

Partnership Vector - Kazakhstan

Belarus and Kazakhstan signed a treaty on social and economic cooperation until 2026 in November 2017. In this document, the parties outlined the implementation of a qualitatively new stage in bilateral relations. At the end of June 2021, during the visit of the Belarusian government delegation to this Central Asian country, a task corresponding to this new stage was announced - to reach new indicators in mutual trade by the end of the year. In February 2022, summing up the results of the last year, the parties stated at the highest level that the Belarusian-Kazakh trade turnover exceeded one billion dollars for the first time in history. The commodity distribution network of the Belarusian companies in Kazakhstan includes more than 40 companies and over 170 dealer network entities. A number of joint assembling productions of Belarusian machinery and equipment are also operating there. In October 2022, Astana hosted a high-level working meeting of representatives of the governments of Belarus and Kazakhstan, at which the parties outlined priorities in bilateral relations, including in industrial cooperation. How this mutually beneficial cooperation is developing is discussed in the proposed study.



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Chronicle of integration interaction

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The ideology of the Eurasian partnership

The world community, which has entered the period of global changes, today objectively faces the problem of reducing the capacity of national states to ensure their sustainable socio-economic development and security. Only powerful regional associations can neutralise the negative effects of globalisation. An effective model for such an integration association of the peoples of Belarus, Kazakhstan and Russia is already emerging in the Eurasian space: "By developing the Customs Union and the Common Economic Space, we are moving towards a Eurasian Economic Union to ensure harmonised, complementary cooperation with other countries, international economic associations and the European Union with a view to creating a common economic space"¹.

As we can see, this model of Eurasian interaction is aimed at the integration future of the entire planet, provides for the benefit of each participant in the integration processes and involves the use of aggregate potential in the interests of all participants. Obviously, it is possible to achieve success in the implementation of the declared objectives only if common efforts are combined, when the idea of ensuring good-neighbourly relations and the ideology of intercivilizational dialogue become defining. In the current fragile balance of geopolitical forces, globalization processes have turned almost all the states of the planet into neighbouring countries, for which the topic of seeking and finding a consensus is especially relevant, since "consensus is not just concessions and compromises, it is primarily a joint effort to create common values and a common

¹ A meeting of the EurAsEC Interstate Council was held in Moscow on 9 December. - 2010. - URL: <http://president.gov.by/press102182.html#doc>

socio-cultural space in which different civilizations can freely develop and interact"² .

It is clear that the role of the media cannot be overestimated in the creation of common ideological values and a common socio-cultural space in integration associations, as "the absence of a well-functioning system of information interaction is a significant obstacle to the establishment of not only humanitarian, but also business contacts"³ . This issue - creation of a common socio-cultural and information space within the borders of the fledgling Eurasian Economic Union - is especially relevant for Belarus today along the Minsk - Astana line, as it is much less developed by researchers of international journalism than the issue of creation of a common information space of the Union State of Belarus and Russia. However, this does not make the topic of Belarus-Kazakhstan information interaction any less important. Moreover, in the long term, it is the established system of cooperation between Belarus and Kazakhstan in the media sphere that can become a kind of matrix for the creation of a common ideology of a multilateral Eurasian information partnership. That is why today it is advisable to focus on the current level and prospects of Belarusian-Kazakhstani media cooperation.

Back in 2000, the governments of the Republic of Belarus and the Republic of Kazakhstan signed an agreement on cooperation in the sphere of press and information, in which they agreed "to

2 Kolesnik, V.S. Conflict of Values in Inter-Civilization Dialogue / V.S. Kolesnik // [Electronic resource]. - 2011. - URL: <http://dom-hors.ru/issue/fik/1-2011-1-2/kolesnik.pdf>

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

support and encourage mutually beneficial cooperation between mass media editorial boards and information services (agencies) of their states, the specific conditions and forms of which will be determined by the participants themselves"⁴ . The purpose of this document is obvious: the desire to form a single or common information space and to strengthen friendly relations between the two brotherly nations of Belarus and Kazakhstan. Two years later, the governments of Belarus and Kazakhstan, together with the governments of Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tajikistan, in an agreement on cooperation in the dissemination of mass information concretised the forms of interaction between the media of their countries: "to promote favourable conditions for a broad and free mutual dissemination of mass information in order to further deepen knowledge about the life of the peoples of their states"⁵ . As we can see, ten years ago, both Belarus and Kazakhstan placed high hopes on the international segment of national journalism in both countries for adequate and comprehensive coverage of bilateral relations. And life itself prompted and prompted an abundance of topics for their journalistic reflection.

Suffice it to say that between 2005 and 2010, trade turnover between Belarus and Kazakhstan "grew more than fourfold, from \$215 million to \$870 million"⁶ . The Treaty on Friendship and Cooperation, signed as early as January 17, 1996 in Minsk, defined

4 Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Government of the Republic of Belarus on Co-operation in the Field of Press and Information [Electronic resource]. - 2000. - URL: kazakhstan.news-city.info/docs/systemsn/dok_oerajb.htm.

5 Agreement on Cooperation in the Dissemination of Mass Media [Electronic resource]. - 2002. - URL: pravo.kulichki.com/zak/megd/meg00645.htm

6 8 Meeting of the Intergovernmental Belarus-Kazakhstan Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation [Electronic resource]. - 2011. - URL: www.kazakhstan.belembassy.org/rus/news/~page_m12=1~news_m12=461094

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

A breakthrough in Belarus-Kazakhstan relations has been outlined in the last few years, when in 2009 agreements were reached on cooperation in the fields of industrial, scientific and technical cooperation, healthcare, civil defense, prevention and liquidation of emergency situations, higher and postgraduate education, tourism, archives, as well as in the agricultural machinery industry, joint production of medicines, baby food and dairy products⁷. At the same time, the parties adopted the Road Map, a programme of economic cooperation for 2009-2016 that encompassed a number of key promising areas:

1) Ensuring the stable development of economic cooperation aimed at boosting the economies of both states;

7 Trade and Economic Cooperation between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Republic of Belarus [Electronic resource]. - 2011. - URL: www.kazembassy.by/kaz_bel_otn/torg_econom.html.

- 2) Further development of trade and economic relations on equal and mutually beneficial terms;
- 3) removal of barriers to mutual trade;
- 4) Cooperation in implementing institutional reforms, ensuring equal opportunities and guarantees for all economic entities, creating conditions for fair competition;
- 5) Creating incentives for production growth, investing in its development, and introducing the latest achievements of science and advanced technology;
- 6) improving the quality and competitiveness of products;
- 7) Creation of a system of state support for priority areas of inter-state and inter-regional cooperation;
- 8) formation of targeted interstate projects and programmes of economic cooperation;
- 9) preservation and development of labour and intellectual potential⁸.

An important detail: among the main areas of long-term economic cooperation, there are also measures for information exchange, where we can include the whole range of issues relating to interaction between the media of the two countries.

A joint statement, already adopted in 2011 following talks between the presidents of Belarus and Kazakhstan, instructs the governments of the two countries "to focus their efforts on priority areas of economic, scientific, technical and humanitarian cooperation"⁹, which include: developing energy dialogue; increasing mutual turnover of goods and services; creating

⁸ On Signing the Treaty between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Republic of Belarus on Long-Term Economic Cooperation for 2009-2016 [Electronic resource]. - 2009. - URL: http://ru.government.kz/docs/u090000821_20090610.htm

⁹ On 24 May, the presidents of Belarus and Kazakhstan held talks in Astana [Electronic resource]. - 2011. - URL: <http://president.gov.by/press114645.html#doc>

favourable conditions for expanding productive contacts between business circles; deepening production cooperation; and establishing a regional economic cooperation centre.

International journalists covering integration processes in the post-Soviet space should also take into account that in order to successfully implement their joint plans of cooperation, the Belarusian and Kazakh parties have established various mechanisms of bilateral cooperation, including the Intergovernmental Belarus-Kazakhstan Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation, the Belarus-Kazakhstan Commission on Scientific and Technical Cooperation and the Belarus-Kazakhstan Business Forum.

All these measures to intensify bilateral interaction have yielded powerful results. In 2010, the volume of mutual trade between Belarus and Kazakhstan more than doubled. Moreover, this growth is typical both for the Belarusian export, which increased almost by half, and for the Kazakhstani import - the growth by 5.4 times. The fact that in 2010 the nomenclature of Belarusian exports to Kazakhstan grew by 77 names at once and reached 404 commodity items speaks for itself. It is noteworthy that the noted trends and positive dynamics of the mutual trade continued in 2011; Belarusian-Kazakhstani trade increased by another five percent with a trade surplus of 325 million dollars for the Belarusian side within eight months of the year. It happened owing to the growth in supplies from Belarus of tractors and tractor trucks, milk and cream, trucks and malt, carpentry construction products and furniture, frozen beef, wires and cables. And new items of Belarusian exports include vegetables, glassware, newsprint, and recreational floats.

The development of industrial cooperation between Belarus and Kazakhstan can and should become a topical topic for

journalistic research in the Belarusian and Kazakhstani press. After all, over the last two years, 12 assembly factories of Belarusian equipment were set up in Kazakhstan, four of which appeared in 2011. Belarusian quarry and mining equipment, tractors, combine harvesters, engines, balers, lifts, several types of trailed agricultural machinery, as well as a project to assemble cardan shafts has been launched at our partners in the Customs Union and the Common Economic Space. "The task in 2012 is to increase the production of energy-saving tractors in Kazakhstan to 1.5 thousand units, as well as to implement new joint projects"¹⁰. Issues related to organization of assembly production of machine tools, grain drying complexes for processing and storage of grain are being studied and discussed with the Kazakh partners. Plans also include supplying Kazakhstani agricultural producers with Belarusian-made machinery and equipment through the joint venture KazBelLeasing, and a promising project to open a Belarus-Kazakhstan industrial and technical park of agricultural and municipal machinery, which will unite producers of the two countries. On the other hand, today we are talking about deliveries of Kazakhstani oil and oil products and electricity to Belarus, and the establishment of Kazakhstani logistics centres on Belarusian soil.

