

Priorities of multidirectionality

In June 2024, the second National Sustainable Development Forum was held in Minsk, where it was noted that, to date, 80 percent of the so-called Agenda 2030 has already been implemented in Belarus, which allowed the republic to reach the 30th place among 166 states in the ranking of the Sustainable Development Goals. Among the priorities of the national strategy, which are successfully implemented in this context, are sustainable regions, where free economic zones of Belarus are confidently developing, confirming the status of key centers of investment attraction and forming already one fifth of the main national indicators - investment, exports and production. In 2022, the country launched the "One District - One Project" initiative, whose objectives include the creation of new export-oriented products, development of related industries, and import substitution. Another tool for the development of Belarusian regions is international cooperation with partners on all continents. And these are just some examples of implementing the priorities of multi-vector and sustainable development. How these interesting projects and programs are being implemented today is the subject of this paper.



Boris Zalesskij
Professional experience in journalism - fifty years. For twenty years he worked as an associate professor of the International Journalism Department of the Journalism Faculty of the Belarusian State University. Areas of research: contemporary international relations; international journalism and media cooperation.



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Chronicle of international economic cooperation between Belarus and interested partners on different continents

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**Chronicle of international economic cooperation between
Belarus and interested partners on different continents**

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Eurasian Economic Union: from memorandums and agreements to practical matters

Intensification of economic interaction with international organizations and foreign countries is one of the most important directions for the development of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) until 2025. At the same time, the international activities of this association will be focused on solving such pressing problems of Eurasian economic integration as “creating conditions for the joint entry of enterprises of member states into the markets of third countries...”¹. In December 2022, at a meeting of the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council in Bishkek, the Main Directions of International Activities of the EAEU for 2023 were approved, where, in the context of the idea of the Greater Eurasian Partnership, the priorities of the EAEU will contribute to the realization of the export potential of the union countries.

Let us recall that as of mid-November 2022, the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) had already concluded “46 memorandums with international organizations, 27 memorandums with governments, ministries and departments of third countries, 14 memorandums with regional integration and interstate associations, 7 trade agreements with third countries”². In 2023, the EAEU will interact with the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the European Union, the BRICS countries, as well as the World Customs Organization, the World Trade Organization, and the African Union. In this vein, the development of dialogue with **the Association of Southeast Asian Nations** (ASEAN) is one of the priorities of the international activities of the EAEU.

ASEAN is a regional organization that includes 10 countries of Southeast Asia - Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines, Brunei Darussalam, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia, created to promote social, economic and cultural cooperation in the region. Since 2018, the EEC

¹ Zalessky, B. Format of Eurasian integration. Collection articles / B. Zalessky . – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2022. – P. 52.

² The main directions of international activities of the EAEU for 2023 have been approved [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/utverzhdenny-osnovnye-napravleniya-mezhdunarodnoy-devatelnosti-eaes-na-2023-god/>

has been successfully cooperating with the ASEAN Secretariat within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding in the field of economic cooperation. The purpose of this document is to promote economic cooperation to expand trade, economic and investment interaction between the member states of the EAEU and ASEAN in “the following areas: a) customs regulation and trade facilitation; b) sanitary and phytosanitary measures; c) technical regulation; d) electronic commerce; e) trade in services and investment; e) development of entrepreneurship, primarily for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises...”³

To implement the memorandum, a Cooperation Program for 2020–2025 was adopted. It covers such areas as customs legislation and law enforcement practice, trade policy, business activity, technical and antitrust regulation, SPS measures, energy, and the functioning of domestic markets. All this work contributes to the growth of trade and economic cooperation between the EAEU states and the ASEAN countries. “In 2021, the foreign trade turnover of the Union with ASEAN increased by 34.6% and amounted to \$23.9 billion, including the Union’s exports increased to \$10.2 billion (by 53.5%), imports - to 13.7 billion dollars (23.3%). The share of ASEAN in the Union’s foreign trade turnover was 2.8%⁴. ” The parties are focused on new growth points, searching for balanced solutions for successful interaction and new long-term forms of cooperation, determining prospects for the development of scientific, technical and innovative cooperation, industrial cooperation, as well as mechanisms for the exchange of practices and competencies, taking into account sustainable development goals. In particular, among the promising areas of interaction we can note the digitalization of the economy, where the EAEU and ASEAN have their own serious developments that are of mutual interest. And to steadily increase

³ Memorandum of Understanding between the Eurasian Economic Commission and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in the field of economic cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2018. – URL : <file:///C:/Users/User/Downloads/%D1%8E%D0%B3%D0%BE-%D0%B2%D0%BE%D1%81%D1%82+%D0%90%D0%B7%D0%B8%D1%8F+%D1%80%D1%83%D1%81+%D0%BF%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%BB.pdf>

⁴ The EAEU and ASEAN are increasing the volume of trade turnover [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://eec.eaeuDevelopment.nion.org/news/eaes-i-asean-narashchivavut-obemv-tovarooborota/>

trade, it is necessary to strengthen cooperation in the financial and banking sector, including using payments in national currencies. The Eurasian Economic Union is successfully developing interaction with the governments of a number of ASEAN countries within bilateral formats, including with **Indonesia**, **Thailand** and **Cambodia**.

Speaking about cooperation with **Indonesia**, we recall that in September 2022 the EEC Council decided to begin negotiations with this country to conclude a free trade agreement in 2023. Indonesia is the largest economy in ASEAN and the fourth largest in the world in terms of population, so trade relations with this Asian state have significant potential. “The trade turnover of the EAEU with Indonesia in 2021 increased by 41.5% – to \$3.7 billion compared to 2020. At the same time, exports increased by 34.1%, imports increased by 44.5%⁵. ” Based on the results of three quarters of 2022, trade turnover between the parties increased by almost half, while exports of the EAEU countries increased by more than two and a half times. And there is confidence that liberalization of the terms of trade can make it possible to increase trade turnover by at least another one and a half billion dollars. In December 2022, the EAEU and Indonesia recorded an agreement to hold the first negotiating round in the first quarter of 2023, emphasizing that the parties “have prospects both for agricultural goods, which traditionally make up the majority of the Union’s imports from Indonesia, and for the industrial group actively traded in both directions⁶. ” So the potential for partnership in 2023 remains high.

If we talk about cooperation between the EAEU and **Thailand**, the first meeting of the joint working group on interaction was in November 2019. In September 2021, at the 2nd meeting of the working group, the parties stated that “based on the results of the first half of this year [2021], the trade turnover of the EAEU countries with Thailand increased by 32.6% compared

⁵ Andrey Slepnev: “It is proposed to hold a business dialogue with Indonesia within the framework of the Eurasian Economic Forum in 2023” [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/andrey-slepnev-v-ramkakh-evraziyskogo-ekonomicheskogo-foruma-v-2023-godu-predlagaetsya-provesti-bizn/>

⁶ The EAEU and Indonesia launched negotiations on a free trade agreement [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/eaes-i-indoneziya-dali-start-peregovorom-po-soglasheniyu-o-svobodnoy-torgovle/>

to the same period last year and reached \$1.2 billion . USA, including EAEU exports - \$330.5 million, imports - \$907 million. ⁷ Exports increased mainly due to the export of metals and products made from them, food products and agricultural raw materials, raw hides, furs and products from them. And imports from Thailand increased due to an increase in the import of machinery, equipment and vehicles. The further development of cooperation between the parties is inextricably linked with strengthening ties between business circles in the field of transport infrastructure and the introduction of new technologies. Promising areas include bioengineering, the supply of energy resources and energy equipment, as well as agricultural products.

Another ASEAN country developing interaction in the EAEU is **Cambodia** . A memorandum of understanding was signed in May 2016. In September 2021, following the results of the third meeting of the working group between the EEC and the Government of Cambodia, the parties expressed great interest in increasing the volume of trade and investment and identified areas of cooperation such as trade and investment, customs cooperation, innovation, telecommunications and information and communication technologies, industry and infrastructure, technical regulation, SPS measures, intellectual property issues. Let us recall that in 2020, trade turnover between the EAEU and Cambodia decreased for objective reasons, but already in the first half of 2021, statistics inspired cautious optimism. “Trade increased 1.4 times year-on-year [2020] to reach \$130 million. At the same time, growth was observed in all EAEU states ⁸ .” However, the existing trade turnover does not fully reveal the full potential of cooperation between the EAEU countries and Cambodia, so the parties plan to develop dialogue and intensify trade.

⁷ The EAEU and Thailand are interested in developing cooperation in the field of infrastructure, new technologies, digitalization and green economy [Electronic resource]. – 2021. – URL : <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/eaes-i-tailand-zainteresovany-v-razvitii-sotrudnichestva-v-sfere-infrastruktury-novyh-tehnologij-tsifrovizatsii-i-zelenoj-ekonomiki/>

⁸ The EEC and the Government of Cambodia signed a joint statement on expanding cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2021. – URL : <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/eeek-i-pravitelstvo-kambodzhi-podpisali-sovmestnoe-zavavlenie-o-rashshirenii-sotrudnichestva/>

In 2023, the EAEU also plans to cooperate with other Asian states, including the **United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Iran**.

Thus, in June 2022, the EEC signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Government of the **UAE**. The EAEU considers this country as one of the most promising partners for trade and economic cooperation in the Middle East region. “Based on the results of 2021, the dynamics of trade and economic cooperation between the EAEU and the UAE are positive. Trade turnover increased by 60.9% and reached \$6.3 billion, while in the EAEU as a whole, foreign trade turnover increased by 35.1%⁹. ” The parties in the memorandum agreed to increase the volume of mutual trade, as well as the implementation of measures aimed at eliminating barriers. The EEC and the UAE intend to cooperate in the areas of customs and technical regulation, the application of sanitary, veterinary, sanitary and quarantine phytosanitary measures, financial markets, transport, industry and agriculture, competition policy and antitrust regulation, and intellectual property.

In April 2022, the parties created a joint research group of the EAEU and the UAE to study the prospects for concluding a free trade agreement. And in December 2022, the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council decided to begin negotiations on a free trade agreement between the EAEU and the UAE. Negotiations are planned to be carried out at an accelerated pace. The fact is that the formation of a free trade zone with the UAE will create conditions for the growth of supplies of more than 1,300 product items both in the industrial sector and in the agro-industrial complex. “The relevance of multifaceted interaction is confirmed by the high interest and presence of a large number of companies from the Union countries, including innovative ones, in the United Arab Emirates, as well as the role of this state as an international trade and transport and logistics hub. In addition, the agreement with the UAE is viewed from the point of view of strengthening the position of EAEU exporters in the countries of the entire Persian Gulf in the context of the Greater Eurasian Partnership and the North-South corridor¹⁰. ”

⁹ The EAEU and the Government of the UAE signed a Memorandum of Cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/eaes-i-pravitelstvo-oae-podpisali-memorandum-o-vzaimodeystvii/>

¹⁰ The EAEU will begin negotiations with the UAE on concluding a free trade agreement [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL :

In January 2023, the EEC, discussing with the Emirati side issues of trade and economic cooperation between the EAEU countries and the UAE, including the prospects for increasing export-import supplies and diversifying trade, invited the leadership and entrepreneurs of the UAE to take an active part in the Eurasian Economic Forum, which is scheduled for May 2023. Note that “according to the EEC, from 2015 to 2021, the volume of trade between the countries of the EAEU and the UAE increased 4 times, EAEU exports to the UAE increased 4.7 times, and EAEU imports from the UAE increased by 47%. At the same time, trade turnover in the period from January to October 2022 compared to the same period in 2021 increased by another 55% ¹¹. ”

In 2023, it is also planned to conclude a new comprehensive trade agreement between the EAEU and **Iran**, which “will give impetus to increase the volume of mutual supplies ¹². ” In this context, the prospects for the development of long-term mutually beneficial cooperation in the field of transport, cooperation in industry, agriculture and food security, as well as in other areas, are impressive. The future agreement will make it possible to put these joint plans on a strong contractual basis. As for the numbers, “in 2021, trade turnover between the EAEU and Iran increased by 74%, and in the first 10 months of 2022 - by another 25% compared to the same period of the previous year ¹³. ” In January 2023, the parties agreed on all issues to complete negotiations and sign an agreement, with the exception of mutual access to the market for certain categories of agricultural products, for which discussions are still ongoing, but the issue will soon be closed.

<https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/eaes-nachnet-peregovorv-s-oae-o-zaklyuchenii-soglasheniya-o-svobodnov-torgovle/>

¹¹ Pivovarov, E. Negotiations on a free trade zone between the EAEU and the UAE are planned to be conducted in an accelerated mode [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/peregovorv-o-zone-svobodnoi-torgovli-mezhdu-eaes-i-oae-planiruetsja-vesti-v-uskorennom-rezhime-546918-2023>

¹² Andrey Slepnev: “Today we have a serious incentive for the development of regional agreements and regional connectivity” [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/andrey-slepnev-segodnya-my-meem-sereznyy-stimul-dlya-razvitiya-regionalnykh-soglasheniy-i-regionaln/>

¹³ Andrey Slepnev discussed the completion of negotiations on a free trade agreement with Iran in Tehran [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/andrey-slepnev-obsudil-v-tegerane-voprosy-zaversheniya-peregovorov-po-soglasheniyu-o-zone-svobodnov-/>

Another important vector of international cooperation of the EAEU is **the African Union**. The EEC considers interaction with African countries, regional and subregional associations of this continent as an important and priority area of the international activities of the EAEU, which needs to be intensified, first of all, with the participation of business circles. The most important tasks in this direction are strengthening economic ties and creating conditions for unlocking competitive advantages. The EEC is conducting a dialogue with the African Union within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding in the field of economic cooperation dated October 24, 2019. Let us note that “in 2021, the foreign trade turnover of the Union with African countries increased by 21.9% (to \$18.9 billion), exports - by 24.0% (to \$15.4 billion), imports - by 13.7% (up to \$3.5 billion) ¹⁴. ”

the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCA) took place in June 2022 . This is an integration association of Central African countries, created in 1983, which includes Angola, Burundi, Gabon, Democratic Republic of the Congo , Cameroon, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Central African Republic , Chad, Equatorial Guinea. “The stated goals of the organization are the development of integration processes between the participating countries, promoting their comprehensive deepening based on their own economic forces, and moving towards the creation of a common market. In addition to the “classical” set of integration tasks, the ECCCA also deals with the functions of strengthening peace and stability, combating terrorism and piracy, and supporting electoral processes in the community space ¹⁵. ” In 2023, the parties hope to take new steps towards a more substantive dialogue aimed at practical interaction.

As for specific countries on the African continent, in 2023 the EEC plans to intensify cooperation with such African states as **Egypt** , **South Africa (RSA)** and **Ethiopia** .

¹⁴ Sergey Glazyev: “I invite the African continent to cooperate with the EAEU in creating a new financial and economic architecture” [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/sergev-glazev-priglasayu-afrikanskiy-kontinent-k-sotrudnichestvu-s-eaes-v-sozdani-novov-finansovo/>

¹⁵ The Economic Community of Central African States is showing interest in interaction with the EAEU [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/ekonomicheskoe-soobshchestvo-gosudarstv-tsentralfn-afriki-provavlyaet-interes-k-vzaimodeystviyu-se/>

As for **Egypt**, this country has already actively entered into negotiations with the EAEU on the creation of a free trade zone. “This African state will be the first on whose territory a joint industrial infrastructure with the EAEU will appear, the creation of which for the countries of the integration association will become a window for promoting <...> industrial products to the countries of Africa and the Middle East ¹⁶. ” The signing of this agreement in the near future will open up opportunities for large-scale diversification of trade and expansion of interaction both in traditional areas and in building new logistics and financial ties, and jointly addressing issues of technological transformation, which are determined by the climate agenda and the tasks of technological sovereignty.

For reference: EAEU trade with Egypt “in the first half of 2021 increased by 32.5% compared to the same period last year [2020]. In particular, exports of EAEU member states to Egypt during this period increased by almost 40% (from 1.4 to 1.95 billion US dollars), imports from Egypt to the EAEU increased by 11% (from 437 to 489 million dollars). USA)” ¹⁷. In 2022, trade turnover increased by almost another 40 percent. So, in the near future, the parties will actually be able to “ make significant progress on the key issue – the parameters for mutual reduction of import duties, as well as on preparing the final text of the draft agreement ¹⁸. ” And the plans include increasing the scale of economic cooperation between the EAEU and Egypt, which in the near future may contribute to the emergence of new joint and effective projects.

South Africa stands out among the countries of the African Union for its high level of development of key areas of agriculture, such as livestock

¹⁶ Zalessky, B. With an emphasis on cooperation. Chronicle of international interaction in the post-Soviet space / B. Zalessky. – Palmarium Academic Publishing, 2020. – P. 24.

¹⁷ Andrey Slepnev: “The EAEU and Egypt are counting on holding a full round of negotiations on free trade in the near future” [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/andrey-slepnev-eaes-i-egipet-rasschitvavut-na-provedenie-polnocennogo-raunda-peregovorov-o-svobodnoy-torgovle-v-blizhavshev- promising/>

¹⁸ Andrey Slepnev: “Trade and economic relations between the EAEU and Egypt continue to develop at an accelerated pace” [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/andrey-slepnev-torgovo-ekonomicheskie-otnosheniya-eaes-i-egipta-prodolzhavut-razvivatsya-uskorennymi/>

farming, fish farming, fruit and wine production. South Africa pays special attention to soil protection and efficient farming, and uses advanced agrotechnical achievements. This allowed the country to fully meet its domestic food needs. In January 2023, the EEC proposed creating a Eurasian industrial zone on the territory of South Africa, which could become an entry point into the still untapped markets of the African continent by EAEU manufacturers. The parties agreed that “to implement the agreements reached, the first step will be to conduct consultations between representatives of the EEC and interested authorized officials of South Africa, which will allow the parties to reach a new level of exchange of successful practices in agricultural production, solving problems of creating modern, competitive industrial and agro-industrial complexes, increasing volumes of mutual trade”¹⁹.

In addition, areas of cooperation of mutual interest may include the development of production of agricultural products (fruits) and seafood, material and technical resources, in particular agricultural machinery, as well as winemaking. Stimulating investment in the agro-industrial complex will help improve the efficiency of agricultural production and infrastructure development. Moreover, the dynamics of mutual trade between the EAEU and South Africa in agricultural raw materials and food shows growth opportunities. And the potential for this interaction between the parties is simply enormous.

Another African country that intends to continue to actively interact with the EAEU in 2023 is **Ethiopia**. A memorandum of understanding between the parties in the field of economic cooperation was concluded in October 2019. This country is a traditional partner of the EEC in Africa. “The trade turnover between the EAEU member states and Ethiopia in January–October 2021 increased 4.7 times compared to the level of the same period in 2020. This is of particular importance in connection with plans to double trade

¹⁹ The EEC and South Africa will discuss the creation of a Eurasian industrial zone in South Africa and will intensify cooperation in agriculture [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/EEK-i-vuar-storonv-obsudyat-sozdanie-vuar-evrazivskov-promvshlenov-zonv-i-aktiviziruvut-vzaimodev/>

turnover with the countries of the continent ²⁰. ” Note that goods from Ethiopia such as flowers, textiles, coffee, beans are traditionally in demand and competitive in the EAEU market. Apparently, the parties intend to involve the business community in the dialogue in 2023 in order to increase their awareness of the possibilities of using the unified system of tariff preferences of the EAEU for developing and least developed countries, as well as certain aspects of supranational regulation within the EAEU. After all, Ethiopia is particularly attractive to investors due to the Chinese New Silk Road passing through its territory, as well as the growth rate of the Ethiopian economy. So the parties have a serious reserve for increasing trade, economic and investment cooperation.

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²⁰ The EAEU and Ethiopia discussed plans for the development of cooperation for 2022 [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/eaes-i-efiopiva-obsudili-planv-razvitiva-sotrudnichestva-na-2022-god/>

Eurasian Economic Union: specific projects as a tool for diversifying integration

The Strategic Directions for the Development of Eurasian Economic Integration until 2025, which were adopted at a meeting of the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council in December 2020, contain 330 measures and mechanisms for the development of cooperation, grouped into 11 system blocks, the implementation of which should lead to achieving high levels by 2025. results, including building a system for managing joint cooperative projects and developing high-performance sectors, as well as using the potential of cross-border arteries and logistics hubs to establish trust throughout the Eurasian continent and give new impetus to industrial cooperation in industry, the agro-industrial sector and the service sector. “It is expected that all these measures will help to increase only non-resource exports to third countries from the EAEU [Eurasian Economic Union] countries by a quarter by 2025. This can be achieved if we follow the path of creating joint Eurasian companies in order to mutually complement each other and produce competitive products²¹. ” In this context, apparently, the EAEU will focus on a number of specific promising projects of Eurasian integration, which include **the Eurasian Agroexpress** and **the Eurasian Electric Bus** .

Let us recall that in February 2022, the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council, at a meeting in the capital of Kazakhstan, supported the implementation of the joint project of the EAEU countries for the implementation of accelerated rail and multimodal transportation “**Eurasian Agroexpress**” , aimed at increasing the volume of mutual supplies and exports of agricultural products and food, as well as its diversification . It was expected that initially regular shipments outside the EAEU would be organized to Chinese and Uzbek directions and back. “In the future, sales routes may be expanded to other countries in the Asian and European regions. The regularity of transportation will make it possible to create tariffs that are

²¹ Zalessky, B. For the purpose of sustainable development. Collection articles / B. Zalessky . – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2021. – P . 4.

competitive in relation to sea freight, as well as to reduce the delivery time of goods (up to 10-14 days to China and 4-7 days to Uzbekistan)²². ”

In this case, we are talking, first of all, about the supply of fat and oil, dairy, meat, fruits and vegetables and finished food products. As part of this joint project, it was planned to launch two full trains per week on the route Belarus – Russia – Kyrgyzstan – Kazakhstan – China, including trains with refrigerated containers for frozen products. At the same time, the monthly volume of transportation in the direction of China can be about 10 thousand tons. The coordinator in this project is ANO “Eurasian Agrologistics”, and participation in it was confirmed by Bremino Group LLC (Belarus), KTZ JSC Express ” (Kazakhstan), State Enterprise “NC “KTZ” (Kyrgyzstan), JSC “RZD Logistics” (Russia), JSC “Slavtrans-Service” (Russia).

The Belarusian side, noting “the importance of implementing the Eurasian Agroexpress project for food exports²³,” expects to use it to increase food supplies, primarily to China. The fact is that today the carriers of products from Belarus “are mainly Chinese companies²⁴. ” The launch of this project will provide another profitable opportunity in this regard. Moreover, the Chinese market is traditionally one of the main directions for the development of Belarusian food exports. “Products worth \$366.1 million were exported to China in 2021 (an increase of 47.9% by 2020). At the same time, in 2016, food exports to China amounted to \$18.8 million. The main share in the growth of exports was occupied by cut beef, powdered milk and whey, chocolate and confectionery, whole milk and other products²⁵. ”

²² Pivovar, E. Prime ministers of the EAEU approved the “Eurasian Agroexpress” project for accelerated food delivery / E. Pivovar // [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/premier-ministry-eaes-odobrili-proekt-evrazijskij-agroekspress-po-uskorennoj-dostavke-prodovolstvija-486781-2022/>

²³ Industrial cooperation, import substitution, food security: Golovchenko on the key tasks of the EAEU [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/promkooperatsija-importozameschenie-prodbezopasnost-golovchenko-o-kljuchevyh-zadachah-eaes-486890-2022/>

²⁴ Belarus expects to increase food supplies to China with the launch of the “Eurasian Agroexpress” [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-rasschityvaet-narastit-postavki-prodovolstvija-v-kitaj-s-zapuskom-evrazijskogo-agroekspressa-486858-2022/>

²⁵ Brylo, I. Sustainable demand in the country and abroad: Belarus is increasing food supplies to all regions of the world / I. Brylo // [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL

Supplies of starch, fruit jams and jellies, flour confectionery and pasta, cereal flakes, and butter also increased. In addition, 119 accredited Belarusian enterprises have already received the right to supply agricultural products to the Chinese market. All this indicates considerable prospects for diversifying commodity flows of exports from Belarus not only in the meat and dairy group, but also in sugar, vegetable oil, and fish products.

In light of the observed trends in recent years, the Eurasian Agroexpress project may also become relevant for Belarus in the Uzbek direction. Let us recall that at the same February (2022) meeting of the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council in the capital of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan's initiative to expand its participation in the work of the EAEU in four areas of mutual interest was approved: issues of the climate agenda; digitalization of freight rail transportation; electronic commerce; implementation of the "Eurasian Agroexpress" project. Observer state status in the EAEU was granted to this Central Asian country in December 2020. And "in 2016-2021, the total trade turnover of Uzbekistan with the EAEU member states increased by more than 2.5 times: from \$4.5 billion to \$11.6 billion²⁶."

As for Belarus, agriculture is one of the most promising areas in the development of bilateral trade and economic cooperation with Uzbekistan. Suffice it to say that "in 2019, agricultural products and food products worth \$35 million were supplied to the Uzbekistan market from Belarus, which was more than twice the level of 2018.²⁷" The positive dynamics of mutual trade continued in subsequent years. Thus, in 2021, Belarusian-Uzbek trade turnover exceeded \$300 million and "increased by 7.8% compared to 2020, exports – \$245.4 million (an increase of 3.3%). The balance is positive –

: <https://www.belta.by/interview/view/ustojchivvi-spros-v-strane-i-za-rubezhom-belarus-naraschivaet-postavki-prodovolstvija-vo-vse-regiony-mira-8088/>

²⁶ Pivovarov, E. The Eurasian Intergovernmental Council supported the expansion of Uzbekistan's participation in EAEU projects / E. Pivovarov // [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/evrazijskij-mezhpravsovet-podderzhal-rashshirenije-uchastie-uzbekistana-v-proektah-caes-486888-2022/>

²⁷ Zalessky, B.L. Belarus – Uzbekistan: priority of cooperation – agriculture / B.L. Zalessky // Materials of the XVI International scientific and practical conference "Modern" european science – 2020", June 30 – July 7, 2020: Sheffield. Science and education LTD. – C. 9.

\$188.9 million²⁸. ” At the same time, the main positions of Belarusian exports included meat and meat products, milk powder, cheeses and cottage cheese. Of course, the dynamics of development of bilateral cooperation between Belarus and Uzbekistan observed today in the field of supplies of food and agricultural products suggests that the joint project of the EAEU countries “Eurasian Agroexpress” can become a very timely and effective tool for Minsk and Tashkent to diversify export supplies.

In February 2023, at a meeting of the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council, which took place in the Kazakh city of Almaty, the heads of government of the EAEU countries supported the proposal of the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) to include in the joint integration project “Eurasian Agroexpress” transportation carried out along the international transport corridor “North-South” ” towards Turkmenistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the United Arab Emirates and the Republic of India. The fact is that “without stable functioning logistics, adapted to new geopolitical realities, the prospects for the development of our [EAEU countries] economies will not be rosy. <...> In order for the North-South corridor to work, it requires full-scale involvement of all participating countries²⁹. ”

It must be said that due to the reorientation of a number of transport routes, the demand for the North-South corridor is increasing significantly. Pilot shipments to Iran and India carried out as part of the project confirmed the attractiveness of the destination. The EAEU countries here have great potential to expand their transit and export potential. Moreover, the exceeding of the planned indicators of the Eurasian Agroexpress for the first year of its operation is very encouraging. “In total, 525.5 thousand tons were transported within the framework of the project in 2022, including 282.9 thousand tons of refrigerated cargo. The product range included chicken and beef, milk

²⁸ Golovchenko: there are prerequisites for increasing trade turnover between Belarus and Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/golovchenko-est-predposylki-dlja-naraschivaniya-tovarooborota-mezhdu-belarusiju-i-uzbekistanom-486939-2022/>

²⁹ Golovchenko: we need full-scale involvement of the EAEU countries in the work of the North-South corridor [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/golovchenko-nuzhno-polnomasshtabnoe-vo vlechenie-stran-eaes-v-rabotu-koridora-sever-jug-548158-2023/>

powder, oil and fat, fruits, vegetables and legumes³⁰. " Even despite the current restrictions from China regarding the supply of products due to the pandemic, multimodal transportation to this country was carried out very actively.

Of course, at the meeting of the intergovernmental council, a number of aspects were noted that impede the effective operation of the project. In particular, the problem concerns obtaining permits to import frozen products into China via land railway routes through the Dostyk-Alashankou and Altynkol-Khorgos border crossings. Its solution could provide a noticeable gain in the cost and time of cargo delivery in comparison with multimodal transportation through the ports of the Far East. In this regard, the EEC was instructed to work with the authorized bodies of interested EAEU member states on the issue of reaching agreements with the Chinese side to eliminate restrictive measures and optimize customs and other administrative procedures.

But in general, during the implementation of the joint project "Eurasian Agroexpress", its participants are already reaching common parameters, a common approach to this issue. This refers to the collection point, the localization of loading. After all, EAEU partners from third countries have their own special requirements. That is why project participants must be impeccable, deliver products that are perfect and at the same time meet all the requirements of the receiving party, and at the same time it is necessary to ensure the seamless passage of such a container train at all stages. "It must be ready for dispatch at a specific time in a specific place. Therefore, it is necessary to synchronize processes. This will ensure predictability of train formation and implementation of plans³¹. " And at the forefront is serving the interests of manufacturers and enterprises involved in transport and logistics schemes.

³⁰ Pivovar, E. The project "Eurasian Agroexpress" will include transportation to Turkmenistan, Iran, the UAE and India / E. Pivovar // [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/v-proekt-evrazijskij-agroekspress-vkljuchat-perevozki-v-turkmenistan-iran-oae-i-indiju-548163-2023/>

³¹ Legal relations in the currency sphere, a unified industrial policy and the "Eurasian Agroexpress": what is being discussed in the EAEU [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/pravootnoshenija-v-valjutnoi-sfere-edinaia-prompolitika-i-evrazijskij-agroekspress-cto-obsuzhdajut-v-547995-2023/>

An important detail: in September 2022, the directorate of the Eurasian Agroexpress project - ANO Eurasian Agrologistics and the Russian Trading Company (RTK) in China Hua No E Xiang signed a cooperation agreement, which sets out the general legal framework for practical assistance in the development of foreign EAEU food trade in the so-called “last mile”, within the Chinese sales market, including a wide range of services that can be provided to suppliers from the “five” countries. The parties “agreed to jointly develop popular trade services in conjunction with a transport and logistics complex of services, including on the organization of fast and affordable transportation of goods in containers, providing multimodal solutions, assistance in searching, selection and negotiations with a Chinese buyer, a gradual transition to digital format and provision of a range of services in the “from supplier to counter” mode ³². ” The predicted annual volume of transportation under the Eurasian Agroexpress project by the beginning of 2023 was expected to be about 500 thousand tons. The observed increase in sales volumes in 2022 allowed the project’s logistics operators to send block trains almost daily on schedule with long-term competitive tariff rates. So the first results of this project in the EAEU are already encouraging.

As for another integration project , **the Eurasian Electric Bus** , we first need to make a small digression. The EEC proposed concluding an agreement on import substitution in the EAEU and developing a corresponding Eurasian development program. In this regard, the EEC has already formulated an “Industrialization Map” of the union, which already involves 158 projects in 25 industries worth more than \$270 billion. This map also includes 669 technological areas in 30 industries. Let us recall that “in 2021-2022, the union has already implemented 25 import substitution projects totaling over \$21 billion - these are the automotive, machine tool, electrical, chemical, metallurgical, medical, pulp and paper industries, as well as the production of hoisting and lifting equipment. equipment, road

³² The trading instrument of the “Eurasian Agroexpress” project will be the Russian Trading Company in China [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/torgovym-instrumentom-proekta-evraziyskiy-agroekspress-stanet-rossivskaya-torgovaya-kompaniya-v-kita/>

construction, special, municipal equipment ³³. " In 2023, in this regard, another interesting project in terms of import substitution should find its "face" in the EAEU.

At the site of the EEC industrial block, work began on the implementation of the pilot project of the industrial cooperation "Eurasian Electric Bus", which was initiated by the Belarusian side. The project "is aimed at maximizing the import independence of the union and involving in the cooperation process as many industrial enterprises of the union member states as possible ³⁴. "

The decision to launch the Eurasian Electric Bus pilot project was made in mid-July 2022 at a meeting of the EEC Council. "At the first stage, lists of critical components, assemblies and materials for the production of electric buses and companies from the countries of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) that have the necessary own production and technological potential will be compiled ³⁵. " This will not only create the basis for a full-scale launch of the project, but also evaluate the possibility of reorienting and adapting the production of units and components intended for other types of passenger equipment - buses, trolleybuses, for their further use in electric buses.

At the beginning of September 2022, it was decided to form a special working group, which included representatives of government agencies of the Union countries, manufacturers of vehicles with an electric motor and auto components, as well as the scientific community of the participating countries. In October 2022, representatives of the EAEU countries discussed approaches to implementing the joint project "Eurasian Electric Bus" at an

³³ Pivovar, E. EEC proposes to conclude a separate agreement in the EAEU on issues of import substitution / E. Pivovar // [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/eeek-predlagaet-zakljuchit-v-eaes-otdelnyj-dogovor-po-voprosam-importozameschenija-548223-2023/>

³⁴ Golovchenko: it is necessary to work to achieve technological sovereignty within the EAEU [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/golovchenko-neobhodimo-rabotat-nad-dostizheniem-tehnologicheskogo-suvereniteta-v-ramkah-eaes-548144-2023/>

³⁵ Pivovar, E. The implementation of the pilot project "Eurasian electric bus" began in the EAEU / E. Pivovar // [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/realizatsiya-pilotnogo-proekta-evrazijskij-eklektrobus-nachalas-v-eaes-521716-2022/>

off-site meeting of the expert group in the automotive industry under the EEC Industry Advisory Committee, held at the site of the Belarusian holding Belkommunmash. Members of the expert group confirmed their interest in the development of electric transport in the EAEU countries, noting “the need to concentrate efforts on organizing the production of critical components, units and materials for the production of electric buses, such as traction electric motors and their control systems, energy storage systems, bridges. It was proposed to consider the issue of establishing in the EAEU the production of cells for high-voltage batteries used in electric transport ³⁶. ” In addition, an agreement was reached on the Belarusian side sending for consideration by experts of the EAEU states a list of investment projects being developed in the Republic of Belarus in this area in order to analyze specific proposals for the implementation of joint projects for the production of components for electric buses.

The proposal was actively supported at a meeting of the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council in Yerevan in October 2022. After all, the implementation of the Belarusian initiative and the solution of financing issues, both funding and benefits, should launch “an irreversible process of further development of the industrial sector, the real sector of the economy in our states on the principles of technological sovereignty. Eurasian integration must first of all ensure the interests of industrial enterprises and domestic businesses in the real sector of the economy ³⁷. ” The implementation of this project with relatively cheap credit resources will create strong cooperation chains between the EAEU member countries and develop relevant

³⁶ Pivovar, E. Experts from the EAEU countries discussed the implementation of the “Eurasian Electric Bus” project at Belkommunmash / E. Pivovar // [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/eksperty-stran-eaes-obsudili-na-belkommunmashe-realizatsiju-proekta-evrazijskij-elektrobus-528846-2022/>

³⁷ Golovchenko: there should be more projects to create an innovative product under the Eurasian brand [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/golovchenko-proektov-po-sozdaniyu-innovatsionnogo-produkta-pod-evrazijskim-brendom-dolzno-byt-bolshe-530593-2022/>

competencies. It is clear that “electric vehicles mean high-productivity jobs, so everyone will benefit from it”³⁸.

In February 2023, at a meeting of the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council in Almaty, a discussion took place, at which it was noted that “possible details for the implementation of this project are currently being worked out at the EEC site. We not only need to decide on partners for cooperation (such proposals have already been received from Belarus), but we also need to prepare all the necessary documents so that in the future these projects can qualify for some benefits in terms of financing”³⁹. At the next meeting of the EEC Council with the participation of vice-premiers of the EAEU countries, which took place in the same February 2023, the recommendation “On measures to develop cooperative cooperation among the member states of the Eurasian Economic Union in the formation and implementation of projects in the field of electric vehicles” was approved.

This document lays out the main basic approaches to cooperation between member states for the development of electric vehicle production in the Union and measures to enter into specific joint projects for the production of components. The recommendation also consolidates the generated Lists of critical components and organizations that have the necessary production potential. “First of all, it is necessary to develop competencies in electric bus manufacturing, since such products are already produced in most countries of the Eurasian Economic Union and the demand for them is stimulated mainly through government procurement <...> In the future, work in this area will continue, but the main emphasis is planned to be on the formation of potential cooperation projects with the study of the possibility of subsidizing interest rates on loans at the expense of the Commission’s funds”⁴⁰. In addition,

³⁸ About \$20 million a year will be allocated to support cooperation projects in the EAEU [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/okolo-20-mln-v-god-budut-napravljat-na-podderzhku-koopertsionnyh-proektov-v-eaes-530531-2022/>

³⁹ Pivovar, E. EEC discusses the details of the “Eurasian Electric Bus” project initiated by Belarus / E. Pivovar // [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/EEK-obsuzhdaet-detali-initsirovannogo-belarusiju-proekta-evrazijskij-elektrobus-548208-2023/>

⁴⁰ The EEC Council approved measures to develop cooperation between the EAEU countries in the electric vehicle industry [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL :

during the development of this issue, Belarus received proposals to consider the experience of member states in the construction of charging complexes, including chargers for charging electric buses, electric trucks and electric vehicles. Additionally, this issue will be studied at the Commission on Cooperation and Import Substitution in Priority and High-Tech Industries within the Union. And if necessary, the possibility of creating a joint cooperation project by interested member states will be considered. So the Belarusian project “Eurasian Electric Bus” is already really starting its journey.

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Belarus – Kazakhstan: dear friendship and cooperation

Belarus and Kazakhstan signed an agreement on socio-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, the task corresponding to this new stage was announced - by the end of the year, “to reach new indicators in mutual trade - for goods and services in total per year this is more than \$1 billion”⁴¹.

In February 2022, summing up the results of the past year, the parties stated at a high level that Belarusian-Kazakh trade turnover exceeded one billion dollars for the first time in history. To be absolutely precise, it “amounted to \$1,092.5 billion and increased by 31.9% compared to the corresponding period last year [2020], exports amounted to \$911.8 million (an increase of 25%). The balance is positive – \$731.1 million⁴². ” The basis of Belarusian supplies was a variety of food products - fresh or chilled beef, condensed and powdered milk and cream, cheeses and cottage cheese, sausages and similar meat products, sugar, as well as parts of rolling stock, combine harvesters, furniture and its parts. The distribution network of Belarusian enterprises on Kazakh soil includes more than 40 companies, as well as more than 170 entities of the dealer network. There are also a number of joint assembly plants for Belarusian machinery and equipment.

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

⁴¹ Zalessky, B.L. With an eye to trade and production cooperation / B.L. Zalessky // Materiały XVII Międzynarodowej naukowej - praktycznej konferencji “Dynamika” naukowych badań – 2021”, Volume 6. Przemysł : Nauka i studio . – C. 21.

⁴² Golovchenko: trade turnover between Belarus and Kazakhstan in 2021 exceeded \$1 billion 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-mld-486829-2022/>

In the field of industrial cooperation, we note that seven Belarusian enterprises operate in Kazakhstan, among them Gomselmash, Minsk Tractor Plant, Bobruiskagromash. They are steadily increasing the supply of vehicle kits to this country for the production of equipment. As part of one of the largest projects to create tractor production in the industrial zone in Kostanay, the construction of a workshop for the production of standardized cabins with a production capacity of up to 10 thousand units per year has been completed. “The parties are studying the possibility of organizing the production of not only elements and components of tractor equipment, but also machine tools, engines for tractor equipment, diesel generators, pumping units, and optical products⁴³. ”

As for new prospects for interaction, the production of fire engines based on the chassis of the Minsk Automobile Plant and the Pozhsnab enterprise is being discussed. This is a new promising niche that needs to be filled with Belarusian technology. But in general, “we can increase mutual supplies with Kazakhstan by \$200 million⁴⁴. ” In this regard, the experience of the Minsk Motor Plant (MMZ), whose trading house was opened at the beginning of 2022 in Kazakhstan and which successfully and with increasing performance sells Belarusian engines, special equipment 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 goal of the Belarusian enterprise at the forum is “to expand business and commercial prospects, opportunities to promote products, and increase brand awareness⁴⁵. ” For the same purpose, in September 2022 in Astana, more than 30 Belarusian business entities took part in international specialized exhibitions in mechanical engineering and

⁴³ Golovchenko: Belarus and Kazakhstan need to move further in the field of industrial cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/golovchenko-belarusi-i-kazahstanu-nuzhno-dvigatsija-dalshe-v-oblasti-promkkooperatsii-531879-2022/>

⁴⁴ Snopkov: The basis for cooperation between Belarus and Kazakhstan is production cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/snopkov-bazoi-sotrudnichestva-belarusi-i-kazahstana-javljaetsja-proizvodstvennaja-kooperatsija-506651-2022/>

⁴⁵ 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/>

metalworking, as well as in the manufacturing industry. Collective stands “represented enterprises of the Ministry of Industry of the Republic of Belarus, the Ministry of Education, and individual stands represented the Minsk Tractor Plant and machine tool enterprises”⁴⁶. ” This suggests that in the Belarusian-Kazakh industrial cooperation, new projects, as they say, are already on the way.

In the field of agriculture, the Ministry of Agriculture of Kazakhstan confirmed its interest in building a dairy farm for 1,200 heads on Kazakh soil, where “Belarusian technologies, materials, equipment will be used, and dairy cattle will be supplied. Work will begin this year and will continue in 2023.”⁴⁷ Work continues on creating the production of veterinary drugs in Kazakhstan both to meet the needs of the domestic market and for promising export to third countries. From the Belarusian side, the BelVituFarm enterprise will participate in this project. In addition, the Kazakh side expressed interest in the supply of Belarusian feed, premixes, amino acids, as well as in switching to Belarusian-selected potato seeds.

Belarusian and Kazakh partners are also planning several projects in the construction sector in the near future. “Among them there are symmetrical ones - the construction of a Belarusian quarter in Astana and a Kazakh quarter in Minsk. <...> At this stage, the plans are to identify land plots and a concept, and attract government developers”⁴⁸. ” Another project is the joint production of ceramic tiles. Kazakhstan has a lot of mineral resources, so it is planned to create production with the involvement of Belarusian specialists and technologies.

⁴⁶ More than 30 Belarusian enterprises participate in industrial exhibitions in Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/bole-30-belorusskih-predpriyatij-uchastvujut-v-vystavkah-promyshlennosti-v-kazahstane-525159-2022/>

⁴⁷ Production of veterinary drugs and construction of MTF. How Belarus and Kazakhstan will cooperate in the agro-industrial complex [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/>

⁴⁸ The Belarusian quarter is in Astana, the Kazakh quarter is in Minsk. What new projects are being discussed in construction [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belorusskij-kvartal-v-astane-kazahstanskij-v-minske-kakie-novye-proekty-obsuzhdajut-v-stroitelstve-531980-2022/>

Another interesting fact: Belarus and Kazakhstan are also planning to develop freight transportation by rail. In October 2022, a Belarusian-Kazakh round table was held in Astana, where more than 80 participants, including about 40 Kazakhstani companies from the mining, oil, chemical, gas, metallurgical and agricultural industries, carriers and transport and logistics companies of the country, as well as representatives of Belarusian enterprises in the forestry, wood processing and food industries, transport and forwarding companies, discussed the prospects for the development of existing projects and current transport and logistics solutions for the further development of transportation between Belarus and Kazakhstan. At the same time, “considerable attention was paid to the issues of unimpeded passage of goods from Belarus to Kazakhstan, as well as to China in transit through Kazakhstan, including as part of container trains ⁴⁹. ”

Interregional cooperation is another important component of Belarusian-Kazakh bilateral cooperation. Let us remind you that “there are about 30 agreements between the regions of Belarus and Kazakhstan ⁵⁰. ” Among the Belarusian participants in this productive interaction can be called **the Minsk region**, whose trade turnover with Kazakhstan in 2021 increased by another 7.5 percent and amounted to \$190 million. At the same time, “the share of exports accounted for almost \$180 million, the growth rate was 107.2%. There was a positive balance in foreign trade of almost \$170 million. The volume of foreign direct investment from Kazakhstan amounted to more than \$1.2 million, or 137.2% of the 2020 level ⁵¹. ” Among the active Kazakh partners of the Belarusian capital region, the Karaganda and Pavlodar regions should be mentioned.

Thus, an agreement on cooperation between the Minsk region and **the Karaganda region** was signed back in 1996 and included measures for

⁴⁹ Belarus and Kazakhstan plan to develop freight transportation by rail [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-kazahstan-planirujut-razvivat-gruzoperevozki-po-zheleznoj-doroge-530740-2022/>

⁵⁰ Zalessky, B. The goal is stable growth. Collection articles / B. Zalessky . – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2021. – P. 52.

⁵¹ Turchin discussed with Beisenbaev the development of cooperation between the Minsk region and Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/turchin-obsudil-s-beisenbaevym-razvitie-sotrudnichestva-mezhdu-minskoi-oblastju-i-kazahstanom-486296-2022/>

interaction in the field of industry, agriculture, healthcare, and education. In June 2013, JV KazBelAZ LLP, a joint venture for the overhaul of components and assemblies, the production of spare parts and the manufacture of equipment of the Belarusian Automobile Plant, began its work in this Kazakhstan region. “Production is based at the Karaganda Foundry and Machine-Building Plant (KLMZ), a branch of Kazakhmys Corporation LLP . ” ⁵² This joint venture became one of the largest in the State Program for Accelerated Industrial-Innovative Development and was included in the Industrialization Map of Kazakhstan for 2010-2014. The first Belarusian dump truck was assembled in Karaganda in August 2013 “by Karaganda automakers who were trained at the Belarusian plant ⁵³. ” And in October 2021, the parties 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 Kazakhstan region. Among them is a company that assembles mining dump trucks, repairs and maintains BelAZ equipment ⁵⁴. ” Apparently, this interaction can be further expanded, since the region is interested in attracting Belarusian companies and is ready to create favorable conditions for them so that they can “take part in the implementation of agricultural projects and the construction of schools. Cooperation in the IT field is also possible . ” ⁵⁵

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 on cooperation in the field of agriculture. The Belarusian experience in the construction of dairy complexes aroused great interest among Kazakhstanis at that time. “By handing over to the

⁵² Potylitsyn, S. Process of natural evolution / S. Potylitsyn // [Electronic resource]. – 2014. – URL : <https://kazpravda.kz/n/protsess-zakonomernov-evolyutsii/>

⁵³ Akhmetova, A. Karaganda residents assembled the first Belarusian dump truck / A. Akhmetova // [Electronic resource]. – 2013. – URL : <https://www.altyn-orda.kz/karagandincv-sobrali-pervyj-belorusskij-samosval/>

⁵⁴ Belarus and Kazakhstan can launch joint production of fire fighting equipment in the Karaganda region [Electronic resource]. – 2021. – <https://primepress.by/news/kompanii/belarus-i-kazakhstan-mogut-zapustit-sovmestnoe-proizvodstvo-pozharnov-tehniki-na-territorii-karagan-38483/>

⁵⁵ About 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>

Pavlodar residents a package of standard projects for agricultural facilities, representatives of the capital region of Belarus expressed their readiness not only to advise them on this topic, but also to build dairy complexes on mutually beneficial terms ⁵⁶. ” In addition, the free economic zones of the Pavlodar region invited interested companies from the Minsk region to participate in projects for the joint use of subsoil in the region. One of them is an aluminum cluster involving large companies from Germany, Poland, and Turkey. Let us note that the equipment of the Belarusian Automobile Plant is already very actively used in this area of Kazakhstan. In particular, in February 2021, at the installation site of the technology park of the Vostochny open-pit mine of JSC EEC of the Eurasian Group (ERG), the assembly of three BelAZ dump trucks with a lifting capacity of 130 tons was completed, adding to this coal mine enterprise. They joined “seven of their brothers, who have been operating in the cyclic-flow stripping sections of the mine for two years now, having earned the reputation of reliable and highly productive mining machines among Ekibastuz miners ⁵⁷. ” As we see, the range of development of relations between the Minsk and Pavlodar regions can still be very wide.

In particular, cooperation with Kazakhstan is among the priority areas for the development of foreign economic relations **of the Gomel region** . Enterprises in the southeastern region of Belarus have the most serious intentions to develop cooperative ties with Kazakh partners in import substitution and logistics capabilities. A good example is the joint production of Gomselmash OJSC and AgromashHolding KZ JSC, operating since 2007 in Kazakhstan. Today it is not just an assembly shop, but a real production facility. “During the period of cooperation, more than \$320 million worth of plant products were supplied to the Kazakhstan market, and a total of over

⁵⁶ Zalessky, B. Current media topics of Belarusian-Kazakh interaction / B. Zalessky // International journalism 2018: global challenges, regional partnership and media: materials of the VII International. scientific-practical Conf., Minsk, February 15. 2018 / comp. B.L. Zalessky; under general ed. T.N. Dasaeva. – Minsk: Publishing house. BSU Center, 2018. – P. 98.

⁵⁷ BELAZ supplied 130-ton dump trucks to Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. – 2021. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belaz-postavil-130-tonnve-samosvaly-v-kazahstan-428544-2021/>

3.7 thousand units of jointly produced equipment were sold ⁵⁸. ” The products of other Gomel region enterprises are also in demand in Kazakhstan, including the Belarusian Metallurgical Plant and the open joint-stock company Milkavita.

The Mogilev region also closely cooperates with this country in Central Asia, which is beginning to strengthen its work in trade and economic cooperation. “For seven months of this year [2022], foreign trade turnover between the Mogilev region and Kazakhstan amounted to about \$40 million ⁵⁹. ” But the parties still have plenty of opportunities for collaboration. For the Belarusian region, Kazakhstan is one of the most important trade and economic partners, ranking second in terms of foreign trade turnover among the countries of the Eurasian Economic Union, both based on the results of 2021 and in terms of indicators for seven months of 2022. The main export items are cars and spare parts for cars, dairy products, poultry meat, elevators, railway cars. In turn, the Mogilev region purchases equipment, chemical products and various raw materials from Kazakhstan. Note that almost 45 percent of all imports in the region are paraxylene, which is used by Mogilevkhimvolokno. Also, other enterprises in the Belarusian region, including those from the Mogilev free economic zone, have a number of proposals for cooperation with Kazakh partners.

The Grodno region, which has already concluded five agreements with Kazakh regions, is also intensifying cooperation with Kazakhstan. The Grodno region actively supplies agricultural, processed and wood products to partners. But “the time has come to intensify work, fill these agreements with real projects and agreements that will intensify relations between the two countries ⁶⁰. ”

⁵⁸ 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-kazakhstanom-512360-2022>

⁵⁹ Isachenko at a meeting with the Ambassador of Kazakhstan: the time has come 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-ekonomicheskoi-sfere-525098-2022/>

⁶⁰ Ambassador of Kazakhstan at a meeting with Karanik: our task is to help businessmen of the two countries find each other [Electronic resource]. – 2022. –

As for cooperation between Belarus and Kazakhstan in the educational sphere, in 2022 the interaction of the parties has also been enriched with new colors. In particular, Baranovich State University in October offered cooperation to Shakarim University, which is located in the city of Semey, Abay region. In this educational and scientific center of the north-eastern region of Kazakhstan, more than seven thousand students study in five faculties. The two universities are interested in “jointly implementing educational programs for students and teachers, organizing academic exchanges, summer and winter schools. There are ideas for scientific and innovative projects”⁶¹. "

And one more thing: in September 2022, a round table “Kazakhstan and Belarus: dear friendship and cooperation” was held in Minsk, where it was noted that “in 2021, trade turnover between Kazakhstan and Belarus exceeded \$1 billion”⁶², but there are still solid reserves for increasing trade turnover: this – not only industrial cooperation, agro-industrial complex, transport, deepening interregional cooperation, joint ventures, but also interaction in the cultural and humanitarian spheres.

URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/posol-kazahstana-na-vstreche-s-karanikom-nasha-zadacha-pomoch-biznesmenam-dvuh-stran-najti-drug-druga-514826-2022/>

⁶¹ BarSU aims to closely cooperate with a university from Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/bargu-natselen-tesno-sotrudnicat-s-universitetom-iz-kazahstana-530948-2022/>

⁶² Ambassador of Kazakhstan: Belarus is a country to which you always want to return [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/posol-kazahstana-belarus-strana-v-kotoruiu-vsegda-hochetsja-vozvrashchatsja-526048-2022/>

Belarus – Uzbekistan: the goal is a qualitatively new level of cooperation

In April 2022, a visit of the government delegation of Belarus to Uzbekistan took place, as a result of which the parties signed contracts worth more than \$25 million. An equally important result was the statement by Minsk and Tashkent of the fact that new points of growth in cooperation have been found. And “now the task is to fill it with new content”⁶³ in order to bring the annual volume of mutual trade to half a billion dollars.

The beginning of 2022 showed that the parties are confidently approaching their goal. If in 2021 the Belarusian-Uzbek trade turnover grew by almost 8 percent and exceeded \$300 million with a positive balance for the Belarusian side of almost \$190 million, then “in January-February 2022 the trade turnover amounted to \$53.5 million and increased to the level of the corresponding period of 2021 by 9.9%”⁶⁴. “It is planned to further increase the volume of trade and investment, first of all, through the implementation of joint cooperation projects.

Let us note that 103 organizations with Belarusian investments have already been registered in Uzbekistan, and there are also representative offices of Avtopromsnabspedition LLC, Softclub LLC, AmantisMed LLC, and Belvitunifarm LLC. One assembly production of Belarusian equipment was also created there with the participation of Belarusian capital - AMKODOR- AGROTEXMASH LLC JV. In particular, “the production of loaders has been established at the Tashkent Tractor Plant, which indicates the demand for these products in the local and regional market”⁶⁵. ” In addition, cooperation between MAZ OJSC and KRANTAS LLC continues GROUP”, OJSC “MTZ” and JSC “Uzavtosanoat” in the field of production

⁶³ Roman Golovchenko: Belarus and Uzbekistan can increase trade and investment volumes, growth points have been found [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <http://www.government.by/ru/content/10260>

⁶⁴ Belarus and Uzbekistan are intensifying the implementation of production and cooperation projects [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-uzbekistan-aktivizirujut-realizatsiju-proizvodstvenno-kooperatsionnyh-proektov-495026-2022/>

⁶⁵ Technology, equipment, scientific and technical developments. What Belarus will present at the exhibition in Tashkent [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/comments/view/tehnika-oborudovanie-nauchno-tehnicheskie-razrabotki-cto-belarus-prezentuet-na-vystavke-v-tashkente-8158/>

of vehicles and tractors. And “the Marko company is implementing a joint project in Uzbekistan for the production of shoes. Svetlogorsk Welding Electrode Plant LLC is implementing an investment project in this country for the production of welding electrodes. For this purpose, IP LLC “MONOLITH” was created in Tashkent ASIA”⁶⁶. And these ties continue to actively strengthen.

Thus, in April 2022, the official distributor of the Minsk Automobile Plant in this Central Asian country - MAZ - TASHKENT LLC - established the industrial assembly of MAZ equipment from SK D -kits. “The first model was the MAZ-5337 chassis. Localization of assembly production in Uzbekistan will allow the Minsk Automobile Plant to expand its presence in the market of Central Asian countries, and in the future - Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan”⁶⁷. “And within the framework of the Uzbek-Belarusian business forum, held in April in Tashkent, the MAZ distributor “signed a contract with the private enterprise OLIY TEXNIK for the purchase of 41 MAZ vehicles. <...> The contract amount exceeded \$3 million”⁶⁸.

The Minsk Tractor Plant is also actively increasing its presence in the Uzbek market, increasing the volume of supplies of its machines by almost a quarter in the first quarter of 2022. “In total, equipment worth more than \$10 million was shipped”⁶⁹. “Interestingly, for the entire 2021, Belarusian tractors worth \$31 million were sent to Uzbek partners. And at the end of April - beginning of May, a sales and service center for Belarusian agricultural machinery was opened in Tashkent, which combined “a showroom and a

⁶⁶ Roman Golovchenko: Trade turnover between Belarus and Uzbekistan needs to be increased to at least \$500 million [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <http://www.government.by/ru/content/10257>

⁶⁷ . The Minsk Automobile Plant has established the assembly of equipment in Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/minskij-avtozavod-naladil-sborku-tehniki-v-uzbekistane-496181-2022/>

⁶⁸ MAZ-Tashkent signed a large contract with an Uzbek company for the supply of 41 vehicles [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/maz-tashkent-podpisal-krupnyj-kontrakt-s-uzbekskoj-kompaniej-na-postavku-41-avtomobilja-498224-2022/>

⁶⁹ In the first quarter, MTZ increased the supply of equipment to Uzbekistan by more than 23% [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/mtz-vi-kvartale-narastil-postavki-tehniki-v-uzbekistan-bolee-chem-na-23-499321-2022/>

sales center, a service point and production areas⁷⁰. ” A bank branch is also located here, focused on providing lending services and leasing equipment. It is characteristic that the Belarusian side plans to open similar centers in other Uzbek regions.

Belarusian-Uzbek cooperation in the implementation of joint projects in the field of medicine is very promising. One of them is the Belpharm joint venture for the production of medicines, where antibiotics will be produced and in which more than \$8 million has already been invested. In addition, the Belarusian side invited its partners to build a joint venture for blood processing. An important detail: “Today, organizations of the Belpharmprom holding have 166 registration certificates for medicines in Uzbekistan. For the supply of pharmaceutical products, the holding members entered into 12 contracts with Uzbek partners. At the end of 2021, exports of products from Belpharmprom holding organizations to Uzbekistan amounted to \$14 million, in January-February 2022 – \$3 million⁷¹. ”

If we talk about other prospects for cooperation, we can name several more areas. One of them concerns electric transport. The fact is that “the possibility of resuming tram service is being considered in Tashkent. The Belarusian side is ready to provide comprehensive solutions with the necessary infrastructure, planning and supply of rolling stock⁷². ” If a decision is made in this regard, then the creation of joint production on Uzbek soil will become realistic. The issue of supplying wooden houses from Belarus to Uzbekistan, where “this is now a very fashionable trend <...>, there is a very high demand,” is also currently in the development stage⁷³. There

⁷⁰ A sales and service center for Belarusian agricultural machinery opened in Tashkent [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/tsentr-prodazh-i-servisnogo-obsluzhivaniya-belorusskoi-selhoztehniki-otkrvlsia-v-tashkente-499290-2022/>

⁷¹ Belarus and Uzbekistan are discussing deepening cooperation in the pharmaceutical industry [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-uzbekistan-obsuzhdajut-uglublenie-sotrudnichestva-v-farmotrasli-498163-2022/>

⁷² Roman Golovchenko: Trade turnover between Belarus and Uzbekistan needs to be increased to at least \$500 million [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <http://www.government.by/ru/content/10257>

⁷³ Golovchenko: Belarus is working on the supply of wooden houses to Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/golovchenko-belarus-prorabatvvaet-postavki-v-uzbekistan-dereviannyh-domov-498185-2022/>

may be good prospects here for the Belarusian Newsprint Plant, which has a conveyor belt production of such houses.

In the same context, it should be recalled that at the end of April 2022 the parties considered “the possibilities of organizing the supply of Belarusian peat substrates to forestry industries in Uzbekistan for further use as a basis for growing planting seedlings ⁷⁴. ” Considering the considerable experience of Belarusian peat enterprises in this area, and in 2021, the export of peat industry organizations of the Beltopgaz State Production Association increased by more than a quarter, it can be fully predicted that this year Uzbekistan will become the 25th country where Belarusian peat will be supplied.

Belarusian light industry enterprises that produce worsted, linen, synthetic and artificial fabrics with various properties, pile fabrics, corsetry and hosiery also see their prospects for increasing supplies of in-demand products to the Uzbek market. These are the Orsha Flax Mill, OJSC Mogotex, OJSC Kamvol, which became participants in the 4th International Exhibition of Textile and Fashion Industry UzTextileExpo Spring 2022, held in April 2022 in Tashkent. Together with them, five more Belarusian enterprises of the chemical and petrochemical industry were also represented, which demonstrated to the numerous visitors of this business forum “artificial and chemical fibers for textile production, technical textiles for construction, polymer products, chemicals and fertilizers for agriculture, fiberglass ⁷⁵. ” In short, everything that arouses increased interest among partners from Uzbekistan and can become the basis for concluding new contracts.

Speaking about the participation of Belarusian exporters in foreign exhibitions, it should be noted that in 2021, while participating in exhibitions and forums organized by Belinterexpo, the exhibition enterprise of the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, they signed 86 agreements

⁷⁴ Belarus is interested in supplying peat substrates to Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-zainteresovana-v-postavkah-torfjanyh-substratov-v-uzbekistan-499019-2022/>

⁷⁵ Belarusian light industry enterprises present their potential in Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/beloruskie-predpriyatija-legkoj-promyshlennosti-prezentuiut-svoj-potentsial-v-uzbekistane-498369-2022/>

and contracts worth more than \$80 million. At the same time, “agreements and contracts worth \$15 million were signed within the framework of national exhibitions ⁷⁶. ” What is important here is that among the most effective in terms of the amount of signed contracts were national expositions organized specifically within the framework of exhibitions in Uzbekistan - “INNOPROM. Big Industrial Week” and UzProdExpo / UzAgroExpo .

Speaking about the first of them, it should be noted that the “Great Industrial Week in Uzbekistan”, held in April 2021 in Tashkent, became the largest event in this Central Asian country after the break caused by the pandemic. The exhibition was then attended by “more than 200 enterprises operating in the fields of mechanical engineering, metallurgy, energy, pharmaceuticals, chemical industry and medicine, from Armenia, Belarus, Germany, Italy, China, the Republic of Korea, Russia, Turkey, Uzbekistan, France, the Czech Republic, Japan, EAEU countries and Central Asia” ⁷⁷. As for the Belarusian pavilion, it included stands of 65 companies and organizations that presented engineering, metallurgical, chemical, pharmaceutical products, medical equipment, scientific developments and consumer goods. One of the specific results of their participation in this exhibition was “the signing by a subsidiary of the Minsk Automobile Plant in Uzbekistan - MAZ-Tashkent LLC - of an agreement of intent for the supply of chassis and vehicle kits for assembling cars to the Uzbek market in the amount of \$10 million. Also with a private Uzbek company The company entered into an agreement for the supply of 50 units of MAZ equipment for a total amount of \$3 million ⁷⁸. ” It is interesting that in April 2022 this exhibition in the Uzbek capital was held under a new name - “INNOPROM. Central Asia” - and included six thematic sections: mechanical engineering, metallurgy, energy, chemistry, industrial automation, pharmaceuticals and

⁷⁶ At the Belinterexpo forums and exhibitions, domestic enterprises signed contracts worth \$80 million [Electronic resource]. – 2021. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/na-forumah-i-vystavkah-belinterekspotechestvennye-predpriyatija-podpisali-kontrakty-na-80-mln-476100-2021/>

⁷⁷ More than 20 Belarusian enterprises took part in a major industrial exhibition in Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. – 2021. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/bole-20-belorusskih-predpriyatij-prinjali-uchastie-v-krupnoi-promyshlennoi-vystavke-v-uzbekistane-436286-2021/>

⁷⁸ Zalesky, B. The key task is development. Collection articles / B. Zalesky . – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2021. – P. 40-41.

medicine. A plenary session “Central Asia. Space of technological breakthrough” and specialized ones - on infrastructure projects, logistics, financial instruments, education. Belarusian participation in this business forum has become no less representative due to the fact that “the export of Belarusian goods to Uzbekistan has increased sixfold in five years. The greatest demand is for equipment from Belarus (tractors and truck tractors, trucks), chemical products, food products, ferrous and non-ferrous metals, energy, and petroleum products. In total, Belarus supplies 360 commodity items from all industries to Uzbekistan ⁷⁹. ”

As for the agricultural and food exhibitions UzAgroExpo and UzProdExpo , held in Tashkent in November 2021, they are the largest industry business forums in Uzbekistan, which this time brought together 120 companies from 18 countries. The National Pavilion of Belarus, where 17 companies were represented, demonstrated the export capabilities of domestic enterprises in three main areas: food industry; agricultural engineering; the science. Especially many original new products were presented in the first of them - beef in lingonberry sauce, soft cheese made using Italian technology from ricotta whey, high-quality coffee prepared using our own patented technology, peanut butter with sea salt, fruit bars from a mixture of dried prunes, dried apples, oatmeal and syrup, protein milk chocolate with increased protein content, as well as “Belarusian whiskey, a blended alcoholic drink made from artesian water based on national grain crops - rye, wheat, barley malt ⁸⁰. ” Scientific developments in the agro-industrial and food spheres, including technologies for restoring damaged soils, methods for producing innovative fermented milk drinks, and cosmetics, were shown to numerous exhibition visitors by the Belarusian State University, the Belarusian National Technical University, the Belarusian-Russian University and the Belarusian State University of Food

⁷⁹ The Belarusian national pavilion will be presented at the INNOPROM exhibition in Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belorusckij-natsionalnyi-paviljon-budet-predstavlen-na-vystavke-innoprom-v-uzbekistane-480872-2022/>

⁸⁰ The National Pavilion of Belarus is presented at exhibitions in Tashkent [Electronic resource]. – 2021. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/natsionalnyi-paviljon-belarusi-predstavlen-na-vystavke-v-tashkente-471340-2021/>

and Chemical Technologies. Innovative equipment was also brought to the Uzbek capital by the Minsk Automobile Plant and the Lidselmash enterprise - a MAZ-65012K dump truck specially designed for the Uzbek market, which is "equipped with a metal body that is tilted using a hydraulic mechanism and is designed for transporting bulk cargo, including agricultural purpose" ⁸¹, and new modifications of the cultivator for processing cotton - the most popular agricultural crop in this Central Asian country. The specific result of the work at these exhibitions was "an agreement between the official distributor of the Minsk Automobile Plant in Uzbekistan, MAZ - Tashkent , and the Nurafshon enterprise Maxsus Texnika on the supply of mechanical engineering products worth \$1 million ⁸². " And within the framework of the Uzbekistan-Belarus agricultural forum, agreements were reached on the construction and reconstruction of a dairy complex on Uzbek soil using Belarusian technologies.

Another important area of interaction between the two countries is the intensification of partner Belarusian-Uzbek regional ties, which in modern conditions are becoming one of the most important areas for the development of cooperation. A significant intensification of this interaction was facilitated by the First Forum of Regions of Belarus and Uzbekistan, held in Minsk in July 2019 , which opened up new partnership opportunities in such areas as industrial cooperation, the agro-industrial complex, the food industry, and brought together "more than two hundred representatives of such regions from the Uzbek side alone," like Andijan, Bukhara, Jizzakh, Namangan, Samarkand, Khorezm, Fergana and Tashkent regions ⁸³. "

On the Belarusian side, one of the active participants in this forum was the Vitebsk region, the positive dynamics of trade and economic cooperation with Uzbek partners have been observed over the past few years. Suffice it to

⁸¹ The Minsk Automobile Plant presented a new gas dump truck at an exhibition in Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. – 2021. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/minskij-avtozavod-predstavil-novyj-gazovyj-samosval-na-vystavke-v-uzbekistane-471501-2021/>

⁸² MAZ signed a contract for the supply of equipment to Uzbekistan for \$1 million [Electronic resource]. – 2021. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/maz-podpisal-kontrakt-na-postavku-tehniki-v-uzbekistan-na-1-mln-471344-2021/>

⁸³ Zalessky, B. Sustainability as a formula for growth. Features of international cooperation based on the innovative component / B. Zalessky. – Palmarium Academic Publishing , 2021. – P. 37 .

say that in 2019, Uzbekistan was included in the list of key partners of the Vitebsk region among the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States. Then the foreign trade turnover between the parties increased by more than a quarter and exceeded nine million dollars. At the same time, export supplies from the Belarusian region “increased one and a half times - to 6.7 million dollars. Exports of food products amounted to \$0.9 million, or 13.4% of its total volume. <...> Cheeses and dairy products from the Postavy Dairy Plant, Verkhnedvinsk Creamery, Polotsk Dairy Plant, as well as meat products from the Vitebsk Meat Processing Plant are already familiar to Uzbek consumers and are in good demand among them⁸⁴. ” In addition, baby food, vaccines to combat diseases of domestic animals in a wide range, and pharmaceuticals were successfully supplied to the Uzbek market from the Vitebsk region.

In 2021, the volume of mutual trade between the Belarusian region and this Central Asian country has already exceeded 12.5 million dollars, with the share of Vitebsk exports amounting to almost 10 million dollars, the basis of which again consisted of medicines, cattle meat, milk powder and whey , butter, cheeses, as well as polyethylene, plastic and fiberglass products, fiber optic cable. In addition, the activities of the joint venture of the leather and footwear holding “Marco” began on Uzbek soil. Other projects in the field of industrial cooperation are next. In particular, since 2020, the Vitebsk region has been negotiating the opening in Uzbekistan of a joint enterprise with BelVitunifarm OJSC, which at the initial stage will trade in drugs with a subsequent transition to their production. In December 2021, a representative office of a Belarusian manufacturer of veterinary drugs was opened in Tashkent. And “issues of financing the project are already being worked out in order to reach the sale of medicines in the amount of \$2 million per year

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⁸⁴ Tikhonov, A. Belarusian-Uzbek Agrarian Forum: afterword / A. Tikhonov // [Electronic resource]. – 2019. – URL : <https://produkt.by/storv/belorusko-uzbekskiy-agrarnyy-forum-posleslovie>

⁸⁵ Pushnyakova, A. Uzbekistan can become a springboard for enterprises in the Vitebsk region for supplies to Asia / A. Pushnyakova // [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/uzbekistan-mozhet-stat-dlja-predpriyatij-vitebskoj-oblasti-tramplinom-dlja-postavok-v-aziju-491940-2022/>

Among other promising areas of interaction between regional enterprises and Uzbek partners, in March 2022, the supply of fruit, vegetable and meat and dairy products, as well as cooperation in such segments of the industrial sector as mechanical engineering, energy, chemical and gas industries were discussed. An important role in this regard should be played by the activation of partnership ties between the Vitebsk region and a number of Uzbek regions and especially with Namangan region. The fact is that the Vitebsk and Namangan regions signed an agreement on cooperation in trade, economic, scientific, technical and cultural fields in July 2019 within the framework of the above-mentioned First Forum of Regions of Belarus and Uzbekistan. This document should help build up mutually beneficial trade and economic ties between regional enterprises and organizations, provide “comprehensive support to business structures in concluding mutually acceptable contracts for the supply of goods and services. We are also talking about joint business seminars, exhibitions and fairs with the participation of representatives of entrepreneurial and business circles ⁸⁶. ”

FZ) “Vitebsk” and “Kosonsoy-Pharm” is also intended to expand the possible areas of trade, economic and investment interaction between the Belarusian and Uzbek regions , which not only creates a basis for the exchange of experience and promoting the development of partnerships between residents of the FEZ, but also forms the basis for combining the potential of the parties in conducting joint events. Note that Kosonsoy-Pharm was among seven pharmaceutical SEZs created in May 2017 in six Uzbek regions. In addition to it, then they appeared “in Karakalpakstan - “Nukus-farm”, Jizzakh region - “Zomin-farm”, <...> Syrdarya - “Sirdarya-farm”, Surkhandarya - “Boysun-farm” and Tashkent region - “Bustonlik-farm” and “Parkent Farm” ⁸⁷. Special tax, customs and currency regimes apply on their territory. All of them specialize in the development of pharmaceutical enterprises. Several residents of the Vitebsk FEZ are also employed in this

⁸⁶ Namangan region will cooperate with Vitebsk [Electronic resource]. – 2019. – URL : https://nampravda.uz/ekonomika/namanganskaya_oblast_budet_sotrudnichat_s_vitebskom.html

⁸⁷ Seven pharmaceutical SEZs are being created in Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. – 2017. – URL : <https://www.gazeta.uz/ru/2017/05/05/pharm/>

area. That is why “attracting investment in projects to create production of medicines and medical products is one of the most promising areas of cooperation between the administrations of the two SEZs ⁸⁸. ” And there is every reason to believe that this interaction between the Belarusian and Uzbek free economic zones will further strengthen the emerging partnership ties between the Vitebsk and Namangan regions.

What other areas of Belarusian-Uzbek interaction will be intensified in the very near future can also be judged from the documents that were signed in April 2022 during the visit of the Belarusian government delegation to Tashkent. Thus, the Ministry of Innovative Development of Uzbekistan signed a memorandum of cooperation with the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and an executive program for scientific, technical and innovative cooperation for 2022-2023 with the State Committee for Science and Technology of Belarus. The Ministry of Agriculture and Food of Belarus also signed two significant documents: a memorandum of understanding with the State Committee for Veterinary Medicine and Livestock Development of Uzbekistan; roadmap for the further development of cooperation in the field of agricultural science, education and innovative development for 2022-2023 - with the Ministry of Agriculture of Uzbekistan, which, in turn, also signed a memorandum of understanding with the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus on the further development of scientific- technical cooperation, education and scientific training. Finally, an agreement on cooperation in the field of livestock breeding was concluded by Belplemzhivooedineniye and the Uzbekchhorvanasl agency.

Back in the fall of 2018, Belarus and Uzbekistan signed an intergovernmental agreement on socio-economic cooperation for 2019-2023, which “reflected key agreements at the highest level on the development of Belarusian-Uzbek relations and bringing them to a qualitatively new level ⁸⁹.

