnover between Belarus and Kazakhstan was about \$420 million. That is why in early 2017, both in Minsk and Astana set an ambitious goal - to return to the record level of Belarusian-Kazakh mutual trade in 2014, when its volume was expressed in the amount of \$966.8 million. At the same time, one of the effective tools for solving this problem was identified - the intensification of interaction between the regions of the two countries, which is an important condition for their dynamic socio-economic development and a factor ensuring the promotion of trade and economic relations in the framework of the declared free movement of goods, services, capital, technology, labor and the establishment of joint ventures. To conclude that "the regions of Belarus and Kazakhstan have many promising areas for mutually beneficial economic cooperation".¹²⁹The participants of the April 2017 inter-regional meeting of representatives of Kazakhstan's Pavlodar and Belarus' Gomel regions came as well.

It should be noted that Pavlodar region is among those Kazakh regions where business interests "develop within the framework of one of the main directions in the economic policy of Kazakhstan, Russia and Belarus - the Common Economic Space. For our region this cooperation is a priority direction in foreign economic activity"¹³⁰. The

¹²⁷ Belarus and Kazakhstan are planning a project to create a joint production of drones [Electronic Resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-kazahstan-namechajut-proekt-po-sozdaniju-sovmestnogo-proizvodstva-bespilotnikov-278212-2017/>

¹²⁸ Bilateral trade and economic cooperation [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: http://kazakhstan.mfa.gov.by/ru/bilateral_relations/trade_economic/

¹²⁹ Sidorchik, V. The regions of Belarus and Kazakhstan have many perspective directions for cooperation - Vladimir Dvornik / V. Sidorchik // [Electron resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/u-regionov-belarusi-i-kazahstana-est-mnogo-perspektivnyh-napravlenij-dlja-sotrudnichestva-vladimir-243748-2017/>

¹³⁰ Bozumbayev, K. Interaction of regions plays an important role in development and strengthening of integration / K. Bozumbayev // Eurasian Economic Union: regional aspect: inform.-integ. project / ess., interviewer. : B. Zalessky, M. Valkovsky, A. Mostovoy. - Minsk: Biznesosset, 2014. - - C. 177-178.

seriousness of her intentions to fill the partnership with Belarusian regions with a concrete economic content is evidenced by at least this fact. The agreement on cooperation with the Gomel regional executive committee was signed by the akimat of Pavlodar region in November 2016. And if for the whole 2016 the volume of mutual trade between Gomel citizens and Pavlodar residents was noted at the level of two and a half million dollars, then only "in January-February 2017 the trade turnover between the regions amounted to \$1.4 million (growth rate - 393.8%), including exports - \$0.9 million (256.1%). Main export positions: condensed milk and cream, equipment for railway tracks, metalware, dining utensils and porcelain kitchenware. Imported from Pavlodar Region Ferrosilicon"¹³¹ for the needs of the Belarusian Metallurgical Plant.

The interregional meeting in Gomel showed that the parties intended to significantly advance the framework for interregional engagement. For example, Pavlodar residents were very interested in the Belarusian experience of improvement of settlements, including small towns. In this regard, there was even a proposal from the Kazakh side to invite to Pavlodar Gomel architects and housing and communal services workers to work there for a while, passing on their experience. Another promising area of cooperation is the purchase of agricultural machinery "Gomselmash": "We are talking about a combine harvester KZS-5, designed to work in the fields of a small area, primarily in farms"¹³². These promising areas of cooperation between the Belarusian and Kazakh regions can be complemented by the planned purchases of young cattle in the Gomel region for the development of dairy cattle breeding in Kazakhstan and the expansion of supply of Belarusian furniture there. In the same line - the interaction of free economic zones located in the territory of the regions, the agreement on which was signed in Gomel in the framework of an interregional meeting and which can be very productive. The matter is that FEZ of Pavlodar region invites interested partners to participate in projects on joint use of mineral resources on its territory. In particular, now in this Kazakhstan region "an aluminium cluster is being created involving large companies from Germany, Poland and Turkey".¹³³ in which Belarusian representatives of this market segment could also take part.

It is important to note that the interests of Pavlodar Oblast in developing partnership relations in Belarus are not limited to the Gomel Oblast alone. Thus, in Minsk region,

¹³¹ Sidorchik, V. Delegation of Pavlodar region of Kazakhstan will visit Gomel region on April 19-20 / V. Sidorchik // [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/delegatsija-pavlodarskoj-oblasti-kazahstana-posetit-gomelskij-region-19-20-aprelja-243412-2017/>

¹³² Sidorchik, V.V. The head of Pavlodar region was interested in Belarusian experience of town improvement / V.Sidorchik // [Electron resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/glavu-pavlodarskoj-oblasti-zainteresoval-belorusskij-opyt-blagoustrojstva-gorodov-243790-2017/>

¹³³ Pavlodar and Minsk regions are mutually interested in developing cooperation in agriculture [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/pavlodarskaja-i-minskaja-oblasti-projavljajut-vzaimnyj-interes-k-razvitiu-sotrudnichestva-v-selskom-243719-2017/>

the Kazakh side has shown great interest in cooperation in the construction of dairy complexes. While handing over a package of standard projects of agricultural objects to Pavlodar residents, the representatives of the Belarusian capital region expressed their readiness not only to consult them on this subject, but also to build milk and goods complexes on mutually beneficial terms. The city of Ekibastuz, located in Pavlodar region, and Partizansky district of Minsk, signed an agreement in April 2017, which provides for "the expansion of trade and economic cooperation, assistance in establishing contacts between businesses, exhibitions, fairs, business forums, as well as the development of interaction in education, culture, sports and tourism"¹³⁴.

Actual question of activation of interaction with the Kazakhstan regions is also for Mogilev region which has concluded "agreements on cooperation with the East Kazakhstan (2009) and South Kazakhstan (2003) regions"¹³⁵. Since then, many enterprises of the Mogilev region have become exporters of their products to the Kazakh market: JSC Belshina, JSC Mogotex, JSC Bobruisk Machine-Building Plant, RUE Mogilev Plant Strommashina, JSC Osipovich Milk Factory, JSC Bykhovmoloko, KUP Legpromrazvitie, JOOO Jokey-Plastic, JOOO Stl-Extrusion, company Grandma Krynka. Almost all of them are ready only to increase their supplies to Kazakhstani regions. Representatives of the international media segment of the Mogilev region, who have creative contacts with Kazakh colleagues, could help them in advertising and media promotion of export products.

Back in 2014, Akmola and Grodno regions met to establish close partnerships¹³⁶. They signed a memorandum on cooperation in agriculture at that time and noted large reserves of interaction "in terms of investment, trade in goods and services. Examples of such intentions can continue. The question is that they are not always adequately reflected in the media sphere. This then has an impact on reducing partner interest and continuing cooperation in general. To prevent this from happening, we must assume that Minsk and Astana have updated the agreement on cooperation in the field of mass media, adopted back in 2000.

¹³⁴ Partisanski district of Minsk signed a cooperation agreement with the Kazakh city of Ekibastuz [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/partizanskij-rajon-minska-podpisal-soglashenie-o-sotrudnicestve-s-kazahstanskim-gorodom-ekibastuzom-243437-2017/>

¹³⁵ Tkacheva, O. Kazakhstan is interested in activation of interregional cooperation with Mogilev region / O. Tkacheva // [Electron resource]. - - 2013. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/kazahstan-zainteresovan-v-aktivizatsii-mezhregionalnogo-sotrudnicestva-s-mogilevskoj-oblastju-31160-2013>

¹³⁶ Stasiukevich, E. Akmola region of Kazakhstan is interested to adopt the agricultural experience of Grodno region (in Russian) / E. Stasiukevich // [Electronic resource]. - - 2014. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/akmolinskaja-oblast-kazahstana-zainteresovana-perenjat-selskhozajstvennyj-opyt-grodnenskoj-oblasti-38047-2014>

Belarus - Georgia: new initiatives and areas of cooperation

Georgia is one of those countries located in the post-Soviet space, relations with which the Republic of Belarus builds on the principles of friendship, mutual understanding and equal dialogue. Perhaps, for this reason as well, "Belarusian-Georgian ties are growing stronger every year, filling with new initiatives and areas of cooperation"¹³⁷. The experience of 2017 - early 2018 shows that these are the first to be attributed: 1) development of **parliamentary diplomacy**; 2) strengthening **interaction between the regions of the** two countries; 3) improving the efficiency of the Intergovernmental Belarusian-Georgian **Commission on Economic Cooperation**.

In November 2017, the first **parliamentary visit** to Minsk in the history of Belarusian-Georgian relations was made by a high-level delegation headed by the Chairman of the Parliament of Georgia I. Kobakhidze, which may give new impulses to the development of the whole complex of relations between the two states. After all, in Minsk they proceed from the understanding that people's diplomacy and "strengthening inter-parliamentary ties create a very good basis for building the same trade and economic relations. This is a good basis, and without it, it is impossible to create very deep, long-term relations between countries"¹³⁸. It is especially important to take this factor into account when we are talking about Georgia, where the parliament plays its decisive role in the life of the state and the influence of deputies on the Georgian society is very high.