Innovation and investment cooperation between Belarus and Kazakhstan, which by definition should be in the focus of the sectoral press of the two countries, will also be updated in the current five-year period. In particular, the establishment of the Scientific and Educational Consortium of Belarusian and Kazakh universities and research institutes that was signed during the visit of

10 In Kazakhstan, in 2010-2011, 12 assembly facilities of Belarusian machinery were established [Electronic resource]. - 2011. - URL: www.government.by/ru/content/4072/print

the Belarusian President to Astana in May 2011 will facilitate the implementation of joint cutting-edge developments in production. Seventeen Belarusian universities and research institutes and 13 Kazakh universities became participants of the consortium. The L.N. Gumilev Eurasian National University was chosen as the head organization to coordinate the activities of the consortium from the Kazakh side. In total, "52 direct agreements have been concluded between Kazakhstani and Belarusian universities"¹¹ .

Interregional cooperation is an important component of the bilateral Belarus-Kazakhstan relations. This is explained by the fact that "Belarus is attractive for almost all regions of Kazakhstan, as the range of products produced here is quite wide"¹² . In particular, Kazakhstan's regions are interested in both agricultural machinery and agricultural products, ranging from seeds to agricultural machinery, and large-tonnage machinery. For instance, the Kostanay Region has set up production of Belarusian combines, trailed units and other agricultural equipment. A platform of joint projects is successfully developing in the North Kazakhstan region. In May 2009, the assembly of Belarusian tractors was launched in Semey, where more than two thousand tractor kits will be supplied in 2011. The rapidly developing mining industry in Kazakhstan dictates the demand for Belarusian quarry equipment. In this regard, a big project to assemble BELAZ vehicles is underway in Karaganda Region. Pavlodar is a site for assembling Mogilev lifts. In 2012 the same Belarusian production will be launched in Ust-Kamenogorsk. Organization of joint ventures for processing of fruit and vegetable

¹¹ On 25 May, the official visit of the President of Belarus to Kazakhstan ended [Electronic resource]. - 2011. - URL: <http://president.gov.by/press115738.html#doc>

¹² Smirnov, A. The future is for joint forms of interaction / A. Smirnov // Union of Entrepreneurs. - 2009. - 4 September.

products in Kazakhstan is now in the works. In this connection, an agreement between Gomel and Almaty regions was signed in the fall of 2011. All these facts suggest that "as soon as businessmen and entrepreneurs start visiting each other's businesses to sign contracts, specific agreements, things will start picking up. To this end, three years ago we set the task of intensifying interregional and sectoral cooperation"¹³.

It is thought that regional, district and city newspapers of the two countries should play an important role in providing media support for these areas of cooperation. Especially since the Programme of Economic Cooperation between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Republic of Belarus for 2009-2019 contains a reminder-request to the media of the two countries to conduct activities on information exchange and establishment of business contacts among the main areas of long-term economic cooperation. Given the rapid integration processes in the post-Soviet and Eurasian space, the time has come to fill these humanitarian and information cooperation areas with concrete content. It is obvious that the successful realisation of the creative tasks set before the international journalists of the two countries depends solely on their professional skills.

In this regard, it is advisable to draw the attention of representatives of the international segment of Belarusian journalism to one of the real resources for strengthening information support of Belarusian-Kazakhstani cooperation. It is known that quite a few Belarusians live in Kazakhstan. To be more precise, the Belarusian diaspora in Kazakhstan is united into twelve structures operating in

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

Almaty, Astana, Karaganda, Kostanai, Pavlodar, Petropavlovsk Ust-Kamenogorsk, Aktau, Aktobe, Akmola and the East Kazakhstan Region. Moreover, cooperation with compatriots in Kazakhstan is now officially carried out by: Stoln District Executive Committee and Belarus Cultural Centre in Pavlodar; Dubrovsk District Executive Committee and Belarus Cultural Centre in Atbasar; Vetka District Executive Committee and Belarus National Cultural Centre in Almaty; Gomel District Executive Committee and North Kazakhstan Regional Belarusian Centre "Radzima" Public Association in Petropavlovsk; Belynichi and Kirov District Executive Committees and East Kazakhstan Belarusian Centre in Ust-Kamenogorsk¹⁴. But how much can we learn about this cooperation from the local newspapers of the mentioned Belarusian regions? It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that the potential of media provision here reminds us of the untouched "information virgin land". This issue is also very relevant for our Kazakhstani colleagues - journalists covering the international relations of Kazakhstan's regions.

All these facts and observations lead to the conclusion that the issue of information support to integration processes in the post-Soviet space will become even more relevant in the coming years, as "mass media, mass communications play an increasingly important role in social, socio-economic and cultural processes. They are not only a channel of information, but also an effective tool for projecting and shaping political realities"¹⁵. A very eloquent

14 Regional co-operation [Electronic resource]. - 2011. - URL: www.belarus21.by/ru/main_menu/compatriots/sotr

15 Proleskovskiy, O.V. To participants of the 13-th International Scientific-Practical Conference "Journalism-2011: state, problems and prospects" / O.V. Proleskovskiy // Journalism-2011: state, problems and prospects: matters of the 13-th International Scientific-Practical Conference marking the 90-th anniversary of Belarusian State

illustration of this reasoning are the well-known articles by V. Putin, A. Lukashenko, N. Nazarbayev, published recently in the newspaper *Izvestiya*. These media publications not only gave a powerful impetus to the debate on the forms of advanced integration in the CIS and brought the very process of thinking about the problems there to a qualitatively new level, but also actually laid the foundation for the ideology of the Eurasian information partnership, setting the necessary publicistic tone for the discussion of ways to seek compromise and find consensus within the framework of the Eurasian Economic Union being created. ¹⁶International journalism has a responsible role to play in promoting and developing this ideology. It is called upon "to promote understanding and mutual understanding, to reduce the pathos of high-sounding phrases, to help us understand the complex interweaving of different interests and the diverse aspects of the problem <...> This journalism should today increasingly set itself the task of connecting local and national publics in order to bring them, in turn, into the global community.

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

University. Minutes of the 90-th anniversary of the Belarusian Diplomatic Academy, 8-9n. 2011, Minsk / edited by S.V. Dubovik [ed. - Vol. 13. - Minsk : BDU, 2011. - C. 3.
16 Muench, R. The role of journalism in communication society / R. Muench // [Electronic resource]. - 1991. - URL: <http://www.academy-go.ru/Site/JournalPR/Publications/RMunch.shtml>

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20 years of cooperation and partnership in the context of Eurasian communication

September 2012 marked the 20th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Belarus and the Republic of Kazakhstan. During this time, the two countries have "undergone a difficult path of formation and development of statehood, consolidation of sovereignty and independence, ensuring a decent life for their citizens <...> Today Belarus and Kazakhstan are strategic partners and allies. Active bilateral cooperation is systemic in nature, cooperation is successfully developing in all areas.¹⁷ . These processes have become especially visible in recent years, when the post-Soviet space began to move towards deep integration and communication within the framework of the Customs Union and the Eurasian Economic Space.

Back in 2009, Belarus and Kazakhstan adopted the Economic Cooperation Program for 2009-2016, the Road Map, which has become a fundamental document in the practical development of bilateral relations. And in the following years, the partner countries managed to increase their commodity turnover. In 2011, Belarusian-Kazakh trade reached nearly \$800 million. And the presidents of the two countries set the task "to bring the trade turnover up to \$3 billion, and then gradually to \$5 billion. Fulfillment of this task is

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

quite realistic in the conditions of cooperation of the two states within the framework of the Common Economic Space"¹⁸ .

Strict adherence to the Roadmap allowed the two countries "to give a qualitatively new dynamic to bilateral trade and economic cooperation"¹⁹ , with Belarus beginning to consider Kazakhstan "as a supporting platform for strengthening its economic presence in the Central Asian region and ready to become a 'western gateway' for Kazakhstan on its way to Europe"²⁰ . Such a prospect is quite feasible if we take into account the current development trends of the above mentioned states. As for Kazakhstan, over the last few years, "more than 440 new production facilities worth \$12 billion have been launched here. In total, more than 700 industrial-innovative projects worth 77 billion dollars are planned to be implemented"²¹ .

²²In fact, with this purpose - to ensure sustainable and balanced growth of the economy through diversification and improvement of its competitiveness - the State Programme of Accelerated Industrial and Innovative Development was adopted in Kazakhstan in 2010, the key tasks of which include such areas as 'development of priority economic sectors ensuring its

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

19 Aliaksandr Lukashenka receives credentials from foreign ambassadors [Electronic resource]. - 2012. - URL: <http://president.gov.by/press140154.html#doc>

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

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

22 State Programme for Accelerated Industrial and Innovative Development [Electronic resource]. - 2010. - URL: http://www.akorda.kz/ru/category/gos_programmi_razvitiya

diversification and competitiveness growth; creation of favourable environment for industrialisation; formation of economic growth centres based on rational and sustainable economic development'. The implementation of these industrial innovation plans should ensure a 15 per cent increase in gross domestic product by 2014, boost the share of non-resource exports to 40 per cent of total exports and ensure the growth of labour productivity in manufacturing by at least one and a half times.

²³For the next decade, Kazakhstan has identified "five key areas as priorities for the State: preparation for post-crisis development; ensuring sustainable economic growth through accelerated diversification through industrialization and infrastructure development; investment in the future - improving the competitiveness of human capital to achieve sustainable economic growth, prosperity and social well-being of Kazakhstan; provision of quality social, housing and utilities services to the population; and strengthening the quality of public services. Implementation of these provisions by 2020 should place Kazakhstan among the world's fifty most competitive countries with a favourable business climate.

In this respect, Astana envisages the foreign policy promotion of its national interests on purely pragmatic principles. For this purpose, as President Nazarbayev pointed out, 'we must develop new industries with a focus on expanding non-resource exports <...> We will strengthen the Customs Union and the Common Economic Space. Our immediate goal is to create the Eurasian Economic

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

Union"²⁴ . The formation of this integration structure is seen in Astana as "an important factor in regional stability, in increasing the competitiveness of our economies, and in ensuring their technological breakthrough"²⁵ . Proceeding from these tasks, the priorities of modernizing Kazakhstan's modern foreign policy are the active development of economic and trade diplomacy, as well as the intensification of international cooperation in cultural, humanitarian, scientific, educational and other related spheres.