⁸⁸ SEZ “Vitebsk” and the Uzbek “Kosonsoy-farm” will develop investment cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2019. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/sez-vitebsk-i-uzbekskaja-kosonsoj-farm-budut-razvivat-investitsionnoe-sotrudnichestvo-352766-2019/>

⁸⁹ Zalesky, B. Vector of post-Soviet integration. A view from Belarus / B. Zalesky. – Palmarium Academic Publishing, 2019. – P. 228 .

” As we can see, the tasks set in this document are being carried out by the parties very actively and successfully.

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Belarus – Uzbekistan: joint initiatives build interaction in innovative areas

In August 2022, the ninth meeting of the joint intergovernmental commission on bilateral cooperation between Belarus and Uzbekistan was held in Minsk, the participants of which noted the importance of continuing systematic work for new promising joint initiatives in order to jointly achieve a multiple increase in mutual trade volumes in the coming years. Let us remember that “in In 2021, trade turnover between Belarus and Uzbekistan amounted to \$301.9 million and increased by 7.8% compared to 2020, exports amounted to \$245.4 million (an increase of 3.3%). The balance is positive – \$188.9 million⁹⁰. ” The main items of Belarusian exports in 2021 were meat and meat products, medicines, vinyl chloride polymers, milk powder, diagnostic reagents, vaccines, blood serums, particle boards, cheeses and cottage cheese. In the first half of 2022, Belarusian-Uzbek trade turnover exceeded \$190 million and increased by almost 40 percent. At the same time, the positive balance on the Belarusian side amounted to \$100.7 million. Now the parties see a real opportunity to achieve mutual trade turnover of \$500 million. In this regard, Belarus is ready to increase supplies of food and agricultural products, road construction, municipal and special equipment, mining dump trucks, woodworking products, petrochemicals, pharmaceuticals, and medical equipment.

As for industrial cooperation and the creation of joint productions, in total “103 organizations with Belarusian investments have already been registered in Uzbekistan, and there are also representative offices of Avtopromsnabspedition LLC, Softclub LLC, AmantisMed LLC, Belvitunifarm LLC⁹¹. ” In 2022, the production of equipment based on the chassis of the Minsk Automobile Plant can be considered a good result of joint work. “If until recently only add-ons were carried out on ready-made

⁹⁰ Golovchenko and Aripov discussed increasing trade turnover between Belarus and Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/golovchenko-i-aripov-obsudili-naraschivanie-tovarooborota-belarusi-i-uzbekistana-520574-2022/>

⁹¹ Zalessky, B. Result-oriented. Realization of the possibilities of international economic relations / B. Zalessky. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing , 2022. – C. 23.

vehicle kits, then in April of this year the first MAZ dump truck assembled in Uzbekistan was presented. There are all possibilities to ensure high localization of this production ⁹². ” Work is underway to resume the production of Belarusian tractors in Uzbekistan. And “BELAZ is ready to supply Uzbekistan with completely new models of equipment for transporting rock masses, which are distinguished by both high environmental friendliness and efficiency ⁹³. ” The Belkommunmash enterprise is interested in taking part in the development of the Uzbek transport infrastructure and jointly implementing initiatives to launch environmentally friendly passenger transport. Belarusian specialists are ready to offer a comprehensive solution to create an effective and safe public electric transport system: from the construction of the necessary infrastructure to the supply of the most modern models of equipment. The implementation of such a project would be a truly landmark event in the development of Belarusian-Uzbek relations.

Indicators between the two countries have also increased in the field of agriculture. Over the six months of 2022, the turnover of agricultural products increased in both exports and imports. “Meat products, dairy products and baby food are exported to Uzbekistan. Imports are represented mainly by vegetable and melon products, grapes, dried fruits, and nuts ⁹⁴. ” And for the growing livestock industry of Uzbekistan, the Belarusian side is ready to organize the supply of highly productive premixes with access to joint production of compound feed in this Central Asian country.

Speaking about Belarusian-Uzbek cooperation in the pharmaceutical industry, it should be said that Belarusian investors in Tashkent are successfully implementing a project for the production of broad-spectrum

⁹² Agro-industrial complex, industrial cooperation, construction. Hare about plans for interaction with Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/apk-promkoooperatsija-stroitelstvo-zajats-oplanah-vzaimodejstviya-s-uzbekistanom-520299-2022/>

⁹³ Industrial cooperation, equipment supplies, woodworking. Belarus and Uzbekistan discussed mutual cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/promkoooperatsija-postavki-tehniki-derevoobrabotka-belarus-i-uzbekistan-obsudili-vzaimnoe-520492-2022/>

⁹⁴ Belarus and Uzbekistan discussed issues of further cooperation in the field of agriculture [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-uzbekistan-obsudili-voprosy-dalneishego-sotrudnichestva-v-sfere-apk-520545-2022/>

antibiotics. The Belarusian holding Belfarmprom and its colleagues in Uzbekistan are exploring the possibility of creating joint production facilities for the production of medical products in non-overlapping positions. In the field of construction, the parties are interested in joint design of infrastructure facilities in Uzbekistan, industrial buildings, healthcare facilities, including the pharmaceutical industry. The Uzbek side is showing interest in Belarusian wooden house-building products. Considering the actively developing tourism sector in Uzbekistan and its needs for environmentally friendly residential facilities, cooperation in this direction is very promising.

Interesting Belarusian-Uzbek projects are also being implemented in the educational sphere. In particular, now Baranovich State University (BarSU) together with Samarkand State University and Jizzakh State Pedagogical Institute are implementing “double degree” programs. It is expected that students and undergraduates will study at BarSU and partner universities on the basis of Belarusian and foreign positive experience. “Recruitment is planned to be carried out in the specialties “practical psychology”, “preschool education”, “psychology”, “economics”⁹⁵. And Brest State Technical University will cooperate with the Bukhara Engineering and Technology Institute. In July 2022, universities signed cooperation agreements to cooperate in organizing retraining and advanced training for teachers from Bukhara in Brest. “Let’s start with this, then we can cooperate in the first and second stages of higher education”⁹⁶. ” The institute in Bukhara is a large educational and scientific center in Uzbekistan. Education is conducted at eight faculties; more than 11 thousand students receive higher education in 30 undergraduate areas.

In January 2023, Belarus and Uzbekistan celebrated 30 years of diplomatic relations. Over the past years, the two countries have significantly intensified their bilateral dialogue also at the regional level. Suffice it to say

⁹⁵ BarSU is developing joint educational programs with Uzbek partners [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/bargu-razrabatyvaet-sovmestnye-obrazovatelnye-programmy-s-uzbekskimi-partnerami-520325-2022>

⁹⁶ BrSTU will cooperate with the Bukhara Engineering and Technology Institute [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/brgtu-budet-sotrudnicat-s-buharskim-inzhenerno-tehnologicheskim-institutom-514381-2022/>

that as of April of this year, the parties had already signed 15 interregional agreements. “Visits of delegations from the regions of Belarus and Uzbekistan are regularly exchanged. The practice of developing roadmaps for the implementation of interregional agreements has proven effective ⁹⁷. ” Among the active participants in this interregional interaction are such regions as Vitebsk and Kashkadarya, Gomel and Fergana.

In particular, in October 2022, the Vitebsk Regional Executive Committee signed a cooperation agreement with the khokimiyat of the Kashkadarya region. This document helps to build up mutually beneficial trade and economic ties between regional enterprises and organizations. In addition, it will determine ways to develop cooperation in scientific, technical, tourism, cultural, sports fields, as well as in the field of healthcare ⁹⁸. ” In the same October 2022, several important documents were also signed that developed interaction between individual participants in this interregional partnership: two agreements and two memorandums of cooperation. As for the agreements, we are talking about the interaction between the Polotsk State University named after Euphrosyne of Polotsk and the Karshi Institute of Engineering and Economics, as well as between the Vitebsk State University named after P.M. Masherov and Karshi State University. Memorandums have been adopted between the free economic zones of the two regions, the Meat and Dairy Products concern and the enterprise for the supply and processing of dairy products. In addition, the parties entered into contracts worth approximately three million dollars. We are talking about food and wood processing products, the supply of electrical equipment for the oil industry and measuring instruments. And “The Vitebsk region was working on the issue of supplying its products to the Uzbekistan market. The Kashkadarya region was of great interest in meat and dairy

⁹⁷ S. Rachkov: Belarus considers Uzbekistan as an important partner in Central Asia [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <http://sovrep.gov.by/ru/news-ru/view/srachkov-belarus-rassmatrivaet-uzbekistan-kak-vazhnogo-partnera-v-tsentranoi-azii-22630-2023/>

⁹⁸ The delegation of the Vitebsk region in Uzbekistan will sign an agreement with the khokimiyat of the Kashkadarya region [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/delegatsiya-vitebskoi-oblasti-v-uzbekistane-podpishet-soglasenie-s-hokimijatom-kashkadariinskoi-527596-2022/>

products, electrical appliances, and cable products regarding the exchange of experience among production enterprises within this country ⁹⁹. ”

At the same time, the Belarusian and Uzbek regions planned cooperation in other areas. For example, back in 2021, on the territory of the free economic zone of the Kashkadarya region, the Vitebsk holding company “Marko” created an enterprise where today more than two hundred workers sew shoes. And now Uzbek partners are interested in new competencies - in light industry, dairy farms, milk processing enterprises. In May 2023, at the site of the XI International Economic Forum “Innovation. Investments. Prospects”, held in Vitebsk, the parties proposed a number of new areas of cooperation, including in the flax industry. “The Vitebsk region is ready to assist in providing varieties that can be grown in the conditions of Uzbekistan. This proposal is being prepared by specialists from the RUE “Flax Institute”. In addition, options for cooperation in woodworking are being actively explored, in particular for the production of individual wooden houses and furniture, including for educational institutions in the Kashkadarya region ¹⁰⁰. ” There are also initiatives in the pharmaceutical industry. To better develop contacts in both the economic, tourism and other spheres, the parties plan to organize joint information tours. So the joint activities of the Vitebsk and Kashkadarya regions are already creating favorable prerequisites for both parties for the implementation of projects, which in the future can strengthen new points of contact in mutual cooperation.

As for Gomel region, which is also actively developing cooperation with Uzbek partners, we note that trade turnover with Uzbekistan over the past three years has increased more than three times and amounted to \$33 million. And at the end of 2022, exports from the Gomel region increased by almost one and a half times. “The main export items of Gomel enterprises are paper, cardboard, wallpaper, chipboards, wood pulp, cattle meat, timber,

⁹⁹ Enterprises of the Vitebsk and Kashkadarya regions signed contracts for \$3 million [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/predpriiatija-vitebskoj-i-kashkadarjinskoi-oblastej-podpisali-kontraktv-na-3-mln-529745-2022/>

¹⁰⁰ Vitebsk and Kashkadarya regions plan to organize information tours to enhance cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/vitebskaja-i-kashkadarjinskaja-oblasti-planiruiut-organizovat-infoturvy-dlja-aktivizatsii-567511-2023/>

paint, polyethylene products, wire, chemical threads, dairy products, agricultural machinery, furniture...”¹⁰¹. Among the regions of Uzbekistan interested in joint projects with Gomel partners, one can note Fergana an area that intends to develop cooperation with the Belarusian region in the production of agricultural machinery, woodworking, chemical industry, and tourism. In February 2023, the Gomel Regional Executive Committee and the khokimiyat of the Fergana region signed a road map for 2023, which includes various directions. And there are already concrete developments. In the near future, “a company store is expected to open in the Fergana region, where woodworking products from the Belarusian region will be sold. At the same time, part of it will be sent for re-export to countries neighboring Uzbekistan¹⁰². ” And in Gomel, an idea is being explored to open a trading house selling fruits, dried fruits, and vegetables from Uzbekistan. In addition, Fergana entrepreneurs are interested in joint production of chemical and pulp and paper products with Gomel companies. Apparently, in the near future the road map of the two regions – Belarusian and Uzbek – will be filled in other areas as well.

And another interesting aspect of interaction between Belarus and Uzbekistan is the development of Belarusian exports in the Uzbek market using exhibition specifics. Moreover, in 2023 there will be several such projects. In March 2023, the 22nd international exhibition “Food products, ingredients and production technologies - UzFood ” was already held in Tashkent, at which Belarus presented a large-scale exhibition - The Taste of Nature - with the participation of more than 20 food manufacturers. Concern "Belgospischeprom" presented the products of the confectionery factories "Kommunarka", "Spartak" and "Krasny Pishevik", which introduced the guests of the Belarusian pavilion to the best products and new products - new

¹⁰¹ Trade turnover between the Gomel region and Uzbekistan has more than tripled over the past three years [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/tovarooborot-gomelskoj-oblasti-s-uzbekistanom-vyros-bolee-chem-v-tri-raz-za-poslednie-tri-goda-549254-2023/>

¹⁰² From combine production to tourism: Gomel and Fergana regions intend to develop cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/ot-kombajnostroenija-do-turizma-gomelskaja-i-ferganskaja-oblasti-namereny-razvivat-sotrudnichestvo-549242-2023/>

types of confectionery, chocolate and chocolate candies, waffles, cookies, chewing and jelly marmalade.

Meat processing enterprises and dairy producers that are part of the Grodnomyasomolprom holding and the Brestmyasomolprom concern were also widely represented at the exhibition. These are Brest, Pinsk, Slonim, Volkovysk, Grodno and Oshmyany meat processing plants, which offered high-quality beef in various designs, sausages, and semi-finished meat products. In particular, new products were demonstrated by the Grodno meat processing plant, which brought to Uzbekistan raw smoked sausages “Vostochnaya” and “Caucasian”, boiled-smoked salami “Favorite” with olives, and also with cheese.

The dairy segment was represented by the Kobrin Butter and Cheese Factory, the Minsk Margarine Factory, the Luninets Dairy Factory, the Lida Milk Canning Plant, the Molochny Mir, Molochny Gostinets companies and the Minsk Dairy Plant No. 1. “Belarusian producers demonstrate a wide range of whole milk products - milk, cream, kefir, cheeses, cottage cheese, creams, yoghurts ¹⁰³. ” At the exhibition one could see both oil and fat products and rapeseed oil. Bakery products were presented by Beresteysky Baker OJSC, and the Bellakt company showed products for baby food. In addition, the products of such enterprises as Malorita Canning and Vegetable Drying Plant OJSC and Lida Food Concentrates OJSC were demonstrated.

As part of the exhibition, an Uzbek-Belarusian business forum was held, in which more than 50 leaders and representatives of government agencies and business circles of the two countries took part, where cooperation in the field of agriculture and food was discussed, the food potential of Belarus was outlined, and the export potential of the Brest and Grodno regions. In addition, the business circles of the two countries held B2B negotiations, which took place separately and at the stands of Belarusian enterprises. As for the specific results of the exhibition, “Grodno Meat Processing Plant signed a contract for the supply of meat products worth \$500

¹⁰³ Belarus presented an exposition at the food industry exhibition in Tashkent [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-predstavila-ekspozitsiju-na-vystavke-pischevoj-promyshlennosti-v-tashkente-557927-2023/>

thousand, and the Minsk Margarine Plant signed a contract for the supply of its products worth 10 million Russian rubles. During the exhibition, Minsk Dairy Plant No. 1 held negotiations to increase sales volumes to its key partners in Uzbekistan, in particular, for the supply of butter and skimmed milk powder, and also entered into a contract for the supply of dairy products¹⁰⁴. ” The Bellakt company discussed the possibilities of increasing product sales, increasing the supply of dry baby food and agreed to supply curd desserts and powdered milk, including lactose-free, to this Central Asian country, and Molochny Mir OJSC entered into an agreement to supply almost two and a half thousand tons of whey powder and more than a thousand tons of milk powder.

Among the Belarusian enterprises that are actively interested in promoting their export products on the Uzbek market is also the Bobruiskagromash holding. In March 2023, as part of the international exhibition “Agriculture - AgroWorld Uzbekistan -2023” specialists of the Belarusian enterprise held negotiations with key Uzbek partners – Metal processing , Planeta Servis and MCHJ Buxoro Agro Texnika Garant , “with whom further volumes of supplies of equipment have been agreed, as well as the technical performance of the machines to adapt them to the requirements of the Uzbek market. In addition, during the negotiations, a representative of the holding introduced the partners to the new products of Bobruiskagromash equipment: a cotton cultivator, seeders and heavy-duty trailers¹⁰⁵. ” Partners from Uzbekistan confirmed their interest in annual supplies of agricultural machinery from Bobruisk. For reference, we note: since 2022, machines for applying solid organic fertilizers and rotary mower-choppers have already been operating on Uzbek fields.

In April 2023, the international industrial exhibition “Innoprom. Central Asia”, which covered six thematic sections: mechanical engineering,

¹⁰⁴ Belarusian enterprises intend to increase supplies to Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belorussskie-predpriyatija-namereny-narastit-postavki-v-uzbekistan-559267-2023/>

¹⁰⁵ Uzbekistan is interested in the supply of agricultural machinery to Bobruiskagromash [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/uzbekistan-zainteresovan-v-postavkah-selskohoziastvennoi-tehniki-bobruiskagromasha-556555-2023/>

metallurgy and materials, energy solutions, chemical industry technologies, information and telecommunication technologies and infrastructure development. The exhibition featured an extensive Belarusian exposition of Made in Belarus, which demonstrated the best industrial developments and innovative equipment of the flagships of the country's engineering industry. "Seven largest enterprises expressed their interest in participating <...>: Belarusian Metallurgical Plant, BELAZ, Minsk Tractor Plant, BATE, Scientific and Technological Park BNTU "Polytechnic", "Gomselmash", "StankoGomel""¹⁰⁶.

Another important reserve of Belarusian-Uzbek economic relations is the activation of partnerships between free economic zones (FEZ) of Belarus and Uzbekistan, whose residents can build interaction in different areas. In March 2023, within the framework of the Third Congress of Free Economic Zones, held in Gomel, constructive negotiations took place between the administrations of the Gomel-Raton and Navoi FEZs, at which the potential for mutually beneficial partnership was discussed. In particular, "the first direction is the sale in Uzbekistan of popular types of products from residents of the Gomel-Raton FEZ." Uzbekistan is quite an interesting market. This is 36 million population. <...> There is a lot of foreign investment and infrastructure projects¹⁰⁷. " And among the most popular products of Gomel manufacturers, the Uzbek side names such current items as industrial, boiler, heating, ventilation, cooling equipment, as well as energy-saving and energy-efficient technologies. In short, the Uzbek market is an important direction for the development of Belarusian exports in Central Asia. And this is just the beginning.

¹⁰⁶ Belarus will present an exposition at the exhibition "Innoprom. Central Asia" in Tashkent [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-predstavit-ekspozitsiju-na-vystavke-innoprom-tsentralnaja-azija-v-tashkente-557617-2023/>

¹⁰⁷ Industrial cooperation and entry into new markets. General Director of the Navoi SEZ on the partnership between Belarus and Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/promkoooperatsija-i-vviod-na-novyie-ryunki-gendirektor-sez-navoi-o-partnerstve-belarusi-i-uzbekistana-557030-2023/>

Belarus – Uzbekistan: growth points – industry, agriculture , healthcare, regions

In December 2023, the 10th meeting of the joint Belarusian-Uzbek intergovernmental commission (IPC) on bilateral cooperation was held in Samarkand, within the framework of which the parties discussed the state and prospects of trade and economic cooperation, paying special attention to the areas of industry, agriculture and healthcare in order to fill the economic component of the partnership between Belarus and Uzbekistan with new practical content, to ensure the timely implementation of investment projects and trade contracts. Let us note that today there is good dynamics in bilateral trade between Minsk and Tashkent. “In the first 10 months of this [2023] year, mutual trade turnover has grown by more than 20% and has already exceeded \$500 million ¹⁰⁸. ” Nevertheless, at the IGC meeting it was noted that the parties still have significant untapped potential for a multiple increase in trade volumes by expanding mutual supplies of products in demand in the markets of the two countries.

Let's take the development of **industrial cooperation** . Since 2019, the number of enterprises from Belarus in Uzbekistan has quadrupled. And today “there are 186 enterprises operating in the country with the participation of Belarusian capital, but there are all the prerequisites for increasing this figure ¹⁰⁹. ” Suffice it to say that in the seven months of 2023, 33 enterprises from Belarus were created on the territory of the Central Asian republic. And in our country, a total of 84 organizations with Uzbek capital have been created. In addition, a representative office of companies in the field of international transportation, software development, and production of medicines and veterinary products has already been opened in Uzbekistan. In

¹⁰⁸ Aripov: Uzbek-Belarusian cooperation has reached a new level [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/aripov-uzbeksko-belorusskoe-sotrudnichestvo-vyshlo-na-novyi-uroven-603582-2023/>

¹⁰⁹ Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Uzbekistan: we are interested in increasing the number of joint ventures [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/predsedatel-tnp-uzbekistana-my-zainteresovany-v-uvelichenii-kolichestva-sovmestnyh-predpriyatij-603524-2023/>

2022, a joint venture for the production of dairy products was opened in Tashkent ¹¹⁰. "

In this regard, the participants of the 10th meeting of the IPC proposed to further strengthen the content of the draft joint road map for the development of bilateral cooperation for 2024-2025 in order to move on to mutual investment and the creation of joint production. And in this regard, the Belarusian side is already implementing projects for the assembly of special equipment, the production of agricultural machines for cultivating soil and cotton. In 2023, "the first Belarusian-Uzbek enterprise for the production of dry milk formulas was launched, which sells products made from Belarusian raw materials to both manufacturers and processors in Uzbekistan, and supplies them to neighboring countries. In the city of Karshi, there is a joint venture created with the Belarusian manufacturer "Marko" for the production of footwear ¹¹¹. " There are also significant prospects for organizing production on Uzbek soil of Belarus tractors, diesel generator and compressor units, medicines, in the woodworking industry and furniture production.

But in general, Belarus has a lot to offer its Uzbek partners: mechanical engineering products, food products, services, the latest scientific and technical developments. Suffice it to say that exports of enterprises of the Belarusian Ministry of Industry to this Central Asian country almost doubled over the three quarters of 2023, "trade turnover during this period increased by more than 90% <...>. The basis of exports to Uzbekistan was the supply of tractors, refrigerators and freezers, automotive equipment, metal products, engines, hardware products, electrical transformers, as well as mowers, starters, potato diggers, oil pumps... ¹¹²" In particular, OJSC "Management

¹¹⁰ Chervyakov: among our partner countries, Uzbekistan is among the top ten in terms of trade turnover [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/chervyakov-sredi-nashih-stran-partnerov-uzbekistan-vhodit-v-desiatku-po-obiemu-tovarooborota-586551-2023/>

¹¹¹ Golovchenko: For us, Uzbekistan is one of the main trading partners in the Central Asia and CIS region [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/golovchenko-uzbekistan-dlja-nas-javljaetsja-odnim-iz-osnovnyh-torgovyh-partnerov-v-regione-tsentralnoj-603540-2023/>

¹¹² Ministry of Industry: exports of our products to Uzbekistan doubled in January-September [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL :

Company of the Holding “Bobruiskagromash” plans in the near future to increase the volume of supplies of agricultural machinery to Uzbekistan, since “in the Central Asian republics the most popular models of agricultural machinery are tractor trailers for transporting cotton, soil-cultivating equipment, machines for applying organic fertilizers and fodder equipment”¹¹³. In addition to tractor issues, interaction between the two countries in the field of industry will expand significantly, as “cooperation on freight and passenger equipment, household appliances, and elevator equipment is being quite widely discussed and developed”¹¹⁴. ” Another example: the enterprises of the Bellesbumprom concern, which are well known to the Uzbek market. Over the nine months of 2023, “exports of woodworking products, including furniture and pulp, increased by almost 24% compared to January–September last year <...>. Now the concern is working to create a commodity distribution network entity in Uzbekistan, which will open up new opportunities for supplies to this country”¹¹⁵. ”

All these facts indicate that Belarus and Uzbekistan are successfully promoting the formation of a developed structure of cooperation ties in order to fully use the existing production, scientific, technical, and innovation potential to fulfill the urgent and ambitious task of increasing trade turnover to one billion dollars. For more systematic work in general, the Belarusian side, within the framework of the 10th meeting of the IGC, proposed developing a program of bilateral economic cooperation, and in certain sectors of the economy, expanding the formats of interaction to find new areas of partnership and paying attention to the functioning of industry working

<https://www.belta.by/economics/view/minprom-eksport-nashej-produktsii-v-uzbekistan-za-ianvar-sentjabr-vyros-vdvoe-603475-2023/>

¹¹³ “Bobruiskagromash” plans to increase the supply of agricultural machinery to Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/bobruiskagromash-planiruet-narastit-postavki-selhoztehniki-v-uzbekistan-582084-2023/>

¹¹⁴ Tractors, elevators, cargo equipment. How Belarus and Uzbekistan will cooperate in industry [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/traktory-lifty-gruzovaja-tehnika-kak-belarus-i-uzbekistan-budut-sotrudnicat-v-promyshlennosti-596490-2023/>

¹¹⁵ Exports of Bellesbumprom enterprises to Uzbekistan increased by almost a quarter over 9 months [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/eksport-predpriyatij-bellesbumproma-v-uzbekistan-za-9-mesiatsev-vvros-pochti-na-chetvert-603583-2023/>

groups. For reference, we recall that “meetings of the working group in the field of agriculture, as well as the mixed commission in the transport sector, are held on a regular basis. It is advisable to organize the work of groups in the field of industry, medicine and pharmaceuticals, construction, light industry, woodworking, forestry and water management, which will be the working bodies of the intergovernmental commission ¹¹⁶. ” In addition, other new formats of interaction are being successfully implemented.

Among them is **the women's business forum** , which was first held in Minsk in September 2023 and brought together participants from two countries in various areas: light and heavy industry, science and education, mechanical engineering. Let us say right away that by the end of the plenary session, the participants of this meeting signed “14 memorandums and agreements on cooperation, including an agreement on the creation of a joint leather and footwear production. 15 contracts were concluded for Br 93.5 million, or 350 billion Uzbek soums ¹¹⁷. ” In particular, light industry enterprises in Belarus and Uzbekistan accepted contracts worth more than two and a half million dollars. Thus, an agreement was signed on the intention to create a joint venture for the production of sheepskin-fur, astrakhan-astrakhan, fur and fur raw materials between Furskins Company and “Marco”. “Agreements have been reached on cooperation between the Uztexstilprom association and the design center of Kamvol OJSC. A memorandum of intent was signed for the purchase of worsted fabrics for the school assortment of “ Charog`on” LLC Tekstil .” A contract for the supply of denim clothing was also signed between Kalinka CJSC and Chichiq LLC Mega Business ¹¹⁸.

¹¹⁶ Leonid Zayats on the results of the meeting in Samarkand: The decisions made will help strengthen bilateral ties [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <http://www.government.by/ru/content/10747>

¹¹⁷ During the First Belarusian-Uzbek Women's Business Forum, contracts worth Br 93.5 million were concluded [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/vo-vremja-pervogo-belorussko-uzbekskogo-zhenskogo-biznes-foruma-zakljucheno-kontraktov-na-br935-mln-586641-2023/>

¹¹⁸ Light industry enterprises of Belarus and Uzbekistan signed contracts for more than \$2.5 million [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/predpriiatija-legproma-belarusi-i-uzbekistana-podpisali-kontraktv-bolee-chem-na-25-mln-586396-2023/>

Let us note that the enterprises of the Belleghrom concern have been successfully cooperating with Uzbek partners since 2018. The Marko holding operates as part of a joint venture for shoe alterations. About 250 thousand pairs have already been released, but this is not the limit. The goal is to increase production to millions of pairs of shoes. “And since sheepskin in Belarus is in demand for the manufacture of linings and insoles for winter shoes, but we [in Belarus] do not have this type of raw material, it is very important to enter into industrial cooperation in order to motivate one and the other side in terms of quality and technical components and business ¹¹⁹. ” Another example: “Milavitsa” has been working on altering linen with a company in Tashkent since January 2023. And in Smorgon, together with the Uzbek side, a business project is being implemented to create a vertically integrated complex for the production of cotton yarn and products from it. “This is the first enterprise that will make a finished product in Belarus from raw materials obtained in Uzbekistan ¹²⁰. ”

As part of the work of the section “Expanding cooperation between Belarus and Uzbekistan in the field of industry” of the women’s business forum, the Belarusian side presented opportunities for expanding industrial cooperation. In particular, “metropolitan enterprises [of Minsk] are interested in finding new partners to sell their products on the market of the region [Uzbekistan] ¹²¹. ” And they are already interacting effectively with their Uzbek colleagues. For example, the Minsk Automobile Plant acts on the market of this Central Asian country as an independent exporter on the basis of an existing joint production. In particular, in September 2023, “Minsk Automobile Plant and Individual Entrepreneur LLC “ MAZ - TASHKENT ”

¹¹⁹ Lugina spoke about the prospects for cooperation between Belleghrom enterprises and companies from Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/lugina-rasskazala-o-perspektivah-sotrudnichestva-predpriyatij-belleghroma-i-kompanij-iz-uzbekistana-586553-2023/>

¹²⁰ Belarus and Uzbekistan are implementing joint projects in the field of pharmaceuticals and light industry [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-uzbekistan-realizujut-sovmestnye-proekty-v-oblasti-farmatsevtiki-i-legproma-592648-2023/>

¹²¹ Lazarevich: capital enterprises effectively interact with Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/lazarevich-stolichnye-predpriatija-effektivno-vzaimodejstvujut-s-uzbekistanom-586603-2023/>

signed an agreement for the supply of MAZ equipment worth \$1 million”¹²² and agreed to expand cooperation ties. As for the Minsk Tractor Plant, it will supply about 500 BELARUS machines to the Uzbek TEXAGRO - KLAUSTER LLC. “The transaction amount exceeds \$8 million”¹²³.

As for the pharmaceutical field, it was noted at the women's business forum that the Belarusian side is building an enterprise on Uzbek soil for the production of probiotics, which are not yet produced in this country at all. But “the import of medicines in Uzbekistan accounts for about \$1.5 billion. Belarus is ready to supply its pharmaceutical products, as well as to invite the health authorities of our countries to explore the possibility of creating production facilities in Uzbekistan for bulk medicines, antibiotics, and antitumor drugs...”¹²⁴ So, let's hope that the current forum has really established useful contacts and made it possible to create additional conditions for attracting investment resources to promising projects that were developed at this Belarusian-Uzbek meeting.

And in November 2023, a three-day **medical forum** “Days of Healthcare and Medical Education “Uzbekistan - Belarus” was held in Minsk, which touched on almost all areas of medical activity: high technology, problems of primary care, personnel training, work in the pharmaceutical industry, production of medical equipment. During these days, almost 120 agreements were signed, as well as “a road map in which, in accordance with all the principles of the target planning program, tasks, deadlines for their implementation, resources and the responsible person will be defined”¹²⁵. The day before, Belarusian cardiac surgeons, oncologists, and pediatric

¹²² MAZ entered into an agreement for the supply of equipment to Uzbekistan for \$1 million [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/maz-zakljuchil-dogovor-na-postavku-tehniki-v-uzbekistan-na-1-mln-586570-2023/>

¹²³ MTZ will supply about 500 tractors to Uzbekistan for more than \$8 million [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/mtz-postavit-okolo-500-tractorov-v-uzbekistan-na-bolee-chem-8-mln-586567-2023/>

¹²⁴ Chervyakov: Belarus and Uzbekistan have created an impressive foundation for the further development of cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/chervjakov-belarus-i-uzbekistan-sozdali-vnushitelnyi-zadel-na-dalnejshee-razvitiie-sotrudnichestva-586639-2023>

¹²⁵ The health ministers of Belarus and Uzbekistan signed cooperation agreements [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/ministry-zdravoohranenija-belarusi-i-uzbekistana-podpisali-dogovory-o-sotrudnichestve-602477-2023/>

surgeons as part of medical teams traveled to Uzbekistan, where they “carried out more than 100 operations and provided more than 250 consultations in various regions of the country ¹²⁶. ” And at the Minsk Scientific and Practical Center (MSPC) for surgery, transplantology and hematology, about 30 specialists from various hospitals in Uzbekistan have already completed internships, and they have also proposed an initiative to organize a Minsk center in Tashkent. And we also note that “46 patients from Uzbekistan received high-tech medical care at the International Scientific and Practical Center for Surgery, Transplantology and Hematology. Including 3 liver transplants and 10 kidney transplants. The potential for further joint work in this direction is quite large ¹²⁷. ”

A separate topic of the medical forum is the training of medical personnel. Belarus and Uzbekistan today see the prospect of intensifying bilateral cooperation in such key areas as cardiology, oncology, transplantation, pediatric surgery, maternal and child health, as well as in the pharmaceutical industry and the supply of medical products. From January 2024, by agreement of the parties, joint educational network training programs will be organized in eight specialties of higher education and all areas of narrow specialties of clinical residency, and it is also planned to introduce a training system for 150 narrow specialists in the internship program. And one more thing: for the first time since January of this year, training of nurses will begin in six areas of the joint educational program according to international standards. The fact is that in the healthcare sector of Uzbekistan, special attention is paid to the training of nurses. And they know the Belarusian experience in this topic well. After all, 74 medical colleges already operate in Belarus and about 100 thousand nurses are trained in seven areas. In particular, the Vitebsk State Medical University (VSMU) and the college, which plan to accept students, interns and doctors from this

¹²⁶ Minister of Health of Uzbekistan: Belarusian specialists performed more than 100 operations in Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/ministr-zdravooohranenija-uzbekistana-belorusskie-spetsialisty-proveli-v-uzbekistane-bolee-60-operatsij-602505-2023/>

¹²⁷ Petrishenko: the most important task is to do everything to improve the well-being of the peoples of Belarus and Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/petrishenko-vazhneishaja-zadacha-sdelat-vse-dlja-povyshenija-blagopoluchija-narodov-belarusi-i-602449-2023/>

Central Asian country, will help the Uzbek partners in this matter. “So far, no more than a dozen students from Uzbekistan are studying at VSMU, who independently come to Vitebsk and enroll in specialties that are attractive to them¹²⁸. ” But the first steps have already been taken in cooperation between VSMU, for example, with Samarkand State Medical University and Bukhara State Medical Institute. And within the framework of the medical forum, four more agreements between VSMU and Uzbek universities were signed.

A new form of interaction between Belarus and Uzbekistan in the field of education has become **the forum of rectors higher educational institutions**, which first met in October 2023 in Minsk - at the Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radioelectronics. This structure brought together “more than 30 heads of Belarusian and Uzbek universities, who actively participated in the dialogue, discussing current issues of development of higher education systems of the two countries”¹²⁹ and signed a road map of cooperation, where, taking into account trends in the educational market of Uzbekistan, a number of Belarusian universities will consider the issue of opening branches or joint faculties. And among the leaders in this context is the Belarusian National Technical University (BNTU), which currently implements 75 joint educational programs with partner universities from Uzbekistan. One of the striking examples of cooperation is the interaction of BNTU with the Tashkent State Technical Transport University. “We are talking about the first joint educational program “2+2”. From 2019 to 2023, similar programs were also prepared and created with the Tashkent State Technical University named after Islam Karimov, Karshi Institute of Engineering and Economics, Tashkent University of Architecture and Civil Engineering, Samarkand State University of Architecture and Civil Engineering¹³⁰. ” The idea of the program is that Uzbek students spend the

¹²⁸ Pushnyakova, A. How do Uzbek universities and colleges see cooperation with VSMU / A. Pushnyakova // [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/v-chem-uzbekskie-vuzy-i-kolledzhi-vidiat-sotrudnichestvo-s-vsmu-602248-2023/>

¹²⁹ The roadmap for cooperation was signed by the heads of the Councils of Rectors of Belarus and Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/dorozhnyu-kartu-sotrudnichestva-podpisali-rukovoditeli-sovetov-rectorov-belarusi-i-uzbekistana-595530-2023/>

¹³⁰ BNTU awarded diplomas to the first graduates of joint educational programs of Belarus and Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL :

first two years of study at home, and the next two at BNTU, so that graduates receive two diplomas at once - in Uzbekistan and in Belarus. And in June 2023, the first graduation of certified specialists from the “2+2” program took place.

And another interesting format of cooperation between Belarus and Uzbekistan was mentioned at the 10th meeting of the IGC - this is a **forum of regions**, which should be given great importance and “which is planned to be held in Belarus ¹³¹. ” Let us recall that in 2019 the First Forum of Regions of the two countries was already held in Minsk. As of April 2023, “the parties have already signed 15 interregional agreements. <...> It has proven the effectiveness of the practice of developing roadmaps for the implementation of interregional agreements ¹³². ” For this reason, it is necessary to continue to find partners in the regions for long-term cooperation.

An interesting example in this regard is provided by **the Fergana region** and **the Bellesbumprom concern**. The fact is that currently Belarusian-Uzbek cooperation in the furniture, woodworking and pulp and paper industries is actively developing. “The result of working with Uzbek colleagues was the opening of the Belarus furniture house in Fergana. Now the products of three domestic factories are presented here - OFO “FanDOK”, Yelsk Furniture Factory (branch of OJSC “Mozyrsky DOK”) and RUE “Newsprint Plant” (branch of house construction) ¹³³. The plans of the parties include expanding the range, as well as increasing the number of Belarusian brands represented in the furniture house. Another interesting idea is to create a showroom in the Eco City residential complex under construction in

<https://www.belta.by/society/view/v-bntu-vruchili-diplomy-pervym-vypusknikam-sovmestnyh-obrazovatelnyh-programm-belarusi-i-uzbekistana-574797-2023/>

¹³¹ Aripov: Uzbek-Belarusian cooperation has reached a new level [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/aripov-uzbeksko-belorusskoe-sotrudnichestvo-vyshlo-na-novyi-uroven-603582-2023/>

¹³² Zalessky, B. With an emphasis on results. Prospects for an integrated approach to new partnership opportunities / Boris Zalessky. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2023. – P. 16.

¹³³ New showrooms and furniture supplies. “Bellesbumprom” on the development of cooperation with Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/novye-shourumy-i-postavki-mebeli-bellesbumprom-o-razviti-sotrudnichestva-s-uzbekistanom-561977-2023/>

Fergana, where products from Belarus that are in demand in the construction and arrangement of residential premises will be presented: thermal insulating panels, wallpaper, interior doors, furniture. And in the sanatorium-resort area in the Buvida district of the Fergana region, the supply of wooden houses, saunas, gazebos produced by the house-building branch of the Republican Unitary Enterprise “Newsprint Plant” has been agreed upon.

Among the active participants in interregional cooperation between Belarus and Uzbekistan, **the Grodno region**, which has agreements with three Uzbek regions, also occupies a confident position. And now this Central Asian country ranks third in the trade turnover of the Grodno region with foreign countries. At the same time, in 2022, a significant increase in mutual trade was registered - 1.7 times. In 2023, trade turnover increased by another 11 percent. “The Grodno region supplies food products, woodworking products, petrochemicals to Uzbekistan, purchases food products, yarn, fabrics, textiles from Uzbekistan, which is in great demand by local light industry enterprises ¹³⁴. ” Cooperation is also developing in the educational sphere: in 2023, 160 Uzbek students received higher education at Grodno universities. And the parties have already outlined prospects for further development, including in the field of investment on the basis of the free economic zone “Grodnoinvest”.

And finally, let's consider another important tool for increasing Belarusian-Uzbek trade and economic interaction - **industry exhibitions**. In 2024, Belarus intends to participate in many international exhibition events in Uzbekistan, where the largest industry forums in the field of agriculture, food, machinery and technologies for the agro-industrial complex, industrial technologies, food and light industry, scientific and technical achievements will be held. In particular, in March this year, the Belarusian exposition will be organized in Tashkent at the 23rd international exhibition UzFood, in April - at the industrial forum “Innoprom. Central Asia”, in October - at the 8th textile exhibition UzTextileExpo Autumn, and in November - at the 18th

¹³⁴ Trade turnover between the Grodno region and Uzbekistan increased by 11% in 2023 [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/tovarooborot-grodnenskoj-oblasti-s-uzbekistanom-v-2023-godu-uvlechilsja-na-11-594414-2023/>

food forum UzProdExpo / UzAgroExpo . Traditionally, Belarusian participants in these business events always arouse great interest from visitors not only from Uzbekistan, but also from other countries of Central Asia.

For example, in April 2023 at the Innoprom forum. Central Asia”, where about 300 companies took part, Belarus represented “leading enterprises from various sectors of industry and scientific and educational institutions, each of which presents its unique products and technologies at the exhibition, demonstrating the potential and opportunities for cooperation and promotion of its products products, scientific and technical developments and services ¹³⁵. ” Thus, OJSC BELAZ, the management company of the BELAZ-HOLDING holding, presented its promising areas of development at the exhibition. In particular, the BELAZ-7558H mining dump truck with a lifting capacity of 90 tons. The Minsk Tractor Plant, among other things, demonstrated a specialized tractor BELARUS-80X, designed taking into account the peculiarities of cultivating agricultural crops. And JSC "BMZ - the management company of the holding "BMK" showed products from hot-rolled metal for the automotive and other industries. At the stand of the Ministry of Education of Belarus, more than 50 scientific and technical developments of six universities and department organizations were presented, including new technologies and software systems , intended for use in industrial and scientific developments, as well as technologies, equipment and materials for the chemical and oil refining industries, mechanical engineering, foundries.

Also in April 2023, the International Exhibition “Healthcare / TIHE 2023” was held in Tashkent, where more than 250 companies from 13 countries took part and where a wide range of materials and technologies for laboratory and functional diagnostics, therapy and surgery, rehabilitation equipment, and automation of medicine, equipment of medical institutions. Visitors also got acquainted with the presented medicinal and health-improving drugs, orthopedic products that meet all modern needs of the

¹³⁵ Belarus presents an exposition at the exhibition “Innoprom. Central Asia” in Tashkent [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-predstavliaet-ekspozitsiju-na-vystavke-innoprom-tsentralnaja-azija-v-tashkente-563204-2023/>

industry. Our country was represented at this exhibition forum by the Belarusian Prosthetic and Orthopedic Rehabilitation Center, which showed “technical means of rehabilitation of its own production: products for children (with cerebral palsy, with dysplasia) and women after mastectomy (bodices, swimsuits), an active wheelchair, orthopedic insoles, a table for mechanotherapy and more, more than 20 positions in total”¹³⁶.

Belarus is a traditional participant in the international exhibition UzTextileExpo Autumn, which was held for the 7th time in October 2023 in the Uzbek capital and where 183 companies from eight countries participated, including India, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan. “This time the Belarusian exposition was represented by large exporters of the petrochemical industry, including such enterprises as Naftan, Mogilevkhimvolokno and Svetlogorskikhimvolokno. The companies brought with them a wide range of products that are in demand among Uzbek and regional consumers”¹³⁷. Naftan introduced visitors to acrylic fibers of its own production - a durable material widely used in the textile industry. “Mogilevkhimvolokno” presented polyester fiber for the manufacture of fabrics, insulation, padding polyester, and non-woven fabrics. Among the company's products presented there was also polyethylene terephthalate, a high-strength plastic that is used in the production of containers. “Svetlogorskikhimvolokno” demonstrated high-strength nonwoven materials, polyester textile threads, knitted fabrics in various designs - dyed, varnished, bleached, brushed, embossed and many others.

Finally, in November 2023, the Belarusian exposition Belarus – the Taste of Nature was presented at the leading exhibitions in the field of agriculture and food UzProdExpo / UzAgroExpo, where “more than 120 companies from Uzbekistan, Austria, Armenia, Belarus, Bulgaria, Iran, Italy, Kazakhstan, Cyprus participated. China, Kyrgyzstan, the Netherlands, South

¹³⁶ Belarusian technical means of rehabilitation will be presented at an exhibition in Tashkent [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belorusskie-tehnicheskie-sredstva-reabilitatsii-predstavjat-na-vystavke-v-tashkente-560954-2023>

¹³⁷ The Belarusian exposition is presented at the textile exhibition in Tashkent [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belorusskaja-ekspozitsija-predstavlena-na-tekstilnoi-vystavke-v-tashkente-594563-2023/>

Korea, Russia, USA, Turkmenistan, Turkey and the Czech Republic...¹³⁸ In particular, the Belarusian enterprise - Postavy Dairy Plant - presented its famous products, including Cheddar Red, Parmesan Grand and Maasdam cheeses, which have already become a kind of classic. These products are of greatest interest among potential partners from Uzbekistan. Another Belarusian participant, the Bretta company, took part in the exhibition for the first time and counted on successful contacts and fruitful results. The company showed an assortment of dry milk products produced by the Luninets Dairy Plant, where among the products stood out powdered milk under the Milk Drop brand, which is made from skim pasteurized milk. This product can be used to prepare low-calorie yoghurts, ice cream, cocktails, and infant formula. As for the Slutsk cheese-making plant, it demonstrated in Tashkent an expanded line of its lactose-free products, including a new product - lactose-free sweet cream butter "#Mozhno" and milk "#Mozhno A2". In addition, the assortment included glazed cheese curds, cottage cheese, milk with an extended shelf life, sweet cream butter, chocolate butter, and processed cheese. And finally, the Gomel meat processing plant brought to the Uzbek market products that meet halal standards, which included "Beef" sausage, a raw smoked beef product "Santorini Prestige", poultry chips, a raw smoked chicken product "Filleechka", as well as boiled and smoked products from beef, including "Sirloin Firm". In addition, the meatpacking plant showcased its latest innovations, including products such as Gourmet Tenderloin and Gourmet Beef. A new product for the Uzbek market is also the low-calorie "Black Pearl" sausage, made from beef and poultry. Of course, the Belarus – the Taste of Nature exposition aroused high interest from visitors, including representatives of Uzbek business, government agencies and the media.

Returning to the 10th meeting of the joint Belarusian-Uzbek intergovernmental commission on bilateral cooperation, we note that Uzbekistan is a key partner of Belarus in Central Asia. The two former Soviet

¹³⁸ Belarus presents its food products at exhibitions in Tashkent [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-predstavliaet-svoju-prodovolstvennuju-produktsiju-na-vystavkah-v-tashkente-601144-2023/>

republics celebrated 30 years of diplomatic relations in 2023. And today, based on numerous facts, it can be argued that the interaction between Minsk and Tashkent is experiencing a period of unique prosperity, which is reaching a qualitatively new level and strives to find and expand new joint forms of cooperation to implement the tasks of strategic cooperation.

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Belarus – Uzbekistan: forum of hopes and prospects

In February 2024, the II Forum of Regions of Belarus and Uzbekistan was held in Tashkent, in which more than 150 representatives of Belarusian regions and the business community took part. And over the course of two days, they and their Uzbek partners discussed a wide range of issues of bilateral interregional interaction - from investment and industrial cooperation to strengthening cultural and humanitarian ties. As a result, the parties “came to a package of bilateral documents (45 documents), which includes interdepartmental, interregional agreements, a number of contracts, the total value of which is about \$150 million¹³⁹. ” In particular, the following were concluded: an intergovernmental agreement on the use of electronic systems for certification of the origin of goods; agreement between the Ministry of Antimonopoly Regulation and Trade of Belarus and the Committee for the Development of Competition and Protection of Consumer Rights of Uzbekistan on cooperation in the field of development of competition, protection of consumer rights and regulation of the advertising market; protocol on cooperation in the field of intellectual property. The parties also “signed an agreement on scientific and production cooperation, a roadmap for the development of cooperation in the field of agriculture for 2024-2026, a plan of joint activities to develop cooperation in the field of integration of information systems in the field of plant quarantine¹⁴⁰. ” Cooperation programs have been adopted in the fields of culture and art, sports and tourism, and education. An agreement was signed between Minsk and Tashkent to establish twin-city ties and develop multifaceted cooperation. In addition, to organize systematic mutual supplies, the following will be created: a joint foreign trade company in Minsk and Tashkent; export support mechanisms and an electronic product certification system have been

¹³⁹ The Belarusian delegation in Tashkent reached agreements for \$150 million [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belorussskaja-delegatsija-v-tashkente-dostigla-dogovorennostej-na-150-mln-614453-2024>

¹⁴⁰ Belarus and Uzbekistan signed a cooperation roadmap for 2024-2025 [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-uzbekistan-podpisali-dorozhnyu-kartu-sotrudnichestva-na-2024-2025-gody-614308-2024>

introduced; favorable conditions have been created for cargo transportation and multimodal corridors have been used towards the markets of South Asia. The parties also “intend to implement projects in the agro-industrial complex, electrical and textile sectors, healthcare and pharmaceuticals, urban planning, and public utilities. Roadmaps will be adopted and working groups will be created in each direction”¹⁴¹.

Let us note that over 30 years of Belarusian-Uzbek interaction, the parties signed 70 documents, and the scope of the February agreements confirms the strategic nature of relations between the two former republics of the post-Soviet space. Moreover, this package of bilateral documents is crowned by the Roadmap for the Development of Cooperation for 2024-2025, which provides for the implementation of export and investment projects worth one billion dollars. For reference, let us clarify: in 2018-2022, trade turnover between Belarus and Uzbekistan increased 3.2 times. In 2023, the volume of mutual trade grew by another 12 percent and exceeded \$565 million. The road map for 2024-2025 talks about such areas of interaction as “industrial cooperation, agriculture, processing industry, humanitarian issues, educational issues, cooperation in sports and tourism, training for the forestry industry, urban planning, housing and communal services - a wide range questions. They are sealed with 99 documents totaling \$1.054 billion”¹⁴².

In a joint statement in February 2024, the leaders of Belarus and Uzbekistan emphasized that the priority direction of Belarusian-Uzbek relations will be the further expansion of mutually beneficial trade and economic interaction and increasing the volume of mutual trade and expanding its range, including in **the industrial sphere**. Let us recall that exports of enterprises of the Ministry of Industry of Belarus to this Central Asian country increased by almost 45 percent in 2023. At the same time, “cooperation in the industrial sector is not limited to mutual supplies of

¹⁴¹ Mirziyoyev: Belarus and Uzbekistan will create a joint foreign trade company [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/mirzиеv-belarus-i-uzbekistan-sozdadut-sovmestnuju-vneshnetorgovuju-kompaniju-614250-2024/>

¹⁴² Belarus and Uzbekistan will implement projects worth more than \$1 billion in 2024-2025 [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-uzbekistan-v-2024-2025-godah-realizujut-proekty-bolee-chem-na-1-mlrd-613960-2024/>

products. Industrial cooperation is traditionally one of the priority areas of interaction ¹⁴³. ”

Thus, PA "Energokomplekt" together with the company "YES" LLC are working to localize the production of cable and wire products in Uzbekistan. Since 2018, the Minsk Automobile Plant has been cooperating with Krantas Group LLC to produce special equipment in Uzbekistan. During the period of cooperation, more than 200 units of special equipment were jointly produced and sold to Uzbek consumers - tank trucks, in particular, fuel and water tankers, garbage trucks, and crane equipment. In turn, the Uzbek company, within the framework of cooperation, supplies truck crane booms to Belarus to the Mogilevtransmash plant for the subsequent production of load-lifting cranes. And work is underway to conclude new contracts for 2024. At the end of 2023, the implementation of a new cooperation project began to organize the assembly production of diesel generator sets and compressor stations in Uzbekistan. The project involves the Minsk Motor Plant and the Uzbek company PLANETA SERVIS LLC.

In 2024, it is planned to begin the practical implementation of the project with this partner in the field of tractor manufacturing. The fact is that “a pilot project will be launched this year - Belarus and Uzbekistan are creating an assembly plant for cotton-growing tractors. At the first stage, 500 tractor sets will be supplied. Uzbekistan is moving towards developing its production base ¹⁴⁴. ” Licensing agreements have already been signed with the Minsk Tractor Plant (MTZ) to organize the assembly production of Belarus equipment. Work is underway to resolve localization issues. “The relevance of the project is confirmed by the irreducible demand for Belarusian tractors from Uzbek farmers. In 2023 alone, MTZ increased the export of tractors to Uzbekistan by 1.6 times compared to 2022. ¹⁴⁵” To be more

¹⁴³ Exports of enterprises of the Ministry of Industry to Uzbekistan increased by almost 45% in 2023 [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/eksport-predpriyatij-minprom-a-v-uzbekistan-v-2023-godu-vozros-pochti-na-45-614029-2024/>

¹⁴⁴ Belarus and Uzbekistan are creating an assembly plant for cotton-growing tractors [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-uzbekistan-sozdajut-sborochnoe-proizvodstvo-hlopkovodcheskih-tractorov-613951-2024/>

¹⁴⁵ The ministers of industry of Belarus and Uzbekistan got acquainted with the production sites of partner companies [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL :

precise, more than four thousand tractors were delivered from Belarus last year. This is a record in recent years.

The parties have great potential for developing mutually beneficial cooperation in creating a joint production of dump trucks. After all, “Uzbekistan is the leader among the CIS countries in copper production and gold mining. It is the mining industry that has priority and this is the locomotive of the economy of Uzbekistan ¹⁴⁶. ” For this reason, the Uzbek side is ready not only to organize large-scale assembly of Belarusian dump trucks, but is also ready to manufacture the necessary components and parts to transport ore to processing plants where rare earth metals will be obtained. Let us also note for reference that following the results of the II Forum of Regions of Belarus and Uzbekistan, more than ten enterprises of the Belarusian Ministry of Industry signed contracts worth about \$45 million.

in the forestry, woodworking and pulp and paper industries has also been developing very dynamically in recent years . Statistics show that “over the past three years, there has been an annual increase in supplies to Uzbekistan - on average, doubling, which indicates a constantly growing demand <...>. In 2023, the growth rate of exports of wood processing and pulp and paper products amounted to over 150%. Industry enterprises supply almost the entire range of products produced in Belarus to Uzbekistan ¹⁴⁷. ” And the organizations of the Ministry of Forestry were able to increase exports to Uzbekistan in 2023 even fivefold. And this year “we plan to double our shipments ¹⁴⁸,” including through house kits produced by forestry

<https://www.belta.by/economics/view/ministrv-promyshlennosti-belarusi-i-uzbekistana-oznakomilis-s-proizvodstvennymi-ploschadkami-kompanij-614578-2024/>

¹⁴⁶ Belarus and Uzbekistan will work on creating a joint production of dump trucks [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-uzbekistan-prorabotajut-sozdanie-sovmestnogo-proizvodstva-samosvalov-614810-2024/>

¹⁴⁷ Enterprises in the woodworking and pulp and paper industries entered into contracts for the supply of products to Uzbekistan for \$17 million [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/predpriatija-bellesbumproma-zakljuchili-kontraktv-po-postavke-produktsii-v-uzbekistan-na-17-mln-614132-2024/>

¹⁴⁸ Based on the results of 2023, organizations of the Ministry of Forestry increased exports to Uzbekistan fivefold [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/organizatsii-minleshoza-po-itogam-2023-goda-narastili-eksport-v-uzbekistan-v-piat-raz-614577-2024/>

enterprises. And that is not all. Currently, Belarusian woodworking products are very actively traded on the Uzbekistan market with the help of the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange (BUCE). There are, of course, contracts for other commodity items, but so far the leaders are lumber from Belarus. In general, “in one and a half months of the current [2024] year, products with the participation of Uzbek businesses have already been sold and purchased for \$7 million on the [BUCE] exchange. More than 100 Uzbek companies are registered on the exchange ¹⁴⁹. ”

At the II Regional Forum, several enterprises in the woodworking and pulp and paper industries also entered into contracts for the supply of manufactured products to Uzbekistan. Thus, Svetlogorsk Pulp and Paper Mill OJSC signed agreements with two Uzbek companies for the supply of bleached softwood pulp. RUE "Newsprint Plant" entered into an agreement for the supply of offset and sack paper. The total amount of contracts concluded is \$17 million. The newsprint plant also signed an agreement of intent to sell lumber to Uzbekistan. And the woodworking enterprise "FanDOK" will produce furniture in Uzbekistan. It is planned to open a joint furniture production company in the Tashkent region. A road map has already been prepared for this. The Uzbek partners undertake to build a building according to the requirements of FanDOK, buy equipment according to the requirements of the Belarusian company, and FanDOK comes with its own raw material base. “Thus, Belarus will not just sell raw materials to Uzbekistan, but will produce and sell a product with high added value on the local market. The parties will own the enterprise 50/50 ¹⁵⁰. ” In addition, on the sidelines of the forum, a roadmap for further expansion of cooperation between Belarus and Uzbekistan in the woodworking industry was signed.

As for the interaction between the two countries in **the field of agriculture** , joint production will be created in Uzbekistan in the near future.

¹⁴⁹ BUCE proposes to build direct sales of Uzbek enterprises to buyers in Belarus [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/butb-predlagaet-vystraivat-priamye-prodazhi-uzbekskih-predpriyatij-dlja-pokupatelej-v-belarusi-616373-2024/>

¹⁵⁰ “FanDOK” will produce furniture in Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/fandok-zajmetsja-proizvodstvom-mebeli-v-uzbekistane-614380-2024/>

Belarus will build a poultry farm in Tashkent, and a dairy plant in Samarkand. For this purpose, “a project has been developed to build a poultry farm to raise broilers with a volume of about 70-75 thousand tons per year. The implementation of this project has already begun: a feed mill has been purchased and land has been obtained. There’s even already a brand – “Zhodzha” (“Chicken”) ¹⁵¹. ” In Samarkand, the partner will be “Savushkin Product”, where they will process not only Belarusian, but also local raw materials, and then enter the markets of third countries, for example, Afghanistan with the finished products. Another direction in this regard is the export of veterinary drugs. In February 2024, a contract was signed under which “supplies will increase almost 2.5 times. This indicates the demand for our [Belarusian] veterinary drugs in the Uzbek market ¹⁵². ” In addition, Uzbekistan plans to test Belarusian potatoes and has already ordered the first batch - 20 tons. The fact is that Uzbek potatoes are grown in the fields of this Central Asian country with yields several times lower than in Belarus. “Further cooperation in this area will depend on the result. But in general, the need for potatoes in Uzbekistan has not been met by about half ¹⁵³. ”

Another important trend in Belarusian-Uzbek relations: in 2024, the two countries of the post-Soviet space will significantly strengthen interaction in **the textile and clothing industries**. As part of industrial cooperation, it is planned to carry out mutual supplies of cotton yarn, linen, fabrics for the work of Belarusian enterprises, as well as chemical fibers, flax raw materials, mixed finished fabrics for the work of Uzbek enterprises. Projects for sewing finished products on the territory of Uzbekistan according to orders from Belarusian brands will be worked out, since Belarus does not have enough seamstresses of its own. For this reason, a number of enterprises from Belarus

¹⁵¹ Belarus will build a poultry farm in Tashkent, and a dairy plant in Samarkand [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-postroit-v-tashkente-ptitsefabriku-av-samarkande-molochnvi-kombinat-614367-2024/>

¹⁵² Belarus will increase supplies of veterinary drugs to Uzbekistan by 2.5 times [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-v-25-raza-narastit-postavki-vetpreparatov-v-uzbekistan-616324-2024>

¹⁵³ Uzbekistan wants to test Belarusian potatoes, its yield is several times lower [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/uzbekistan-hochet-ispytat-belorusskij-kartofel-urozhainost-svoego-v-neskolko-raz-nizhe-614368-2024/>

- “Sv i Tanak”, and “Slavyanka”, and “Kalinka”, and the Orsha Flax Mill - already have experience placing their orders with Uzbek enterprises ¹⁵⁴. ” Strategically, the Belarusian side decided this: labor-intensive products - costumes and dresses, coat groups, some complex elements - will be manufactured in Belarus; other assortment positions - in Uzbekistan - under Belarusian trademarks, with fabrics and linens from our republic. In addition, “a key aspect of cooperation will be the area of education and advanced training. Uzbek specialists, including seamstresses, technologists and designers, will be sent for internships to Belarusian enterprises, and Belarusian technologists will be recruited for management work at Uzbek enterprises ¹⁵⁵. ” By the way, we note that over the past five years the number of students from Uzbekistan who study in Belarus has increased significantly. If five years ago 14 citizens of Uzbekistan were studying in Belarus, now there are about 1,200. “And in total, about 4 thousand students study under joint educational programs. There is great interest in training specialists in Belarus in those specialties that will be in demand in the real sector of the economy ¹⁵⁶. ”

In 2024, Belarus and Uzbekistan intend to rapidly develop cooperation in **the field of healthcare** and have outlined more than ten areas of interaction in this regard. For example, in the field of child health, the Republican Scientific and Practical Center “Mother and Child” of the Ministry of Health of Belarus will organize advanced training for doctors of the Republican Specialized Scientific and Practical Medical Center for Maternal and Child Health of Uzbekistan on neonatology, as well as the development of joint educational programs for master’s and clinical

¹⁵⁴ Belarus will more actively attract Uzbek enterprises to the production of clothing [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-budet-aktivnee-privlekat-k-proizvodstvu-odezhdy-uzbekskie-predpriyatija-613968-2024/>

¹⁵⁵ Belarus and Uzbekistan will strengthen cooperation in the textile and clothing industries [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-uzbekistan-ukrepjat-sotrudnichestvo-v-tekstilnoj-i-shvejnoj-otrasliah-614106-2024/>

¹⁵⁶ Ambassador of Uzbekistan: there is great interest in teaching students in Belarus [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/amp/society/view/posol-uzbekistana-est-bolshaja-zainteresovannost-v-obuchenii-studentov-v-belarusi-616364-2024>

residency, cooperation in issues of neonatal resuscitation. Internships and advanced training of Uzbek medical, teaching and scientific personnel in cardiac surgery, cardiac anesthesiology, functional diagnostics of patients with congenital heart defects, online consultations on problem patients, exchange of specialists in the field of radiology, targeted, molecular genetic therapy will also be organized. A separate block of partnerships is the training in Belarus of medical physicists and oncological engineers, specialists for the transplant service of Uzbekistan, interaction in orthopedics and arthroscopy through the exchange of experience, training and joint operations. Speaking about cooperation between the sanitary and epidemiological services of Belarus and Uzbekistan, the parties agreed “to conduct joint work and research in the field of prevention and treatment of infectious and non-infectious diseases, including immunization programs and the fight against pandemics”¹⁵⁷.

The Belarusian side is also considering the possibility of entering the Uzbek market of high-quality, inexpensive **pharmaceuticals**, which are necessary for the healthcare needs of this country. Moreover, currently the enterprises of the Belpharmprom holding have 136 registration certificates for medicines in Uzbekistan. In 2023, supplies of medicines to this country increased by 120 percent. In February 2024, commercial contracts worth more than five million dollars were signed, which will significantly increase these supplies. A memorandum of understanding was also adopted between the Belpharmprom holding and the Agency for the Development of the Pharmaceutical Industry under the Ministry of Health of Uzbekistan, on the basis of which the first contracts have already been signed and practical work has begun to expand not only direct supplies, but also to develop new types of medicines. The Belarusian side proposed a list of 12 items that could be developed jointly at enterprises in Uzbekistan. And “now, between the Belpharm enterprise, which is located in Tashkent, and the Nesvizh Medicinal Products Plant, the possibility of starting the production of infusion

¹⁵⁷ Training and joint operations. What is the vision of cooperation between the Ministries of Health of Belarus and Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/podgotovka-kadrov-i-sovmestnye-operatsii-kakim-viditsia-sotrudnichestvo-minzdravov-belarusi-i-614005-2024/>

solutions for the needs of the Ministry of Health of Uzbekistan is being explored. The Belarusian plant acts as a technical partner, which implies a willingness to transfer technologies and train specialists ¹⁵⁸. ” All this suggests that Belarus considers Uzbekistan as one of the most promising platforms for joint work to enter joint products into the markets of third countries. And one more fact: the Belarusian side has submitted documents for registration in this Central Asian country of about 20 new drugs, and 27 for re-registration. At the same time, the possibility of entering the Uzbek market of an oncology line of Belarusian drugs, which are two to three times cheaper than imported analogues, is being considered. .

If we talk about the results of the II Forum of Regions of Belarus and Uzbekistan in the context of Belarusian regions, we can note interesting results from the Grodno region, Brest region, Vitebsk region, as well as Minsk. For example, **the Grodno Regional Executive Committee** signed memorandums of cooperation with the Surkhandarya region and the Republic of Karakalpakstan, and agreements on trade, economic, scientific, technical, environmental, social, humanitarian and cultural cooperation were concluded with the Samarkand and Andijan regions. At the same time, the emphasis in partnerships with Uzbek colleagues is on cooperation, the creation of joint productions and mutual investments. “There is interest on the part of Uzbek business to invest in the economy of the Grodno region <...>. Our [Grodno] manufacturers are interested in not only supplying finished products, but also organizing joint ventures and producing products there ¹⁵⁹. ” On the same days of February, Grodno State University (GSU) “concluded cooperation agreements with the Urgench Innovation University and the Tashkent State Technical University ¹⁶⁰,” as well as with the Tashkent State Pedagogical

¹⁵⁸ Belarus plans to organize supplies of drugs for the treatment of oncology to Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-planiruet-organizovat-postavki-v-uzbekistan-lekarstv-dlja-lechenija-onkologii-616347-2024>

¹⁵⁹ Karanik: in cooperation with Uzbekistan, the emphasis is on creating joint productions and mutual investments [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/karanik-v-sotrudnichestve-s-uzbekistanom-upor-delaetsja-na-sozdanie-sovmestnyh-proizvodstv-i-vzaimnye-614485-2024/>

¹⁶⁰ Three agreements with universities in Uzbekistan will complement the international cooperation portfolio of GrSU [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL :

University named after Nizami. In addition, representatives of the Grodno State University at the Tashkent Institute of Chemical Technology outlined plans for the further development of a joint educational program for undergraduates, and at the Tashkent State Transport University they discussed the prospects for the development of mutually beneficial ties.

As for **the Brest region**, which at the end of 2023 increased the growth of trade turnover and export volumes on the Uzbek market, at the forum it identified clear priorities for cooperation with Uzbek partners - production of textile products, road construction, production of bricks, ceramic stones and blocks, as well as interaction in agriculture and in organizing mutual supplies of food products - peanuts, raisins, dried apricots, prunes, spices. After all, enterprises in the Brest region “not only supply their products to Uzbekistan and import Uzbek goods, but are also investors. Thus, Kobrin “Polesie”, specializing in the production of children’s toys, invested in the construction of a similar plant in Tashkent ¹⁶¹. ” For this reason, the Brest Regional Executive Committee at the forum signed action plans for 2024–2025 on the implementation of interregional agreements on trade, economic, scientific, technical and cultural cooperation with the Syrdarya and Bukhara regions, which were concluded at the First Forum of Regions of Belarus and Uzbekistan. In addition, at the second forum the following were signed: a cooperation agreement between the Brest Regional Clinical Hospital and the Bukhara Regional Multidisciplinary Medical Center and a protocol of intent between the cities of Brest and Bukhara.

On the sidelines of the II Forum of Regions, **the Vitebsk region** signed road maps for 2024–2025 with the Namangan and Kashkadarya regions. In the second case, representatives of the Vitebsk region and the Kashkadarya region also agreed “on cooperation in the fields of oncology,

<https://www.belta.by/society/view/tri-dogovora-s-vuzami-uzbekistana-dopolniat-portfel-mezhdunarodnogo-sotrudnichestva-gru-614135-2024/>

¹⁶¹ The Brest region will conclude new cooperation agreements at the Forum of Regions of Belarus and Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/novye-dogovory-o-sotrudnichestve-zakljuchit-breyskaja-oblast-na-forume-regionov-belarusi-i-uzbekistana-613850-2024/>

pediatric surgery, transplantology and endocrinology...”¹⁶², and also discussed issues related to interaction in the economy, tourism, information technology and sports. Finally, as mentioned above, at the second forum an agreement was signed between **Minsk** and Tashkent on the establishment of sister-city relations and an action plan for the implementation of the agreement between the Minsk City Executive Committee and the Tashkent khokimiyat on trade, economic, scientific, technical and cultural cooperation for 2024-2025. The parties determined the main task in this matter - “to implement all plans in the shortest possible time”¹⁶³.

To summarize, we note that today the interaction between the two former post-Soviet republics “is experiencing a period of unique prosperity, which is reaching a qualitatively new level and strives to find and expand new joint forms to implement the tasks of strategic cooperation”¹⁶⁴. In this context, the II Forum of Regions of Belarus and Uzbekistan showed the parties’ confident course towards further effective partnership, and the priority direction of Belarusian-Uzbek relations remains the expansion and deepening of mutually beneficial trade and economic cooperation: from industrial cooperation and agriculture to scientific, technological, cultural, humanitarian and regional interaction.

¹⁶² Vitebsk and Kashkadarya regions are planning cooperation in the fields of oncology and pediatric surgery [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/vitebskaja-i-kashkadarijskaja-oblasti-planirujut-sotrudnichestvo-v-sferah-onkologii-i-detskoi-hirurgii-613865-2024/>

¹⁶³ A delegation from Minsk participates in the II Forum of Regions of Belarus and Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/delegatsija-iz-minska-uchastvuet-v-ii-forume-regionov-belarusi-i-uzbekistana-613836-2024/>

¹⁶⁴ Zalessky, B. Partnership address - Uzbekistan. Chronicle of cooperative interaction / Boris Zalessky. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2024. – P. 61.

Belarus – Armenia: the key direction is long-term interaction

In 2023, Belarus and Armenia will celebrate the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. In recent years, their mutual trade has seen positive dynamics. The interaction between the two countries in almost all main vectors of bilateral relations is gradually “gaining momentum.” In the current international conditions, Minsk and Yerevan are focusing on the development of economic relations. For Belarus, Armenia has been and remains the state with which the Belarusian side aims to expand the trade and economic component and is ready to participate in any projects, including on the territory of Armenia, that will be of interest to Armenian partners.

Let us recall that back in 2018, Belarusian-Armenian trade turnover had a positive growth trend, increasing by more than 17 percent and exceeding \$50 million. Investment cooperation has become an important element of bilateral interaction. Suffice it to say that “\$7.6 million of investments came from Armenia to Belarus in 2018, including direct investments of \$7.5 million. In the first quarter of this year [2019], \$3.5 million of foreign direct investments were attracted ¹⁶⁵. ” This picture of partnership between Belarus and Armenia was significantly supplemented by more than 80 subjects of the commodity distribution network of Belarusian enterprises operating on Armenian soil, as well as 57 enterprises with Armenian capital - 17 joint ventures and 40 foreign ones operating in Belarus. In addition, in Armenia “there are three enterprises with the participation of Belarusian capital: LLC “Armenian-Belarusian trading house “Ar-Be””, LLC “BelAZ Caucasus Trans Service” and CJSC “Trading house “BelAR”” ¹⁶⁶. However, according to the parties, “there are still few joint investment projects, and those on which work is underway are often implemented in a

¹⁶⁵ President of Armenia Sargsyan arrived in Belarus [Electronic resource]. – 2019. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/politics/view/prezident-armenii-sarkisian-pribyl-v-belarus-353322-2019/>

¹⁶⁶ Meeting with the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Armenia to the Republic of Belarus [Electronic resource]. – 2019. – URL : <http://www.government.by/ru/content/8605>

sluggish manner ¹⁶⁷. ” That is why several years ago Belarus and Armenia raised an urgent question: not just trade with each other, but create joint companies so that the business of the two countries would work more actively with each other. And there are such opportunities in many vectors of cooperation.

Agriculture has become one of the priority areas of bilateral Belarusian-Armenian cooperation, since the topic of saturating the market with safe and high-quality food products is currently very relevant for Armenia. That is why international cooperation in this regard has great prospects. Armenian partners want to “create a food safety platform, on the basis of which certain agreements will be implemented with producers from different countries ¹⁶⁸. ” And partnership with the Belarusian side in this regard looks very promising. This is evidenced by the fact that in 2018, the export of agricultural products from Belarus to Armenia increased by 30 percent and amounted to \$13 million. As measures to promote the growth of trade turnover in the field of agriculture, the parties considered not only joint actions in the field of trade in food products, but also the expansion of supplies of agricultural and other equipment, strengthening the role of the Belarusian trading house in Yerevan, the creation of an Armenian trading house on Belarusian soil, and also the organization of joint ventures and interaction in the field of livestock farming. Realizing that in the context of growing trade turnover, the next step in bilateral relations should be reaching a higher level of cooperation, the Belarusian side also proposed, in particular, “to take part in updating the fleet of passenger vehicles in Armenia, in the program for updating the elevator facilities ¹⁶⁹. ”

¹⁶⁷ Myasnikovich proposed that Armenia intensify investment cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2019. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/mjasnikovich-predlozhi-armenii-aktivizirovat-investsotrudnichestvo-343419-2019/>

¹⁶⁸ Armenia is interested in developing cooperation with Belarus in the field of agriculture [Electronic resource]. – 2019. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/armenija-zainteresovana-razvivat-sotrudnichestvo-s-belarusiju-v-oblasti-selskogo-hozjajstva-353502-2019/>

¹⁶⁹ Belarus is ready to participate in updating the fleet of passenger vehicles in Armenia [Electronic resource]. – 2019. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-gotova-uchastvovat-v-obnovlenii-parka-passazhirskoi-tehniki-armenii-334782-2019/>

Another promising area for the development of Belarusian-Armenian partnerships is improving transport links between the two former Soviet republics. As is known, there are no direct communications between Belarus and Armenia, but it is possible to create them within the framework of the Eurasian Economic Union along with the appropriate infrastructure that ensures the delivery of goods and transit transportation between countries. In particular, the parties are considering the possibility of transporting Armenian goods to Belarus and transiting through its territory by rail. A promising logistics direction in this regard is the use of the “North-South road under construction, which will connect Georgia with Iran, and the SEZ in the city of Meghri, where there is a free economic zone. This is a good opportunity to expand the geography of supplies of Belarusian goods ¹⁷⁰. ”

In November 2021, the 15th meeting of the intergovernmental Belarusian-Armenian commission on trade and economic cooperation was held, at which the parties considered the possibilities of strengthening the positions of exporters of Belarus and Armenia in each other's markets, expanding the commodity distribution network, and interaction in the field of agriculture, science and technology. A characteristic feature of the partnership between the two countries is the fact that trade turnover between them continues to grow every year. “So, if in 2016 it amounted to just over \$32 million, then in 2020 it is already over \$82 million. An increase in trade turnover was recorded and, based on the results of 9 months of this year [2021], it exceeded \$62 million ¹⁷¹. ” At the same time, the basis of Belarusian exports to the Armenian market were dairy products, furniture, computers for automatic information processing and medicines. This made it possible to achieve a positive balance in mutual trade in excess of \$32 million at the end of 2020. Another positive trend observed in relations between the two republics is the further growth of Armenian investments in the Belarusian

¹⁷⁰ The heads of transport departments of Belarus and Armenia have outlined points of growth for cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2019. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/glavy-transportnyh-vedomstv-belarusi-i-armenii-nametili-tochki-rosta-sotrudnichestva-354239-2019/>

¹⁷¹ Belarus and Armenia have increased trade turnover by 2.5 times over 5 years [Electronic resource]. – 2021. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-armenija-za-5-let-uvlechili-tovarooborot-v-25-raza-471337-2021/>

economy. In the first half of 2021, more than ten million dollars were received.