The visit of Georgian parliamentarians to Belarus took place at a time when trade and economic cooperation between the two countries began to show positive dynamics. Thus, "at the end of 2016 the mutual trade turnover between Belarus and Georgia increased by 63% and amounted to \$73.2 million"¹³⁹. At the same time, Belarusian exports increased by 2.5 times at once. This dynamic of interaction has demonstrated the real opportunities to bring the volume of mutual Belarusian-Georgian trade to \$100 million by the end of 2017, and in the medium term - to \$200 million. To solve such a

¹³⁷ Congratulations to the President of Georgia Giorgi Margvelashvili [Electronic Resource]. - - 2017. - URL: http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/pozdravlenie-prezidentu-gruzii-georgiju-margvelashvili-16270/

¹³⁸ Meeting with Chairman of the Georgian Parliament Irakli Kobakhidze [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/vstrecha-s-predsedatelem-parlamenta-gruzii-irakliem-kobaxidze-17492/

¹³⁹ Belarus and Georgia are intensifying cooperation in the implementation of competition policy [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://белгга.бел/economics/view/belarus-i-gruzija-aktivizirujut-sotrudnichestvo-v-oblasti-realizatsii-konkurentnoj-politiki-276796-2017/>

large-scale task is feasible, including on condition that "relations between the legislative bodies of Belarus and Georgia should reach a new level".¹⁴⁰ in which the parliamentarians of the two countries will, within their competence, not only support governments in improving the legal and contractual framework and strive to develop a constructive dialogue on legislative activities, but also to promote inter-regional contacts and build their capacity in promising areas, as well as help establish direct links between business entities. Actually, for this purpose - considerable activation of partnership relations - the Speakers of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus and the Parliament of Georgia within the framework of I. Kobakhidze's visit signed a joint statement in which they outlined the main essence of cooperation between parliamentarians - "to promote deepening of bilateral cooperation in trade-economic, investment, scientific-technical, cultural spheres, in youth policy, education, tourism, information technologies, logistics, communication and informatization"¹⁴¹.

It should be noted that the intensification of the Belarusian-Georgian inter-parliamentary contacts began in the last few years, when friendship groups were established in the parliaments of both countries. Today the new problem is already put before them: "For subject interaction heads of friendship groups from both parties could make road maps and plan work taking into account the aspects provided in them"¹⁴². These road maps will be based on one or more large-scale projects, around which not only the parliamentary dimension of Belarusian-Georgian cooperation could be deepened, but also the production and operational dimension, aimed at creating business centers to organize the work of companies with joint competence and interest. In fact, today it is already a question of resetting the work of parliamentary friendship groups, which "should not only carry out the activities that have been outlined by parliamentary leaders, but also work quite actively on their own"¹⁴³. And in this respect the activity of parliamentary friendship groups to create conditions for fruitful regional, economic cooperation and development of contacts between business communities looks very promising. Moreover, Belarus and Georgia already have useful experience of interregional cooperation.

¹⁴⁰ Relations between the legislative bodies of Belarus and Georgia should reach a new level - Kobakhidze [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/politics/view/otnosheniya-zakonodatelnih-organov-belarusi-i-gruzii-dolzhen-vyjti-na-novyj-uroven-kobakhidze-276669-2017/>

¹⁴¹ The speakers of the Belarusian and Georgian parliaments signed a joint statement on cooperation [Electronic Resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/politics/view/spikery-belorusskogo-i-gruzinskogo-parlamentov-podpisali-sovmestnoe-zajavlenie-o-sotrudnichestve-276782-2017/>

¹⁴² Belarusian MPs are determined to work with the Parliament of Georgia - Andreichenko [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/politics/view/belorusskie-deputaty-nastroeny-na-predmetnuju-rabotu-s-parlamentom-gruzii-andrejchenko-276707-2017/>

¹⁴³ Belarus considers Georgia one of its strategic partners - Myasnikovich [Electronic Resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/politics/view/belarus-schitaet-gruziju-odnim-iz-strategicheskikh-partnerov-mjasnikovich-276652-2017/>

In January 2018, Minsk hosted the fourth meeting of the Intergovernmental Belarusian-Georgian Commission on Economic Cooperation, where the parties stated their intention to bring the volume of bilateral trade to \$200 million by 2020. One of the effective ways to solve this problem is to develop Belarusian-Georgian **interregional cooperation**, the potential of which "is huge and it should be fully used"¹⁴⁴. A concrete step towards further realization of partnership opportunities between the regions of the two countries was the Program for 2018-2019 signed in the framework of the fourth meeting of the intergovernmental commission for the implementation of the agreement between the Minsk Regional Executive Committee and the administration of the state commissioner - governor of Kakheti on trade, economic and social and cultural cooperation. This document once again underscores the fact that today there is a lot of connection between Minshchina and Kakhetiya. Suffice it to say that at the three mining enterprises of Georgia - JSC "RMG Cooper", JSC "Rustavi MK" and LLC "Sakcementi" - now "operates 41 dump trucks" BELAZ "with a payload capacity of 45-55 tons",¹⁴⁵ produced in Minsk region. Of course, the example given of the development of partnership between the regions of the two mills is not the only one. In general "in the field of regional and brotherly cooperation agreements/memorandums have been signed between Minsk and Tbilisi, <...> Brest and Batumi, Polotsk and Tskaltubo, Gomel and Kutaisi, Mogilev region and the Autonomous Republic of Adjara".

Undoubtedly, the flagship of this partnership is the interaction between the two capitals, which began in 1994, and in September 2015, Minsk and Tbilisi signed an Agreement on twinning relations to "promote the establishment and expansion of bilateral relations in the economic, scientific, technological, cultural spheres, development of investment and innovation activities, cooperation in health care, education, culture and sports, exchange of information on the development of cities, taking into account the organization of local self-government"¹⁴⁶. And in just one year, the export of Belarusian goods and services to the Georgian capital doubled. "Medicines, agricultural and municipal equipment, food produced in Belarus were in demand among our brothers"¹⁴⁷. As a result, today trade and economic interaction between the capital's enterprises is already stable, constantly expanding, and "in Tbilisi

¹⁴⁴ The Regional Forum on Sustainable Development is planned to be held in Minsk in early 2018 [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/politics/view/regionalnyj-forum-po-ustojchivomu-razvitiuju-planiruetsja-provesti-v-minske-v-nachale-2018-goda-264868-2017/>

¹⁴⁵ Within the framework of the celebration of the 80th anniversary of the Minsk region, BELAZ OJSC was visited by a delegation of the Georgian krai Kakheti [Electronic Resource]. - - 2018. - URL: http://www.belaz.by/press/news/2018/oa0_belaz_v_ramkah_prazdnovani/

¹⁴⁶ Minsk and Tbilisi have become twin cities [Electronic resource]. - - 2015. - URL: <http://mamuli.by/minsk-i-tbilisi-stali-gorodami-pobratimami/>

¹⁴⁷ Zhdanovich, V. Twins. Minsk and Tbilisi / V. Zhdanovich // [Electron resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://minsknews.by/pobratimiyi-minsk-i-tbilisi/>

Belarusian meat and dairy products are very popular, in Belarus - Georgian wines and mineral waters, fruits and vegetables¹⁴⁸. This fact also says a lot. The first store of Belarusian products appeared in Tbilisi back in September 2016, while the second - in November the same year. Today there are already six grocery stores in the Georgian capital, which sell Belarusian products. The range of goods represented in them is quite wide. "Dairy products are especially popular among locals - butter, milk, sour cream, cheese, cottage cheese, yogurt. Moreover, over the last two years, sales volumes have increased significantly. Georgian dealers can develop a network of up to 25 shops"¹⁴⁹.

In the same year 2015, Brest and Batumi adopted a sisterhood agreement in order to establish permanent friendly relations for mutual acquaintance with the life, history and culture of the twin cities, as well as to develop cooperation in all areas, including the exchange of experience in urban management. "It is planned that in the first stage the twin cities will focus on the tourism industry, which should pull the economy"¹⁵⁰. Two years later, the parties concluded that the time had come to take relations to a higher level, so that "not only Brest and Batumi had connections, but closer contacts were established between the Brest region and the Autonomous Republic of Adjara"¹⁵¹. And they plan to open a Belarusian trade center in Batumi, where the products manufactured in Brestchina will be presented. It is appropriate to remind here that "Adjara is the most developed region not only in Georgia, but also on the coast. The Republic contributes more than \$1 billion to the country's GDP"¹⁵². Back in 2015, the Belarusian side offered this Georgian region to cooperate at the highest level in engineering, construction and tourism. As we can see, these plans are beginning to be gradually implemented.

And in Gomel, which signed an agreement on friendship and cooperation with Kutaisi in 2016, priority in interregional cooperation is given to trade and economic relations. After all, only in 2015 "trade turnover between Gomel and Georgia reached 1.1 million dollars. Exports of goods amounted to \$0.8 million, imports - \$0.3 million"¹⁵³. The

¹⁴⁸ On the meeting of Ambassador of Belarus to Georgia M. Myatlikov with Chairman of Tbilisi Sakrebulo G. Tkemaladze [Electronic resource]. - 2018. - URL: <http://georgia.mfa.gov.by/ru/embassy/news/c2a863c0c016dd7f.html>

¹⁴⁹ Belarusian food products are in great demand in Georgia [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/beloruskie-produkty-pitanija-polzujutsja-bolshim-sprosom-v-gruzii-276694-2017/>

¹⁵⁰ Nedashkovskaya, M. Brest and Batumi became twins / M. Nedashkovskaya // [Electronic resource]. - 2015. - URL: <http://mamuli.by/brest-i-batumi-stali-pobratimami/>

¹⁵¹ The Belarusian Trade Center is planned to open in Batumi [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/beloruskij-torgovyj-tsentr-planiruetsja-otkryt-v-batumi-259344-2017/>

¹⁵² Official visit to Georgia [Electronic resource]. - 2015. - URL: http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/ofitsialnyj-vizit-v-gruziju-11241/

¹⁵³ Baidan, E. Agreement on friendship and cooperation between Gomel and Kutaisi is signed / E. Baidan // [Electronic resource]. - 2016. - URL: <http://newsgomel.by/news/mezhdu-gomelem-i-kutaisi-podpisano-soglashenie-o-druzhe-i-sotrudnichestve>

open joint-stock companies Gomel Chemical Plant, Gomeldrev, Gomel Electrotechnical Plant, GZIP, Gomelsteklo, as well as PUE Gomeloboi, IpUE Alkopak, ALC Vimala, LLC Antech, CJSC Belplastkhim became exporters of their products to the Georgian market.