These provisions and principles are effectively embodied in Kazakhstan's engagement with Belarus, the strategic nature of which was emphasised by the presidents of the two countries in a joint statement in May 2012. At the same time, attention was drawn to the fact that further deepening of this strategic partnership "is a priority direction of the foreign policy of both states."²⁶ . In order to deepen cooperation, the two sides also agreed to intensify efforts to fully use the potential of the two states and instructed the governments to focus on a number of priority areas in the near future, including investment, science and technology and interregional cooperation. In furtherance of these provisions, the following agreements were signed at the same time: an Agreement between the Ministry of Agriculture and Food of Belarus and the Ministry of Agriculture of Kazakhstan on cooperation in agriculture and food; a Memorandum

24 Message of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan N. Nazarbayev to the people of Kazakhstan. 14 December 2012. [Electronic resource]. - 2012. - URL: http://www.akorda.kz/ru/page/page_poslanie-prezidenta-respubliki-kazakhstan-n-nazarbaeva-narodu-kazakhstan-14-dekabrya-2012-g_1357813742

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

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

of Cooperation between OJSC AGAT - Management Systems, the management company of Geoinformation Management Systems Holding, and JSC National Company Kazakhstan Engineering; a Memorandum of Understanding and Strategic Cooperation between the Belarusian State Concern for Oil

Given the fact that Belarusian-Kazakh trade turnover mainly consists of industrial, agricultural and manufacturing products, Minsk and Astana now agree that "we need to establish joint ventures in virtually all sectors of the economy and supply products, including to markets of third countries"²⁷ . Therefore, the priority areas of Belarus-Kazakhstan investment cooperation in the current environment are "petrochemicals, industry, pharmaceuticals, information and communication technologies, banking"²⁸ . In addition, the agriculture, mechanical engineering and housing and utilities sectors offer significant potential for investment growth.

The following facts also speak for themselves. At the beginning of 2013, 13 projects for the assembly of Belarusian tractor, combine harvester, automotive, and special agricultural machinery were already under active implementation in Kazakhstan. Seven of these joint projects are included in Kazakhstani state programs, including five in the "Map of Industrialization of Kazakhstan". These projects concern quarry and mining equipment made by the Belarusian Automobile Plant, power-powered machines made by Minsk Tractor Plant, combine harvesters made by Gomselmash, and diesel engines made by Minsk Motor Plant. Two more joint projects - for the assembly of multifunctional tillage units

27 Aliaksandr Lukashenka meets with Kazakhstan's Prime Minister Serik Akhmetau [Electronic resource]. - 2013. - URL: <http://president.gov.by/press143900.html#doc>

28 M. Myasnikovich and K. Masimov discussed trade and economic cooperation [Electronic resource]. - 2011. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/4087>

of RUMP Kuzlitmash and balers of Bobruiskagromash - are included respectively in the Program for the Development of Mechanical Engineering in Kazakhstan and in the Kazakhstani Business Roadmap 2020.

The sides made a special emphasis on the development of promising areas of cooperation at the 9th session of the Intergovernmental Belarus-Kazakhstan Commission for Trade and Economic Cooperation, which was held in November 2012 in Astana. Among the most urgent of them were identified such as: "intensification of investment cooperation; creation of a joint Belarus-Kazakhstan industrial and technological park of agricultural and municipal machinery in Kokshetau; creation of joint productions to assemble tractors, combines, cars, lift equipment; implementation of joint projects in agriculture, food and light industries; implementation of scientific and petrochemical projects; opening of new service centres"²⁹. It is these areas of interaction - interregional and scientific and technical - that are the most promising today in terms of the development of the bilateral Belarus-Kazakhstan partnership. And this conclusion can be illustrated by a number of specific regions.

Karaganda Region. Indeed, Karaganda Region is showing great interest in developing cooperation with its Belarusian partners, which is confirmed by statistics. In 2012 the trade turnover of this Kazakhstani region with Belarus increased by almost 75 percent, reaching \$122.9 million. Moreover, "Brest Region shows an active

29 On the 9th meeting of the Belarus-Kazakhstan Intergovernmental Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation [Electronic resource]. - 2012. - URL: http://www.mfa.gov.by/press/news_mfa/e00430e7bcd76cb1.html

interest in cooperation with Karaganda Region"³⁰ . During the visit of Karaganda Region Akim B. Abishev to Belarus in April 2013, trade and economic cooperation, development of industrial cooperation and cooperation in agriculture were in the focus of attention.

If we talk about specific projects, then in Karaganda now being implemented a project to assemble equipment of the Belarusian Automobile Plant at the joint venture KazBelAZ: "This will be a modern plant, which the Belarusian side will be given the appropriate technical documentation, all the necessary regulations to produce a dump truck with a payload of 45 tons here with a deep localization, not limited to industrial assembly and overhaul"³¹ . The first 45-tonne truck was assembled here back in 2012. And in 2013, the joint venture will begin selling these machines.

There, in Karaganda, it is planned to establish a large enterprise for the production of tractor machinery. The thing is that more than a half of 9 thousand tractors working in this region of Kazakhstan, 5 thousand is the technique of Minsk Tractor Works, so it is time to solve issues of service, sales and supply of spare parts for these tractors on fundamentally new level. There, in Karaganda, the international research and production holding Fitokhimiya implements a number of joint projects with Belarusian research organizations. In this regard, the Belarusian Ministry of Health and the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus have been instructed to develop a program of cooperation with this Kazakhstani holding.

30 Mikhail Rusiy met with the Akim of Kazakhstan's Karaganda Region [Electronic resource]. - 2013. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/4960>

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

Kostanay region. In 2012, the trade turnover between Belarus and this region of Kazakhstan totaled only \$46 million, a figure that does not reflect the entire potential for cooperation between the parties. Moreover, this Kazakh region is interested in buying Belarusian agricultural machinery and setting up assembly factories in its territory. After all, more than 8 thousand tractors are in operation here, one third of which are made by Minsk Tractor Works machines of various classes: from basic MTZ-80/82 - to power-packed high-performance MTZ 1221/1222. We have vast territories, three climatic zones, so we need good, productive machines and their maintenance," says Kostanay Oblast Akim N. Saduakasov. - We see all this in Belarus."³² . The Kostanay partners were also interested in the Belarusian robotised equipment for dairy farms. Belarus, for its part, has offered Kostanay a leasing supply of agricultural machinery and technologies for tilling land with the use of wide-range combined aggregates for sowing crops. Projects aimed at creation of storage facilities for Kazakh grain for its further supply to Europe can become very promising. Belarusian specialists are also interested in approaches of their Kazakh colleagues to breeding and production of durum wheat. And the Gomel region will become a concrete partner of Kostanay in Belarus, as "the initiative to conclude a cooperation agreement with Gomel region has already been received from the leadership of Kostanay region"³³ .

Akmola Oblast. Based on the understanding that the future in Belarus-Kazakhstan business cooperation will be "for joint

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

33 Sidorchik, V. Gomel and Kostanay regions will conclude an agreement on cooperation / V. Sidorchik // [Electronic resource]. - 2013. - URL: http://www.belta.by/ru/all_news/economics/Gomelskaja-i-Kostanajskaja-oblasti-zakljuchat-soglashenie-o-sotrudnichestve-i-628956.html

companies, which should already represent transnational corporations"³⁴ , in April 2013, at the initiative of Belarus, the parties signed an agreement to establish a joint venture to implement the investment project "Belarus-Kazakhstan Industrial and Technological Park of Agricultural, Municipal Machinery and Equipment" in Kokshetau, Akmola region. It is understood that participation in the project will allow Belarus "to strengthen its positions on the Kazakhstani market, and will enable Kazakhstan to attract additional investments and create new jobs."³⁵ . Five Belarusian enterprises are expected to take part in the park, including Minsk tractor and automobile plants, Lidselmash and Bobruiskagromash. And the essence of the industrial technology park is that modern agricultural machinery and vehicles will be produced here instead of being assembled together.

In addition, the Belarusian State Agrarian Technical University and the Kazakh Agricultural Technical University named after O. Seifullin have already joined this work. A training centre will be set up on the basis of these institutions of higher education, where students will be able to study and train on the Industrial and Technological Park's production facilities. In short, the creation of this park is a rather eloquent demonstration that the stage of direct sales of Belarusian goods and machinery to Kazakhstan has been passed and it is time to switch over to setting up joint ventures: "This work involves the transfer of Belarusian technologies, the transition to a new stage of cooperation in the field of industrial cooperation from assembly plants to the establishment of joint

34 Mikhail Myasnikovich meets with Kazakhstan's Prime Minister Serik Akhmetov [Electronic resource]. - 2013. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/4982>

35 Mikhail Myasnikovich met with Kazakhstan's ambassador [Electronic resource]. - 2013. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/4928>

ventures with the prospect of entering the markets of third countries"³⁶ . In addition, this project should demonstrate that the economic conditions existing in the Customs Union and the Common Economic Space allow not only to trade effectively, but also to develop industrial and scientific-technological cooperation.

Mogilev region. Investments in construction of two plants on the basis of Mogilevkhimvolkno OJSC - for production of terephthalic acid on the basis of Kazakh paraxylol and for production of PET-materials, highly demanded in the world market, should constitute about 700 million dollars. The first plant will cost about \$450m and the second about \$250m. Both projects are still at the stage of working out financing issues, including the use of Kazakhstani investments. But the very idea of creating these enterprises in Mogilev is very tempting. The benefits of the parties here are clear: "Kazakhstan has paraxylene, and there is interest in promoting it for export <...> Belarus has a favorable geographical location close to potential markets"³⁷ . So this project may become another strong argument in favour of the fact that "cooperation between Belarus and Kazakhstan has come to the point where it is beneficial for the parties to work on the principles of mutual exchange of technology and deeper integration of production. Without this, it is difficult today to promote joint products in foreign markets"³⁸ .