Discussing the prospects for developing partnerships at a meeting of the intergovernmental commission, the parties noted the presence of significant reserves for increasing the volume of mutual trade. One of them is that “the economic way of developing trade by increasing the supply of traditional groups of goods is becoming obsolete and it is necessary to enter into cooperation projects ¹⁷²,” which will ensure long-term and fruitful interaction, less dependent on various market fluctuations. And the parties are already taking certain practical steps in this direction. Thus, participating in the program for modernizing the elevator facilities of Yerevan, Mogilevliftmash OJSC supplied five hundred sets of elevator equipment to Armenia. And the issue of creating a joint assembly production of elevators on Armenian soil is already in the development stage. Great opportunities for Belarusian enterprises open up for their participation in the implementation of other Armenian government programs for the development of infrastructure and industry.

It should be noted that in 2021 the volume of Belarusian-Armenian trade increased again and amounted to about \$100 million. This trend continues this year. “So, in January-June 2022, trade turnover increased by more than 70% and amounted to \$60.3 million ¹⁷³. ” This applies to both the export of goods to Armenia and the import of Armenian goods to Belarus. In addition, the countries ensured mutual growth in the supply of agricultural and food products, outlined industrial cooperation projects and maintained a high frequency of air flights on the Minsk-Yerevan-Minsk route.

In October 2022, the 16th meeting of the intergovernmental Belarusian-Armenian commission on trade and economic cooperation was held in Yerevan, at which the parties again came to the conclusion that the extensive path of trade development by increasing the supply of traditional

¹⁷² Yeast: Belarus and Armenia have reserves for increasing mutual trade [Electronic resource]. – 2021. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/drozhzha-u-belarusi-i-armenii-est-rezervy-dlja-narashchivaniya-vzaimnoj-torgovli-471650-2021/>

¹⁷³ Belarus is interested in supplying lumber products to Armenia [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-zainteresovana-v-postavkah-piloproduktov-v-armeniju-523446-2022/>

groups of goods is becoming obsolete and it is necessary to develop cooperative projects that would guarantee long-term interaction. At the same time, “the key direction of this work should be strengthening industrial cooperation ties, joining forces to create joint competitive products that are in demand not only in the domestic markets and markets of the EAEU, but also in third countries ¹⁷⁴. ”

In general, the signed protocol of the 16th meeting of the intergovernmental commission included a variety of events aimed at strengthening and developing cooperation in a number of areas: mutual trade; industry and industrial cooperation; the sphere of innovation, digital transformation and postal communications; transport and energy; Agriculture; scientific and technical cooperation; the spheres of education, culture, youth, sports, tourism, healthcare, labor and social protection; environment protection; interregional cooperation. In particular, “Belarus and Armenia will work on the issue of using national currencies in payments ¹⁷⁵. ” The parties agreed to provide assistance to Armenian and Belarusian business entities in expanding the commodity distribution network in the territories of the two countries. The Armenian side will work on the issue of creating the “Armenia Trading House” on the territory of Belarus, which will have the status of an exporter/importer. Also, the partners “will continue cooperation in the field of mechanization of the Armenian agro-industrial complex, and will consider the possibility of creating cooperative projects on the territory of Armenia. It is planned to hold an agro-industrial forum where products of Belarusian and Armenian producers will be exhibited ¹⁷⁶. ” In

¹⁷⁴ Kulik on the development of trade with Armenia: cooperation projects are needed [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/kulik-o-razviti-i-torgovli-s-armeniej-nuzhny-kooperatsionnye-proekty-526560-2022/>

¹⁷⁵ Belarus and Armenia are interested in using national currencies in payments [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-armenija-zainteresovany-v-ispolzovanii-natsionalnyh-valjut-pri-raschetah-526881-2022>

¹⁷⁶ The 16th meeting of the Armenian-Belarusian intergovernmental commission on trade and economic cooperation took place in Yerevan [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://cis.minsk.by/news/24151/v-erevane-sostojalos-16-e-zasedanie-armjano-belorusskoj-mezhpravitelstvennoj-komissii-po-torgovo-ekonomicheskomu-sotrudnicestvu>

addition, the Armenian side expressed interest in introducing the Belarusian experience in using innovative technologies in agriculture.

If we talk about Belarusian-Armenian production cooperation, then in October 2022, “Minsk Automobile Plant signed a contract for the supply of 500 passenger vehicle sets to Armenia in the amount of \$73 million <...>. Passenger equipment assembled in Armenia is intended for delivery to third countries ¹⁷⁷. ” Belarus is also ready to further expand cooperation in the forestry sector. The construction and reconstruction of housing is now actively underway in Armenia. The Belarusian side is ready to supply construction materials, including lumber, to this South Caucasus country.

The Belarusian side sees another reserve in increasing trade with Armenian partners in the active use of fairs and exhibitions that take place in this Transcaucasian country. Thus, the high interest of Belarusian producers in the Armenian market was very eloquently demonstrated by the Made exposition in Belarus at the 20th universal regional trade and industrial forum Armenia EXPO , which took place in September 2021 in Yerevan. Suffice it to say that 17 enterprises of the Belgospischeprom concern became exhibitors at this one of the largest exhibitions in Transcaucasia: “Krasny Pishchevik”, “Kommunarka”, “Krasny Mozyryanin”, “Spartak”, “KF Slodych”, “Maloritsky KOSC”, “Gamma” taste”, “Mashpischeprod”, Minsk Sparkling Wine Factory, Slutsk Sugar Refinery, Gorodeya Sugar Refinery, “Minsk Crystal” - the management company of the holding “Minsk Crystal Group”, “Krinita”, Minsk Margarine Plant, “Lidapische Concentrates”, “Belkofe”, “Interferm”. Their presence at this business forum in Yerevan can be explained by the fact that “almost all manufactured products of the concern’s organizations are supplied to Armenia. In January–July 2021, the volume of exports to this country amounted to \$640.7 thousand or 215.4% compared to the same period last year ¹⁷⁸. ”

¹⁷⁷ Minsk Automobile Plant will supply 500 vehicle sets of passenger vehicles to Armenia [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/minskij-avtozavod-postavit-500-mashinokomplektov-passazhirskoj-tehniki-v-armeniju-527026-2022>

¹⁷⁸ “Belgospischeprom” presented its products at the Armenia exhibition Expo in Yerevan [Electronic resource]. – 2021. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belgospischeprom-predstavil-produktsiju-na-vystavke-armenia-expo-v-erevane-460163-2021/>

Having demonstrated the best examples of their products at the exhibition, Belarusian exporters continue to significantly expand their presence on the Armenian market. A good example in this regard was demonstrated by the unitary enterprise “Kalinkovich Dairy Plant”, which entered into a contract for 55 thousand dollars within the framework of this exhibition for the supply of skimmed milk powder for the production of ice cream. “The company also has agreements to conclude more contracts for the supply of products for ice cream production”¹⁷⁹. The Slutsk cheese-making plant, which demonstrated in Yerevan the products of the Yas Belous brand - cheeses, milk powder and butter, which, together with cream and cottage cheese, dominated the export of Belarusian products to Armenia in 2020, is also planning to seriously increase its supplies to the Armenian market. Belarusian manufacturers of agricultural machinery also see good prospects here: Gomselmash, whose two machines under the Palesse brand have been working in the fields of this country since 2020, OJSC Management Company of the Grodnooblselkhoztekhnika Holding, which produces soil cultivating, forage harvesting, post-harvest equipment and milking installations, as well as JSC Gomel Electromechanical Plant, a manufacturer of railway locomotives and rolling stock.

A year later - in September 2022 - companies from Belarus again took part in the regional trade and industrial forum Armenia EXPO, where “a wide range of thematic sections were presented: mechanical engineering, petrochemicals, construction, interior design, transport, cargo transportation, medical equipment, pharmaceuticals, woodworking, financial services, tourism and recreation”¹⁸⁰. More than 170 companies, associations, unions and organizations took part in the exhibition. Among the participating countries are Armenia, Germany, Georgia, India, Iran, China, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Ukraine, and the Czech Republic. The Made

¹⁷⁹ Kalinkovich Dairy Plant on Armenia Expo signed a contract for \$55 thousand [Electronic resource]. – 2021. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/kalinkovichskij-molochnyi-kombinat-na-armenia-expo-zakljuchil-kontrakt-na-55-tys-460231-2021/>

¹⁸⁰ The exposition of Belarus will be presented at the trade and industrial forum in Armenia [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/ekspozitsija-belarusi-budet-predstavlena-na-torgovo-promyshlennom-forume-v-armenii-512548-2022/>

exposition was also presented in Belarus. In particular, 12 enterprises of the Belgospischeprom concern demonstrated their products. For example, the exhibition presented a wide range of confectionery products, instant products, food concentrates, baby food, alcoholic drinks, sauces and vegetable oils, fruit and berry products, including a new line of fruit drinks and nectars, jams, preserves, mushrooms and other food products. Let us note that this year almost all of the products manufactured by the concern's organizations are again supplied to Armenia. "Over 7 months of 2022, export volumes increased 1.2 times compared to the same period last year, primarily due to increased supplies of malt, beer, food concentrates, potato products and fat and oil products¹⁸¹."

The potential for interaction between Belarus and Armenia today remains very extensive in interregional cooperation. In particular, cooperation between the Vitebsk region and Armenian regions is intensifying in all areas, from science to trade and culture. "The trade turnover of the Vitebsk region with Armenia in January–March [2022] exceeded \$1.6 million. Almost all of these funds were exports of goods. The Vitebsk region supplies meat and dairy products (accounting for more than 71%), special-purpose vehicles, medicines, carpets, and imports fire detectors. In total, 8 organizations with Armenian capital operate in the Vitebsk region¹⁸²." It is interesting that in the Vitebsk region it is possible to launch the production of the Armenian medicinal drug Narine, a fermented milk product created by Armenian scientists in the 60s and very popular in this country. The supplement helps regulate digestive problems. "The drug has an EAEU certificate; it may well be used in the Vitebsk region if there are people willing to create such a line in dairy production. In Armenia, this product is produced in the form of paste, powder, kefir, and tablets. This will be another good item

¹⁸¹ "Belgospischeprom" presented its products at the exhibition "Armenia EXPO 2022" in Yerevan [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belgospischeprom-predstavil-svoju-produktsiju-na-vystavke-armenia-expo-2022-v-erevane-524117-2022/>

¹⁸² Trade, science and culture: Vitebsk region and Armenia intend to intensify cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/torgovlja-nauka-i-kultura-vitebskaja-oblast-i-armenija-namereny-aktivizirovat-sotrudnichestvo-505369-2022/>

of trade turnover between Armenia and Belarus¹⁸³. ” The proposal to develop the production of an Armenian fermented milk product in the Vitebsk region, which is used as medicine, was supported by the Vitebsk authorities. The implementation of such a project will strengthen and expand the line of factories and make them even more competitive.

Another Belarusian region intends to intensify cooperation with partners from Armenia - this is the Brest region. So far, trade turnover between the parties is insignificant. “However, recently there has been a positive trend: in the first quarter of 2022, it grew by 71 percent, and enterprises in the region increased export supplies by 50 percent¹⁸⁴. ” The Brest region intends to intensify cooperation with Armenian partners in the production of livestock products, mechanical engineering, woodworking, and light industry. Another interesting fact: a cooperation agreement has been in force between the Brest region and the Ararat marz for more than 10 years. The pandemic has become an obstacle to maintaining contacts between regions, but there are already intentions to restore ties.

In general, as noted at the 16th meeting of the intergovernmental commission, the potential for interaction between Belarus and Armenia continues to develop: from deepening mutually beneficial trade, economic and innovation cooperation to industrial and intersectoral cooperation, humanitarian and interregional partnerships.

¹⁸³ The Ambassador of Armenia proposed to develop the production of fermented milk product *narine* in the Vitebsk region [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/posol-armenii-predlozhit-osvoit-v-vitebskoj-oblasti-proizvodstvo-kislomolochnogo-produkta-narine-505390-2022/>

¹⁸⁴ Armenia is interested in interregional relations with Belarus [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/armenija-zainteresovana-v-mezhregionalnyh-svjyazah-s-belarusiju-502868-2022/>

Belarus – Azerbaijan: cooperation in the spirit of openness, trust and mutual assistance

Azerbaijan is one of those countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, interaction with which is of a strategic nature for the Republic of Belarus. In less than thirty years, and diplomatic relations between the two former Soviet republics were established back in June 1993, Belarusian-Azerbaijani interaction has formed the traditions of the two peoples, which are based on “openness, trust, friendship and mutual assistance”¹⁸⁵. Among the significant interstate documents that Minsk and Baku consider basic are: 1) Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between the Republic of Belarus and the Republic of Azerbaijan (2007); 2) Agreement between the Republic of Belarus and the Republic of Azerbaijan on socio-economic cooperation until 2025 (2015).

In 2018, when Belarus and Azerbaijan celebrated the 25th anniversary of diplomatic relations, the parties noted the high dynamics of expanding interaction in all areas, including the trade and economic sphere, where the main priorities were industrial cooperation, joint projects in the fields of science and technology, as well as investment cooperation. This was evidenced, in particular, by the results of 2018, when the Belarusian-Azerbaijani trade turnover “amounted to about \$465.3 million and increased 3 times compared to 2017.”¹⁸⁶ The fact that the supply of Belarusian products to the Azerbaijani market was then carried out in more than 220 product positions also spoke volumes.

One of the key areas of interaction between Belarus and Azerbaijan even then was production cooperation, the flagship of which can be called the Ganja Automobile Plant. At this enterprise, assembly plants of Belarusian tractors, Gomselmash grain harvesters, Minsk Automobile Plant equipment, and Belkommunmash electric buses were created. The effectiveness of their activities is evidenced by the fact that since 2007, more than 11 thousand tractors, as well as about 3.5 thousand units of automobile and special

¹⁸⁵ Belarusian-Azerbaijani bilateral relations [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : https://azerbaijan.mfa.gov.by/ru/bilateral_relations/political/

¹⁸⁶ Igor Lyashenko made a working visit to Azerbaijan [Electronic resource]. – 2019. – URL : <http://www.government.by/ru/content/8786>

equipment, have been assembled here. In May 2019, a new assembly line opened at the Azerbaijani enterprise, “for the first time, a grain harvester of the KZS-575 brand “Palesse GS 575” and an E321 electric bus rolled off the assembly line¹⁸⁷. ”

Of particular interest in Ganja was the production of electric buses - public transport designed for 83 passengers, equipped with 26 seats, air conditioning, an information monitor and a video monitoring system. This technique is beneficial both from the point of view of minimal environmental impact on the environment and in terms of saving energy consumption. “The time to fully charge the batteries of an electric bus capable of reaching speeds of up to 60 km/h <...> is only six minutes¹⁸⁸. ” It is expected that in the future the Ganja Automobile Plant will produce up to 40 percent of spare parts for this environmentally friendly equipment. If demand is sufficiently high, the enterprise’s capacity will allow it to produce up to 150 electric buses per year. And projects for the assembly and supply of municipal vehicles from the Minsk Automobile Plant and medium-capacity passenger vehicles were still in development. In addition, in July 2019, in the Turkish city of Kırıkkale, 80 kilometers from Ankara, with the support of the Ganja Automobile Plant, the assembly of Minsk tractors began with the expectation of producing one hundred vehicles by the end of the year, and two hundred next year. And as a result, “the plant’s capacity will allow it to assemble up to three thousand tractors a year . ”¹⁸⁹ The assistance of the Azerbaijani side in this matter allowed us to save about one million dollars on the construction of one building of future production in Turkey alone.

¹⁸⁷ The President of Azerbaijan met with Deputy Prime Minister of Belarus Lyashenko [Electronic resource]. – 2019. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/politics/view/prezident-azerbajdzhana-vstretilsja-s-vitse-premierom-belarusi-ljashenko-347392-2019/>

¹⁸⁸ Azerbaijan has started producing Belarusian grain harvesters and electric buses [Electronic resource]. – 2019. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/v-azerbajdzhane-pristupili-k-vypusku-belorusskih-zernouborocnyh-kombajnov-i-elektrobusov-347363-2019/>

¹⁸⁹ Matievsky, M. Assembly production of Belarusian tractors in Turkey should start operating in July / M. Matievsky // [Electronic resource]. – 2019. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/sborocnoe-proizvodstvo-belorusskih-tractorov-v-turtsii-dolzno-zarabotat-v-ijule-344079-2019/>

Another important area of Belarusian-Azerbaijani cooperation, which received strong development in the spring of 2019, is the participation of Belarusian exporting enterprises in exhibition events in Azerbaijan. In May, the exposition of Belarusian manufacturers “Belarus. Taste of Nature” was presented in Baku at the international agricultural exhibition Caspian Agro, which has already “proven itself an important platform for promoting Belarusian interests in the field of agriculture in the Azerbaijani market”¹⁹⁰. Among more than two hundred companies from 25 countries that presented their traditional products and new products in various sectors of the agricultural industry, 25 organizations and enterprises from Belarus showed their capabilities. Thus, organizations of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus demonstrated innovative equipment for agriculture - an energy-efficient combine for harvesting berries, LED lamps and greenhouse irradiators for growing plants in greenhouse farms. The Belagro Bel company offered visitors to the exhibition “a multi-brand portfolio of Belarusian-made agricultural machinery and comprehensive solutions for processing a wide range of agricultural crops”¹⁹¹.

An even more diverse range of Belarusian products could be seen at the exhibition in the confectionery, beverage and grocery sections. In particular, “Red Pishevik” from Bobruisk attracted attention with such new products as: marshmallows - in the shape of a rose flower, with pomegranate and duchess flavors; marmalade - in the form of bottles with the taste of tequila, wine and cognac. “Spartak” from Gomel demonstrated chocolate - bitter and milk, as well as white with almonds and coconut, with hazelnuts and biscuit balls, with hazelnuts and cereals. The Belarusian exposition in Baku was complemented by baby food, meat and poultry products, as well as products from the Minsk Margarine Plant. Business part of the Caspian exhibition Agro also turned out to be very productive for Belarusian

¹⁹⁰ Belarus is interested in developing cooperation with Azerbaijan in the agro-industrial complex and industrial cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2019. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-zainteresovana-razvivat-s-azerbajdzhanom-sotrudnichestvo-v-apk-i-promkkooperatsiju-347429-2019/>

¹⁹¹ Belarus presented the largest national exposition at the agricultural exhibition in Baku [Electronic resource]. – 2019. – URL : <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-predstavila-krupneishuju-natsionalnuju-ekspozitsiju-na-selskohoziastvennoj-vystavke-v-baku-347619-2019/>

participants. In particular, a document on cooperation was signed by the Belgospischeprom concern and the Azerbaijan Industrial Corporation, in which the parties agreed to interact “in the field of supply of tobacco products between the Azertabak agro-industrial complex and the Grodno tobacco factory, which is part of the Belgospischeprom concern ¹⁹²,” as well as to exchange production experience.

Now let's look at the results of 2021. They showed that Azerbaijan is among the main trade and economic partners of Belarus, cooperation with which is developing especially intensively today. This is evidenced by the fact that Belarusian-Azerbaijani trade turnover in 2021 almost doubled and amounted to \$885.5 million. At the same time, “Belarusian exports of goods increased 2.5 times and amounted to \$478.0 million, reaching record levels in the history of bilateral relations ¹⁹³. ” The main export items from Belarus to Azerbaijan were trains, fiberboards, medicines, furniture, timber, electrical transformers, as well as beef, butter, cheeses and cottage cheese. “A reliable channel for the purchase of Azerbaijani vegetables and fruits has also been established, which replaced imports from unfriendly countries. The Belarusian side is interested in further expansion and diversification of trade and economic cooperation ¹⁹⁴. ”

The parties paid a lot of attention to such a promising area of bilateral cooperation as **agriculture and food** . In September 2021, they even held the first meeting of the Belarusian-Azerbaijani working group on agriculture and food security, at which “issues of cooperation in the field of crop and livestock production, food security, agricultural education, expansion of trade

¹⁹² “Belgospischeprom” and the Azerbaijan Industrial Corporation signed a protocol on cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2019. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belgospischeprom-i-azerbajdzhanskaja-promvshlennaja-korporatsija-podpisali-protokol-o-sotrudnichestve-347723-2019/>

¹⁹³ On the results of Belarusian-Azerbaijani trade in goods in 2021 [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://azerbaijan.mfa.gov.by/ru/embassy/news/a81fa7c9e40a3b23.html>

¹⁹⁴ Petrishenko: Belarus is interested in expanding trade and economic cooperation with Azerbaijan [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/petrishenko-belarus-zainteresovana-v-rashshirenii-torgovo-ekonomicheskogo-sotrudnichestva-s-526693-2022/>

and economic ties in the field of agriculture were discussed... " ¹⁹⁵. Coordination of joint efforts in this direction has made it possible to achieve good results in bilateral trade in agricultural goods and agricultural raw materials, the volume of which increased by almost 20 percent at the end of 2021 - to \$41.6 million - with a share of Belarusian exports amounting to \$35 million. It is important that these positive trends continue today. "In January-February 2022, the trade turnover of food products and agricultural raw materials between Belarus and Azerbaijan amounted to \$5.7 million. Belarusian exports of goods total \$4.6 million ¹⁹⁶. "

Another promising area of Belarusian-Azerbaijani cooperation, where serious positive changes are expected, is **construction**. The fact is that this segment of the economy ranks second in Azerbaijan after the oil sector in terms of public investment. Belarusian companies may also be interested in the fact that in this country there is a very high demand for sawn timber, and a simplified tax is provided for enterprises in the industry. In 2021, the basis of Belarusian construction exports to the Azerbaijani market were reinforced concrete and metal structures, equipment and spare parts. The dynamics of these supplies are illustrated by the following figures: "Organizations of the construction complex of Belarus supplied products worth more than \$3.5 million to Azerbaijan in the first quarter of 2021. This is 2.2 times more compared to the same period in 2020. ¹⁹⁷" Further bilateral cooperation in this area can be judged by some Belarusian participants at the 26th International Specialized Exhibition BakuBuild, held in October 2021 in the Azerbaijani capital. In particular, the scientific and production society OKB TSP demonstrated there its own innovative technology for the construction of arched structures for objects for various purposes, developed by specialists

¹⁹⁵ On the meeting of the Belarusian-Azerbaijani Working Group on Agriculture and Food Safety [Electronic resource]. – 2021. – URL : <https://azerbaijan.mfa.gov.by/ru/embassy/news/b29ba1099335e43e.html>

¹⁹⁶ Belarus and Azerbaijan increased food products and agricultural raw materials by almost 20% in 2021 [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-azerbajdzhan-v-2021-godu-uvlechili-tovarooborot-prodtovarov-i-selhozsvrjia-pochti-na-20-496191-2022/>

¹⁹⁷ The National Pavilion of Belarus will be presented at the BakuBuild exhibition [Electronic resource]. – 2021. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/natsionalnyi-pavilion-belarusi-budet-predstavlen-na-vystavke-bakubuild-463807-2021/>

from the Spetsmashinostroenie company, which is part of OKB TSP. Interestingly, using this technology, the company has already built 19 industrial buildings in Azerbaijan.

The Belarusian regions also see their prospects for developing cooperation with Azerbaijani partners. Thus, **the Grodno region** is planning to actively expand these connections. Let us recall that in 2021, exports of Grodno region enterprises to Azerbaijan doubled and amounted to \$17.4 million. In total, supplies from the Belarusian region to this South Caucasian country were carried out by about 40 business entities of all forms of ownership. At the same time, the Azerbaijani side continues to have a high interest in importing Belarusian agricultural machinery, wood processing products and the food industry. According to the parties, “we have enough promising areas for cooperation. This includes agriculture and mechanical engineering. We will redouble our efforts to develop relationships ¹⁹⁸. ”

Another interesting example in this context is **the Brest region**, whose trade turnover with Azerbaijan in the first quarter of 2022 increased by almost half. For example, “the supply of machines and mechanisms for harvesting and threshing agricultural crops has increased 15 times. Brest residents also export batteries and furniture ¹⁹⁹. ” The main type of export from the Belarusian region is food products, among which dairy products predominate.

Finally, the cities of **Gomel** and **Ganja**, which signed an agreement on friendship and cooperation back in November 2013, are active participants in Belarusian-Azerbaijani interregional cooperation. In this city of Azerbaijan, as you know, there is an automobile plant, where assembly plants of Belarusian enterprises have already been created - the Minsk Tractor and Automobile Plants, Gomselmash and Belkommunmash. In 2019, the first PALESSE combine was assembled here KZS -575. At the same time, the

¹⁹⁸ The Grodno region is interested in expanding cooperation with Azerbaijan [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/grodnenskaja-oblast-zainteresovana-v-rashshirenii-sotrudnichestva-s-azerbajdzhanom-494171-2022/>

¹⁹⁹ Azerbaijan is interested in cooperation with the regions of Belarus [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/azerbajdzhan-zainteresovan-v-sotrudnichestve-s-regionami-belarusi-499846-2022/>

parties noted that “there are many points of contact for the further development of relations between the Belarusian and Azerbaijani cities in various industries, cultural, educational and sports fields ²⁰⁰. ” So there are considerable reserves for developing cooperation here.

In June 2022, the 12th meeting of the Belarusian-Azerbaijani Intergovernmental Commission was held. At it, the parties named among the promising areas of cooperation: expansion of industrial cooperation, interaction in the fields of mechanical engineering, transport, agriculture, woodworking, healthcare, education and science. In particular, “ it is necessary to fully implement the contract for the supply of unassembled tractors to the Ganja Automobile Plant, as well as to work out the economic and technical aspects of the joint project of this plant and MTZ to enter the markets of third countries ²⁰¹. ” It is also necessary to ensure the completion of tests of the grain harvester produced by Gomselmash and modified taking into account the technical requirements of the Azerbaijani side, and to agree on supply volumes. Proposals include joint production of electric vehicles. The elevator manufacturer Mogilevliftmash expects to take part in programs to modernize elevator facilities in the cities of Azerbaijan. In the near future, preparatory work will also be completed to create a joint production of veterinary drugs on Azerbaijani territory.

As for exhibition activities, in 2022 Belarus presented national expositions at the largest international exhibitions in Baku: the Caspian Agro agricultural exhibition and the InterFood Azerbaijan food industry exhibition, the Caspian Oil and Gas exhibition, the ADEX defense exhibition, and the International Medical Innovation Exhibition. For example, the Belarusian pavilion was presented at the 27th international exhibition “Caspian Oil and Gas” in early June 2022, where Belarusian enterprises “Grodno Azot”, “Mogilevkhimvolokno”, Mozyr Oil Refinery, “Naftan”, “Polotsk-

²⁰⁰ The Ganja Automobile Plant is interested in joint production of combine harvesters with Gomselmash [Electronic resource]. – 2019. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/gjandzhinskij-avtozavod-zajinteresovan-v-sovmestnom-proizvodstve-kombajnov-s-gomselmashem-333783-2019/>

²⁰¹ Mechanical engineering, construction, agro-industrial complex. Petrishenko on plans for interaction with Azerbaijan [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/mashinostroenie-stroitelstvo-apk-petrishenko-o-planah-vzaimodejstviya-s-azerbajdzhanom-505333-2022/>

Steklovolokno” participated. , “Seismic engineering”. The exposition was distinguished by its diversity: nitrogen fertilizers, polyamide and polyester threads, cord fabrics, polymer composite materials, polyester technical threads, non-woven fabrics, motor gasoline, diesel fuel, heating oil, petroleum bitumen, fuel gases, fiberglass and materials based on it, oilfield and geophysical equipment. “Among the unique products presented at the exhibition is polyester fiber of the conjugate type for use as a filler in textile products, which is produced by Mogilevkhimvolokno ²⁰². ”

In the transport sector, in August 2022, the Belarusian Railway began delivering goods by express trains from Belarus to Azerbaijan. “This allows us to deliver goods produced in Belarus to Azerbaijan in the shortest possible time (within a week) and at competitive rates <...>. The first three trains loaded with forest products have already departed from the Orsha-Zapadnaya station (Belarus) to the Absheron station (Azerbaijan) ²⁰³.

Bilateral contacts are also developing closely in the educational sphere. In particular, the Belarusian State University (BSU) is intensifying cooperation with institutions in Azerbaijan. In September 2022, BSU signed a cooperation agreement with Baku State University, which is the oldest and leading university in this country of the South Caucasus and includes 16 faculties of various fields, two scientific institutes and the Confucius Institute. The document prescribes agreements in the field of education and science. “In particular, the parties agreed to implement joint projects in the scientific, educational and cultural spheres, develop publishing partnerships, academic scientific and cultural mobility, exchange information, students, researchers, and teachers ²⁰⁴. ” It also provides for the development and implementation of joint research projects, educational programs, courses and curricula, interaction in the field of scientific supervision of undergraduates and

²⁰² Belarus presented a pavilion at the oil and gas exhibition in Azerbaijan [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-predstavila-pavilion-na-neftegazovoj-vystavke-v-azerbajdzhan-505359-2022/>

²⁰³ Belarusian Railways began delivering cargo by express trains from Belarus to Azerbaijan [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/bzhd-nachala-postavljat-gruzi-uskorennyimi-poezdami-iz-belarusi-v-azerbajdzhan-517606-2022/>

²⁰⁴ BSU and Baku State University entered into a cooperation agreement [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/bgu-i-bakinskij-gosuniversitet-zakljuchili-soglashenie-o-sotrudnichestve-525475-2022/>

graduate students. It should be noted that BSU is currently interacting with other Azerbaijani scientific and educational institutions. Since 2019, an agreement on cooperation and student exchange has been in force with ADA University (Baku). In 2021, the International State Ecological Institute named after A.D. Sakharov BSU signed a cooperation agreement with Khazar University (Baku) and an agreement on scientific and technical cooperation with the Animal Husbandry Research Institute of the Ministry of Agriculture of Azerbaijan. To participate in the competition of joint scientific projects for 2022-2023, announced by the State Committee for Science and Technology of Belarus and the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) of Azerbaijan, two joint projects were submitted: the Institute of Nuclear Problems and the Institute of Physics of the NAS of Azerbaijan; Faculty of Chemistry and Institute of Catalysis and Inorganic Chemistry named after Academician M. Nagiyev of the National Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan. And one more thing: currently six Azerbaijani students are studying at BSU.

So, despite new geopolitical challenges, the dynamics of Belarusian-Azerbaijani interaction continues to develop at all levels: from industrial cooperation and transport to participation in exhibitions, science and education.

Belarus – Azerbaijan: specifics of new frontiers of cooperation

Belarus and Azerbaijan celebrated the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations in 2023. Despite new geopolitical challenges, the dynamics of Belarusian-Azerbaijani interaction continues to develop today at all levels - state, government, industry and regional. Indeed, over these decades, the parties “remained committed to such values as goodness, dignity and honesty, and were also aimed at achieving specific results”²⁰⁵. “These qualities have especially manifested themselves in recent years, when the strategic partnership of the two republics has become even more powerful to achieve new frontiers of cooperation. Let us give specific facts.

In May 2023, the 13th meeting of the intergovernmental Belarusian-Azerbaijani Commission (IPC) on trade and economic cooperation was held in Baku, within the framework of which the parties outlined the prospects for bilateral cooperation, and mutually beneficial economic ties were named the flagship of further development between Belarus and Azerbaijan. Note that Minsk and Baku, noting the high dynamics of trade turnover in 2023, confirmed that “at the end of the first quarter of this year, this figure increased by almost 55% and exceeded \$8 million”²⁰⁶. “In particular, Belarus has significantly increased its exports of transformers, cables, other electrical products, woodworking products, and food products to Azerbaijan. At the same time, the Belarusian side sees prospects in organizing supplies to this country of the South Caucasus of construction, utility, railway, emergency rescue and various types of special equipment, as well as elevators and creating their assembly production for the corresponding volumes of consumption.

²⁰⁵ Aliyev: Azerbaijan and Belarus agreed to increase trade and economic cooperation and industrial cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/aliev-azerbajdzhan-i-belarus-dogovorilis-naraschivat-torgovo-ekonomicheskoe-sotrudnichestvo-i-634667-2024/>

²⁰⁶ Efimov: the visit of the Belarusian delegation to Azerbaijan will contribute to the intensification of industrial cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/efimov-vizit-delegatsii-belarusi-v-azerbajdzhan-posposobstvuet-intensifikatsii-promyshlennogo-566760-2023/>

And at the 13th meeting of the IGC, the parties adopted a number of documents on the development of interaction, including in the industrial sector. For example, “a road map for the creation of an assembly plant in Azerbaijan was signed in the field of elevator equipment for 2023-2024 between Mogilevliftmash OJSC and ULU Ulu Geycha (Baku). A dealer agreement was also concluded between MAZ OJSC and the TURAN company (Baku), providing for the promotion of MAZ products on the Azerbaijani market and their service. Another document is an agreement for the supply of electrical products between OJSC METZ im. IN AND. Kozlova” (Minsk) and AZMETZLLC LLC (Baku) ²⁰⁷. ”

A special conversation is about the cooperation of Belarusian machine builders with the Ganja Automobile Plant, which has become a landmark project for the two countries, showing an excellent example of effective interaction in the field of industrial cooperation. “Over 17 years of joint work, more than 12 thousand Belarusian tractors, as well as about 4 thousand units of other equipment (MAZ, MZKT, AMKODOR), have been assembled at the plant. The Belarusian side is committed to continuing joint work to expand the range of jointly produced equipment, including grain harvesters and modern passenger equipment (electric buses) that meets high environmental standards ²⁰⁸. ”

At the 13th meeting of the IPC, key tasks were outlined in this context in order to develop the assembly of Belarusian equipment at this Azerbaijani enterprise. In particular, “it is necessary to ensure the expansion of the range of equipment assembly at the Ganja Automobile Plant PA, including the resumption of joint production of special equipment on the chassis of MAZ OJSC and joint production of passenger electric transport. To do this, it is necessary, based on the existing complete catalog of Belarusian equipment, to decide on models and quantities and formulate an appropriate order for the

²⁰⁷ Industry and sports. Belarus and Azerbaijan signed documents on the development of cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/promvshlennost-i-sport-belarus-i-azerbajdzhan-podpisali-dokumenty-o-razvitii-sotrudnichestva-566641-2023>

²⁰⁸ Mutual trade and industrial cooperation. Petrishenko on the prospects of cooperation with Azerbaijan [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/vzaimnaja-torgovlia-i-promkoopertsija-petrishenko-o-perspektivah-sotrudnichestva-s-azerbajdzhanom-566632-2023>

Azerbaijani enterprise ²⁰⁹. ” Another task is to continue work on systematically increasing the production of tractors from Belarusian tractor kits at the Ganja plant, including for third-country markets.

At the 13th meeting of the IGC, the parties also paid a lot of attention to such a promising area of bilateral cooperation as agriculture and food. Let us recall that in September 2021, the “first meeting of the Belarusian-Azerbaijani working group on agriculture and food security was held, at which issues of cooperation in the field of crop and livestock production, food security, agricultural education, expansion of trade and economic ties in the field of agriculture were discussed farms... ²¹⁰” In May 2023, the parties specified the tasks for enterprises of the agricultural and processing complex in order to increase mutual supplies of food products between Belarus and Azerbaijan, as well as to ensure an expansion of the range of food products. To achieve this, the issues of recognizing the equivalence of the Belarusian food safety system and including Belarusian food producers in the relevant register of Azerbaijan will be resolved as quickly as possible. In addition, the parties emphasized the significant potential in the joint implementation of programs for the development of the Azerbaijani agricultural industry, including livestock farming, where the Belarusian experience in creating livestock complexes can be introduced, as well as meet the needs for breeding livestock, necessary technologies and equipment, highly productive, balanced feed and premixes . So Belarusian and Azerbaijani specialists have already begun the practical implementation of the project for the joint production of veterinary drugs on the basis of an enterprise registered in Azerbaijan.

The decisions of the 13th meeting of the IGC also reflected other relevant areas of Belarusian-Azerbaijani interaction. Thus, the Ministry of Sports and Tourism of Belarus and the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Azerbaijan signed a cooperation program in the field of physical culture and sports for 2023-2025. And in order to further expand interregional ties, new

²⁰⁹ Petrishenko: it is necessary to expand the range of assembly of Belarusian equipment in Azerbaijan [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/petrishenko-nuzhno-rasshirit-nomenklaturu-sborki-belorusskoi-tehniki-v-azerbajdzhane-566633-2023>

²¹⁰ Zalessky, B. International cooperation and media. Part IV . Collection of articles / B. Zalessky. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing , 2023. – C. 110.

interregional cooperation agreements will be worked out, and the circle of sister cities between our countries will expand.

And a year later, in June 2024, in Minsk at the 14th meeting of the IPC, a Roadmap for the development of interaction between Belarus and Azerbaijan until 2025 was signed. This document covered almost all areas of trade in order to progressively - by 2030 - increase the trade turnover of Minsk and Baku to one billion dollars, while balancing export and import flows. Let us recall that in 2023, the volume of trade between them “exceeded \$400 million, while Belarusian exports amounted to \$370 million, an increase of 77% compared to 2022.”²¹¹ In particular, the Belarusian side sold the entire line of wood processing products to the Azerbaijani market: from longitudinally sawn timber to wallpaper and toilet paper. Belarus supplied significant volumes and a wide range of meat and dairy products to Azerbaijan, including as raw materials for the food processing industry. Cooperation in mechanical engineering, the oil refining industry, and pharmaceuticals is developing confidently. Thanks to the roadmap, by the end of 2025 the parties expect “an economic effect of about \$200 million in equivalent, in addition to the existing ones <...> quite serious figures”²¹². ” So there are good reserves for increasing trade turnover. Let's list them.

Firstly, this is **the intensification of mutual trade** . For example, exports of organizations of the Belgospisheprom concern to this country of the South Caucasus at the end of 2023 increased by almost ten percent. Last year, supplies of Belarusian sugar were resumed. OJSC “Belsolod” has gained a foothold in the brewing market of Azerbaijan. Belarusian liquors, alcohol, salt, bottled sunflower and rapeseed oil, ketchup, mayonnaise, mustard, potato products, chips, snacks, cereal flakes, mixed seasonings and food concentrates were exported. In total, in 2023, the products of the Belgospisheprom concern were shipped to the Azerbaijani market by 18

²¹¹ Ravkov: the effectiveness of interaction between Belarus and Azerbaijan is really impressive [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/ravkov-rezultativnost-vzaimodejstviya-belarusi-i-azerbajdzhana-dejstvitelno-vpechatljaet-634465-2024/>

²¹² Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Belarus and Azerbaijan are actively developing industrial cooperation and technology transfer [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/mid-belarus-i-azerbajdzhan-aktivno-razvivajut-promkooperatsiju-i-transfer-tehnologii-639523-2024/>

enterprises. And for two months of this year, the structure of the concern's foreign trade turnover with Azerbaijan "looks as follows: alcohol - 30.7%, strong alcoholic drinks - 20.8%, confectionery - 18.9%, sugar - 18.3%, malt - 6.3%, salt - 2.2%, other products - 2.8%"²¹³. " Another example of such a plan: the growth rate of supplies of enterprises of the Bellesbumprom concern to Azerbaijan in 2023 increased by 20 percent. "The range of commodity items exported there includes board products, plywood, doors, wooden windows, furniture, lumber, paper, cardboard and products made from them

214. "

Among the measures that contribute to increasing the volume of Belarusian-Azerbaijani export-import supplies, **exchange trading should also be mentioned**. For reference: as of June 1, 2024, 109 residents from this country were accredited at the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange (BUCE). Over the five months of this year, the total amount of transactions concluded by Azerbaijani importers at BUCE amounted to more than \$47 million, which is almost four and a half times more than during the same period last year. It is noteworthy that "the entire volume of exchange exports to Azerbaijan came from woodworking products, mainly edged softwood lumber. At the same time, in physical terms, supplies increased 4.6 times to 265 thousand cubic meters. m"²¹⁵. As for expanding the range of goods involved in mutual trade, the most promising in this regard are the products of the agro-industrial complex. In particular, the issue of using BUCE's capabilities to sell Belarusian dairy products to Azerbaijan is currently being considered. As for imports, bidders from Belarus are ready to purchase food raw materials and groceries, including nuts and dried fruits, from this country.

²¹³ "Belgospisheprom" told what products the concern's enterprises supply to the Azerbaijani market [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belgospisheprom-rasskazal-kakuju-produktsiju-predpriyatija-kontserna-postavljajut-na-azerbajdzhanskij-634405-2024/>

²¹⁴ Exports of woodworking products to Azerbaijan increased by 20% [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/eksport-produktsii-derevoobrabotki-v-azerbajdzhan-v-2023-godu-vyros-na-20-639640-2024/>

²¹⁵ Azerbaijan increased imports through BUCE by more than 4 times [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/azerbajdzhan-bolee-chem-v-4-raza-uvelichil-import-cherez-butb-639795-2024/>

transport links between Belarus and Azerbaijan is also related to the topic of intensifying mutual trade. In May of this year, a meeting of the heads of transport departments of the two countries took place in Baku, at which it was noted that all the necessary conditions have now been created for the development of rail, air, and road transportation of goods and passengers. "Belavia Airlines operates flights on the Minsk – Baku route five times a week. Flight load is 75%, which indicates the demand for the destination ²¹⁶. " In the field of road transport of goods, the parties exchange a sufficient number of permits, which actually corresponds to a permit-free system. As for rail export-import transportation, "based on the results of work in 2023, the volume of cargo loaded into Azerbaijan increased 1.8 times compared to 2022; in the five months of 2024, more than 270 thousand tons have already been loaded ²¹⁷. " The most attractive for shippers is the land route through the Astara border crossing on the Azerbaijani-Iranian border, where in five months of 2024 the volume of transportation amounted to about 34 thousand tons, which is 1.2 times more than in the same period last year. As part of the development of the international transport corridor "North-South", the Belarusian Railways, together with the Azerbaijani Railways, have created conditions for organizing a container service, which allows for the delivery of Belarusian products to Azerbaijan by rail in the shortest possible time, namely in seven days.

The second reserve for the growth of trade turnover is **the expansion of industrial cooperation**. Back in May 2024, during the state visit of the Belarusian delegation to Baku, an agreement was reached to expand the production line at the Ganja Automobile Plant, where Belarusian equipment has been assembled for a long time. By the end of this year, the Minsk Tractor Plant (MTZ) will supply 725 Belarus vehicles to Azerbaijan, and the total contract amount will be about \$16 million. Tractors will be delivered

²¹⁶ Belarus invites Azerbaijan to cooperate in the design of roads and railways [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-predlagaet-azerbajdzhanu-sotrudnichestvo-v-proektirovanii-avtomobilnyh-i-zheleznih-dorog-634486-2024/>

²¹⁷ Belarusian Railways is developing container service in the Belarus-Azerbaijan route [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/bzhd-razvivaet-kontejnernyi-servis-v-soobshchenii-belarus-azerbajdzhan-638753-2024/>

unassembled. Today, the capacity of the Ganja Automobile Plant is about two thousand tractors per year, and the range of varieties of these machines is very solid - 16 models. MTZ delivered to Azerbaijan “in January – April 2024 – about 200 units worth more than \$3 million ²¹⁸. ” If in 2022 700 tractors were produced in Ganja, then already last year - 777 units of equipment. By the end of 2024, it is planned to reach a thousand cars. But in general, “the share of Belarusian tractors in the Azerbaijani market has already reached 80 percent ²¹⁹. ”

In addition, Azerbaijan intends to assemble Belarusian fire and municipal equipment, including garbage trucks, as well as Belarusian elevators. In this regard, a tripartite agreement was signed on the assembly of fire fighting equipment based on the chassis of the Minsk Automobile Plant at the site of the Ganja Automobile Plant. “Planned volumes are about 400 units ²²⁰. ” To service this equipment, a multi-brand service center will be built together with partners from Azerbaijan. In addition, joint production of medicinal and veterinary drugs, as well as mixed fertilizers from Azerbaijani nitrogen and Belarusian potassium, will be created.

Another interesting project “will be the creation of an integrated modern agricultural town in the Agdam region, including the production and processing of agricultural products, as well as housing and social facilities for workers and members of their families ²²¹. ” The settlement will be designed for 420 families. To support local farmers, Azerbaijan plans to purchase cattle from Belarus to implement self-employment programs. The fact is that 80 percent of the agriculture of this South Caucasian country rests on small

²¹⁸ By the end of the year, MTZ will supply more than 720 tractors to Azerbaijan [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/mtz-do-kontsa-goda-postavit-bolee-720-traktorov-v-azerbajdzhan-634350-2024/>

²¹⁹ The share of Belarusian tractors in the Azerbaijani market has reached 80% [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/dolja-belorusskih-traktorov-na-azerbajdzhanskom-rynke-dostigla-80-634341-2024/>

²²⁰ They plan to assemble Belarusian fire fighting and municipal equipment in Azerbaijan [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belorusskuju-pozharnuju-i-kommunalnuiu-tehniku-planirujut-sobirat-v-azerbajdzhane-639559-2024/>

²²¹ Petrishenko told what joint productions Belarus and Azerbaijan will create [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/petrishenko-rasskazal-kakie-sovmestnye-proizvodstva-sozdadut-belarus-i-azerbajdzhan-639430-2024/>

farms. And rural residents keep several heads of livestock. And the state is trying to support them. “At the first stage, it is planned to import 500 heads
222.”

The third reserve for increasing trade turnover is **the development of scientific and technical cooperation**. The basis for bilateral cooperation in this area is the agreement between the governments of Belarus and Azerbaijan on cooperation in the field of science and technology, which was signed on June 3, 2010. To coordinate cooperation between the countries, a joint Belarusian-Azerbaijani working group on scientific and technical cooperation has been created. Three meetings of the working group have already taken place, and two competitions of joint scientific and technical projects have been held. In particular, “following the results of a competition of joint scientific and technical projects held in 2022 together with the National Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan, 4 projects are being implemented in the field of new materials, petrochemicals, and plant protection”²²³. The Belarusian University of Informatics and Radioelectronics and the Institute of Physics of the National Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan are developing new thin-layer composite materials for the production of memory elements. The Joint Institute of Mechanical Engineering of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the Institute of Catalysis and Inorganic Chemistry of the National Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan are developing innovative lubricants for heavily loaded and high-temperature friction units. The Institute of Biophysics and Cell Engineering of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology of the National Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan are implementing new plant protection technologies based on silver nanoparticles. The Scientific and Production Center of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus for Materials Science, together with the Institute of Physics of the National

²²² Azerbaijan plans to purchase Belarusian cattle to support local farmers [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/azerbajdzhan-planiruet-zakupit-belorusskij-krs-dlja-podderzhki-mestnyh-fermerov-634752-2024/>

²²³ Belarus is interested in developing scientific and technical cooperation with Azerbaijan [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-zainteresovana-v-razvitii-nauchno-tehnicheskogo-sotrudnichestva-s-azerbajdzhanom-639498-2024/>

Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan, is developing innovative soft magnetic composite materials for the production of highly efficient electric motors and other electrical devices. The implementation of these projects in accordance with the calendar plan will be completed in 2024. And now the State Committee on Science and Technology of Belarus, together with the National Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan, is working on preparing and holding the fourth meeting of the working group, which is planned for the second half of this year, as well as holding the next competition of joint scientific and technical projects for 2025-2026 .

The fourth reserve for strengthening Belarusian-Azerbaijani relations is **the expansion of interregional interaction** . In May 2024, as part of the state visit of the Belarusian delegation to Azerbaijan, three documents were signed on the establishment of twinning relations between the cities of the two countries: Minsk - Baku, Grodno - Gabala, Gomel - Ganja. They supplemented the package of 11 similar documents that existed previously. Let us note that the cooperation of these sister cities will make it possible to make wider use of regional potential to intensify multifaceted interaction. “Particular attention will be paid to the implementation of joint projects in the field of economics, urban planning, local government, transport and road infrastructure, housing, science, education, culture, preservation of historical and cultural heritage, urban planning, healthcare, environmental protection, sports and tourism” ²²⁴. It is also envisaged to establish closer interaction and develop direct contacts between industrial enterprises and companies, educational and scientific institutions, youth associations and creative unions. But in general, the parties believe that “in the future we will organize a forum of the regions of Belarus and Azerbaijan. This is the form that has proven itself well <...> with other countries” ²²⁵, ”

²²⁴ Minsk, Gomel and Grodno have established sister city ties with Azerbaijani cities [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/minsk-gomel-i-grodno-ustanovili-pobratimskie-svjazi-s-azerbajdzhanskimi-gorodami-634656-2024/>

²²⁵ Aleynik believes that Belarus and Azerbaijan can hold a forum of regions in the future [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/alejnik-schitaet-cto-belarus-i-azerbajdzhan-v-perspektive-mogut-provesti-forum-regionov-635093-2024/>

The fifth reserve is **the organization of joint exhibitions** in both Belarus and Azerbaijan. In June of this year in Minsk within the framework of the Belarusian-Azerbaijani business forum, which was attended by about 200 representatives of the business community, including more than 40 Azerbaijani companies interested in cooperation in the fields of agriculture, industry, construction, furniture production, light industry, pharmaceuticals, a memorandum of cooperation was signed between the exhibition enterprise “Belinterexpo” and the Association of Exhibition Organizers of Azerbaijan, which will help develop interaction in exhibition activities and “contribute to the promotion of Belarusian products on the Azerbaijani market and attracting companies from Azerbaijan to Belarus”²²⁶.

If we talk about regular Belarusian exhibitions in this country, we can name exhibitions in Baku of agriculture, food industry and petrochemistry, as well as in other areas. For example, in May 2024, the international exhibitions Caspian were held in the Azerbaijani capital Agro and Interfood Azerbaijan is the largest agricultural forum in the Caucasus, bringing together about 500 companies from 38 countries. Belarus presented its products for the fifth year in a row. Over the past four years of participation, more than two hundred Belarusian companies presented their products at these exhibitions. This time, the Belarus pavilion occupied almost three hundred square meters - the largest of the 15 national stands. In total, over 40 Belarusian companies came to Baku, presenting “meat, dairy, confectionery, fish, alcoholic products and other types of food, as well as fertilizers, chemicals for processing plants, veterinary drugs”²²⁷. Among the participants of the Belarusian pavilion are OJSC Slutsk Sugar and Refinery Plant, OJSC Lida Food Concentrates, OJSC GTF Neman, SOJSC Kommunarka, JV OJSC Spartak, OJSC Krasny Pishevik, OJSC Confectionery Factory “Slodych”, OJSC “Minsk Margarine Plant”. And the enterprises of the Ministry of Industry of Belarus - OJSC

²²⁶ Belarus and Azerbaijan will begin to organize joint exhibitions of different profiles [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/sovmestnye-vystavki-raznyh-profilej-nachnut-organizovvat-belarus-i-azerbajdzhan-639771-2024/>

²²⁷ The National Pavilion of Belarus opened at the Caspian international exhibitions Agro and Interfood in Baku [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/natsionalnyi-pavilion-belarusi-otkrylsja-na-mezhdunarodnykh-vystavkakh-caspian-agro-i-interfood-v-baku-634333-2024/>

Minsk Automobile Plant, OJSC Gomselmash, OJSC Minsk Tractor Plant, OJSC Bobruisk Plant of Tractor Parts and Assemblies, OJSC Bobruiskagromash - showed “advanced models of equipment, including innovative (a complex for the preparation of feed, a header for harvesting grass, a grain dump truck, modernized tractors, as well as mounted and trailed equipment) ²²⁸. ” The result of participation in these exhibitions was two dozen contracts, memorandums and agreements of Belarusian manufacturers worth \$54 million. To be more precise, “Belarusian enterprises will supply products worth \$43 million to Azerbaijan, and also import raw materials and other goods worth \$11 million ²²⁹. ”

The sixth reserve for strengthening interaction between the two countries is **the development of cooperation in the field of education** , where 87 interuniversity agreements are already in force. For example, the Belarusian State University (BSU) interacts with a number of Azerbaijani scientific and educational institutions. In particular, since September 2022, BSU has been developing partnerships with Baku State University, which “is the oldest and leading university in this country of the South Caucasus and includes 16 faculties of various profiles, two scientific institutes and the Confucius Institute ²³⁰. ” In addition, there are two centers of Azerbaijani culture and language in Belarus - on the basis of the Belarusian State Pedagogical University named after M. Tank and the Minsk State Linguistic University (MSLU). In May 2024, MSLU opened the Center for Belarusian Language and Culture at the Azerbaijan University of Languages, which “will contribute to the development of cultural ties, introducing young people to culture, education, enlightenment and science ²³¹. ”

²²⁸ Enterprises of the Ministry of Industry presented innovative models of equipment at the Caspian exhibition Agro in Baku [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/predpriyatija-minproma-predstavili-innovatsionnye-obraztzy-tehniki-na-vystavke-caspian-agro-v-baku-634340-2024/>

²²⁹ Belarusian manufacturers at the Caspian exhibition Agro in Baku signed agreements for \$54 million [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belorusskie-proizvoditeli-na-vystavke-caspian-agro-v-baku-podpisali-soglasheniya-na-54-mln-634356-2024/>

²³⁰ Zalessky, B. Systemic partnerships. Specifics of economic interaction between the Belarusian side and post-Soviet republics / Boris Zalessky. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing , 2022. – C. eleven.

²³¹ MSLU opened the Center for Belarusian Language and Culture at the Azerbaijan University of Languages [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL :

Finally, the seventh reserve of partnership between Belarus and Azerbaijan is **an increase in the legal framework of bilateral relations**. In May of this year, during the state visit of the Belarusian delegation to Baku, the parties agreed to conduct an inventory in order to see which documents need updating and improvement. Indeed, at the beginning of 2024, this database included more than 100 agreements. Nine documents were also signed in May, which cover various areas, ranging from creating more favorable conditions for trade, investment activities and ending with tourism. In particular, this is an Action Plan for the development of cooperation in the field of tourism for 2024-2025, as well as memorandums of understanding: between the Ministry of Antimonopoly Regulation and Trade of Belarus and the Ministry of Economy of Azerbaijan - in the field of competition policy, public procurement, consumer protection and advertising activities; between the National Agency for Investment and Privatization of Belarus and the Agency for the Development of Small and Medium Businesses of Azerbaijan. And at the 14th meeting of the IGC in June 2024 in Minsk, in addition to the roadmap for developing cooperation until 2025 between the two countries, new documents were signed. These include memorandums of cooperation: between the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Agency for the Development of Small and Medium Businesses of Azerbaijan; between the Belarusian Republican Institute of Vocational Education and the State Agency for Vocational Education of the Ministry of Science and Education of Azerbaijan. And also “technical rules for organizing information interaction when carrying out control activities using information systems in the field of phytosanitary control between the Main State Inspectorate for Seed Production, Quarantine and Plant Protection of Belarus and the Food Safety Agency of Azerbaijan” were approved²³².

In general, speaking about the results of the 14th meeting of the intergovernmental commission on trade and economic cooperation, we note

<https://belta.by/society/view/mglu-otkryl-tsentr-belorusskogo-jazyka-i-kultury-v-azerbajdzhanskom-universitete-jazykov-634743-2024/>

²³² Belarus and Azerbaijan signed a roadmap for the development of cooperation until 2025 [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-azerbajdzhan-podpisali-dorozhniyu-kartu-po-razvitiyu-sotrudnichestva-do-2025-goda-639511-2024/>

that Belarus and Azerbaijan are demonstrating positive dynamics in the development of bilateral relations, intensively accelerating efforts towards further expansion and diversification of trade and economic cooperation on mutually beneficial terms. Moreover, the parties have all the necessary resources to bring the partnership between Minsk and Baku to a qualitatively new level.

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Belarus – Kyrgyzstan: priority task is to accelerate cooperation

The Republic of Belarus has traditionally been interested in the closest partnership with the Kyrgyz Republic, a country in Central Asia that has rich natural resources and minerals, high potential for the development of agriculture, hydropower and tourism. Moreover, recently trade and economic cooperation between Belarus and Kyrgyzstan has noticeably intensified.

Back in May 2013, the Kyrgyz side noted: “I would like economic relations between Belarus and Kyrgyzstan to develop dynamically. There are a number of goods in Belarus that Kyrgyzstan is interested in. In turn, we are also ready to supply goods that are interesting for the Belarusian economy ²³³. ” In September 2015, at a meeting of the heads of government of the two countries, focusing on the need to increase mutual trade turnover, the parties agreed that “in addition to trade interaction, efforts should be aimed at developing production cooperation ²³⁴. ” And already in the first quarter of 2017, Belarusian-Kyrgyz trade turnover increased by one and a half times, amounting to \$15.2 million. The Intergovernmental Belarusian-Kyrgyz Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation, the sixth and seventh meetings of which were held in June 2016 in Bishkek and in June 2017 in Minsk, played an important role in intensifying bilateral interaction between the countries.

In particular, during the seventh meeting of the commission, the parties noted a significant intensification of contacts between Belarusian enterprises and Kyrgyz partners, which only contributes to the expansion of interaction between Belarus and Kyrgyzstan in terms of the supply of equipment and production cooperation, in the field of energy, agriculture, healthcare, education, science, culture, information and tourism, as well as the development of cooperation between regions and free economic zones of the two countries. In this extensive list of areas of Belarusian-Kyrgyz cooperation, promising ones also included “training specialists, improving

²³³ Kyrgyzstan is interested in developing trade and economic relations with Belarus [Electronic resource]. – 2013. – URL : <http://www.belvpo.com/ru/26710.html>

²³⁴ Andrei Kobyakov met with the head of the Government of Kyrgyzstan [Electronic resource]. – 2015. – URL : <http://www.government.bv/ru/content/6027>

their qualifications, creating distribution networks, joint ventures for the production of agricultural machinery, supplying Belarusian elevators to Kyrgyzstan ²³⁵. ”

As for mutual trade, the leaders here are clearly the supplies of Belarusian agricultural products to the Kyrgyz market, as evidenced by the figures: “At the end of 2016, the export of products from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food to Kyrgyzstan increased 3.1 times, according to the results of the first quarter of 2017 – almost 14 times. The basis of export supplies is meat and dairy products ²³⁶. ” While agreeing on further increasing mutual supplies of agricultural products and expanding their product range, the parties also decided to consider the possibility of implementing joint projects in the development of livestock and crop production.

The flagship of the Belarusian-Kyrgyz industrial cooperation can be called the tractor assembly plant and service center for servicing agricultural machinery from Belarus, opened in November 2016 in Bishkek on the basis of Avtomash-Radiator LLC. An important detail: “about 90% of radiators for Minsk-assembled tractors are supplied from Kyrgyzstan. In the same assembly shop, the assembly of Gomselmash OJSC combines has now begun ²³⁷. In addition, the parties were actively exploring the issue of creating joint ventures in the field of light industry, a prerequisite for which was the updating of trade relations in this area. Thus, in April 2017, the Kyrgyz company “Opt-Invest” for the first time supplied a batch of textile products to Belarus, and in September 2017, it signed a contract with the Belarusian side for the supply of sewing products.

In February 2020, the ninth meeting of the intergovernmental Belarusian-Kyrgyz Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation was

²³⁵On the meeting of the Intergovernmental Belarusian-Kyrgyz Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2017. – URL : <http://kyrgyzstan.mfa.gov.by/ru/embassy/news/b7a170b217ff5943.html>

²³⁶Kyrgyzstan is interested in creating assembly plants for Belarusian agricultural machinery [Electronic resource]. – 2017. – URL : <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/kyrgyzstan-zainteresovan-v-sozdanii-sborochnyh-proizvodstv-belorusskoj-selhoztekhniki-251058-2017/>

²³⁷Omuraliev noted a positive trend in the development of relations between Kyrgyzstan and Belarus [Electronic resource]. – 2017. – URL : <http://www.belta.by/politics/view/omuraliev-otmetil-pozitivnuju-tendentsiju-v-razviti-otnoshenij-mezhdu-kyrgyzstanom-i-belarusiju-269017-2017/>

held in Minsk, at which topical issues of developing and strengthening systemic mutually beneficial partnerships were discussed. In Minsk and Bishkek, this meeting of the intergovernmental commission, where the status of the co-chairs had already been raised to the level of deputy prime ministers, was viewed as “a new impetus for the development of relations between our countries”²³⁸. ” Let us recall that in 2019, the volume of Belarusian-Kyrgyz trade amounted to more than \$105 million with a positive balance for the Belarusian side of over \$90 million, which was ensured through supplies from Belarus of dairy products, tractors and tractor units, meat and poultry by-products, and medicines, furniture and particle boards. But, according to the parties, the volume of mutual trade between Kyrgyzstan and Belarus does not correspond to the economic potential of the countries. Actually, for this reason, at the next meeting of the intergovernmental commission, the parties’ attention was focused on priority areas of interaction: 1) **increasing** the volume of mutual trade; 2) **deepening** industrial cooperation and creating joint assembly plants; 3) **expanding** interregional cooperation.

In terms of **increasing the volume of mutual trade**, the Belarusian side made specific proposals to increase the supply of passenger, cargo and utility vehicles to Kyrgyzstan, which is quite consistent with the plans of the Kyrgyz side to update, for example, the fleet of passenger vehicles in Bishkek and other cities. In addition, by promoting its products to the Kyrgyz market, the Belarusian side in 2020 continued the practice of actively participating in exhibition events in Kyrgyzstan. Thus, in April, the exposition of Belarusian exporters was presented for the third time at the international food industry exhibition “ FoodExpo ” in Bishkek, where visitors were able to get acquainted with products and drinks from Belarus. At the same time, the emphasis is on healthy eating and products with a Halal certificate. For the first time, the exhibition “presented food additives, casings for meat and sausage products, and baby food”²³⁹. ”

²³⁸ The meeting of the Belarusian-Kyrgyz intergovernmental commission will be held in Minsk on February 21 [Electronic resource]. – 2020. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/zasedanie-belorussko-kyrgyzskoj-mezhpravkomissii-proidet-v-minske-21-fevralja-378085-2020/>

²³⁹ Nemankova, Yu. The exposition of Belarusian producers will be presented at the FoodExpo exhibition in Bishkek / Yu. Nemankova // [Electronic resource]. – 2020.

If we talk about **deepening production cooperation**, then in this direction the Kyrgyz side proposed to intensify cooperation in the field of agriculture and the agro-industrial complex. We are talking, first of all, about the creation of a joint agricultural cluster for milk processing in Kyrgyzstan using Belarusian technologies, as well as “the construction of dairy complexes equipped with the necessary equipment of Belarusian production and the supply of breeding cattle ²⁴⁰. ” To consolidate these agreements in the legal field, following a meeting of the intergovernmental commission, an agreement on cooperation in the field of agriculture and food was signed between the Ministry of Agriculture and Food of Belarus and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Industry and Land Reclamation of Kyrgyzstan. As for industrial cooperation, the plans announced in Minsk look quite realistic: “assembly production of transformers can be created with the Minsk Electrotechnical Plant named after Kozlov, elevators with Mogilevliftmash, gas meters with BelOMO ²⁴¹. ” The seriousness of these intentions of the parties is evidenced, in particular, by the fact that, following a meeting of the intergovernmental commission, a cooperation agreement was signed between the Minsk Electromechanical Plant named after V.I. Kozlov and Mashelektrosnab LLC.

Speaking about **the expansion of interregional cooperation** between Belarus and Kyrgyzstan, the capitals - Minsk and Bishkek, which signed the Agreement on Economic, Scientific, Technical and Cultural Cooperation back in 1997, and in 2008 also established sister-city relations, are setting the tone for this. In terms of numbers, this interregional interaction looks like this: “The growth rate of trade turnover of Minsk enterprises with Kyrgyzstan in January-June 2017 compared to the same period in 2016 was 306%, exports

– URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/ekspozitsija-belorusskih-proizvoditelej-budet-predstavlena-na-vystavke-foodexpo-v-bishkeke-378791-2020/>

²⁴⁰ Kyrgyzstan proposes to Belarus to create an agricultural cluster for milk processing [Electronic resource]. – 2020. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/kyrgyzstan-predlagaet-belarusi-sozdat-agroklastier-po-pererabotke-moloka-380586-2020/>

9. Vladimir Kukharev: Belarusian electric buses may appear on the streets of Bishkek [Electronic resource]. – 2020. – URL : <http://www.government.by/ru/content/9293>

of goods – 393.7%, exports of services – 176.1%.”²⁴². At the same time, tractors, paving slabs, radiators, air heaters, refrigerators, and medicines were supplied to Kyrgyz partners. New goods exported from Minsk were dairy products, particle boards, and tools. In the future, interaction between the two capitals in the development of public transport may be very promising. After all, Bishkek’s plans include the purchase of about 400 high-capacity buses. And the authorities of the Kyrgyz capital are studying the market of suppliers. At the same time, it must be assumed that Minsk manufacturers of transport equipment have a good chance of becoming participants in the implementation of this project. After all, back in 2009, Minsk Belkommunmash delivered 20 trolleybuses to Bishkek, and later won a tender for the export of another 30 units of electric transport.

At the 9th meeting of the intergovernmental commission in Minsk, an Agreement on cooperation in the trade, economic, scientific, technical, humanitarian and cultural spheres was concluded by the Gomel Regional Executive Committee and the Office of the Plenipotentiary Representative of the Government of Kyrgyzstan in the Chui Region. Although this agreement was the first for the Belarusian region with Kyrgyz partners, even before this, enterprises from the Gomel region were already present on the market of the Central Asian country. Suffice it to say that in 2019, the region’s trade turnover with Kyrgyzstan exceeded ten million dollars. “At the same time, exports amounted to \$8.5 million. 26 regional enterprises supplied their goods, including OJSC Gomselmash, IPUP Multipak, OJSC Mozyrso, manufacturers of doors and wallpaper. The products of the Turov Dairy Plant, in particular soft cheeses, have begun to be promoted to the Kyrgyz market

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Note that in 2021, the trade turnover between Belarus and Kyrgyzstan again amounted to almost one hundred million dollars, including Belarusian

²⁴²Matveeva, N. Bishkek plans to purchase equipment from Minsk enterprises for the development of public transport / N. Matveeva // [Electronic resource]. – 2017. – URL : <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/bishkek-planiruet-zakupit-u-minskih-predpriyatij-tehniku-dlja-razvitiija-obschestvennogo-transporta-265609-2017/>

²⁴³ The Gomel region will develop cooperation with the Chui region of Kyrgyzstan [Electronic resource]. – 2020. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/gomelskij-region-budet-razvivat-sotrudnichestvo-s-chuiskoj-oblastju-kyrgyzstana-381123-2020>

exports - more than 86 million dollars. The balance was positive in the amount of \$75.4 million. "Last year [2021], the range of goods supplied by Belarus totaled 749 commodity items (for comparison, in 2020 – 620). In January – June of this year, bilateral trade turnover amounted to \$56.4 million, which is 44.3% more than the same period in 2021, including Belarusian exports – \$42.8 million (an increase of 24.8%)²⁴⁴. " The main Belarusian export commodity items to Kyrgyzstan are fresh or chilled beef, sugar, poultry, medicines, finished meat products, carpets and other textile products, fiber-optic cables, cheeses and cottage cheese, diagnostic reagents, chicken eggs. And there is reason to believe that Belarusian enterprises have every chance not only to consolidate and increase their presence in the Kyrgyz market for products already supplied, but also to expand the list of export items. In particular, Belarusian manufacturers of agricultural, passenger and municipal equipment have prospects for increasing supplies to Kyrgyzstan.

Another interesting component of export supplies from Belarus to this Central Asian country are medical products. "Belarusian pharmaceutical enterprises are actively working in the Kyrgyz market. Thus, in 2021, the volume of exports of medicines to Kyrgyzstan amounted to \$4.3 million²⁴⁵. " In April 2022, Belarusian manufacturers took an active part in the 16th International specialized healthcare exhibition MedExpo Kyrgyzstan -2022 in Bishkek. Technology and Medicine 2030 LLC, Belmedpreparaty RUE, Borisov Medical Preparations Plant OJSC, Minskintercaps Unitary Enterprise, Ekzon OJSC presented their well-known and well-proven medicines, as well as new products that have no analogues on the Kyrgyz market. , SE "Academpharm" and NP LLC "Medbiotech". In particular, "Ekzon OJSC presented a line of VITAX vitamins, Hematogen with new flavoring additives (apple, apple with cinnamon, cranberry)²⁴⁶. " As a result,

²⁴⁴ NCM spoke about the prospects for promoting Belarusian goods and services to Kyrgyzstan [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/ntsm-rasskazal-o-perspektivah-prodvizhenija-belorusskih-tovarov-i-uslug-v-kyrgyzstan-519484-2022/>

²⁴⁵ Belarusian enterprises presented their products at the healthcare exhibition [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belorusskie-predpriyatija-predstavili-produktsiju-na-vystavke-zdravoohranenija-v-bishkeke-494393-2022/>

²⁴⁶ Pharmaceutical enterprises in Belarus plan to expand the range and volume of supplies of medicines to Kyrgyzstan [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL :

Belarusian enterprises signed contracts for the supply of products and planned to conduct training seminars among medical representatives on the promotion of medicines in Kyrgyzstan.

In the second half of 2022 - in September - the 10th meeting of the intergovernmental commission was held in the city of Osh, during which it was stated that a promising direction for the development of Kyrgyz-Belarusian cooperation is to increase production potential, capacity to produce products with high added value, as well as creation of joint ventures in all industrial sectors. "Currently, there are 54 representative offices of subjects of the commodity distribution network and distributors of Belarusian enterprises in the country, including the assembly production of tractors of the Minsk Tractor Plant joint-stock company ²⁴⁷. " The Kyrgyz side is also interested in attracting investment in areas such as information technology, agriculture, and tourism.

In this regard, the Kyrgyz-Belarusian business forum was also held in Osh in September 2022, which showed the growing interest of Belarusian businesses in developing bilateral business contacts with Kyrgyzstan. Representatives of the Belarusian side - the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, the Belgospishcheprom concern, and the Belkommunmash holding - presented the forum participants with opportunities for interaction with enterprises in the agricultural, food, and industrial sectors of Belarus. An exchange of business contacts was organized at the forum. "Meetings were held between Belarusian and Kyrgyz enterprises operating in the food sector, mechanical engineering, healthcare and agriculture. As a result of the business forum, bilateral contracts were signed for a total amount of \$900 thousand." ²⁴⁸.

<https://www.belta.by/society/view/farmpredprijatija-belarusi-planirujut-rasshirit-assortiment-i-objemy-postavok-lekarstv-v-kyrgyzstan-494553-2022/>

²⁴⁷As part of the 10th meeting of the Intergovernmental Kyrgyz-Belarusian Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation, a business forum was held in Osh [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL:

<https://cis.minsk.by/news/24072/v-ramkah-10-go-zasedaniya-mezhpravitelstvennoj-kyrgyzsko-belorusskoj-komissii-po-torgovo-ekonomicheskomu-sotrudnicestvu-v-oshe-sostoialsja-biznes-forum>

²⁴⁸Contracts worth \$900 thousand were signed following the results of the Belarusian-Kyrgyz business forum [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL:

Also in Osh, the international universal exhibition “South Expo-2022” took place, where the Belarusian exposition was represented by the Belgospisheprom concern and its 16 enterprises, which united export goods - “confectionery, snacks, instant products, food concentrates, baby food, strong alcoholic drinks - gists, tinctures and balms on Belarusian herbs, distillates, full-cycle whiskey from Belarusian grain, products from fruits and berries...”²⁴⁹ The world-famous Belarusian brands Gomselmash, MTZ and MAZ were represented at the exhibition by a local dealer - AVTOMASH-RADIATOR LLC. Among the exhibition participants were other Belarusian enterprises: one of the largest manufacturers of electrical equipment in Europe - OJSC Minsk Electrotechnical Plant named after V.I. Kozlov”, leading medical institutions - Republican Scientific and Practical Center of Oncology and Medical Radiology named after N.N. Alexandrova” (OMR) and the Republican Scientific and Practical Center “Cardiology”, as well as the manufacturer of veterinary drugs - OJSC Belzoovetsnabprom. In particular, at the stand of the Republican Scientific and Practical Center for OMR, educational services in the areas of radiology, surgery and ultrasound diagnostics were offered to Kyrgyz specialists. Based on the results of negotiations between the Republican Scientific and Practical Center for OMR and Osh State University, “a cooperation agreement was prepared, providing for the exchange of experience between employees of institutions on educational programs for advanced training and internships; organization of conferences, seminars, symposiums, round tables”²⁵⁰.