As for the cooperation between the cities of Polotsk and Tskaltubo, they established a partnership in June 2015, and in February 2017 signed an agreement on cooperation in order to actively develop partnerships in industry, entrepreneurship, small and medium business, trade, agriculture, science, education, health, environment and tourism. The motive for the appearance of this document was the fact that by that time a number of Polotsk enterprises already had experience of business relations with Georgian partners. In particular, "dairy farmers delivered milk to Georgia, flour was shipped rye flour, architects and builders erected houses according to their designs"¹⁵⁴.

In addition, in September 2016, within the framework of the third meeting of the Belarusian-Georgian intergovernmental commission on economic cooperation, held in Tbilisi, the Mogilev region and the Autonomous Republic of Adjara signed a memorandum on cooperation. A number of other documents on cooperation were adopted by the Goretz district and Khashura municipality, Bobruisk with the cities of Kobuleti and Batumi, as well as the Mogilev branch of the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Adjara. In September 2017, the establishment of friendly relations was already announced by Mogilev and Batumi. In the signed memorandum they agreed "to develop mutually beneficial cooperation in all spheres. The first step will be to develop a programme of joint activities for next year as well as to prepare specific projects for subsequent implementation"¹⁵⁵. At the same time, a memorandum of cooperation was signed between the Mogilev Regional Development Agency and the Ministry of Finance and Economy of Adjara, as well as a contract for the supply of products between "Bakaleia Mogilev" OJSC and "Adjara Wine House" company. And the Belarusian State Agricultural Academy in Gorki, Mogilev region, has agreed on cooperation with Batumi State University named after Shota Rustaveli. Obviously, involving parliamentarians in these projects can only accelerate their implementation.

The fourth session of the Intergovernmental Belarusian-Georgian **Commission on Economic Cooperation**, which has already been discussed above, also demonstrated the growing influence of this formation on the development of the whole complex of

¹⁵⁴ Shuia, O. Heart is open for friendship / O. Shuia // [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://belsmi.by/archive/article/73054>

¹⁵⁵ Kulyagin, S. Mogilev and Batumi signed a memorandum on establishing friendly relations / S. Kulyagin // [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/mogilev-i-batumi-podpisali-memorandum-ob-ustanovlenii-druzhestvennyh-svjazej-265669-2017/>

relations between the two former Soviet republics, which have recently become stable. And this despite the fact that "just recently, just 5-7 years ago, we did not know how to build logistics in trade with Georgia at all"¹⁵⁶. It should be reminded that at the third session of the intergovernmental commission the attention of the parties was concentrated on the fact that "the governments of Belarus and Georgia should remove the barriers that prevent business from working"¹⁵⁷. And already at the fourth meeting it was declared that "serious approaches have been developed in all directions - from trade to creation of joint productions and workplaces in such areas as mechanical engineering, manufacture of elevator equipment"¹⁵⁸. At the same time, the parties' intention to develop mutually beneficial cooperation, primarily in such areas as trade and industrial cooperation, was brought to the fore.

As for **trade**, in 2016 the nomenclature of Belarusian exports to the Georgian market amounted to 318 items, the main of which were "railroad cars, trucks, dairy products, synthetic threads, medicines, furniture, sausage products, sugar, malt, woodworking products"¹⁵⁹. In deliveries from Georgia to Belarus, mineral waters, wines, spirits, nuts, ferroalloys, spices, vegetables, fruits and tea prevailed.

One of the main and effective tools to promote its exports to Georgian consumers, the Belarusian side has chosen to participate in major exhibitions and fairs in Georgia. In particular, in early September 2016, more than 140 Belarusian companies took part in the first National Exhibition of Belarus, organized in Tbilisi. They were based on "exporters of products, goods and services in mechanical engineering, industrial equipment, agriculture, consumer goods, food, construction materials, petrochemical industry, health care, sports, tourism, transport, logistics, science, educational services, information technology, telecommunications"¹⁶⁰. The fruits of participation in this business forum appeared quite quickly. Already in March 2017, the Belarusian and Georgian sides signed an agreement for the supply of 90 tractors to Belarus and took

¹⁵⁶ Presentation of credentials by ambassadors of foreign countries [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/vruchenie-veritelnix-gramot-poslami-zarubezhnyx-gosudarstv-17869/

¹⁵⁷ Ogneva, Yu. Russy: the governments of Belarus and Georgia should remove the barriers which prevent business to work (in Russian) / Yu.Ogneva // [Electron resource]. - - 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/rusyj-pravitelstva-belarusi-i-gruzii-dolzny-snjat-barjery-kotorye-meshajut-biznesu-rabotat-208221-2016/>

¹⁵⁸ Mikhail Rusyi took part in the session of the Intergovernmental Belarusian-Georgian Commission on Economic Cooperation [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/7814>

¹⁵⁹ Belarus and Georgia are discussing the implementation of trade and cooperation agreements [Electronic Resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-gruzija-obsuzhdajut-realizatsiju-dogovorennostej-po-razvitiu-torgovli-i-kooperatsii-273506-2017/>

¹⁶⁰ Mikhail Rusyi took part in the opening of the National Exhibition of Belarus in Georgia [Electronic resource]. - - 2016. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/6663>

up the task of "organizing joint assembly of tractors of small class"¹⁶¹. At the same time, we talked about additional deliveries of heavy-duty equipment of the Belarusian Automobile Plant, and "the company" Stadler "sent the first batch of trains to Georgia, intends to continue to participate in the project to develop railway communication between Tbilisi and Batumi"¹⁶². According to the results of 2016, more than a third of the shipment of its products to Georgia was increased by the enterprises of Bellesbumprom Concern. At the same time, "supplies of chipboards and newsprint increased 6 times, plywood - 2.3 times. Shipments of wallpaper increased by 30%, matches by 35%"¹⁶³. And Pinskdiv Holding even won the tender for supplying furniture to Georgian hotels. As a result, Georgia has become one of the most promising markets for the concern's enterprises.

The participation of Belarusian exporters also became very effective in the exposition Made in Belarus, organized in the framework of the international exhibition of agriculture and food industry Agro Food Drink Expo, held in Tbilisi in November 2017, where, apart from Belarus, a wide range of agricultural products was presented: machinery, crop, livestock, equipment for food processing and storage, packaging products from Ukraine, Russia, Great Britain and the Netherlands. Particularly high demand of Georgian customers was caused by the production of Belarusian JSC "Red Foodstuffs" - marshmallow and marmalade. Pinsk Meat Processing Plant also took part in this exposition, which entered the Georgian market in June 2017 and sells here almost the entire export line - cooked, smoked, raw smoked and raw dried products. "In total 150 kinds of production are delivered to Georgia"¹⁶⁴. In addition, a lot of malt for beer production in this country is supplied by Belsolod. Well, and such a fact: "Today every fifth carton of milk produced in Georgia is produced from skimmed milk powder of Belarus"¹⁶⁵.

In general, at the end of 2017, enterprises of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food of Belarus increased exports of their products to Georgia 2.9 times. This was also due to

¹⁶¹ Matveev, V. Belarus plans to increase trade turnover with Georgia almost three times in two years - Rusy / V. Matveev // [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-za-dva-goda-planiruet-uvlechit-torgovyj-oborot-s-gruziej-pochti-v-tri-raza-rusyj-235499-2017/>

¹⁶² In Georgia, the network of shops with Belarusian products will be expanded - Ambassador [Electronic resource]. - - 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/v-gruzii-rasshiritsja-set-magazinov-s-beloruskoj-produktsiej-posol-225439-2016/>

¹⁶³ Enterprises of "Bellesbumprom" in 2016 increased exports to Georgia by 35.4% [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/predprijatija-bellesbumproma-v-2016-godu-uvlechili-eksport-v-gruziju-na-354-235514-2017/>

¹⁶⁴ Belarusian food products are in great demand in Georgia [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/beloruskie-produkty-pitanija-polzujutsja-bolshim-sprosom-v-gruzii-276694-2017/>

¹⁶⁵ Belarus and Georgia are working on alternative routes for product supply [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-gruzija-prorabatyvajut-alternativnye-marshruty-dlja-postavok-produktsii-287901-2018/>

the opening of a Belarusian network of specialized stores in this country, where they sell only Belarusian goods: meat and dairy products, groceries, confectionery, alcoholic bakery products. By mid-February 2018 there were already nine such shops in Georgia. "This direction is developing not only in the capital, but also in the regions of the country"¹⁶⁶. The Belarusian side is planning to expand the range of agricultural products, increase the number of specialized shops for its sale and enter local trade networks.