36 Belarus and Kazakhstan create an industrial and technological park [Electronic resource]. - 2013. - URL: http://www.belta.by/ru/all_news/economics/Belarus-i-Kazaxstan-sozdajut-industrialno-technologicheskij-park-i-641046.html

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

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

Among other projects where representatives of Belarusian and Kazakh regions can become active participants is the intention of the Belarusian Seismotekhnika OJSC and the Kazakh company Anchor to establish a joint production of oilfield equipment in the East Kazakhstan Region. A memorandum of cooperation to establish a joint venture for production of confectionery and bakery products was signed by the RUPE Gomelkhlbprom and Management Company Shannrak LLP in November 2012. Great prospects for regional cooperation between the two countries also open up in the production of dairy products, where "the agreements reached open a new stage of bilateral cooperation"³⁹.

All of these examples demonstrate the tendency of Belarus and Kazakhstan to move towards broad interregional cooperation. And this is an absolutely natural phenomenon, as "such interaction gives the parties an opportunity to solve many issues more quickly. If intergovernmental delegations negotiate large-scale projects, then smaller projects can be discussed at the interregional level"⁴⁰. However, according to E. Bulegenov, head of the Kazakhstani diplomatic mission in Belarus. Bulegenov, "the cooperation that we have now is only a small percentage of what could be done"⁴¹. But large-scale positive changes in Belarus-Kazakhstan interregional cooperation are inevitable. After all, "having united within the

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

40 Grigorovich, T. Belarus and Kazakhstan intend to intensify inter-regional cooperation / T. Grigorovich // [Electronic resource]. - 2013. - URL: http://www.belta.by/ru/all_news/economics/Belarus-i-Kazaxstan-namereny-aktivizirovat-mezhregionalnoe-sotrudnichestvo-i-628944.html

41 Bulegenov, E. Economic cooperation between Kazakhstan and Belarus has great potential / E. Bulegenov // [Electronic resource]. - 2013. - URL: <http://www.belarus.by/ru/press-center/speeches-and-interviews/ergali-bulegenov-u-ekonomicheskogo-sotrudnichestva-kazaxstana-i-belarusi-bolshoj-potentsial-i-000005439.html>

framework of the CES, we have removed barriers for enterprises. Now we need to build effective interregional industrial clusters"⁴² .

⁴³At the same time, we should not forget that under the conditions of the global information society, the integration of regions in all three elements of the "knowledge triangle" - education, research and innovation - with the most active and interested participation in these processes of the media and communication sphere of Belarus and Kazakhstan should become the main direction of Eurasian partnership, as "the communication of Eurasian integration forms a new global public consciousness, united by humanistic mutual interests between friendly

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

43 In this regard, it is important to note that the main goal of the project is the development of the international journalistic cooperation in the field of journalism and journalism in Belarus. The second international scientific-conference was held on February 20, 2013 in Minsk / edited by T.N. Dasayeva; co-editor B.L. Zalesskii. B.L. Zalessky. - Minsk : Publishing Center of Belarusian State University, 2013. - C. 257.

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Topical media topics bilateral engagement

Belarus and Kazakhstan signed an agreement on cooperation in the field of press and information back in 2000. In this document, the parties agreed to support and encourage partnerships between media editorial offices and news agencies to promote "the formation of a single or common information space and the strengthening of friendly relations between the two brotherly - Belarusian and Kazakh - peoples"⁴⁴ . In April 2014, the legal framework of Belarusian-Kazakh relations in the media sphere was supplemented by another document - an agreement between the Belarusian Telegraph Agency and the Kazinform Agency, which "implies cooperation in the exchange of information, photo materials and other media content, in addition, the parties agreed on internships for journalists"⁴⁵ . And in November 2017, a new version of the intergovernmental agreement was already adopted, with the preamble stating that the parties attach "particular importance to enhancing media cooperation between the two states"⁴⁶ . And this reflects the current stage of development of the information spaces of Belarus and Kazakhstan, as well as laying down a serious legal foundation for expanding interaction between the agencies and organisations of the two countries towards a mutual presence in each other's media space.

44 Zalesky, B.L. Belarusian international journalism: peculiarities, trends, prospects / B.L. Zalesky. - Minsk, Belarusian State University, 2014. - C. 186.

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

46 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_Sj9CPykssy0xPLMnMz0vMAfljc7PyChKtUvKTS3NT80r0w_Wj9KNgPM8U_cgAQzMDEDAzMQBJ5STmpZcmpqfqRxaV6hfk5lqUOyoqAgAahz7G/#z6

The emergence of the new media cooperation agreement is significant because it took place in the year of the 25th anniversary of the establishment of Belarusian-Kazakh diplomatic relations - in November 2017, when the presidents of Belarus and Kazakhstan signed the Treaty on Social and Economic Cooperation until 2026 with a programme of specific measures for its implementation for the same period. "This programme document is designed to consolidate the promising relations between the two countries and open up new opportunities in the development of comprehensive cooperation"⁴⁷, as the parties have come to the conclusion that the base of bilateral partnerships established since 1992 allows Minsk and Astana today to move to a new technological level of interaction with a focus on innovation and high technology. All the more so since the trade turnover between the countries increased by almost 65 percent at once to about \$500 million in the first three quarters of 2017. However, according to the heads of state, even this positive trend does not yet match the potential for integration cooperation between Belarus and Kazakhstan. This is why the governments of both countries have set an ambitious task - to increase the volume of mutual trade to one billion dollars within the next two-three years through the implementation of promising projects in various fields: petrochemistry, agriculture, energy, transport, logistics and new technologies. In this case, the main engine of bilateral economic cooperation will remain industrial cooperation, in which the Belarusian side said it was ready to increase the level of localization of jointly produced products in Kazakhstan, which will create additional jobs there. By the way, "today there are 260 Belarusian

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

enterprises operating in Kazakhstan"⁴⁸ . As a matter of fact, this document determines the focus of the activities of Belarusian and Kazakhstani media in the coverage of the bilateral cooperation, which is expected to grow in the next few years.

Specific solutions to the task of increasing Belarus-Kazakhstan mutual trade were thoroughly discussed by the parties at the largest business forum in the history of cooperation between Belarus and Kazakhstan, held in Minsk in November 2017, which was attended by about 400 representatives of the business community of the two countries, while 55 Belarusian companies presented over 100 cutting-edge developments, all of which deserve the attention of representatives of the media sector.

There are great prospects for increasing Belarusian supplies to Kazakhstan, for example, in the wood processing industry. Suffice it to say that between January and September 2017, enterprises of the Belarusian concern Bellesbumprom increased their exports to the Kazakhstani market by 42.3 percent, or up to \$18.3 million. It is noteworthy that "the Concern's enterprises supply almost all types of woodworking products to Kazakhstan, primarily furniture, which accounts for more than 60 percent of total exports. Particle boards are on the second place in terms of sales volume"⁴⁹ . Next come fiberboard, plywood, lumber, doors, windows, wallpaper, paper, cardboard, and matches. And practically each of these export

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

49 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/>

positions in the Kazakhstani market demonstrates a systematic growth in volumes.

Another solid export item from Belarus to Kazakhstan is trucks and agricultural machinery. Thus, in the framework of the above-mentioned Belarus-Kazakhstan business forum, the Belarusian Automobile Plant and AstanaBelAZService LLP signed a contract to supply 25 dump trucks worth nearly USD 25 million to this Central Asian country. In addition, in accordance with the signed memorandum between Minsk Automobile Plant and Hyundai Trans Auto, 100 sets of dump trucks and utility vehicles are planned to be delivered to Kazakhstan in 2018. Finally, in 2018, Minsk Tractor Plant will ship two thousand vehicles to Belarusian Tractor Trading House LLP, and Gomselmash will supply 500 combine harvester sets to Kazakhstan's AgromashHolding. Another important fact is that Gomel companies granted their partners, Agromashholding JSC, exclusive dealer rights to sell their entire product line in Kazakhstan, which will allow them to expand the range of harvesters they are exporting. In particular, the plan is to supply "the southern part of Kazakhstan with equipment for rice harvesting"⁵⁰. Gomselmash has such a machine, which is now being prepared for serial production.

Belarus and Kazakhstan also have ambitious plans for cooperation in the development of digital transport corridors to Western and Northern Europe, which is very important given the geographical location of both countries on the Silk Road Economic Belt. The strategic objective here is to double container transit

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

volumes in order to transport "1 million containers a year by 2020 and 2 million by 2025"⁵¹ . It is important that on average a container from Central Asia reaches Western Europe within two weeks. The parties intend to meet this challenge through coordinated work with their Chinese and Russian counterparts. This means that the topic of creating digital transport corridors becomes relevant not only for international journalists in Belarus and Kazakhstan, but also for their colleagues in Russia and China for many years to come.

The Treaty on Social and Economic Cooperation between Belarus and Kazakhstan, which was signed in November 2017 and is aimed at "implementing a qualitatively new stage in bilateral relations involving mutual capital penetration with a focus on innovation and high technology"⁵² , as noted above, implies that projects that enable the creation of joint products with high added value and ensure employment will continue to be the driving force of the strategic Belarusian-Kazakhstani partnership. It should be recalled that as of the end of 2017, there were eight joint assembly factories in Kazakhstan, where "the assembly of quarry, mine, special municipal and firefighting equipment, tractors, combines, engines, balers, and medical equipment has been set up"⁵³ . Let's note at once that concrete experience of each of them can and should permanently remain in the focus of media attention of the two

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

52 Review of the Foreign Policy Outcomes 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>

53 Matveeva, N. Relations between Belarus and Kazakhstan have become allied and strategic - Bulegenov / N. Matveeva // [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/politics/view/otnoshenija-belarusi-i-kazahstana-priobrelisojuznicheskij-i-strategicheskij-harakter-bulegenov-266564-2017/>

countries, both central and regional levels. This, unfortunately, has not yet been observed. There is, however, much to tell our readers, viewers and listeners.

Thus, one of the obvious Belarusian leaders in the market of Kazakhstan is Minsk Automobile Plant, which in 2010 opened Trade House MAZ - Kazakhstan LLP in Astana and by now has established its distribution network in this country, which includes nine dealers, as well as a network of 12 authorized service stations for Belarusian vehicles. The logical continuation of this cooperation was the opening in June 2017 of production of heavy-duty dump trucks MAZ 5516H5 and MAZ 6501H9 "with a load capacity of 20 tons at the assembly plant of Hyundai Trans Auto, a member of Astana Motors Group, in Almaty. A full welding, assembly and painting cycle is carried out"⁵⁴.