All these facts confirm that Belarus and Kyrgyzstan intend to realize the potential of bilateral relations in all areas of cooperation and especially accelerate interaction in the economic sphere, including partnerships in the

<https://www.belta.by/economics/view/kontrakty-na-900-tys-podpisany-po-itogam-belorussko-kyrgyzskogo-biznes-foruma-523912-2022/>

²⁴⁹ 16 enterprises of Belgospisheprom presented their products at the South Expo exhibition in Kyrgyzstan [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/produktsiju-na-vystavke-jug-ekspo-v-kyrgyzstane-predstavili-16-predpriyatij-belgospisheproma-523807-2022>

²⁵⁰ 6th International Universal Exhibition-Fair “South Expo-2022” [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://omr.by/news/news-main/6-va-mezhdunarodnava-universalnava-vystavka-varmarka-vug-ekspo-2022>

field of industrial cooperation, agriculture, transport, as well as in various issues of cultural, humanitarian and regional agenda day.

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Belarus – Tajikistan: from commission decisions to roadmap priorities

Belarus and Tajikistan traditionally have close relations; the countries consistently strengthen their mutually beneficial strategic partnership. In the development of effective Belarusian-Tajik bilateral cooperation, the intergovernmental commission (IGC) on trade and economic cooperation, created back in 1999, plays a key role today. Her area of interest “affects such priority areas as: supply of engineering products based on new leasing schemes; cooperation in the field of agriculture and energy; participation in joint economic projects; creation of a network of joint production enterprises on the territory of both states”²⁵¹. "

In April 2021, the 14th meeting of the IPC was held in Dushanbe, at which topical issues of interaction in industry and production cooperation, agriculture and transport, healthcare and education, investment and information technology were discussed. At the same time, the following were organized in the capital of Tajikistan: an exhibition of Belarusian manufacturers Made in Belarus ; business forum “Belarus-Tajikistan-Afghanistan”; “TajBelAgro” forum. The holding of all these events once again demonstrated that “despite the crisis in the world, Belarusian-Tajik trade and economic cooperation shows a positive and dynamic character. Since 2016, mutual trade turnover has increased 5.5 times and in 2020 amounted to \$111.7 million”²⁵². ” At the same time, Belarusian exports to the Tajik market over the same period increased more than six times and reached almost \$110 million, and the positive balance amounted to \$107.5 million due to supplies from Belarus of cars, sugar, tractors and truck tractors, flour, meat offal and fish, office supplies made of paper and cardboard, chipboards.

Among the major joint projects implemented recently, one can name the shipment to Afghanistan of the first batch of Belarusian tractors assembled at the JSC Agrotechservice enterprise in the Tajik city of Gissar,

²⁵¹ Zalessky, B. Vector of post-Soviet integration. A view from Belarus / B. Zalessky. – Palmarium Academic Publishing, 2019. – P. 211 .

²⁵² Belarus and Tajikistan need to more actively implement projects in agriculture - Krupko [Electronic resource]. – 2021. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarusi-i-tadzhikistanu-nuzhno-aktivnee-realizovvat-proektv-v-selskom-hozjaistve-krupko-435795-2021/>

where it is planned in the future not only to produce modern equipment for the agro-industrial complex - forage harvesters, attachments, expansion of the model range of assembled tractors, but also to create more than a hundred qualified jobs, taking into account the further development of this project. In this regard, within the framework of the meeting of the intergovernmental commission, an agreement on expanding assembly production through the development of PST-9 tractor semi-trailers at the site in Gissar was signed by UKH Bobruiskagromash OJSC and Agrotechservice JSC. "In addition, the companies entered into an agreement for the supply of the first batch of vehicle kits, the shipment of which is scheduled for the second quarter of 2021.²⁵³" Let us remind you that in Gissar, with Belarusian help, "there is also a training center for training specialists for the effective operation and maintenance of machinery and equipment working in the fields of Tajikistan²⁵⁴. " The implementation of the contract for the supply of one hundred Belarusian trolleybuses with autonomous operation to Dushanbe is also in its final stage.

Belarusian-Tajik cooperation in the field of agriculture developed very dynamically in 2020. Suffice it to say that the volume of mutual trade in agricultural products and food products between the two former Soviet republics has reached nearly ten million dollars. An important detail is that "Belarusian food exports to this country increased 1.4 times and amounted to \$9.5 million <...>. In January 2021, domestic agricultural products and food products worth \$775 thousand were supplied to Tajikistan (an increase of seven times compared to the same period last year)²⁵⁵. " And there is every reason to believe that this positive trend will continue in the medium term.

²⁵³ Bobruiskagromash will expand assembly production in Tajikistan [Electronic resource]. – 2021. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/bobruiskagromash-rasshirit-sborochnoe-proizvodstvo-v-tadzhikistane-436621-2021/>

²⁵⁴ Belarus and Tajikistan discussed the development of trade and economic cooperation and industrial cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2021. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-tadzhikistan-obsudili-razvitiye-torgovo-economicheskogo-sotrudnichestva-i-promkkooperatsiju-436006-2021/>

²⁵⁵ Exports of Belarusian agricultural products to Tajikistan increased 1.4 times in 2020 [Electronic resource]. – 2021. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/eksport-belorusskoi-selhozproduksii-v-tadzhikistan-v-2020-godu-vyros-v-14-raza-434869-2021/>

The Bellegprom concern is also exploring the possibility of supplying flax to this Central Asian country, which is of great interest to Tajik business circles. In particular, within the framework of the IPC, “the issue of supplying the products of the Orsha Flax Mill, flax-containing fabrics “Kamvol” to the Tajik market” was discussed ²⁵⁶.

Made, held in Dushanbe in 2021, is also intended to contribute to the growth of exports from Belarus to Tajikistan in Belarus, which demonstrated the products of 40 domestic companies from key industries: Agrofood - agriculture and food products; TechMach - mechanical engineering and technology; Wood - wood processing industry and furniture products; Health - healthcare and pharmaceuticals; FMCG - consumer goods. Tajik partners were also able to get acquainted with the export opportunities of the Belarusian agro-industrial complex and the prospects for bilateral cooperation in the field of crop production and livestock farming at the TajBelAgro agricultural forum, where they discussed not only the conclusion of contracts for mutual supplies of agricultural products and equipment, but also the development of cooperation options. Finally, within the framework of the “Tajikistan-Belarus-Afghanistan” business forum, which included more than two hundred enterprises from three countries, “eight documents were signed on the development of partnerships in the areas of industry, education, food and beverage supplies ²⁵⁷,” which indicates a growing dynamics of partnership and in this trilateral format.

Let us note that in June 2022, the 15th meeting of the IPC was held in Minsk, at which the parties noted the most significant areas of bilateral interaction: investment, industry, agriculture, transport, social, cultural and scientific and technical spheres. Let us remind you that “in 2021, the trade turnover between Belarus and Tajikistan amounted to more than \$126 million and increased by 12.6% compared to 2020, exports - just over \$122 million

²⁵⁶ Bellegprom is exploring the possibility of supplying flax to Tajikistan [Electronic resource]. – 2021. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belleprom-prorabatvvaet-vozmozhnosti-postavok-lna-v-tadzhikistan-435980-2021/>

²⁵⁷ Belarus, Tajikistan and Afghanistan signed 8 documents on the development of partnership at the business forum [Electronic resource]. – 2021. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-tadzhikistan-i-afganistan-podpisali-na-biznes-forume-8-dokumentov-o-razviti-partnerstva-435998-2021/>

(an increase of 11.1%), imports - \$4 million (increased by 90 ,5%)”²⁵⁸. Today, the two countries are mutually interested in expanding areas of cooperation, which could be the development of the assembly production of Belarusian elevators organized in Tajikistan, the creation of a joint venture for the production of carpets, the supply of Belarusian passenger, quarry and construction equipment, as well as pedigree cattle of Belarusian selection, increasing exports food products, including those certified according to Halal standards. Belarus, in turn, is interested in importing raw materials from Tajikistan for the Belarusian light industry, as well as in continuing cooperation in the fields of education, culture and sports.

In this context, it is important that in Tajikistan 2022-2026 have been declared years of industrial development. “During this period, it is planned to ensure average annual economic development of at least 7% and double GDP per capita, create more than 500 thousand new jobs and reduce the poverty level to 15%. Belarusian companies were invited to actively participate in solving these problems. Separately, a desire was expressed to continue training Tajik specialists in Minsk for various sectors of the economy²⁵⁹. ” In this regard, the Belarusian side is ready to provide Tajik partners with any types of mechanical engineering equipment, primarily quarry and road equipment, for the implementation of infrastructure projects in the country’s mining and electric power industries. There is an opportunity to significantly increase supplies to the Tajik market of new models of Belarusian buses, trucks, woodworking products, petrochemicals and metallurgy, as well as open joint production for the assembly of elevators, household appliances and furniture.

In the sphere of the agro-industrial complex, Tajikistan is interested in increasing the supply of Belarusian agricultural machinery and meat and dairy products. In particular, significant work is underway on the shipment of

²⁵⁸ Belarus and Tajikistan are interested in expanding areas of cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/politics/view/belarus-i-tadzhikistan-zainteresovany-v-rashshirenii-napravlenij-sotrudnichestva-506166-2022>

²⁵⁹ Pivovar, E. Krutoy declared Belarus’ readiness to provide Tajikistan with any types of engineering equipment / E. Pivovar // [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/krutoj-zajavil-o-gotovnosti-belarusi-obespechit-tadzhikistan-ljubymi-vidami-mashinostroitelnoi-tehniki-523859-2022/>

agricultural machinery from Belarus, which the Tajik agricultural sector is in dire need of. “In 2021, 411 units of tractors of various brands and more than 124 agricultural machines were supplied to Tajikistan ²⁶⁰. ” At the same time, the Tajik side expresses interest in continuing cooperation in this area. In addition, partners from Tajikistan plan to expand the range of supplies of meat products from beef, dairy products and raw materials. At the 15th meeting of the IPC, the parties also noted “the potential for growth in the supply of pedigree cattle of Belarusian selection and the opportunity to provide Tajik farmers with highly productive, balanced feed and additives ²⁶¹. ”

The topic of cooperation between the regions of Belarus and Tajikistan is also developing successfully in 2022. In particular, on the agenda is the development of cooperation between the capitals of the two countries in a number of areas, including in the field of technology, production of medicines and in the field of education. Let us recall that in 2019 Minsk implemented a large project to provide Dushanbe with Belkommunmash trolleybuses. And today these cars already adorn the Tajik capital. Another project is being implemented in the field of dairy production - cooperation of Tajik partners with Minsk Dairy Plant No. 1. The plans include the development of cooperation ties and the creation of joint production of municipal equipment. As for the educational sphere, about 600 Tajik students are currently studying in Belarus. They mainly choose Minsk and technical universities for their studies. Many of them study at the Aviation Academy and at various faculties of the Belarusian State University. In addition, there are four joint faculties of Belarusian and Tajik universities. So the two capitals are developing many cooperation mechanisms. And “in the future, a document will be signed that will regulate the further development of relations between Minsk and Dushanbe ²⁶². ”

²⁶⁰ Tajikistan is interested in increasing the supply of Belarusian meat and dairy products and agricultural machinery [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : https://www.belta.by/economics/view/tadzhikistan-zainteresovan-v-uvelichenii-postavok-belorusskoj-mjaso-molochnoj-produktsii-i-506657-202_2/

²⁶¹ Belarus is ready to supply halal products to Tajikistan [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-gotova-postavljat-v-tadzhikistan-haljalnuju-produktsiju-506619-2022/>

²⁶² Cooperation between Belarus and Tajikistan was discussed in the Minsk City Executive Committee [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL :

Another example of interaction between regions is the Gomel and Khatlon regions, which intend to develop cooperation in agriculture and industry. Thus, Gomel specialists are ready to build turnkey farms in the Tajik region. Partners from the Khatlon region have “intentions to purchase mineral fertilizers, timber, cattle, and feed for poultry enterprises ²⁶³. ” Khatlon region is a large region of Tajikistan, where some agricultural products are grown from 48 to 78 percent of the total republican volume. These are vegetables, early fruits, melons, and citrus fruits.

Another important document was signed in Dushanbe in October 2022 by Belarus and Tajikistan - a road map for 2022-2026. In the context of the implementation of the program for the accelerated development of industry in this Central Asian country, Tajik partners are interested in developing cooperation with the Belarusian side in the areas of light, food, pharmaceutical, chemical and mining industries. In addition, “the agricultural sector in the field of industrial cooperation and interregional cooperation were identified as priority areas of economic interaction ²⁶⁴. ” In addition, the two republics adopted a number of important bilateral documents. These include intergovernmental agreements on a system for promoting mutual trade and cooperation in the field of youth policy. The Prosecutor General's Office of Belarus and the Agency for State Financial Control and Anti-Corruption of Tajikistan adopted a document on cooperation in the field of combating corruption. The Ministry of Sports and Tourism of Belarus and the Committee for Tourism Development under the Government of Tajikistan agreed to develop cooperation in the field of tourism. The cooperation agreement was also signed by the National Center for Marketing and Price Research of Belarus and the Export Agency under the Government of Tajikistan. The National Academies of Sciences of the two countries agreed to train personnel

<https://www.belta.by/politics/view/sotrudnichestvo-belarusi-i-tadzhikistana-obsudili-v-mingorispolkome-525441-2022/>

²⁶³ Gomel and Khatlon regions intend to develop cooperation in the agro-industrial complex and industry [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/gomelskaja-i-hatlonskaja-oblasti-namereny-razvivat-sotrudnichestvo-v-apk-i-promyshlennosti-507131-2022/>

²⁶⁴ Rakhmon outlined priority areas of cooperation with Belarus [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/politics/view/rahmon-oboznachil-prioritetnye-napравlenija-sotrudnichestva-s-belarusiju-528619-2022/>

in the fields of virology, microbiology, molecular biology, epidemiology, biotechnology and pharmacology. In addition, an “action plan for the development of trade, economic and humanitarian cooperation between the Minsk City Executive Committee and the Executive Body of State Power of the city of Dushanbe for 2023-2024” was approved. The Mogilev district has established sister city ties with the Spitamen district of the Sughd region of Tajikistan...²⁶⁵”

During these October days, a Tajik-Belarusian business forum was also held in Dushanbe, which was attended by representatives of 73 enterprises from Belarus, almost fifty of them showed their products at the Made exhibition in Belarus “Almost all sectors of the Belarusian economy are represented at the business forum: mechanical engineering, metallurgy, food products, woodworking, light industry. The total amount of concluded contracts was about \$46 million. In addition, another \$2 million was agreed upon during online negotiations²⁶⁶. ”

In particular, the Minsk Tractor Plant entered into contracts with Tajik companies for \$11 million. “So, 170 units of BELARUS tractor equipment worth about \$4 million will be supplied to the Madadi Tursunzoda company. A trade agreement was signed with the Agrotechservice company for the supply of 320 tractors worth more than \$7 million²⁶⁷. ” Let us note that over the three quarters of this year, about 370 Belarusian tractors have already been delivered to Tajikistan. This is almost 50 percent more than in January-September 2021. For reference: in November 2017, an assembly plant for BELARUS tractors was opened in the city of Gissar and contracts for the production of seven models were concluded.

Another fact: the Minsk Automobile Plant will supply 14 units of vehicles to the Tajik market for almost 500 thousand dollars. The contract

²⁶⁵ Belarus and Tajikistan signed a road map for 2022-2026 and several other important documents [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-tadzhikistan-podpisali-dorozhnyu-kartu-na-2022-2026-gody-i-esche-neskolko-vazhnyh-dokumentov- 528597-2022/>

²⁶⁶ The Tajik-Belarusian business forum takes place in Dushanbe [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/fotofakt-tadzhiksko-belorusskij-biznes-forum-prohodit-v-dushanbe-528500-2022/>

²⁶⁷ MTZ concluded contracts with companies from Tajikistan for \$11 million [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/mtz-zakljuchil-kontrakty-s-kompanijami-iz-tadzhikistana-na-11-mln-528650-2022/>

within the framework of the Tajik-Belarusian business forum was signed by MAZ and CJSC Obi Zulol, “the largest producer of bottled water, carbonated drinks and natural juices in Tajikistan. In 2019, MAZ supplied the company with 18 units of equipment, including road trains and flatbed vehicles with trailers ²⁶⁸. ”

Another participant in the Tajik-Belarusian business forum was the Belgospischeprom concern, eight of whose enterprises took part in the Made exhibition in Belarus and even signed a number of contracts with Tajik partners for the supply of sugar, brewing malt and confectionery products. By the way, “in terms of export volume, Tajikistan this year ranks first among the countries that are the concern’s trading partners in Central Asia and the Middle East ²⁶⁹. ”

And representatives of the Bellegprom concern, within the framework of a business forum, explored the possibility of investing in cotton production in Tajikistan. The heads of the Orsha Flax Mill and the Baranovich Cotton Production Association, who visited Dushanbe, held negotiations on the possible import of cotton yarn and fiber, since in Tajikistan in recent years the price of cotton yarn has become more acceptable for Belarusian producers. Let us note that there are other interests in cooperation in the light industry of the two countries. “This year [2022] the Belarusian enterprise Mogotex supplied its products to Tajikistan for the first time. Technical fabrics were exported ; the transaction amount amounted to \$250 thousand. Mogilev residents agreed on supplies to Tajikistan for 2023. <...> Mogotex will supply technical fabrics worth \$300 thousand.” ²⁷⁰.

The Vitebsk Carpets holding, which is creating a joint production with Tajik partners in Khujand, Sughd region, will also be represented on the Tajik

²⁶⁸ MAZ will supply equipment to Tajikistan for almost \$500 thousand [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/maz-postavit-tehniku-v-tadzhikistan-pochti-na-500-tys-528637-2022/>

²⁶⁹ Zhidkov: Tajikistan is one of the key partners for Belgospischeprom in the Central Asian market [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/zhidkov-tadzhikistan-odin-iz-kliuchevyh-partnerov-dlja-belgospischeproma-na-tsentralnoaziatskom-rvnke-528642-2022/>

²⁷⁰ Belarus is exploring the possibility of investing in cotton production in Tajikistan [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-izuchaet-vozmozhnost-investirovaniia-v-proizvodstvo-hlopka-v-tadzhikistane-528489-2022>

market. Interestingly, in mid-April 2022, the official opening ceremony of the joint Belarusian-Tajik elevator assembly plant of Mogilevliftmash OJSC took place in this city, of which Khujandtorgmash LLC became a partner. The new workshop for the production of elevators provided jobs for 50 residents of Khujand, where “using modern equipment and technologies, the production of different types of elevators will be carried out - lifting passenger elevators for high-rise buildings, manufacturing enterprises, as well as healthcare institutions”²⁷¹.

As for cooperation in the field of education and science, at the forum of university rectors of Belarus and Tajikistan, held in October 2022, the parties saw great potential in the innovation sphere, in the implementation of both joint educational programs and in the training of Tajik students in Belarusian universities and institutes. In particular, the Belarusian National Technical University (BNTU) signed a number of cooperation agreements with universities in Tajikistan. This applies to the Dangara State and Tajik Agrarian Universities, the Tajik National University and the Technological University of Tajikistan, as well as the Mining and Metallurgical Institute of Tajikistan. Belarusian and Tajik partners already see a number of joint points for cooperation. “Interaction with these universities is a new level of entry into the Tajik market of educational services. <...> Opening new horizons of cooperation...”²⁷². As a result, the parties believe that innovative interaction is the key to creating new joint ventures in Tajikistan and Belarus. But in general, all these facts “show the growing interest of the two former Soviet republics in fruitful cooperation in a wide variety of areas”²⁷³, which are reaching a new level in the form of comprehensive measures on the road map of Belarus and Tajikistan for 2022-2026.

²⁷¹ Emomali Rahmon took part in the opening of the Mogilevliftmash elevator assembly plant in Tajikistan [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/emomali-rahmon-prinial-uchastie-v-otkrytii-sborochnogo-proizvodstva-liftov-mogilevliftmash-v-496483-2022/>

²⁷² BNTU and universities of Tajikistan to cooperate in the field of science, education and innovation [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/bntu-i-vuzv-tadzhikistana-budut-sotrudnichat-v-sfere-nauki-obrazovaniia-i-innovatsii-528871-2022>

²⁷³ Zalesky, B. International relations and media. Features of multi-vector international cooperation in the period of global challenges / B. Zalesky. – Palmarium Academic Publishing, 2016. – P. 129.

Belarus – Tajikistan: new steps on the course of cooperation

Belarus and Tajikistan plan to intensify trade and economic cooperation in order to increase trade turnover and reach a level of at least \$100 million in bilateral trade in 2024. Minsk and Dushanbe see positive dynamics and untapped potential to focus not only “on the simple supply of products, but on expanding cooperation ties, creating long-term joint projects, assembly plants in the field of agricultural machinery and attachments, elevators, dairy products, electrical transformers and other promising directions”²⁷⁴.

Let us recall that in 2022, Belarusian-Tajik trade turnover amounted to more than \$78 million. Based on the results of 11 months of 2023, this figure amounted to about \$75 million. 9 enterprises with Tajik capital are registered in Belarus, including 2 joint ventures and 7 foreign ones. There are more than 20 subjects of the commodity distribution network of Belarusian enterprises and one joint venture in Tajikistan. In addition, over the past five years, interesting joint cooperation projects have emerged. Firstly, since 2017, an assembly production of Belarusian agricultural machinery has been operating in the Tajik city of Gissar. In 2024, it is planned to organize the assembly of grain harvesters there. Secondly, in 2022, an assembly plant for elevators of Mogilevliftmash OJSC was opened in the Tajik city of Khujand. Thirdly, in the capital of the country - Dushanbe - a joint venture was created using Belarusian technologies - LLC JV “Vatan Dairy Products Production”, which has been producing products under the “ALMIR” brand since June 2023. Fourthly, in November 2023, JSC Minsk Electrotechnical Plant named after V.I. Kozlova” and JSC “Transformator” from the city of Bokhtar signed a Memorandum on organizing an assembly production of Belarusian transformers in Tajikistan. Fifthly, for the needs of light industry enterprises in Belarus, commercial agreements were signed for the supply of cotton, yarn and cotton fabrics from this Central Asian country until 2025 for a total

²⁷⁴ Cooperation ties and joint projects. Ambassador of Belarus on cooperation with Tajikistan [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/kooperatsionnye-svjazi-i-sovmestnye-proekty-posol-belarusi-o-sotrudnichestve-s-tadzhikistanom-607001-2023/>

amount of more than \$40 million. Sixthly, OJSC BELAZ has worked on the issue of creating an enterprise for the production of quarry equipment in Tajikistan in the near future.

In September 2023, the 16th meeting of the Belarusian-Tajik Intergovernmental Commission (IPC) on trade and economic cooperation was held in Dushanbe, at which trends in interaction in the field of industrial cooperation, light industry, supplies of wood products, food, and pharmaceutical products were reviewed. The parties also discussed issues of cooperation in the field of agriculture, food and personnel training for the agro-industrial complex, transport, education and science, healthcare and social protection, culture and sports, tourism and interregional cooperation. On the same day, a meeting of the Belarusian-Tajik Business Council was held, in which managers and representatives of 24 Belarusian enterprises and organizations, as well as small and medium-sized businesses, took part. As a result of this event, its participants signed “13 bilateral documents - cooperation agreements and contracts for the supply of products totaling more than \$16 million ²⁷⁵. ”

In particular, within the framework of the 16th meeting of the IPC, Gomselmash OJSC signed a memorandum of bilateral cooperation with Agrotechservice CJSC. This document provides for the supply of five GS 5 A grain harvesters to the Tajik market in 2024. The fact is that “Gomselmash has been closely cooperating with the Agrotechservice company for several years to provide farmers of Tajikistan with grain and forage harvesting equipment, as well as to carry out timely maintenance ²⁷⁶. ” Let us add that now in this Central Asian country the most popular are economical and simple GOMSELMASH combine harvesters and self-propelled mowers . It is also planned to supply vehicle kits and other equipment to Tajik partners. In

²⁷⁵ Enterprises of Belarus and Tajikistan signed contracts worth \$16 million during the business council [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/predpriyatija-belarusi-i-tadzhikistana-vo-vremja-delovogo-soveta-podpisali-kontrakty-na-16-mln-590816-2023/>

²⁷⁶ Gomselmash will supply a batch of grain harvesters to Tajikistan in 2024 [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/gomselmash-postavit-partiiu-zernoborochnyh-kombainov-v-tadzhikistan-v-2024-godu-591373-2023/>

addition, “Belarus will supply seeds, livestock, canned meat, dairy and fish products to Tajikistan”²⁷⁷.

In 2023, Belarusian-Tajik cooperation began to shine with new colors in the woodworking and pulp and paper industries, where supplies from Belarus increased 1.7 times over seven months. And if we talk about the figures of the last five years, then the export of enterprises of the Bellesbumprom concern increased by 2.2 times. “Now almost the entire range of products from the timber industry of the republic is sold in Tajikistan: lumber, wood boards, paper, cardboard and products made from them, wallpaper, furniture, plywood”²⁷⁸. And the Belarusian concern already has clear prospects for developing further cooperation with Tajik partners.

In the decisions of the 16th meeting of the IGC, a significant place was given to investment cooperation between the two countries. Earlier, in February 2023, at the first meeting of the working group on these issues between the Ministry of Economy of Belarus and the State Committee for Investments and State Property Management of Tajikistan, the parties outlined the key goal in this topic - “to give impetus to investment interaction, to identify points of contact down to the list of specific projects to attract business”²⁷⁹. And now the most promising areas and the formation of a list of investment projects, including import substitution, are already being discussed. These are the mining industry, mechanical engineering, IT, agriculture, pharmaceuticals and tourism. And the plans include exploring the issue of the possibility of creating a Belarusian-Tajik investment fund. In addition, among new investment projects, Tajikistan wants to create “a

²⁷⁷ Belarus and Tajikistan agreed on cooperation in agriculture [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-tadzhikistan-dogovorilis-o-sotrudnichestve-v-selskom-hozjajstve-592218-2023/>

²⁷⁸ Over the past 5 years, Bellesbumprom enterprises have increased exports to Tajikistan by 2.2 times [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/predpriatija-bellesbumproma-za-poslednie-5-let-narastili-eksport-v-tadzhikistan-v-22-raza-590869-2023/>

²⁷⁹ Chervyakov: it is necessary to determine priority areas of investment cooperation between Belarus and Tajikistan [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/chervyakov-nuzhno-opredelit-prioritetnye-napravleniya-investsotrudnichestva-belarusi-i-tadzhikistana-552755-2023/>

multifunctional shopping complex in Minsk so that it will serve as a coordination center for representatives of both countries ²⁸⁰. ”

One of the priorities of Belarusian-Tajik cooperation is also the sphere of education, which will reach a new level in 2024. Indeed, today various educational projects are already being implemented between educational institutions of the two countries, “within the framework of which joint faculties have been created and common educational programs have been adopted. The issue of opening branches of Belarusian universities in Tajikistan is being considered ²⁸¹. ” For reference, we note: in higher educational institutions in Dushanbe there are four joint Belarusian-Tajik faculties, the graduates of which receive state diplomas of the Republic of Belarus. Firstly, this is a joint faculty of the Tajik National University with higher educational institutions of Belarus: Belarusian State University (BSU), International State Ecological Institute named after A.D. Sakharov BSU, Belarusian State Technological University, Polotsk State University. Secondly, this is the Faculty of Civil Aviation of the Belarusian State Aviation Academy and the Tajik Technical University named after Academician M.S. Oshimi. Thirdly, this is the engineering and technical faculty of the Belarusian National Technical University and the Tajik Technical University named after Academician M.S. Oshimi. Fourthly, this is a joint faculty of Polotsk State University on the basis of the Technological University of Tajikistan. And more than 500 Tajik students study at Belarusian universities.

In October 2023, in Minsk, a joint action plan for 2023-2026 was signed between the Ministry of Education of Belarus and the Ministry of Education and Science of Tajikistan. And at the same time, the second forum of rectors of the two countries took place in the Belarusian capital, where representatives of more than 50 universities of Belarus and Tajikistan

²⁸⁰ Tajikistan wants to create its own trading house in Minsk [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/tadzhikistan-hochet-sozdat-v-minske-svoj-torgovij-dom-609906-2024>

²⁸¹ Safarzoda, B Water for life, melting glaciers, Navruz and Kupala / B. Safarzoda // [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/interview/view/voda-dlja-zhizni-tajanie-lednikov-navruz-i-kupalie-posol-o-tadzhikistane-i-druzhbe-s-belarusiju-8874/>

participated and where more than 10 bilateral agreements were signed at the university level. In particular, within the framework of this interaction, “The Belarusian State Pedagogical University carries out close interaction with the Pedagogical University of Tajikistan precisely on the exchange of teaching staff and best practices in training future teachers²⁸². ” And Baranovich State University and the Tajik State University of Law, Business and Politics signed a cooperation agreement, which “identifies the key areas of joint educational and research activities, as well as in the implementation of joint youth initiatives²⁸³. ” And now universities are preparing a roadmap for international cooperation to facilitate the implementation of educational modules, participation in scientific and educational tracking, and academic exchange.

Finally, in June 2024, the 17th meeting of the IPC on cooperation was held in Minsk, at which the parties discussed the state and prospects of trade, economic and investment interaction in the field of transport and logistics, industrial cooperation, education and medicine, as well as interregional partnerships, to take a new step in terms of deepening trade and economic cooperation and define a clear task - to improve joint Belarusian-Tajik production. Moreover, there are already interesting examples. It was noted above that a joint venture is already operating in Tajikistan, which processes Belarusian milk and produces dairy products. Another area of interaction is the assembly production of Belarusian equipment on Tajik soil.

At the 17th meeting of the IPC, it was emphasized that today there is a need to expand the area, the range of equipment produced and the assortment. The Tajik side is also interested in the assembly production of processing equipment; motor transport and transport of housing and communal services will not be left out. Let us remind you that the Belarusian-Tajik enterprise “Agrotechservice” has been opened in Tajikistan, where

²⁸² The ministries of education of Belarus and Tajikistan signed a joint action plan for 2023-2026 [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/ministerstva-obrazovanija-belarusi-i-tadzhikistana-podpisali-plan-sovmestnyh-dejstvij-2023-2026-godv-592165-2023/>

²⁸³ BarSU is developing a roadmap for cooperation with a new partner university from Tajikistan [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/bargu-razrabatyvaet-dorozhnyju-kartu-sotrudnichestva-s-novym-vuzom-partnerom-iz-tadzhikistana-592689-2023/>

machines of the Minsk Tractor Plant are assembled. The need for this technology is very high. At the same time, Tajik agricultural producers are interested not only in Belarusian tractors, but also in combine harvesters. And there is already an agreement to purchase equipment from the Gomselmash enterprise. There are plans to expand cooperation with the Bobruisk Tractor Parts and Assemblies Plant.

If we talk about the sphere of interests of Tajikistan in Belarus, then, firstly, the Tajik side has been buying Belarusian pedigree cattle for several years for the development of farms. Last year alone, approximately two thousand livestock were purchased. And one of the enterprises in this Central Asian country is engaged in raising breeding stock for its further sale. Secondly, Tajik partners buy potatoes in Belarus. In 2023, its purchases amounted to 800 tons. This year these numbers will be increased. Thirdly, another position of Belarusian exports to Tajikistan is flax seeds, which will develop. Fourthly, in turn, the Tajik side has already supplied Belarus with an experimental version of safflower seeds, an oilseed crop, and can also provide tomato and cucumber seeds for cultivation in greenhouses. Finally, from the end of April - beginning of May, the harvest of fresh apples, cherries and apricots is already being harvested in Tajikistan. Having established a logistics scheme, the parties could supply all these products in significant volumes.

Continuing this topic, we note that the supply of food products and agricultural raw materials from Belarus to Tajikistan last year amounted to more than 160 percent. “The basis of the export of agricultural products was formed by sugar (2.1 times growth), milk and dairy products (growth rate of 140.9%), cattle (151.2%), meat and meat products (61.8%) <...>. Imports from Tajikistan in 2023 amounted to 103.8%. The basis of imports was the supply of dried fruits. Exports of food products and agricultural raw materials increased by 2.4 times in January–March 2024.²⁸⁴” In addition, within the framework of the 17th meeting of the IGC, the parties agreed to establish an

²⁸⁴ Bartosh: improvement of joint productions contributes to deepening cooperation with Tajikistan [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/bartosh-uglubleniju-sotrudnichestva-s-tadzhikistanom-sposobstvuet-sovershenstvovanie-sovmestnvh-639287-2024>

exchange to train specialists in the field of agriculture, as well as students for internships.

Touching upon the topic of Belarusian-Tajik interregional partnerships within the framework of the 17th meeting of the IGC, interesting examples of this interaction can be cited. In particular, Minsk and Dushanbe. In June of this year, the two capitals discussed the possibility of supplying snow removal and passenger equipment, spare parts, sugar, vegetable oil to Dushanbe, as well as building a trading house of Tajikistan in Minsk, the site of which is located in the area of Pritytskogo and Leshchinskogo streets. And the necessary documents for the implementation of this project are already being drawn up. And in Dushanbe, during the implementation of a joint project with South Korea for the construction of a light metro, the assistance of Belarusian specialists is planned. There are other areas of interaction that are just developing. This is evidenced by the fact that “the trade turnover [of Minsk and Tajikistan] in the first quarter alone exceeded the volume of last year²⁸⁵. ”

The development of interaction with Tajikistan is a promising direction for the Gomel region. Suffice it to say that this year the trade turnover between the parties has already quadrupled. Products from ferrous metals, woodworking, dairy and confectionery products are supplied to this Central Asian country from the southeastern Belarusian region. And cotton yarn is purchased in Tajikistan for enterprises in the Gomel region. As for the prospects for cooperation between the parties, they have already been practically defined in all areas. For example, batches of Gomel combines will be delivered to Tajikistan this year, and there are also purchase plans for next year. In turn, Tajikistan is ready to supply lemons, grapes, cherries, apricots, and dried fruits. The parties also have the opportunity to create trading houses, “which would allow them to present goods from Tajikistan on Gomel soil, and in Tajikistan - what Gomel producers can please²⁸⁶. ” Partners in the field

²⁸⁵ Supply of equipment, construction of a trading house. Minsk and Dushanbe discussed areas of cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/society/view/postavki-tehniki-stroitelstvo-torgovogo-doma-minsk-i-dushanbe-obsudili-napravlenija-sotrudnichestva-638915-2024/>

²⁸⁶ From mechanical engineering to agritourism. Gomel region and Tajikistan will develop partnership in the agro-industrial complex [Electronic resource]. – 2024. –

of agritourism and ecotourism, in healthcare institutions, and in the educational field also have their own plans for interaction - especially in terms of training personnel for the agricultural industry.

Returning to the 17th meeting of the Belarusian-Tajik Intergovernmental Commission, we note that the participants of this meeting focused on the issues of intensifying trade and economic cooperation, developing industrial cooperation and humanitarian interaction, emphasizing the importance of further fruitful movement forward in the most pressing areas of partnership between Belarus and Tajikistan.

And one last thing. In October 2022, Belarus and Tajikistan signed a roadmap for bilateral cooperation for 2022-2026, which contains 39 points. To date, 6 have already been completed, and 33 are under implementation, including 21 that are being implemented on an ongoing basis. And today the parties continue to look for new opportunities to intensify cooperation in order to fully implement this strategic document and make a new contribution to the development of Belarusian-Tajik relations.

Belarus – Türkiye: partnerships focused on the future

In 2023, the Republic of Turkey will turn one hundred years old. Today it is a dynamic, future-focused state, with achievements in a number of specific areas, with major projects in the field of logistics and energy that connect Asia and Europe. Belarus traditionally views Türkiye as an important and promising partner and reliable friend. Let us recall that it was this country that “became the first foreign state to recognize the state independence of the Republic of Belarus ²⁸⁷. ” In March 2022, Minsk and Ankara celebrated the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations. In 1996, during the first visit of the head of the Belarusian state to Turkey, **a Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation was signed** between the two states.

In November 2016, the first visit in the history of bilateral relations by Turkish President R.T. Erdogan’s visit to Belarus also became a milestone in Belarusian-Turkish relations. Firstly, within its framework the task was set to achieve the volume of mutual trade turnover at the level of one billion dollars. Secondly, the parties decided to focus on maximizing the potential of trade and economic interaction with an emphasis on the creation in the regions of Belarus and Turkey of “joint production of complex technical products, including for the purpose of promoting them to the markets of third countries” ²⁸⁸ and the organization of joint industrial zones. And in April 2019, the President of the Republic of Belarus A. Lukashenko made an official visit to Turkey, within the framework of which the priority areas of Belarusian-Turkish cooperation in the field of trade and investment, the implementation of joint projects in mechanical engineering, agriculture, construction, finance, chemical and light industry were identified industry, and specific steps are outlined to increase contacts in the areas of technology, innovation, education, and intensify interaction “in the field of joint scientific

²⁸⁷ Political relations [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : https://turkey.mfa.gov.by/ru/bilateral_relations/political/relations/

²⁸⁸ Official visit of the President of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan [Electronic resource]. – 2016. – URL : http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/ofitsialnyi-vizit-prezidenta-turtsii-redzhepa-tajina-erdogana-14820/

developments, academic programs, exchange of students and teachers of higher educational institutions ²⁸⁹. ”

The seriousness of the parties' intentions to actively develop cooperation in **scientific, technical and humanitarian areas** is evidenced by the signing of a number of documents following the April (2019) negotiations between the leaders of Belarus and Turkey - an intergovernmental agreement on cooperation in the field of education, a road map for the development of cooperation between the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus (NAS)) and the Scientific Research Council of Turkey for 2019-2021, a memorandum on scientific and technical cooperation in Antarctica between the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the Ministry of Industry and Development of Turkey.

In particular, **the intergovernmental agreement on cooperation in the field of education** is aimed at establishing and developing direct contacts between higher educational institutions and scientific organizations of the two countries, so that students and specialists from Belarus and Turkey have the opportunity to participate in events aimed at demonstrating educational, scientific, technical and innovative potential of their countries. The parties intend to provide a place for higher and postgraduate education in relevant institutions, inform each other about the mutual recognition of documents on training, education and academic degrees, as well as create all the necessary conditions “for expanding and deepening contacts between countries across the entire range of areas of educational activity , attracting Turkish citizens to study in Belarus ²⁹⁰. ”

If we talk about the interaction between the scientific communities of the two countries, its basis was laid by cooperation agreements signed by the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus: in 2002 - with the Turkish Research Council for Science and Technology; in 2009 – with the Turkish Academy of Sciences. In 2016, the governments of Belarus and Turkey

²⁸⁹Official visit to Turkey [Electronic resource]. – 2019. – URL : http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/ofitsialnyj-vizit-v-turtsiju-20884/

²⁹⁰Belarus and Türkiye are interested in developing contacts between universities and scientific organizations [Electronic resource]. – 2019. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-turtsija-zainteresovany-v-razviti-i-kontaktov-mezhdu-vuzami-i-nauchnymi-organizatsijami-344261-2019/>

signed **an Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Science and Technology**. A year later, memorandums of understanding appeared: between the National Center for Intellectual Property of the Republic of Belarus and the Turkish Patent and Trademark Agency; on cooperation - between the Belarusian Innovation Fund and the Scientific and Technical Research Council of Turkey. And in November 2018, **the first meeting of the joint Belarusian-Turkish commission for cooperation in the field of science and technology was held**, within the framework of which the parties agreed to “intensify bilateral cooperation among the subjects of the innovation structure, in particular between technology parks of Belarus and Turkish science parks ²⁹¹. ” At the same meeting of the commission, it was stated that “scientists of Belarus and Turkey intend to develop cooperation in the field of polar research ²⁹². ”

The road map for the development of cooperation for 2019-2021, adopted in April 2019, is intended to intensify the joint activities of Belarusian and Turkish scientists in the most promising areas of scientific and technical cooperation. “This includes optics for space observation of the Earth’s surface, unmanned aerial vehicles, batteries for electric vehicles and other vehicles, composite organomineral materials, mineral processing, and the use of information technology to predict hazardous natural phenomena ²⁹³. ”

In addition, the adopted roadmap provides for the organization of a joint competition of projects in priority areas of science and technology development in the areas that were identified during joint seminars: in 2018 - in Gebze; in 2019 - in Minsk. In particular, in March 2019, the State

²⁹¹Belarus and Türkiye will hold a competition of joint innovative projects [Electronic resource]. – 2018. – URL : http://www.gknt.gov.by/news/2018/belarus_i_turtsiya_provenut_konkurs_sovmestnykh_innovatsionnykh_proektov/

²⁹²Belarus and Türkiye intend to develop cooperation in the field of polar research [Electronic resource]. – 2018. – URL : <https://belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-turtsiya-namereny-razvivat-sotrudnichestvo-v-oblasti-poljarnyh-issledovanij-324445-2018/>

²⁹³Belarus and Türkiye signed a roadmap for scientific cooperation until 2021 [Electronic resource]. – 2019. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-turtsiya-podpisali-dorozhnuju-kartu-nauchnogo-sotrudnichestva-do-2021-goda-344282-2019/>

Committee on Science and Technology of Belarus, with the support of the Belarusian Innovation Fund and the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey, announced a **competition for joint innovative scientific and technical projects for 2019-2020** with the aim of providing them with “direct financial support at an early stage of development”²⁹⁴ in such priority areas of Belarusian-Turkish cooperation as information and communication technologies, optoelectronics, nanomaterials, unmanned aerial vehicles for various purposes. As for the road map, this document also contained measures to develop, improve the organization and increase the efficiency of joint scientific and technical activities and joint work of the Belarusian Republican Foundation for Basic Research and the Scientific Research Council of Turkey.

At the beginning of December 2020, **the second meeting of the joint Belarusian-Turkish commission on cooperation in the field of science and technology was held**, within the framework of which the parties confirmed their mutual desire to develop scientific and technical cooperation in the fields of energy, information and communication technologies, medicine, chemical technologies, and new materials. Note that these partnerships intensified after the signing of the already mentioned intergovernmental agreement on cooperation in the field of science and technology in November 2016. In this document, the parties agreed to provide comprehensive assistance to cooperation between organizations of both countries in such priority areas as “energy; agro-industrial technologies; industrial and construction technologies and production; medicine and medical technologies, pharmacy; chemical technologies; nano- and biotechnologies; information and communication technologies (electronic service, cybersecurity); aerospace technology; new materials; rational environmental management; prevention and elimination of the consequences of natural disasters; water use

²⁹⁴Belarus and Türkiye announced a competition for joint scientific and technical projects [Electronic resource]. – 2019. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-turtsiya-objavili-konkurs-sovmestnyh-nauchno-tehnicheskikh-proektov-338588-2019/>

technologies; environmental protection; oceanic research; laser technologies and photonics"²⁹⁵

At the same second meeting of the joint commission on cooperation in the field of science and technology, it became known that a joint project of the Joint Institute for Informatics Problems of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the Turkish company “Novosim Engineering Services” for the development of a warehouse autonomous multi-robotic system, which “will be designed to automatically move goods inside both designed and existing warehouses and logistics centers, taking into account information about their configuration”²⁹⁶. In addition, two more innovative projects of Belarusian scientists were under consideration by the Turkish side, which also received a positive expert assessment.

Another current area of Belarusian-Turkish scientific and technical cooperation, which was discussed at the second meeting of the joint commission on cooperation in the field of science and technology, is **the interaction of Turkish and Belarusian technology parks**. For the Belarusian side, this topic is relevant because “there are 25 innovation infrastructure entities in Belarus: 16 technology parks (including 3 private ones), 8 technology transfer centers and the Belarusian Innovation Fund. The network of technology parks covers all regional centers”²⁹⁷. Technoparks also operated in Pinsk, Novopolotsk, Gorki, and Lyakhovich district. Plans for 2020 included their opening in Baranovich, Bobruisk, Borisov, Orsha and Molodechno. All this indicated that Belarus is introducing systematic measures to develop technology parks as regional innovation platforms for organizing high-tech production. That is why the development of advanced

²⁹⁵ Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Belarus and the Government of the Turkish Republic on cooperation in the field of science and technology [Electronic resource]. – 2016. – URL : <https://pravo.by/document/?guid=12551&p0=101600046&p1=1>

²⁹⁶ Belarus and Türkiye plan to develop cooperation in the fields of energy, ICT and medicine [Electronic resource]. – 2020. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-turtsiya-planirujut-razvivat-sotrudnichestvo-v-sferah-energetiki-ikt-i-meditsiny-418159-2020/>

²⁹⁷ Shumilin, A. Forecast until 2040 - about the prospects for the development of science and international cooperation / A. Shumilin // [Electronic resource]. – 2020. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/interview/view/proгноз-do-2040-goda-o-perspektivah-razvitiia-nauki-i-mezhdunarodnom-sotrudnichestve-7168/>

foreign experience in this area was especially important for the Belarusian side. And Türkiye, it must be said, had such experience.

Technoparks or technopolises began to be created in this country in 2001. By mid-2019, their number here had increased to 84, of which 63 were operational, and infrastructure work was underway in another 21. “Now there are technology parks in 54 provinces of the country, over 5 thousand companies operate in the territories of technological development zones ²⁹⁸. ” Istanbul had the most technology parks - 11. They are followed by: Ankara - 9, Kocaeli - 5, Izmir - 4. Their goal is to contribute to the development of high-tech production and the service sector, to ensure cooperation between entrepreneurs, researchers and scientists. Such figures spoke very eloquently about the scale of activity of Turkish technology parks. As of mid-2019, almost 33 thousand projects had been implemented in them, and about ten thousand more were under development. And the number of jobs there exceeded 55 thousand. Finally, the export of technology park resident companies as of July 2019 amounted to more than four billion dollars. And all this in less than twenty years. Needless to say, their Belarusian colleagues have a lot to learn from their Turkish partners.

Now let's turn to the most current events on the Belarusian-Turkish agenda of the current year. In November 2023, **the 11th meeting of the Belarusian-Turkish joint intergovernmental commission (IPC) on economic cooperation was held in Ankara**, within which the main focus was on systematizing the entire volume of bilateral trade and enhancing mechanisms in the field of logistics, transport, partnerships in the field of industrial cooperation and agriculture, and also examined in detail the state of the legal framework and outlined priority areas and specific steps to expand it. Let us note that today “interaction with Turkey is carried out in a wide range of areas and is supported by political contacts and dialogue at the highest level, at the level of intergovernmental communication, interparliamentary communication and serious interdepartmental cooperation

²⁹⁸ 84 technology parks have been created in Turkey [Electronic resource]. – 2019. – URL : <https://restrproperty.ru/news/v-turtsii-sozdano-84-tekhnoparka/>

²⁹⁹. ” As a result, the parties noted that trade and economic cooperation between Minsk and Ankara is developing very effectively. And there have already been significant successes in achieving the strategic goal of increasing mutual trade turnover to one and a half billion dollars and reducing the imbalance in mutual trade. “In the last two years, our trade turnover exceeded \$1 billion, but this year [2023] we expect to reach a historical maximum. According to Turkish statistics, over the 10 months of this year, trade turnover has already amounted to \$1.6 billion ³⁰⁰. ”

A separate conversation is about the participation of the Belarusian side in the work to **restore the Turkish areas** affected in February 2023. Belarus paid “attention to the restoration of infrastructure that was destroyed as a result of a devastating earthquake in 11 provinces of Turkey ³⁰¹. ” During these nine months since the natural disaster, Belarus has tripled the volume of supplies of construction materials, which are used to restore primarily social infrastructure. Within the framework of the commission, the readiness to further expand the volumes of Belarusian supplies in demand in this country was confirmed. The Turkish side was given a product catalog, additionally prepared by ministries, departments and business entities of Belarus, which will be carefully reviewed by partners from Turkey. In addition, a project for the design and construction of a reinforced concrete structures plant in the Turkish city of Kilis is at the initial stage of development, which “will also be a good contribution to the restoration of regions of Turkey affected by earthquakes ³⁰². ”

²⁹⁹ On holding a meeting of the Belarusian-Turkish joint Intergovernmental Commission on Economic Cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : https://mfa.gov.by/press/news_mfa/fd86a4d2dbb3f651.html

³⁰⁰ By the end of the year, Belarus and Türkiye will reach a historical maximum in trade turnover [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-turtsija-po-itogam-goda-vvjdu-t-na-istoricheskij-maksimum-v-tovarooborote-599138-2023>

³⁰¹ Aleynik announced serious prospects for increasing the supply of dairy products to Turkey [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/alejnik-zajavil-o-serieznvyh-perspektivah-dlja-uvelichenija-postavok-molochnoj-produktsii-v-turtsiju-599135-2023>

³⁰² The Turkish corporation is interested in cooperation with Belarus in the food sector [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/turetskaja-korporatsija-zainteresovana-v-sotrudnichestve-s-belarusiju-v-prodovolstvennom-sektore-587699-2023/>

Among the main tasks for the development of bilateral interaction is strengthening cooperation in the field of **agriculture**. In 2023, progress began in Belarusian supplies of dairy products to the Turkish market. And there are serious prospects for increasing the export of meat products and beef from Belarus. This year, a number of Turkish companies have already announced their readiness to cooperate with the Belarusian side in the food sector. For example, "Zirhlioglu Corporation Corporate Group expressed interest in establishing direct contacts with Belarusian enterprises regarding the supply of specific types of products and further cooperation with the National Marketing Center³⁰³." It is noteworthy that more than 30 Belarusian enterprises - manufacturers and processors of food products - took part in a video conference in September 2023 on this topic. Returning to the meeting of the intergovernmental commission, we note that the parties also reached an agreement - "by the end of 2024, to complete the procedures on the veterinary questionnaire sent by the Belarusian side, as well as the intention to hold the second meeting of the Working Group on Agriculture, without delay, at the beginning of next year [2024] of the year"³⁰⁴.

In the field of **logistics and transport**, within the framework of the 11th meeting of the IPC, discussing the implementation of current new tasks, the parties in the format of the Mixed Commission on Road Transport determined a quota of permits for Belarusian carriers for 2024. In addition, "the possibility of creating an alternative certification center for digital tachograph cards in Turkey was considered, as well as extending the pilot project for permit-free bilateral and transit transportation through Belarus and Turkey until 2024.³⁰⁵" After all, from January 1, 2023, Belarusian carriers do

³⁰³ Aleynik: Belarus is interested in supplying goods through Turkey to the countries of the Global South [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/aleynik-belarus-zainteresovana-postavljat-tovary-cherez-turtsiju-v-strany-globalnogo-juga-598312-2023/>

³⁰⁴ Speech by Minister of Foreign Affairs S. Aleinik at the plenary meeting of the Belarusian-Turkish joint intergovernmental commission on economic cooperation (November 8, 2023, Ankara) [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : https://mfa.gov.by/press/news_mfa/d72f4b731323cb1d.html

³⁰⁵ Belarus and Türkiye are discussing the extension of the simplified transport regime [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-turtsija-obsuzhdajut-prodlenie-uproschennogo-rezhima-transportnogo-soobschenija-598317-2023/>

not require permits for freight transportation between the two countries, as well as for transit through Turkey. This simplified regime is currently operating as an experiment until the end of 2023.

the Committee on Foreign **Economic** Relations of Turkey, the Association of Independent Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, as well as with other Turkish business associations, including including exhibition companies. In this regard, the parties “signed a Memorandum of Understanding between the National Center for Marketing and Price Research and the Turkish Businessmen’s Association (ASRIAD), their representatives plan to take part in a joint business forum in Belarus in the first quarter of 2024.³⁰⁶” And in February next year the International Yarn and Fiber Exhibition Istanbul will be organized in Istanbul Yarn Fair , which will be of interest to Belarusian enterprises in the light industry, chemical and petrochemical sectors.

Let us remind you that the high level of Belarusian products could be judged by the participation of exporters from Belarus at this exhibition forum - International Istanbul Yarn Fair , which took place at the beginning of June 2023 in Istanbul and where 650 companies from different countries were represented, including China, India, Uzbekistan, Germany, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, and the Republic of Korea. In the exhibition Made in Belarus was attended by Belarusian petrochemical enterprises, which demonstrated “a wide range of products manufactured using the best global technologies, including various types of fibers, threads and materials used in the textile, knitting and clothing industries³⁰⁷. ”

Thus, OJSC Naftan demonstrated at the exhibition acrylic fibers used in the production of yarn and artificial fur, and OJSC Polotsk-Steklovolokno demonstrated fiberglass and products based on it. The Belarusian chemical company Mogilevkhimvolokno offered a wide range of polyester fibers and

³⁰⁶ Belarus and Türkiye intend to hold a joint business forum in the first quarter of 2024 [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-turtsija-namereny-provesti-sovmestnyj-biznes-forum-v-pervom-kvartale-2024-goda-598314-2023/>

³⁰⁷ Belarusian enterprises presented their products at the international exhibition in Turkey [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/beloruskie-predprijatija-predstavili-produktsiju-na-mezhdunarodnoi-vystavke-v-turtsii-569846-2023/>

threads used in the production of yarn, fillers and artificial fur, and also presented polyester fabrics, indispensable in the production of roofing materials and carpets. The Khimvolokno Plant branch of Grodno Azot OJSC demonstrated at the exhibition cord fabrics for reinforcing pneumatic tires, polyamide threads for the production of ropes and fishing tackle, and polyamide-6. Also on display at the company's stand were polymer composite materials, which are widely used in the automotive, aviation, and oil industries. OJSC SvetlogorskKhimvolokno showed special fabrics, threads and fibers intended for use in the automotive industry. As a result, Belarusian exporters held very productive negotiations not only with Turkish partners and contractors, but also with representatives of companies from other countries. So let's hope that the exhibition in Istanbul in February 2024 will be a continuation of new interesting joint projects.

Another important aspect of the partnership between Belarus and Turkey, which was noted at the 11th meeting of the IGC, is the further expansion of the legal framework. Statistics claim that today this database already includes more than 40 intergovernmental and interdepartmental agreements. A new document in this regard was the protocol of the 11th meeting of the commission, which contains a list of eight agreements on which the parties agreed to speed up joint work. In fact, this final protocol is “a new program of action, a kind of road map for the development of bilateral economic relations in the short and medium term and will allow Belarus and Turkey to more fully utilize existing opportunities for cooperation”³⁰⁸.

And already in November 2023, as part of this program, the Belarusian-Turkish Research Center opened in Minsk on the basis of the Institute of Philosophy of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, which became another step towards the development of relations between the two countries. “Its main tasks are the coordination and implementation of joint research work, individual projects in the field of historical, cultural and philosophical heritage of Belarus and Turkey, improving the qualifications of scientific personnel by studying the Turkish language, as well as translating

³⁰⁸ Belarus is working on new investment projects with Turkey [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-prorabatvvaet-s-turtsiei-novve-investitsionnye-proekty-598324-2023/>

the works of Turkish and Belarusian philosophers and scientists into Belarusian and Turkish languages" ³⁰⁹. At the moment, the new center is focused on the topic "Philosophical and spiritual-cultural heritage of Belarus and Turkey: history and modernity." Turkish researchers are preparing a "Review of the main achievements of Turkish philosophy," and their Belarusian colleagues are studying "The influence of the Belarusian-Muslim tradition on the formation of cultural and national identity." In addition, the center intends to perform educational and popularization functions, since on its basis scientists of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus will study the Turkish language, and it is also planned to conduct a variety of lectures and master classes.

Let's summarize. Over the past three decades of diplomatic relations, Minsk and Ankara have not only identified priority areas of Belarusian-Turkish cooperation, but also clearly built a multi-level system of interstate, intergovernmental and interdepartmental interaction, which together is moving towards the implementation of new strategic tasks. And in this regard, the decisions of the 11th meeting of the Belarusian-Turkish joint intergovernmental commission on economic cooperation are another significant confirmation of partnerships that are focused on the future.

³⁰⁹ The Belarusian-Turkish research center opened at the National Academy of Sciences [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belorusko-turetskij-issledovatel'skij-tsentr-otkrvlsja-v-nan-597558-2023/>

Belarus – China: prospects for cooperation have been defined

In May 2022, the sixth meeting of the Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation of the Belarusian-Chinese Intergovernmental Cooperation Committee was held, at which its participants discussed the state and prospects of bilateral trade and investment interaction, transport and logistics partnership, as well as the implementation of a joint project - the Chinese-Belarusian Industrial Great Stone Park. Let us recall that at the end of 2021, the volume of mutual trade in goods and services between the two countries came close to six billion dollars, and the share of Belarusian supplies to the Celestial Empire more than doubled. At the same time, “the capabilities of Belarusian manufacturers allow us to ship almost \$2 billion worth of Belarusian-made goods to the Chinese market by the end of this year [2022]. This requires the consolidation of the efforts of the parties to maximally accelerate the opening of the Chinese market for new Belarusian manufacturers, the creation of joint trading companies, the development of the largest China's electronic trading platforms”³¹⁰.

During the commission meeting, the Belarusian side proposed deepening trade cooperation in five promising areas. The first is the expansion of direct contacts between the business circles of the two countries. The second is an increase in the range of products supplied to China from Belarus. Third, promoting new mechanisms for expanding bilateral trade with an emphasis on creating joint export-import companies and positioning Belarusian goods on Chinese electronic trading platforms. Fourth, the development of logistics through prompt delivery of goods by rail. Fifth, increasing investment cooperation within the framework of existing bilateral projects and joint work on the creation of new import-substituting enterprises “through the prism of the development of the Great Stone industrial park and deepening interregional cooperation”³¹¹.

³¹⁰ Chervyakov: friendly and partnership relations with China are especially significant for Belarus [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/chervjakov-druzhestvennye-i-partnerskie-otnosheniya-s-kitaem-osobo-znachimy-dlja-belarusi-504062-2022>

³¹¹ Trade turnover between Belarus and China in the first quarter amounted to \$1.2 billion [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL :

The results of the first quarter of 2022 indicate that work in these areas is being carried out quite actively. In particular, Belarusian-Chinese trade turnover during this period amounted to \$1.2 billion. This fact also speaks volumes: Belarus is among the ten largest suppliers of potash fertilizers, whey, meat products and rapeseed oil to China. The agreements reached during the work of the commission should contribute to the successful implementation of the planned areas of cooperation. Thus, the Ministry of Industry of Belarus intends to closely cooperate with the Chinese Chamber of Commerce on the import and export of engineering and electronic products. The memorandum signed by the parties “is aimed at strengthening the Belarusian-Chinese partnership in industry”³¹². A memorandum of cooperation in the field of import and export of woodworking products was also adopted by the Bellesbumprom concern and the Chinese Association for the Trade of Timber and Forest Products. The document is aimed at increasing the effectiveness of partnerships, “analyzing the problems of mutual trade and finding mutually acceptable ways to solve them”³¹³ by holding joint exhibitions, fairs, business meetings, and exchanging economic, legal, scientific and technical information in all areas of interaction.

In the set of measures for the development of the national innovation system in Belarus for 2021-2025, the Chinese-Belarusian industrial park “Great Stone” has been identified as a platform for organizing innovative production. One of the main tasks set for it for the next five years is “to ensure the effective activities of its residents, attract new ones, actively develop innovative activities, start-ups, cluster cooperation...”³¹⁴. How this problem is being solved here is evidenced by the record increase in residents in 2021

<https://www.belta.by/economics/view/tovarooborot-belarusi-i-kitaja-vi-kvartale-sostavil-12-mlrd-504056-2022/>

³¹² Belarus and China are strengthening their partnership in industry [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-kitaj-ukrepilajut-partnerstvo-v-promyshlennosti-504071-2022/>

³¹³ “Bellesbumprom” will cooperate with the Chinese Association for the Export of Woodworking Products [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/bellesbumprom-budet-sotrudnicat-s-kitajskoj-assotsiatsiej-po-eksportu-produktsii-derevoobrabotki-504024-2022>

³¹⁴ Zalessky, B.L. Industrial park “Great Stone”: new projects bring the future closer / B.L. Zalessky // Materiały XVIII Międzynarodowej naukowi - praktycznej conference “ Kluckzowe ” aspekty naukowej działalności – 2022”, Volume 1. Przemysł : Science i studio . – C. 3.

- 21. To be more precise, at the end of 2021 there were 85 residents registered here. By the beginning of 2022, “more than \$718 million has already been invested in the park, 37 companies produce products, conduct research and development, and also provide services. Great Stone enterprises have created more than 1,700 jobs <...>. The volume of exports also increased – by almost 17% compared to 2020. Deliveries are made to 20 countries around the world³¹⁵. ” In the last days of 2021, the Belarusian LLC SinRubEnergio became the 85th resident with a research project in the field of creating digital energy facilities and a smart city. “The company will develop integrated automation and dispatch systems³¹⁶. ”

With the advent of 2022, active work continued in the industrial park both to expand the number of residents and to increase the volume of their economic activities. Thus, as of mid-April 2022, “89 residents from 15 countries were already registered here. The volume of declared investments is \$1.24 billion. Of this, more than \$750 million has already been invested in the development of the park. Residents created more than 1.8 thousand new jobs. In addition, almost half of the companies have begun economic activities in the park³¹⁷. ”

The 86th resident of the industrial park in March 2022 was Scientific and Technical Company Bel Samoyed Cloud LLC, which “will develop digital financial technologies and mobile payment systems. It is also planned to create an e-commerce center in Belarus and provide Belarusian and Chinese companies with services in this area³¹⁸. ” Important detail: the

³¹⁵ Yaroshenko: Great Stone enterprises supply products to 20 countries of the world [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/jaroshenko-predpriyatija-velikogo-kamnja-postavljajut-produktsiju-v-20-stran-mira-479114-2022/>

³¹⁶ The new resident of “Great Stone” will create digital energy facilities [Electronic resource]. – 2021. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/novyi-rezident-velikogo-kamnja-zajmetsja-sozdaniem-tsifrovyh-energoobjektov-477402-2021/>

³¹⁷ Yakimov, P. “The Great Stone” opens up wide opportunities for strengthening cooperation between Belarus and China / P. Yakimov // [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/comments/view/velikij-kamen-otkrivaet-shirokie-vozmozhnosti-dlja-ukreplenija-sotrudnichestva-belarusi-i-kitaja-8150/>

³¹⁸ The new resident of “Great Stone” will work on digital technologies and mobile payment systems [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/novyi-rezident-velikogo-kamnja-zajmetsja-tsifrovymi-tehnologijami-i-sistemami-mobilnyh-platzej-490657-2022/>

initiator of this project is one of the largest providers of cloud solutions in China - Samoyed holding Cloud Technology Group Holdings Limited .

April 2022 was especially fruitful for “Great Stone” in terms of registering new residents. Thus, at the beginning of this month, Yujiu Science and Technology Company LLC from Hong Kong became the 87th resident, the founder of which works in the field of targeting and branding of products and has branches in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Chongqing, Hangzhou and Wuhan. The new resident “plans to create a center for the digital promotion of goods for organizing e-commerce using Internet marketing technologies ³¹⁹,” will cooperate with Belarusian manufacturers to promote their goods in China and intends to provide training on organizing e-commerce.

A little later, the 88th resident, the Belarusian LLC KUBI RND, was registered in the industrial park with an investment project for the production of equipment and components for the modular construction of smart homes. “The production is based on innovative Cuby technology , which is the company’s own development. It allows us to produce high-tech designs with high environmental performance ³²⁰.” It is expected that 90 percent of the products produced at Great Stone by the new resident will be exported.

The 89th resident was another Belarusian enterprise - HomeLand Group LLC, which plans to produce in the industrial park multifunctional soundproofed "Aerocapsule" cabins with an automated control system based on the Internet of Things - the concept of data transmission. Interestingly, this project took second place in the national competition for innovative developments in 2021. Aerocapsules, created using smart technologies and equipped with innovative built-in facilities, “can be widely used in open

³¹⁹ The new resident of “Great Stone” will be engaged in digital promotion of goods [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/novyi-rezident-velikogo-kamnja-zajmetsja-tsifrovym-prodvizheniem-tovarov-493650-2022/>

³²⁰ The new resident of “Great Stone” will begin producing equipment for smart homes [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/novyi-rezident-velikogo-kamnja-nachnet-vypuskat-oborudovanie-dlja-umnyh-domov-495324-2022/>

offices, airports, shopping centers, manufacturing plants and create optimal conditions for rest and work ³²¹. ”

By mid-May 2022, the number of residents had increased to 90 with a reported investment of \$1.24 billion. In May 2022, the Chinese enterprise Transport Complex - AF LLC became a new resident of the industrial park, which will create a center for monitoring transport transportation using Internet of Things technology. At the same time, an agreement of intent was signed for Hongju Corporation JSC to join the park, which “plans to engage in biotechnology activities in the Great Stone ³²². ” According to the results of the first quarter of 2022, the industrial park managed to ensure “an increase in the volume of revenue from the sale of goods - 1.8 times compared to the first quarter of last year (Br 123.4 million), production of industrial products of residents - 1.7 times (Br 95.4 million), exports of goods – 1.4 times (\$22.6 million), investments in fixed capital – 1.1 times (Br 30.4 million) ³²³. ”

An important area of activity for “Great Stone” is the creation of subparks, which mean the arrival of not just one investor, but a pool of iconic companies under the leadership of a separate management company, which opens up broad prospects for large corporations. Cooperation with the Chinese province of Guangdong is developing particularly well in this regard. Let us recall that “back in January 2017, in its administrative center - the city of Guangzhou - a ceremony was held to sign the agreement on the creation of the Chinese (Guangdong) subpark of LED products in the Great Stone Industrial Park, as well as five more documents on the intention to enter this subpark of specific companies” ³²⁴. Today, there are already 15 residents in

³²¹ The new resident of “Great Stone” will produce innovative aerocapsules [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/novvi-rezident-velikogo-kamnja-budet-proizvodit-innovatsionnye-aerokapsuly-495913-2022/>

³²² The new resident of “Great Stone” will create a center for monitoring cross-border transport [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/novvi-rezident-velikogo-kamnja-sozdast-tsentr-monitoringa-transgranichnyh-perevozok-501098-2022/>

³²³ The number of residents of “Great Stone” has increased to 90 with a declared investment volume of \$1.24 billion [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/chislo-rezidentov-velikogo-kamnja-vozroslo-do-90-s-zajavlennym-objemom-investitsij-v-124-mlrd-502265-2022/>

³²⁴ Zalessky , B. L. “ Great stone ”: perspective development - subparks / B. L. Zalessky // Materials of the XVI International scientific and practical conference

this subpark, specializing in areas such as the production of LED products, integrated logistics, electric transport, unmanned systems and research and development. They will soon be complemented by a joint innovation center created by the Academy of Sciences of Guangdong Province and the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, which will engage in research and development in the field of industrial and digital technologies, as well as new materials, biotechnologies and pharmaceuticals. So in this direction too, we see the successful implementation of plans outlined several years ago.

The emerging interaction of the Chinese-Belarusian industrial park with similar preferential economic zones in other countries should also contribute to further unlocking the potential of the Great Stone's innovative areas. In particular, in Cuba and Uzbekistan. Thus, back in January 2021, a memorandum of understanding was signed with the Cuban special development zone (ZOD) "Mariel", which provides for cooperation "in the field of attracting investments, strengthening ties between the business circles of Belarus and Cuba, and also provides for information interaction ³²⁵. " The priority areas of activity of the Cuban ZOR, created in November 2013, located 45 kilometers from Havana, where at the end of 2021 there were more than 60 residents from 21 countries, are electronics, logistics, pharmaceuticals, energy, as well as the financial and banking industries. In January 2022, the parties had already begun discussing specific areas of cooperation, "in particular, in the area of attracting residents and developing interaction with Cuban pharmaceutical companies ³²⁶. " If we consider that the pharmaceutical sector in the "Great Stone" is now, as they say, on the rise, then it is not difficult to assume that the appearance of concrete results from this interaction will not be long in coming.

"Science and civilization – 2020", January 30 – February 07, 2020. Economic sciences . : Sheffield . Science and education LTD . – C. 21.

³²⁵ "Great Stone" and the Cuban special development zone "Mariel" will cooperate in attracting investments [Electronic resource]. – 2021. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/velikij-kamen-i-kubinskaja-zona-osobogo-razvitiia-mariel-budut-sotrudnicat-v-privlechenii-investitsij-426316-2021/>

³²⁶ "Great Stone" intends to develop cooperation with Cuban pharmaceutical enterprises [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/velikij-kamen-nameren-razvivat-sotrudnichestvo-s-kubinskimi-farmnredpriiatijami-487548-2022/>

Another interesting example in this context is the Uzbek free economic zones (FEZ) Jizzakh and Syrdarya. At the beginning of April 2022, the administration of “Great Stone” discussed with their representatives areas of possible cooperation, including “establishing interaction between residents of the park, free economic zones and enterprises in the field of import and export of component materials and finished products ³²⁷. ” The parties agreed to sign a memorandum of cooperation, which will enshrine their desire to implement joint projects. The fact that there may well be such is evidenced by the specialization of Uzbek SEZs.

In particular, the Jizzakh FEZ was created in March 2013 in the Jizzakh region to attract direct investment in the creation of high-tech and innovative industries. And today there are already several interesting examples in this regard. Thus, in March 2020, an agreement was signed here to create, on the basis of Jizzakh Automobile Plant LLC, the production of Volkswagen light commercial vehicles . The implementation of this project is divided into two stages. In 2020-2021, German cars were delivered here in finished form for market research and marketing analysis. From 2022, “a full production cycle begins, which includes welding, painting and assembly processes <...>. The dealer and service networks in each region of Uzbekistan will also be expanded ³²⁸. ”

Another interesting example is the Uzbek enterprise ADM Jizzakh , located in the Jizzakh FEZ and producing KIA and Lada models there . In October 2021, it announced that at the beginning of 2023 it would master small-unit assembly of these vehicles. In total, “it is planned to organize the production of 314 parts and components, as well as to launch a welding and painting shop ³²⁹. ” This will allow us to produce 100 thousand of these models per year, create three thousand new jobs and increase the localization

³²⁷ “Great Stone” and the SEZ of Uzbekistan intend to develop cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/velikij-kamen-i-sez-uzbekistana-namereny-razvivat-sotrudnichestvo-493658-2022/>

³²⁸ The production of Volkswagen cars in Uzbekistan will begin in 2022 [Electronic resource]. – 2020. – URL : <https://www.gazeta.uz/ru/2020/06/26/volkswagen/>

³²⁹ A plant in Uzbekistan for the production of KIA and Lada will increase localization to 30% in 2023 [Electronic resource]. – 2021. – URL : <https://uz.sputniknews.ru/20211022/zavod-v-uzbekistane-po-vypusku-kia-i-lada-v-2023-godu-povysit-lokalizatsiyu-do-30-21019614.html>

of production to 30 percent. It seems that such an experience could be very interesting for the Belarusian side.

As for the Syrdarya FEZ, it was created on the basis of the Jizzakh FEZ branch in the Syrdarya region in April 2018. One of its main tasks is to ensure the comprehensive and efficient use of the production and resource potential of this Uzbek region “based on deep processing of mineral resources, expanding the production of products in demand in foreign markets, as well as import-substituting products with high added value ³³⁰. ” The main production areas for attracting investments and advanced technologies are identified here as deep processing, storage and packaging of fruits and vegetables and other agricultural products, textiles, footwear, leather goods, chemical, food, electrical industries, agricultural engineering, building materials industry. With the help of the SEZ, they intend to significantly strengthen the export component of the region, where there are already “more than 80 exporting enterprises that supply more than 50 types of products abroad ³³¹. ” So here, too, the range of joint interests with the “Great Stone” can be very extensive. All this indicates that the Chinese-Belarusian industrial park retains its strategic importance as a country-scale growth point for Belarus.

As for interregional cooperation, in the Joint Declaration on the establishment of all-weather and comprehensive strategic partnership relations, adopted in September 2022, the Republic of Belarus and the People's Republic of China positively assessed the expansion of in-depth trade and economic interaction between the Belarusian regions and the cities and provinces of the Middle Kingdom. Turning to the task of expanding interregional ties, “which is one of the priorities in the development of Belarusian-Chinese relations ³³², ” we can note the successful experience of

³³⁰ A new free economic zone is being created in Syrdarya [Electronic resource]. – 2018. – URL : <https://kun.uz/ru/94899784?q=%2Fru%2F94899784>

³³¹ Mirzaev, G. Syrdarya opens its doors to investors / G. Mirzaev // [Electronic resource]. – 2019. – URL : <https://rg.ru/amp/2019/08/29/v-syrdarinskoj-oblasti-uzbekistana-gotovy-k-millionnym-investiciiam.html>

³³² Zalessky, B. Time for specific decisions. Chronicle of international cooperation / B. Zalessky. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing , 2022. – P. 100.

its solution in 2022 by such Belarusian regions as the Vitebsk, Grodno and Brest regions.