Speaking about the prospects for the development of Belarusian-Georgian **cooperation ties**, it should be reminded that during the official visit of the Belarusian President to Georgia in April 2015, an agreement was reached at the highest level that "industrial cooperation will be fundamental in bilateral relations"¹⁶⁷. At the same time, the parties agreed to implement pilot projects to set up an assembly plant in Georgia for Belarusian elevators and tractors of various modifications. Already in August 2017 in Tbilisi, with the participation of the Belarusian JSC "Mogilevliftmash" was created consortium "Georgian elevator", in which it was planned to "organize the assembly of the Belarusian elevators at the Georgian Technical University"¹⁶⁸. And by the end of that year, 22 elevators had already been installed. The tasks for the future here are set much more ambitious: in 2018 to collect more than 200 units of this equipment, as "break-even point elevator farm - about 250 units per year".¹⁶⁹ and then "organize production of up to 2 thousand elevators on the territory of Georgia"¹⁷⁰.

With regard to the assembly of Belarusian tractor equipment on Georgian soil, the assembly plant on the basis of the Georgian company World Technik was established "in accordance with a memorandum signed in 2015 between the Georgian company and the OJSC "Minsk Tractor Plant"¹⁷¹". The first result of its work was tractors "Belarus-320.4" and "Belarus-622" models assembled by JSC "Bobruisk plant of tractor parts and units", presented at the already mentioned above first National Exhibition of Belarus in Tbilisi in autumn 2016. The development of cooperative ties

¹⁶⁶ Enterprises of the Ministry of Agriculture increased exports to Georgia by 2.9 times in 2017 [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/predpriyatija-minselhozproda-v-2017-godu-narastili-eksport-produktsii-v-gruziju-v-29-raza-290507-2018/>

¹⁶⁷ Official visit to Georgia [Electronic resource]. - - 2015. - URL: http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/ofitsialnyj-vizit-v-gruziju-11241/

¹⁶⁸ Transcript of the speech of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belarus V. Makei to the mass media following the talks with the Vice Prime Minister - Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia (September 4, 2017, Minsk) [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: http://mfa.gov.by/press/news_mfa/d71a81478f220672.html

¹⁶⁹ Meeting with First Deputy Prime Minister of Georgia [Electronic Resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/7812>

¹⁷⁰ Mikhail Rusyi took part in the session of the Intergovernmental Belarusian-Georgian Commission on Economic Cooperation [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/7814>

¹⁷¹ Kulyagin, S. The first tractors of the Belarusian-Georgian assembly are presented in Tbilisi / S. Kulyagin // [Electron resource]. - - 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/pervye-traktory-belorusko-gruzinskij-sborki-predstavleny-v-tbilisi-208304-2016/>

in the agro-industrial complex continues the plans, voiced at the third meeting of the intergovernmental commission on economic cooperation, to build a dairy farm for 500 animals on Georgian soil by Belarusian specialists in order to "transfer their dairy cattle breeding technologies to Georgia".¹⁷² as well as the intentions of the parties to implement joint projects on creation of breeding and tribal centers for animal breeding. All these facts show that Belarus really views Georgia as an important and promising partner in Transcaucasia and intends only to intensify bilateral contacts in industry, agriculture, petrochemistry, pharmaceuticals and humanitarian sphere.

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¹⁷² Ogneva, Yu. Belarus will build in Georgia a dairy farm for 500 heads (in Russian) / Yu. Ogneva // [Electron resource]. -- 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-postroit-v-gruzii-molochnuju-fermu-na-500-golov-208213-2016/>

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Belarus - Africa: starting point - mutual interest

The Republic of Belarus traditionally adheres to unified approaches to the development of relations with all foreign partners, while concentrating its foreign policy efforts on the most important and promising vectors, including the so-called "far arc" countries - in the African, Latin American and African regions, with many of which the Belarusian side seeks to expand and strengthen cooperation, bringing it to the level of strategic partnership.

Belarusian foreign policy is aimed at developing relations with the "far arc" countries in two main directions:

First, intensification of political and economic interaction with traditional partners, among which official Minsk includes Argentina, Brazil, China, Cuba, Egypt, India, Iran, Japan, South Africa, Syria, the United Arab Emirates, Venezuela and Vietnam;

Secondly, the establishment of dialogue, active entry and consolidation in the markets of States with significant potential for mutually beneficial cooperation, including Belarus sees Angola, Australia, Bolivia, Cambodia, Colombia, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Zimbabwe.

This focus of the Republic of Belarus on active development of interaction with the countries of Africa, Latin America and Asia is explained by the fact that "diversification of trade, deepening of economic cooperation with the countries of the above regions of the planet is an important prerequisite for growth of the export-oriented Belarusian economy"¹⁷³. And it should be said that over the past few years, the Republic of Belarus has taken many concrete steps to develop each of these regions.

Thus, the Asian countries are interesting for Belarus as a capacious, promising and rapidly expanding market for domestic goods and services, as well as a promising donor to the Belarusian economy. And let the Asian market "still remain underdeveloped by exporters from Belarus in terms of promoting many types of their products there, including those produced by machine-building, electronic and

¹⁷³ Countries and regions [Electronic resource]. - -- 2018. - URL: <http://mfa.gov.by/bilateral/>

petrochemical industries".¹⁷⁴ Nevertheless, Minsk seeks to fully implement its ambitious plans to increase the supply of Belarusian trucks, tractors, machine tools, bearings, chemical fibres, electronic and medical devices to this region, as well as to strengthen scientific and industrial cooperation with the leading countries of the continent.

As for Latin America, the development of interaction with the states of this continent is facilitated by strengthening the dialogue with priority partners and expanding the geography of bilateral contacts and economic ties in sectors promising for Belarus. The following fact testifies to a lot: "Trade turnover of Belarus with Latin American countries increased more than 4 times between 2000 and 2015, with Belarusian exports growing faster and more than 6 times higher"¹⁷⁵.

And the events held in 2016 by the Belarusian side with African countries "contributed both to the activation of political relations and promotion of trade and economic cooperation in the supply of Belarusian quarry, cargo, road-building and agricultural machinery and petrochemical products"¹⁷⁶. This led to a more than doubling of Belarusian exports to Africa in 2017, as well as to the "formation of strategic approaches to entrenchment in Southern Africa"¹⁷⁷. And today, at the highest level in the Republic of Belarus, an opinion has already been formed that "Africa is the future of the entire planet. Today and tomorrow the whole world will develop at the expense of Africa"¹⁷⁸. In 2018, relations with countries on the African continent were further strengthened. At the same time, Belarus' rapidly developing partnership with **Sudan** and **Zimbabwe** looks very promising.

Thus, back in August 2017, Belarus and **Sudan** adopted a "road map" of cooperation, which outlined the parameters of cooperation in oil and gas, water and electricity, industry and trade, higher education and research, banking and finance. The signed document should ensure implementation of the agreements reached in recent years between Minsk and Khartoum on the entire range of bilateral cooperation, including

¹⁷⁴ Zalesky, B. Belarus - Asia: a vector of partnership. Chronicle of mutually beneficial cooperation / B. Zalesky. - LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2018. -- C. 5.

¹⁷⁵ Review of the results of the foreign policy of the Republic of Belarus and activities of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2016 [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://mfa.gov.by/publication/reports/ea444d5cceb4798d.html>

¹⁷⁶ Review of the results of the foreign policy of the Republic of Belarus and activities of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2016 [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://mfa.gov.by/publication/reports/ea444d5cceb4798d.html>

¹⁷⁷ Review of the results of the foreign policy of the Republic of Belarus and activities of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2017 [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <http://mfa.gov.by/publication/reports/a8a5169b6e487b3b.html>

¹⁷⁸ Address to the deputies of the Parliament of the Republic of Sudan [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/vystuplenie-pered-deputatami-parlamenta-respubliki-sudan-15402/

joint projects, including "establishment of Belarusian equipment manufacturing facilities in Sudan, organization of supplies of road-building, municipal, forestry equipment, grain drying complexes, geological exploration in this country"¹⁷⁹.

The very fact that the road map has been adopted shows that Belarus views the Sudan as one of the key partners on the African continent and "is interested in significantly increasing bilateral cooperation in all sectors"¹⁸⁰. And statistics show that the volume of bilateral Belarusian-Sudanese trade is clearly dominated by export supplies of tractors, trucks, various types of machines, transformers, instrumentation, tires from Belarus. Suffice it to say that in the period from 2010 to 2015 the trade turnover between the two countries increased from 15.4 to 41.3 million dollars, reaching a record figure of 70.8 million dollars in 2013.

And even if in 2016 this indicator has decreased to \$38 million, the very fact of adoption of the "road map," Minsk and Khartoum have demonstrated their determination to return to the highest level of mutual trade turnover in the near future. Moreover, in recent years, the parties have taken a number of concrete steps to this end - "put into practice the annual political consultations, resumed the activities of the intergovernmental commission on cooperation after ten years of downtime, established direct interaction between the ministries of industry, agriculture, oil and energy, and education"¹⁸¹.

An obvious prologue to the adoption of the "road map" of cooperation was the visit of the President of Belarus to Sudan in January 2017, during which an interested position of Belarus to participate in industrial and infrastructure development projects on Sudanese soil, to establish joint ventures for the production of agricultural and trucks on the basis of existing plants in Sudan was outlined. More specifically, "a pioneer of this direction could be a project for the assembly of tractors"¹⁸².