The following example. Even earlier - in 2007 - cooperation of Belarusian Gomselmash OJSC and Kazakhstan's AgromashHolding JSC started. For ten years the joint Belarusian-Kazakhstani assembly plant based in Kostanay on the base of AgshromashHolding managed to assemble more than three thousand grain harvesters. And that's assuming that the capacity of the Kazakhstani market for this equipment is one thousand new machines a year. In 2018, the joint venture will start producing two more new models of agricultural machinery. We are talking in this case about the KZS-575 and KZS-10 models. "These machines will expand the range of combine harvesters produced in Kostanay,

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

which will allow for a more flexible response to the needs of the local market"⁵⁵ .

Another good example of the development of bilateral mutually beneficial Belarus-Kazakhstan 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 Machinery. The implementation of this major investment project began back in 2012 - to organise in Kokshetau, Akmola Region, under licences from a number of Belarusian factories, "a complete production line for the assembly of trailers, balers, attachments, bale and forage harvesters, excavators, loaders of various sizes and modifications"⁵⁶. The first phase of the project is almost 10,000 square metres of space. "Once the second stage is put into operation and the enterprise is fully loaded, about 230 new jobs will be created"⁵⁷. The parties are confident that successful implementation of this project will allow to create a powerful cluster of Belarusian-Kazakh machine building in Kokshetau, and will also serve as a good example for dissemination of this positive experience of industrial cooperation in other areas of cooperation. In particular, "there are plans to create similar parks for the production of passenger buses, quarry and mining equipment,

55 Sidorchik, V. Two new models of grain harvesters will be mastered at the Belarus-Kazakhstan joint venture in 2018 / V. Sidorchik // [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/newscompany/view/dve-novye-modeli-zernouborochnyh-kombajnov-osvojat-na-belorusko-kazahstanskom-sp-v-2018-godu-278818-2017/>

56 . How Kazakhstan's economy is being lifted in the field [Electronic resource]. - 2016. - URL: https://forbes.kz/process/economy/kak_v_polevyih_usloviyah_podnimayut_ekonomiku_kazahstana/.

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

and road-building machinery"⁵⁸. The implementation of these plans is another topical area of publications in the Belarusian and Kazakhstani press.

In total, several dozens of joint scientific and technical projects are planned for the next few years, with extensive use of Belarusian technologies, innovations and scientific developments. In particular, a project "to create a joint production of unmanned aerial vehicles" is planned⁵⁹ with the organization of their production in Kazakhstan. Joint cooperation projects in the oil sector, including geological exploration, well operation, introduction of various methods of production enhancement and oil recovery enhancement, which were discussed at the meeting between the heads of the governments of the two countries, A. Kobayakov and B. Sagintayev in August 2017, may also become new areas for successful work of Belarusian companies with Kazakh partners. Sagintayev in August 2017 in Astana. In total, there are six joint ventures in Kazakhstan today that are still "in the active phase of formation"⁶⁰, indicating a very high willingness of the parties to continue actively seeking new forms of industrial cooperation. In this case, much will depend on the ability of the two countries' regions to realize the cooperation potential inherent in them. Accordingly, the role of the regional press of the two countries in media support for the implementation of these cooperative prospects is increasing manifold.

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

59 Belarus and Kazakhstan outline 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-bespiilotnikov-278212-2017/>

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

It should be recalled that in 2016, trade turnover between Belarus and Kazakhstan amounted to about USD 420 million. That is why at the beginning of 2017, both Minsk and Astana set an ambitious goal to return to the record level of Belarus-Kazakhstan mutual trade in 2014, when its volume was equal to \$966.8 million. At the same time, one of the effective tools to solve this problem was outlined - intensification of interaction between the regions of the two countries, which is an important condition for their dynamic socio-economic development and a factor that ensures the promotion of trade and economic relations within the free movement of goods, services, capital, technology, labor and the creation of joint ventures, as declared by the Eurasian Economic Union. The conclusion that "the regions of Belarus and Kazakhstan have many promising areas for mutually beneficial economic cooperation"⁶¹ was reached by the participants of the interregional meeting of representatives of the Pavlodar region of Kazakhstan and the Gomel region of Belarus held in Gomel in April 2017.

Note that the Pavlodar region is among those Kazakhstani regions where business interests "are developing within 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"⁶². The seriousness of its intentions to fill its partnership relations with Belarusian regions with concrete economic content is evidenced by

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

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

at least the following fact. The Pavlodar Oblast Akimat signed a cooperation agreement with the Gomel Oblast Executive Committee in November 2016. And if for the whole 2016 the volume of mutual trade of Gomel and Pavlodar residents was marked at the level of two and a half million dollars, only "in January-February 2017 the trade turnover between the regions was \$1.4 million (growth rate - 393.8%), including export - \$0.9 million (256.1%). The main export items were condensed milk and cream, railway track equipment, metalware, and porcelain tableware and kitchenware. Ferrosilicon was imported from Pavlodar region"⁶³ for the needs of Belarusian metallurgical plant.

The interregional meeting in Gomel showed that the parties intend to significantly expand the framework of interregional cooperation. For instance, Pavlodar residents were quite interested in the Belarusian experience in the improvement of settlements, including small towns. In this connection, the Kazakh party even suggested inviting Gomel architects and public utilities services workers to Pavlodar so that they could work there for some time, passing on their experience. Another promising area for cooperation is the purchase of Gomselmash agricultural machinery: "We are talking about a KZS-5 combine designed to work on small fields, primarily in farms"⁶⁴. These promising areas of cooperation between the Belarusian and Kazakh regions can be complemented by the planned purchase of young cattle in Gomel Oblast to develop

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

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

dairy farming in Kazakhstan and expansion of supplies of Belarusian furniture there. Interaction between free economic zones located on the territory of the regions, the agreement on which was signed in Gomel as part of an interregional meeting, can also be very productive. The fact is that the SEZ of the Pavlodar oblast invites interested partners to participate in projects on joint use of subsurface resources on its territory. In particular, "an aluminium cluster is being created in this Kazakhstani region with the involvement of large companies from Germany, Poland and Turkey"⁶⁵ , and Belarusian representatives of this market segment could be involved.

It is important to note that the interests of the Pavlodar region to develop partnerships in Belarus are not limited to the Gomel region. Thus, in the Minsk Region, the Kazakhstani side showed great interest in cooperation in the construction of dairy and cattle complexes. When handing a package of standard projects of agricultural facilities to the citizens of Pavlodar, the representatives of the Belarusian capital expressed their readiness not only to consult them on this subject, but also to construct milk and cattle complexes on mutually beneficial terms. Ekibastuz, located in the Pavlodar region, and Partizan district of Minsk, which signed an agreement in April 2017 that envisages "expansion of trade and economic cooperation, assistance in establishing contacts between business entities, holding exhibitions, fairs, business forums, as well

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

as development of cooperation in education, culture, sports and tourism"⁶⁶ .

The issue of intensification of interaction with the Kazakh regions is topical for the Mogilev region, which has concluded "agreements on cooperation with the East Kazakhstan (2009) and South Kazakhstan (2003) regions"⁶⁷ . Since that time a lot of enterprises of Mogilev region have become exporters of their products to the Kazakh market: Belshina OJSC, Mogotex OJSC, Bobruisk Machine-Building Plant OJSC, Mogilev Strommashina RPE, Osipovich Dairy Plant OJSC, Bykhovmoloko OJSC, Legpromdevelopment KUP, Jockey-Plastic JLLC, Stl-Extrusion JLLC, Babushkina krynka Company. Practically all of them are ready only to increase their supplies to Kazakhstan regions. Representatives of the international segment of the Mogilev Oblast media, who have creative contacts with their Kazakh colleagues, could well help them in advertising and media promotion of export products.

Back in 2014, the Akmola and Grodno regions were about to establish close partnerships, signing a memorandum on cooperation in agriculture at the time and noting the great potential for cooperation "in terms of investment, trade in goods and services"⁶⁸ . Examples of such intentions could be continued. The problem is that

66 The Partizan 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-sotrudnichestve-s-kazahstanskim-gorodom-ekibastuzom-243437-2017/>

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

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

they are not always adequately reflected in the media sphere. This then has the effect of decreasing the interest of partners and the continuation of cooperation in general. To prevent this from happening, Minsk and Astana have presumably updated the agreement on cooperation in the field of mass media, which was adopted back in 2000.

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Future plans in the roadmap

In May 2021, the 16th meeting of the Intergovernmental Belarusian-Kazakhstani Commission for Trade and Economic Cooperation was held, at which the parties adopted a roadmap or a programme of measures for 2021-2022. A kind of tuning fork for the meeting were the results of the interaction between the two countries in the first quarter of 2021. "The trade turnover amounted to \$215 million and compared to the corresponding period in 2020 increased by 12 per cent"⁶⁹. At the same time, the surplus for the Belarusian side amounted to \$133.5 million. Among the main activities of the adopted roadmap is the development of Belarus-Kazakhstan cooperation in industrial cooperation and supplies of machinery, agriculture and construction, as well as in the interaction between the regions of the two countries.

Another important event in Belarusian-Kazakhstani engagement took place in late June 2021, when a Belarusian governmental delegation led by Prime Minister R. Golovchenko visited Kazakhstan, during which the sides made serious progress in terms of the development of bilateral **trade and economic relations**. The visit took place against the backdrop of very positive developments in the mutual trade between the two countries. Suffice it to say that "in 2020 the trade turnover between Belarus and Kazakhstan amounted to \$847.9 million. The main Belarusian export items were tractors, combines, beef, milk, cream, sugar,

69 Promcooperation and Days of Culture - Belarus and Kazakhstan held an intergovernmental commission meeting [Electronic resource]. - 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/promkooperatsija-i-dni-kultury-belarus-i-kazahstan-proveli-zasedanie-mezhpravkomissii-443204-2021/>

cheese, cottage cheese, furniture and medicines"⁷⁰ . The figures also speak for themselves. Fifty-four companies with Kazakhstani capital, including 13 joint ventures and 36 foreign ones, are operating on the Belarusian soil today. And 366 companies with Belarusian participation are operating in Kazakhstan. In addition, there are enterprises with Belarusian technologies operating in different regions of the country at ten production sites. And now the parties are focused on increasing the localization of machinery produced there - the same tractors and cars, so that in 2021 "to reach new figures in mutual trade - for goods and services totaling more than \$1 billion a year"⁷¹ .