Thus, in October 2022, **the Vitebsk region** and the Chinese **province of Jiangxi** signed an agreement on cooperation in the fields of economics, education, healthcare, sports and will establish contacts in trade, science, and technology. The parties will interact comprehensively. For example, it is planned to organize meetings via video conferencing, at which leading enterprises of the Vitebsk region, their developments and technologies that may be useful and interesting to companies from Jiangxi will be presented to Chinese partners. In particular, we are talking about joint projects on the development of agriculture, mechanical engineering, as well as on the topics of science parks and university developments. Let us note that two regions – Belarusian and Chinese – have already held events before: a conference on vocational education and training of engineering and technical specialists, as well as on the fight against COVID -19. In addition, “container trains run regularly to Nanchang, the urban district where the Jiangxi authorities are located, which are formed, among other things, by a logistics company from Orsha. Nanchang and Orsha have established partnerships, and another city in the province, Fuzhou, has established partnerships with Polotsk”³³³. The signed agreement will apparently help the northern region of Belarus and the Chinese province located in southeast China to reach a new level of relations. In the context of this topic, it is interesting that in September 2022, within the framework of the Year of Regions of Belarus and China, the Days of the Vitebsk Region were held in another Chinese province - **Heilongjiang**, where the “potential for cooperation between sister regions in trade, economic, production, tourism and investment spheres” was presented”³³⁴. By the way, more than 30 million people live in this region of China.

³³³ Pushnyakova, A. Trade, science, sports: Vitebsk region signed a cooperation agreement with Chinese Jiangxi / A. Pushnyakova // [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/torgovlja-nauka-sport-vitebskajja-oblast-podpisala-soglashenie-o-sotrudnichestve-s-kitajskoj-tsziansi-532401-2022>

³³⁴ Days of the Vitebsk region are held in the Chinese province of Heilongjiang [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/dni-vitebskoi-oblasti-prohodiat-v-kitajskoj-provintsii-heilunzsian-525147-2022/>

And in October 2022, an agreement on the establishment of friendly exchanges and cooperation was also signed by the cities of **Grodno** and **Lanzhou**, the administrative center of the Chinese province of Gansu, where the parties envisaged “deepening bilateral interaction, expanding exchanges and cooperation between regions in trade, economic, scientific, technical, cultural, tourism and other areas. The document is also aimed at strengthening friendly ties between residents of the two cities ³³⁵. ” Let us recall that a memorandum on the establishment of sister city relations between **the province of Gansu** and **the Grodno region** was signed in 2007. Over 15 years, more than 10 different agreements have been concluded between the regions, and trade and economic cooperation is developing especially dynamically. In April 2022, Gansu and the Grodno region signed a Cooperation Program for 2022-2023, which is filled with specific joint projects. It “additionally explored those areas where cooperation is not yet developing so actively <...>. These are agriculture, tourism, technology exchange, traditional Chinese medicine ³³⁶. ” And the Novogrudok region and the Chinese city of Dunhuang from Gansu province agreed to “conclude an agreement to establish cooperation ³³⁷. ” For reference, we note that the Grodno region also signed an agreement on sister city relations with **the province of Hainan** .

And one more interesting example: **Brest region and Hubei province** . In May 2022, the parties signed an Action Plan for the development of trade, economic, scientific, technical and cultural cooperation for 2022-2024, which outlines the development of international interregional cooperation in four main areas: mutual trade, investment, medicine, education. In particular, food

³³⁵ Grodno and Chinese Lanzhou signed an agreement to establish friendly exchanges [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/grodno-i-kitajskij-lanchzhou-podpisali-soglashenie-ob-ustanovlenii-druzhestvennyh-obmenov-532444-2022/>

³³⁶ The Grodno region intends to expand cooperation with the Chinese province of Gansu [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/grodnenskaja-oblast-namerena-rasshirjat-sotrudnichestvo-s-kitajskoj-provintsiej-gansu-498323-2022/>

³³⁷ The Novogrudok region and the Chinese city of Dunhuang intend to conclude an agreement on establishing cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/novogrudskij-rajon-i-kitajskij-gorod-dunhuan-namereny-zakliuchit-soglashenie-ob-ustanovlenii-495725-2022/>

and wood products from Brest region producers have been supplied to the Chinese province for several years now. But the plans are to significantly expand this interaction, including by establishing direct business ties between business entities. For example, we are talking about establishing investment cooperation between the Brest free economic zone and enterprises of the automotive industry in Hubei province, as well as between the Berezovsky Engine Repair Plant and diesel engine manufacturers in this region of China. Also, “the possibility of participation of Chinese investors in the implementation of projects in the Brest region will be explored for organizing the production of installations for charging electric vehicles, the production of powder and liquid detergents on the basis of JSC Barkhim, the technical re-equipment of the Baranovichi Cotton Production Association, the production of clinker products on the basis of the Goryn Construction Materials Plant , development of the Gorodnoye glass sand deposit ³³⁸. ” As for the medical sphere, the prospects for interaction between the Brest region and Hubei province are associated with the joint production of ultrasound diagnostic devices and the organization of the production of disposable systems for blood transfusion and medical solutions. It is also planned to create a center for traditional Chinese medicine on the basis of the Brest Regional Clinical Hospital, for which a physiotherapy building can be reconstructed here.

All these facts are a good illustration of how multifaceted Belarusian-Chinese interaction today reaches the level of comprehensive strategic cooperation and all-weather partnership, as written in Directive No. 9 “On the development of bilateral relations of the Republic of Belarus with the People’s Republic of China,” signed in December 2021 .

³³⁸ Brest region and Hubei province signed a cooperation roadmap for 2022-2024 [Electronic resource]. — 2022. — URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/brestskaja-oblast-i-provintsija-hubej-podpisali-dorozhnuju-kartu-sotrudnichestva-na-2022-2024-gody-503065-2022/>

Belarus – China: priorities for the new stage of partnership

In September 2022, the Republic of Belarus and the People's Republic of China adopted a Joint Declaration on the establishment of an all-weather and comprehensive strategic partnership, which contains Belarusian-Chinese agreements to intensify scientific and technical cooperation, expand practical interaction between research institutes, higher education institutions and enterprises, encourage creation of platforms as joint centers for applied scientific research and laboratories. It is noted that the development of bilateral relations has moved to a new stage, when “the interaction between research institutions and enterprises of the two countries in the field of innovation is continuously strengthening. The spheres of scientific and technical cooperation are constantly expanding, mechanisms are being improved and methods of scientific and technical cooperation are being enriched³³⁹. ” In this regard, three priority components can be identified. “The first is in the field of scientific research, where the parties participate in the implementation of large joint projects. The second is in the field of innovation, where a network of joint innovation centers and scientific laboratories is being formed and developed. The third is in the field of education, where joint training is conducted and mutual internships of specialists, teachers and students take place³⁴⁰. ”

In particular, the National Academy of Sciences [NAS] of Belarus alone has already created more than 20 international research centers and laboratories jointly with Chinese partners, which are engaged in the development and adaptation of advanced technologies, as well as their promotion to the markets of Belarus, China and third countries. “Contractual documents of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus have already been signed with the leading scientific organizations of China - the Chinese Academy of Sciences, academies of sciences of a number of provinces of the

³³⁹ Xie Xiaoyong: cooperation between Belarus and China in the field of science and technology is continuously strengthening [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/se-sjaojun-sotrudnichestvo-belarusi-i-kitaja-v-sfere-nauki-i-tehnologii-nepreravno-ukrepljaetsja-534171-2022>

³⁴⁰ Zalessky, B. Facets of multi-vectority. Collection of articles / B. Zalessky. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing , 2022. – C. 471.

PRC, large manufacturing corporations of China - Huawei, AVIC...”³⁴¹. In particular, in April 2022, the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus signed an agreement on scientific and technical cooperation with the Chinese company CAMSE. Environmental Technologies”, which specializes in environmental protection issues. The signed agreement, which is designed to promote scientific and technical cooperation and the practical implementation of joint scientific and technical developments in the field of environmental protection, primarily concerns soil restoration technologies, which are of particular interest to Chinese partners. The fact is that the Chinese company, uniting designers, scientists, equipment manufacturers, investors, environmental operators, today concentrates its efforts on expanding activities in the field of municipal water supply and sanitation, industrial wastewater treatment, solid waste disposal, energy saving and cyclic use management waste as a resource. At the same time, JSC China Engineering Corporation SAMS was established, which also signed a cooperation agreement with the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus. This document defines the priority areas of interaction as “energy saving and environmental protection, new energy sources, new materials, optics, precision instruments, semiconductors and biomedicine, as well as expanding the commercial application of the results of joint scientific activities”³⁴².

If we talk about interaction between higher educational institutions of the two countries, the parties will develop cooperation “based on the development of joint educational programs with the subsequent creation of joint educational structures (faculties, institutes) between leading institutions of higher education, including using distance learning technologies...”³⁴³.

³⁴¹ The National Academy of Sciences has created more than 20 joint centers and laboratories with partners from China [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/v-nan-sozdano-bolee-20-sovmestnyh-tsentrov-i-laboratorij-s-partnerami-iz-kitaja-494752-2022/>

³⁴² Biomedicine and new energy sources. The National Academy of Sciences of Belarus signed an agreement with the Chinese corporation [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/biomeditsina-i-novye-istochniki-energii-nan-belarusi-podpisala-soglasenie-s-kitajskoj-korporatsiej-498676-2022/>

³⁴³ China and Belarus published a Joint Declaration on the Establishment of an All-Weather and Comprehensive Strategic Partnership [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://rg.ru/2022/09/16/kitaj-i-belarus-opublikovali-sovmestnuiu-deklaraciju-ob-ustanovlenii-otnoshenij-vseporogodnogo-i-vsestoronnego-strategicheskogo-partnerstva.html>

Suffice it to say that Belarusian and Chinese partners have already signed more than 540 direct cooperation agreements. “Today, almost 500 citizens of the Republic of Belarus are studying in China, the number of Chinese students in Belarusian universities has reached 8,000 people. The parties have developed more than 30 joint educational programs...³⁴⁴” Among the Belarusian universities that are actively developing cooperation with the Chinese side in the field of science and education are the Belarusian State University, the Belarusian National Technical University, the Belarusian State Technological University, the Brest State Technical University, and the Polesie State University.

For example, the first agreement between the Belarusian State University (BSU) and Chinese partners was signed in 1990 - with Chengdu University of Science and Technology. Today BSU already has more than 80 agreements with more than 50 Chinese institutions. Partners include Harbin University of Science and Technology, Henan University, East China Normal University and Foshan University. “In 2019, bilateral partnership documents were signed with Peking University and Shanghai Transport University³⁴⁵.” BSU received the honorable right to host the Confucius Institute within its walls. The Chinese partner in this matter is also the Dalian Polytechnic University (DPU), cooperation with which has been developing since 2007. A significant result of cooperation was the opening of two joint institutes at BSU and DPU. There are currently 244 Chinese students enrolled in the Chinese-Belarusian Institute. There have already been two releases. “In 2021, 78 Chinese graduates and five Belarusians received diplomas from BSU and DPU; in 2022, 74 Chinese and two Belarusian citizens received diplomas. There are 142 Belarusian students studying at the Belarusian-Chinese joint institute. The first release will take place in 2023.³⁴⁶”

³⁴⁴ Belarus and China held a video conference on cooperation in the field of education [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-kitaj-proveli-videokonferentsiju-po-sotrudnichestvu-v-sfere-obrazovanija-526453-2022/>

³⁴⁵ Kreimina, O. BSU on the development of cooperation with leading universities in China / O. Kreimina // [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/comments/view/bgu-o-razvittii-sotrudnichestva-s-veduschimi-universitetami-kitaja-8187/>

³⁴⁶ The cooperation of BSU and Dalian Polytechnic University was captured in the bronze tetrapod Dine [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL :

In May 2021, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between BSU and Tsinghua University, which is ranked 17th among the best universities in the world. The memorandum “provides for the exchange of students, invitation of teachers and scientists, implementation of joint research and educational projects, exchange of publications, information, educational materials, organization of scientific, educational and cultural events ³⁴⁷. ” This university was founded in 1911. Located in the northwest of Beijing in the student district of Haidian. Today, about 53 thousand students are studying in Tsinghua, of which more than 3,200 are foreigners. The educational process is provided by more than 3,600 teachers. The structure of the university includes 21 institutes and 59 faculties.

And in September 2022, another BSU partner appeared in China - Huzhou University, Zhejiang Province. The memorandum of understanding between the two universities “provides for the implementation of joint research projects, educational programs, student exchanges and other areas of cooperation . ” ³⁴⁸ Huzhou University has a history of more than 100 years. The university now specializes in a wide range of academic disciplines and has achieved internationally recognized results in research and teaching in mathematics, clinical medicine and engineering. In 2017, the university created an Intercultural Research Center engaged in international projects, including with the Belarusian side.

As for the Belarusian National Technical University (BNTU), in February 2022, the Belarusian university signed an agreement on scientific and technical cooperation with the Shenyang University of Technology (SHTU) to create a China-Belarus innovative training, research and production center for hardening, restoration and corrosion hardening, restoration and corrosion protection of machine parts, within the framework

<https://www.belta.by/society/view/sotrudnichestvo-bgu-i-dalianskogo-politehnicheskogo-universiteta-zapechatleli-v-bronzovom-tetrapode-514967-2022/>

³⁴⁷ BSU and Tsinghua University signed a memorandum of understanding [Electronic resource]. – 2021. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/bgu-i-universitet-tsinhua-podpisali-memorandum-o-vzaimoponimanii-441298-2021/>

³⁴⁸ BSU and Chinese Huzhou University signed a memorandum of understanding [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/bgu-i-kitajskij-universitet-huchzhou-podpisali-memorandum-o-vzaimoponimanii-524518-2022/>

of which new technologies and equipment will be concentrated in one place, prototypes of parts for testing at Chinese enterprises and pilot batches of parts for orders from Chinese enterprises will be quickly produced, students and Chinese specialists will be trained in new technologies for hardening and restoration, corrosion protection of machine parts, and contracts will be concluded with Chinese enterprises for the supply of technologies and equipment. “The center will focus on all new methods of strengthening, restoring and protecting machine parts from corrosion. There is no such center in China in this form³⁴⁹. ” At the request of ShTU, the center includes such Belarusian technologies as: gas-flame spraying of thermoplastic polymer powders; hypersonic metallization; deformation cladding with a flexible tool; flame spraying of metal, ceramic, polymer and composite powders; laser cleaning of material surfaces from organic and inorganic contaminants, rust, scale and paint coatings; applying plasma coatings with metal, ceramic and composite powders; restoration of working surfaces of machine parts by laser surfacing; surface laser hardening and laser alloying. And already in October 2022, this center was opened at Shenyang University of Technology.

In addition, in October 2022, a conference on scientific exchange between BNTU and the Institute of Applied Chemistry of the Chinese Academy of Sciences was held in Changchun. Let us recall that in December 2019 the parties signed an agreement on the creation of a joint Chinese-Belarusian laboratory for advanced materials and production “One Belt - One Road”, which began its activities in February 2020. This structure “is engaged in the development of high-performance sodium-ion and potassium-ion batteries, catalysts for water electrolysis, hydrogen production, and research in the field of solid oxide electrolysis for the efficient production of green hydrogen and green ammonia³⁵⁰. ” During the conference, Belarusian

³⁴⁹ Kravchuk, M.A. Opening of the Chinese-Belarusian innovative training, research and production center for strengthening, restoration and corrosion protection of machine parts / M.A. Kravchuk // [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://times.bntu.by/news/11923-otkrytie-kitajsko-belorusskogo-innovacionnogo-uchebno-nauchno-proizvodstvennogo-centra>

³⁵⁰ Sheleg, V.K. Conference on scientific exchange between BNTU and the Institute of Applied Chemistry of the Chinese Academy of Sciences / V.K. Sheleg, M.A. Kravchuk // [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://times.bntu.by/news/11931-konferencija-po-nauchnomu-obmenu-bntu-i-institut-prikladnoi-himii-an-kitava>

specialists drew attention to the experience of BNTU in the field of modifying the surfaces of machine parts using high-energy exposure methods and studying their structure and properties, which in the future will expand the scope of scientific research and the application of their results in Chinese industry.

Speaking about the Belarusian State Technological University (BSTU), it has currently concluded 17 cooperation agreements with universities and organizations in China, which are located in many regions of the country, including in Guangdong province. "In collaboration with Chinese partners, joint educational programs have been created and are successfully operating in such areas as "Machines and apparatus for chemical production and construction materials enterprises", "Automation of technological processes and production", "Mechatronics"³⁵¹. In addition, in March 2022, BSTU signed memorandums: with the NGO "Guangzhou City of Knowledge" - Technological Industrial Service Company" - on strategic cooperation in the field of energy saving and environmental protection to promote the construction of a "carbon-free community"; with Guangzhou Hengyun Group of Companies JSC - in the field of hydrogen technologies for the joint construction of a hydrogen energy industrial park.

Another example in this context is the Brest State Technical University (BrSTU), where in 2022 the implementation of a joint Belarusian-Chinese project in the field of information technology began, which is funded by the Belarusian Republican Foundation for Basic Research and the National Natural Science Foundation of China. And in April 2022, it became known about the start of the implementation of a joint educational program between BrSTU and Xinxiang University, which concerns the training of students in the specialty "Mechanical Engineering Technology". "The training will take place in a full-time format on the territory of the PRC using materials presented by the Brest university. A large block of the program will be

³⁵¹ BSTU and Belarusian companies signed memorandums of cooperation with Guangzhou [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/bgtu-i-belorusskie-kompanii-podpisali-memorandumy-o-sotrudnichestve-s-guanchzhou-489362-2022>

presented to Chinese students directly by BrSTU teachers ³⁵². ” In October 2022, the university from Brest also established cooperation with the Guangdong Construction Vocational College to create long-term conditions for the training of qualified personnel in Belarus in the interests of the Chinese construction sector and to cooperate in organizing a joint educational program for training specialists in the field of architecture and construction. It should be noted that the Chinese partner of BrSTU is “the only state college in Guangdong province that trains highly qualified specialists in the field of construction. The college was founded in 1979 and over 43 years has graduated more than 200 thousand highly qualified personnel ³⁵³. ”

As for the interaction of Polesie State University with colleagues from China, in September 2022 the Belarusian university held the first international scientific conference, which was called the “Pin Readings”. Pinsk residents, together with Belarusian and foreign partners, discussed current issues for the economy, banking sector, development of biotechnology, engineering, healthy lifestyle, and preservation of historical and cultural heritage. At the conference, Poles State University signed a cooperation agreement with the Shanxi Institute of Science and Technology, which “specializes in environmental management, engineering, and biotechnology. We aim to build serious partnerships ³⁵⁴. ” In addition to joint research projects, universities see prospects for cooperation in academic mobility.

Evidence of the high scientific, technical and innovative cooperation between Belarus and China is also the fact that at the China International Import Exhibition (CIIE) in Shanghai - the largest exhibition event in the Celestial Empire, where almost three thousand companies from 127 countries took part in 2021, in November 2022, the Belarusian country pavilion “High-Tech Equipment and Information Technologies” presented 126 scientific and

³⁵² BrSTU and Xinyang University began implementing a joint program [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/brgtu-i-sinsianskij-universitet-nachali-realizatsiju-sovmestnoj-programmy-496937-2022/>

³⁵³ BrSTU and Guangdong Construction Vocational College agreed to establish cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/brgtu-i-guandunskij-stroitelnyj-proftehkolledzh-dogovorilis-naladit-sovmestnoe-530263-2022/>

³⁵⁴ PolesSU will cooperate with the Institute of Science and Technology from China [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/polesgu-budet-sotrudnicat-s-institutom-nauki-i-tehnologii-iz-kitaja-524605-2022/>

technical developments by scientists from 32 organizations of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and institutions of the Ministry of Education of Belarus. In particular, the exposition of the section of the Ministry of Education included such areas of cooperation as “digital information, communication and interdisciplinary technologies, production based on them; biological, medical, pharmaceutical and chemical technologies and production; energy, construction, ecology and environmental management; mechanical engineering, mechanical engineering technologies, instrument engineering and innovative materials; agro-industrial and food technologies; ensuring the safety of individuals and society”³⁵⁵.

Among the new products presented are ultra-small orbital spacecraft created by the Belarusian State University (BSU). The first nanosatellite was launched into orbit four years ago. Under the state program “Knowledge-Intensive Technologies and Engineering,” a second nanosatellite has already been created, “the design of which implements an innovative modular layout of onboard subsystems of a small spacecraft. BSU also represents antitumor drugs “Temodex”, “Prospidelong”, “Cisplacel”³⁵⁶. Another interesting new product is an electric scooter produced by Optron Instrument-Making Plant OJSC of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus. The maximum speed is 60 kilometers per hour, and the load capacity is 200 kilograms. In addition, such advanced developments as the Burevestnik unmanned aerial vehicle (Research and Production Center for Multifunctional Unmanned Systems of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus), an automated system for recording welding processes (Belarus-Russian University), heat-resistant impact-resistant coatings (Gomel State University) were presented in Shanghai named after F. Skaryna, bread of high nutritional value (Belarusian State University of Food and Chemical Technologies) ...”³⁵⁷.

³⁵⁵ Universities of Belarus at the V Chinese International Import Expo [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://times.bntu.by/news/11970-vuzy-belarusi-na-v-china-international-import-expo>

³⁵⁶ More than 120 Belarusian developments were presented at the Chinese International Import Exhibition [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/tech/view/bole-120-belorusskih-razrabotok-predstavleny-na-kitajskoj-mezhdunarodnoj-vystavke-importa-533702-2022/>

³⁵⁷ New products in the food industry and spacecraft: what Belarus will present at the import exhibition in China [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL :

And further. In November 2022, at the IX Belarusian-Chinese Youth Innovation Forum “New Horizons - 2022”, which took place in Minsk, it was noted that this year the State Committee for Science and Technology of Belarus together with the Ministry of Science and Technology of China held a competition of Belarusian-Chinese scientific and technical projects. “As a result, 35 projects will receive government support from the two countries”³⁵⁸. ” All these facts show that multifaceted scientific, technical and innovative cooperation between the two countries, with the systematic and focused work of partners to develop ties, produces fruitful results.

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<https://www.belta.by/economics/view/novinki-pisheproma-i-kosmicheskie-apparaty-cto-predstavit-belarus-na-vystavke-importa-v-kitae-533240-2022/>

³⁵⁸ Young scientists from Belarus and China are developing cooperation in the field of innovation [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/tech/view/molodye-uchenye-belarusi-i-kitaja-razvivajut-sotrudnichestvo-v-sfere-innovatsij-534160-2022/>

Belarus – China: strategic partnership enters a new era

In March 2023, the leaders of the Republic of Belarus and the People's Republic of China adopted **a joint statement** on the basic principles for the development of exemplary relations of all-weather and comprehensive strategic partnership between the two countries in the new era, which include mutual support for the state course and on issues affecting each other's core interests. In addition to this joint statement, “Belarus and China during the state visit concluded 27 intergovernmental, interdepartmental and interregional agreements, more than 10 commercial agreements in various fields³⁵⁹,” and the total economic effect of this visit is estimated at more than three and a half billion dollars.

Among the documents signed, one can note **the Belarusian-Chinese Scientific and Technical Cooperation Program for 2023-2024**, which aims the two countries at creating joint innovative production facilities. After all, “a developed engineering base, a modern system for training highly qualified personnel, many years of advanced experience of leading Belarusian design bureaus - all this forms the basis of future high-tech industries³⁶⁰.” In this regard, we emphasize that in 2022, Chinese investors invested over \$100 million in projects in Belarus. In addition, more than forty projects were implemented with the participation of companies from China, and about twenty more promising initiatives are being developed this year. In this context, it is worth noting the Great Stone Industrial Park, where in 2022 “Belarusian resident enterprises launched the production of glass for all types of land transport, innovative photographic printed products, automated control systems for technological processes in industry and energy. The scientific and technological park “InKata” has been put into operation, where

³⁵⁹ Ministry of Foreign Affairs: the state visit of the President of Belarus to Beijing became a significant event in relations with the PRC [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/politics/view/mid-gosvizit-prezidenta-belarusi-v-pekin-stal-znachimym-sobytiem-v-otnoshenijah-s-knr-557851-2023/>

³⁶⁰ Belarus and China are aimed at creating joint innovative production [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-kitaj-natselenv-na-sozdanie-sovmestnyh-innovatsionnyh-proizvodstv-556688-2023/>

companies engaged in scientific research and experimental development are located³⁶¹. ”

Let us remind you that in the last days of 2022, the number of residents in the Chinese-Belarusian Industrial Park “Great Stone” reached 100. For reference, we note that “at the end of 2021, 85 residents were registered here³⁶². ” In particular, the 99th resident was Yunchenbel LLC, the founder of which is the large Chinese company SUMEC International Technology Trading. “The new resident will create an e-commerce platform allowing the import and export of mechanical and electrical equipment”³⁶³. And the Belarusian company Human Craft will produce medical products - individual bone tissue prostheses based on 3D printing technologies, which will be used in surgery, traumatology, dentistry and in the treatment of oncological diseases. Also, at the end of December 2022, agreements of intent were signed to enter the industrial park as residents of Foryu Information Technologies LLC and Tontun Information Technologies LLC (People's Republic of China).

In addition, at the end of 2022, in the industrial park, the resident company IP Group LLC signed a lease agreement for a universal production building with an area of 5.5 thousand square meters. This transaction became one of the largest in 2022 on the industrial real estate market of Belarus. “A project for the development and serial production of high-tech data processing and storage devices will be implemented in these areas. In particular, the company will produce computer equipment, server equipment, monitors, and interactive smart panels. In the future, the resident plans to expand the range of import-substituting products³⁶⁴. ” In general, at the end of 2022, 19

³⁶¹ Abramenko: “The Great Stone” is a tremendous opportunity for doing business on the “Belt and Road” platform [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/abramenko-velikij-kamen-eto-kolossalnye-vozmozhnosti-dlja-vedenija-biznesa-na-platfome-poias-i-put-556679-2023/>

³⁶² Zalesky, B. Partnership of flexible forms. Features of the Eurasian cooperative dialogue in the context of global threats / B. Zalesky. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2022. – P. 5.

³⁶³ The number of residents of “Great Stone” has reached 100 [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/kolichestvo-rezidentov-velikogo-kamnja-dostiglo-100-542481-2022/>

³⁶⁴ “Great Stone” ended the year with the largest deal [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/v-velikom-kamne-zavershili-god-krupnejshej-sdelkoi-542635-2022/>

residents were registered in “Great Stone”. And further. Last year, residents of the park exported their products worth more than \$100 million to 20 countries.

In 2023, “Great Stone” is expected to attract at least 20 residents. Several investors from Belarus have already been registered in January alone. In particular, “very interesting projects in the field of production of products for veterinary medicine. And the second project is in the field of science, <...> in the field of nuclear energy ³⁶⁵. ” At the end of January, a new resident was registered in “Great Stone” - BaikalGroup LLC. “A company with Chinese capital will create a transport and logistics center in the park <...>. The park resident plans to provide warehousing and logistics services, including storage, packaging, tracking, labeling... ³⁶⁶” Deliveries of goods will be carried out to the countries of the Eurasian Economic Union.

In February 2023, three more new residents were registered in the industrial park: two with capital from Belarus, one from China. Heprotrade LLC will produce environmentally friendly thermal paper, products from which will be widely used in sales and services. “The production capacity will be up to 300 tons per month. The implementation of the project will make it possible to provide the domestic market with similar products and reduce imports, as well as supply them for export ³⁶⁷. ” The second February resident, Rivex LLC, will produce innovative dressings and sterilization materials, which are intended both for the domestic market and for the countries of the Eurasian Economic Union. Bel-Nord Logistics LLC, whose founder is a Chinese company in the field of international logistics, one of the largest in the Inner Mongolia region, intends to “develop the logistics infrastructure by building warehouses and introduce a wide range of services in this area. In addition, road transportation of goods along the route China – Europe will be

³⁶⁵ “Great Stone” plans to attract at least 20 residents this year [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/velikij-kamen-v-etom-godu-planiruet-privlech-ne-menee-20-rezidentov-547180-2023/>

³⁶⁶ The new resident of “Great Stone” will create a transport and logistics center [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/novvi-rezident-velikogo-kamnja-sozdast-transportno-logisticheskij-tsentr-547574-2023/>

³⁶⁷ Two more residents with Belarusian capital are registered in “Great Stone” [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/eschedva-rezidenta-s-belorusskim-kapitalom-zaregistrirany-v-velikom-kamne-549664-2023/>

organized ³⁶⁸. ” This initiative will also help in solving the most important strategic task - expanding the presence of Belarusian products in the Chinese market.

In just a month and a half of 2023, Great Stone has already managed to register seven new residents. But in general, already during the operation of the industrial park, “the total number is 107 residents with a planned investment volume of \$1.3 billion ³⁶⁹. ” It is expected that in order to create additional conditions for attracting new investors, work will continue in 2023 to further improve the special legal regime of the park, with an emphasis on the implementation of new high-tech projects, including in the field of traditional and innovative Chinese medicine. Promising projects are also planned to be implemented in logistics, e-commerce, fine chemistry, biotechnology, instrument engineering, research and development. In February 2023, at a meeting of the working group on the issues of the China-Belarus Industrial Park, it was noted that at the Great Stone sites “it is possible to quickly increase the level of localization in the production of medical and technological equipment, transport and other areas, and quickly replace lost imports with these products. In order to fully utilize the existing potential, it is necessary to continue to actively develop the park, build infrastructure and announce the project on a global scale ³⁷⁰. ” In short, current challenges dictate a window of opportunity for residents of the industrial park in particular, and also create additional competitive advantages for the future development of the Belarusian economy in general.

Another important document adopted in March 2023 is **the Comprehensive Strategy for Joint Industrial Development** , implemented by the Ministry of Industry of Belarus and the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology of China and providing for the creation of

³⁶⁸ The new resident of “Great Stone” will develop international logistics [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/novyi-rezident-velikogo-kamnia-budet-razvivat-mezhdunarodnuju-logistiku-551642-2023/>

³⁶⁹ This year “Great Stone” registered 7 new residents [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/v-etom-godu-velikij-kamen-zaregistroval-7-novyh-rezidentov-551821-2023/>

³⁷⁰ Chervyakov: current economic challenges - a window of opportunity for residents of the “Great Stone” [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/chervjakov-tekuschie-vyzovy-ekonomiki-okno-vozmozhnostei-dlia-rezidentov-velikogo-kamnia-550498-2023/>

mechanisms to stimulate Belarusian and Chinese enterprises to activate and strengthen technological interaction. To implement this strategy, a roadmap with specific projects and initiatives has been prepared. “It is planned to create joint ventures in China, use Chinese technologies and competencies to modernize Belarusian production and attract Chinese investments to implement projects in Belarus”³⁷¹ in such main areas as mechanical engineering, electronics, woodworking, optical-mechanical, pulp and paper and chemical production.

In particular, **the Minsk Tractor Plant is ready to intensify cooperation with the Chinese side**. Currently, a project to organize the assembly of BELARUS tractors with a capacity of 350 horsepower is ongoing in the Celestial Empire. The first prototype was tested in 2020-2021. Last year, two more BELARUS 3523 tractors were delivered to China for certification, after which a decision will be made on localizing the assembly of Belarusian tractors. And in Minsk, testing of the BELARUS 3523 model with a diesel engine from the Chinese Weichai corporation continues. It is expected that 100 of these engines will arrive at the plant in the near future. “Another direction is related to the supply of components from China. Last year, imports from China amounted to \$1.8 million, based on the results of two months of the current [2023] year – \$400 thousand.”³⁷². So the parties are interested in joint investment projects.

As part of the state visit of the Belarusian delegation to China, several documents were signed concerning the development of production in **the agricultural sector**. In particular, on the territory of our country, “the largest pig-breeding complex in Belarus for 300 thousand heads will be built in the Minsk region. <...> And we will modify our beef cattle breeding based on the Mogilev region. First of all, the construction of a separate slaughterhouse.

³⁷¹ Abramenko, A. About the features of doing business in KNO, joint projects and prospects for cooperation / A. Abramenko // [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/interview/view/ob-osobennostjah-vedenija-biznesa-v-knr-sovmestnyh-proektah-i-perspektivah-sotrudnichestva-8633/>

³⁷² The general director of MTZ spoke about the intensification of cooperation with China [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/ob-aktivizatsii-sotrudnichestva-s-kitaem-rasskazal-gendirektor-mtz-553348-2023/>

About a thousand lightweight sheds will be built to house Aberdeen Angus or Limousine cattle ³⁷³. "

Belarus also plans to almost double the volume of food supplies to China in 2023. Last year, this export exceeded more than \$500 million. At the same time, Belarusian supplies "increased in poultry meat (3 times), rapeseed oil (3.1 times), milk and cream (1.4 times) <...>. Currently, 148 Belarusian manufacturers in 171 categories of goods are accredited for supplies to China ³⁷⁴. " And by the beginning of 2024, the goal has been set to reach the product export mark of \$900 million. In general, in trade and economic cooperation with partners from China, the Belarusian side this year has every chance to increase the volume of exports of goods to \$2.2 billion.

Two more interesting documents, signed in Beijing at the beginning of March 2023, relate to the topic of **regional cooperation**. First: this is the **plan for the Year of Regions of Belarus and China for 2023**, which "contains more than 80 bilateral agreements and initiatives" ³⁷⁵ to attract at least \$150 million in direct Chinese investment by each Belarusian region and Minsk by 2026. Second: this is **an Agreement between the Ministry of Economy of Belarus and the Ministry of Commerce of China on deepening trade and economic cooperation between the regions of the two countries**, in which the parties focus on three Chinese regions. Firstly, **Tianjin** is a city of central subordination, where production and logistics are predominant. Secondly, the city of **Qingdao**, located in **Shandong province**, where industrial and medical enterprises are especially developing and where the free trade zone of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organization is actively used**. Third, **Chongqing** is another city of central subordination. "This is the heart of logistics and transit. Here there is mainly e-commerce,

³⁷³ Belarus expects to almost double the volume of food supplies to China [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-rasschitvvaet-pochti-v-dva-raza-narastit-objemy-postavok-prodovolstvija-v-kitaj-553023-2023/>

³⁷⁴ In 2022, the export of Belarusian goods to China almost doubled [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/za-2022-god-eksport-belorusskih-tovarov-v-kitaj-praktichieski-udvoilsja-556681-2023/>

³⁷⁵ Abramenko: Belarus and China strive to deepen bilateral cooperation in all areas [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/abramenko-belarus-i-kitaj-stremjatsja-k-uglublenniju-dvustoronnego-vzaimodeistvija-vo-vseh-oblastiah-556675-2023/>

with an emphasis on transport and logistics, including green corridors. This is when the train is not checked at the border, but is controlled at its destination, which gives a big advantage in terms of cost and time ³⁷⁶. ”

Also at the beginning of March 2023, Belarus and China signed **a plan for the development of cooperation in the field of healthcare for 2023-2025**, which noted that “the parties will develop cooperation in the field of healthcare, science and education, based on the principles of the national legislation of the countries, as well as principles of mutual benefit and mutual assistance ³⁷⁷. ” The two countries will give priority to cooperation in such areas as: organizing joint scientific research in the field of medicine, exchanging experience in the field of diagnosis and treatment of diseases; organizing seminars and master classes for experts; cooperation in the field of epidemiology and microbiology and exchange of data on the spread of epidemic diseases; interaction in the field of surgery, transplantation and hematology; participation in international medical exhibitions held in the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Belarus. It is important to note that in the Joint Declaration on the establishment of an all-weather and comprehensive strategic partnership, published in September 2022, Belarus and China agreed to develop cooperation in the field of high-tech medicine, vaccines and drugs and “identified the priority of the formation of a joint pharmaceutical cluster, the commercialization of new pharmaceutical products and technologies, as well as the creation of a high-quality center of traditional Chinese medicine in Belarus ³⁷⁸. ”

For reference: the two countries have long-standing ties in the field of medicine. The first agreement on cooperation in the field of healthcare and medical science between the Belarusian and Chinese ministries of health was signed back in 1994. In 2021, the Belarusian government adopted a decree

³⁷⁶ . Nikolai Snopkov: The total economic effect from the Belarusian-Chinese agreements is estimated at more than \$3.5 billion [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <http://www.government.by/ru/content/10547>

³⁷⁷ A plan for the development of cooperation in the field of healthcare for 2023-2025 was signed between Belarus and China [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://minzdrav.gov.by/ru/sobytiya/podpisan-plan-po-razvitiyu-sotrudnichestva-v-oblasti-zdravookhraneniya-na-2023-2025-godv-mezhdu-bela/>

³⁷⁸ China and Belarus adopted a Joint Declaration [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://zviazda.by/ru/news/20220916/1663330543-kitav-i-belarus-prinivali-sovmestnuyu-deklaraciju>

“On state registration of strategically important drugs,” which allows for their accelerated registration to combat the pandemic. And at the same time, the Ministry of Health for the first time carried out state registration of a Chinese traditional medicine (TCM) drug - QINGYI soft capsules. And today, “810 types of medical equipment, 502 medical products and 480 pharmaceuticals produced in China are registered in Belarus. From April 2020 to the present, China has provided free assistance in the amount equivalent to \$30 million. Personal protective equipment, medical and diagnostic equipment, and a vaccine against COVID-19 have been transferred to Belarus”³⁷⁹.

Our country has already created TCM centers and the necessary conditions for doing business to create pharmaceutical production. In particular, for residents of the Great Stone Park, the Ministry of Health of Belarus has developed a collection of “Main aspects of admission to circulation of medical devices and medicines” in Russian and Chinese in order to inform them about opportunities and preferences. In addition, work has already been completed on the architectural project “Construction of a polyclinic on the territory of the Great Stone Park, taking into account the creation of a regional center for the promotion of traditional and innovative Chinese medicine,” work is being completed to include the specialty “doctor of traditional Chinese medicine” in the nomenclature of positions, which will give additional impetus to promote this topic in Belarus.

At the end of February 2023, the Ministry of Health of Belarus and the State Administration for Traditional Chinese Medicine of China announced that they were preparing a memorandum on TCM issues, which should reflect the issues of creating a TCM center in Belarus, a pharmaceutical cluster and the development of traditional Chinese medicine in the China-Belarus Industrial Park "Great Stone". It should be noted that “in Belarus, reflexology methods, diagnostic methods, therapeutic exercises, classical acupuncture, Chinese massage, as well as treatment methods based on modern technologies are used - electroacupuncture, laser acupuncture,

³⁷⁹ The Ministry of Health of Belarus and the Weigao company signed a cooperation agreement [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/minzdrav-belarusi-i-kompanija-weigao-podpisali-soglashenie-o-sotrudnichestve-552445-2023/>

ultrasound acupuncture <...>. Traditional Chinese medicine centers have been established in the regional centers of Belarus. Cooperation has been established with a number of universities - Tianjin, Changchun, Zhejiang University of Traditional Chinese Medicine...³⁸⁰ In addition, the educational process in this specialty is carried out at the Belarusian Medical Academy of Postgraduate Education at the Department of Reflexology. On average, more than 200 doctors are trained annually. Employees of the department have repeatedly trained in Beijing, Taiyuan and Tianjin. These methods have shown their effectiveness, including in the treatment of post-Covid syndrome. Every year in Belarus, reflexotherapists perform about 900 thousand reflexology procedures.

In 2023, the parties continue to actively interact in this context. In February, the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Belarus signed a number of cooperation agreements with Chinese partners. Firstly, in the city of Weihai, in Shandong province, with the Weigao International Medical Trading Company, which supplies medical products and spare parts made in China. Secondly, in the city of Shijiazhuang, in Hebei province, with the pharmaceutical company North China Pharmaceutical Company Limited (NCPC). "This company has been selected as a strategic partner that will represent the interests of the Belpfarmprom holding in the field of procurement of pharmaceutical substances in the People's Republic of China, as well as carry out the functions of studying market conditions, submitting proposals to the holding's management company for the supply of substances and raw materials in accordance with applications"³⁸¹.

Regarding the development of cooperation between Belarus and China in a new era in **the field of education, the International Educational Exhibition** China was held in Beijing in February 2023 Education Expo, within the framework of which the thematic exposition "Education in

³⁸⁰ Belarus and China are preparing a memorandum on traditional Chinese medicine [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-knr-gotoviat-memorandum-po-voprosam-traditsionnoj-kitajskoj-medititsiny-552902-2023/>

³⁸¹ A cooperation agreement was signed by the Ministry of Health of Belarus and a Chinese pharmaceutical company [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/soglashenie-o-sotrudnichestve-podpisali-minzdrav-belarusi-i-kitajskaja-farmkompanija-552543-2023>

Belarus” was organized, where leading Belarusian universities made presentations of educational programs: Belarusian State Economic University, Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radioelectronics, Minsk State Linguistic University, Belarusian State University of Culture and Arts, Gomel State Technical University named after P.O. Sukhoi, Belarusian National Technical University, Polotsk State University named after Euphrosyne of Polotsk and Mogilev State University named after A.A. Kuleshov. Note that the Belarusian exposition was the only foreign one presented at this educational forum, which was visited by more than two thousand boys and girls from China interested in studying in Belarus.

In addition, during the negotiations held in the Chinese capital at the Beijing University of Civil Engineering and Architecture, the possibility of higher education institutions of Belarus joining the International Engineering and Architectural Consortium of Educational Institutions was discussed. But in general, “as a result of meetings between representatives of Belarusian universities in Chinese universities and consulting companies, 17 agreements on cooperation in the field of educational services were signed, 16 agreements were worked out for signing³⁸². ” For reference, we note that “more than 540 direct cooperation agreements have already been signed by Belarusian and Chinese partners. Today, almost 500 citizens of the Republic of Belarus are studying in China, the number of Chinese students in Belarusian universities has reached 8,000 people³⁸³. ” In addition, the creation of joint educational structures is being actively promoted in Belarus and China. For example, seven joint projects are already operating: three laboratories, two centers and two institutes. 40 joint educational programs of the first and second levels of higher education are being implemented, 10 of which have been developed over the past two years.

In this context, an important participant in international cooperation with the People's Republic of China in the field of education is **the**

³⁸² Belarus – China: 17 new agreements in the field of education were signed [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-kitaj-podpisano-17-novyyh-soglashenij-v-oblasti-obrazovanija-553144-2023/>

³⁸³ Zalesky, B. Interaction route – Asia. Intensification of multifaceted ties between Belarus and the main economic partners on the continent / B. Zalesky. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing , 2023. – C. 19.

Belarusian State University (BSU), which already interacts with more than 50 Chinese universities, and over three thousand Chinese citizens are currently studying in its classrooms. In March 2023, BSU identified new vectors and forms of cooperation with leading universities in China in order to strengthen, intensify and expand areas of partnership.

In particular, BSU is reaching a new level of cooperation with Peking University, which is the oldest university in China and was founded in 1898, where the local library has more than eight million books and where over 46 thousand students study, including more than four thousand foreigners. Let us remind you that the two universities signed a memorandum of understanding in 2019. In March 2023, the parties initiated cooperation in the field of mathematical sciences. “The development of joint scientific projects, academic exchange for lecturing on modern achievements in the field of probability theory, mathematical statistics and data analysis seem promising³⁸⁴. ” In addition, interaction in the field of joint training of undergraduates and graduate students will be expanded. To do this, in the near future this topic will be analyzed in detail to determine the specialties and scientific fields of knowledge in which they plan to cooperate.

Another partner of BSU in China is Beijing Foreign Studies University, one of the country's leading universities in the field of training linguists. In development of the agreements with it since 2017, BSU signed an agreement on the exchange of students in March 2023 in order to develop the academic mobility of students and undergraduates studying Chinese, Belarusian and Russian languages. The parties will also develop joint innovative pedagogical methods.

And following the meetings held in March 2023, the new partner of BSU became the Chinese University of Political Science and Law. The universities signed a memorandum of understanding that will allow cooperation in the field of jurisprudence in numerous vectors. “This is the exchange of students, the opening of joint educational programs, the implementation of joint research and educational projects, the exchange of

³⁸⁴ BSU reaches a new level of cooperation with Peking University [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/bgu-vyhodit-na-novyi-uroven-sotrudnichestva-s-pekinskim-universitetom-557082-2023/>

information, educational materials and scientific reports, the organization of conferences, seminars, workshops and courses and the preparation of joint publications ³⁸⁵. ”

Brest State Technical University (BrSTU) is also among the active Belarusian universities developing cooperation with Chinese partners. In January 2023, BrSTU signed an agreement on cooperation in the field of education, science and culture with the Guangdong Construction Vocational Institute in order to combine the efforts of the two educational institutions to jointly train qualified specialists in the interests of the economies of the two countries. The parties plan to create a joint educational program to train Chinese students. We are talking about recruiting study groups where the children will study in China for the first two years, and then in Belarus. The specialty "architecture" was of particular interest to the Chinese side. “These joint degree programs are very popular because they allow students to earn two degrees in one cycle of study ³⁸⁶. ”

Note that the Guangdong Construction Vocational Institute is the largest and only state higher vocational educational institution that trains builders and architects and is located in the industrial center of southern China. It has 22 thousand students. With the support of the National Development and Reform Commission of the People's Republic of China, a production and educational integration base was built at the institute , where students study various innovative and traditional construction technologies, design methods, water supply systems, BIM technologies, and real estate management. As for BrSTU, more than 200 Chinese citizens are studying in Brest today. The most popular among them are specialties in economics, construction and mechanical engineering.

Finally, another set of documents signed in early March 2023 in Beijing concerned interaction in **the media sphere** . This includes a

³⁸⁵ Student exchange, joint programs: BSU and leading universities in China have identified new vectors of cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/obmen-studentami-sovmestnye-programmy-bgu-i-vedushchie-vuzy-kitaja-opredelili-novye-vektory-557224-2023/>

³⁸⁶ Brest University and Guangdong Institute will jointly train architects and builders [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/brestskij-universitet-i-guandunskij-institut-budut-sovmestno-gotovit-arhitektorov-i-stroitelej-543128-2023/>

cooperation agreement between the news agencies of Belarus and China - BELTA and Xinhua. In this regard, we note that the cooperation agreement between BELTA and Xinhua was first signed back in January 1993, then re-signed in June 2018. The new document – already the third – “implies the exchange of text news, photos and videos, mutual support and promotion on the Internet and social networks ³⁸⁷. ” The agencies agreed to exchange experiences and train journalists, editors and technical staff to improve their professional skills.

All these initiatives and projects, adopted in the spring of this year in relevant documents, indicate that cooperation between Belarus and China as a whole tends to strengthen in all areas, but there is still a large unrealized potential that will be realized in the new era - exemplary relations of all-weather and comprehensive strategic partnership between the two states.

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³⁸⁷ BELTA and Xinhua signed an agreement to strengthen cooperation and intensify the exchange of news [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belta-i-sinhua-podpisali-soglashenie-ob-ukrenlenii-sotrudnichestva-i-aktivizatsii-obmena-novostiami-553192-2023/>

Belarus – China: on the foundation of new ideas

In July 2023, the fifth meeting of the Belarusian-Chinese Intergovernmental Cooperation Committee (IPC) was held, within the framework of which a new model of strategic partnership between the Republic of Belarus and the People's Republic of China was formed and unique opportunities and mechanisms were created to deepen practical interaction across the entire spectrum of areas. The meeting participants agreed that “our common goal should be a new growth point in trade turnover of at least 120% compared to the last year [2022]”³⁸⁸. ” If we talk more specifically about the most important areas of Belarusian-Chinese economic cooperation, then four key issues should be highlighted in this regard.

Firstly, increasing and diversifying trade, systematic accreditation of Belarusian food producers, launching procurement channels for important goods through Chinese operators. Secondly, increasing railway container transportation for the delivery of Belarusian goods to China and Chinese equipment to Belarus, ensuring the operation of green railway corridors, organizing subsidized reverse trains from Belarus to large logistics centers in China and back. Thirdly, “deepening investment cooperation, joint industrial development, technological cooperation in the licensed automotive industry, in the assembly of electric vehicles, machine tool manufacturing, joint production of medical equipment, and the development of bio- and digital technologies”³⁸⁹. ” Fourth, financing of strategic investment projects within the framework of preferential credit lines from China, their effective implementation, increasing credit, financial and technical and economic cooperation, including the purchase of necessary equipment. Let us remind you that “at the end of 2022, the turnover of goods in the countries [Belarus and China] reached a record volume of \$5.8 billion. Five months of this year

³⁸⁸ Snopkov: a new model of strategic partnership between Belarus and China has been formed [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/snopkov-sformirovana-novaja-model-strategicheskogo-partnerstva-belarusi-i-kitaja-576417-2023/>

³⁸⁹ Chervyakov highlighted important areas of cooperation to strengthen relations between Belarus and China [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/chervyakov-vydelil-vazhnye-napravlenija-sotrudnichestva-dlja-ukrepleniia-otnoshenii-belarusi-i-kitaja-576438-2023/>

were marked by a 1.5-fold increase in trade turnover. The export of Belarusian goods to China is growing at a record pace: in 2022 – 1.8 times, for 5 months of 2023 – 1.6 times³⁹⁰. ”

At the fifth meeting of the IGC, the parties agreed to concentrate efforts on the implementation of major projects in the field of development and cooperation, including the provision of free assistance from the Chinese government. In this context, it should be emphasized that 15 important socially oriented projects have already been implemented in Belarus, totaling more than one and a half billion Chinese yuan. “About a dozen new strategic projects are in the works, including the infrastructure development of the Great Stone industrial park, the supply of necessary technological equipment with a total financing amount of over 900 million Chinese yuan³⁹¹. ” At the same time, the parties plan to accelerate the implementation of these projects, including two international-class sports facilities - a stadium and a swimming pool - by September 2024.

As for other production and cooperation projects, in July 2023 the Ministry of Industry of Belarus and the Chinese corporation China National Machinery Industry Corporation (Sinomach) signed an action plan to develop interaction “in priority areas of cooperation in the production of agricultural, municipal equipment, machine tool manufacturing, as well as the implementation of investment projects at Belarusian enterprises”³⁹² and even discussed the creation of individual models of agricultural equipment, the possibility of organizing the production of various equipment , participation of subsidiaries of the Sinomach corporation in the modernization of industrial

³⁹⁰ Snopkov: Belarus and China show the world an exemplary example of cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/snopkov-belarus-i-kitaj-demonstrirujut-vsemu-miru-obraztsovyj-primer-sotrudnichestva-576412-2023/>

³⁹¹ Belarus and China agreed to implement major projects in the field of development and cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-kitaj-dogovorilis-o-realizatsii-krupnyh-proektov-v-oblasti-razvitiia-i-sotrudnichestva-576096-2023/>

³⁹² The Ministry of Industry of Belarus and the Chinese company Sinomach signed an action plan to develop cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/minprom-belarusi-i-kitajskaja-kompanija-sinomach-podpisali-plan-meropriatii-po-razvitiu-576228-2023/>

enterprises from Belarus, supply of components for Belarusian manufacturers of agricultural machinery.

Also in July 2023, the Chinese company Baimen and OJSC Slutsk Cheese-Making Plant signed a strategic commercial agreement on the creation of a joint venture for the production of dairy products this year in the administrative center of Liaoning province - in the city of Shenyang. Let us note that this Chinese company is a major exporter of “Belarusian dairy products (products worth about \$50 million were exported in 2022. It is implementing a project for processing colostrum and producing whey protein at the site of the Great Stone Industrial Park ³⁹³.” By creating a joint venture in Shenyang, the Baimen company and the Slutsk cheese-making plant intend to further scale the project, systematically increasing the line of dairy products produced for the Chinese buyer.

And one more interesting fact. Also in July 2023, OJSC Management Company of the Bobruiskagromash Holding held negotiations with the YTO company Group Corporation , a Chinese manufacturer of agricultural and construction equipment, part of the complex machine-building conglomerate Sinomach , “to organize joint production of self-propelled mowers and utility vehicles, and also discussed the supply of components for Bobruiskagromash equipment from China ³⁹⁴.” In the near future, the parties will prepare the necessary documents for this project.

A separate conversation in this context is about the Chinese-Belarusian industrial park “Great Stone”. Let us recall that 2023 marks ten years since the President of the People's Republic of China (PRC) Xi Jinping announced the “One Belt, One Road” initiative, which marked a new era in the economic relations of states and united more than a hundred countries throughout planet. Among the first participants in this mega-project was the Republic of Belarus, where the Great Stone Park is actively developing,

³⁹³ A Belarusian-Chinese enterprise for the production of dairy products will be created in China this year [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belorussko-kitajskoe-predpriatie-po-proizvodstvu-molochnoj-produktsii-sozhdut-v-knr-v-etom-godu-576098-2023/>

³⁹⁴ “Bobruiskagromash” and the Chinese company YTO Group Corporation discussed prospects for cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/bobruiskagromash-i-kitajskaja-kompanija-yto-group-corporation-obsudili-perspektivy-sotrudnichestva-575895-2023/>

which plays the role of a key platform for this initiative and already unites more than a hundred residents from 15 countries. Suffice it to say that “the volume of actual investments of the park has already exceeded \$830 million, and the volume of declared investments is \$1.34 billion ³⁹⁵. ” And in the first quarter of 2023 alone, 11 new companies with investment projects in the field of logistics, e-commerce, medicine, biotechnology, instrument engineering, research and development have already been registered here. To be more precise, “now the number of residents of the Great Stone industrial park has reached 108 <...>. Production volume [for three months of 2023] increased by 1.3 times, revenue from sales of goods - by 1.8 times, export of goods - by 1.2 times, foreign direct investment on a net basis - by 2 times, tax payments - 3.5 times ³⁹⁶. ”

One of the priority areas of the “Great Stone” today is mechanical engineering. Let us remind you that the cluster of enterprises operating in this area is the largest in the park and has more than 20 projects. In particular, joint Belarusian-Chinese enterprises operate here, producing internal combustion engines and gearboxes for passenger and freight transport. Some of the Chinese residents produce construction equipment based on the chassis of the Minsk Automobile Plant, and the Belarusian resident produces glass for all types of ground transport, which is in great demand in the countries of the Eurasian Economic Union. Another current direction of “Great Stone” is high-tech and competitive production - companies carrying out research and development. Currently, more than 25 such companies are registered in the park.

Speaking about new residents, it can be noted that in March 2023, another company was registered in the Great Stone industrial park - IRBI LLC, the investment project of which is of an innovative import-substituting nature. “A resident of the park will produce all-in-one computers, mini-

³⁹⁵ The declared investments of “Great Stone” residents are estimated at more than \$1.3 billion [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/zajavlennye-investitsii-rezidentov-velikogo-kamnja-otsenivajutsja-bolee-chem-v-13-mlrd-568784-2023/>

³⁹⁶ Ministry of Economy: 11 new companies were registered in the Great Stone in the first quarter [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/minekonomiki-za-i-kvartal-v-velikom-kamne-zaregistrirvano-11-novyh-kompanij-567541-2023/>

computers for offices and industrial computers, as well as components for computer equipment. In addition to production, the company will introduce its own application software systems ³⁹⁷. " These products will be intended for the domestic market of Belarus, and will also be exported to the countries of the Eurasian Economic Union.

In April 2023, another resident was registered in the industrial park - SinoBelMedica LLC, initiated by the Chinese company Shanghai Electric Medical Group , part of the largest manufacturer of energy and industrial equipment Shanghai Electric Group Company Limited . The new resident "will implement a project to create a modern high-tech production of X-ray tubes on the territory of the industrial park. Sales of products on the Belarusian market will contribute to import substitution ³⁹⁸. "

In May 2023, at negotiations between the management of the park and the delegation of Gansu Province, issues of the development of traditional Chinese medicine in Belarus were discussed, and "the possibility of creating a center for traditional Chinese medicine and the development of pharmaceutical production in the park was discussed ³⁹⁹. " And in June 2023, an agreement was reached on cooperation between the Belarusian Ministry of Health and the Chinese pharmaceutical company Jifei to study "the issue of creating a biotechnological cluster in the Great Stone Industrial Park for the production of medicines, vaccines, insulin, CAR - T technologies <... >. Work is underway to determine the prospects for localizing the range of medicines from the Jifei company ⁴⁰⁰. "

³⁹⁷ The new resident of "Great Stone" will produce computers and components [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/novvy-rezident-velikogo-kamnja-budet-proizvodit-kompijutery-i-komplektujuschie-558151-2023/>

³⁹⁸ The new resident of "Great Stone" plans to produce X-ray tubes [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/novvy-rezident-velikogo-kamnja-planiruet-proizvodstvo-rentgenovskih-trubok-560903-2023/>

³⁹⁹ The delegation of the Chinese province of Gansu will study the possibility of developing pharmaceutical production in the "Great Stone" [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/delegatsija-kitajskoj-provintsii-gansu-izuchit-vozmozhnost-razvitiya-farmproizvodstv-v-velikom-kamne-567520-2023/>

⁴⁰⁰ The Ministry of Health and the Chinese pharmaceutical company Jifei intend to sign a cooperation agreement [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/minzdrav-i-kitajskaja-farmkompanija-dzhifei-amereny-podpisat-sozlashenie-o-sotrudnichestve-569796-2023/>

And in the same June 2023, the Belarusian and Chinese sides announced that they would continue to attract investors with large projects to the Great Stone industrial park, with special attention being paid to the development of traditional Chinese medicine at the park site. And also “the ministries of economy of the two countries and the largest shareholder companies of the Industrial Park Development Company agreed to continue active work to attract anchor investors with large projects to the Great Stone, organize new in-demand production, in particular in the field of mechanical engineering and auto components, medical equipment, and increase localization of existing production facilities of residents ⁴⁰¹. ” The parties will systematically improve the investment environment, consistently eliminate emerging development risks and bring the park to a new qualitative level of development, strengthening its position as a central Belarusian-Chinese project and an international industrial cluster with an eye on the market of the Eurasian Economic Union.

At the already mentioned fifth meeting of the Belarusian-Chinese Intergovernmental Cooperation Committee, which took place in July 2023, the parties discussed, among other things, the dynamics of mutual contacts in the field of education in order to strengthen direct inter-university ties and implement a number of large-scale joint educational and scientific projects. Among the promising areas of interaction, the meeting participants noted the following: training and expanding the practice of implementing joint educational programs in innovative specialties by leading universities of Belarus and China; interaction on the creation of digital platforms that provide public access to educational resources; joining efforts to develop norms and standards for the digitalization of education; exploring the possibility of creating an Association of Higher Education Institutions of the two countries.

Let us note that to date, more than 560 direct cooperation agreements have already been signed between educational institutions of Belarus and

⁴⁰¹ Belarus and China will continue to attract anchor investors with large projects to the Great Stone [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-kitaj-prodolzhat-privlekat-v-velikii-kamen-iakornyh-investorov-s-krupnymi-proektami-569986-2023/>

China, which is about 10 percent of the total number of existing inter-university agreements between Belarusian higher education institutions. “On the basis of educational institutions of the two countries, 9 joint educational and scientific structures also operate (3 laboratories, 4 centers and 2 institutes), 40 joint educational programs are being implemented, 10 of which were developed in the last two years, the implementation of 6 of them began in 2022/2023 academic year. The possibility of implementing another 20 joint educational programs and organizing joint training of personnel of the highest scientific qualifications is being explored ⁴⁰². ” This fall, the educational departments of the two countries plan to approve a plan for the development of academic and scientific exchanges for 2023-2025, within the framework of which new concrete steps will be taken for constructive interaction between Belarusian universities and Chinese partners.

Among the active participants in this cooperation is the Belarusian State Technological University (BSTU). Back in April 2023, the Belarusian university discussed promising areas of partnership with members of the Guangdong Union for Scientific and Technical Cooperation with the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States. In particular, BSTU signed an agreement on interaction and creation of a joint laboratory of applied technologies with the Guangdong Vocational and Technical College of Light Industry. “The parties agreed to organize academic exchanges, summer schools, and discussed the prospects for contacts in the field of polymers, functional coatings, paper production technology and other areas ⁴⁰³. ” Documents were also signed on the implementation of joint educational programs with the Guangdong Nanhua Vocational College of Industry and Commerce and the Guangdong Vocational and Technical College of Communications. And a bilateral agreement on scientific and technical cooperation was concluded with the Ningbo International Science and

⁴⁰² Bakhanovich: education ensures intellectual, cultural and linguistic rapprochement between Belarus and China [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/bahanovich-obrazovanie-obespechivaet-intellektualnoe-kulturnoe-i-jazykovoe-sblizhenie-belarusi-i-kitajja-576391-2023/>

⁴⁰³ The educational and scientific potential of BSTU was presented in the Chinese province of Guangdong [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/obrazovatelnyj-i-nauchnyj-potentsial-bgtu-prezentovan-v-kitajskoj-provintsii-guandun-563887-2023/>

Innovation Center to jointly develop modern polymer composite materials, elastomers and plastics, and additive technologies.

In May 2023, BSTU entered into a cooperation agreement with the Kunshan Institute of Industrial Technology to create joint Belarusian-Chinese transfer centers in the field of high technology and 3D modeling . The point is that “every year the Belarusian side will select at least 10 projects that will be financed by the PRC in order to develop cooperation in the field of high technologies ⁴⁰⁴. ” In addition, the parties agreed to create a joint university “Kunshan-Minsk” on the basis of BSTU so that students could study part of the time in China, part in Belarus, and ultimately receive two diplomas. And one more interesting idea: together with Chinese companies, a biomedicine center will be created in the Minsk City Technopark, where they will develop testing technologies and drugs aimed at treating diseases of humans and various animals. In short, the agro-industrial complex related to vaccines will develop.

Another Belarusian university that continues close cooperation with Chinese partners in 2023 is the Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radioelectronics (BSUIR). In July of this year, in Minsk, together with the North China Research Institute of Electromagnetic Protection, BSUIR opened a Belarusian-Chinese research laboratory of external electromagnetic influences. One of the key tasks of the new laboratory is the development of a finished product that is of practical interest and in demand on the global technology market, “conducting fundamental and applied research, implementing their results, facilitating training and advanced training, conducting internships for engineering personnel and researchers of BSUIR and the institute- partner” ⁴⁰⁵, as well as strengthening international cooperation of scientists and specialists for joint scientific research as part of the implementation of China’s “One Belt and One Road” initiative.

⁴⁰⁴ Investments, creation of a joint university and biomedicine center. The Kunshan delegation visited BSTU [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/investitsii-sozdanie-sovmestnogo-universiteta-i-tsentra-biomeditsiny-delegatsija-kunshanja-posetila-569539-2023/>

⁴⁰⁵ The Belarusian-Chinese research laboratory opened at BSUIR [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belorusko-kitajskaja-nauchno-issledovatel'skaja-laboratorija-otkrylas-v-bguir-576810-2023/>

As for Chinese universities, there is a high interest in cooperation with Belarusian partners at Liaoning University, which in July 2023 became a partner of Brest State University named after A.S. Pushkin, as well as Brest State Technical University (BrSTU). In particular, the agreement between BrSTU and Liaoning University “provides for academic exchanges, joint educational programs, implementation of scientific projects and socio-cultural interaction. We plan to fill the agreement with real events and, in the future, to develop a road map ⁴⁰⁶. ” For example, to train Chinese students in the specialty “Smart Transport” on the basis of the faculties of mechanical engineering and information technology.

Returning to the fifth meeting of the Belarusian-Chinese Intergovernmental Cooperation Committee, we note that the participants in this discussion proposed taking scientific and technical cooperation to a new level and considered the possibilities of creating joint high-tech production facilities in a number of areas. “Such areas <...> could be robotics, electric transport, medical equipment and pharmaceuticals, laser technology ⁴⁰⁷. ” By creating a full innovation cycle - from the idea to the release of high-tech products, the parties will expand promising areas of partnership, interacting on the educational foundation of new ideas, which ensures the intellectual rapprochement of Belarus and China. In addition, all these facts indicate that the new model of strategic, including trade, economic, scientific, technical and educational partnership between the two countries, formed within the framework of the fifth meeting of the IPC on cooperation, is beginning to take on concrete innovative outlines for the benefit of the two peoples.

⁴⁰⁶ Brest universities signed cooperation agreements with Liaoning University [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/vuzy-bresta-podpisali-soglasheniya-o-sotrudnichestve-s-liaoninskim-universitetom-576902-2023/>

⁴⁰⁷ Shlychkov: the implementation of joint projects with China will allow us to create new high-tech industries [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/shlychkov-realizatsiya-sovmestnyh-proektov-s-kitaem-pozvolit-vyti-na-sozdanie-novyh-576315-2023/>

Belarus – China: interaction between regions reaches a new level

In March 2023, in Beijing, the Republic of Belarus and the People's Republic of China adopted at the highest level a joint statement on the basic principles for developing exemplary relations of all-weather and comprehensive strategic partnership between the two countries in the new era. At the same time, the parties signed a plan for the Year of Regions of Belarus and China for 2023. This document “contains more than 80 bilateral agreements and initiatives to attract at least \$150 million in direct Chinese investment by each Belarusian region and Minsk by 2026.”⁴⁰⁸ In September 2023, the third meeting of the working group on interregional trade and economic cooperation of the Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation of the Belarusian-Chinese Intergovernmental Cooperation Committee was held at the Chinese-Belarusian Industrial Park “Great Stone”, at which topical issues of interaction between the regions of the two countries and prospects for its development. The parties noted that certain economic indicators of cooperation between Belarus and China have reached a fairly high level. “In the first half of 2023, mutual trade turnover exceeded \$4 billion, with Belarusian exports approaching the landmark mark of \$1 billion

⁴⁰⁹ .”

One of the active participants in deepening trade, economic, scientific, technical and socio-cultural cooperation between the regions of the two countries is **the Minsk region**. In 2022, the trade turnover of the Belarusian capital region with the Chinese side exceeded two billion dollars, while the exports of the Minsk region amounted to almost one billion. At the beginning of 2023, the list of products supplied to the Celestial Empire from the Minsk region has already exceeded the mark of more than one hundred. “Products from dairy processing enterprises and other municipal enterprises in the

⁴⁰⁸ Zalesky, B. New realities for partnership. Chronicle of international cooperation in the conditions of economic mobilization / B. Zalesky. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2023. – C. 13.

⁴⁰⁹ Chebotar: Belarus aims to expand trade and economic cooperation with the regions of the PRC [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/chebotar-belarus-natselena-na-rashshirenie-torgovo-ekonomicheskogo-sotrudnichestva-s-regionami-kr-590444-2023/>

region are especially in demand. All milk processing enterprises of the Minoblmyasomolprom holding, as well as the Slutsk and Stolbtsovsky meat processing plants have an export license ⁴¹⁰. And in the five months of this year, the capital region has already provided export supplies to China worth more than five hundred million dollars.

Among the interesting partners of the Minsk region among the Chinese regions, we should note **the province of Guangdong**, which is home to more than 127 million people and which is attractive not only as part of the product sales market, but also as a supplier of technologies in the field of mechanical engineering and agriculture. After all, this province is one of the most developed in China, where powerful engineering and processing companies operate. In 2022, the parties celebrated the tenth anniversary of the signing of the cooperation agreement. In May 2023, the Belarusian region and the Chinese province agreed on the prospects for interaction. And currently, the roadmap for the development of bilateral relations is already being supplemented and updated. Note that “in the first half of 2023, trade turnover between the regions increased by 20%. Exports reached Br 646.2 million. Poultry meat, beef, and flax fiber are supplied to China from the Minsk region. The main imports are machines for automatic information processing, textile products, and auto parts ⁴¹¹. ” In addition, the parties are discussing the issue of attracting investment from Guangdong province to the economy of the Minsk region, as well as options for cooperation between the largest companies producing household appliances and cars, including electric vehicles, at production sites located in preferential zones of the Minsk region, such as the Chinese-Belarusian industrial park “Great Stone”, where in the nine months of 2023 “12 new residents were added ⁴¹². ”

⁴¹⁰ What products of the Minsk region may appear on the Chinese market in the near future [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://mlyn.by/01032023/kakava-produkcziya-minskoj-oblasti-v-blizhajshee-vremya-mozhet-povavitsva-na-rynke-kitava/>

⁴¹¹ The Minsk Regional Executive Committee discussed a roadmap for cooperation with the Chinese province of Guangdong [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/v-minskom-oblispolkome-obsudili-dorozhnyu-kartu-sotrudnichestva-s-kitajskoj-provintsiej-guandun-583608-2023/>

⁴¹² The Minsk Regional Executive Committee explained why the Chinese province of Guangdong is interesting for the regional economy [Electronic resource]. – 2023.

As for another partner of the Minsk region in China - **the province of Zhejiang**, the parties intend to expand cooperation in the field of traditional Chinese medicine. As you know, a corresponding center has been created on the basis of the Minsk Regional Clinical Hospital. In June 2023, at negotiations between the delegations of the Committee for Health Affairs of Zhejiang Province and the General Directorate of Health of the Minsk Regional Executive Committee, the directions for the development of this center, “the supply of medicines from China, the possibility of training doctors in the capital region in new techniques” were discussed. The Belarusian side also proposed to consider the issue of organizing joint production of biologically active additives and herbal medicines ⁴¹³. ” In addition, the task is to expand the capabilities of the mentioned Center for Traditional Chinese Medicine, where procedures such as acupuncture, manual therapy, and massage are already performed at its base.

Finally, one of the promising partners of the Minsk region among the Chinese regions should be noted **the city of Chongqing** - the only municipality of central subordination of China, which is also the economic center of the upper reaches of the Yangtze River, where more than 32 million people live. This city is a stronghold of the Chinese development strategy in the western part of the Celestial Empire and a nodal point of the Belt and Road project. Logistics hubs, ports and customs infrastructure are being built here to participate in the development of China-Europe Express logistics. Chongqing is a modern manufacturing base in China, where the complete chain of electronic information industry and automobile manufacturing is represented. Suffice it to say that in 2022, car production here amounted to more than two million cars, and 284 thousand units were exported.

As for interregional ties, Chongqing and Minsk region established sister city relations in 2017. With the launch of the regular service of the Chinese Railway Express “Chongqing - Minsk”, the trade turnover between

– URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/v-minoblispolkome-rasskazali-chem-dlja-ekonomiki-oblasti-interesna-kitajskaja-provintsija-guandun-593552-2023/>

⁴¹³ Minsk region and Zhejiang province intend to develop cooperation in the field of traditional medicine [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/minskaja-oblast-i-provintsija-chzhetszjan-amereny-razvivat-sotrudnichestvo-v-sfere-traditsionnoi-574675-2023/>

the parties is growing every year. “In 2022, imports and exports between Chongqing and Belarus exceeded 500 million yuan, an annual increase of 54.8%. Belarus is an important supplier of meat products and butter to Chongqing. Belarusian dairy products and confectionery products are very popular among city residents”⁴¹⁴. ” In 2023, the parties are taking new concrete steps to further deepen trade and economic cooperation and establish humanitarian and cultural contacts. In particular, within the framework of the Exhibition of Chinese Goods and Services - 2023, which took place at the end of June - beginning of July of this year in the Great Stone Industrial Park, where about 180 Chinese companies presented their products, a thematic exposition of the Exhibition Pavilion of Export Goods of the city was shown Chongqing. More than 20 city enterprises placed mechanical engineering products, including cars, motorcycles and components, on an area of about 300 square meters. In addition, official representatives of the Minsk region and Chongqing “discussed cooperation in the field of mechanical engineering, the supply of food products to the Chinese region, and logistics”⁴¹⁵.

Among the active participants in Belarusian-Chinese interregional cooperation is also **Vitebsk region**, which in 2022 exceeded the volume of supplies to China almost twice, amounting to more than \$55 million. But back in 2006, the bulk of the Belarusian region’s exports to the Celestial Empire were represented by only 12 consolidated items, of which 97 percent were synthetic thread bundles. “And at the end of 2021, the export basket of the Vitebsk region expanded to 28 items, and its basis began to be formed by the supply of agricultural products (meat, milk and dairy products) - about 70 percent”⁴¹⁶. ” And today these supplies also include dry confectionery,

⁴¹⁴ More than 20 enterprises from Chongqing will take part in the Exhibition of Chinese Goods and Services in the “Great Stone” [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/bole-20-predpriyatij-iz-chuntsina-primut-uchastie-v-vystavke-kitajskih-tovarov-i-uslug-v-velikom-kamne-573747-2023/>

⁴¹⁵ Mechanical engineering, medicine, tourism: Minsk region and Chongqing discussed areas of cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/mashinostroenie-meditsina-turizm-minskaja-oblast-i-chuntsin-obsudili-napravlenija-sotrudnichestva-574541-2023/>

⁴¹⁶ Mishin, A. What are the prospects for cooperation between the Vitebsk region and the provinces of China? / A. Mishin // [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL :

rapeseed oil, polyethylene, acrylic tow, fiberglass, flax and wood products, peat, and alcoholic beverages.

But recently, the interaction of the Vitebsk region with China goes beyond the scope of purchase and sale, as the parties move “to the next level - exchange of technologies, assistance in their refinement, in their research, development of new types of products”⁴¹⁷ in order to enter the plane of attracting investors, invest Vitebsk funds on Chinese territory and master new technologies. In addition, the emphasis in development is on the educational, scientific and cultural segments. Let us remind you that the Vitebsk region has signed eight bilateral documents - agreements, protocols, programs - on cooperation; regular contacts have been established and maintained at the level of executive authorities, organizations and companies with four provinces and one city of China. In addition, 19 bilateral documents have been concluded on cooperation between cities and districts of the Vitebsk region with Chinese partners.