The fact is that Minsk Tractor Works has been cooperating with Sudanese partners since 1994. The local company MIG Agriculture is the exclusive distributor in the

¹⁷⁹ Belarus and Sudan signed a road map for cooperation [Electronic Resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-sudan-podpisali-dorozhnyuju-kartu-razvitija-sotrudnichestva-263976-2017/>

¹⁸⁰ Alexander Lukashenko has congratulated President of Sudan Omar Hassan Ahmed Al-Bashir [Electronic Resource]. - - 2017. - URL: http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/aleksandr-lukashenko-pozdravil-prezidenta-sudana-omara-xasana-axmeda-al-bashira-15252/

¹⁸¹ Belarus and Sudan plan to sign a treaty on friendly relations and cooperation [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/politics/view/belarus-i-sudan-planirujut-podpisat-dogovor-o-druzhestvennyh-otnoshenijah-i-sotrudnichestve-228043-2017/>

¹⁸² Negotiations with President Omar Hassan Ahmed Al-Bashir of the Sudan [Electronic Resource]. - - 2017. - URL: http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/peregovory-s-prezidentom-sudana-omarom-xasanom-axmedom-al-bashirom-15397/

market of Sudan of products of Belarusian manufacturers of tractors, trucks, tires. In particular, by selling a range of tractor models, she was "one of the top three distributors in Sudan"¹⁸³. In addition, there is a site that can be used for tractor assembly, located just 15 kilometers from Khartoum. In its turn, in 2016 MTW delivered to this African country 123 tractors, in the first half of 2017 - 51 more machines, planning to ship there at least 80 units by the end of the year. As we can see, the trend of increasing exports is evident. But the Belarusian side has set a task to significantly increase the presence of this complex technical product in Sudan, based on a number of important arguments. Firstly, "the designers of the plant have adapted the 200 hp tractor to the climatic conditions in Sudan, the new model BELARUS-2023.3 is already being tested at the plant. The new tractor can operate in 50-degree heat"¹⁸⁴. Secondly, the assembly plant in Sudan can be used as a platform for Belarusian tractors to reach neighboring countries and the African continent in general.

Among other promising areas of the Belarusian-Sudanese industrial cooperation, which were considered in January 2017 by the business circles of the two countries at the business forum in Khartoum, were joint projects "in mechanical engineering, mining, agro-industrial complex and pharmaceuticals"¹⁸⁵. As for mechanical engineering, in February 2017 the first consignment of Minsk Automobile Plant machines - "10 trucks for Petrola company working in the oil sector"¹⁸⁶ - arrived in Sudan from Belarus. In spring 2017, Sudan tested the grain harvester KZS-575 developed by Gomselmash especially for this country, where sorghum is one of the main cultivated grain crops. The Sudanese version refers to the supply of this equipment to farmers, and the prospects are very significant, as "sorghum is planted on several million hectares"¹⁸⁷. At the same time, the Belarusian side aims not just to supply this African country with its equipment, but to organize an assembly on Sudanese soil "under certain conditions to be created by the Government of Sudan. Then it is possible to organize here

¹⁸³ Matveev, V. Assembly manufacture of MTZ tractors may appear in Sudan / V. Matveev // [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/sborochnoe-proizvodstvo-tractorov-mtz-mozhet-pojavitsja-v-sudane-228348-2017/>

¹⁸⁴ Sergeeva, V. Assembly manufacture of the Belarusian tractors can be created in Sudan / V. Sergeeva // [Electron resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/sborochnoe-proizvodstvo-belorusskih-tractorov-mozhet-byt-sozdano-v-sudane-263919-2017/>

¹⁸⁵ Belarus offered Sudan joint business projects [Electronic Resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-predlozila-sudanu-sovmestnye-biznes-proekty-228663-2017/>

¹⁸⁶ Matveev, V.V. The first MAZ automobile technique has arrived to Sudan / V. Matveev // [Electron resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/v-sudan-pribyla-pervaja-avtotehnika-maz-234543-2017/>

¹⁸⁷ Sidorchik, V. "Gomselmash" is carrying out the tests of a grain combine harvester in Sudan (in Russian) / V. Sidorchik // [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/gomselmash-provodit-ispytaniya-zernouborochnogo-kombajna-v-sudane-244896-2017/>

assembly productions of agricultural machinery and to reach the level of localization about 40%"¹⁸⁸.

An important continuation of the Belarusian-Sudanese dialogue took place in December 2018, when President Omar al-Bashir of Sudan paid an official visit to the Republic of Belarus, which "gave a significant impetus to further deepening the interstate dialogue and realization of the existing potential of Belarusian-Sudanese cooperation"¹⁸⁹. The following facts testify to the serious potential and tempting prospects of cooperation between Belarus and Sudan: 17 documents - agreements, treaties, contracts - worth about \$250 million were signed during the mentioned visit of the head of the Sudanese state to Minsk. Among the documents developing the legal framework of Belarusian-Sudanese relations, one should mention the intergovernmental agreement on avoidance of double taxation and prevention of tax evasion with respect to income taxes, as well as the memorandum on cooperation in the industrial sphere. Apparently, this is only a starting point for the development of the whole complex of bilateral relations, because, according to O. Al-Bashir, "Sudan is interested in expanding economic cooperation with Belarus"¹⁹⁰. To raise these relations to a new level in the near future, the Sudanese side opened its diplomatic mission in Minsk in December 2018.

Belarus assumes that in its relations with Sudan, which is a bridge between Arab civilization and Africa, it should rely on the export of high-tech products with the subsequent establishment of joint assembly enterprises, since the increase and diversification of Belarusian exports should "contribute to the economic development of Sudan, solving the problems of industrialization, development of agriculture and training of local highly qualified personnel"¹⁹¹. If in 2017 from Belarus for the first time in the Sudanese market were delivered dump trucks, prototypes of high-tech combine harvester and energy-saturated tractor, road-building machinery, agricultural equipment, as well as resumed the supply of trucks, "in the first 10 months of 2018,

¹⁸⁸ Matveev, V. Belarusian-Sudanese agreements for \$50 million are signed in Khartoum / V. Matveev // [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/belorusko-sudanskiedogovorenosti-na-50-mln-podpisany-v-hartume-228714-2017/>

¹⁸⁹ Congratulations to President Omar Hassan Ahmed Al-Bashir of the Sudan [Electronic Resource]. - - 2019. - URL: http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/pozdravlenie-prezidentu-sudana-omaru-xasanu-axmedu-al-bashiru-20193/

¹⁹⁰ Grishkevich, A. Sudan is interested in expansion of economic cooperation with Belarus / A. Grishkevich // [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/special/economics/view/sudan-zainteresovan-v-rasshirenii-ekonomicheskogo-sotrudnichestva-s-belarusju-328885-2018/>

¹⁹¹ Negotiations with President Omar Hassan Ahmed Al-Bashir of the Sudan [Electronic Resource]. - - 2018. - URL: http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/peregovory-s-prezidentom-sudana-omarom-xasanom-axmedom-al-bashirom-20033/

exports of Belarusian goods to Sudan almost doubled compared with the same period last year¹⁹².

This African country attracts the attention of Belarus not only by its rich natural resources and good geographical location, not only by the opportunities to supply Belarusian equipment and training for Sudan, but also by the opening of promising areas of cooperation, the list of which is quite wide: "This cooperation in the agro-industrial sector, in the development of minerals, infrastructure and logistics"¹⁹³.

With regard to industrial cooperation, today Belarus and Sudan are already developing and implementing twelve joint projects that "concern the extraction of gold, the establishment of a multi-profile machine-building enterprise for the assembly of tractors, MAZ trucks and Gomselmash equipment"¹⁹⁴. The same list should also mention the participation of Belarusian organizations in energy projects, measures to improve oil recovery at Sudanese fields, the establishment of joint ventures to produce meat and dairy products, fodder, growing vegetables and sprouts.

If we talk about the development of Belarusian-Sudanese cooperation in agriculture, we should first of all mention the framework contract for the supply of 17 grain storage facilities from Belarus worth €60 million to this African country. Back in September 2018, Belarusian Leedselmash and Selenergoprom signed the relevant documents with the Sudanese Agricultural Bank of Sudan. As a result, "Leedselmash" has signed a contract for the supply of eight grain storage facilities with a capacity of 50 thousand tons and four - 25 thousand tons with a total cost of 32.4 million euros. "Selenergoprom signed the documents for the delivery of five grain storage facilities of 100 thousand tons each, worth EUR 27.25 million"¹⁹⁵.

Exploration work in Sudan is also promising for Belarus. The relevant Belarusian enterprise has already been registered there for this purpose. In December 2018 it became known that "Sudan intends to allocate a second site for gold mining to Belarus

¹⁹² It's the same place.

¹⁹³ During the visit of the President of Sudan to Belarus, contracts for \$250 million [Electronic Resource] were signed. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/vo-vremja-vizita-prezidenta-sudana-v-belarus-podpisano-kontraktov-na-250-mln-328785-2018/>

¹⁹⁴ Grishkevich, A. Belarus and Sudan emphasize cooperation in economy and industrial cooperation - Rachkov / A. Grishkevich // [Electron resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/special/economics/view/belarus-i-sudan-delajut-aktsent-na-sotrudnichestve-v-ekonomike-i-promkooperatsii-rachkov-328692-2018/>

¹⁹⁵ Belarus will deliver €60 million worth of grain storage to Sudan [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-postavit-v-sudan-zerno hranilishcha-na-60-mln-evro-318290-2018/>

in the near future, located near the Nile¹⁹⁶. And then Belarusian specialists in this African country will carry out exploration work at two sites simultaneously. Moreover, in the near future, measures will also be taken in both countries at the level of parliaments and business circles to "bring relations between the regions of Belarus and the states of Sudan to a higher level".¹⁹⁷ that matches the level of strategic partnership.