The contracts signed between the economic entities of the two countries at the end of June 2021 should help achieve this goal. In particular, Minsk Tractor Plant will supply 590 vehicles worth ten million dollars to Kazakhstan. "Another contract was signed between MAZ and Hyundai Trans Auto LLP for the supply of MAZ trailers for \$1.3 million. Also, BELAZ and ASTANABELAZSERVICE LLP signed a contract for the supply of BELAZ machinery for \$1.2 million"⁷² . In the same list of Belarusian exporters is Bobruiskagromash, a company that has been working closely in the Kazakh market for the past five years, where it has an assembly facility for trailers, balers and mowers. In 2020, it increased its exports of agricultural machinery to that country by one

70 Ruslan Golovchenko visited major enterprises in Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. - 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/roman-golovchenko-posetil-krupnye-predpriyatija-kazahstana-447818-2021/>

71 Belarus negotiates with Kazakhstan on oil deliveries [Electronic resource]. - 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-dogovorilas-s-kazahstanom-o-postavkah-nefti-447959-2021/>

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

and a half times. In 2021, the results promise to be no worse. At least, that is what the signed one million dollar contract with Bobruiskagromash's distribution network in Kazakhstan promises. An agreement to develop cooperation in 2021-2022 was also signed by Gomselmash and AgromashHolding KZ JSC, the only industrial enterprise in this country that produces a wide range of combine harvesters, tractors and additional products and is the exclusive distributor of Gomel's products in Kazakhstan.

But the Minsk tractor plant, which already has three assembly plants and its own trading house in Kazakhstan, is perhaps the most prominent in terms of the development of **production cooperation** with Kazakhstani partners, and plans to develop another assembly plant in this Central Asian country - with an investment of \$50 million - on the basis of the Composite Group Kazakhstan in Kostanai. Now the assembly line here is calculated on release of 1200 tractors "Belarus". But plans on development of a platform, creation of new workplaces, increase in quantity of the carried out technological operations directed on growth of localization of manufacture are already generated. In particular, "in the first stage, a shop for production of cabins will be constructed together with our Kazakh partners. The next stage is the construction of another 25,000 square metre building to assemble engines and radiators of all types. It is also planned to produce a new product - diesel pumps"⁷³. It is quite possible that the enterprise will become an important element of the Belarusian industrial centre being created in the industrial zone of Kostanay. "It will be a multidisciplinary

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

structure that will combine not only production facilities, but also scientific and technical activities and training of specialists"⁷⁴ . And there is every reason to believe that such a centre could become the core of innovative development.

Among other areas of Belarusian-Kazakhstani cooperation that should receive accelerated development in the near future is **agriculture**. The market of this Central Asian country is important for Belarusian farmers because it ranks second after Russia in terms of food supplies from Belarus. By the end of 2021, the Belarusian side plans to "reach 120% of our exports to Kazakhstan as compared to last year: in 2020 it was over \$300 million."⁷⁵ .

In this regard, it is important to recall the results of 2020, which showed that even in the face of restrictions related to the spread of coronavirus infection, the agro-industrial complex of both countries continued to show growth trends in 2020. In particular, data from the Eurasian Economic Commission indicate that "agricultural production in the territory of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) member states increased by 2.3% in 2020 to 114.3 billion US dollars. The highest production growth among EAEU countries was recorded in Kazakhstan (by 5.6%) and Belarus (by 4.9%)."⁷⁶ .

Positive trends in the growth of interaction between the two countries in the agro-industrial sector were also recorded at the

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

75 Brylo: Belarusian food exports to Kazakhstan increase every year [Electronic resource]. - 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/brylo-eksport-belorusskogo-prodovolstvija-v-kazahstan-kazhdij-god-uvelicivaetsja-447921-2021/>

76 On the meeting between the Ambassador of Belarus and the Minister of Agriculture of Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. - 2021. - URL: <http://kazakhstan.mfa.gov.by/ru/embassy/news/c66dcb28873a0b75.html>

second meeting of the joint Belarusian-Kazakh working group on the development of promising areas for bilateral cooperation in agriculture, which was held in Minsk in February 2021. The meeting focused on the issues of trade in foodstuffs, crop and livestock production, veterinary medicine, breeding and selection, taking into account that "in 2020 the trade turnover of agricultural products and foodstuffs between Belarus and Kazakhstan increased by 1.2 times by 2019 and reached \$307.2 million. Export was equal to \$289.9 million (more than 20% growth)"⁷⁷. The two sides noted the serious potential for further stable growth of trade turnover and the consolidation of positive trends in mutual trade.

On the Belarusian side, these prospects are seen in the supply of equipment for the construction of dairy farms, introduction of new technologies, expansion of procurement of agricultural equipment, and retraining of personnel for the agro-industrial complex. The Kazakh side is particularly interested in Belarusian experience in the development of the dairy and sugar industries, as well as other areas of agricultural production. The nature of this interest lies in the fact that "the coronavirus has shown how much demand there is for all agricultural products now. New niches are opening up"⁷⁸.

In particular, the parties are pinning great hopes on the continuation of cooperation between Belarus's Gomselmash and Kazakhstan's largest manufacturer of agricultural machinery

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

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

AgromashHolding KZ, which increased its output by 1.7 times in 2020. The joint assembly of combine harvesters by these companies on Kazakh soil began back in 2007. "In 2019, the organisation produced 429 harvesters and tractors, and in 2020, 730 units of machinery."⁷⁹ . This includes the first ESSIL KZS-790 combine harvester, which has already been tested in the Karaganda region and has shown good results. The new machine has increased engine power and cleaning area, and threshing is done by a combination of drum and rotor. In 2021 we plan to start serial production of this model. In addition, the production of self-propelled mowers will also increase, which is explained by the growing demand for them among farmers in Kazakhstan. We would also remind you that more than 70 machine sets of the KZS-10 MAX model were sent from Gomel to Kazakhstan back in the summer of 2020. "The innovations introduced on this model of combine harvester, relating mainly to more comfortable work of machine operators, were liked by the agrarians of Kazakhstan. This prompted them to order another 30 such harvesters"⁸⁰ . And in the second half of December 2020, this additional batch of 30 sets of machines was shipped to the Kazakhstani partners.

Among the events that should positively affect the development of cooperation between Belarus and Kazakhstan in agriculture in 2021, let us mention a few more. First, an interesting result could be brought by the idea discussed at the November 2020

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

80 "Gomselmash has shipped an additional 30 KZS-10 MAX machine sets to Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. - 2020. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/gomselmash-dopolnitelno-otgruzil-v-kazahstan-30-mashinokomplektov-kzs-10-max-421382-2020/>

meeting of the Belarus-Kazakhstan Business Council, which was attended by representatives of over 160 enterprises of the two countries. Given the fact that one of the most important issues in the development of relations between the two former Soviet republics is the holding of exhibitions, "Belarus and Kazakhstan are considering the possibility of holding an agricultural road show Belagro in Kazakhstan"⁸¹ . This could be another concrete step towards enhancing bilateral cooperation and increasing mutual trade turnover. Second, back in November 2020, the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange (BUCE) offered Kazakhstani companies to buy Belarusian meat and dairy products and sugar on the exchange trades. At the same time, BUTB could help Kazakh companies sell their products on the Belarusian market. Following up on this proposal, in January 2021, the BUTB agreed to intensify cooperation in electronic trade with the Astana Universal Commodity Exchange, which "will allow to form a unified database with commercial offers of Belarusian and Kazakh companies and facilitate the growth of mutual trade"⁸² .

Another important area of cooperation between Belarus and Kazakhstan that should be intensively developed in the very near future is the **construction sector**, as the parties are seriously interested in this interaction. This is explained by the fact that "today Belarus and Kazakhstan have multifunctional construction complexes, which continuously carry out their activities, increasing

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

82 BUTB and Kazakhstan's Astana Exchange intend to develop cooperation in e-commerce [Electronic resource]. - 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/butb-i-kazahstanskaja-birzha-astana-namereny-razvivat-sotrudnichestvo-v-sfere-elektronnoj-torgovli-425206-2021>

the pace every year"⁸³ . Among the priorities of cooperation in this area the parties see such areas of cooperation as construction of industrial enterprises, construction of housing and dairy complexes, production and supply of building materials, as well as establishment of a trading house of Belarusian building materials in Kazakhstan and expansion of supplies of sanitary faience, thermal insulation and roofing materials and floor coverings to this Central Asian country.

As far as industrial construction is concerned, it was noted at the 16th meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission that "the construction of a plant for the production of tractor cabins and front axles by MTZ OJSC in Kazakhstan will be an important step in cooperation"⁸⁴ . Let's add that works on the specified industrial areas in Kostanay city of Kazakhstan have already begun. "Around \$7 million will be invested in the project. A total of about 50 million dollars is planned to be invested in the development of production facilities"⁸⁵ .

In addition, the parties are currently working on a joint venture for the production of ceramic tiles in Kazakhstan. This project will be realized in reality, if there will be enough raw materials for production of these products in the subsoil of this

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

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

85 Multi-million dollar contracts and oil supply arrangements: a summary of the Prime Minister's three-day visit to Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. - 2021. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/9894>

country. That is why "now the geological, environmental services of Kazakhstan are studying the volume of available resources"⁸⁶ .

Another interesting construction project that is being worked out by the parties concerns the construction of a 'Belarusian quarter' in Nur-Sultan. The Belarusian side could use it as an example to demonstrate its ability to design and build residential complexes. The peculiarity of this project lies in the fact that it does not exclude "the possibility of equipping the constructed housing with Belarusian furniture and household appliances, as some construction companies in Kazakhstan have such a practice of selling completely finished housing."⁸⁷ .