The most intensive interaction in the Belarusian northern region is observed with **the province Heilongjiang**, which is located in northern China, where rice is grown and agriculture in general is very developed. Over the past 18 years, the parties have created a good contractual and legal framework for relations: 1) Agreement on cooperation in trade, economic, scientific, technical, humanitarian, cultural and other areas (2005); 2) Agreement on the establishment of sister city relations (2011); 3) Cooperation Development Program for 2016-2020. “Sister city agreements with the cities of this region of the Celestial Empire were once concluded by Polotsk, Novopolotsk and Vitebsk”⁴¹⁸. ” In May 2023, at the XI International Economic Forum “Innovation. Investments. Prospects” in Vitebsk,

https://vitbichi.by/news/ekonomika/analitik_obvasnit_kakovy_perspektivy_sotrudnichestva_vitebskov_oblasti_i_provintsiv_kitaya/

⁴¹⁷ Subbotin: cooperation with China goes beyond the scope of purchase and sale, into the plane of investment projects [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/subbotin-sotrudnichestvo-s-kitaem-vv-hodit-za-ramki-kupli-prodazhi-v-ploskost-investirovok-598640-2023/>

⁴¹⁸ Pushnyakova, A. Food products, MDF boards: Vitebsk region will present the potential of the region in June in Harbin / A. Pushnyakova // [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/prodovolstvennye-tovary-mdf-plity-vitebskaja-oblast-predstavit-v-ijune-v-harbine-potentsial-regiona-567209-2023/>

enterprises from Heilongjiang province expressed interest in partnerships with Vitebsk producers of meat products, and also “expect to establish mutually beneficial cooperation with Orsha and Dubroven flax processors in the near future, share their experience and discuss the possibility of supplying modern equipment”⁴¹⁹. And in June of this year, at the international trade and economic exhibition in Harbin, the administrative center of Heilongjiang, a memorandum of intent was already signed to establish friendly ties between the Vitebsk concern “Meat and Dairy Products” and an enterprise from the city of Suihua from the same province. In addition, the Belarusian side became interested in cooperation in the production of electrical equipment and instrumentation, since the Chinese partners have very great competencies in this area. So, new promising projects in this regional cooperation may appear in the near future.

Another – new – partner of the Vitebsk region in China is **the province Jiangxi**, with which the Belarusian region signed a cooperation agreement in the fields of trade, logistics, investment, economics, education, healthcare, sports and tourism in October 2022. “As the next practical step, it was decided to establish direct interaction between the Vitebsk SEZ and the special economic zones of Jiangxi Province and their residents in order to work on the issue of creating joint productions in Belarus and the use of cross-border trade mechanisms by Belarusian exporters to the PRC”⁴²⁰. They also discussed expanding the supply of Belarusian products to China using the Orsha-Nanchang reverse container train and exchanging practical experience in the investment field. After all, the city of Orsha has established interaction with the administrative center of this province - Nanchang - in the field of innovative and traditional medicine at the level of individual medical institutions. In December 2022, a document of intent for cooperation was signed by city hospital No. 2 of the Orsha Central Clinic and the Hongdu

⁴¹⁹ Pushnyakova, A. Chinese industrialists intend to establish cooperation with enterprises of the Vitebsk region / A Pushnyakova // [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/kitajskie-promyshlenniki-namereny-naladit-sotrudnichestvo-s-predpriyatijami-vitebskoj-oblasti-567149-2023/>

⁴²⁰ SEZ “Vitebsk” and special economic zones of Jiangxi province will establish direct interaction [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/sez-vitebsk-i-osobye-ekonomicheskie-zony-provintsii-tsziansi-naladiat-priamoe-vzaimodejstvie-566987-2023/>

Hospital of Traditional Chinese Medicine, which “provides for the exchange of practical and scientific experience, medical technologies, mutual internships and advanced training of medical workers, as well as implementation on the basis of Orsha central clinic projects in the field of traditional Chinese medicine, including physiotherapy, reflexology, electroacupuncture, acupuncture, qigong ⁴²¹. ”

As for the third Chinese partner of the Vitebsk region - **the province Shandong** , then back in 2005 the parties signed a memorandum of cooperation, and in October 2019 they adopted an Agreement on the Establishment of Friendship and Cooperation Relations, in which they “identified as priorities for the development of partnerships the development of an effective mechanism for interaction in the field of trade and investment, the development of cooperative ties... ” ⁴²². In February 2023, an Agreement was signed to establish friendly relations between Novopolotsk and the city of Liaocheng, Shandong Province. At the same time, the parties noted the importance of developing interregional ties as one of the key links in bilateral cooperation. They also discussed the implementation of a number of joint projects. It should be noted that in order to strengthen Belarusian-Chinese ties, the Vitebsk region and Shandong province regularly hold joint events and also conclude bilateral documents. “Previously, agreements were signed to establish friendly relations at the municipal level between the cities of Vitebsk and Jinan, Novopolotsk and Weihai, Orsha and Qingdao, Polotsk and Dezhou, Glubokoye and Jining ⁴²³. ” And in September 2023, three more memorandums of cooperation were signed: in innovation, in the field of education and youth policy. “Based on them and based on the results of the

⁴²¹ Orsha and Chinese Nanchang agreed to exchange medical experience [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/orsha-i-kitajskij-nanchan-dogovorilis-ob-obmene-meditsinskim-opytom-540364-2022/>

⁴²² Zalesky, B. From regions to innovation. Features of the Belarusian-Chinese strategic partnership / B. Zalesky. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2021. – C. eleven.

⁴²³ Novopolotsk and Chinese Liaocheng established friendly relations [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/novopolotsk-i-kitajskij-liaochen-ustanovili-druzhestvennye-svjazi-550863-2023/>

negotiations, roadmaps for interaction on specific projects and areas of activity will be developed ⁴²⁴. ”

Finally, in November 2023, as part of the 6th China International Import Exhibition in Shanghai, where more than 10 enterprises from the Belarusian northern region took part, including the Vitebsk concern “Meat and Dairy Products”, the Polotsk Dairy Plant, the Verkhnedvinsk Creamery, a branch of “ Lepelsky MKK” of the Vitebsk meat processing plant, the confectionery factory “Vitba”, the plant “Naftan”, the enterprise “Polotsk-Steklovolokno” and the textile manufacturer “Orsha Flax Mill”, the Vitebsk Regional Executive Committee signed a memorandum of cooperation with the Zonghai company Business Management (Jinan) to create the China Industry Park in Vitebsk, as well as the Belarus Industry Park in Shandong province at the Qingdao site, where enterprises will be able to present their products and work out issues of their sales in various regions of China. This will be one of the leading platforms from which Vitebsk goods will be distributed. This will be a point of export growth for the Vitebsk region, which they want to “utilize as much as possible, and not only for the sale of goods. <...> This is probably one of the most recent and promising projects ⁴²⁵. ” All this generally suggests that the Vitebsk region intends to even more actively develop cooperation with Chinese regions in a wide range of areas in 2024, including economics, trade, science, engineering, technology, as well as in the fields of education, healthcare, sports .

Now let's look again at the 6th China International Import Expo (China International Import Expo 2023) in Shanghai, where **the Brest Region** Day was held in November of this year , where the economic, cultural, tourism, educational, and medical potential of the Belarusian region was presented, with an emphasis on exporting goods and services to China. Note

⁴²⁴ Kochetov, S. Vitebsk region and the Chinese province of Shandong intend to develop and expand partnership in innovation, in the field of education and youth policy / S. Kochetov // [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : https://www.vitbichi.by/news/ekonomika/vitebskaya_oblast_i_kitavskaya_provints_iva_shandun_namereny_razvivat_i_rasshirvat_partnerstvo_v_inno/

⁴²⁵ Subbotin: an import exhibition in Shanghai helps enterprises express themselves and find partners in China [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/subbotin-vvstavka-importa-v-shanhae-pomogaet-predpriyatijam-zajavit-o-sebe-i-naiti-partnerov-v-kitae-598641-2023/>

that this exhibition forum was attended by “more than 150 countries representing the regions of Asia, Africa and Europe”⁴²⁶ and where various thematic sections were presented, including the automotive industry, high-tech equipment and information technology, medical equipment and medicines, consumer goods, trade in services, food and agricultural products. In this regard, the participation of Belarusian companies at the import exhibition in Shanghai is of strategic importance. After all, China is one of the largest and most dynamically developing markets in the world and “provides an opportunity for Belarusian companies to expand their horizons and establish business connections with potential partners and buyers, including Chinese state corporations”⁴²⁷. Important detail: if at the 5th China Forum International Import Expo 2022 in Shanghai, 27 organizations from the food industry, logistics, science and education participated in the Belarusian exposition, but this time more than 70 representatives from Belarus took part in this exhibition.

As for **the Brest region**, it is among the leaders among Belarusian regions in terms of trade and economic relations with the PRC. Suffice it to say that “over the eight months of the current [2023] year, the volume of trade turnover [with China] amounted to almost \$280 million and increased almost one and a half times. Thanks to contacts with business, Chinese foreign direct investment is already growing by 40%”⁴²⁸. At the import exhibition in Shanghai, the Brest region demonstrated a wide range of goods and services that attracted the interest of consumers not only from China, but also from other countries. In particular, at the collective stand of the Brestmyasomolprom concern, the Brest Meat Processing Plant, the Berezovsky Meat Canning Plant, the Kobrin Butter and Cheese Factory and

⁴²⁶ What will be the national exposition of Belarus at the international import exhibition in Shanghai [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/kakoj-budet-natsionalnaja-ekspozitsija-belarusi-na-mezhdunarodnoj-vystavke-importa-v-shanhai-582374-2023/>

⁴²⁷ The International Import Exhibition opened in Shanghai [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/mezhdunarodnaja-vystavka-importa-otkrylas-v-shanhai-597935-2023/>

⁴²⁸ Chinese partners are interested in creating production facilities and logistics companies in the Brest region [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/kitajskim-partneram-interesno-sozdanie-proizvodstv-i-logisticheskikh-kompanij-v-brestskoj-oblasti-598059-2023/>

the Luninets Dairy Plant, and the Pruzhany Dairy Plant presented their products with tasting. The educational potential of the region was presented by the Brest State Technical University, and the medical potential was presented by the Brest Regional Clinical Hospital.

As a result, representatives of the Belarusian region “signed 18 bilateral documents at the exhibition: seven agreements, four memorandums, six commercial contracts, one action plan. They relate to various areas, including trade and economic cooperation, cooperation in the field of education, healthcare, and tourism ⁴²⁹. ” For example, agreements were signed by: the Brest Regional Executive Committee with two corporations involved in the creation of transport and forwarding centers and the development of e-commerce; Brest State Technical University with the Hubei Institute of International Business and Economics. As for the memorandums on the development of cooperation, they were concluded by: the free economic zone “Brest” and the Brest branch of the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry with the administration for the management of the Coastal Park of the Integrated Bonded Zone in the city of Shenyang, which is the administrative center of Liaoning Province; Department of Sports and Tourism of the Brest Regional Executive Committee with the Belarusian-Chinese Center for Culture and Development of the People's Republic of China. Speaking about commercial contracts, they, first of all, relate to the supply of Brest food, mainly meat and dairy products, and are estimated at more than twenty million dollars.

A separate conversation concerns the sister city ties between the Brest region and Chinese partners. The Brest region has four sister cities in China - the provinces of Liaoning, Shanxi, Anhui and Hubei. In November 2023, representatives of the Belarusian region, in addition to the import exhibition in Shanghai, held active negotiations in **Anhui province** . An agreement to establish friendly relations with her was signed back in September 2017. This time, the parties adopted an action plan for the development of trade,

⁴²⁹ Gorodetsky, D. Commercial contracts and new cooperation agreements were concluded in China / D. Gorodetsky // [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/interview/view/v-kitae-zakljuchili-kommercheskie-kontrakty-i-novve-soglasheniia-o-sotrudnichestve-8970/>

economic, scientific, technical and cultural cooperation for 2023-2025. In addition, agreements were concluded to establish sister city relations between the cities of Brest and Hefei, the Berezovsky district and the city of Bengbu, and the Brest Regional Clinical Hospital agreed to interact with Anhui Medical University. Let us add that Brest and Hefei already intend to draw up a road map for cooperation. The main points to find common ground are “the production sector, transport and logistics, educational, medical, cultural...”⁴³⁰,

Speaking about the economic aspect of interaction between sister cities, Chinese partners are especially interested in creating production and logistics companies in the Belarusian region. In turn, the Belarusian side “is ready to offer services for the transfer of cars from narrow European to broad gauge, as well as the implementation of a project to create a transport and logistics hub in the Brest region⁴³¹. ” The fact is that Brest is a nodal point of the Chinese “Silk Road” and an important element of the cross-border corridor for promoting the “Freight trains from China to Europe” project. In addition, the Brest region is ready to provide the Chinese side with a site for the implementation of a project to build an educational center. And this is just the beginning of the implementation of new joint mutually beneficial projects.

All these facts indicate that Belarusian-Chinese interregional cooperation is gradually reaching a new level of cooperation in the conditions of an all-weather and comprehensive strategic partnership. So, in the near future, the parties will demonstrate even more innovative approaches to make it much simpler and easier for the regions to work on joint projects and programs.

⁴³⁰ Brest and Chinese Hefei intend to draw up a road map for cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/brest-i-kitajskij-hefei-namereny-sostavit-dorozhnyu-kartu-dlja-sotrudnichestva-599168-2023/>

⁴³¹ Brest and Bereza acquired twin cities in the Chinese province of Anhui [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/brest-i-bereza-obzavelis-pobratimami-v-kitajskoi-provintsii-anhoi-598126-2023/>

Belarus – Indonesia: action plan aims for maximum results

In April 2022, the seventh meeting of the Belarusian-Indonesian Joint Commission on Trade, Economic and Technical Cooperation was held. Within its framework, the parties discussed current issues of bilateral partnership “with an emphasis on the development of interaction in the fields of industry, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, education, tourism, digital economy and creative industry ⁴³². ” Let us recall that the sixth meeting of this commission was held in October 2017 in Jakarta. And even then, an agreement was reached “to intensify trade, economic and investment interaction between the countries, including the prospects for increasing supplies of products to Indonesia from JSC MAZ, BelAZ and MTZ ⁴³³. ”

Many facts indicate that the Indonesian market is very promising for the Belarusian side. Firstly, more than 270 million people now live here. Secondly, “Indonesia is an industrial-agrarian country where more than half of the gross domestic product is created in industry, agriculture and fisheries, where the main industries are oil and gas refining, metallurgy, mechanical engineering, chemical, food, and textile industries ⁴³⁴. ” And which is very interested in significantly increasing economic cooperation with Belarus, in increasing the supply of potassium chloride, automobile and tractor equipment, and dairy products from our country. In November 2019, at the Belarusian- Indonesian forum held in Minsk, in which more than 30 enterprises and organizations of the two countries took part, it was noted that “the task set by the government to achieve \$1 billion in mutual trade turnover between Belarus and Indonesia is quite realistic for the near future ⁴³⁵. ”

⁴³² On the seventh meeting of the Belarusian-Indonesian joint commission on trade, economic and technical cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : https://mfa.gov.by/press/news_mfa/ee2bb4e24073dbac.html

⁴³³ Belarus and Indonesia agreed to intensify trade and investment cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2017. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-indonezija-dogovorilis-aktivizirovat-torgovoe-i-investitsionnoe-vzaimodejstvie-271768-2017/>

⁴³⁴ Zalessky, B. Partnership journalism. Theory and practice / B. Zalessky. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing GmbH & Co. KG, 2013. – P. 69.

⁴³⁵ BelCCI: increasing trade turnover with Indonesia to \$1 billion is a real task for the near future [Electronic resource]. – 2019. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/beltpn-uvelichenie-tovarooborota-s-indoneziei-do-1-mlrd-realnaja-zadacha-na-blizhajshuju-perspektivu-368953-2019/>

True, in 2020, the volume of mutual trade between the countries amounted to only \$181 million, which, according to the parties, did not correspond to the existing potential of the partnership. But even then, 25 new items were supplied to the Indonesian market. And in 2021, trade turnover has already amounted to 232.3 million dollars, with the share of Belarusian exports being more than two hundred million dollars. At the same time, there was “an increase in non-resource exports to Indonesia by more than 2 times, including dairy products by more than 4 times⁴³⁶. ” So, the further increase in Belarusian-Indonesian trade turnover continues to be a priority area of bilateral cooperation today, which needs to be filled with new content. Actually, this was what was discussed at the seventh meeting of the joint commission, the concrete results of which were: the adoption of a Practical Action Plan for the development of key areas of cooperation for 2022-2023; the decision to create a working group in the field of agriculture, the first meeting of which will be held within the framework of the international agricultural exhibition “Belagro-2022”; reaching an agreement to hold a large-scale business forum “Belarus – Indonesia” in 2023, when the 30th anniversary of the establishment of Belarusian-Indonesian diplomatic relations will be celebrated; signing memorandums of understanding in the field of standardization, conformity assessment, metrology, accreditation and quality assurance of halal products.

Let us note that the signed memorandums supplemented the legal framework of bilateral relations, which already includes more than 30 documents, in an area that is extremely relevant for the Belarusian side today. The first of the memorandums signed by the State Committee for Standardization of the Republic of Belarus (Gosstandart) and the National Agency for Standardization of Indonesia provides not only for the exchange of information and experience, but also for the implementation of joint activities and projects. In particular, the Belarusian side is interested in the official dissemination of national Indonesian standards. The second document, signed by the Belarusian State Standard and the Indonesian

⁴³⁶ Trade and economic relations with the Republic of Indonesia [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : http://indonesia.mfa.gov.by/be/bilateral_relations/trade_economic/

Ministry of Religious Affairs, concerns cooperation in the field of ensuring the quality of halal products and the readiness of Belarusian partners to “demonstrate to their Indonesian colleagues the infrastructure for the quality of halal products created in the country, confirm the possibility of implementing Indonesia’s requirements for halal products and carrying out the necessary procedures for assessing its conformity in Belarus”⁴³⁷. “An important detail: the only body in our country for the certification of halal products - BelHalal LLC - has already posted the necessary documents for registration in the Indonesian national system for certification of halal products. And the signed memorandum should officially launch the process of its accreditation in this country in Southeast Asia.

If we talk about other areas of the food sector, a number of enterprises from Belarus are already accredited as suppliers of dairy products to Indonesia. In particular, “the products of OJSC Savushkin Product, OJSC Babushkina Krynka, OJSC Verkhnedvinsk Creamery and Cheese Factory have received the necessary certificates and have already entered the capacious Indonesian food market”⁴³⁸. “And this immediately affected the results of mutual Belarusian-Indonesian trade in 2021. They intend to join Bellakt OJSC, which is ready to “work on the issues of supplying products to Indonesia, as well as expand the product range and work out the supply of baby food”⁴³⁹,” as well as Milkavita OJSC, Glubokoe Milk Canning Plant OJSC and a number of other enterprises that received participation in the third Belarusian-Indonesian video conference on business and trade issues, held in December 2020 and dedicated to promoting exports of dairy products from Belarus to Indonesia. Now exporters of halal products from Belarus should

⁴³⁷ Belarus and Indonesia signed memorandums in the field of standardization and ensuring product quality [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-indonezija-podpisali-memorandumy-v-oblasti-standartizatsii-i-obespechenija-kachestva-497060-2022>

⁴³⁸ Kolesnik, V. Indonesia and Belarus: from potassium chloride and BELAZ to the revival of the tourism market / V. Kolesnik // [Electronic resource]. – 2021. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/politics/view/indonezija-i-belarus-ot-hloristogo-kalija-i-belazov-do-ozhivlenija-turisticheskogo-rvna-473916-2021>

⁴³⁹ The third Belarusian-Indonesian videoconference on business and trade issues is dedicated to the dairy industry [Electronic resource]. – 2020. – URL : <https://ncmps.by/news/tretva-belorussko-indonezijskava-videokonferentsiya-po-voprosam-biznesa-i-torgovli-posvashchena-mol/>

also become growth points in this regard, complementing such traditional positions as potassium chloride and mining dump trucks.

Speaking about other areas of Belarusian-Indonesian cooperation, we recall that in February 2021, the National Marketing Center of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belarus and the Indonesia Association Trade, Tourism and Investment Club signed a memorandum of cooperation and mutual support in the development of trade and economic relations. The Belarusian side sees its goals in the context of this document as “to intensify contracts on a legal basis, exchange information on bilateral export-import supplies and deepen cooperation between our countries”⁴⁴⁰. The development of partnerships between the regions of the two countries has considerable potential in this regard. Moreover, “interaction has already been established between the Brest region and the province of West Sumatra, the Mogilev region and the province of South Sumatra, the Minsk region and the provinces of East Kalimantan and East Java, as well as the cities of Minsk and Jakarta”⁴⁴¹. With the help of regional branches of chambers of commerce and industry, interaction has also been established with such provinces as Central Java, North Sumatra, West Nusa Tenggara, and the special district of Yogyakarta, where they see considerable potential for the development of trade and economic cooperation, educational and tourist exchanges with Belarusian partners.

For example, the Brest region and the province of West Sumatra announced their intention to establish close contacts back in November 2015. Then, such areas as “fish farming, processing industry, tourism, healthcare, pharmacy” were named promising in terms of mutually beneficial cooperation⁴⁴². Some other Indonesian provinces have long been familiar

⁴⁴⁰ Belarus and Indonesia signed a memorandum on trade and economic cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2021. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-indonezija-podpisali-memorandum-o-torgovo-economicheskom-sotrudnichestve-426979-2021/>

⁴⁴¹ Kolesnik, V. Indonesia and Belarus: from potassium chloride and BELAZ to the revival of the tourism market / V. Kolesnik // [Electronic resource]. – 2021. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/politics/view/indonezija-i-belarus-ot-hloristogo-kalija-i-belazov-do-ozhivlenija-turisticheskogo-rvna-473916-2021>

⁴⁴² Vechorko, S. Brest region is establishing cooperation with the Indonesian province of West Sumatra / S. Vechorko // [Electronic resource]. – 2015. – URL :

with the products of the Belarusian Automobile Plant. Thus, since 2012, a batch of nine Belarusian mining dump trucks with a carrying capacity of 45 tons has been successfully operating in the Indonesian province of East Kalimantan. In 2016-2017, 40 mining dump trucks with a carrying capacity of 110 tons were delivered to the province of South Sumatra for the needs of the largest state-owned coal mining company PT Bukit Asam . In 2018-2019, seven more mining dump trucks with a carrying capacity of 130 tons were shipped to the private coal mining company PT Tambang Raya USAHA Tama . And in 2020, “eight more 130- tonne BELAZ-75131 dump trucks started working at a coal mine on the island of Kalimantan ⁴⁴³,” where before them, vehicles from Belarus with a carrying capacity of 45 to 130 tons had already worked, the equipment and characteristics of which were most suitable for working conditions in this country. The plans of the parties include active continuation of this interaction.

A logical continuation of cooperation between the Belarusian and Indonesian regions is the development of partnerships in the educational sphere, where interaction is carried out on the basis of signed agreements: on cooperation - between the Brest State Technical University and the Sepuluh Nopember Institute of Technology; on mutual understanding - between the Belarusian State Agricultural Academy and the Agricultural Institute of the city of Bogor; on student exchange - between Minsk State Linguistic University and the University of Indonesia; on cooperation between the Belarusian State Academy of Music and the Jakarta Institute of Arts. Over the past few years, the Belarusian State University (BSU), the Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radioelectronics, and the Grodno State Medical University have also found partners in this Southeast Asian country.

In particular, in November 2020, a memorandum of understanding was signed by BSU and Airlangga University. The parties agreed to organize academic exchanges, implement joint educational and research projects, and exchange research materials. The first step to implement the agreements

<https://www.belta.by/economics/view/brestskaja-oblast-nalazhivaet-sotrudnichestvo-s-indonezijskoj-provintsiej-zapadnaja-sumatra-59706-2014/>

⁴⁴³ Eight BELAZ mining dump trucks started working in Indonesia [Electronic resource]. – 2020. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/vosem-kariernyh-samosvalov-belaz-pristupili-k-rabote-v-indonezii-387074-2020/>

reached was “the participation of BSU teachers in the DECOTA educational program . It is focused on attracting famous scientists to give online lectures to students at Airlangga University ⁴⁴⁴. ” And BSU students were offered free training in the Sura - Bali online program Community Immersion Program 2020, which involved studying Indonesian culture and tourism activities in the provinces of East Java and Bali. Note that this university is one of the oldest in Indonesia. It was founded in 1954 in the city of Surabaya. Its structure includes 14 faculties: from medicine and law to marine and fisheries, nursing and veterinary medicine. Almost forty thousand students receive higher education here. In passing, we note that BSU already had experience interacting with Indonesian partners. In particular, since 2016, NTP “Unitekhprom BGU” has been fulfilling a contract for the supply of medical equipment products - spirometers - for the company Global systech medika from Jakarta.

In 2022, a number of Belarusian universities signed documents on interaction with Indonesian partners, which indicates a further expansion of these ties. Thus, a cooperation agreement was signed in January 2022 by the Minsk State Linguistic University (MSLU) and the Veteran University of National Development in Yogyakarta, outlining in this document the main directions for the development of interaction: “the opening of the Center for Indonesian Language and Culture on the basis of the MSLU; opening of the Center for Belarusian Culture and Russian Language on the basis of the UPR “Veteran”; teaching the Indonesian language at MSLU on an optional basis; teaching the Russian language and giving lectures about the culture of Belarus at the UPR “Veteran”; holding cultural events at the Center for Indonesian Language and Culture at Moscow State Linguistic University ⁴⁴⁵. ” It is appropriate to add here that UPR “ Veteran” is one of the state universities in Indonesia. This is a university with a patriotic orientation, actively developing

⁴⁴⁴ A memorandum of understanding was signed between BSU and Airlangga University [Electronic resource]. – 2020. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/memorandum-o-vzaimoponimanii-podnisan-mezhdu-bgu-i-universitetom-airlangga-414083-2020/>

⁴⁴⁵ Cooperation with the Veteran University in Yogyakarta (Republic of Indonesia) [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.mslu.by/news/sotrudnichestvo-s-universitetom-veteran-v-dzhok-vakarte-respublika-indoneziva>

its educational base. The university has the Faculty of Mineral Technology, Industrial Engineering, Agriculture, Economics and Business and the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences. The educational institution conducts active scientific work and broadcasts its civic position.

In the same January 2022, a memorandum of cooperation was also signed by the Belarusian State Agricultural Academy (BSAA) and the Indonesian University of Tidar. And already in March, the first lectures on sustainable agriculture were given to Indonesian and Belarusian students - a topic that is especially relevant in modern conditions, since "progress in the development of agricultural production inevitably leads to such global problems as climate change, the development of soil degradation processes, salinization soils <...> and therefore requires close attention from the entire academic and scientific community" ⁴⁴⁶[14]. In this regard, both sides expressed a desire to make cooperation between the Belarusian State Agricultural Academy and Tidar University as useful as possible for solving both local and global problems related to finding ways to mitigate climate change and providing the residents of Belarus and Indonesia with sufficient food.

The competition for joint Belarusian-Indonesian projects for 2021-2022, announced by the State Committee for Science and Technology of the Republic of Belarus and the Ministry of Research and Technology of the Republic of Indonesia together with the National Agency for Research and Innovation of the Republic of Indonesia, should also play a role in intensifying scientific and technological ties between the two countries. The priority areas of the competition are: "health care and medicine (raw materials, including natural ones, for pharmaceuticals; medical equipment, stem cells); emergency management and environmental management; machine technologies for industry (optimization of energy consumption, food industry, computer modeling in engineering)" ⁴⁴⁷.

⁴⁴⁶ Noskova, S.A. Indonesia – Belarus: mutual interest / S.A. Noskova // [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : http://baa.by/news/?ELEMENT_ID=5208

⁴⁴⁷ Competition of joint Belarusian-Indonesian scientific and technical projects for 2021-2022. [Electronic resource]. – 2020. – URL : <https://science.bsuir.by/ru/konkursv-i-grantv/konkurs-belorussko-indonezijskikh-proektov>

Additional opportunities for expanding cooperation between Belarus and Indonesia are opened by the fact that an active process is underway between the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) and this Southeast Asian country towards concluding a free trade agreement. The parties signed a memorandum of cooperation in October 2019, thereby cementing the agreement that “this document will contribute to building an effective infrastructure for the development of trade and economic cooperation”⁴⁴⁸. On its basis, a working group was created, which focused its attention on issues such as trade facilitation, customs and technical regulation, and the development of financial markets. In mid-April 2022, the Council of the Eurasian Economic Commission approved a draft decision on concluding a free trade agreement with Indonesia. It is expected that the agreement itself will be signed in May 2022 at a meeting of the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council. In this regard, there are significant prospects for Belarus to supply cargo, agricultural and special equipment, X-ray equipment, bleached cellulose, and plywood to Indonesia at reduced customs duties. For reference, we note that traditional import items into this country are oil and oil products, telephones, wheat, computers and their components, sugar and chemically pure sucrose. Today, new ones are being added to their number, in keeping with the spirit of the times. For this reason, “manufacturers of urban electric transport can achieve certain success, since a program to update the public transport fleet is being implemented in large cities in Indonesia, and Belarusian enterprises have the opportunity to offer a competitive and environmentally friendly product”⁴⁴⁹.

All these facts indicate that in the near future Indonesia can become the most important partner of Belarus not only in Southeast Asia, but throughout the Asia-Pacific region. At least, all the necessary prerequisites for this have already been created.

⁴⁴⁸ Zalessky, B. Integration as a development factor. Features of regional cooperation in the post-Soviet space / B. Zalessky. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2021. – P. 62.

⁴⁴⁹ National Marketing Center on the prospects for promoting Belarusian goods to Indonesia [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/comments/view/natsionalnyi-tsentr-marketinga-o-perspektivah-prodvizheniya-belorusskikh-tovarov-v-indoneziju-8163/>

Belarus – Iran: new energy – into positive dynamics of cooperation

Iran is one of the most important partners of Belarus in Western Asia and the Islamic world. The countries established diplomatic relations in 1993. And today, Belarusian-Iranian contacts are developing very intensively. “In 2021, bilateral trade turnover between the two countries amounted to \$33.3 million, exceeding last year’s figure by 34.7%, including Belarusian exports – \$14 million, growth rate – 10.2%. <...> Exports of services from Belarus to Iran last year reached \$3.35 million. The balance of trade in services for Belarus is positive in the amount of \$2.8 million ⁴⁵⁰. ” The key items of Belarusian exports to Iran were equipment for the production of products from paper pulp, specific goods, longitudinally sawn timber, newsprint paper in rolls or sheets, equipment for heat treatment of materials, internal combustion piston engines, bearings.

In July 2022, **the 15th meeting of the mixed Belarusian-Iranian commission on economic cooperation was held**, where the parties discussed successful bilateral projects and reached certain agreements on the implementation of joint promising activities. Minsk and Tehran are interested in increasing the volume of trade turnover between the two countries. In the best years, the parties reached \$250-300 million. “Therefore, we intend to achieve a trade turnover of \$500 million in a short period of time. And there are all the prerequisites for this ⁴⁵¹. ” And Iranian Minister of Industry, Mines and Trade S. Amin even predicted even higher indicators in the medium term and expressed confidence that “we plan to increase cooperation in various fields. All this will allow us to reach a trade turnover volume of \$1 billion in the near future ⁴⁵². ”

⁴⁵⁰ NCM on the peculiarities of doing business in the Iranian market and promoting the export of Belarusian goods and services [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/comments/view/ntsm-ob-osobennostyah-vedenija-biznesa-narvnke-irana-i-prodvizhenii-eksporta-belorusskih-tovarov-i-uslug-8226/>

⁴⁵¹ Parkhomchik: Belarus and Iran are interested in increasing cooperation in industry [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/parhomchik-belarus-i-iran-zainteresovany-v-naraschivanii-sotrudnichestva-v-promyshlennosti-516021-2022/>

⁴⁵² Iranian Industry Minister: Trade turnover with Belarus may reach \$1 billion in the near future [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL :

Iran is showing increased interest in Belarusian industrial goods, agricultural machinery, machine tools, passenger transport, electric transport, and household appliances. There are great opportunities to expand the supply of Belarusian equipment to the Iranian **mining industry**. Moreover, this area is developing very quickly in Iran. In particular, Iran is interested in large supplies of mining equipment from the Belarusian Automobile Plant (BELAZ). After all, the country has huge reserves of copper, which today is a strategic raw material for the production of electric vehicles. “For the last ten years, BELAZ equipment has been in great demand on the Iranian market. She is reliable and has shown herself only from the good side ⁴⁵³. ” Since the Iranian side plans to increase production volumes specifically in the mining industry, Iran would like to receive about 800 more mining dump trucks. First of all, Iranian partners are interested in mining dump trucks with a carrying capacity of 90-130 tons.

investment projects are attracting interest in Belarus. In particular, in the free economic zone (FEZ) Vitebsk, the first resident in 2022 “was BRR Arshie ECO Health LLC, an enterprise with Iranian capital for the production of biodegradable tableware and packaging ⁴⁵⁴. ” And in July 2022, the Belarusian-Iranian Orie Galvametall LLC became another resident of the Vitebsk FEZ. The enterprise was created for the construction of a hot-dip galvanizing plant near the village of Farinovo, Polotsk region. The site has good infrastructure, and the founders are now starting pre-project preparation and design of the facility. It is planned to purchase Iranian equipment for production. The construction and commissioning of the plant will take about 2-3 years. The enterprise will be built near the Novopolotsk plant of technological metal structures, the products of which are also planned to be processed. “We are talking about cable-supporting structures, road barriers

<https://www.belta.by/economics/view/ministr-promyshlennosti-irana-tovarooborot-s-belarusiju-v-blizhaishhee-vremia-mozhet-dostich-1-mlrd-516242-2022/>

⁴⁵³ Iran is interested in large supplies of BELAZ mining equipment [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/iran-zainteresovan-v-krupnyh-postavkah-karjernoj-tehniki-belaz-516134-2022/>

⁴⁵⁴ Zalesky, B.L. SEZ “Vitebsk”: optimization with an eye to results / B.L. Zalesky // *Materiály XVIII Mezinárodní vědecko - praktická conference “Vědecký pokrok na prelomu Tysyačolytí – 2022.”* Volume 5: Praha . Publishing House “ Education and Science .” – C. 22.

and other products used in road construction and operated in aggressive environments⁴⁵⁵. ” It is also planned to process welded grating flooring, the production of which the technological metal structures plant began in the first quarter of 2021.

One of the important areas for the development of trade and economic cooperation in the coming years will be the interaction between Belarus and Iran in the field of **agriculture and food** . The Belarusian side believes that Iran can be considered as a promising destination for increasing domestic exports of dairy and meat products - beef, butter, chicken meat, chicken and quail eggs, as well as vegetable oil, animal feed and premixes, complex technical products, innovative developments in the food industry and agriculture. “In 2021, the mutual trade turnover of agricultural products and food products amounted to \$10.9 million, which is 22% more than in 2020.⁴⁵⁶” The parties’ plans include the need to further increase trade and economic cooperation in the field of agriculture and food, including organizing supplies of Belarusian crop, meat and dairy products, as well as animal feed and premixes to Iran, and counter supplies of vegetables, fruits, fish and seafood - from Iran to Belarus.

In November 2022, the Belarusian government delegation visited Iran, where various meetings and negotiations took place at the interstate level, during which it was noted that interaction between the two countries today is characterized by high development dynamics in almost all areas. In particular, this year Minsk and Tehran “significantly increased the volume of cooperation in many areas, from trade turnover to commodity flows and cargo turnover⁴⁵⁷. ” But, apparently, the parties still need to take a number of steps, conclude important documents, carry out many new events so that they can

⁴⁵⁵ The Belarusian-Iranian tandem of investors will build a hot-dip galvanizing plant in the Vitebsk FEZ [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/belorusko-iranskij-tandem-investorov-postroit-zavod-gorjachego-tsinkovanija-v-sez-vitebsk-513958-2022/>

⁴⁵⁶ Belarus plans to supply crop, meat and dairy products to Iran [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-planiruet-postavljat-v-iran-rastenievodcheskuju-mjasnuju-i-molochnuju-produktsiju-492495-2022/>

⁴⁵⁷ Roman Golovchenko: Belarus and Iran can achieve more in trade, economic and investment cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <http://www.government.by/ru/content/10474>

realize the full potential that Belarus and Iran have in the field of industry, science and technology, and agree on the approaches laid down into the draft roadmap for comprehensive cooperation for 2023-2026. Note that over the three quarters of 2022, trade turnover between the two countries “increased to \$63.6 million (an increase of 2.9 times compared to the same period in 2021), exports - to \$48.6 million (4.4 times), imports - to \$15 million (an increase of 41.8%). The balance is positive – \$33.6 million ⁴⁵⁸. ”

An important event in relations between the two countries was **the Iran-Belarus Business Forum** , held in November 2022 in the Iranian capital, organized by the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BelCCI) and the Iranian Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture, “which is the main partner of the BelCCI in Iran for 20 years ⁴⁵⁹. ” More than 120 executives and representatives of Belarusian and Iranian companies took part in this forum. Exporters from the fields of industrial production and mechanical engineering, woodworking, light and food industries were represented from Belarus. The Iranian side proposed a number of measures to stimulate mutual trade. Including: empowering small and medium-sized enterprises of the two countries, strengthening banking and insurance cooperation, identifying new joint projects, developing and simplifying the issuance of visas for businessmen and tourists, creating the necessary infrastructure for the development of economic relations, especially in commercial, industrial and technical sectors. In addition, it was announced “the opening of a credit line in the amount of \$100 million for Belarusian traders interested in purchasing Iranian products ⁴⁶⁰. ” Following the business forum, the parties signed a number of joint documents. In particular, the cooperation agreement was adopted by the BelCCI and the

⁴⁵⁸ Golovchenko: the positions of Belarus and Iran coincide on the entire range of issues on the economic agenda [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/golovchenko-pozitsii-belarusi-i-irana-sovpadajut-po-vsemu-krugu-voprosov-ekonomicheskoi-povestki-dnja-536376-2022/>

⁴⁵⁹ Iranian-Belarusian business forum [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.cci.by/o-palate/novosti/iransko-belorusskiv-biznes-forum/#>

⁴⁶⁰ The Iranian-Belarusian business forum is taking place in Tehran [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : https://iran.ru/news/analytics/121826/V_Tegerane_prohudit_irano_belorusskiv_biznes_forum

Iranian Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture, which “will give new impetus to the development of relations between the two countries
461 .”

As for cooperation between Minsk and Tehran in **the scientific field**, a number of treaties, agreements and memorandums have already been signed between the institutes of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) of Belarus and scientific organizations and universities of Iran. For example, “according to the agreement on scientific and technical cooperation between the National Academy of Sciences and the Islamic Azad University, 16 Iranian scientists ⁴⁶²graduated from graduate schools of scientific organizations of the Academy of Sciences and defended their Ph.D. dissertations .” But the parties intend to expand joint efforts to work on specific scientific areas and projects. To this end, in May 2022, the Belarusian side offered its Iranian partners a package of proposals on which they could work together to achieve effective results. Among them are new materials and technologies, production of medicines and pharmaceutical products, technologies and equipment for complex drinking water purification, mineral processing technologies, unmanned aerial vehicles, training and exchange of students, internships for scientists and teachers. It is planned that, at the initiative of the National Academy of Sciences, a draft roadmap for cooperation with scientific organizations in Iran will be developed, which will include promising areas of mutual interest.

In March 2023, the two countries celebrated a landmark date - the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. And in the same month in Tehran, the presidents of Belarus and Iran signed **a roadmap for comprehensive cooperation** between the countries for 2023-2026, which provides for interaction between Minsk and Tehran on a wide range of issues - in the political, economic, consular, scientific and technical spheres, as well

⁴⁶¹ The Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Belarus and Iran signed a cooperation agreement [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/torgovo-promyshlennye-palaty-belarusi-i-irana-podpisali-soglashenie-o-sotrudnichestve-536244-2022/>

⁴⁶² The National Academy of Sciences of Belarus will develop a draft roadmap for cooperation with scientific organizations in Iran [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/nan-belarusi-razrabotaet-proekt-dorozhnoi-karty-sotrudnichestva-s-nauchnymi-organizatsijami-irana-500275-2022/>

as in the fields of education, culture, arts, media and tourism. This document has become one of the most important elements of the legal framework for cooperation between Belarus and Iran. For reference, we note that “the Belarusian-Iranian legal register includes more than 30 international treaties and more than 70 other documents ⁴⁶³. ” In March, eight more were added to their number, including: an intergovernmental agreement on cooperation in the field of quarantine and plant protection, as well as an agreement on the transfer of persons sentenced to imprisonment for further serving their sentences; memorandums of understanding between the Ministry of Culture of Belarus and the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance of Iran, as well as between the State Committee for Standardization of Belarus and the Iranian National Organization for Standardization.

Speaking about the memorandum on **standardization issues** , we emphasize that this document provides for the interaction of the parties in the field of conformity assessment procedures, standards and technical regulations for the issuance of halal certificates and their mutual recognition for products produced and mutually supplied by countries. “At the same time, mutual recognition of halal certification results applies only to certificates issued by the relevant authorities of the parties: the Iranian National Organization for Standardization (INSO) and BelHalal LLC. The parties also plan to exchange experience and knowledge in the field of technologies, competencies, infrastructure, as well as research and development related to halal products ⁴⁶⁴. ” In addition, the parties reached promising agreements in the fields of industry, trade, transport, and agriculture. This suggests that for Belarus Iran is the most important partner in the Middle East. And the parties are interested in mutually beneficial long-term cooperation in a number of areas.

⁴⁶³ Koltsov: the Belarusian-Iranian legal register includes more than 30 international treaties and 70 other documents [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/politics/view/koltsov-belorussko-iranskij-pravovoj-reestr-vkljuchaet-bolee-30-mezhdunarodnyh-dogovorov-i-70-drugih-554851-2023/>

⁴⁶⁴ Belarus and Iran will mutually recognize the results of certification of halal products [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-iran-budut-vzaimno-priznavat-rezultatv-sertifikatsii-haljalnoi-produktsii-555113-2023/>

Let us emphasize once again that over the past two years, relations between Belarus and Iran have demonstrated a great breakthrough. "In 2021, trade turnover between the countries exceeded \$33 million, increasing by more than a third compared to 2020. But over the past year, the level of trade has increased even more significantly: in 2022, Belarus and Iran traded by \$100 million, and this is a three-fold increase ⁴⁶⁵. " **Economic cooperation** remains a key area of Belarusian-Iranian interaction. And there is confidence that the potential of bilateral interaction will significantly increase trade turnover in the coming years. In particular, "new supplies of quarry equipment, cargo and passenger equipment to Iran are currently being actively discussed. Work continues on the details of the licensing agreement to organize the joint assembly of tractors in Iran ⁴⁶⁶. " Another interesting fact: enterprises of the Bellesbumprom concern increased exports to this Middle Eastern country by 2.3 times in 2022. "Positive dynamics are also observed in January of this year. The growth rate was 134% by January 2022. Cellulose, paper and cardboard, and lumber are actively supplied to Iran ⁴⁶⁷. "

Belarus and Iran are developing cooperation in **the transport sector**. In March 2023, the two countries agreed on a permit-free system for the transportation of goods by road. Apparently, "already in 2023, road carriers will be able to transport goods without permits <...>. Iranian airline Mahan Air, starting March 26 of this year, will launch regular flights 2 times a week on the Tehran-Minsk-Tehran route ⁴⁶⁸. " The transport theme is continued by the fact that Belarus, together with Iran, will take part in the development of

⁴⁶⁵ Raisi: relations between Iran and Belarus have demonstrated a breakthrough [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/politics/view/raisi-otnoshenija-mezhdu-iranom-i-belarusiju-prodemonstrirovali-proryv-555018-2023/>

⁴⁶⁶ Rogozhnik: the potential of Belarus and Iran will significantly increase mutual trade turnover [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/rogozhnik-potentsialy-belarusi-i-irana-pozvoliajut-znachitelno-uvlechit-vzaimny-tovarooborot-554952-2023/>

⁴⁶⁷ Bellesbumprom enterprises increased exports to Iran by 2.3 times last year [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/predpriyatija-bellesbumproma-v-proshlom-godu-uvlechili-eksport-v-iran-v-23-raza-555029-2023/>

⁴⁶⁸ Belarus and Iran agreed on a permit-free system for the transportation of goods by road [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-iran-dogovorilis-o-bezrazreshitelnoi-sisteme-avtoperevozok-gruzov-555173-2023/>

the international North-South transport corridor. After all, "the Iranian side today needs to build about 180 kilometers of railway. And the Iranian side has actively begun this work to complete the North-South railway corridor in the direction of the port of Bandar Abbas ⁴⁶⁹. " For Belarus, this project is very important, since in this regard the Belarusian transit through Iran to distant countries is being updated.

Another important topic in the context of Belarusian-Iranian interaction is the development of active **interregional dialogue** . In this regard, we recall that "relations are developing between the Gomel region and the province of Mazandaran, the Mogilev region and East Azerbaijan, the Minsk region and the capital region of Iran. Connections have been established between Minsk and Tehran, as well as between Mogilev and Tabriz ⁴⁷⁰. " More specifically, for example, the Gomel region already intends to resume and develop interaction with the Iranian province of Mazandaran, "a document on trade, economic, scientific, technical and cultural cooperation with which was signed back in 2009. ⁴⁷¹" The Mogilev region intends to expand trade and economic interaction and intensify ties in the field of tourism, education and culture with the province of East Azerbaijan, where the Aras free economic zone is located. In May 2022, constructive negotiations took place on the prospects for cooperation and development of ties between the Grodno region and the province of Khomozgan. "The parties confirmed their mutual interest in implementing joint projects in various

⁴⁶⁹ Belarus will take part in the development of the North-South transport corridor through Iran [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-primet-uchastie-v-razviti-transportnogo-koridora-sever-jug-cherez-iran-555159-2023/>

⁴⁷⁰ Koltsov, D. Trade, cooperation and removal of barriers. How Belarus and Iran will celebrate the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations during Lukashenko's visit to Tehran / D. Koltsov // [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/interview/view/torgovlja-kooperatsija-i-snjatie-barjerov-chem-belarus-i-iran-otmetiat-30-letie-dipotnoshenij-vo-vremia- 8621/>

⁴⁷¹ Zalesky, B.L. Priority – restoration of partnerships / B.L. Zalesky // Materiały XVII Międzynarodowej naukowi - praktycznej conference "Europejska" nauka XXI powieka – 2021", Volume 4. Przemysł : Nauka i studio . – C. 23.

fields. Priority activities have been identified aimed at forming long-term sustainable relationships ⁴⁷². ”

Among the Belarusian regions that actively cooperated with Iranian partners in 2022, one should also note **the Minsk region** , whose trade turnover with Iran increased 10.5 times compared to 2021. Statistics state that “in January-December 2022, trade turnover between the Minsk region and the Islamic Republic of Iran amounted to \$51,190.5 thousand (growth rate of 114.1%). Including exports - \$44,309.8 thousand (120%), imports - \$6,880.7 thousand (113.5%). There was a positive foreign trade balance of \$37,429.1 thousand.” ⁴⁷³. The basis of Minsk region's export supplies last year was dominated by lumber, plywood, veneered wood panels, other engines and power plants, electric engines and generators. In turn, the Minsk region imports dates, figs, pineapples, avocados, guava, mangoes, mangosteen, lettuce, fresh and chilled chicory, and other vegetables, fruits, and nuts from Iran. In addition, “several successful Iranian projects are being implemented in the capital region. We can note such projects as "AFTAB", the paint production project "Bel Peka Paint" and the sheep breeding project "Eastern Ship" ⁴⁷⁴. In the future, apparently, the parties have great prospects for development in a number of areas.

The Belarusian side is also attentive to other incoming proposals for cooperation between regions. In 2022 alone, direct interaction was established with the governors of the Iranian provinces of Hormozgan, Mazandaran, Isfahan, Gilan, as well as with the mayors of the cities of Bandar Abbas, Isfahan, Rasht and Astara. This suggests that new connections between the regions and cities of the two countries, as they say, are already on the way.

⁴⁷² About the trip of the Ambassador of Belarus to Iran to the province of Hormozgan [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://iran.mfa.gov.by/ru/embassy/news/bdd91d54c2ef1c14.html>

⁴⁷³ Narkevich, G. “We welcome Iranian investment in our economy.” Turchin met with the country’s ambassador / G. Narkevich // [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://mlvn.by/15022023/my-privetstvuyem-iranskie-investiczii-v-nashu-ekonomiku-turchin-vstretilsya-s-poslom-strany/>

⁴⁷⁴ Trade turnover between the Minsk region and Iran in 2022 increased more than tenfold [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/tovarooborot-minskoi-oblasti-i-irana-v-2022-godu-vyros-bolee-chem-v-desiat-raz-550380-2023/>

In general, in recent years, Belarus and Iran have found the most effective and efficient ways to ensure positive dynamics for the long term in order to jointly breathe new energy into bilateral cooperation, preserving and increasing everything positive for the implementation of a multifaceted mutually beneficial partnership.

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Belarus – Mongolia: so that relations become strategic

Mongolia is a state located in East Asia, with which Belarus is developing effective cooperation in a wide range of areas. Trade and economic cooperation is actively developing between the countries, partnerships are being built between the Belarusian and Mongolian regions, inter-parliamentary contacts are being strengthened, and the implementation of joint projects in the field of education continues. At the same time, we note that since the establishment of Belarusian-Mongolian diplomatic relations in January 1992, the basis of bilateral trade has traditionally been Belarusian exports. In this context, promising areas of cooperation are the mining sector (supply of quarry and special equipment), transport (transit, supply of passenger vehicles, railway cars, equipment), road infrastructure (supply of special equipment, equipment and technologies), agriculture (supply of machinery, equipment, technologies, interaction in crop production, livestock farming, veterinary medicine), emergency prevention (supply of fire fighting equipment)" ⁴⁷⁵.

At the end of 2018, with a total trade turnover of \$19.5 million, the value of exports from Belarus exceeded \$19 million, with a positive balance for the Belarusian side of \$18.8 million. The main supplies of goods from Belarus to Mongolia were milk, condensed and dry cream, trucks, plastic containers, road and construction equipment, butter, medicines, bread and flour confectionery products, synthetic uncombed fibers, shoes, sugar, engines and power plants . In the same 2018, the turnover of services between the two countries increased almost 1.8 times, exceeding six million dollars. Facts show that bilateral relations between Belarus and Mongolia have intensified noticeably in recent years after:

- 1) the creation in 2013 of the Joint Belarusian-Mongolian Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation;
- 2) the opening of the Belarusian embassy in Ulaanbaatar in June 2014;

⁴⁷⁵ Mongolia [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://export.by/mongolia>

3) the emergence in 2015 of the Joint Belarusian-Mongolian Commission on Cooperation in the Field of Science and Technology and the bilateral interdepartmental Working Group on Cooperation in Agriculture.

In June 2018, on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit in the Chinese city of Qingdao, the leaders of the two countries during a bilateral meeting stated that “Belarus and Mongolia are located between large states or blocs, so it is important to be able to take advantage of this position and find advantages from an economic point of view ⁴⁷⁶. ” The Belarusian side then voiced its readiness to create high-performance enterprises and equipment production on Mongolian soil, and the Mongolian side expressed interest, first of all, in creating dairy production using Belarusian technologies. In general, in recent years, in relations between Belarus and Mongolia, “the legal framework has been expanded, trade and economic cooperation has been strengthened. Cooperation has begun in the agricultural, scientific and technical spheres. Bilateral ties in the field of education and sports have been restored ⁴⁷⁷. ” And in the future, the Mongolian side is not only interested in more active cooperation with Belarus in the field of agriculture, mechanical engineering, food industry, science, education, but also sees great opportunities in the broad mutual use of each other’s transit potential. According to the parties, “Belarus can become a gateway to Europe for Mongolia and its goods, and Mongolia can become a conduit to Asia for Belarusian products ⁴⁷⁸. ”

In April 2019, **an intergovernmental general agreement was adopted on the provision of an export loan**, which made it possible to ensure the supply of Belarusian equipment to Mongolia. In accordance with this document, “in the coming years, the parties will work on issues of supply

⁴⁷⁶ Negotiations with the President of Mongolia Khaltmagiin Battulga [Electronic resource]. – 2018. – URL : http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/vstrecha-s-prezidentom-mongolii-khaltmagijn-battulgoj-18894/

⁴⁷⁷ Transcript of the approach to the press of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belarus V. Makei following negotiations with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia (June 4, 2018, Minsk) [Electronic resource]. – 2018. – URL : http://mfa.gov.by/press/news_mfa/d211839fb93936d7.html

⁴⁷⁸ Tsogtbaatar, D. Belarus can become a gateway to Europe for Mongolia and its goods / D. Tsogtbaatar // [Electronic resource]. – 2018. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/opinions/view/belarus-mozhet-stat-dlja-mongolii-i-ee-tovarov-vyhodom-v-evropu-6281/>

of fire, agricultural, municipal, road construction and road cleaning equipment, passenger elevators and railway cars ⁴⁷⁹. ” It was also discussed that in Mongolia, using Belarusian technologies, a dairy cluster would be created consisting of a milk processing plant and dairy farms, and “opportunities for developing cooperation in the construction and mining industries, education, as well as expanding the bilateral legal framework” were explored ” ⁴⁸⁰. And in June 2019 , **the fifth meeting of the joint Belarusian-Mongolian commission on trade and economic cooperation** was held in Ulaanbaatar , at which issues of the practical implementation of the intergovernmental general agreement on the provision of export credit were considered, and **a Roadmap for the development of cooperation between the Republic of Belarus and Mongolia** was signed for 2019-2021

And already within the framework of this loan, several large projects were implemented in 2021. “More than 70 units of fire fighting equipment on MAZ chassis were supplied for the needs of the State Emergency Management Agency of Mongolia. <...> The supply of road cleaning and repair equipment on MAZ chassis for the needs of the Ministry of Roads and Transport Development of Mongolia has become very popular. 42 units delivered to all aimags of Mongolia ⁴⁸¹. ” The Belarusian side also transferred technology for repairing road surfaces and provided assistance in creating in this country the production of the necessary components to ensure the operation of road repair machines. As for other results of 2021, “the trade turnover of food products and agricultural raw materials with Mongolia amounted to \$14.1 million (increased 2.5 times compared to 2020). The main

⁴⁷⁹ Belarus will provide an export loan to Mongolia for the purchase of its equipment [Electronic resource]. – 2019. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-predostavit-eksportnyj-kredit-mongolii-na-pokupku-svoej-tehniki-345020-2019/>

⁴⁸⁰ A regular meeting of the Belarusian-Mongolian Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation was held in Ulaanbaatar [Electronic resource]. – 2019. – URL : <http://mongolia.mfa.gov.by/ru/embassy/news/ddb45d27a11bdef0.html>

⁴⁸¹ Interview of the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Belarus to Mongolia D. Gorelik to the information portal “ GOGO ” (January 5, 2022) [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://mfa.gov.by/press/smi/bf44fc21553530dd.html>

export items were milk and dairy products - 85.9%⁴⁸². " In the same year, the Mongolian side decided to purchase about nine thousand heads of highly productive pedigree cattle of Belarusian selection from Belarus.

Interesting prospects have also opened up in **Belarusian-Mongolian cooperation in the field of education**, the basic element of which is the intergovernmental agreement on cooperation in this area signed in 2013, which provides for the possibility of an annual exchange of students to study at universities of the parties. Fulfilling the provisions of this document and within the framework of the implementation of the Memorandum of interaction and cooperation between the Dalanzadgad somon of Umnugovi aimag and the city of Zhodino, signed in 2016, "in the 2017/2018 academic year, six Mongolian citizens were enrolled to study at the Branch of BNTU "Zhodino State College""⁴⁸³. And in 2021, more than 30 Mongolian students have already studied in Belarus. Their most popular specialties were: general medicine, information technology software, information systems and technologies, mining machinery and equipment, agronomy, veterinary medicine, law, and transport logistics.

The sixth meeting of the joint Belarusian-Mongolian commission, during which current issues of expanding mutually beneficial partnership were discussed, took place in February 2022 in a video conference format, at which it was noted that "among the main goods exported from Belarus to Mongolia are food products and quarry equipment⁴⁸⁴. " The parties then agreed to intensify projects to be implemented under the General Export Credit Agreement (2019), including the replacement or reconstruction of elevators in residential buildings in Ulaanbaatar and the supply of agricultural machinery and equipment. And then "an agreement was reached on cooperation with Belarus within the framework of the national movement

⁴⁸² Belarus and Mongolia intend to increase cooperation in agriculture [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-mongolija-namereny-naraschivat-sotrudnichestvo-v-selskom-hozjaistve-498561-2022/>

⁴⁸³ Humanitarian cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2019. – URL : http://mongolia.mfa.gov.by/ru/bilateral_relations/cultural/e6d8f5ae8191d258.html

⁴⁸⁴ Belarus and Mongolia held a meeting of the commission on trade and economic cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-mongolija-proveli-zasedanie-komissii-po-torgovo-ekonomicheskomu-sotrudnichestvu-487044-2022/>

“Billion Trees””⁴⁸⁵, initiated by the President of Mongolia U. Khurelsukh in 2021. Also in 2022, **interregional cooperation began to develop more actively**.

Among the Belarusian regions that are seriously interested in developing trade and economic cooperation with Mongolian partners is **the Brest region**. Suffice it to say that foreign trade turnover with Mongolia in 2021 increased by more than 2.5 times and amounted to more than \$1.2 million. The positive dynamics continue in subsequent years, which are based on deliveries of furniture, industrial equipment, and food products from the Brest region. And the parties have a good basis for expanding partnerships. After all, Mongolia is a country with a developed mining industry, agriculture, where the livestock population is more than 70 million. And “more than half of the world’s cashmere is of Mongolian origin”⁴⁸⁶.

The Mogilev region also has a high interest in cooperation with this East Asian country. Indeed, in 2020, the trade turnover of the Belarusian region with Mongolia was only 179 thousand dollars, in 2021 - more than one and a half million dollars, and “at the end of 9 months of the current [2022] year, this figure will be about \$2.7 million”⁴⁸⁷. In October 2022, negotiations were held in Mogilev with a delegation **from Bulgan aimag**. The main industry of the Mongolian region is agriculture, including livestock raising and farming. Among the issues that were discussed during the meeting was the experience of the Mogilev region in training highly professional specialists in these fields, as well as the development of cultural, educational, sports and tourism cooperation. And the parties have already agreed to work in these directions.

⁴⁸⁵ Battsetseg, G. Mongolia and Belarus held an online meeting of the commission on trade and economic cooperation / G. Battsetseg // [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://montsame.mn/ru/read/291038>

⁴⁸⁶ Brest region and Mongolia are interested in developing cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/brestskaja-oblast-i-mongolija-zainteresovan-v-razvitii-sotrudnichestva-497468-2022/>

⁴⁸⁷ Isachenko on cooperation with Mongolia: success depends on the desire to work together [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/isachenko-o-sotrudnichestve-s-mongoliej-uspeh-zavisit-ot-zhelanija-sovmestno-rabotat-532389-2022/>

Finally, in January 2024, the seventh meeting of the joint **Belarusian-Mongolian intergovernmental commission (IPC)** on trade and economic cooperation was held in Minsk, where the state and prospects for interaction in the field of industry, agriculture, transport and logistics, finance, as well as in education were discussed, culture and science. The parties agreed that “today’s mutual trade turnover does not reflect the potential of the two countries; in past periods, the volume of trade turnover was much higher. <...> But we must do everything to ensure that the relationship between the two countries acquires a strategic character”⁴⁸⁸.

Among the priority areas of cooperation between Belarus and Mongolia, topics related to agriculture should again be noted. These are supplies of equipment for equipping dairy and livestock farms, potato seeds and other agricultural crops, veterinary drugs produced in Belarus, as well as issues of training and retraining of Mongolian specialists in Belarusian agricultural universities. As part of the IPC, at the third meeting of the Belarusian-Mongolian working group on agriculture, an agreement on cooperation in the field of livestock breeding was signed between the **Belarusian State Association “Belplemzhivoobedinenie”** and the **State Agricultural Corporation of Mongolia**, which “provides for the supply of pedigree cattle of Belarusian selection to Mongolia”⁴⁸⁹.

In addition, the parties discussed the issue of construction and operation of a multi-brand center in this East Asian country, where all Belarusian equipment will be presented - tractors, combines, trucks, mining dump trucks. And **Gomselmash OJSC** has already signed a contract with the State Agricultural Corporation of Mongolia for the supply of 10 self-propelled mowers. Note that “this [Mongolian] market consumes up to 300 units of self-propelled grain harvesting equipment annually”⁴⁹⁰. ” Gomel

⁴⁸⁸ They plan to open a multi-brand center for Belarusian technology in Mongolia [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/multibrendovyi-tsentr-belorusskoj-tehniki-planirujut-otkryt-v-mongolii-611362-2024/>

⁴⁸⁹ Belarus plans to expand the range of food supplies to Mongolia [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-planiruet-rasshirit-assortiment-postavok-prodovolstvija-v-mongoliju-611355-2024/>

⁴⁹⁰ Gomselmash resumes supplies to Mongolia [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/gomselmash-vozobnovljaet-postavki-v-mongoliju-611342-2024/>

mowers were supplied to the Mongolian market until 2015. And today these deliveries are already being resumed. For reference: Gomselmash took part in the **48th international exhibition Ulaanbaatar back in the fall of 2023 Partnership -2023 in Ulaanbaatar**, where he showed a wide range of manufactured products, which can be modified to meet the requirements of Mongolian specifics and the wishes of customers based on the purposes of their use. As part of this business forum, specialists from the Gomel enterprise held negotiations with representatives of the **Ministry of Agriculture of Mongolia and KOOGS Agricultural Corporation**, where “the main topic was the promotion of Belarusian combines to the Mongolian market”⁴⁹¹. And already in 2024, supplies of equipment from Gomel, which is in demand, begin. **The Minsk Tractor Plant is also** interested in increasing the volume of supplies of BELARUS equipment to this country. Moreover, “the growth rate of MTZ exports to Mongolia in 2023 was 163.3% compared to 2022.”⁴⁹²

Returning to the 48th international exhibition in Ulaanbaatar, we recall that Ulaanbaatar Partnership -2023 is the largest multi-industry exhibition event in Mongolia, where hundreds of companies from such fields as agriculture, mechanical engineering, oil refining, construction and light industry gather annually. In 2023, the collective exhibition Made was presented at this forum in Belarus, where “six enterprises participated, covering sectors such as food processing, mechanical engineering, dual-use equipment and consumer goods”⁴⁹³. Among them was **Vitebsk Carpets OJSC**, which showed new samples of polypropylene carpet products and classic carpet collections. **Minsk Dairy Plant No. 1** presented a wide range of its products, including sterilized milk, cheese, skimmed milk powder, whey, sweet cream butter, glazed cheese curds, milkshakes and lactose-free products. Optical-electronic devices and surveillance systems, including

⁴⁹¹ Gomselmash is establishing business ties with Mongolia [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/gomselmash-nalazhivaet-delovye-svjazi-s-mongoliej-591381-2023/>

⁴⁹² MTZ is interested in expanding the supply of tractors to Mongolia [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/mtz-zainteresovan-v-rashshirenii-postavok-tractorov-v-mongoliju-612157-2024/>

⁴⁹³ Exhibition Made in Belarus was presented at an exhibition in Mongolia [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/ekspozitsiju-made-in-belarus-predstavili-na-vystavke-v-mongolii-590845-2023/>

night vision devices, laser rangefinders and rangefinder modules, as well as thermal imaging surveillance devices, were demonstrated by **the Scientific and Technical Center "LEMT" BelOMO**. Another exhibitor, **Zenit OJSC**, showed at its stand a wide range of products and promising developments, including LED headlights and lanterns for severe operating conditions, electrical products for elevator equipment, street and industrial LED lighting, a disinfection system for premises and elevator cabins. The company is interested in establishing business ties with Mongolian enterprises in the fields of mining, utilities and construction.

Finally, in Ulaanbaatar, visitors to the exhibition were able to get acquainted with the capabilities of **the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange (BUCE)**, which has established contacts with representatives of Mongolian businesses in order to attract them to auctions as sellers or buyers. And among the promising product items that BUCE considered during the exhibition, the main attention was paid to the export of Belarusian agricultural products and petrochemicals to Mongolia. In the future, “BUCE expects to tap into the potential of the industrial and consumer goods platform, where deals for the sale of Mongolian products are already being concluded...”⁴⁹⁴. To the above, we can add that in September 2023, the first Mongolian stock broker was accredited at BUCE - **the United Meres Machinery company**, which has been operating in the Belarusian market for quite a long time, has good experience in supplying raw materials for the metallurgical industry and is engaged in the sale of quarry and special equipment Belarusian Automobile Plant to mining enterprises of Mongolia. As a BUCE broker, the company intends to diversify its product portfolio and use all groups of goods presented on the Belarusian exchange platform. After all, “Mongolia is a promising market for Belarusian enterprises, both in terms of the purchase of raw materials and supplies, and the sale of finished products. Using the exchange platform as a link between Belarusian and Mongolian business entities will not only simplify the search for business partners, but will remove the main

⁴⁹⁴ The capabilities of the Belarusian exchange platform were presented at the international exhibition in Mongolia [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/vozmozhnosti-belorusskoi-birzhevoj-ploschadki-predstavleniya-na-mezhdunarodnoj-vystavke-v-mongolii-590839-2023/>

risks associated with payment and delivery of goods ⁴⁹⁵. ” The new broker plans to start with goods in high demand - ferrous metals and coal. In addition, the possibility of supplying petrochemical and agro-industrial complex products to Mongolia is being explored. And in January 2024, with the help of the first Mongolian broker, the first transaction for the supply of granulated white sugar to this East Asian country was registered at BUCE. “The pilot purchase volume was 312 tons ⁴⁹⁶. ” Considering the high demand for sugar in Mongolia, it can be assumed that this product line could become one of the most promising for Asian markets. Moreover, after the successful execution of the first contract, Mongolian partners are already expecting an increase in the volume of exchange exports from Belarus.

As for the 7th meeting of the IPC, the parties also discussed current **issues of scientific and technical cooperation**, and noted the significant potential for strengthening interaction between Belarus and Mongolia in the field of science and education. In particular, within the framework of the IPC, at the fourth meeting of the Joint Belarusian-Mongolian Commission for Cooperation in the Field of Science and Technology, the parties agreed to announce in the near future **a competition of scientific and technical projects for 2024-2025**. “Points of mutual interest are agriculture, agricultural and forestry machinery and equipment, intensive livestock farming, reforestation and selection, crop production, as well as history and archaeology ⁴⁹⁷. ” And in the same January 2024, an agreement was reached on the signing of an updated agreement between **the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) of Belarus** and **the Academy of Sciences of Mongolia** with the addition of **a cooperation roadmap for 2024-2025**, as well as “on the development of the issue of signing a cooperation agreement between the

⁴⁹⁵ BUCE accredited the first broker in Mongolia [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/butb-akkreditovala-pervogo-brokera-v-mongolii-586995-2023/>

⁴⁹⁶ Belarusian sugar was sold to Mongolia for the first time through BUCE [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/beloruskij-sahar-vpervye-prodan-v-mongoliju-cherez-butb-611445-2024/>

⁴⁹⁷ The Belarusian-Mongolian competition of scientific and technical projects will be announced in the near future [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belorusko-mongolskij-konkurs-nauchno-tehnicheskikh-proektov-obijaviat-v-blizhajshee-vremja-611318-2024/>

NAS of Belarus and the Ministry of Education and Science of Mongolia ⁴⁹⁸. " In addition, the parties will consider the possibility of organizing a **forum of young scientists** in the first half of 2024 and will work on the issue of training Mongolian specialists in master's, postgraduate and doctoral studies **at the State Educational Institution "University of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus"** .

And another interesting topic was the focus of Belarusian-Mongolian interaction at the 7th meeting of the IGC - **ecology** . The fact is that the Mongolian government does not have a separate ministry of forestry. For this reason, environmental issues are distributed among several departments. We have already mentioned that in 2021, Mongolian President U. Khurelsukh announced an ambitious initiative to plant at least one billion trees by 2030. In this regard, increasing the technological effectiveness of forestry management is becoming a priority issue in Mongolia. In particular, this East Asian country became interested in the Belarusian experience in forestry and paid attention to several promising areas for expanding partnerships, including wooden house-building. And the Belarusian side suggested that "Mongolia consider high-quality ecological housing from Belarusian forestry enterprises ⁴⁹⁹. " In addition, Mongolian partners initiated joint scientific research on the topic of reforestation in the context of climate change and desertification, growing planting material and training specialists with the possibility of opening an industry training center.

Summing up the results of the 7th meeting of the intergovernmental commission on trade and economic cooperation, we note that today traditionally friendly relations and cooperation between Belarus and Mongolia are actively developing in the fields of trade, economics, agriculture, light industry and other areas. As for further bilateral interaction, it will only be saturated with new innovative ideas and projects so that these

⁴⁹⁸ Belarus and Mongolia are considering the possibility of holding a forum of young scientists this year [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-mongolija-rassmatrivajut-vozmozhnost-provedenija-foruma-molodyh-uchenyh-v-etom-godu-612262-2024>

⁴⁹⁹ Mongolia is interested in studying the Belarusian experience in forestry [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/mongolija-zainteresovana-v-izuchenii-belorusskogo-opyta-vedenija-lesnogo-hozjajstva-611197-2024/>

partnerships acquire a truly strategic character. After all, Belarus and Mongolia still have many untapped opportunities for cooperation. And the task of the governments of both states is not to miss these opportunities and create conditions for their implementation.

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Belarus – Africa: from targeted cooperation to full-scale partnership

The Republic of Belarus intends to increase supplies to the far arc countries. At a meeting of the Council of Ministers back in July 2022, the task was set to reorient export flows in the amount of at least \$16 billion. “The volumes of Belarusian exports to the far arc countries based on the results of 5 months are still quite modest. <...> A comprehensive strategy for cooperation with the far arc countries, plans for interaction between embassies and industries have been adopted...”⁵⁰⁰. In this context, such an actively developing continent as Africa is currently of great interest to Belarus.

Note that “by the beginning of 2022, the Republic of Belarus had established diplomatic relations with the 51st country of the African continent⁵⁰¹. ” Statistics say that in 2021, Belarus’ trade turnover with African countries amounted to half a billion dollars, of which \$480 million are Belarusian exports. “First of all, our country supplies mechanical engineering products, agricultural, quarry, and truck equipment. The products of the Belarusian Metallurgical Plant are also in demand now⁵⁰². ” This is understandable. For the Belarusian industry, the African market is one of the most promising for the supply of its products. Suffice it to say that “during the period January–November 2022, exports of products from Ministry of Industry enterprises to the African continent increased by more than 1.5 times. <...> Agricultural machinery made in Belarus is very popular , and has proven itself to be the best among African consumers, who note the high quality of Belarusian tractors and other agricultural machinery⁵⁰³. ” For reference, we note: from

⁵⁰⁰ Roman Golovchenko: Belarus intends to increase supplies to the far arc countries [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <http://www.government.by/ru/content/10368>

⁵⁰¹ Zalessky, B. Perimeter of the far arc. The potential of sustainable partnership in solving multi-vector interaction. / B. Zalessky. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing , 2023. – P. 177.

⁵⁰² Nikolaychik: Belarus is systematically and purposefully expanding its presence in Africa [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/nikolaichik-belarus-planomerno-i-tselenapravlenno-rasshiriaet-svoe-prisutstvie-v-afrike-547784-2023/>

⁵⁰³ Industrial enterprises of Belarus signed a package of cooperation documents in Zimbabwe [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL :

60 to 80 percent of the population of African countries are employed in the agricultural sector, so its modernization, mechanization, ensuring food security, and technology in this area play an important role for them. Another promising area of ties with African partners is services in the field of education. “Currently, about 1.6 thousand students from African countries are studying in Belarus. <...> First of all, they are interested in training in medical, technical, and agricultural specialties ⁵⁰⁴. ”

As for the diplomatic presence of the Belarusian side, today there are five embassies of the Republic of Belarus operating in Africa, which generally cover key regions of the continent. In West Africa - Nigeria, which is the economic leader in the region. In East Africa - Kenya, where the Belarusian side also has certain prospects for increasing trade turnover and the entire range of cooperation. In North Africa - Egypt, where we are talking about the project of the Minsk Automobile Plant to establish assembly production. In South Africa - the Republic of South Africa (RSA), where a project has already been implemented since 2021 to assemble machines from the Minsk Tractor Plant, which will enter the market under a local brand. Finally, between South Africa and East Africa is located in Zimbabwe, where a Belarusian embassy opened in 2022. All these African regions have one important feature: “a fairly large amount of minerals and natural resources are concentrated here, including rare earth metals, which are of interest to large states and beyond. Countries such as Russia, China, and the USA are quite actively involved in the implementation of various projects in Africa ⁵⁰⁵. ” So for Belarus, its presence on the African continent is systemic. Moreover, a new capacious consumer market is already being created there, including for the export of Belarusian goods and services.