As for **Zimbabwe**, President E. Mnangagwa visited the Republic of Belarus in January 2019, within the framework of which the parties agreed to build a strategy and implement a concrete plan to develop cooperation in the future. In Belarus, this African country, located in the south of the "black" continent, is considered an important partner in the South African region, seeking for this reason to gradually reach a strategic level of interaction with it, and see significant potential in the development of bilateral relations despite the fact that "Zimbabwe is going through hard times: for almost two decades the country has been subjected to various economic sanctions, has been virtually isolated¹⁹⁸.

Official Minsk sees significant potential for cooperation with Harare, primarily in the areas of trade and economy. The fact is that in this African country today, "legislation is being actively changed to attract investment, the green light is being given for the creation of joint ventures".¹⁹⁹ Concrete steps are being taken for the growth and industrialization of various sectors of the economy, and the modernization and mechanization of agriculture and mining, as well as the construction of socio-economic infrastructure, are the main priorities of domestic policy. Let us not forget that "Zimbabwe has rich natural resources - coal, diamonds, other mineral deposits. That's why there is a need in machinery that is produced in Belarus²⁰⁰.

We would like to remind you that contacts between Belarus and Zimbabwe intensified significantly and received strong impulses for development in 2015 after E.

¹⁹⁶ Grishkevich, A. Sudan intends to allocate to Belarus the second site for gold mining / A. Grishkevich // [Electronic resource]. - – 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/sudan-nameren-vydelit-belarusi-utoroj-uchastok-dlja-dobychi-zolota-328681-2018/>

¹⁹⁷ Interregional cooperation between Belarus and Sudan should be brought to a higher level - Andreichenko [Electronic resource]. - – 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/special/politics/view/mezhregionalnoe-sotrudnichestvo-belarusi-i-sudana-sleduet-vyvesti-na-bolee-vysokij-uroven-andrejchenko-328837-2018/>

¹⁹⁸ Negotiations with President Emmerson Mnangagwa of Zimbabwe [Electronic Resource]. - – 2019. - URL: http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/ofitsialnyj-vizit-prezidenta-respubliki-zimbabwe-emmersona-mnangagvy-20303/

¹⁹⁹ Belarus and Zimbabwe can enter into large-scale economic cooperation - Sheiman [Electronic Resource]. - – 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-zimbabwe-mogut-vyjti-na-masshtabnoe-ekonomicheskoe-sotrudnichestvo-shejman-333102-2019/>

²⁰⁰ Matveev, V.V. New contracts on delivery of the Belarusian equipment in Zimbabwe are being worked out (in Russian) / V.Matveev // [Electronic Repe6surs]. - – 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/prorabatyvajutsja-novye-kontrakty-na-postavku-belorusskoj-tehniki-v-zimbabwe-333019-2019/>

Mnangagwa visited our country, only then as Vice-President of this South African state. In Minsk, he said three and a half years ago that "the Zimbabwean side is interested in expanding trade and economic cooperation as well as cooperation in such areas as infrastructure, agriculture and mining²⁰¹. At the same time, speaking about the need to implement large-scale infrastructure projects in their country, senior representatives of Zimbabwe clearly identified an important detail for the Belarusian side: "Zimbabweans would like to give preference to cars from Belarus rather than their Western counterparts for a number of objective reasons²⁰². Since then, the Belarusian-Zimbabwe partnership has been gradually developing and strengthening. It should be noted that until recently, the basis of Belarusian exports to Zimbabwe were potash fertilizers and spare parts for automotive equipment, while Belarus imported minerals, as well as citrus fruits and vegetables in small amounts.

Back in 2014, the Ministry of Industry of the Republic of Belarus in Zimbabwe supplied mine dump trucks and loaders, which began working at the coal mine "Hwange. In 2017, deals were concluded for the supply of lower-capacity mine dump trucks to Southern Africa. In 2018 Amkodor signed a contract for the supply of forty pieces of machinery and spare parts for almost four and a half million dollars in Zimbabwe with the financial support of the Development Bank of Belarus and the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe. But it is in 2019 that the Belarusian supplies to the Zimbabwean market should gain new scale. We are talking about the shipment of equipment to this country under previously signed contracts - tractors, seeders, products of Minsk Automobile Plant - tractors, semitrailers. In particular, the willingness to purchase about two hundred trucks of Minsk Automobile Plant was stated by the Zimbabwean company Ajara Trucking, noting that "the need of Zimbabwe may reach 1 thousand units. MAZ trucks are planned to be used in the mining industry to transport fuel, grain and fertilizers²⁰³. And the Belarusian Automobile Plant, together with the company "Sohra," is now working on the supply of six dump trucks and two loaders. In total, more than 70 BelAZ trucks are already successfully working in various quarries there. It should also be noted that export financing for the supply of Belarusian equipment in Zimbabwe is planned to be implemented with the participation of the Pan-African Bank The Eastern and Southern

²⁰¹ Meeting with Vice President of the Republic of Zimbabwe Emmerson Mnangagwa [Electronic Resource]. - - 2015. - URL: http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/vstrecha-s-vitse-prezidentom-respubliki-zimbabwe-emmersonom-mnangagvoj-11803/

²⁰² Zimbabwe is considering buying a large batch of Belarusian equipment [Electronic Resource]. - - 2015. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/zimbabwe-rassmatrivaet-vozmozhnost-priobretenija-krupnoj-partii-belorusskoj-tehniki-5848-2015/>

²⁰³ Sergeeva, V. The company from Zimbabwe is ready to buy about 200 MAZ trucks / V. Sergeeva // [Electron resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/special/economics/view/kompanija-iz-zimbabwe-gotova-zakupit-okolo-200-gruzovikov-maz-333067-2019/>

African Trade and Development Bank, to which the Belarusian Development Bank "opened a credit line of \$70 million in 2018 for the relevant needs"²⁰⁴.

Interesting opportunities are also opening up for the Belarusian side in terms of implementing joint projects with partners from Zimbabwe in the field of geological exploration and mining. In particular, "Belarus expects to start commercial mining in Zimbabwe in March 2019"²⁰⁵. A total of five joint Belarusian and Zimbabwean enterprises have already been established in this country. Belarusian geologists have been working in southern Africa for a year and a half and have found "sufficiently large deposits of minerals" there²⁰⁶.

If we talk about the prospects of cooperation between the two countries in general, among the areas in which Minsk and Harare are going to cooperate most actively are agriculture, construction, energy, as well as scientific and educational spheres. With regard to agriculture, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food of Belarus and the Ministry of Land, Agriculture, Water Resources, Climate and Rural Settlements of Zimbabwe signed a Memorandum of Understanding in January 2019. This document can and should be a prologue to a number of projects. This includes "the establishment of joint ventures in Zimbabwe for the production and processing of meat and milk"²⁰⁷. One of them may become a meat and milk production and processing enterprise with the participation of Machulishchi Agro-Industrial Complex, which has already sent its proposal to the Zimbabwean side. "The cost of the project, if the contract is signed, will exceed \$26 million."²⁰⁸

In the energy sector, "the participation of Belarusian companies in the construction of hydrotechnical facilities, turnkey construction of power plants on solar panels"²⁰⁹ may become promising. A concrete step towards strengthening the bilateral Belarusian-

²⁰⁴ The Development Bank will credit the supplies of Belarusian equipment in Zimbabwe [Electronic Resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/bank-razvitija-prokredituet-postavki-belorusskoj-tehniki-v-zimbabve-333485-2019/>

²⁰⁵ In March, Belarus intends to start commercial production of minerals in Zimbabwe [Electron Resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-v-marte-namerena-pristupit-k-promyshlennoj-dobyche-poleznyh-iskopaemyh-v-zimbabve-333402-2019/>

²⁰⁶ It's the same place.

²⁰⁷ Matveev, V. Cooperation with Belarus will provide opportunities for development of Zimbabwe economy and export potential / V. Matveev // [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/sotrudnichestvo-s-belarusiju-dast-vozmozhnosti-dlja-razvitija-ekonomiki-i-eksportnogo-potentsiala-333049-2019/>

²⁰⁸ Matveev, V.V. New contracts on delivery of the Belarusian equipment in Zimbabwe are being worked out (in Russian) / V. Matveev // [Electronic Repe6surs]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/prorabatyvajutsja-novye-kontrakty-na-postavku-belorusskoj-tehniki-v-zimbabve-333019-2019/>

²⁰⁹ Negotiations with President Emmerson Mnangagwa of Zimbabwe [Electronic Resource]. - - 2019. - URL: http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/ofitsialnyj-vizit-prezidenta-respubliki-zimbabve-emmersona-mnangagvy-20303/

Wibbian scientific cooperation was the Memorandum of Understanding on Science, Technology and Innovation signed in January 2019 in Minsk between the State Committee on Science and Technology of Belarus and the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology of Zimbabwe. This document envisages the establishment of a bilateral commission that will deal with the formation of potential joint scientific projects. Despite the fact that the Zimbabwean market is new for Belarus, we are already talking about the most promising areas of scientific cooperation, proposals on which have already been formed. They speak, in particular, about joint projects "in the spheres of agriculture, medicine, machine and instrument making, energy"²¹⁰.