In this regard, the next project discussed by the parties looks logical, i.e. the opening of a trading house in Kazakhstan, which will include such Belarusian construction industry enterprises as Keramin, Berezastroyaterialy, and Belarusian Glass Company. Belarusian Architecture and Construction Ministry believes Bellesbumprom will probably join them later. The fact is that during the first four months of 2021 alone its enterprises increased their exports to the Kazakhstani market by nearly 30 percent - to more than seven million dollars. "First of all, it is furniture: it is delivered for more than \$2 million. Belarusian upholstered furniture and solid wood furniture are especially popular in Kazakhstan. Wood chipboard and fiberboard, plywood, wooden windows and doors, wallpaper, paper, cardboard and lumber are also exported to this

86 A joint ceramic tile factory and Belorusskiy Kvartal may appear in Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. - 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/sovместnyj-zavod-keramicheskoy-plitki-i-belorusskij-kvartal-mogut-pojavitsja-v-kazahstane-452553-2021/>

87 Belarus Interested in Construction of "Belarusian Quarter" in Kazakhstan - Utyupin [Electronic resource]. - 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-zainteresovana-v-stroitelstve-belorusskogo-kvartala-v-kazahstane-utjupin-451644-2021/>

country..."⁸⁸. There are good reasons to believe that sales of Belarus woodworking products will keep growing on the Kazakh market. Using the potential of the specialized trading house can only open up new additional sales opportunities in this regard.

Finally, with regard to the construction of agricultural facilities, the Kazakhstani side is particularly interested in this issue. At the end of June 2021, it was even agreed to meet with Kazakh partners in Belarus, where "we will show them our capacity to build fairly large farms for 2,400 animals"⁸⁹. If this Belarusian experience is favourably received by the Kazakhstani side, then in the future a similar turnkey project of a Belarusian farm in Kazakhstan could be implemented, with its further expansion throughout the country. The term "turnkey" in this case includes design, construction by Belarusian companies, supply of equipment and pedigree livestock.

Interregional cooperation also plays an important role in the development of the Belarus-Kazakhstan partnership. Suffice it to say that there are about 30 cooperation agreements between Belarusian and Kazakh regions. In particular, the Executive Committees of the Minsk, Brest, Gomel, Vitebsk and Mogilev Regions and the Akimat of the Karaganda Region have signed the relevant documents. The Gomel and Vitebsk oblasts have an agreement on cooperation with the North Kazakhstan oblast, and the Brest oblast with the East Kazakhstan oblast. Grodno Region interacts with Aktobe, Kostanay and Mangystaus Regions, Gomel Region - with Almaty and Atyrau

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

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

Regions. These partnerships between the two regions are complemented by documents on cooperation between Minsk and Nur-Sultan, Brest and Semey, Bobruisk and Ust-Kamenogorsk, Mogilev and Shymkent. But due to the fact that "in 2020, the development of regional cooperation was to some extent hampered by the introduction of quarantine restrictions related to the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus infection"⁹⁰, in 2021, the aim is not only to activate existing partnerships, but also to work on establishing new ones.

In particular, Gomel Oblast demonstrates serious intentions in this regard, offering its Kazakhstani partners to expand cooperation, including through joint ventures, small businesses, transport infrastructure and tourism. In 2020, the region's foreign trade with Kazakhstan exceeded \$115 million. "The growth rate of trade turnover in January-April [2021] reached 161% compared to last year's four months"⁹¹, and Gomselmash and the meat and dairy company are among the main suppliers. The same Gomselmash signed a cooperation development agreement in June 2021-2022 with Kazakhstan's Agromashholding JSC. The gist of it is that "the Kazakh side has requested 570 units [harvesters] for this year - \$60 million. In the next three years the task is to produce up to 1,000 units of combines annually"⁹². The parties are also discussing other areas of cooperation. In particular, there are prospects for mutually

90 On Interregional Cooperation of the Republic of Belarus with the Republic of Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. - 2021. - URL: https://kazakhstan.mfa.gov.by/ru/bilateral_relations/trade_economic/region/

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

92 Multi-million dollar contracts and oil supply arrangements: a summary of the Prime Minister's three-day visit to Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. - 2021. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/9894>

beneficial partnership in the chemical and glass industries. Also noteworthy is a proposal by the head of Kazakhstan's diplomatic mission to Belarus, A. Beisenbayev, who spoke in Gomel, about the need to hold a forum of the regions of the two countries.

Brest Region, which exceeds \$130 million in foreign trade turnover with Kazakhstan in 2020, intends to actively develop cooperation with the Kazakhstani side. Now there are nine enterprises with Kazakhstani capital registered in the Brest Region. But there is certainly room and potential for further cooperation. And today we are talking about "supplies of products with surplus value primarily in such sectors as woodworking and food industry"⁹³

A real breakthrough in the development of cooperation between the regions of the two countries could be the emergence of the Belarusian Industrial Center in the Kostanay Region, which was agreed by the parties in June 2021. "It will be a multidisciplinary structure that will combine not only production facilities, but also scientific and technical activities and training of specialists"⁹⁴. The centre will be located in the Kostanay Industrial Zone, which was opened in 2017 and is a 400-hectare industrial site, provided with communications, where enterprises of mechanical engineering, food and light industry, production of construction materials and structures, and agricultural equipment are already located. Interestingly, the first "swallow" of this zone was the "Belarus Tractor Production Plant of Composite Group Kazakhstan Holding

93 The Belarus-Kazakhstan intergovernmental commission plans to meet in Brest [Electronic resource]. - 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/belorusssko-kazahstanskaja-mezhpravkomissija-planiruet-sobratsja-v-breste-434510-2021/>

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

Company". It was opened in 2018, and it is now successfully developing"⁹⁵ . So, the foundation for the appearance of the Belarusian industrial centre is already here.

As we can see, Belarus and Kazakhstan have great prospects for cooperation in various areas, and a good groundwork has already been laid for long-term cooperation between industrial, agro-industrial and construction complexes, as well as at the level of the regions of the two countries. Let us hope that all of these plans mentioned above will be successfully implemented.

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95 Goray, O. Kostanay Industrial Zone is gradually filling up with new productions / O. Goray // [Electronic resource]. - 2021. - URL: <https://top-news.kz/industrialnaja-zona-kostanaj-postepenno-zapolnjaetsja-novymi-proizvodstvami/>.

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The road of friendship and cooperation

Belarus and Kazakhstan signed a treaty on social and economic cooperation until 2026 in November 2017. In this document, the parties outlined the implementation of a qualitatively new stage in bilateral relations. At the end of June 2021, during the visit of the Belarusian government delegation to that Central Asian country, a task corresponding to this new stage was voiced - "to reach new indicators in mutual trade in goods and services - over \$1bn a year" .⁹⁶

In February 2022, when summing up the results of the past year, the two sides stated at a high level that the Belarus-Kazakhstan trade turnover exceeded one billion dollars for the first time in history. To be absolutely precise, it "amounted to \$1.092.5 billion and increased by 31.9% compared to the same period of the previous year [2020], exports - \$911.8 million (25% growth). The balance is positive - \$731.1 million"⁹⁷. Belarus' deliveries were based on a variety of foodstuffs - fresh or chilled beef, condensed and dried milk and cream, cheese and cottage cheese, sausages and similar meat products, sugar, as well as parts of rolling stock, combine harvesters, furniture and parts thereof. The commodity distribution network of Belarusian enterprises in Kazakhstan includes more than 40 companies, as well as more than 170 entities of the dealer network. There are also a number of joint assembly facilities for Belarusian machinery and equipment.

96 Zalessky, B.L. Aimed at trade and production cooperation / B.L. Zalessky // Materiały XVII Międzynarodowej naukowo-praktycznej konferencji "Dynamika naukowych badań - 2021", Volume 6. Przemysł: Nauka i studia. - C. 21.

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

In October 2022, a high-level working meeting of representatives of the governments of Belarus and Kazakhstan was held in Astana, where the parties outlined priorities in industrial cooperation, agro-industry and construction.

In the field of industrial cooperation, there are seven Belarusian companies operating in Kazakhstan, including Gomselmash, Minsk Tractor Plant, and Bobruiskagromash. They are steadily stepping up deliveries of machine sets to that country for the production of machinery. The construction of a workshop for the production of unified cabins with the capacity of 10 thousand pieces per year has been completed in the industrial zone in Kostanai as part of a major project to set up tractor production. "The parties are exploring the possibility of organizing production not only of elements and units of tractor machinery, but also of machine tools, engines for tractor machinery, diesel generators, pump sets, and optical products" .⁹⁸

As for new prospects of cooperation, we are discussing the production of fire-fighting vehicles on the chassis of the Minsk Automobile Plant and Pozhsnab enterprise. This is a new promising niche that needs to be filled with Belarusian equipment. On the whole, "we can increase mutual supplies with Kazakhstan by \$200 million."⁹⁹ . In this regard, the experience of Minsk Motor Works (MMZ), whose trading house was opened in early 2022 in Kazakhstan and which successfully and with increasing figures sells

⁹⁸ Golovchenko: Belarus and Kazakhstan need to move forward with industrial cooperation [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/golovchenko-belarusi-i-kazahstanu-nuzhno-dvigatsja-dalshe-v-oblasti-promkooperatsii-531879-2022/>

⁹⁹ Snopkov: The basis for cooperation between Belarus and Kazakhstan is industrial cooperation [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/snopkov-bazoj-sotrudnichestva-belarusi-i-kazahstana-javljaetsja-proizvodstvennaja-kooperatsija-506651-2022/>

Belarusian engines, special-purpose machinery and spare parts, is interesting. In this context in October 2022 MMZ took part in the international exhibition KazAgro-2022, which is the largest and most visited in Central Asia. The objective of the Belarusian company at the forum is to "expand business and commercial prospects, opportunities for product promotion, and increase brand awareness"¹⁰⁰. With the same purpose, more than 30 Belarusian business entities took part in international trade fairs on mechanical engineering and metalworking, as well as the manufacturing industry, in September 2022 in Astana. The enterprises of the Ministry of Industry of the Republic of Belarus and the Ministry of Education were "represented by collective stands, and the Minsk Tractor Plant and machine-tool enterprises were represented by separate stands"¹⁰¹. This shows that new projects in Belarusian-Kazakh industrial cooperation, as they say, are on the way.