<https://www.belta.by/economics/view/prompredpriyatija-belarusi-podpisali-v-zimbabve-paket-dokumentov-po-sotrudnichestvu-547368-2023/>

⁵⁰⁴ Together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, we are assessing the potential for cooperation with Africa. What are they interested in with us? [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/vmeste-s-mid-otsenivaem-potentsial-sotrudnichestva-s-afrikoi-cto-im-interesno-u-nas-547795-2023/>

⁵⁰⁵ Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Belarusian representative offices cover key regions of Africa [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/mid-predstavitelstva-belarusi-ohvatvajut-ključevye-regiony-afriki-547191-2023/>

For example, in 2022, we were working on the supply of a large batch of Bobruiskagromash tractors and attachments, Lidagroprommash sprayers and Gomselmash combines to **Nigeria**. The Belarusian side “is interested in the markets of South Sudan, Zambia, Malawi, and Egypt. Belarusian municipal and forestry equipment, as well as special-purpose equipment, are in demand here ⁵⁰⁶. ” An interesting promising area of cooperation with African countries is the construction of grain drying complexes, as well as the creation of assembly plants for agricultural, automotive and road equipment.

The markets of African countries are also being systematically developed by the enterprises of the Bellesbumprom concern, which are actively expanding the geography of supplies. In 2022, the concern's organizations sent products to **Tunisia for the first time**. The development of African markets began in 2015 with **Egypt**. “The concern’s products are also supplied to Algeria, Kenya, and Morocco. Key product items include paper and cardboard. Exports in 2022 compared to 2021 in monetary terms increased by 20% ⁵⁰⁷. ”

Another interesting example is **Zimbabwe**. Several years ago, this country set a course towards modernizing agriculture. And since 2020, the Belarusian side began supplying equipment as part of the agricultural mechanization program of this southern African country. An enterprise has already been created here that not only sells, but also services equipment. In 2022, “we [the Belarusian side] actually completed the second phase of this program. There is already an agreement that we will participate in the third phase. Again, tens of millions of dollars. <...> The second direction of equipment supply is related to the fact that in addition to the agricultural sector, the mining industry is also actively developing in Zimbabwe. The first

⁵⁰⁶ Parkhomchik, P. Belarusian industry under sanctions / P. Parkhomchik // [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/interview/view/beloruskaja-promyshlennost-v-uslovijah-sanktsij-ministr-o-borbe-s-novymi-vyzovami-planah-po-proizvodstvu-i-8121/>

⁵⁰⁷ Enterprises of the Bellesbumprom concern are systematically developing African markets [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/predpriiatija-kontserna-bellesbumprom-planomerno-osvaivajut-rynki-afriki-547390-2023/>

BELAZ trucks were delivered more than five years ago and are still successfully operating in quarries ⁵⁰⁸. ”

A new stage of cooperation with this state of South Africa began at the end of January 2023, when a state visit of the Belarusian delegation led by the President of Belarus took place in Zimbabwe, within the framework of which contracts were signed for the supply of about four thousand units of Belarusian tractor, agricultural and other equipment to this African country. technology, and the total economic effect is estimated at \$200 million. During this visit, a package of important bilateral documents was also signed, which includes basic economic agreements that are designed to ensure the development of industrial cooperation and economic cooperation with this state of South Africa. In particular, an intergovernmental agreement on the settlement of tax relations will help solve such problems as “the distribution of taxation rights between states, the elimination of double taxation, and the exchange of information between tax services ⁵⁰⁹. ” To further expand interaction, a bilateral joint standing commission has been created, and a coordinating body will also begin work - a task force working group between the ministries of agriculture of the two countries.

At the same time, the second Belarusian-Zimbabwean business forum “Expanding Horizons: Dynamic Solutions for Economic Development” was held in the capital of Zimbabwe, Harare, where 33 Belarusian companies participated and where it was noted that the most promising areas for bilateral cooperation were seen in the areas of healthcare, food, light industry, mechanical engineering, metallurgy, fuel and energy, mining, chemical, woodworking industries. For reference, we note that “the trade turnover between Belarus and Zimbabwe has increased 7 times since 2018 and reached \$39 million in January-November last year [2022] ⁵¹⁰. ” During the forum,

⁵⁰⁸ Ambassador of Belarus on cooperation with southern Africa: we need to come here seriously and for a long time [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/posol-belarusi-o-sotrudnichestve-s-iugom-afriki-sjuda-nado-prihodit-serjezno-i-nadolgo-547179-2023/>

⁵⁰⁹ Belarus and Zimbabwe agreed on cooperation in the tax sphere [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-zimbabwe-dogovorilis-o-sotrudnichestve-v-nalogovoi-sfere-547558-2023/>

⁵¹⁰ Transcontinental bridge, investments and Belarusian ice cream in Africa. Details of the business forum in Harare [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL :

industrial enterprises of Belarus signed a package of documents with partners from Zimbabwe. In particular, to develop cooperation in the field of agriculture, memorandums and cooperation agreements were adopted between the official dealer - the AFTRADE DMCC company - and JSC Lidselmash, JSC Gomselmash, JSC Bobruiskagromash and JSC Management Company of the Minsk Motor Plant Holding. , in order to sell the products of these enterprises on the market of this country. Also, a document on strategic partnership was adopted by MTZ OJSC and AFTRADE . DMCC – to promote BELARUS equipment in Zimbabwe. To this end, in 2023-2024, the Minsk Tractor Plant will supply 3,575 machines to the Zimbabwean market, and in the future the quantity of equipment and delivery dates will be determined based on the results of negotiations. Let us note that “in the period from 2018 to 2022, the Minsk Tractor Plant supplied more than 1.8 thousand units of equipment to Zimbabwe ⁵¹¹. ” And in Harare, a multifunctional service center has been created with branches in Mutare and Bulawayo and a spare parts warehouse to service the supplied equipment. And MTZ, together with its partner, constantly trains consumers on the features of operating BELARUS tractors. Another interesting fact is “the signing of a memorandum of intent between OJSC BELAZ, SOHRA Overseas FZE and the diamond mining company Zimbabwe Consolidated Diamond Company Pvt Ltd in order to implement agreements regarding the supply of Belarusian machinery and equipment for the mining industry of Zimbabwe ⁵¹². ”

Industrial cooperation with Zimbabwean partners has enormous potential in other areas as well. For example, a contract was concluded for the supply of Belarusian-made equipment for the construction and modernization of grain storage complexes in Zimbabwe. The fact is that the authorities of this country have announced plans to allocate farmland to Belarusian state

<https://www.belta.by/economics/view/transkontinentalnvi-most-investitsii-i-belorusskoe-morozhenoe-v-afrike-podrobnosti-biznes-foruma-v-547289-2023/>

⁵¹¹ MTZ will supply more than 3.5 thousand BELARUS tractors to Zimbabwe within two years [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/mtz-postavit-v-zimbabwe-bolee-35-tys-aktorov-belarus-v-techenie-dvuh-let-547284-2023/>

⁵¹² Industrial enterprises of Belarus signed a package of cooperation documents in Zimbabwe [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/prompredpriiatija-belarusi-podpisali-v-zimbabwe-paket-dokumentov-po-sotrudnichestvu-547368-2023/>

companies for agricultural complexes for growing wheat, soybeans, meat and dairy products and poultry farming. And the Belarusian side has already received 10 thousand hectares of land “in the Mbire district for growing corn, soybeans and building a meat and dairy farm. At the same time, a milk and meat processing line will be launched with further sale of finished products through retail chains ⁵¹³. ” It is planned that the list of cultivated crops will be supplemented by rice and wheat, and Belarusian specialists will also plant gardens. Another fact is that “a memorandum of understanding was signed on cooperation within the framework of the supply of Belarusian-made machinery and equipment for the timber industry to the Republic of Zimbabwe ⁵¹⁴. ” The two countries also have mutual interest in cooperation in the field of light industry. In particular, the Bellegprom concern will study the possibilities of supplying cotton from this African country, and “opportunities for cooperation in the textile and leather industries of light industry were also discussed on the sidelines of the Belarusian-Zimbabwean business forum in Harare ⁵¹⁵. ”

As for the interaction between the regions of the two countries, within the framework of the state visit of the Belarusian delegation, the two capitals - Minsk and Harare - signed an agreement on the establishment of sister-city relations, where promising directions have already been outlined “in the energy sector, in the areas of healthcare, education, water supply, water treatment, utilities technology” ⁵¹⁶. And, apparently, in the near future, action plans will be signed to develop the agreement, which will further strengthen

⁵¹³ Abukhovich, Yu. Trade, agriculture, mining. On the prospects of cooperation with Zimbabwe and the UAE / Yu. Abukhovich // [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/comments/view/torgovlja-selskoe-hozjajstvo-dobycha-poleznyh-iskopaemv-h-o-perspektivah-sotrudnichestva-s-zimbabwe-i-oe-8585/>

⁵¹⁴ Rogozhnik: industrial cooperation with Zimbabwe has enormous potential [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/rogozhnik-sotrudnichestvo-v-promyshlennoi-sfere-s-zimbabwe-imeet-ogromnyi-potentsial-547600-2023/>

⁵¹⁵ Belarus and Zimbabwe are interested in cooperation in the light industry [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-zimbabwe-zainteresovany-v-sotrudnichestve-v-sfere-legproma-547603-2023/>

⁵¹⁶ Minsk and Harare became sister cities. What's next? [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/minsk-i-harare-stali-gorodami-pobratimami-chto-dalshe-547593-2023/>

bilateral Belarusian-Zimbabwean regional relations, including in trade and economic cooperation between the two capitals.

A separate conversation concerns the interaction between the two countries in the field of education. At the end of January 2023, Belarus and Zimbabwe signed a memorandum of understanding between the parties on the mutual recognition of educational documents in Harare. And they see quite great prospects for cooperation in various areas of interuniversity interaction. “This also applies to the training of specialists with higher education in areas such as agriculture, mechanical engineering, and medical technology. What is in demand in any country. Considering that today Zimbabwe is a very dynamically developing country, first of all they need personnel ⁵¹⁷. ” During the visit of the Belarusian delegation to this African state, the parties discussed the training of specialists both for the scientific sphere and high technologies, and for mid-level workers in blue-collar occupations, as this is relevant for Zimbabwe, taking into account the supply of high-tech equipment to this country from Belarus and the development of production cooperation. Let us recall that on the initiative of the President of this country, Emmerson Mnangagwa, “the Vision 2030 program is being implemented, which includes specific measures for mechanization, industrialization of Zimbabwe, improving the educational level, the quality of medical services, and the standard of living of the population as a whole ⁵¹⁸. ” So Belarusian services in the field of education in this country will be very useful.

For example, a wide range of scientific and innovative interaction with Zimbabwean partners was presented by the Belarusian State University (BSU) at the business forum “Expanding Horizons: Dynamic Solutions for Economic Development” in the capital of Zimbabwe. BSU cooperates with this African country within the framework of a memorandum of

⁵¹⁷ Ivanets sees great prospects for cooperation between Belarus and Zimbabwe in the field of education [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/ivanets-vidit-bolshie-perspektivy-dlja-sotrudnichestva-belarusi-i-zimbabwe-v-sfere-obrazovanija-547599-2023/>

⁵¹⁸ Nikolaychik: we managed to significantly increase the intensity and effectiveness of contacts with Zimbabwe [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/nikolaichik-nam-udalos-znachitelno-narastit-intensivnost-i-effektivnost-kontaktov-s-zimbabwe-547791-2023/>

understanding signed in 2019 with the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education, Science and Technological Development. Today this interaction is intensifying. In Harare, BSU signed six memorandums of understanding with Zimbabwean universities: 1) the University of Zimbabwe; 2) Open University of Zimbabwe; 3) State University of Lupane; 4) National University of Technology and Science; 5) Institute of Technology of Harara; 6) Chinhoyi University of Technology. In these documents, the parties plan to “develop academic exchange of students and specialists, take part in research and educational projects, exchange materials, plans, publications and other relevant information”⁵¹⁹.

As for proposals for cooperation, BSU has initiated more than 20, which relate to the fields of medicine, pharmaceuticals, water resources management, water purification, geology, mineral exploration, biotechnology, ecology, and soil science. In particular, we are talking about the production of medicines, ultrasonic gas meters, services for solving applied problems in the mining industry, and purification of contaminated waters. “In the field of agriculture, joint projects to study the impact of soil salinity on plants and crops and the impact of climate change on the environment may be promising. Interaction in the field of education is seen in the training of Zimbabwean citizens at the Institute of Further Education, training in English in master's, postgraduate, and adult education programs”⁵²⁰. “The development and implementation of joint educational programs, participation in scientific conferences, organization of guest lectures, internships for teachers and students from Zimbabwe are also proposed.

The Belarusian National Technical University (BNTU) also signed memoranda with leading Zimbabwean universities. The fact is that the economy of this country needs specialists trained by BNTU, so interest in the Belarusian university is especially high. The parties are interested in

⁵¹⁹ The first agreements between BSU and universities in Zimbabwe [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://bsu.by/news/pervye-dogovorennosti-bgu-i-vuzov-zimbabwe-d/>

⁵²⁰ Cooperation is intensifying. BSU signed six memorandums with universities in Zimbabwe [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/sotrudnichestvo-aktiviziruetsja-bgu-podpisal-shest-memorandumov-s-vuzami-zimbabwe-547721-2023/>

conducting joint scientific research, technology transfer and transfer of experience in organizing the work of the BNTU technology park, and in creating technology parks at universities in Zimbabwe. In addition, “the implementation of joint educational programs is planned in such currently promising areas as architecture, civil engineering, mechanical engineering and robotics, and in the future cooperation in other industries is possible”⁵²¹.

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Memorandums of cooperation with leading educational institutions of the Republic of Zimbabwe - National University of Technology and Science, Harare Institute of Technology, Chinhoyi University of Technology, University of Zimbabwe, State Lupane University, the Open University of Zimbabwe - signed in January 2023 and the Belarusian State Technological University (BSTU). Interaction with these partners involves the development of such forms of cooperation as “exchange of experience in the field of education and facilitating the exchange of students, undergraduates and graduate students; development of faculty exchange; developing joint research projects in areas of mutual interest; training of citizens of the Republic of Zimbabwe in joint educational programs; master's, postgraduate and doctoral studies; internships, advanced training and retraining of Zimbabwean specialists”⁵²².

All these facts indicate that Belarus is attractive to Zimbabwe for its intellectual potential. So cooperation between educational institutions of the two countries can be multifaceted and have good results.

⁵²¹ Technology transfer and joint research. How BNTU plans to cooperate with universities in Zimbabwe [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/transfer-tehnologii-i-sovmestnye-issledovaniya-kak-bntu-planiruet-sotrudnichestvo-s-vuzami-zimbabwe-547979-2023/>

⁵²² Rector of BSTU Igor Voitov signed Memoranda of Cooperation with universities in Zimbabwe [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belstu.by/news/university/university/rektor-bgtu-igor-voitov-podpisal-memorandumvi-o-sotrudnichestve-s-universitetami-zimbabwe>

Belarus – Africa: the key to cooperation is specific projects

In September 2023, a meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus was held on the development of interaction with African countries, at which the Belarusian government outlined the main directions on this continent: medicine, education, ensuring food security in African countries, the supply of agricultural machinery, and industrial cooperation. Assessing the objective foreign trade situation, Belarusian Prime Minister R. Golovchenko emphasized that Africa has enormous development potential and is a driver of international growth, but the accumulated political capital of Belarus has not yet been adequately converted into successful trade and economic projects. “In 2022, the export of Belarusian goods to African countries amounted to just over \$200 million and shows a slight downward trend. The maximum export volume - more than \$400 million - was achieved in pre-Covid 2019...⁵²³” Note that more than one and a half billion people live on this continent. For this reason, the government of Belarus has set a clear task - every effort must be made to find the necessary tools and formula to reverse the negative dynamics in cooperation with the countries of this continent. The tools include “forming road maps, looking for specific projects that can be implemented⁵²⁴.” And then a practical result will be obtained.

It is important to note that the Belarusian side is trying to come to African countries with its technologies, teach them and provide service and support for the supplied equipment. In particular, especially large equipment from Belarus extracts various minerals that this continent is rich in. For example, Belarusian mining dump trucks operate in Zimbabwe, South Africa, Angola, Algeria, and Morocco. New potential partners include Kenya, where the first agricultural machines were delivered about six months ago. Serious dialogue begins and continues with countries such as Nigeria, Egypt, Algeria,

⁵²³ Roman Golovchenko on cooperation with Africa: The potential is huge, we need to ensure significant growth in exports [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <http://www.government.by/ru/content/10698>

⁵²⁴ Ministry of Foreign Affairs: it is necessary to formulate roadmaps for cooperation with African countries [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/mid-nuzhno-sformirovat-dorozhnye-karty-sotrudnichestva-so-stranami-afriki-591013-2023/>

Sudan. Even “the distant Republic of South Africa received our tractors from the Minsk Tractor Plant, they are now being tested and there is confidence that the supply of our equipment there will increase sharply ⁵²⁵. ”

The Ministry of Industry of the Republic of Belarus pays special attention to the development of supplies to African countries, since the industry offers “the entire model range of machine-building equipment – tractors, combine harvesters, trucks. This also includes household appliances – televisions produced by the Gozizont holding, refrigerators ⁵²⁶. ” For example, Gomselmash plans to supply a large batch of its equipment to these countries. Currently, 80 units of Gomel equipment operate mainly in Zimbabwe and Kenya. And up to 80 more units will be shipped to the African region in the near future. Moreover, “a center for Belarusian equipment has been created in Africa, which accompanies and services all equipment that is supplied to the continent ⁵²⁷. ” And the result is a contract for supply to Zimbabwe. And contacts are being worked out in Togo and Malawi.

Another African country that pays attention to Belarusian technology is Ethiopia. In August 2023, it became known that the Minsk Automobile Plant could create an assembly production of trucks in this African country, since “Ethiopia has a high demand for trucks, which is currently not fully satisfied ⁵²⁸. ” And the Ethiopian company Ethio – Engineering Group is interested in organizing the assembly of Belarusian cars from supplied vehicle kits on the company’s existing premises. In the same August of this year, the prospects for cooperation and the possibility of joint production were discussed in Minsk by the Belarusian holding AMKODOR and the Ethiopian

⁵²⁵ Equipment, training, export: Parkhomchik spoke about cooperation with African countries [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/tehnika-obuchenie-eksport-parhomchik-rasskazal-o-sotrudnichestve-s-afrikanskimi-stranami-587303-2023/>

⁵²⁶ Combines, tractors, TVs. Rogozhnik spoke about the range of industrial products for supplies to Africa [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/kombajny-tractory-televizory-rogozhnik-rasskazal-ob-assortimente-promproduksii-dlja-postavok-v-afriku-586805-2023/>

⁵²⁷ Gomselmash plans to supply a large batch of equipment to the African region [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/gomselmash-planiruet-postavit-krupnuju-partiju-tehniki-v-afrikanskij-region-586884-2023/>

⁵²⁸ MAZ can create an assembly production of trucks in Ethiopia [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/maz-mozhet-sozdat-sborochnoe-proizvodstvo-gruzovoj-tehniki-v-efiopii-582045-2023/>

company Epitychia General Trading . During the negotiations, “it was decided to return to the discussion after a more in-depth analysis of the market for construction equipment that can most effectively support the needs of projects in Ethiopia ⁵²⁹. ”

The African region is one of the promising and fairly familiar destinations for the export of food and agricultural products from Belarus. Suffice it to say that “in January–April of this [2023] year, Belarusian products were supplied to African countries such as Ghana, Egypt, Cote d'Ivoire, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal and Uganda. The range of export supplies includes dry dairy products, horned raw materials, offal, beef, poultry, alcoholic beverages and other products ⁵³⁰. ” This year, the Belarusian side continues to discuss promising areas of cooperation in agriculture with African partners. At the same time, we are talking not only about mutual trade, but also about issues of mechanization, irrigation, fertilizers, interaction in the field of education and science, including the training of students from African countries in Belarus.

In particular, in June 2023, a communiqué was signed between the Ministry of Agriculture and Food of Belarus and the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Investment of Kenya, in which the parties agreed on further cooperation in the field of agriculture. The fact is that in this African country there are no problems with food, but there are problems with its storage. They also have many small farmers, but no large farms. In addition, “another problem is the small percentage of cultivated land ⁵³¹. ” That is why Kenyan partners are interested in the mechanization of the country's agriculture and, accordingly, in increasing its efficiency, as well as in Belarus' experience in

⁵²⁹ “AMKODOR” and representatives of Ethiopia discussed the possibilities of joint production [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/amkodor-i-predstaviteli-efiopii-obsudili-vozmozhnosti-sovmestnogo-proizvodstva-581985-2023/>

⁵³⁰ Export of products, cooperation in education. Ministry of Agriculture and Food on working with African regions [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/eksport-produktsii-sotrudnichestvo-v-obrazovanii-minselhozprod-o-rabote-s-regionami-afriki-573991-2023/>

⁵³¹ The supply of tractors and potash fertilizers from Belarus to Kenya was discussed at the Ministry of Agriculture and Food [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/postavku-traktorov-i-kaliinyh-udobrenij-iz-belarusi-v-keniju-obsudili-v-minselhozprode-570585-2023/>

agricultural mechanization and training in order to “equip the industry with machine systems, carry out mechanization and provide our [Belarusian] agricultural technologies”⁵³², create enterprises for processing and storage of products. Apparently, representatives of the leading regions of the country will arrive from Kenya in the near future to further build trade and economic relations.

Zimbabwe has also become a new market for the Belarusian side. In June 2023 in Minsk, at the first meeting of the Belarusian-Zimbabwean working group on cooperation in the field of agriculture, the leadership of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food of Belarus stated that they were counting on long-term cooperation with Zimbabwean partners. In particular, “another important area of cooperation is the development of dairy farming”⁵³³ in Zimbabwe, as well as the supply of Belarusian agricultural machinery and equipment, the use of advanced Belarusian experience and technologies in the creation of agro-industrial enterprises on Zimbabwean soil. In addition, “grain dump trucks, as well as truck tractors with grain semi-trailers, attracted particular interest from the Zimbabwean side”⁵³⁴.

To expand the geography of supplies from Belarus, domestic exporters continue to work to ensure access of agricultural products, machinery and equipment to promising markets in the countries of the “black” continent. In February 2023, JSC Management Company of the Bobruiskagromash Holding signed a contract with the Bemaco company from Madagascar for the supply of 24 units of equipment from the Belarusian enterprise - mounted plows, disc harrows, and universal pneumatic seeders. And “in the near future, it is planned to expand the range of Belarusian equipment supplied to the Republic of Madagascar, including new models of

⁵³² Agricultural mechanization, processing plants. Why Kenya is interested in Belarus [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/mechanizatsija-selskogo-hozjajstva-pererabatyvajushchie-zavody-chem-v-belarusi-zainteresovalas-kenija-570564-2023/>

⁵³³ Brylo: Belarus is counting on long-term cooperation with Zimbabwe in the agricultural sector [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/brylo-belarus-rasschityvaet-na-dolgosrochnoe-sotrudnichestvo-s-zimbabve-v-sfere-apk-571063-2023/>

⁵³⁴ Zimbabwe is interested in MAZ grain dump trucks and truck tractors [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/zimbabve-zainteresovano-v-samosvalah-zernovozah-i-sedelnyh-tiagachah-maz-571222-2023/>

plows, seeders, trailers and harrows⁵³⁵. ” At the same time, Bemaco was awarded a certificate to extend the status of the official dealer of Bobruiskagromash for 2023.

Another African country that is interested in expanding trade and economic cooperation with Belarus is Ghana. In June 2023, the two states celebrated the 31st anniversary of the establishment of Belarusian-Ghanaian diplomatic relations. And the parties expressed a common mood for intensive work to expand contacts at all levels. Let us remind you that Ghana is the largest producer of high-quality fruits and cocoa and is ready to supply them to the Belarusian market in any volumes. As for Belarus, it is “ready to participate in programs for the mechanization of agriculture in Ghana, supply this country with a wide range of municipal and municipal equipment, medicines, introduce the latest technologies in the agricultural sector, and train Ghanaian students in Belarusian universities in various specialties⁵³⁶. ”

And one more interesting point. At the end of November 2023, an exposition of Belarusian manufacturers Made will be organized in West Africa - the city of Accra (Ghana). in Belarus within the framework of the 6th international exhibition Agrofood Ghana , where exporters "in the areas of agriculture, food processing and packaging, ingredients, bakery and confectionery, food and hospitality in West Africa" will be represented⁵³⁷. Last year, 98 exhibitors from 22 countries took part in this forum, namely from Belgium, Burkina Faso, Egypt, France, Germany, Ghana, Hungary, India, Iran, Italy, Ivory Coast, Morocco, the Netherlands, Nigeria , Poland, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates and the United States of America. This time in Accra, Belarusian

⁵³⁵ “Bobruiskagromash” will supply more than 20 units of equipment to Madagascar [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/bobruiskagromash-postavit-bolee-20-edinit-tehniki-na-madagaskar-549344-2023/>

⁵³⁶ Pivovarov, E. Belarus is ready to participate in the agricultural mechanization programs of Ghana / E. Pivovarov // [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-gotova-uchastvovat-v-programmah-mehanizatsii-selskogo-hoziajstva-gany-570335-2023/>

⁵³⁷ Belarus will present an exposition at the agricultural exhibition in Ghana [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-predstavit-ekspozitsiju-na-selskohoziastvennoi-vystavke-v-gane-587952-2023/>

suppliers will also show their “product face”, who, hopefully, will receive good practical results from this exhibition forum.

In short, Belarusian supplies in this direction are growing. It is believed that over the next two to three years, with the help of African countries, it is possible to achieve a total food export of ten billion dollars. For reference, we note that “based on the results of work for nine months [2023], the export of Belarusian agricultural products amounted to about \$5 billion⁵³⁸.”

Finally, another African country that will appear on the map of Belarus’ business partners in 2023 is Equatorial Guinea. The fact is that in June 2023, a very important event took place in the Belarusian-African theme: this is the first ever visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belarus S. Aleinik to this country. As a result of this visit, a Joint Statement was signed on the development of political dialogue, as well as “cooperation in the field of trade, economics and investment, cooperative cooperation, food security, healthcare, medicine, maternal and child health, education, science and technology, mining and the petrochemical sector, security and defense”⁵³⁹. The parties outlined practical steps to expand the legal framework of bilateral relations, where agreements on cooperation in the field of agriculture and the agro-industrial complex will also be developed. And in September 2023, the first visit of the President of Equatorial Guinea, Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, to Belarus took place, during which seven documents were signed aimed at developing relations on a wide thematic spectrum - from the economy to the humanitarian sphere, including the creation of a Joint Standing Commission between two states.

At the first meeting of the commission in October 2023, where more than 20 representatives of almost all key ministries and departments,

⁵³⁸ Hare: exports of Belarusian agricultural products for nine months amounted to about \$5 billion [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/zajats-eksport-belorusskoi-selhozproduktssii-za-deviat-mesiatsev-sostavil-okolo-5-mlrd-597077-2023/>

⁵³⁹ About the visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belarus S. Aleynik to Equatorial Guinea [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : https://www.mfa.gov.by/press/news_mfa/fa2023a57e9ef156.html

including 8 heads of ministries, came from the African side⁵⁴⁰, the discussion participants decided to create a number of subcommittees or working groups to quickly achieve results in the main sectors of the Belarusian-Equatoguinean interactions. "These are the areas of industry, agriculture, science and technology, healthcare and pharmacology. These four priority areas are identified and highlighted separately⁵⁴¹. " The parties agreed to ensure constant growth of trade turnover in order to bring it in line with the potential of the two countries, as well as to promote specific projects in the field of industry, technological development, agriculture, healthcare, science, technology, education, culture, and construction. Minsk and Malabo identified priority areas of interaction as "agriculture; healthcare; industry; construction; woodworking and forestry; cooperation in the oil and gas sector; cooperation in banking, financial and tax areas; digitalization of the economy; cooperation in the field of culture, including museums, archives, and libraries; cooperation in the field of tourism; cooperation in the field of sports; environmental protection"⁵⁴².

In particular, with regard to industry, the Belarusian side is already working on the supply of cargo, passenger, trailer, special equipment, and mining dump trucks for the needs of the growing economy of Equatorial Guinea, since the task in this country should be transferred from the raw materials sector to a more technological, knowledge-intensive, innovative path development. Belarus is also ready to "supply optical-electronic products, multifunctional unmanned aircraft, robotic systems, and create

⁵⁴⁰ "A good start has been given to cooperation." Aleinik about the first meeting of the intergovernmental commission with Equatorial Guinea [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/politics/view/dan-horoshii-start-sotrudnichestvu-aleinik-o-pervom-zasedanii-mezhpravkomissii-s-ekvatorialnoi-gvineei-594724-2023/>

⁵⁴¹ Transcript of the approach to the press by the Minister of Foreign Affairs S. Aleinik following the meeting of the Permanent Joint Commission of Belarus and Equatorial Guinea (October 19, 2023, Minsk) [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : https://www.mfa.gov.by/press/news_mfa/ed7ba0f461785b44.html

⁵⁴² Joint communiqué following the first meeting of the Permanent Joint Commission on Cooperation between Belarus and Equatorial Guinea (October 19, 2023) [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : https://mfa.gov.by/press/news_mfa/cba05c3a89729e69.html

closed-cycle enterprises for the production and processing of meat and dairy products⁵⁴³. ”

African partners are interested in the Belarusian experience of effective livestock farming, issues of improving veterinary services and food quality control, developing crops with the greatest potential for resource generation, and creating a high-quality and effective personnel training system. Moreover, “Equatorial Guinea has a great need for dairy and meat products, which we [Belarus] produce in sufficient quantities⁵⁴⁴. ” In addition, this country is very promising for the enterprises of the Belgospisheprom concern. For example, in mid-September 2023, “the first batch of products [malt] was shipped to Equatorial Guinea. This is a trial batch, this market is new and interesting for us⁵⁴⁵. ”

As for medicine, in accordance with the agreement on cooperation in the field of healthcare signed in Minsk during the first meeting of the commission, in the near future it is planned to create a training center on the basis of one of the medical universities in Belarus to train students from Equatorial Guinea and other African countries, as well as advanced training of doctors. And as one of the new directions, the parties identified interaction in the field of forestry and environmental protection.

In addition, in this African country “it is planned to create a production and logistics hub for Belarusian products⁵⁴⁶, ” which will be used, among other things, for the supply and promotion of products from Belarus to neighboring countries in Central and West Africa. After all, Equatorial

⁵⁴³ Speech by Minister S. Aleynik at the opening of the meeting of the Joint Commission on Cooperation between Belarus and Equatorial Guinea (October 18, 2023, Minsk) [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : https://www.mfa.gov.by/press/news_mfa/c32017edfb25123b.html

⁵⁴⁴ Belarus is ready to help Equatorial Guinea in the development of the agro-industrial complex and the training of agricultural specialists [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-gotova-pomoch-ekvatorialnoi-gvinee-v-razvitii-apk-i-podgotovke-selhozspetsialistov-586755-2023/>

⁵⁴⁵ Zhidkov: The African continent is promising for the export of Belarusian food products [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/zhidkov-afrikanskij-kontinent-perspektiven-dlja-eksporta-belorusskoj-pischevoj-produktsii-588012-2023/>

⁵⁴⁶ Aleinik: the issue of creating a hub for Belarusian products in Equatorial Guinea is being considered [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/aleinik-prorabatvvaetsja-vopros-sozdaniya-v-ekvatorialnoi-gvinee-haba-belorusskoj-produktsii-594535-2023/>

Guinea is one of the leading economies in Africa, which ranks third in oil production on the continent and has a developed port infrastructure. Over the past quarter century, this country's gross domestic product has increased more than 52 times and occupies one of the leading places in Africa per capita. In addition, "Equatorial Guinea is part of the African Continental Free Trade Area, which unites 54 states, as well as the Economic Community of Central African States, which includes 11 states⁵⁴⁷. "

In short, the first meeting of the Belarusian-Equatoguinean commission on trade and economic cooperation showed that the parties intend to expand long-term cooperation and develop and adopt a Road Map until 2030 by the end of this year. In addition, plans are outlined to develop the legal framework and sign new bilateral agreements in order to reach a trade turnover level of at least \$100 million by 2030 in terms of economic activity.

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⁵⁴⁷ Mechanical engineering, road map, opening of embassies. Minsk and Malabo identified prospects for cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/mashinostroenie-dorozhnaja-karta-otkrytie-posolstv-minsk-i-malabo-opredelili-perspektivy-594759-2023/>

Belarus – Zimbabwe: from economics to education

The Republic of Zimbabwe is an African country with which the Republic of Belarus established diplomatic relations back in April 1992. A new stage of cooperation with this state of South Africa dates back to January 2023, when the state visit of the Belarusian delegation to Zimbabwe took place. Then “a package of important bilateral documents was signed, which includes basic economic agreements that are designed to ensure the development of industrial cooperation and economic cooperation...”⁵⁴⁸. Then the governments of the two countries approved a roadmap for the implementation of the agreements reached. “The document includes 65 events in various fields: political-diplomatic, trade-economic, agricultural, military-technical, healthcare and medical science, investment, energy, supply and maintenance of equipment. In addition, Belarus will continue to participate in the program for the modernization and mechanization of Zimbabwe’s agriculture⁵⁴⁹. ”

If we talk about the economic component of this partnership, then “the trade turnover between Belarus and Zimbabwe has increased eightfold since 2018.⁵⁵⁰” At the same time, the parties significantly expanded trade and economic cooperation, established humanitarian cooperation and strengthened the legal framework of bilateral relations. As for the 2022 indicators, “Belarus and Zimbabwe traded by more than \$39 million, which is almost 57% more than the 2021 level. At the same time, Belarusian exports amounted to almost \$30 million. Belarus supplied tractors and truck tractors, machines and mechanisms for harvesting and threshing agricultural crops,

⁵⁴⁸ Zalessky, B. Export growth strategy. Opportunities and challenges of an open economy in modern conditions / B. Zalessky. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2023. – P. 30.

⁵⁴⁹ Frederic Shawa: Zimbabwe has achieved a lot in terms of food security thanks to Belarus [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/frederik-shava-zimbabwe-mnogogo-dostiglo-v-plane-prodovolstvennoj-bezopasnosti-blagodarja-belarusi-557640-2023/>

⁵⁵⁰ Parkhomchik: trade turnover between Belarus and Zimbabwe has grown eightfold since 2018, it is important to maintain the dynamics [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/parkhomchik-tovarooborot-belarusi-i-zimbabwe-s-2018-goda-vyros-v-vosem-raz-vazhno-sohranit-dinamiku-586362-2023/>

parts and accessories for cars and tractors to Zimbabwe ⁵⁵¹. ” In addition, during this time, a single center of Belarusian enterprises was created on Zimbabwean soil, providing a whole range of services for all types of equipment supplied from Belarus, and where you can get education in the field of vehicle driving, the necessary recommendations, purchase spare parts, services for performing routine maintenance on Belarusian equipment.

In March 2023, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of the Republic of Zimbabwe F. Shava visited the Belarusian capital. During the official visit, he stated that the Zimbabwean side is interested in identifying additional opportunities for economic cooperation with Belarus. As for official Minsk, it “wants to bring relations with Zimbabwe to the level of a comprehensive strategic partnership ⁵⁵². ” Following the negotiations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus, the parties adopted a joint statement and reviewed the implementation of agreements in the trade and economic sphere, in particular, the progress of implementation of contracts for the supply of agricultural and fire fighting equipment to Zimbabwe, the construction and modernization of granaries, and also discussed cooperation in industrial areas , agriculture, energy, mining, light industry. In particular, Belarus will continue to make its significant contribution to the achievement of the goals of the long-term development strategy of this southern African country, Vision 2030, by the government of Zimbabwe.

In addition, the parties continued to work to expand the legal framework of Belarusian-Zimbabwean bilateral relations, which already includes more than twenty intergovernmental and interdepartmental agreements. And in March 2023, this list of documents was supplemented by a Memorandum of Understanding between the National Center for Marketing and Price Research of the Republic of Belarus and the National Organization

⁵⁵¹ The meeting of the foreign ministers of Belarus and Zimbabwe took place in Minsk [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/politics/view/vstrecha-ministrov-inostrannv-h-del-belarusi-i-zimbabwe-prohodit-v-minske-557558-2023/>

⁵⁵² Belarus wants to bring relations with Zimbabwe to the level of a comprehensive strategic partnership [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/politics/view/belarus-hochet-vyvesti-otnosheniya-s-zimbabwe-na-uroven-vseobshchego-strategicheskogo-partnerstva-557622-2023>

for the Promotion and Development of Trade of Zimbabwe “Zim Trade”, which “will become an additional incentive and assistance for enhancing interaction between business circles, enterprises and economic entities of the two countries”⁵⁵³.

Speaking about immediate plans, more than 130 fire engines will be delivered by the end of 2023, “they are now in various stages of delivery. Contracts were signed for the supply of 3,161 tractors and 80 combines. By the end of the year, we [the Belarusian side] will begin implementing these contracts, and we will try to resolve these issues in 2023-2025. We also reached agreements on the supply of grain drying complexes there”⁵⁵⁴. “If we talk about the medium term, Belarusian exporters are only ready to increase their supplies to the Zimbabwean market. For example, the Belarusian Automobile Plant is interested in developing fruitful cooperation with mining companies in Zimbabwe, since the mining industry of the country, which has large reserves of minerals, including coal, copper, gold, and diamonds, is developing at an active pace. After all, 55- and 130-ton dump trucks from Belarus are currently used only for the extraction of coal and diamonds in Zimbabwean quarries; Belarusian special equipment is also used - bulldozers, loaders, tractors and watering machines. And “BELAZ is ready to offer the Zimbabwean mining industry not only effective quarry equipment, but also ready-made integrated solutions for the supply of machines with all the necessary infrastructure, equipment and turnkey software”⁵⁵⁵.

Belarusian manufacturers of agricultural machinery also have interesting plans for exports to this southern African country. After all, increased attention is now being paid to agricultural mechanization in this

⁵⁵³ Transcript of the approach to the press by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belarus S. Aleynik following negotiations with the head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Zimbabwe (March 27, 2023, Minsk) [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : https://www.mfa.gov.by/press/news_mfa/fd375850144e9b08.html

⁵⁵⁴ Parkhomchik: the export of Belarusian goods to Zimbabwe has increased eightfold [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/parhomchik-eksport-belorusskih-tovarov-v-zimbabwe-uvelichilsja-v-vosem-raz-587300-2023/>

⁵⁵⁵ BELAZ is interested in developing cooperation with mining companies in Zimbabwe [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belaz-zainteresovan-v-razvitii-sotrudnichestva-s-dobvyajuschimi-kompanijami-zimbabwe-581975-2023/>

region of Africa. Suffice it to say that “last year [2022] Zimbabwe harvested a record wheat harvest for the last 25 years thanks to Belarusian-made agricultural machinery ⁵⁵⁶. ” And the plans include promoting joint projects to provide agricultural equipment from Belarus, including tillage units, machines for growing cotton, and tractor trailers. Note that the Minsk Tractor Plant alone “plans to supply 3,575 tractors to Zimbabwe in 2023-2024, their shipment has already begun ⁵⁵⁷. ” In addition, this year the use of improved agricultural machinery from Belarus has made the harvest season in this country problem-free. The fact is that in Zimbabwe in 2023 a record grain harvest is expected, which will exceed 440 thousand tons. At the beginning of November, the wheat harvest was almost completed throughout the republic. “In order to quickly harvest the crop before the start of the rainy season, the government has deployed 249 of the latest Belarusian combine harvesters. The flagship GS 12 combine harvester covers at least 40 hectares per day ⁵⁵⁸. ” So the purchase of equipment from Belarus brought success.

Another current topic of Belarusian-Zimbabwean cooperation is the creation of joint ventures for food production. Back in May 2023, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food of the Republic of Belarus and partners from Zimbabwe discussed issues of organizing the supply of Belarusian food, as well as “the creation of joint ventures for processing milk powder into whole milk products ⁵⁵⁹. ” In addition, issues of processing beef and poultry meat were discussed. And in the Grodno region last spring, we discussed the issue of cooperation in the field of baby nutrition with Zimbabwean partners. “At the first stage, this could be the supply of ready-made baby food, followed by

⁵⁵⁶ “Bobruiskagromash” and the Ambassador of Zimbabwe discussed projects to provide the region with Belarusian agricultural machinery [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/bobruiskagromash-i-posol-zimbabve-obsudili-proektv-po-obespecheniju-regiona-belorusskoj-selhoztehnikoj-582296-2023/>

⁵⁵⁷ MTZ intends to continue cooperation with partners from Zimbabwe [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/mtz-nameren-prodolzhit-sotrudnichestvo-s-partnerami-iz-zimbabve-581256-2023/>

⁵⁵⁸ Belarusian equipment helps harvest a record harvest in Zimbabwe [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belorusskaja-tehnika-pomogaet-ubirat-rekordnyj-urozhaj-v-zimbabve-597984-2023>

⁵⁵⁹ The Ministry of Agriculture and Food will discuss with Zimbabwe the creation of joint ventures for processing milk powder [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/minselhozprod-obsudit-s-zimbabve-sozdanie-sovmestnyh-predpriatij-po-pererabotke-suhogo-moloka-566042-2023/>

the transfer of part of the technological operations to the territory of Zimbabwe, with the subsequent possibility of building a full-fledged production and performing the entire list of works ⁵⁶⁰. ” And taking into account the capacity of the Grodno Bellakt plant, the geographical location of Zimbabwe and active interaction with its neighbors, it would be possible to consider the possibility of joint production, which would cover not only the needs of Zimbabwe, but also other African countries.

One more example. In June-July 2023, the first supplies of Zimbabwean cotton fiber arrived in Belarus. Partners from South Africa are ready to cooperate on other issues. For example, “in Zimbabwe there is a school curriculum and about 2 million schoolchildren dress in business casual. Zimbabwe only imports fabrics from China, so we [Belarusian specialists] showed the representative of Zimbabwe a number of samples made from polyviscose fabric and fabric with a wool content of 20-30% ⁵⁶¹. ”

Another interesting idea in cooperation between the two countries, which may well come true in the near future, is that “Zimbabwe can become a major hub in South Africa for the trade of Belarusian products ⁵⁶². ” To this end, a Belarusian-Zimbabwean initiative could be implemented with the participation of another state in South-East Africa - Mozambique. This is a country that is washed by the Indian Ocean. “The most promising direction of Belarusian exports to the markets of Mozambique could be the mechanization of the agricultural complex of this country with subsequent servicing of Belarusian equipment ⁵⁶³. ” Key points on the path to diversifying

⁵⁶⁰ “Bellakt” plans to create the production of dry infant formula in Zimbabwe [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/bellakt-planiruet-sozdat-proizvodstvo-suhikh-detskikh-smesei-na-territorii-zimbabve-560414-2023/>

⁵⁶¹ The first deliveries of Zimbabwean cotton to Belarus are expected in June-July 2023 [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/pervye-postavki-v-belarus-zimbabvijskogo-hlopka-ozhidajutsia-v-ijune-ijule-2023-goda-557867-2023/>

⁵⁶² Frederick Shawa: Zimbabwe can become a major hub for the supply of Belarusian equipment in South Africa [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/frederik-shava-zimbabve-mozhet-stat-krupnym-habom-po-postavke-belorusskoi-tehniki-v-iuzhnoj-afrike-557809-2023/>

⁵⁶³ Mozambique [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://export.by/mozambique>

Belarusian exports to Mozambique could also be the introduction of high-tech technologies, electrification and improvement of railway communications, the creation of the necessary logistics infrastructure, and the promotion of renewable energy sources. Given the high demand for medicines in the country, niches remain for the promotion of pharmaceutical products. In short, the market of Southern African countries is very promising for Belarusian exports and can further increase activity in various directions.

A special conversation is about the interaction between Minsk and Harare in the educational sphere. In May 2023, Belarus and Zimbabwe signed a roadmap for 2023-2025 in the field of higher education and university science, which identified the development of joint educational programs and training of Zimbabweans in Belarusian universities in in-demand specialties as promising areas of Belarusian-Zimbabwean cooperation. "Also among the promising areas is the organization of resource centers for vocational education and training, the expansion of joint scientific, scientific, technical and innovative projects, including in the field of geomechanics, biotechnology, biomechanics ⁵⁶⁴."

In addition to the road map, the Belarusian and Zimbabwean sides also signed more than 40 bilateral agreements in the field of education in those May days. Let us note that "this is a very serious legal framework for training specialists for a wide range of specialties in industry, agriculture, healthcare, and energy ⁵⁶⁵." It is expected that in this regard, between the educational institutions of the two countries, a program will be implemented to train not only specialists at the higher education level, but also to create competency centers in Zimbabwe to train specialists in blue-collar professions. For this purpose, a center for studying Russian as a foreign language is being created,

⁵⁶⁴Belarus and Zimbabwe signed a road map for 2023-2025 in the field of higher education and science [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-zimbabwe-podpisali-dorozhnyu-kartu-na-2023-2025-gody-v-sfere-vysshego-obrazovanija-i-nauki-565748-2023/>

⁵⁶⁵More than 40 bilateral agreements in the field of education will be signed following the visit of a delegation from Zimbabwe to Belarus [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/bolee-40-dvustoronnih-soglashenij-v-oblasti-obrazovanija-budet-podpisano-po-itogam-vizita-v-belarus-566871-2023/>

where Zimbabwean citizens will be able to undergo training in order to both work in joint ventures in Zimbabwe and continue their studies in Belarus.

An active participant in interaction with Zimbabwean partners is the Belarusian State University (BSU), which in 2019 signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Special Education, Science and Technological Development of Zimbabwe. In February 2023, BSU became a partner of six universities in this country. And in May of this year, he expanded the range of existing agreements. In particular, a Cooperation Agreement was signed with the Harare Institute of Technology and a Memorandum of Understanding with the Midlands State University, which will allow developing academic exchanges, conducting fundamental and applied scientific research, joint scientific conferences, exhibitions, symposia, and seminars. In addition, “initiatives were voiced for cooperation in the field of ecology, soil science, and biology. The possibility of developing modern digital technologies, geographic information systems, soil conservation measures and technologies on lands subject to erosion processes was considered ⁵⁶⁶. ” A serious step towards strong cooperation will also be the opening of the BSU distance learning training center in Zimbabwe.

In the same May 2023, cooperation agreements with five Zimbabwean universities were concluded by the Brest State Technical University (BrSTU), which will develop cooperation with the Harare Institute of Technology, Chinhoyi University of Technology, Lupane State University, Midland State University and the University of Zimbabwe. Brest University will implement joint educational programs, engage in joint scientific research, which will be carried out in the field of industry 4.0, digital industry and agriculture, IT technologies, on issues related to the creation of various engineering systems. In short, “cooperation can be established in all areas in which Brest residents specialize. Three students from Zimbabwe are currently studying at BrSTU: two boys and a girl ⁵⁶⁷. ” We must assume that in the near future many more students from this southern African country will appear in Brest.

⁵⁶⁶BSU intensifies cooperation with universities in Zimbabwe [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/bgu-aktiviziruetsotrudnichestvo-s-vuzami-zimbabve-566857-2023/>

⁵⁶⁷Brest Technical University entered into cooperation agreements with five universities in Zimbabwe [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL :

And in Minsk, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Belarusian State Technological University and Midland State University. This document provides for cooperation in the exchange of experience in the field of education and facilitating the exchange of students, undergraduates and graduate students, teaching staff, as well as the development of joint research projects in areas of mutual interest. In particular, “in the field of forestry, woodworking, industrial ecology, energy efficient technologies, mineral fertilizer technology ⁵⁶⁸. ” The Belarusian National Technical University also signed several international documents with Zimbabwean partners this spring. Firstly, a cooperation agreement with Harare Polytechnic College. Secondly, with Midland State University. Thirdly, “a road map was signed between the Belarusian National Technical University and the University of Zimbabwe ⁵⁶⁹,” and eight joint educational programs were approved with various universities in this country, including in Harare, Chinhoyi, and Lupane. And in October 2023, Grodno State University named after Yanka Kupala and the Polytechnic College of Harare agreed on cooperation, outlining mutual interests “in the areas of joint scientific, innovative and educational activities, as well as in the field of monitoring of natural resources ⁵⁷⁰. ” Finally, the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Education, Science and Technological Development of Zimbabwe agreed to sign a memorandum of intent and “identified a number of promising areas for cooperation: space technologies, new materials, technologies and complexes for processing

<https://www.belta.by/regions/view/brestskij-tehnicheskij-universitet-zakljuchil-soglashenija-o-sotrudnichestve-s-pjatiju-vuzami-zimbabve-566589-2023/>

⁵⁶⁸Discussion of cooperation, signing of a memorandum: the delegation of Zimbabwe will visit BSTU [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/obsuzhdenie-sotrudnichestva-podpisanie-memoranduma-bgtu-posetit-delegatsija-zimbabve-566182-2023/>

⁵⁶⁹BNTU signed agreements on cooperation and implementation of joint educational programs with universities in Zimbabwe [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://times.bntu.by/news/13451-v-bntu-podpisan-y-soglasheniya-s-universitetami-zimbabve>

⁵⁷⁰Scientists from Grodno State University and Harare Polytechnic College agreed to cooperate [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/uchenye-grgu-i-politehnicheskogo-kolledzha-harare-dogovorilis-o-sotrudnichestve-592885-2023/>

mineral raw materials and ores, agro-industrial complex, training of scientific personnel..."⁵⁷¹.

Let us recall that in January 2023, Belarus and Zimbabwe signed a memorandum of understanding between the parties on the mutual recognition of educational documents in Harare. "And they see quite great prospects for cooperation in various areas of interuniversity interaction. This also applies to the training of specialists with higher education in areas such as agriculture, mechanical engineering, and medical technology"⁵⁷². " So, with the signing of the road map for 2023-2025 in the field of higher education and university science, the educational services of Belarus in Zimbabwe, apparently, will be in demand in all areas that develop the economy of this southern African country, and will become an important element of Belarusian-Zimbabwean relations. As for the prospects for bilateral trade-economic, production-cooperative and scientific-educational interaction, they are visible for quite a long time. And not only in these areas, but also in other areas.

⁵⁷¹Space technologies and new materials: cooperation with Zimbabwe was discussed at the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/kosmicheskie-tehnologii-i-novye-materialy-v-nan-belarusi-obsudili-sotrudnichestvo-s-zimbabwe-566338-2023/>

⁵⁷² Zalessky, B. Window of opportunity and new ideas. Realization of features of economic multifaceted cooperation / B. Zalessky. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing , 2023. – C. 23.

Belarus – Latin America: the most specific trade and economic interaction

Latin America is one of the political and economic centers of the emerging multipolar world, home to more than 650 million people. “Many countries in this region are aimed at pursuing an independent foreign policy and seek, through accelerated innovative development, to move away from the historically developed raw material nature of their economies ⁵⁷³. ” And the Republic of Belarus can provide effective assistance to these states by developing the most specific trade and economic interaction.

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

The region of Latin America and the Caribbean is of interest to Belarus as an important platform for integration into global trade and economic relations. In 2021, the total volume of imports from Belarus to the countries of the region amounted to \$715.5 million, an increase of 3.5% compared to 2020. The product range of Belarusian exports to this region includes potash fertilizers, land transport, ferrous metal products, chemical and petrochemical products, instruments and optical devices, and dairy products ⁵⁷⁴. ” At the end of 2021, trade turnover between Belarus and the Latin American region amounted to about \$1.5 billion.

⁵⁷³ Aleynik told why Belarus is interested in cooperation with Latin American countries [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/politics/view/alejnik-rasskazal-chem-belarusi-interesno-sotrudnichestvo-so-stranami-latinskoj-ameriki-567456-2023/>

⁵⁷⁴ NCM on the prospects for promoting Belarusian goods and services in Latin America [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/comments/view/ntsm-o-perspektivah-prodvizhenija-belorusskih-tovarov-i-ushug-v-latinskoi-ameriki-8247//>

Belarus already has positive experience in the region. "This includes the participation of Belarusian companies in geological and seismic exploration, mining in Venezuela and Ecuador, construction projects in Venezuela, Ecuador and Peru, supplies of Belarusian agricultural, automotive and passenger equipment to Venezuela, Cuba, Argentina, Colombia, Nicaragua and Bolivia, export of quarry equipment to Venezuela and Chile⁵⁷⁵. " Work in these areas is being carried out quite actively. It is planned to further increase the volume of trade and investment, first of all, through the implementation of joint cooperation projects. In cooperation with Latin America, Belarus aims to transition from simple trade to the creation of joint ventures and assembly plants.

For example, the dynamically developing agricultural sector of Latin American countries needs appropriate technology. Reliable and price-competitive tractors, combines and other Belarusian equipment can take a worthy place here. "The range of modern products produced in Belarus, and this is primarily agricultural machinery, mining dump trucks, trucks, road construction equipment, public electric transport, tire products and much more, may be of direct interest in meeting the needs of Latin American agricultural producers, the mining industry and the transport sector "⁵⁷⁶.

Belarus is interested not only in trade in goods, but also in the export of services, the basis of which is transport, computer, construction services, as well as services in the field of mining. "At the end of 2021, the volume of trade in services with Latin American countries increased to \$200 million (58.3% by 2020). Belarusian exports reached \$178.9 million (97.9%)⁵⁷⁷. " However, the dynamics in mutual trade in goods and services, as well as the

⁵⁷⁵ Shestakov: Belarus is ready to strengthen cooperation with Latin American countries in all areas [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/politics/view/shestakov-belarus-gotova-k-ukrepleniju-sotrudnichestva-so-stranami-latinskoj-ameriki-po-vsem-510548-2022/>

⁵⁷⁶ Pivovar, E. Belarus, in cooperation with Latin America, aims to transition to the creation of joint ventures and assembly plants / E. Pivovar // [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-v-sotrudnichestve-s-latinskoj-amerikoj-natselena-na-perehod-k-sozdaniju-sp-i-sborochnyh-510550-2022/>

⁵⁷⁷ Pivovar, E. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belarus: trade with Latin America is showing steady growth / E. Pivovar // [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/mid-belarusi-torgovlja-s-latinskoj-amerikoj-demonstruet-ustoichivyi-rost-510549-2022/>

existing level of trade and economic relations between Belarus and many Latin American countries, do not fully correspond to the real capabilities of the parties. Of course, exporters are maximally interested in promoting Belarusian “complex technical products - products of mechanical engineering, the scientific sector, ranging from tomographs to spare parts and engines for existing automotive and tractor equipment”⁵⁷⁸. ” A promising area of cooperation is expanding contacts in the field of education. Belarusian universities are ready to accept applicants for training in various specialties that are in demand in Latin American countries, including training specialists in industry, agriculture, and healthcare.

In recent years, Latin American countries have maintained their role as points of growth and foreign trade activity for Belarus. These include Brazil, Argentina, Colombia, Venezuela, Cuba and Nicaragua.

The Brazilian market is of great interest to the Belarusian engineering and chemical industries. This is due to the constantly growing needs of Brazil for agricultural and other machinery, fertilizers, tires and other goods produced by Belarusian enterprises. In 2021, bilateral trade amounted to about \$800 million, with exports amounting to \$585 million. Product items such as cord materials - threads and fabrics - for the production of car tires, beer malt and electric vehicles have significant potential in the context of increasing supplies to the Brazilian market.

Argentina is an important trade and economic partner for Belarus. In 2021, trade turnover between the countries amounted to \$136 million. Promising areas of trade and economic cooperation with this country include the organization of supplies of Belarusian complex technical products: agricultural and forestry equipment, forage and grain harvesters, mining dump trucks, passenger cars and electric vehicles.

In 2021, trade turnover between Belarus and **Colombia** amounted to \$90 million, Belarusian exports amounted to \$80 million. New product items

⁵⁷⁸ Pivovar, E. Shestakov: Belarus can sell a wide range of products to Latin America / E. Pivovar // [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/shestakov-belarus-mozhet-prodavat-v-latinskuiu-ameriku-shirokii-spektr-produktsii-510577-2022/>

that may be in demand on the Colombian market include agricultural machinery, buses, food products, and may also become the IT sector.

Belarus and **Venezuela also have points of interaction for intensifying trade and economic relations**. In 2021, almost \$2 million worth of Belarusian goods were supplied to Venezuela, an increase of 82 percent. Among the most promising commodity items of Belarusian exports for supplies to Venezuela are condensed and dry milk and cream, printed books, brochures, pipes, tubes, plastic hoses and fittings, and whey.

Belarus and **Cuba** are also working on new joint projects in the trade and economic sphere. The basis of Belarusian supplies to Cuba are tractors and truck tractors, condensed and dry milk and cream, parts for receiving and transmitting equipment, parts and accessories for cars, tractors, instruments and devices used in medicine, piston internal combustion engines. A promising direction for Belarusian exports may also be the supply of medicines and medical equipment.

In September 2022, the Belarusian-Cuban business forum was held, the participants of which considered promising areas of trade and economic interaction between the two countries and current issues of doing business. More than 90 representatives from 65 enterprises in areas of interest to Belarus for promotion to the Cuban market, and 18 representatives of Cuban business held negotiations on the development of “mutually beneficial cooperation and implementation of joint projects in the field of molecular immunology, scientific and technological developments, education, metallurgy, agricultural engineering, trade, production of coffee, rum and other areas”⁵⁷⁹.

Note that this is the first meeting of business representatives of the two countries in a long time. In addition, for Belarus, Cuba is a partner in export-import operations, an independent and independent country, and is also considered as a platform for entering the large market of Latin America - Venezuela, Bolivia and other large countries in this region. “The trade

⁵⁷⁹ Belarus and Cuba will discuss the prospects for trade and economic cooperation at a business forum on September 27 [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-kuba-obsudiat-perspektivy-torgovo-ekonomicheskogo-sotrudnichestva-na-biznes-forume-27-525866-2022>

turnover between Belarus and Cuba in 2021 amounted to \$22.9 million, more than \$20 million of which accounted for Belarusian exports⁵⁸⁰. ” Participants in the business forum showed that the potential of the two countries has not yet been exhausted. Moreover, the establishment of business contacts between representatives of the business community of Belarus and Cuba will spur the further development of trade and economic relations.

The Cuban side is ready to interact with partners from Belarus, in particular in mechanical engineering. For reference, we note: there are now more than 20 thousand Belarusian-made tractors working in the fields of Cuba. At the same time, cooperation can be “not only in the acquisition of new models, but also in the purchase of spare parts for the restoration of equipment that is already in Cuba. We are interested in the supply of spare parts for the repair and restoration of tractors, MAZ and AMKODOR trucks, and buses. We can do assembly and also create projects to supply this equipment to the Latin American market. Belarus and Cuba also have great potential in the digital economy and tourism⁵⁸¹. ”

But the area of medicine is of greatest interest to Cuban partners. In particular, in November 2022, the first Belarusian medicines were registered in this Latin American country. “This step became possible thanks to long-term joint work between the Belarusian (Center for Expertise and Testing in Healthcare, Management Company of the Belfarmprom holding) and Cuban (Center for State Control of Medicines, Equipment and Medical Devices (CECMED) parties. We are talking about medicines produced by UP “Minskintercaps””⁵⁸². In addition, the Center for Expertise and Testing in Healthcare and CECMED signed an agreement to conduct inter-laboratory comparisons, which will help increase the level of trust between testing

⁵⁸⁰ Businesses of Belarus and Cuba intend to develop cooperation in medicine, mechanical engineering and logistics [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/biznes-belarusi-i-kuby-nameren-razvivat-sotrudnichestvo-v-medsine-mashinostroenii-i-logistike-525975-2022/>

⁵⁸¹ Medicine, mechanical engineering, tourism. The Ambassador of Cuba spoke about the areas of cooperation with Belarus [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/meditsina-mashinostroenie-turizm-posol-kuby-rasskazal-o-napravlenijah-sotrudnichestva-s-belarusiju-525993-2022/>

⁵⁸² Belarusian medicines are registered in Cuba [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/beloruskie-lekarstva-zaregistrovany-na-kube-536206-2022/>

laboratories of Belarus and Cuba, the qualifications of specialists in the field of laboratory research, and promote the harmonization of requirements for drug quality control. and, as a result, will increase the effectiveness and safety of medicines for patients in the two countries.

The Belarusian Medical Academy of Postgraduate Education (BelMAPO) and the Medical University of Havana also signed a cooperation agreement in November 2022. At the Center for Immunological Research of Cuba, Belarusian specialists agreed on cooperation in the field of prenatal diagnostics, neonatal screening, oncology and diabetology, as well as the possibility of using Cuban reagents as an adequate replacement for those currently used in various types of screening studies. "At the Cuban Center for Molecular Immunology, representatives of BelMAPO agreed to open joint scientific projects in the field of therapy of neurological diseases and in the field of ophthalmology, as well as combusting using technologies using stem cells ⁵⁸³. "

In the same November 2022, the legal framework of Belarusian-Cuban relations was supplemented by an intergovernmental agreement on the mutual recognition of educational documents, where such promising areas of cooperation are considered as "carrying out joint research on the creation of medicines and pharmaceutical substances; development and production of medical products and devices for the diagnosis and treatment of diseases in the field of cardiac surgery, traumatology and orthopedics, oncology, dentistry; development and production of computer-oriented measuring systems and measuring instruments; study of the problems of electromagnetic safety of the population and electromagnetic ecology of the living environment in conditions of intensive development of new generation mobile communication systems and services ⁵⁸⁴. " The parties will cooperate both within the framework of scientific and technological parks, which are

⁵⁸³ BelMAPO and the Medical University of Havana signed a cooperation agreement [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belmapo-i-meduniversitet-gavany-podpisali-dogovor-o-sotrudnichestve-536529-2022/>

⁵⁸⁴ Belarus and Cuba signed an agreement on the recognition of educational documents [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-kuba-podpisali-soglashenie-o-priznanii-dokumentov-ob-obrazovanii-535587-2022/>

actively developing in Belarus and Cuba, and will consider the possibility of creating joint ventures, including in Cuba. In addition, other proposals are being discussed: the possibility of participation of higher education institutions of the two countries in competitions of Belarusian-Cuban scientific and technical projects in priority areas of cooperation; implementation of joint educational programs for the preparation of bachelors and masters in a number of areas - pharmaceuticals, information technology, engineering and technical specialties. There are currently 10 direct agreements between universities in our countries. So a good foundation for the further development of Belarusian-Cuban bilateral relations has already been laid.

Nicaragua should also be named among the important political and economic partners of Belarus in Latin America. Moreover, in May 2024 the two countries will celebrate the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. And in May 2023, Minsk and Managua announced that they aimed at seriously intensifying trade, economic and humanitarian ties in order to constantly support and promote the bilateral agenda, filling it with new projects and cooperation programs. Let us note that trade relations between Belarus and Nicaragua are still relatively small. They are based on supplies of Belarusian products. And the legal framework is still in the process of being formed.

In May 2023, a government delegation from this Latin American country visited Minsk. This visit showed that Belarus and Nicaragua intend to actively develop the legal foundation of bilateral relations. In particular, several important documents were signed in the Belarusian capital. Firstly, the General Agreement between the governments of the two countries on the provision of export credits, which will strengthen the position of exporters from Belarus. "The buyers of Belarusian equipment will be the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure of Nicaragua, the Municipal Institute for Transport Regulation of Managua, and the Nicaraguan Institute of Municipal

Development. Lending will be carried out using credit funds from OJSC Development Bank of the Republic of Belarus ⁵⁸⁵.

Secondly, a basic agreement that opens up opportunities for industrial cooperation and will allow “in the future to significantly increase the supply of Belarusian equipment in demand in Nicaragua. This will undoubtedly have a positive impact on increasing joint trade ⁵⁸⁶. ” Thirdly, an agreement on cooperation in the field of education, which will provide a legal basis for the interaction of the parties and the establishment of working contacts between educational institutions of the two countries, the implementation of “training of specialists in the most popular specialties for Nicaragua ⁵⁸⁷,” and will also facilitate the exchange of specialized information and develop scientific - technical cooperation that is part of this work. In addition, Minsk and Managua are working on draft agreements on trade and economic cooperation, promotion and mutual protection of investments, the creation of a joint committee on trade and economic cooperation, as well as the abolition of the visa regime.

Belarus and Nicaragua also decided to take a comprehensive approach to issues of trade and economic interaction with an emphasis on industrial cooperation and investment cooperation. At the same time, the parties focused on the implementation of joint projects in agriculture and in the field of supplies of Belarusian passenger, road construction and agricultural equipment to the Nicaraguan market. In particular, “in economic terms, first of all, we are talking about the development of industrial cooperation, the use of Belarusian agricultural technologies in the development of agriculture in

⁵⁸⁵ Ministry of Industry: an agreement with Nicaragua on the provision of export loans will strengthen the position of Belarusian exporters [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/minprom-soglashenie-s-nikaragua-o-predostavlenii-eksportnyh-kreditov-ukrepiť-pozitsii-belorusskih-567470-2023/>

⁵⁸⁶ Transcript of the approach to the press by the Minister of Foreign Affairs S. Aleynik following negotiations with the head of the Foreign Ministry of Nicaragua (May 19, 2023, Minsk) [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://mfa.gov.by/press/smi/b1045153bb04077c.html>

⁵⁸⁷ Belarus signed an agreement with Nicaragua on the provision of export credits [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-podpisala-s-nikaragua-soglashenie-o-predostavlenii-eksportnyh-kreditov-567453-2023/>

Nicaragua...”⁵⁸⁸. Back in June 2022, at negotiations in Minsk between the Ministries of Agriculture and Food of Belarus and Agriculture and Livestock of Nicaragua, the parties considered the prospects for cooperation in the field of agriculture. We agreed on cooperation in the field of livestock farming, veterinary medicine, agricultural education, and exchange of experience in the field of crop production. In addition, “Belarus is interested in supplies from Nicaragua of raw cane sugar, coffee, cocoa beans and semi-finished fruit products for the production of baby food”⁵⁸⁹.

Another interesting topic that may become promising in the Belarusian-Nicaraguan economic agenda is the possibility of Belarus' participation in the construction of the Nicaraguan Canal. The fact is that back in 2012, the National Assembly of Nicaragua approved the construction project of the “Great Transoceanic Canal of Nicaragua,” which “if completed, will connect the waters of the Pacific and Atlantic oceans. Supposed, that the new interoceanic canal will be a longer, wider and deeper alternative to the Panama Canal (opened in 1920) and will seriously relieve maritime traffic”⁵⁹⁰. “ So, despite the geographical distance, distance is not an obstacle to establishing cooperation when the partners have respect, trust and friendship.

Belarus – Latin America: an important integration platform

The Republic of Belarus today maintains diplomatic relations with all 33 states of Latin America and the Caribbean. This region of the globe is of

⁵⁸⁸ Aleynik: Belarus and Nicaragua are aimed at seriously intensifying trade and economic cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/politics/view/alejnik-belarus-i-nikaragua-natseleny-na-serjezmiju-aktivizatsiju-torgovo-ekonomicheskogo-567428-2023/>

⁵⁸⁹ Belarus and Nicaragua intend to cooperate in livestock farming and agricultural education [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-nikaragua-namereny-sotrudnicat-v-zhivotnovodstve-i-agrarnom-obrazovanii-506979-2022/>

⁵⁹⁰ The head of the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry does not exclude the possibility of Belarus' participation in the construction of the Nicaraguan Canal [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/glava-mid-nikaragua-ne-iskliuchaet-vozmozhnosti-uchastija-belarusi-v-stroitelstve-nikaraguanskogo-567406-2023/>

interest to our country as an important platform for integration into world trade and economic relations. And this contributes to the rapprochement of the Belarusian side with a number of Latin American states. For example, “with some countries in the region, relations have already reached the level of strategic partnership, while with others, the expansion of interaction in political, trade, economic, educational, scientific, technical and other spheres is becoming more and more progressive ⁵⁹¹. ” Let us remind you that Belarusian embassies operate in Argentina, Brazil, Venezuela, Colombia and Cuba. In 2023, many interesting and significant events took place in the relations of our republic with a number of countries in the region.

Let's start with **the Republic of Nicaragua** . In October 2023, the third meeting of the Belarusian-Nicaraguan Joint Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation was held in Minsk, during which the current state of interaction between Minsk and Managua was discussed and further steps were outlined to expand bilateral partnerships. In particular, opportunities and prospects were considered “in the field of housing and industrial construction, increasing bilateral trade, cooperation in the areas of investment, food, light industry, pharmaceuticals, culture, strengthening business contacts between the two countries, establishing ties between the capital authorities of Belarus and Nicaragua ⁵⁹². ”

Let us recall that the first two meetings of the commission took place: in September 2014 - in Minsk; in September 2015 - in Managua. During this time, Belarusian exports were mainly agricultural machinery and components, “horticulture and forestry equipment, parts for internal combustion engines, bearings. In the commodity structure of imports, the largest share was occupied by supplies of bananas, coffee and strong alcoholic beverages ⁵⁹³. ” And in May 2023, the parties announced that they were aimed at seriously intensifying trade, economic and humanitarian ties in order to

⁵⁹¹ Belarus and Latin American countries [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : https://www.mfa.gov.by/bilateral/americ/latin_america/

⁵⁹² On the meeting of the Belarusian-Nicaraguan joint commission on trade and economic cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : https://www.mfa.gov.by/press/news_mfa/b2665dfb1e8ad9b4.html

⁵⁹³ Trade and economic relations between the Republic of Belarus and the Republic of Nicaragua [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : https://cuba.mfa.gov.by/ru/bilateral_relations/N/trade/

constantly fill them with new projects and cooperation programs. At the same time, a number of important bilateral documents were signed in Minsk: the General Agreement between the governments of Belarus and Nicaragua on the provision of export credits; basic agreement on the supply of Belarusian equipment to the Nicaraguan market; “an agreement on cooperation in the field of education, which will provide a legal basis for interaction between the parties and the establishment of working contacts between educational institutions of the two countries”⁵⁹⁴. ” In June 2023, the parties discussed the possibilities of interaction in agriculture and agreed to work out the prospects for organizing cooperation in such areas as “exchange of genetic material of crops, livestock breeding, internships for scientists and specialists, training of Nicaraguan specialists in master’s and postgraduate programs of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus”⁵⁹⁵. ”

And in July 2023, a visit of the Belarusian delegation led by Foreign Minister S. Aleinik to Nicaragua took place, where “investment projects, contracts for the supply of Belarusian equipment, prospects for Belarus’ participation in major infrastructure projects in Nicaragua, cooperation” were discussed at the highest and highest levels in the field of agriculture, logistics and the possibility of using port infrastructure, the credit and financial sector and options for joint work in the markets of Latin American countries”⁵⁹⁶. ” As a result of this visit, Belarus and Nicaragua adopted another package of bilateral agreements and contracts. In particular, intergovernmental agreements were signed on the mutual abolition of visas and on the resumption of the work of the joint Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation, and a Roadmap for cooperation in the field of agriculture was

⁵⁹⁴ Zalessky, B.L. When partners have respect, trust and friendship / B.L. Zalessky // Материалы XX Международной научно-практической конференции, “Актуальные проблемы современных наук – 2023.” Volume 1. Промысли: Science и studio. – P. 41.

⁵⁹⁵ Belarus and Nicaragua discussed areas of cooperation in agriculture [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-nikaragua-obsudili-napravlenija-sotrudnichestva-v-selskom-hozjajstve-573073-2023/>

⁵⁹⁶ The Belarusian delegation held extended negotiations with the economic bloc of the Nicaraguan government [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/beloruskaja-delegatsija-provela-rashirnyeperegovory-s-ekonomicheskim-blokom-pravitelstva-nikaragua-577785-2023/>

approved. In addition, OJSC MTZ signed a framework contract for the supply of products from a Belarusian plant in Nicaragua for a two-year period. <...> MAZ OJSC and the mayor's office of the capital Managua also signed a contract for the supply of Belarusian equipment. An agreement was reached on the supply of 236 units of equipment from AMKODOR OJSC for the construction industry and public utilities of Nicaragua ⁵⁹⁷. ” And in the field of culture, the Bolshoi Theater of Belarus, the National Theater named after Ruben Dario and the Nicaraguan cultural foundation “Incanto” signed a memorandum of cooperation.

At the 3rd meeting of the joint commission, the Belarusian side emphasized that it considers Nicaragua as an important political, trade and economic partner in the Latin American region, a reliable ally in the international arena. As for the supply of Belarusian equipment to the Nicaraguan market, further steps have already been planned. The products of the Minsk Automobile Plant, Amkodor, Minsk Tractor Plant and other giants of domestic industry will be in demand in the Latin American country “with the implementation of ambitious infrastructure projects planned by the current government. There are serious developments in the field of agriculture, in particular regarding the use of Belarusian agricultural technologies in Nicaragua ⁵⁹⁸. ”

Note that Nicaraguan soil is very fertile. But only less than half of it is processed. “That is, 50% of fertile land is not cultivated because there is not enough equipment and not enough people. The government of the country <...> is moving in the right direction. We built 4 thousand km of roads ⁵⁹⁹. ” In this regard, the Nicaraguan side expressed interest in organizing the supply of a large batch of equipment from enterprises of the Ministry of Industry of

⁵⁹⁷ . About the visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belarus S. Aleynik to Nicaragua [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : https://mfa.gov.by/press/news_mfa/a423b01505b9ac36.html

⁵⁹⁸ Transcript of the approach to the press by Deputy Minister E. Shestakov following the meeting of the Belarusian-Nicaraguan joint commission (October 4, 2023, Minsk) [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : https://www.mfa.gov.by/press/news_mfa/ab8c63a09ebb1fec.html

⁵⁹⁹ Powdered milk to Cuba and equipment to Nicaragua. The Ambassador spoke about the directions of Belarusian exports [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/suhoe-moloko-na-kubu-i-tehnika-v-nikaragua-posol-rasskazal-o-napravleniih-belorusskogo-eksporta-579482-2023/>

Belarus for various purposes - road construction, agricultural, passenger - “for municipal needs, as well as for the implementation of large infrastructure, transport and logistics projects”⁶⁰⁰. ” As a result of the negotiations, the parties agreed to formulate a list of necessary types of equipment for the preparation of commercial proposals and delivery dates. In general, the successful implementation of the agreements will bring relations between Belarus and Nicaragua to a new, higher level of development.