Speaking about the intentions of the parties to develop cooperation in the field of education, we should immediately mention the Memorandum of Cooperation signed in January 2019 between the Ministry of Education of Belarus and the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology of Zimbabwe, which relates to cooperation in the field of specialized secondary, higher education, science and technology. It should be noted that "similar memoranda on their areas of cooperation have been concluded with the participation of the Belarusian State University and the Republican Institute of Vocational Education of Belarus"²¹¹. The appearance of these documents is dictated by the fact that "developing trade and economic relations between Belarus and Zimbabwe need to be accompanied by appropriate training"²¹². Statistics says that today only six Zimbabwean students are studying at Belarusian universities. It is clear that in the near future there can and should be many more. The agreement on mutual recognition of educational documents by Belarus and Zimbabwe, which is being prepared today by the parties, should contribute to such dynamics.

As we can see, the range of partnership relations between Belarus and Zimbabwe has expanded significantly over the past few years, which puts the urgent issue of establishing the Belarusian-Wibbian intergovernmental commission on trade and economic cooperation in the practical plane of the bilateral relations agenda, which

²¹⁰ Belarus and Zimbabwe are planning to establish a commission on cooperation in science and technology [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/special/society/view/belarus-i-zimbabwe-planirujut-sozdat-komissiju-po-sotrudnichestvu-v-nauke-i-tehnologijah-333035-2019/>

²¹¹ Belarus and Zimbabwe signed a package of documents on cooperation in various spheres [Electronic Resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/politics/view/belarus-i-zimbabwe-podpisali-paket-dokumentov-o-sotrudnichestve-v-raznyh-sferah-333033-2019/>

²¹² Belarus and Zimbabwe are preparing an agreement on mutual recognition of educational documents [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/special/society/view/belarus-i-zimbabwe-gotovjat-soglashenie-o-vzaimnom-priznanii-dokumentov-ob-obrazovanii-333074-2019/>

could "better stimulate the implementation of the plans"²¹³. We must assume that 2019 will be the starting point for the activities of this much-needed entity today.

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²¹³ Negotiations with President Emmerson Mnangagwa of Zimbabwe [Electronic Resource]. - – 2019. - URL: http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/ofitsialnyj-vizit-prezidenta-respubliki-zimbabve-emmersona-mnangagvy-20303/

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Belarus - Algeria: the partnership priorities will be set by the road map.

Algeria is among those countries of the African continent with which Belarus sees "considerable potential for the development of bilateral relations"²¹⁴. In February 2018, the first visit to Belarus in the history of Belarusian-Algerian relations, established back in October 1995, took place; the Foreign Minister of this African country agreed to establish economic relations between the countries and make them more intensive; the parties also signed the first intergovernmental documents in the history of bilateral relations, including the agreement on the establishment of the Joint Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation. The first meeting of this new formation is to be held back in 2018 to agree on a road map of Belarusian-Algerian cooperation.

Belarus' interest in Algeria is due to a number of serious circumstances. First of all, "this state is the largest by area on the African continent and borders with several countries, which opens up great opportunities for Belarus in the trade and economic sphere"²¹⁵. With a population of more than 40 million, Algeria ranks second after Egypt among the Arab States. The country is rich in minerals, including natural gas and oil (9th and 16th place in the world respectively), which form a significant part of the gross domestic product and most of its exports. In addition, the most developed industries in Algeria include electrical products, including smartphones, televisions, washing machines, as well as medicines and food products. As a result, "Algeria's significant fuel potential, rapidly growing population and sustainable and dynamic economy make it one of the new leaders in the Arab-Muslim world"²¹⁶.

This current trend in the development of the African State is eloquently complemented by the fact that, politically, "Algeria remains one of the few countries in the Arab world that has not been affected by destabilization and has retained the capacity to conduct

²¹⁴ Congratulations to President Abdelaziz Bouteflika of Algeria on Revolution Day [Electronic resource]. -- 2014. - URL: http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/pozdravlenie-prezidenta-alzhira-abdeljajiza-buteflika-s-natsionalnym-prazdnikom-10092/

²¹⁵ Meeting with Algerian Foreign Minister Abdelkader Messahel [Electronic resource]. -- 2018. - URL: http://president.gov.by/ru/search_ru/getExtendedResults/?query=search_type=type_all_wordsroup=0rom_day=20rom_month=2rom_year=2018o_day=20o_month=2o_year=2018search_type_sort=descearch_ok.x=34&search_ok.y=8&search_mode=&search_node=news&search_node_id=374&search_title_name=events

²¹⁶ Zherlitsyna, N.A. Strategic partnership between Russia and Algeria in the conditions of the crisis: potential and challenges (in Russian) // University Bulletin. -- 2015. -- №8. -- C. 24.

its own foreign policy"²¹⁷. The new Algerian Government, formed after the May 2017 parliamentary elections, has made economic development a priority in order to direct "more efforts towards economic diversification in the near future, as it cannot be fully dependent on the rise in oil prices on international markets"²¹⁸. In this regard, the pragmatism of the visit of Algerian Minister A. Messahel to Belarus and the establishment of the Joint Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation, which "will serve as a basis for further development of cooperation in the economy between our countries", is evident²¹⁹.

Statistics of the Belarusian-Algerian trade and economic interaction show that the maximum trade turnover between the parties was recorded in 2012, exceeding \$22 million. Belarusian exports to this African country reached a record volume - over \$18 million - a year earlier. It was then based on trucks, tractors, rolled metal, nitrogen fertilizers, oil products, tires. It is believed that "among the Belarusian enterprises the greatest success on the Algerian market is now achieved by JSC "MTZ" - for several years in Algeria, an assembly production of tractors "Belarus", which are then sold on the local market²²⁰. To be absolutely precise, the assembly production of Belarusian tractors was organized in 2011 on the basis of the Algerian company Belarus Motors Algeria in the Algerian governorate of Setif. But in the following years the trade turnover between the countries acquired negative dynamics, which made the parties approach the topic of restoring the former positions in the interaction much more systematically. And the establishment of the Joint Belarusian-Algerian Commission on Trade, Economic and Scientific-Technical Cooperation is only the first step along this path.

The next step in this direction is to build up inter-parliamentary ties so that "parliamentarians of the two countries actively form the legal framework of the Belarusian-Algerian cooperation"²²¹. And such a step will be taken in the near future, as "the convention on avoidance of double taxation, agreements on trade-economic, military-technical and investment cooperation, as well as agreements on cooperation

²¹⁷ Balmasov, S. Algeria: "anti-recessionary" partner of Russia in the Arab world / S. Balmasov // [Electron resource]. - - 2016. - URL: https://islam-today.ru/islam_v_mire/bliznij-vostok/alzir-antikrizisnyj-partner-rossij-v-arabskom-mire/

²¹⁸ The new Prime Minister of Algeria has prioritized the economic development of the country [Electronic Resource]. - - 2017. - URL: http://russian.news.cn/2017-05/26/c_136318214.htm

²¹⁹ Transcript of the approach to the press of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belarus V. Makei following the meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Algeria A. Messahel (February 20, 2018, Minsk) [Electron resource]. - - 2018. - URL: http://mfa.gov.by/press/news_mfa/a52a6923d31941bf.html

²²⁰ National exposition of Belarus in Algeria [Electron resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <https://www.belinterexpo.by/about/news/nacionalnaya-ekspoziciya-belarusi-v-alzhire.html/>

²²¹ S. Savko, S. Myasnikovich suggests Algeria to intensify inter-parliamentary cooperation / S. Savko // [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/politics/view/mjasnikovich-predlagaet-alzhiru-aktivizirovat-mezhparlamentskoe-sotrudnichestvo-290692-2018/>

in the field of agriculture, sanitary veterinary medicine are already under consideration for signing".²²²which should contribute to the intensification of bilateral relations, as well as increase supplies from Belarus. Such domestic goods as tractors and other agricultural machinery, trucks, buses, dump trucks, nitrogen fertilizers, tires, meat and dairy products, milk powder, timber are now among the points of growth of Belarusian exports to this African country.

It should be noted in particular that the Belarusian side is interested in agriculture, as "Algeria is the world's second importer of dairy products.²²³who buys tens of billions of dollars in these products every year. Consumption of dairy products of various kinds is traditional here and constitutes a significant part of the daily diet of the population. Households spend up to a quarter of their budget on dairy products. It is a fact that a significant proportion of dairy products in Algeria are produced from dried milk imported in large quantities from abroad. At the same time, we are working to develop our own dairy industry. That is why "in the current conditions it would be advisable for Belarusian enterprises to focus not only on promoting finished dairy products, but also on creating joint ventures, the products of which can be sold both in the domestic Algerian market and in the markets of neighboring countries"²²⁴.

Another promising area of interaction is education, as since Soviet times, "more than 400 Algerian specialists with higher and secondary specialized education have been trained in Belarusian educational institutions, as well as 14 candidates of science"²²⁵. And today there are all the prerequisites to continue this cooperation, within the framework of which the Belarusian side is ready to provide personnel training, organize internships in specialties of interest to the Algerian side, including engineering and technical, as well as in such areas as agriculture, medicine and military affairs.