In the agricultural sector, the Ministry of Agriculture of Kazakhstan has confirmed its interest in building a 1,200-head dairy farm on Kazakhstani land, where "Belarusian technologies, materials, equipment and dairy cattle will be used. Work will start this year and will continue in 2023"¹⁰². Work continues on the establishment of production of veterinary drugs in Kazakhstan, both to meet the needs of the domestic market and for prospective exports

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

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

102 Production of veterinary drugs and construction of MTFs. How Belarus and Kazakhstan will cooperate in agribusiness [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/proizvodstvo-vetpreparatov-i-stroitelstvo-mtf-kak-budut-sotrudnicat-belarus-i-kazahstan-v-apk-531987-2022/>

to third countries. BelVituFarm will participate in this project on the Belarusian side. In addition, the Kazakh side expressed interest in supplies of Belarusian mixed fodder, premixes, amino acids, as well as in switching to potato seeds of Belarusian selection.

The Belarusian and Kazakh partners are also planning several projects in the construction sector in the near future. "Among them there are symmetrical ones - construction of a Belarusian quarter in Astana and a Kazakh quarter in Minsk. <...> At this stage the plan is to determine the land plots and the concept and to involve state-owned developers"¹⁰³. Another project is joint production of ceramic tiles. There are many minerals in Kazakhstan, so there are plans to set up production involving Belarusian specialists and technology.

Another interesting fact: Belarus and Kazakhstan are also planning to develop cargo transportation by rail. In October 2022, a Belarusian-Kazakh roundtable was held in Astana, where more than 80 participants, including about 40 Kazakhstani companies from the mining, oil, chemical, gas, metallurgical and agricultural sectors, carriers and transport and logistics companies of the country, as well as representatives of Belarusian timber, woodworking and food processing companies, transport and forwarding companies discussed the prospects of existing projects and current transport and logistics solutions for long-distance transportation. At the same time, "considerable attention was paid to the issues of smooth transit of

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

cargoes from Belarus to Kazakhstan and also to China by transit through Kazakhstan, including those in container trains"¹⁰⁴ .

Interregional cooperation is another important component of Belarusian-Kazakh bilateral cooperation. Recall that "about 30 agreements are in effect between the regions of Belarus and Kazakhstan"¹⁰⁵ . Among the Belarusian participants of this productive interaction is **Minsk region**, the trade turnover of which with Kazakhstan in 2021 increased by 7.5 per cent and amounted to \$190 million. Exports accounted for almost \$180 million, and the growth rate was 107.2 percent. In foreign trade, there was a surplus of almost \$170 million. Foreign direct investment from Kazakhstan amounted to more than \$1.2 million, or 137.2 percent compared to 2020."¹⁰⁶ . Karaganda and Pavlodar regions are among the active Kazakh partners of the Belarusian capital region.

For example, an agreement on cooperation between Minsk Region and **Karaganda Region** was signed back in 1996 and included measures for cooperation in industry, agriculture, healthcare and education. In June 2013, JV KazBelAZ LLP, a joint venture for overhaul of units and assemblies, production of spare parts and manufacture of machinery of the Belarusian Automobile Plant, started its operation in this Kazakhstani region. "Production is based at the Karaganda Casting and Mechanical Plant (KLMZ) - a

104 Belarus and Kazakhstan plan to develop cargo transportation by rail [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-kazakhstan-planirujut-razvivat-gruzoperevozki-po-zheleznoj-doroge-530740-2022/>

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

106 Turchin discussed with Beisenbayev the development of cooperation between Minsk Region and Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/turchin-obsudil-s-bejsenbaevym-razvitiye-sotrudnichestva-mezhdu-minskoj-oblastju-i-kazahstanom-486296-2022/>

branch of Kazakhmys Corporation LLP¹⁰⁷ . This JV became one of the largest in the State Programme of Accelerated Industrial and Innovative Development and was included in the Kazakhstan Industrialisation Map for 2010-2014. The first Belarusian dump truck was assembled in Karaganda in August 2013 by "Karaganda automobile engineers who were trained at the Belarusian plant"¹⁰⁸ . And in October 2021, the parties had already discussed the creation of a joint production of fire-fighting equipment in the Karaganda region. At that time "21 joint ventures were already operating in the Kazakhstani region. Among them is the company for assembly of dump trucks, repair and maintenance of BelAZ machinery"¹⁰⁹ . Apparently, this interaction can be further expanded, as the region is interested in attracting Belarusian companies and is ready to create favourable conditions for them to "take part in agricultural projects and school construction. Cooperation in the IT sector is also possible"¹¹⁰ .

As for the **Pavlodar region**, the Minsk region signed an agreement with it on trade, economic, scientific, technical and cultural cooperation in 2009. In 2017, the parties agreed to cooperate in agriculture. The Kazakhs then showed great interest in the Belarusian experience in building dairy complexes. "When they handed over a package of standard projects of agricultural facilities

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

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

109 Belarus and Kazakhstan may launch joint production of fire-fighting equipment in the Karaganda Region [Electronic resource]. - 2021. - https://primepress.by/news/kompanii/belarus_i_kazakhstan_mogut_zapustit_sovmestno_e_proizvodstvo_pozharnoy_tekhniki_na_territorii_karagan-38483/

110 On the visit of the Ambassador of Belarus to the Karaganda region [Electronic resource]. - 2021. - URL: <https://kazakhstan.mfa.gov.by/ru/embassy/news/c25b80e259079cad.html>.

to the Pavlodars, representatives of the Belarusian capital region expressed their readiness not only to advise them on the subject, but also to build dairy and cattle complexes there on mutually beneficial terms."¹¹¹ . In addition, the free economic zones of the Pavlodar oblast invited interested companies from Minsk Oblast to participate in projects for joint use of the region's subsoil. One of them is an aluminium cluster with involvement of large companies from Germany, Poland, and Turkey. Note that the technique of the Belarusian Automobile Plant is already quite actively used in this area of Kazakhstan. In particular, in February, 2021 on an assembly platform of technological park of Vostochny surface mine of JSC "EEC" of Eurasian group (ERG) has been completed assembling of three dump trucks BELAZ with payload capacity of 130 tons which have joined this coal-mining enterprise. They have joined "seven brothers, which already two years are operated in cyclic-flow overburden sections of the surface mine, deserving at Ekibastuz miners a reputation of reliable and highly productive mine cars"¹¹² . As we can see, the range of links between the Minsk and Pavlodar regions could still be very wide.

In particular, cooperation with Kazakhstan is among the priority areas for the development of the **Gomel Region's** foreign economic relations. Enterprises of the southeastern region of Belarus have the most serious intentions to develop cooperative ties with Kazakh partners in import substitution, in logistics capabilities. A

111 Zalesky, B. Actual media topics of Belarus-Kazakhstan interaction / B. Zalesky // International Journalism-2018: global challenges, regional partnership and media: materials of VII International Scientific and Practical Conference, Minsk, 15 February. 2018 / coauth. B.L. Zalesky ; ed. by T.N. Dasaeva. - Minsk: Publishing Center BSU, 2018. - C. 98.

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

good example is the joint production of Gomselmash OJSC and AgromashHolding KZ JSC, which has been operating in Kazakhstan since 2007. Today, it is not just an assembly shop, but a real production facility. "During the time of cooperation the plant has supplied the Kazakh market with products worth more than \$ 320 million, sold a total of more than 3.7 thousand units of machinery jointly produced"¹¹³ . Products of other enterprises of the Gomel region, including the Belarusian Steel Works and the open joint-stock company Milkavita, are also in demand in Kazakhstan.

The Mogilev region also cooperates closely with this country in Central Asia, which is starting to step up its work in trade and economic cooperation. "In the seven months of this year [2022], the foreign trade turnover between the Mogilev Oblast and Kazakhstan was about \$40 million"¹¹⁴ . But there is still plenty of room for the parties to work together. Kazakhstan is one of the most important trade and economic partners for the Belarusian region, ranking second among the Eurasian Economic Union countries in terms of foreign trade turnover in 2021 and the first in the seven months of 2022. The main export items are cars and car parts, dairy products, poultry, lifts, and railway cars. Mogilev Oblast, in turn, buys equipment, chemical products and various raw materials from Kazakhstan. It should be noted that almost 45 percent of all imports of the region falls on paraxylene, which is used by "Mogilevkhimvolokno". There are also a number of proposals for

113 Enterprises of the Gomel region intend to develop cooperative ties with Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/predpriyatija-gomelskoj-oblasti-namereny-razvivat-kooperatsionnye-svjazi-s-kazahstanom-512360-2022>

114 Isachenko at a meeting with Kazakhstan's ambassador: it is time to strengthen work in the trade and economic sphere [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/isachenko-na-vstreche-s-poslom-kazahstana-prishlo-vremja-usilit-rabotu-v-torgovo-ekonomicheskoy-sfere-525098-2022/>

cooperation with Kazakhstani partners from other enterprises in the Belarusian region, including those from the Mogilev Free Economic Zone.

Grodno Region is also stepping up cooperation with Kazakhstan, having already signed five agreements with Kazakhstani regions. Grodno Region is actively supplying agricultural, processing and woodworking products to its partners. But "the time has come to step up the work and fill these agreements with real projects and agreements that will intensify the relationship between the two countries" .¹¹⁵

As for cooperation between Belarus and Kazakhstan in the field of education, the year 2022 also added new colours to the interaction between the two sides. In particular, Baranovichi State University in October offered cooperation to Shakarim University, which is located in the city of Semey, Abay Oblast. The teaching and research centre in Kazakhstan's north-eastern region has more than seven thousand students in five faculties. The two institutions are interested in "implementing joint educational programmes for students and teachers, academic exchanges and summer and winter schools. There are ideas for research and innovation projects"¹¹⁶ .

One more thing: in September 2022 a round table "Kazakhstan and Belarus: the Road of Friendship and Cooperation" was held in Minsk, where it was noted that "in 2021 trade turnover

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

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

between Kazakhstan and Belarus exceeded \$1 billion"¹¹⁷ , but there are still considerable reserves for increasing trade turnover: not only industrial cooperation, agro-industrial complex, transport, deepening of interregional cooperation, joint ventures, but also interaction in cultural and humanitarian spheres.

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

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