One of the important directions of updating the Belarusian-Algerian cooperation in 2018 should also be the intensification of exhibition and fair activities of the parties. In particular, as part of the already mentioned visit to Belarus by Algerian Foreign Minister A. Messahel, Belarusian exporting enterprises were "invited to exhibitions that are held in Algeria"²²⁶. At the same time, the Algerian side expressed its

²²² Belarus - Algeria [Electronic resource]. - -- 2017. - URL: http://egypt.mfa.gov.by/ru/blr_algeria/

²²³ Belarus Algeria prospects [Electronic resource]. - -- 2017. - URL: <https://belarus24.by/news/economics/belarus-alzhir-perspektivy/>

²²⁴ Algeria [Electronic resource]. - -- 2018. - URL: <https://export.by/algeria>

²²⁵ Belarus - Algeria [Electronic resource]. - -- 2017. - URL: http://egypt.mfa.gov.by/ru/blr_algeria/

²²⁶ Grishkevich, A. The first session of the Belarusian-Algerian commission will be held this year in Algeria / A. Grishkevich // [Electronic resource]. - -- 2018. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/politics/view/pervoe-zasedanie-belorusko-alzhirskoj-komissii-projdet-v-etom-godu-v-alzhire-290659-2018/>

commitment to take part in the upcoming international exhibition "Belagro" in Minsk in summer 2018.

Updating of the exhibition and fair vector in the development of the Belarusian-Algerian partnership seems to be explained by the successful holding of the first National Exposition of the Republic of Belarus at the 50th international exhibition FIA-2017, held in Algeria in May 2017 and attended by "about 1 thousand companies from 40 countries"²²⁷. The fact is that this exhibition is really the largest and most authoritative exhibition event in Algeria. In addition to Belarus, China, Cuba, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Poland, South Africa, Turkey, United States of America were represented there only with their national expositions. There are 28 countries in total. Russia was chosen as the guest of honor at the exhibition.

Such large industrial enterprises as JSC 228"Gomselmash", JSC "MAZ" - the managing company of the holding "Belavtomaz", JSC "Minsk Electrotechnical Plant named after V.I. Kozlov", JSC "Minsk Tractor Plant" became participants of the Belarusian national exposition at FIA-2017. In particular, with regard to the equipment of the Belarusian automakers, "representatives of public services of Algeria noted the achievements of Minsk plant in the design and assembly of municipal equipment, in particular <...> channel washer MAZ-4926W2.

Within the framework of the collective stand of the Belarusian State Committee on Science and Technology more than 120 scientific and technical developments created in the subordinate organizations were presented: Ministry of Education - Belarusian State University, Scientific and Technological Park "Polytechnic" of the Belarusian National Technical University, Belarusian Institute of System Analysis; National Academy of Sciences of Belarus - SNU "Institute of Powder Metallurgy", JSC "NPO Center", RUE "SPC NAS of Belarus on Mechanization of Rural Mechanization".

Only the Belarusian State University presented more than 20 developments of scientific and technical products at the national exposition. The visitors were particularly interested in such products as: a complex of equipment for the production of products from elastic, integral and rigid polyurethane foams and the application of sealing contours of polyurethane and silicone compositions; veterinary preparations based on recombinant regulatory animal proteins; technology for pre-sowing treatment of seeds of vegetable, grain, medicinal crops and seeds of forest plantations. "Visitors

²²⁷ Belarus and Algeria have all prerequisites for expanding cooperation - Raczkow [Electronic resource]. -- 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-alzhir-imejut-vse-predposylki-dlja-rasshirenija-sotrudnichestva-rachkov-247000-2017/>

²²⁸ FIA-2017 exhibition in Algeria [Electronic resource]. -- 2017. - URL: <https://avtotehnolog-tula.ru/fia-2017>

were also actively interested in the possibility of obtaining education at BSU. During the exhibition, more than 40 talks were held with representatives of enterprises, organizations, scientific institutions, businesses and individuals of Algeria²²⁹.

The National Exposition of the Republic of Belarus was visited by a considerable number of visitors, from agricultural producers in Algeria to representatives of large companies. "Algerian business circles have expressed interest in the developments of Belarusian scientists in the fields of agricultural engineering, electrical industry, alternative energy, creation of new materials, production of absorbent materials, medical products²³⁰. And it gave its concrete results: in total within the national exposition "10 protocols of intent and 3 cooperation agreements were signed"²³¹. In particular, memorandums of cooperation were signed between Minsk Tractor Works and Belarus Motor Algeria, as well as between the NAS of Belarus and potential partners. In addition, the Belarusian State University and the Huari Boumedien University of Science and Technology have concluded that it is necessary to develop an agreement on scientific and technical cooperation, and the structural units of these universities - the A.N. Sevchenko Institute of Applied Physical Problems and the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Engineering Solutions - have signed a protocol of intent to conduct joint research and development in the field of applied physical problems.

In general, participation in the 50th International Industrial Exhibition FIA-2017 allowed the Belarusian side to demonstrate to potential partners from Algeria the high level of scientific and innovation potential of the Republic of Belarus, a wide range of scientific and technical areas that can form the basis of the road map of Belarusian-Algerian cooperation developed by the parties today. Participation of Belarusian enterprises and organizations in the Algerian exhibitions in 2018 may bring a lot of new interesting ideas and projects to the interaction between Belarus and Algeria.

One of them - the 51st International Industrial Exhibition FIA-2018 - will bring together again in May 2018 in the SAFEX exhibition center about a thousand companies from more than 40 countries. Among them are manufacturers of machinery and equipment for metallurgy, mechanical engineering, power engineering, construction, mining and chemical industry, chemical products for agriculture,

²²⁹ International exhibition "FIA 2017" - results of BSU participation [Electronic resource]. -- 2017. - URL: <http://research.bsu.by/2017/05/17/fia-2017-the-results-of-bsu-participation/>

²³⁰ National exposition of the Republic of Belarus at the international exhibition FIA-2017 in Algeria [Electronic resource]. -- 2017. - URL: https://www.cci.by/ru/content/2017_news_99

²³¹ 50th International Industrial Exhibition "FIA 2017" (8-13 May 2017, Algeria) [Electronic resource]. -- 2017. - URL: <http://www.belisa.org.by/ru/actions/exhibitions/b694dbc47be304e0.html>

construction materials and technologies, products and technologies for pulp and paper, rubber, textile industry, railway vehicles and cars.

This thematic diversity in one exhibition is characteristic of modern Algeria, which is currently in need of "modernization and construction of new facilities to supply cities and towns with drinking water, the construction of new treatment plants. The national government also plans to develop public infrastructure"²³². Suffice it to say that in the next few years Algeria is going to invest seven billion dollars in railways alone. In addition, upgrades will affect the existing airports and sea ports here. The government plans to establish joint ventures in the petrochemical area. With the participation of foreign investors, new power plants will be built on Algerian soil, using natural gas and alternative energy sources as fuel, as well as gas and oil pipelines.

It should be noted that, overall, the year 2018 promises to be very busy in terms of organizing international exhibitions in Algeria in a wide variety of thematic areas. As a rule, their venue is the capital city - a port city where "engineering, food, textile, chemical and oil refining industries are developed"²³³. Thus, the first decade of April is scheduled for the exhibition of food, beverages, equipment and technology for the food industry DJAZAGRO 2018, the exposition of which usually presents delicacies, confectionery and bakery products, food additives and ingredients, processing technology and production of products.

The last decade of April is the time of the international exhibition of construction machinery and materials BATIMATEC Expo 2018, which this year celebrates its 20th anniversary. During this time it has become "the largest construction industry event in Algeria, involving major agents, distributors and government representatives".²³⁴ as it already covers most of the major sectors of the construction industry. Among the main sections of its exposition should also be mentioned equipment for water supply and carpentry works, climatic systems, materials for wall and floor covering, as well as equipment for home security. Three more major exhibition events will take place in this African country in the second half of 2018. In the last decade of September - the third international exhibition of products and services for mines and quarries MICA 2018, which will bring together over 70 exhibitors. It will be accompanied by the North African Pharmaceutical Industry Forum Maghreb Pharma Expo 2018, where a wide variety of pharmaceutical ingredients and pharmaceutical products will be presented.

²³² FIA 2018 - 51st International Algerian Industrial Exhibition [Electronic Resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.expoclub.ru/db/exhibition/view/6754/>

²³³ Exhibitions in Algeria region [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://worldexpo.pro/region/alir>

²³⁴ BATIMATEC Expo 208 [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - Access URL: <https://worldexpo.pro/exhibition/batimatec-expo-2018>

Finally, the international exhibition Algeria Electricity & Water Expo 2018 is scheduled for early December, which will be held for the tenth time. It is the largest forum dedicated to the Algerian electricity sector, whose role in that African country is constantly growing. The fact is that back in 2002, reforms in the energy sector were launched here, which brought dozens of foreign companies to Algerian land. But even at present, "in order to maintain and meet the growing demand for electricity, which is increasing by 2-4 per cent annually, Algeria needs to add 1,500 MW annually to new generation capacities and related infrastructures such as transmission lines and substations²³⁵. Perhaps for that reason, too, the Algerian Government recently signed a contract with an Egyptian electrical company for the construction of 550 kilometres of high-voltage transmission lines.

The problem of the constant shortage of drinking water is equally relevant for Algeria. It should be recalled that here about 80 percent of the country's territory is located in desert zones, where the amount of rainfall is almost zero. This is why the upcoming exhibition in December is attracting increased interest from both manufacturers and consumers in the field of electricity and water management. It is quite possible that Belarusian exporters in these areas as well should use this interesting opportunity to promote their business interests in the Algerian market.

²³⁵ Electricity & Water Expo 2018 [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://worldexpo.pro/exhibition/algeria-electricity-water-expo-2018>

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