Another strategic and very important partner of Belarus in Latin America is **the Bolivarian Republic Venezuela**. Let us recall that the two countries established diplomatic relations back in February 1997. Six years ago, in October 2017, official negotiations between the presidents of Belarus and Venezuela were held in Minsk, during which the parties stated their desire to increase cooperation in all areas in the coming years, despite the fact that this country has recently experienced a rather difficult period. As for interaction with the Belarusian side, “due to the difficult situation in the world, the pace of implementation of joint projects has decreased”⁶⁰¹.

Let us note that the parties established long-term trade, economic and cooperation ties back in 2007. Since then, Belarus has built four factories in Venezuela - for the production of ceramic blocks, tractors, municipal and road construction equipment. And in this country there were the “MAZVEN” JV for the assembly of MAZ trucks, the “VeneMinsk Tractors” JV for the assembly of “Belarus” tractors, and the “Maquinarnas Barinas” plant for the assembly of heavy road-building equipment⁶⁰². ” Since 2007, a joint venture for oil and gas production, Petrolera BeloVenesolana, has been operating in Venezuela, focusing on seven oil and six gas fields, four of which are located in the west of the country - on Lake Maracaibo, the rest - in the Venezuelan

⁶⁰⁰ Rogozhnik discussed with the delegation of Nicaragua the issues of intensifying the supply of Belarusian equipment [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/rogozhnik-s-delegatsiej-nikaraguba-obsudil-voprosy-intensifikatsii-postavok-belorusskoj-tehniki-591732-2023/>

⁶⁰¹ Negotiations with the President of Venezuela Nicolas Maduro [Electronic resource]. – 2017. – URL : http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/peregovory-c-prezidentom-bolivarianskoi-respubliki-venesuela-nikolasom-maduro-17221/

⁶⁰² Matveev, V. Belarus and Venezuela agree to intensify the work of assembly plants through the supply of raw materials / V. Matveev // [Electronic resource]. – 2017. – URL : <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-venesuela-dogovarivajutsja-ob-aktivizatsii-raboty-sborochnyh-proizvodstv-za-schet-postavok-269845-2017/>

east. During the operation of this joint venture, the financial effect for the Belarusian side amounted to about \$70 million. "In 2008-2016, more than 8.4 million tons of oil and 6.4 billion cubic meters were produced. m of gas ⁶⁰³. "

As for the construction sector, in addition to opening the largest brick factory in Latin America here, the Belarusian JSC Belzarubezhstroy has participated since 2007 in the construction of housing on Venezuelan soil, where three contracts for the construction of 19,968 apartments were implemented at once. Finally, in the field of agriculture, during the construction of the first agro-industrial town in Venezuela, Belarusian specialists "built 176 residential buildings and a mineral fertilizer warehouse, laid more than 20 km of roads and cleared 2.5 thousand hectares of bush territory. More than 400 units of specialized equipment were supplied from Belarus, and 1.2 thousand hectares of territory were sown ⁶⁰⁴. " It was believed that all this would amount to only a fifth of what the representatives of the Belarusian side still needed to do in the agriculture of Venezuela.

As we see, the two countries, indeed, did not have to start from scratch, renewing agreements already reached both in the field of industry and construction, and in the field of agriculture and hydrocarbon production. Moreover, Venezuela then adopted a national program for the Bolivarian economic development of the post-oil period, which included 15 areas, ranging from food production to the most modern technology, "including projects in industry and agriculture. Belarus can provide assistance in their implementation ⁶⁰⁵. " That is why, at the meeting of the two presidents in Minsk, it was decided to significantly intensify the activities of the joint intergovernmental commission and hold its 7th meeting in the very near

⁶⁰³Matveev, V. Additional investments are needed for the development of the Petrolera BeloVenesolana joint venture - General Director of Belorusneft / V. Matveev // [Electronic resource]. – 2017. – URL : <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/dlja-razvitiia-sp-petrolera-belovenesolana-nuzhny-dopolnitelnye-investitsii-gendirektor-belorusnefti-269858-2017/>

⁶⁰⁴Venezuela asks to build five more agricultural towns according to the Belarusian model [Electronic resource]. – 2017. – URL : <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/venezuela-prosit-postroit-esche-piat-agrogorodkov-po-belorusskoi-modeli-269901-2017/>

⁶⁰⁵Belarus plans to build new factories in Venezuela and increase production volumes of existing ones [Electronic resource]. – 2017. – URL : <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-planiruet-postroit-v-venesuele-novye-zavody-i-uvelicit-obiemy-proizvodstva-dejstvuiuschi-270308-2017/>

future in order to outline a specific action plan for the implementation of both promising and currently implemented joint projects.

In the field of industrial cooperation, the discussion was about bringing existing joint ventures to full capacity in such a way that at least half of the products produced by them would be sold on the domestic market of Venezuela, and the other half would be exported. As for the oil and gas industry, “Belarus is interested in increasing oil production in Venezuela to 2-3 million tons per year ⁶⁰⁶. ” To do this, it would be necessary to significantly intensify the cooperation of the Petrolera BeloVenesolana JV with the Belarusian industry research and design institute BelNIPIneft, whose strategic goal in this Latin American country was “increasing the efficiency of the development of oil and gas deposits through the introduction of new production technologies and rational selection of geological and technical measures” ⁶⁰⁷. In agriculture, and Venezuela imports \$10 billion worth of food annually, it was planned to build dairy complexes, poultry farms, a slaughterhouse, a meat processing plant, and dairy processing plants with the help of Belarusian specialists. Finally, in the field of construction, “agreements were reached on the allocation of new microdistricts for the construction of housing in Venezuela by Belarusian specialists ⁶⁰⁸. ” All these facts indicated that Minsk and Caracas, both then and now, intend to focus in the development of partnership, first of all, on the most important issues in order to fully realize the existing potential of cooperation.

Now let's go back to today. In November 2023, the 8th meeting of the Belarusian-Venezuelan Joint Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation was held in Minsk, at which the parties discussed the most important aspects of the development of promising areas of interaction, found

⁶⁰⁶Belarus is interested in increasing oil production in Venezuela to 2-3 million tons per year [Electronic resource]. – 2017. – URL : <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-zainteresovana-v-uvelichenii-dobychi-nefti-v-venesuele-do-2-3-mlnt-v-god-270309-2017/>

⁶⁰⁷Venezuela plans to expand cooperation with Belarus in the oil sector [Electronic resource]. – 2017. – URL : <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/venezuela-planiruet-rasshirit-sotrudnichestvo-s-belarusiju-v-neftianoi-sfere-269908-2017/>

⁶⁰⁸Matveev, V. Cherny: there are agreements on the allocation of new microdistricts for housing construction in Venezuela / V. Matveev // [Electronic resource]. – 2017. – URL : <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/chernyi-est-dogovorenosti-potvodu-novyh-mikroraionov-dlia-stroitelstva-zhilija-v-venesuele-269871-2017/>

compromise solutions to existing problematic issues and outlined specific steps for the further implementation of projects in the field of industry, construction, agriculture, food, transport, petrochemicals, healthcare, pharmaceuticals, science and technology, education and tourism. Let us clarify that in November 2017, at the 7th meeting of the joint commission, the parties adopted a roadmap for bilateral cooperation for the medium and long term, which, unfortunately, was not implemented due to global events. However, as of mid-October 2023, 32 interstate, intergovernmental and interdepartmental agreements were signed between Belarus and Venezuela. And at the 8th meeting of the joint commission, the parties outlined the task of the current moment, “to jointly return to the main highway of strategic interaction between our fraternal states, despite all the obstacles and difficulties, and to realize the enormous potential that exists in relations between the Republic of Belarus and Venezuela ” ⁶⁰⁹. And for this reason, 13 more documents were signed in Minsk on the implementation of projects in various areas.

In particular, the parties adopted an important document on the creation of a high-level group for strategic planning of the activities of the joint commission in order to monitor the implementation of “new structural mechanisms in bilateral relations that will increase trade turnover between our countries and organize effective logistics and production chains ” ⁶¹⁰. ” In addition, an agreement was signed in the scientific field, which provides for the exchange of experience between the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the Venezuelan Institute of Geography in the field of geography, sealants, geodata, as well as documents in the field of tourism and healthcare, in the industrial field.

All these facts indicate that the 8th meeting of the joint commission can become a new starting point for preparing an updated draft roadmap for

⁶⁰⁹Parkhomchik: Belarus and Venezuela are political and economic partners, as well as close friends and allies [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/parhomchik-belarus-i-venezuela-politicheskie-i-ekonomicheskie-partnery-a-takzhe-blizkie-druzija-i-602138-2023/>

⁶¹⁰Vice President of Venezuela: our countries are bound by bonds of friendship, we need to continue to stick to each other [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/politics/view/vitse-prezident-venesuelv-nashi-strany-svlyazivajut-uzy-druzhbv-nam-i-dalshe-nuzhno-derzhatsja-drug-602296-2023/>

the short, medium and long term. Moreover, the parties have already identified eight of the most pressing issues that must be resolved as quickly as possible: 1) resumption of work at assembly plants of Belarusian equipment in Venezuela; 2) activation of projects in the construction sector; 3) discussion of options for cooperation in the field of forestry and wood processing industry; 4) consideration of possibilities for implementing joint projects in the mining industry; 5) interaction between the parties in the area of agriculture and food supplies; 6) cooperation in the field of petrochemicals and fertilizer supplies; 7) interaction in the field of air transportation and cargo transportation by sea; 8) strengthening cooperation in the fields of education, healthcare, science and technology, as well as interaction in the field of tourism.

Of course, one of the most important topics on this list is the resumption of work in Venezuela at factories assembling tractors and trucks. Let us note that over the past years, the Venezuelan side has purchased more than 1,300 vehicle sets in Belarus, “which were assembled in Venezuela and are used in the national economy. More than 3 thousand Belarusian tractors work in the fields of our country [in Venezuela], and trucks drive on the roads . ”⁶¹¹ The urgent task of these plants is to reach their designed capacity of 10 thousand tractors and 5 thousand trucks, and also to sell them in the markets of neighboring Latin American countries. On the basis of these enterprises, a multi-brand center will be created to support the equipment that will be produced there. And “specialists from MTZ and MAZ will work in this center. They will perform tasks related to training, preparation, support, and service. On the basis of this center, warehouses of spare parts for the production and repair of manufactured equipment will also be formed⁶¹². ” In addition, a very important issue is in the field of the mining industry, since Belarus is interested in supplying quarry equipment to Venezuela, especially

⁶¹¹Vice-resident of Venezuela: the participation of Belarus in the life of our country is of great importance and weight [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/politics/view/vitse-prezident-venesuelv-uchastie-belarusi-v-zhizni-nashej-strany-imeet-bolshoe-znachenie-i-ves-602178-2023/>

⁶¹²It is planned to create a multi-brand center on the basis of Belarusian-Venezuelan enterprises [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/na-baze-belorussko-venesuelskih-predpriyatij-planiruetsia-sozdat-multibrendovyi-tsentr-602259-2023/>

since this equipment has already been supplied to this country. For this reason, the parties agreed to “additionally create a narrow working group that would develop a plan for interaction in this direction ⁶¹³. ”

Regarding the topic of the agro-industrial complex, the first meeting of the Belarusian-Venezuelan working group on agriculture and food was held within the framework of a joint commission in Minsk, at which prospects for cooperation in the field of crop production, livestock farming, veterinary medicine and agricultural education were discussed. For reference, we note that “over 9 months of this year, trade turnover between Belarus and Venezuela increased by 27.9% compared to the level of the same period last year [2022]. The main export item is whey powder, and the main suppliers are Slutsk Cheese Factory OJSC and Molochny Mir OJSC. The main import item is ethyl alcohol ⁶¹⁴. ” As a result, the parties agreed to exchange experience in the field of agricultural education, exchange visits of technical specialists for the purpose of internships, advanced training and retraining in the field of agriculture, livestock and fish farming.

Speaking about the intention to expand cooperation in the field of education and science, the Venezuelan side outlined the main directions in this interaction. “These include artificial intelligence, bio- and information technologies, as well as the field of social sciences ⁶¹⁵. ” On the Belarusian side, the Belarusian State University is already actively participating in these partnerships, which back in 2007 signed a cooperation agreement with the Simon Rodriguez National Experimental University.

During the plenary meeting of the joint Belarusian-Venezuelan commission in November 2023, the parties emphasized that the organization of effective transport links is also of paramount importance for the two

⁶¹³Belarus is interested in supplying quarry equipment to Venezuela [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-zainteresovana-v-postavkah-kariernoi-tehniki-v-venesuelu-602262-2023/>

⁶¹⁴Belarus is interested in supplying a wide range of food products to Venezuela [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-zainteresovana-v-postavkah-shirokogo-assortimenta-prodovolstvennoi-produktsii-v-venesuelu-602273-2023/>

⁶¹⁵Belarus and Venezuela intend to expand cooperation in the field of education and science [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-venezuela-namereny-rasshirit-sotrudnichestvo-v-oblasti-obrazovaniia-i-nauki-594268-2023/>

countries. In this regard, a proposal was made about “the possibility of direct air communication between our countries and joint steps to organize the transportation of goods by sea ⁶¹⁶. ” But in general, the two countries see great opportunities for developing cooperation in other areas - in construction, forestry, woodworking, healthcare, pharmaceuticals, tourism. And this gives Belarus and Venezuela a reason to plan cooperation not only for the next three to five years, but also for the long term.

The Federative Republic of Brazil is the main partner of the Republic of Belarus in foreign trade with Latin American countries and is one of the top ten partners of the Belarusian state in the world. Again, let's take a short excursion into the past, when the first meeting of the Belarusian-Brazilian Joint Commission on Economic Cooperation took place in November 2017. This fact very eloquently illustrated the state of relations between the two countries, the essence of which was that, “despite the geographical distance, Brazil has been and remains the most important trade and economic partner in Latin America for Belarus ⁶¹⁷,” therefore the Belarusian side was very interested in significant intensification contacts with Brazilian partners in the economic, political, scientific, technical and cultural spheres. After all, Belarus, on the one hand, is a major importer of Brazilian sugar, iron, tobacco, leather and fruit, and, on the other hand, it exports a lot of fertilizers, textiles and equipment to this Latin American country. Suffice it to say that in 2016, Belarusian-Brazilian trade turnover exceeded half a billion dollars. But, according to the parties, “the economic potential of our countries indicates that we can significantly increase mutually beneficial cooperation in trade, science, technology, education and other areas ⁶¹⁸. ” That is why in July 2017, the foreign ministries of the two states signed a

⁶¹⁶Belarus proposes to establish direct flights with Venezuela [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-predlagaet-naladit-priamoe-aviasoobschenie-s-venesueloj-602159-2023/>

⁶¹⁷Congratulations to the President of the Federative Republic of Brazil Michel Temer [Electronic resource]. – 2017. – URL : http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/pozdravlenie-prezidentu-federativnoj-respubliki-braziliija-mishelu-temeru-17019/

⁶¹⁸Interview with Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus E. Shestakov to the publication “ Brasilia” in Foco ” (July 8, 2017, Brazil) [Electronic resource]. – 2017. – URL : http://mfa.gov.by/press/smi/c_98f377693514952.html

memorandum on the creation of the Joint Belarusian-Brazilian Commission on Economic Cooperation, which was to become one of the most important tools for the implementation of mutually beneficial economic projects, aimed at enhancing and further expanding trade and economic interaction, more full implementation of the existing potential in bilateral relations, which would allow increasing and diversifying the mutual trade turnover of goods and services.

Three main directions can be identified that then looked most promising in Belarusian-Brazilian interaction: first, increasing mutual trade turnover in goods and services; secondly, the use of more complex forms of cooperation between Belarusian and Brazilian business entities; thirdly, the transition to the creation of joint ventures in sectors of mutual interest - mechanical engineering and agriculture, oil and gas sectors, as well as in the high-tech sector. In this regard, the first meeting of the Belarusian-Brazilian Joint Commission on Economic Cooperation can be considered quite effective.

Firstly, the parties agreed to locate the assembly production of Belarusian tractors at one of the sites in the agro-industrial region of Anapolis, Goiás state. To this end, the Minsk Tractor Plant, the Ministry of Industry of Belarus and the Secretariat for Economic Development of the State of Goiás signed a corresponding memorandum of intent. Secondly, “a number of commercial contracts worth more than \$40 million were concluded⁶¹⁹. ” In particular, the Orsha Flax Mill and the Baranovich Cotton Association alone will supply fabrics worth almost one and a half million dollars to Brazil. In addition, the interaction between Belarusian exporters and Brazilian partners in such areas as “supplies to the Brazilian market of mixed fabrics with viscose insertion” was expected to be interesting and mutually beneficial; resumption of cooperation with Belarusian manufacturers in the production and supply of men's shirts; expansion of the range of linen fabrics supplied to Brazil. It is also planned to supply blackout fabrics, bed linen and towels to

⁶¹⁹Anatoly Kalinin made a working visit to the Federative Republic of Brazil [Electronic resource]. – 2017. – URL : <http://www.government.by/ru/content/7680>

the Brazilian market ⁶²⁰. ” In particular, a trial batch of their product from the Brazilian company Viner Brazil Technology Ltd was supposed to be supplied by Mogilevkhimvolokno OJSC. And from Brazil it was planned to arrange supplies of wet-blue semi-finished leather products to Belarus to ensure the capacity utilization of Belarusian tanneries.

As for other promising areas of cooperation, the following looked very promising: firstly, the desire of one of the world's largest Brazilian aircraft manufacturing companies, Embraer, to open its service center in Belarus; secondly, a signed agreement on technical cooperation between PA Belorusneft and Viner Brazil Technology Ltd ; thirdly, the accepted contract for the supply of potash fertilizers between the Belarusian Potash Company and the company Camporico ; fourthly, a “tripartite memorandum of understanding” was concluded between MTZ, the Bobruiskagromash and Geoterra companies regarding the development of the issue of Belarusian tractor equipment, mounted and trailed equipment entering the Brazilian market ⁶²¹; fifthly, an agreed memorandum of cooperation between the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Belarus-Brazil Chamber of Commerce and Industry. All these concrete steps to strengthen Belarusian-Brazilian cooperation should have yielded positive results in the near future.

Now let's look at today. Note that “in 2021, the volume of bilateral trade amounted to \$782.9 million (a growth rate of 108.9%). Exports amounted to \$585.1 million (108.3%) ⁶²². ” The basis of Belarusian supplies at that time were goods from the petrochemical complex and products of the Belarusian Metallurgical Plant. In 2022, due to a number of limiting factors, the figures for Belarusian-Brazilian trade turnover decreased slightly. But on January 1, 2023, significant changes took place in Brazil: the country's new

⁶²⁰Orsha Flax Mill and BPHO will supply fabrics worth \$1.4 million to Brazil [Electronic resource]. – 2017. – URL : <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/orshanskij-lnokombinat-i-bpho-postaviat-v-braziliu-tkanej-na-14-mln-279290-2017/>

⁶²¹Contracts worth more than \$40 million were concluded during the visit of the Belarusian delegation to Brazil [Electronic resource]. – 2017. – URL : <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/kontraktv-na-summu-bolee-40-mln-zakliucheny-vo-vremia-vizita-belorusskoi-delegatsii-v-braziliu-278631-2017/>

⁶²²Trade and economic relations [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://brazil.mfa.gov.by/ru/exportby/tev/>

president began work and a new government is already functioning. These changes to some extent affected the relations between Belarus and Brazil, which were established more than 30 years ago - in February 1992. We can say that today the two states, separated by 14 thousand kilometers, "have every reason for the progressive development of bilateral cooperation in both the political and economic spheres ⁶²³. " The dynamics of 2022-2023 demonstrate a recovery in foreign trade volumes. In particular, "trade turnover for the nine months of the current [2023] year amounted to almost \$700 million. This is twice as much as last year ⁶²⁴. " Judging by the available facts, two areas of cooperation stand out in the interaction between the two countries today - agriculture and education.

As for the first direction, let us recall that "in Brazil there are about 5 million agricultural enterprises, of which 70% are small businesses. They need equipment, tractors <...>. For example, models BELARUS -152 and BELARUS -622, which are just suitable for such farms ⁶²⁵. " The Brazilian side believes that the machines of the Minsk Tractor Plant (MTZ) are of high quality, easy to operate, and help increase productivity. This can be judged, for example, by the results of the International Agricultural Exhibition and Fair AgriShow , which took place in May 2023 in the Brazilian city of Ribeirão Preto. This business forum is "the largest event in the field of agriculture in South America, which is attended by all representatives of agribusiness from the countries of the continent without exception. In terms of its characteristics, the exhibition is more reminiscent of a district or even regional center: the number of participants and visitors exceeds 200 thousand

⁶²³ Lukashevich: the volume of trade between Belarus and Brazil is hundreds of times higher than with some neighboring countries [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/lukashevich-objem-torgovli-belarusi-s-braziliiei-v-sotni-raz-vyshe-chem-s-nekotorymi-sosednimi-stranami-555506-2023/>

⁶²⁴ Trade turnover between Belarus and Brazil for nine months amounted to almost \$700 million [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/tovarooborot-belarusi-i-brazilii-za-devyat-mesiatsev-sostavil-pochti-700-mln-600698-2023/>

⁶²⁵ Ambassador: in Brazil there is a high interest in Belarusian technology [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/posol-brazilii-v-nashei-strane-est-vysokij-interes-k-belorusskoi-tehnike-582274-2023/>

people, and exhibition areas and pavilions occupy an area of 520 thousand square meters. m" ⁶²⁶.

In 2023, AgriShow recorded a record number of participants - from more than 90 countries. And at this agro-industrial summit, for the first time, Belarus presented MTZ tractors: not only small and maneuverable models for individual farmers, but also large multifunctional machines for large farms. Specialists from the Minsk Tractor and Smorgon Aggregate Plants, the Bobruisk Tractor Parts and Assemblies Plant, and the Borisov Metalist Plant worked at the exhibition. And then "a niche for Belarusian agricultural machinery was identified: low-power basic tractors with a capacity of up to 20-25 horsepower, which can become an indispensable assistant specifically for family farming, which is the basis of Brazilian agriculture ⁶²⁷."

Back in March 2023, Belarus and Brazil agreed to build two factories for the production of MTZ tractors in this country. Consent has already been received from the governors of two Brazilian states – Ceara and Goiás, "project activities are underway. <...> experts have already begun discussing these nuances; there are positive signals ⁶²⁸." And in July of this year, a roadmap for a project to create joint Belarusian-Brazilian assembly plants, including small tractor equipment, aimed at family farms, was already signed. And this interesting initiative in the field of industrial cooperation can achieve impressive results.

Speaking about the development of interaction between Belarus and Brazil in the field of education, we recall that the Cooperation Agreement in this area was signed in August 2015. But even earlier, Belarusian universities began to develop ties with Brazilian partners. For example, the Belarusian State University (BSU) adopted relevant documents on interaction with the

⁶²⁶ Belarus presented its tractors at the largest agricultural exhibition in South America [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-predstavila-svoi-tractorv-na-krupnejshoj-agrovystavke-v-juzhnoj-amerike-564485-2023/>

⁶²⁷ Belarus plans to help Brazil create its new tractor [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-planiruet-pomoch-brazilii-sozdat-svoi-narodnyj-tractor-564487-2023/>

⁶²⁸ Belarus and Brazil agreed to build two factories for the assembly of MTZ tractors [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-brazilija-dogovorilis-o-stroitelstve-dvuh-zavodov-po-sborke-tractorov-mtz-555498-2023/>

universities of Brasilia (2012) and Uberlandia (2014). In 2015, the Belarusian State Agricultural Academy signed a Cooperation Agreement with the same University of Uberlandia. And in 2020, the Memorandum of Cooperation was adopted by Vitebsk State University named after P.M. Masherov and the Federal University of Parana.

In 2023, the Federal University of Minas Gerais (FUUM), which was founded in 1927 and today ranks 10th in the ranking of the best universities in Latin America, also joined partnerships with Belarusian universities. More than 40 thousand students study there and over three thousand teachers work there. The structure of the university includes 20 academic departments and 25 libraries. In September of this year, BSU and FUM signed a memorandum that envisages educational and scientific interaction, the development of academic mobility, and “the parties plan to cooperate in the preparation of joint educational programs, publications, implementation of research projects, holding conferences, seminars, workshops, <...> exchange students and teachers, educational and scientific materials”⁶²⁹.

The partners of the Brazilian university in September 2023 also included the Belarusian State University of Economics (BSEU) and the Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radioelectronics (BSUIR), which adopted relevant memorandums with the FUM, which became the first step towards fruitful Belarusian-Brazilian cooperation in this area. In particular, BSEU and FUMZh have already identified specific areas of partnership. Firstly, “the focus is on teaching Portuguese for Belarusian students and Russian for Brazilian ones”⁶³⁰. ” Secondly, this is the creation of joint programs in English in the specialty “World Economy”. In addition, at the Faculty of International Business Communications of BSEU, the Center for Latin American Studies has already been created and is successfully functioning, where joint projects are carried out by scientists from both

⁶²⁹ A memorandum of understanding was signed between BSU and the Federal University of Minas Gerais in Brazil [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/memorandum-o-vzaimoponimanii-podpisan-mezhdu-bgu-i-federalnym-universitetom-minas-zherajs-v-brazilii-588360-2023/>

⁶³⁰ A memorandum of understanding was signed between BSEU and the Brazilian Federal University of Minas Gerais [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/memorandum-o-vzaimoponimanii-podpisan-mezhdu-bgeu-i-brazilskim-federalnym-universitetom-minas-zherajs-588101-2023/>

universities. A center for studying the Portuguese language will also be developed ⁶³¹. ” All these joint projects, which are of interest to both sides and are already being implemented in the near future, will, of course, serve to bring the two peoples closer together - Belarusian and Brazilian. A rapprochement that will only deepen.

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⁶³¹ Rector of a Brazilian university: cooperation in education will serve to bring our countries closer together [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/rektor-brazilskogo-universiteta-sotrudnichestvo-v-obrazovanii-posluzhit-sblizheniiu-nashih-stran-588136-2023/>

Belarus: an effective driver of industrial production

Import substitution is one of the key development priorities of the Republic of Belarus in the near future. Back in December 2021, the Belarusian government identified strategic directions of work and developed specific tasks in this direction. This is the use of the capabilities of such integration entities as the Eurasian Economic Union, “increasing localization in conjunction with support measures, implementing sectoral import substitution programs, developing cooperation both within the republic and with friendly countries, using local raw materials, and actively involving scientific developments in the real sector economics”⁶³². In 2022, import substitution has become the most important task for every import-related enterprise in order to be proactive. In this regard, intense tasks were brought to all regions of Belarus. Measures that encourage Belarusian enterprises to substitute imports are “increasing localization, developing technological chains, processing local raw materials, attracting small and medium-sized businesses”⁶³³. ” Interesting experience in this context has already been accumulated in a number of Belarusian regions and departments.

The topic of import substitution is very relevant in **the Minsk region**. Manufacturers in the Minsk region “only this year [2022] plan to master the production of import-substituting products across 154 product lines. This is over \$1.5 billion. At the same time, it is planned to export import-substituting products worth \$1 billion”⁶³⁴. ” Thus, the Slutsk Cheese-Making Plant implemented a project to produce instant milk powder. This is a product from which you can get whole milk at home using drinking water. Given the food shortage situation in some countries, instant milk may be in demand in both

⁶³² Golovchenko: import substitution is one of the engines of the economy, designed to resist sanctions pressure [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/golovchenko-importozameschenie-odin-iz-dvigatelej-ekonomiki-prizvannyi-protivostojat-sanktsionnomu-542135-2022/>

⁶³³ Zalessky, B. Result-oriented. Realization of the possibilities of international economic relations / B. Zalessky. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing , 2022. – P. 6.

⁶³⁴ Kurlenko: this year the Minsk region plans to export \$1 billion worth of import-substituting products [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/kurlenko-v-etom-godu-minskaja-oblast-planiruet-eksportirovat-importozameschajushchiju-produktsiju-na-1-514181-2022>

Asia and Africa. In the Kopyl region, the Dzerzhinsky agricultural complex has implemented a large-scale project for the production of turkey meat. The enterprise will produce more than 6 thousand tons of turkey meat per year. The Minsk region has already mastered the production of blue mold cheeses. In a few years, the production of cheeses with white mold will be mastered.

Issues of import substitution are also given special attention at JSC Belekotekhnika, which is located in the village of Svisloch, Pukhovichi district. The company produces more than 100 types of veterinary drugs and more than 60 feeds and feed additives according to unique recipes. At the same time, Belekotekhnika is constantly expanding its range. Our own development department annually registers from six to eight new product names. "In 2022, a new production site was put into operation, specializing exclusively in veterinary drugs. It includes four production areas: a physical and chemical laboratory, a development department laboratory, raw material warehouses and finished product warehouses⁶³⁵." With the commissioning of a new production site, production and sales volumes increased by 30 percent. The company's products are cheaper than European analogues, but they are not inferior in quality.

Enterprises of the Brest region have also become quite actively involved in the work on import substitution. In particular, the Zhabinkovsky feed mill should soon launch a new line for the production of fish and animal feed, which was previously purchased abroad. The Kobrin Butter and Cheese Plant, together with the Republican Scientific and Practical Center of Oncology and Medical Radiology, is completing the development of food production for cancer patients. In the Pinsk region, they are working on the issue of mining and processing basalt - a raw material for the glass industry, which was mainly imported. OJSC "Berezastroymaterialy" thought about developing a clay deposit in the Stolin region in order to replace that part of the raw materials that were purchased abroad. Important detail: "During January – May [2022], 267 new commercial organizations and 1,334

⁶³⁵ Voropai, A. How Belekotekhnika provides import substitution for veterinary drugs and feed / A. Voropai // [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/amp/regions/view/reportazh-kak-belekotekhnika-obespechivaet-importozameschenie-veterinarnykh-preparatov-i-kormov-514311-2022>

individual entrepreneurs were registered in the region. Private structures have also reoriented themselves to producing import-substituting products and are repurposing production facilities. And work continues to ensure import substitution ⁶³⁶. ”

In 2022, almost \$900 million worth of such products were produced in the southwestern region, and the production of new types of goods was mastered. For example, the production of batteries and components has been increased. Mushroom compost production facilities have been put into operation in the Kobrin region. At the Brest Radio Engineering Plant, to meet the needs of Brestgazoapparat, they mastered the production of temperature indicators. Enterprises that produce equipment for the processing industry also got involved in this work. Thus, at "KOMPO" they mastered the production of a line for the production of sausages, at "AgroPischeProm" - equipment for meat processing.

In 2023, the Brest region aims to produce import-substituting products worth more than \$900 million, from which goods worth more than \$530 million will be exported. Currently, work is underway on 146 positions, including 14 new ones. “In particular, enterprises in the region have taken up the production of radiosurgical instruments, construction parts made of plastic, planters and seedling machines, and zip lock packaging. A farm in the Ivanovo region grows bulbs of Dutch varieties of tulips. One of the region’s enterprises has mastered the production of low-protein bakery and confectionery products ⁶³⁷. ” In addition, Pinsk Kuzlitmash is working on creating a new line of mechanical precision stamping presses. Zubr Energy has taken up the production of batteries using AGM technology. Silicon Materials will produce monocrystalline silicon ingots. The production of hydraulic distributors and the expansion of the model range of hydraulic cylinders will be organized at SALEO-Kobrin, and the production of chrome-

⁶³⁶ Vakulchik: enterprises of the Brest region are actively involved in the work on import substitution [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/vakulchik-predpriyatija-brestskoi-oblasti-aktivno-vkljuchilis-v-rabotu-po-importozamescheniju-514809-2022>

⁶³⁷ Enterprises of the Brest region plan to produce import-substituting products worth more than \$900 million [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/predpriyatija-brestskoi-oblasti-planiruiut-proizvesti-importozameschajuschei-bolee-chem-na-561252-2023>

plated hydraulic cylinder rods will be created at the Kobrin tool plant SITOMO.

In the **Mogilev region**, BelEmsa LLC has an interesting experience in import substitution, which is located in the Mogilev region and is a resident enterprise of a free economic zone with Turkish-Belarusian private capital. Since the beginning of 2022, the share of import substitution at BelEms has increased to 80 percent. “ More than 150 products are produced here, including diapers for children and adults, wet toilet paper, wet wipes and wipes with an antibacterial effect. The production of medical masks at the enterprise reaches a record number - more than 100 million pieces per month, and panties-diapers for children - over 20 million pieces per month. These volumes are enough to fully cover the needs of the domestic market and neighboring countries ⁶³⁸. ” The company will soon launch a new line, which will increase the production of adult diapers by 3 times - up to 18 million pieces per month, while the capacity of the existing line is more than six million. In the near future, along with economy and middle class baby diapers, premium products produced by BelEms will appear on the shelves, the quality of which is not inferior to their Japanese and European counterparts. Thus, the company will completely cover the entire price range.

Generally in the Mogilev region in 2022, import-substituting products worth more than \$820 million were produced, and “more than 60% of manufactured products worth over \$500 million were exported. Small and medium-sized businesses account for more than half of the volume of import-substituting products in the region ⁶³⁹. ” For reference, we note that import-substituting products in the Mogilev region were produced last year by 113 business entities covering 191 commodity items. Among them is the Elizovo branch of Grodno Glass Factory OJSC, where the modernization of the glass container workshop has been completed. Now they are working on a project

⁶³⁸ The share of import substitution at BelEmsa has increased since the beginning of the year to 80% [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/dolja-importozameschenija-na-belemsa-vozrosla-s-nachala-goda-do-80-514471-2022/>

⁶³⁹ This year, enterprises of the Mogilev region intend to produce import-substituting products worth \$870 million [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/predprijatija-mogilevskoj-oblasti-v-etom-godu-amereny-proizvesti-importozameschajuschej-produksii-na-560572-2023/>

to install a line for sorting and processing glass waste. PTUP "Krasny Pishevik-Slavgorod" organized an innovative production of confectionery products, which has already created more than 80 new jobs. OJSC "Babushkina Krynka" - the management company of the holding company "Dairy Company "Babushkina Krynka" is implementing a project to create new lactose-free dairy products using the innovative method of membrane technologies. The project is included in the state program for innovative development of the Republic of Belarus for 2021-2025. UCHNPP "Technolit" is implementing a project to organize the production of components for meat processing plants, flax plants, petrochemical enterprises, within the framework of which more than 300 units of spare parts for flax plants and meat processing plants have already been produced. And one more thing: enterprises in the Mogilev region plan to produce import-substituting products worth \$870 million in 2023.

As for enterprises **in the Gomel region**, which are actively working to replace imported products, in 2022 the region produced import-substituting products worth more than \$860 million. Moreover, more than 70 percent of such products were exported. Among the most effective import-substituting projects, the Medplast enterprise should be noted, where in December 2021 the innovative production of vacuum tubes for collecting venous blood was launched. Now they produce 55 types of test tubes of different sizes, volumes and fillings. These products fully comply with world standards. "Over the past year [2022], more than 14.4 million test tubes were produced, with plans for 2023 for 20 million test tubes. In the future, this production will fully satisfy the needs of the country's medical institutions with the opportunity to abandon imported analogues⁶⁴⁰. " The total need in Belarus is 20-25 million tubes per year. Another example of import substitution work in the Gomel region is the SvetlogorskKhimvolokno enterprise, where last year it "launched import-substituting production of nitrile and latex gloves for the medical and food sectors. The design production capacity – 200 million

⁶⁴⁰ From test tubes to hydraulic units: import substitution has been intensified in the Gomel region [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/ot-probirok-do-gidroblukov-v-gomelskoj-oblasti-aktivirovali-importozameschenie-558557-2023/>

pieces of gloves per year – completely covers the republic’s needs, including for surgical purposes ⁶⁴¹. ” At the same time, more than 180 new jobs were created . Another interesting fact is the Saleo-Gomel enterprise, which ensured a significant increase in the supply of new import-substituting hydraulic units and hydraulic equipment for the head conveyors of the MTZ and Gomselmash machine-building holdings.

The Vitebsk region also shows systematic work in this regard , where “the volume of import substitution for the first half of the year [2023] is more than \$500 million, by the end of the year this amount is expected to double ⁶⁴². ” The region organizes the production and supply of high-pressure hoses, filter hoses and napkins, fasteners to mechanical engineering enterprises, as well as hot-melt sealing tape. Also, 147 production projects and 124 infrastructure projects are planned in the region. The modernization and expansion of production was carried out by the Orsha Flax Mill. In the Polotsk region, they have mastered the technology of manufacturing metal structures with multi-system integration of processes based on the concept of Industry 4.0. A plant for automobile cranes with a lifting capacity of up to 100 tons was built in Vitebsk, and a workshop for processing raw materials and producing protein and vitamin supplements was built in the Ushachi district. The construction of wind turbines with a capacity of 6 MW is being completed in the Sennensky district, and a project for the production of cross-laminated panels is being implemented in the Tolochinsky district. In addition, the Verkhnedvinsk creamery plans to produce mozzarella, the creation of a multi-profile fruit and vegetable processing plant continues in Sharkovshchina, and the construction of a delayed coking plant for oil residues at OJSC Naftan has been completed. And finally, we should mention several more import-substituting projects in the Vitebsk region: a vaccine plant with the reconstruction of an existing production facility in the village

⁶⁴¹ Krupko: enterprises of the Gomel region are actively working to replace imported products [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/krupko-predpriyatija-gomelskoj-oblasti-aktivno-rabotajut-nad-zamescheniem-importnoj-produktsii-557802-2023/>

⁶⁴² Subbotin: the volume of import substitution in the Vitebsk region for the first half of the year amounted to more than \$500 million [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/subbotin-objem-importozameschenija-v-vitebskoj-oblasti-za-polugodie-sostavil-bolee-500-mln-589817-2023/>

of Dolzha - BelVitonifarm OJSC; plant of innovative veterinary drugs - Belkarolin LLC; production of universal cable for laying in land, water and air - in LLC "PO Energokomplekt"; production of metal-cutting and auxiliary tools with the introduction of innovative technological processes - in JSC "Orsha Tool Plant". So in 2024, the Vitebsk region, apparently, should significantly update the indicators for the volume of products that will replace imports.

If we talk about industry objectives in terms of import substitution, then against the backdrop of a reduction in imports of consumer goods, the **concern's enterprises look good "Belgospisheprom"**, which ensure the replacement of similar products with their own production. In particular, within the framework of the state program for innovative development of Belarus for 2021-2025, the implementation of the project "Organization of innovative production of confectionery products with the installation of a line at the Krasny Pishevik - Slavgorod enterprise" has been completed. "The company specializes in the production of various types of chewing marmalade, sunflower, rapeseed, flower and whipped cream honey, as well as innovative types of healthy sweets. Such a large range of products will provide Belarusians with tasty and healthy confectionery products ⁶⁴³." And in general, "in the nine months of 2023, the concern has produced an import-substituting range of products. worth \$425 million. All these goods are now on the shelves of Belarusian stores ⁶⁴⁴."

One more fact regarding this topic. In 2023, the organizations of **the Ministry of Industry system** will produce import-substituting products worth almost six billion dollars, and in 2024 this volume should increase by another 200 million dollars. "The increase will occur in such groups as trucks, buses, minibuses, trailers for trucks, grain and forage harvesting equipment,

⁶⁴³ Belgospisheprom enterprises supply products to 36 countries of the world [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/predpriyatija-belgospisheproma-postavljajut-produktsiju-v-36-stran-mira-513896-2022/>

⁶⁴⁴ Head of Belgospisheprom: in nine months the concern produced import-substituting products worth \$425 million [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/glava-belgospisheproma-za-devjat-mesiatsev-kontsern-proizvel-importozameschajuschej-produktsii-na-425-599446-2023/>

diesel engines, rolled metal, and televisions⁶⁴⁵. ” In addition, the positive dynamics of production volumes of import-substituting products will be largely ensured through the development and organization of production of innovative products. In this regard, the experience of the Belarusian Automobile Plant is interesting, which, at its holding site in Orsha, creates a high-tech production facility for the production of heavy-duty mining dump trucks and develops new types of products. “The introduced rolling technology will make it possible to produce high-quality blanks of solid-rolled and profile rings from various grades of steel with an outer diameter of up to 3 m and a weight of up to 3 tons with high quality and minimal allowance for subsequent processing. Bearings, ring gears of planetary gears, flanges and other types of products will be made from them. Currently, such blanks are not produced in Belarus⁶⁴⁶. ” These high-tech products are used in mechanical engineering, aircraft and engine manufacturing, nuclear energy, and shipbuilding. For this reason, the implementation of this investment project with high export potential will not only lead to the creation of our own high-tech production of rolling rings, but will also ensure their complete import substitution both for the needs of the Belarusian Automobile Plant and for other enterprises of our country.

In the **energy sector**, extensive experience in the production of import-substituting products has been accumulated at Belenergoremnaladka OJSC. This is the largest organization in Belarus specializing in the repair, installation, adjustment, diagnostics and maintenance of energy equipment - from small thermal power plants to the Belarusian nuclear power plant - and the production of spare parts and components, including using unique technologies. In 2022, this enterprise produced “\$2 million worth of import-substituting products, or 53% more than in 2021, this year – already \$3.5

⁶⁴⁵ Enterprises of the Ministry of Industry plan to increase the volume of production of import-substituting products in 2024 [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/predpriyatija-minprom-a-v-2024-godu-planirujut-uvelichit-objem-vypuska-importozameschajuschej-produktsii-606535-2023/>

⁶⁴⁶ BELAZ's investments in the creation of a modern ring-rolling complex will amount to almost Br 200 million [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/investitsii-belaza-v-sozdanie-sovremennogo-kompleksa-koltseraskatki-sostavjat-pochti-br200-mln-605545-2023/>

million, with an annual plan of \$2.8 million ⁶⁴⁷. ” In addition, JSC Belenergoremnaladka put into operation a mobile workstation based on a high-precision 3D scanner with computer equipment and licensed software. Our own design bureau and an accredited metal testing and welding laboratory allow us to provide services for the development of a complete set of design documentation for the production of a product according to the sample. And in 2024, the company will carry out maintenance and repair of equipment at both power units at the Belarusian NPP, including controlled access zones. In the future, a branch will be opened here so that the work is carried out with the least possible involvement of third parties.

Let us recall that at the end of December 2022, at a meeting of the Presidium of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus, it was noted that in 2023, import substitution will become an even more effective driver of Belarusian industrial production, where special attention will be paid to increasing localization. For reference, we note that two years ago the quantity of these products in Belarus was about \$27 billion, and already “in the current [2023] year, the volume of output of import-substituting products will be about \$29 billion ⁶⁴⁸. ” This suggests that throughout the republic a large number of enterprises - in industries and regions - are already involved in the implementation of import substitution programs in all areas, from trucks, buses to televisions, furniture and the simplest consumer goods. And in 2024, it is import substitution, cooperative interaction between enterprises and increasing the level of localization of production that will become effective ways to increase industrial production volumes and strengthen cooperation ties between the business sector and large state holdings.

⁶⁴⁷ JSC Belenergoremnaladka produced import-substituting products worth \$3.5 million [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/oao-belenergoremnaladka-vypustilo-importozameschajuschej-produktsii-na-35-mln-606481-2023/>

⁶⁴⁸ Golovchenko: we expect that this year the volume of production of import-substituting products will amount to \$29 billion [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/golovchenko-ozhidaem-cto-v-etom-godu-obiem-vypuska-importozameschajuschej-produktsii-sostavit-29-mlrd-605441-2023/>

Belarus: trends in the development of transport of the future

In June 2023, the fourth exhibition “Electric Transport Day” was held in Minsk, in which more than 30 organizations took part - industrial enterprises, scientific organizations and importing companies of electric vehicles. At this exhibition forum, passenger and cargo electric vehicles, the latest models of Belarusian electric buses, and components of the element base for electric vehicles were presented. “Among the new products are the MAZ apron electric bus, the first Volat electric bus of the Minsk Wheel Tractor Plant, a multifunctional urban electric truck of the National Academy of Sciences, a new model of the AMKODOR electric forklift ⁶⁴⁹. ”

Let us note that this exhibition very organically overlaps with global trends and development trends of the Belarusian market. After all, according to the International Energy Agency, more than ten million electric vehicles were sold worldwide in 2022, which is 55 percent more than in 2021. “This was facilitated by the global trend towards decarbonization and the refusal of large automakers to produce cars with internal combustion engines. <...> As a result, the total number of electric vehicles in the world exceeded 26 million units ⁶⁵⁰. ” In 2023, the positive dynamics continued. At the same time, the share of new electric vehicles on the market reached 18 percent (in 2020 there were only 4 percent).

As for the Republic of Belarus, our country also has all the conditions for the development of the electric vehicle market. And in 2023, this trend was already felt much more strongly on Belarusian roads. “ First of all, this is most noticeable in commercial vehicles. There are a lot of electric cars appearing in taxis, car sharing and commercial transportation. <...> One of the trends is the growth of supplies from the country that is the leader in

⁶⁴⁹ More than 30 organizations will take part in the exhibition “Day of Electric Transport” in Minsk on June 9 [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/bolee-30-organizatsij-primut-uchastie-v-vystavke-den-elektrotransporta-v-minske-9-ijunia-569850-2023/>

⁶⁵⁰ Electricity consumption by charging stations for electric vehicles in Belarus has increased by more than a third [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/elektropotreblenie-zariadnymi-stantsijami-dlja-elektrotransporta-v-belarusi-vvroslo-bolee-chem-na-tret-569857-2023/>

electric vehicle technology – China ⁶⁵¹. ” Recall that the first Chinese electric cars Geely Geometry C was brought to SJSC “BELGEE” three years ago to gain experience in using it in Belarus and to show customers new cars. “As for the domestic electric car, work is now being carried out jointly with the Academy of Sciences. “We [SJSC “BELGI”] handed over to NAS a sample of one of the most popular Coolray models to study the possibility of creating an electric car on the basis of another car ⁶⁵². ”

By the way, the capacity of the passenger car market in Belarus is estimated at 50 thousand cars per year. In this volume, electric cars could occupy a quarter if their price were below ten thousand dollars. In the meantime, the Geometry model C costs more than 90 thousand Belarusian rubles. So for the BELGI enterprise, the key directions in terms of electric transport, apparently, will be providing the market with more budget models and developing service. In particular, in 2023 a new Geely model, Geometry, went on sale. E is a car in a more budget segment. The Ministry of Industry of Belarus also spoke on the topic of a domestic electric car in June 2023, emphasizing that very soon it will be ready to present and show its own development, so that “the model of a domestic electric car will be ready this year ⁶⁵³. ”

Continuing the topic of electric vehicles from Chinese manufacturers in Belarus, we note another interesting fact: by the end of 2023, it was planned to modify about 200 Belorusneft charging stations for these cars, or almost 30 percent of all charging station capacities in the republic. Generally speaking, power consumption by charging stations for electric vehicles in Belarus in 2022 increased by more than a third. “A network of charging

⁶⁵¹ By the end of the year, about 200 Belorusneft electric filling stations will be modified to charge Chinese electric vehicles [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/do-kontsa-goda-okolo-200-ezs-belorusnefti-modifitsiruut-dlia-zariadki-kitaiskih-elektromobilei-569935-2023/>

⁶⁵² Svidersky: Belarus has all the conditions for the development of the electric vehicle market [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/sviderskij-v-belarusi-est-vse-uslovija-dlia-razvitiia-rvynka-elektromobilei-569868-2023/>

⁶⁵³ Ministry of Industry: we will soon present a prototype of a domestic electric car [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/minprom-skoro-predstavim-opytnyj-obrazets-otchestvennogo-elektromobilja-571013-2023/>

stations has already been formed, there are about 700 of them in total. According to this indicator, Belarus occupies a leading position in the CIS space ⁶⁵⁴. ”

By the way, in May 2023, our country's charging infrastructure was recognized as a leader at the international environmental competition “Green Eurasia” among the countries of the Eurasian Economic Union, where it was noted that the Belarusian super-fast charging complex implemented “all modern trends in electric vehicle technology. This is an electrical energy storage system and a pantograph for a regular electric bus; it is also possible to charge an electric car for 300 km in 10 minutes ⁶⁵⁵. ” By 2025, these super-fast complexes will appear in Belarusian regional cities and on the M1 – Brest-Russian border highway, and by the end of 2030, 86 of them will be installed throughout Belarus. In the meantime, in 2024, “15 state-of-the-art super-fast charging complexes will be built ⁶⁵⁶. ”

Another interesting question in the context of this topic concerns the creation of components for electric vehicles. After all, Belarus is already ready to localize these components. These are power engines that Mogilevliftmash produces in sufficient quantities as needed . This includes control electronics, which is produced by the Vitebsk Izmeritel plant. As for batteries, “the Academy of Sciences has three enterprises that assemble battery systems. <...> Now we see a more promising direction - sodium-ion batteries ⁶⁵⁷. ” In Belarus, prototypes have already been made in laboratory conditions. And in China, they expected the release of an electric car with

⁶⁵⁴ Electricity consumption by charging stations for electric vehicles in Belarus has increased by more than a third [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/elektropotreblenie-zariadnymi-stantsijami-dlja-elektrotransporta-v-belarusi-vyroslo-bolee-chem-na-tret-569857-2023/>

⁶⁵⁵ By the end of 2030, 85 super-fast charging systems for electric cars will be installed in Belarus [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/v-belarusi-do-konsa-2030-goda-ustanovjat-85-superbystryh-zariadnyh-kompleksov-dlja-elektrokarov-569933-2023/>

⁶⁵⁶ By the end of the year, there will be more than 700 electric charging stations in Belarus, and another 105 will be added in 2024 [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/v-belarusi-k-konsu-goda-budet-bolee-700-elektrozariadnyh-stantsij-v-2024-m-dobavitsja-esche-105-571025-2023/>

⁶⁵⁷ Chizhik: they are creating components for electric transport in Belarus and are ready for their localization [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/chizhik-v-belarusi-sozdajut-komponenty-dlja-elektrotransporta-i-gotovv-k-ih-lokalizatsii-569937-2023/>

sodium-ion storage devices before the end of 2023. All these facts indicate that the implementation of a comprehensive program for the development of electric transport last year has already contributed to the creation in Belarus of a new mechanical engineering sector - electric vehicles, as well as the formation in this regard of a system of scientific support for the entire range of economic, environmental and social issues in this innovative area.

And in March 2024, the Belarusian government updated a comprehensive program for the development of electric transport. In particular, this document includes the chapter "Creating the production of passenger electric vehicles." Let us recall that in January 2023, at a meeting on the implementation of a comprehensive program for the development of electric transport until 2025, the task was set at the government level to determine the realistic time frame for the creation of a domestic passenger electric vehicle. It was noted then that "a lot of research work has been carried out, a significant number of elements of the power plant, electrical equipment, and traction devices have been created ⁶⁵⁸. " And the March (2024) resolution of the Council of Ministers already states that in 2017-2022, the Joint Institute of Mechanical Engineering of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) of Belarus formed a scientific and engineering school, mastered methods for designing electric power plants of vehicles and their basic components, taking into account technological capabilities domestic enterprises, and also developed design documentation, manufactured and tested components of these installations. And now, for the mass production of Belarusian electric vehicles, "it is advisable to evaluate two potential directions for the development of the automotive industry - an electric vehicle and a sequential hybrid. The most promising of them is the organization of production on the basis of mass-produced passenger cars ⁶⁵⁹. " And in the second half of 2023, an experimental sample of the BELGEE electric passenger car was

⁶⁵⁸ Golovchenko: it is necessary to determine the real time frame for the creation of a domestic electric passenger car [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/golovchenko-neobhodimo-opredelit-realnye-sroki-sozdaniya-otchestvennogo-legkovogo-elektromobilija-546358-2023/>

⁶⁵⁹ The government has updated the comprehensive program for the development of electric transport [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/pravitelstvo-obnovilo-kompleksnuju-programmu-razvitiya-elektrotransporta-621197-2024/>

manufactured eX 50 with electric powertrain base component. And at the end of January of this year, the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus “began work on certification tests of an experimental model of a Belarusian electric car and finalization of design documentation for mass production conditions. A roadmap for organizing the production of a pilot batch of BELGEE passenger electric vehicles has also been approved eX 50 this year⁶⁶⁰. ” It is planned that production of five passenger electric vehicles should be completed in August-September. Next is trial operation and testing in order to approach mass production of these machines by the end of this year. Also in the plans is “the production of the entire component base for domestic electric vehicles at the enterprises of the Ministry of Industry. Specific factories have been identified that are preparing to produce the necessary components⁶⁶¹. ” So there is reason to believe that in 2025 a Belarusian passenger electric car could be put into mass production.

As for Belarusian electric buses, at the end of March 2024, two pilot projects to provide electric transport with the participation of two domestic manufacturers of passenger electric transport have already been implemented in two regions of Belarus - in the Mogilev and Minsk regions. Firstly, the operation of 15 modern electric buses, which were produced at the BKM enterprise, began in the Shklovsky district Holding (formerly Belkommunmash). They will operate on three urban and 19 suburban routes. “The electric buses are designed for 31 passenger seats, and another 36 people can travel in them while standing. There is space for a wheelchair and baby stroller. Also in the cabin you can find connectors for charging gadgets, a “warm” button for requiring a stop, installed both inside and outside⁶⁶². ” In

⁶⁶⁰ Gorbunov, A. “Course reserve 400 km, spare parts are cheaper.” How will a Belarusian electric car be more profitable than foreign ones / A. Gorbunov // [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/zapas-hoda-400-km-zapchasti-desheвле-chem-belorusskij-elektromobil-budet-vvgodne-inostrannv-624192-2024>

⁶⁶¹ Belarus is preparing for mass production of domestic passenger electric vehicles [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/v-belarusi-gotovjatsja-k-serijnomu-proizvodstvu-otchestvennyh-legkovyh-elektromobilej-624868-2024>

⁶⁶² Convenience and environmental friendliness. New electric buses will go on routes in the Shklovsky district [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/udobstvo-i-ekologichnost-novve-elektrobusy-v-vidut-na-marshruty-v-shklovskom-raione-623982-2024>

addition, eight charging stations were installed in Shklov to service the new public transport. Secondly, 14 new passenger electric buses produced at the Minsk Automobile Plant came out in Zhodino. This pilot project involves the complete replacement of diesel buses on city routes. “The electric buses have 285 kWh batteries located on the roof, which provides maximum seating capacity. The autonomous range is 250 km, the total passenger capacity is 66 people ⁶⁶³. ” In addition, the cars are equipped with air conditioning and a driver's cabin microclimate system. The cabin is equipped with video cameras, an information system with a display and USB ports for charging various types of devices. But in general, apparently, the pilot project to provide electric transport will continue throughout the country - “the Vitebsk region is next in line, most likely the industrial city of Novopolotsk ⁶⁶⁴. ”

Now let's see how work is progressing to create electric trucks at a number of Belarusian enterprises. Back in early 2022 BKM Holding (formerly Belkommunmash) presented its first electric truck Vitovt Truck Electro Prime, which began delivering goods to one of the Minsk retail chains in February last year. The new product is capable of “carrying a load of up to 7.8 tons at a speed of 90 km/h without recharging. Power reserve up to 200 km. <...> A full charge in this mode takes 90 minutes ⁶⁶⁵. ” Over the course of several months, the electric truck, delivering goods from the logistics center to hypermarkets, traveled more than 12 thousand kilometers. And in general, the tests were successful. But the creators of the new product must still resolve several related issues. For example, “the electric truck needs to be rebuilt, since some of the components were from European countries, but now they are not available to the Belarusian enterprise. They need to be

⁶⁶³ Parkhomchik: Zhodino is provided with the necessary infrastructure for the operation of urban electric transport [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/parhomchik-zhodino-obespechen-neobhodimoi-infrastruktur-odlja-raboty-gorodskogo-elektrotransporta-624337-2024/>

⁶⁶⁴ Parkhomchik: the pilot project to provide cities with electric transport will continue [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/parhomchik-pilotnyi-proekt-po-obespecheniju-gorodov-elektrotransportom-budet-prodolzhatsja-623973-2024>

⁶⁶⁵ The first Belarusian electric truck of BKM Holding is undergoing trial operation [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/pervyj-belorusskij-elektricheskij-gruzovik-bkm-holdinga-prohodit-opytuiju-ekspluatatsiju-555820-2023/>

replaced ⁶⁶⁶. " The second question is that an electric truck is still more expensive than a regular one, so for now it is very expensive to buy such equipment. Now the creators of the new product are in the process of finalizing it. But even this year the results obtained may be very interesting.

The Minsk Automobile Plant is also working on this topic, where there is a separate division that develops electric transmission and adaptive control systems, telematics and mechatronics. This version of the electric truck is "designed to transport cargo up to 4.5 tons over a distance of up to 200 km without recharging (urban and suburban routes). At the same time, an almost one hundred percent level of localization of development and production has been achieved, which ensures the import independence of the component base and intellectual component used in it ⁶⁶⁷. " The development of a promising new product shows that it has a future and even plans to increase capacity for such production.

Another important element of the Comprehensive Electric Transport Development Program for 2021-2025 is the provision of electric charging stations (EVS). For reference, we note that "in Belarus, an extensive network of charging stations for electric vehicles has been formed, the total number of which exceeds 1 thousand." ⁶⁶⁸. Among them, as of January 1, 2024, the EPS network of the RUE Production Association Belorusneft consisted of 690 stations. Of these, 432 are located in the Minsk region and the capital, 55 in the Brest region, 48 in the Vitebsk region, 62 in the Gomel region, 62 in the Grodno region, and 35 in the Mogilev region. And Belorusneft plans to develop this network. In addition, "new super-fast charging complexes are being actively designed, which combine the most modern features in the

⁶⁶⁶ "The market is not ready yet, but there is interest." Do Belarusian electric trucks have a future? [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/rynok-poka-ne-gotov-no-interes-imeetsja-est-li-budushee-u-belorusskih-elektrogruzovikov-599641-2023/>

⁶⁶⁷ At MAZ they told how the work on the domestic electric truck is progressing [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/na-maze-rasskazali-kak-prodvigaetsja-rabota-nad-otechestvennym-elektrogruzovikom-602395-2023/>

⁶⁶⁸ Karankevich: an extensive network of charging stations has been formed in Belarus, their number exceeds a thousand [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/karankevich-v-belarusi-sformirovana-razvernutaia-set-zariadnyh-stantsij-ih-chislo-prevyshaet-tysiachu-624347-2024>

charging infrastructure. By 2030, the number of such complexes in the country will reach 86 units, and the charging speed of an electric vehicle will be comparable to the speed of filling a car with gasoline at a traditional gas station ⁶⁶⁹. ”

Another participant in this market is Vityaz OJSC, which mastered the production of stations in 2018. And “today the company has more than 20 models of electric charging stations of various modifications. The production of electric charging stations is developing in four directions: so-called ground- and wall-mounted stations, fast and super-fast charging complexes ⁶⁷⁰. ” The annual production volume of such equipment in 2023 was about 300 units, which is almost one and a half times more compared to 2022. But the priority direction for Vityaz OJSC remains the production of super-fast charging systems for charging both passenger electric vehicles and electric buses, as well as electric trucks.

And a new participant in this market in Belarus in October 2023 was the SKAT network of electric charging stations , which is being created by the Belselektrosetstroy enterprise. “The new charging stations are equipped with GB / T connectors for Chinese electric vehicles . They will provide both fast charging of electric cars - in 15-40 minutes, and slow charging - within 6-8 hours, depending on the power and configuration of the stations ⁶⁷¹. ” Last year, 15 such stations were produced, and in the future about 100 will be produced annually.

Finally, in Belarus they plan to begin testing a domestic battery for electric vehicles by the end of 2024. “In August, the National Academy of Sciences should report on the first Belarusian battery, which should begin to

⁶⁶⁹ In Belarus, by 2030, the network of super-fast charging complexes for electric cars will reach 86 units [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/v-belarusi-k-2030-godu-set-superbvstrvh-zariadnyh-kompleksov-dlja-elektrokarov-dostignet-86-edinit-579668-2023/>

⁶⁷⁰ “Vityaz” plans to increase the production of electric charging stations by 1.5 times by the end of the year [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/vitjaz-po-itogam-goda-planiruet-v-15-raza-uvelichit-vypusk-elektrozariadnyh-stantsij-594575-2023/>

⁶⁷¹ A new network of electric charging stations will appear in Belarus [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/v-belarusi-poiavitsia-novaja-set-elektrozariadnyh-stantsij-593411-2023/>

be tested by the end of the year <...> ⁶⁷². ” And this will be a very important factor in the development of the Comprehensive Electric Transport Development Program for 2021-2025.

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⁶⁷² Testing of the Belarusian battery for electric vehicles is planned to begin before the end of the year [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/ispytaniya-belorusskoj-batarei-dlja-elektrotransporta-planiruiut-nachat-do-konsa-goda-624870-2024/>

Belarus: a tool for innovative perspectives

One of the important mechanisms for implementing the strategy of innovative development in Belarus is the system of industrial parks on unused and inefficiently used production areas of state-owned enterprises. “The main areas of activity of residents of Belarusian technology parks today are instrument engineering and mechanical engineering, electronics, information technology and software development, medicine, pharmaceuticals and the production of medical equipment...”⁶⁷³. In the State Program for Innovative Development of the Republic of Belarus for 2021-2025, for the accelerated development of infrastructure in the fields of scientific, scientific, technical and innovative activities, among the priority tasks is support for small innovative entrepreneurship on the basis of scientific and technological parks or technology parks. At the same time, the mechanisms for solving this problem are: the creation and organization of the activities of technology parks in large regional centers; formation and development of technological infrastructure in technology parks to provide relevant services to residents - prototyping and industrial design centers, centers for collective use of equipment, engineering centers, laboratory complexes, co-working centers; “organization of the implementation in technology parks of educational programs for additional education of adults on issues of innovation; creation and organization of effective use of target funds for the innovative development of technology parks”⁶⁷⁴; the formation by technology parks of a range of services provided on the basis of the widespread use of information and communication technologies and advanced production technologies and ensuring the implementation of the innovation cycle in full - from the idea to the release of products to markets.

It should be noted that in 2023, “more than 20 subjects of innovation infrastructure worked in Belarus - these are 16 technology parks, 6 technology transfer centers, the Belarusian Innovation Fund and the National Center for

⁶⁷³ Zalessky, B. With an eye to the future. Features of multi-vector partnership in modern conditions / B. Zalessky. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2021. – C. 117.

⁶⁷⁴ State program of innovative development of the Republic of Belarus for 2021-2025 / ed. S.V. Shlychkova. – Minsk: State Institution “BelISA”, 2022. – P. 13.

Intellectual Property ⁶⁷⁵,” where there are over 250 residents of technology parks and more than 5,300 people work. “The volume of output (goods and services) by residents of technology parks almost doubled compared to 2022 and amounted to about Br830 million. Residents of technology parks shipped products (goods and services) worth over Br350 million for export, which is 43% of the total the volume of manufactured products, compared to 2022, this figure increased 2.5 times ⁶⁷⁶. ”

Among the actively developing Belarusian innovative structures, one should name **Minsk City Technopark LLC**, created in November 2011 and today uniting 54 resident enterprises, which are located at three sites in the Belarusian capital. The largest number - 43 - are located on Soltys Street. There is one resident at the site on Tsentralnaya Street. Ten more residents are located on Partizansky Avenue - on the territory of the motorcycle plant, where a comprehensive reconstruction is underway. In addition, “at the new site on Partizansky Avenue, a special management procedure has been defined: for 5 years from the date of registration as a resident of the technology park, enterprises are exempt from income tax and during the same period they can import equipment duty free ⁶⁷⁷. ” In general, the technology park helps residents look for foreign partners, financial, technological, and human resources. And the income tax is only 10 percent. So for this reason, here and today they are developing the most relevant and diverse areas of activity - “the creation of components for aerospace systems, electric transport and electric vehicles, the production of software and hardware and complexes for managing electronic queues, feed additives, medical products for ophthalmology, otorhinolaryngology, exoprosthetics, commercial and

⁶⁷⁵ Innovation and science. The State Committee for Science and Technology has set tasks for technology parks for 2024 [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/innovatsii-i-nauka-gknt-postavil-tehnoparkam-zadachi-na-2024-god-617472-2024/>

⁶⁷⁶ Residents of Belarusian technology parks almost doubled their production volumes in 2023 [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/rezidentv-belorusskih-tehnoparkov-v-2023-godu-uvelichili-objemy-vypuska-produktsii-pochti-vdvoe-619889-2024/>

⁶⁷⁷ New technologies for different industries. Golovchenko visited the Minsk City Technopark [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/novye-tehnologii-dlja-raznyh-otraslej-golovchenko-poseshaet-minskij-gorodskoj-tehnopark-598916-2023/>

warehouse equipment ⁶⁷⁸. " An important detail: approximately 60 percent of the products of the technopark residents are exported to the countries of the Eurasian Economic Union, Central Asia, and Europe. And the plans of the technology park include further expansion and development, as well as an increase in the number of residents.

Speaking about other innovative structures of the Belarusian capital, which are actively developing their activities and showing good results, we can name the scientific and technological park "UE "Unitechprom BGU" , created in 1999 and dealing with medicines and pharmaceutical substances, chemical-analytical and special technologies, measuring equipment, medical devices, food industry ingredients. In 2023, the first series of Temodex was released here for local chemotherapy of malignant brain tumors, for which patents were received from the United States of America, India and the European Union. Also last year, "the production of new unique medicines began. For example, the drug "Prospidelong" has no analogues in the world, it is intended for patients with stomach cancer, "Antispike" is used to heal various wounds after surgical interventions, "Foscelantan" is used to enhance tissue regeneration in the treatment of trophic ulcers and abscesses of various kinds ⁶⁷⁹. " To this end, in March 2023, a modernized workshop for the production of unique medicines was opened at Unitechprom of the Belarusian State University, which is equipped with modern equipment and fully complies with international standards. After all, "this project implements all stages of the innovation cycle, starting from the stage of fundamental research, through applied development and commercialization. The project of the fifth technological order, therefore, belongs to the high-tech sphere ⁶⁸⁰. "

⁶⁷⁸ Golovchenko: it is necessary to increase the effect of funds invested in scientific development [Electronic resource]. — 2023. — URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/golovchenko-nuzhno-uvlechivat-effekt-ot-vlozhenniy-v-nauchnye-razrabotki-sredstv-598984-2023/>

⁶⁷⁹ Shlychkov: Dozens of types of innovative products are developed annually in Belarus [Electronic resource]. — 2023. — URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/shlychkov-v-belarusi-ezhegodno-razrabatvayutsja-desjati-vidov-innovatsionnoj-produktsii-568140-2023/>

⁶⁸⁰ Unitechprom BSU will begin producing unique antibacterial and antitumor drugs [Electronic resource]. — 2023. — URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/unikalnye-antibakterialnye-i-protivopuholevye-preparaty-nachnet-proizvodit-unitechprom-bgu-558361-2023/>

It remains to add that the modernization of this site was carried out within the framework of the project “Organization of the production of original bioresorbable multifunctional drugs,” which is included in the state program for innovative development and is designed until 2025.

And in 2024 in the scientific and technological park “UE “Unitekhprom BGU” plan to launch the production of hemostatic wipes for hospitals and personal use, which are intended for use as an additional means during surgical interventions to stop capillary, venous and small arterial bleeding, as well as for domestic bleeding. The fact is that these wipes are “made from a sterile, absorbable white or off-white fabric made by controlled oxidation of cellulose. Upon contact with blood, the napkin absorbs it and swells, gradually transforming into a gel-like substance, and reliably clogs the capillaries, a multi-stage blood clotting process is activated, which stops bleeding ⁶⁸¹. ” The development is a Belarusian analogue of expensive imported hemostatic wipes, which are widely used throughout the world. It is planned that their production will be launched in 2024, and the products themselves will go into use in healthcare institutions in our country, and will also appear in pharmacies. In addition, in the future, exports to the market of the Eurasian Economic Union, where there is currently a shortage of hemostatic materials, will be established.

Another interesting example of Belarusian innovative entrepreneurship is **the Brest Science and Technology Park**, created in June 2012, where at the end of 2022 55 residents were registered, and today there are already more than 70. They are employed in the fields of IT, design, mechanical engineering, waste recycling, education, medicine. In mid-December 2022, the park welcomed four new members. One of them specializes in the production of sports boats from composites, the second - in the design and production of orthopedic products. The third resident is engaged in the production of pneumatic units, the fourth – in the development of a neurocorrection program in speech therapy. At the beginning of 2023,

⁶⁸¹ In Belarus they plan to launch the production of hemostatic wipes for hospitals and personal use [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/v-belarusi-planiruiut-zapustit-proizvodstvo-gemostaticheskikh-salfetok-dlja-bolnits-i-lichnogo-610519-2024/>

the park increased its area by seven thousand square meters. “The technology park received the former workshop of the Brest Electromechanical Plant for its needs. Its reconstruction began in November 2020. Thanks to the implementation of the project, the useful area of the building will double - up to 22.5 thousand square meters. m. The whole point is that the height of the ceilings in the former production premises reaches 7.2 m. Each of the four floors will be divided in two and the distance from floor to ceiling will be reduced to 3.6 m. The first stage of reconstruction is coming to an end ⁶⁸². ” And in 2023, the first stage of reconstruction has already been completed here. And the period for the entire reconstruction is 2025-2026. Since the beginning of 2023, five floors have been commissioned: two technical, one and a half production floors and one and a half office floors. A small amount of work has been identified for the second stage: parking will be provided. During the third phase, builders will build five more floors in the building. They will be put into operation gradually over three years. The new areas of the technology park will house production and service premises, offices, co-working spaces, conference rooms, and public spaces. The technology park has already created a center for collective use, which is being formed on the basis of industry 4.0 technology. It was equipped with advanced equipment for the production of a full cycle of metal and polymer products for small-scale and pilot production. In particular, this is “a laser cutting machine, a hydraulic sheet bending machine, a robotic manipulator, an additive installation for printing one-time sand molds for the production of shaped castings, a hydraulic profile bending machine, an injection molding machine, and a tool sharpening machine. The equipment has been installed and commissioning has been completed ⁶⁸³. ” Conditions have also been created for residents and their partners to organize joint work and provide services. In addition, Brest Technopark is a participant in the “One Region – One Project” program, within which it operates in three areas. The first is the

⁶⁸² Brest Technopark will increase its area by the beginning of 2023 [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/tech/view/brestskij-tehnopark-k-nachalu-2023-goda-uvlechit-svoi-ploschadi-540149-2022>

⁶⁸³ Khokhlov, A. Brest Technopark: an important platform for union projects / A. Khokhlov // [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://postkomsg.rf/science/235728/>

production of complex 3D injection molds for mechanical engineering. The second is the production of robotic complexes for processing industry enterprises and enterprises with mass production. "The third direction is the production of pumps from composite materials for use in housing and communal services, food production, and petrochemicals ⁶⁸⁴. "

Let us note that several more technology parks are being created in the Brest region. In 2023, construction began on a branch of the park in **Baranovichi**. In particular, "a plot of 13.7 hectares has been reserved next to the automatic line plant. It is planned to build an industrial park on this territory, whose production premises will be transferred for use to residents. The project involves the construction of three workshops similar to an industrial hotel. The area of one workshop is 6.9 thousand sq.m." ⁶⁸⁵. A logistics center, a small administrative building with laboratories and offices will also be built here. Now preparatory work is already underway for the construction of the production building and utility networks. "Currently, in the areas of the first production building, five entities are interested in organizing the production of universal tractor semi-trailers, industrial film greenhouses, polymer composites, processing of secondary material resources ⁶⁸⁶. " Other business entities are also showing interest in this innovative platform. The first building of the technology park is planned to be put into operation in 2025.

As for **Pinsk**, the decision to create a similar site there was made at the end of 2022, since the industrial park should become a growth point in the development of the city. When creating it, the experience of the Brest Science and Technology Park will be used. Local authorities are already searching for residents. In particular, enterprises producing roofing materials and fertilizers

⁶⁸⁴ The reconstruction of the Brest Technopark is planned to be completed in 2025-2026 [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/rekonstruktsiju-brestskogo-tehnoparka-planirujut-zavershit-v-2025-2026-godah-575770-2023/>

⁶⁸⁵ An industrial park will be built in Baranovichi [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/industrialnyi-park-postrojat-v-baranovichah-540068-2022/>

⁶⁸⁶ Five companies are interested in working on the territory of the industrial park being built in Baranovichi [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/piat-kompanij-zainteresovany-v-rabote-na-territorii-stroiaschegosia-v-baranovichah-industrialnogo-parka-614591-2024/>

are showing interest. At the beginning of March 2024, at a meeting on the implementation of the program for accelerated socio-economic development of Pinsk at the level of the government of Belarus, a specific task was set: work on the creation of an industrial park must be accelerated. After all, “the issue of the effective functioning of an industrial park depends not only on the walls, general construction and other works, but on the equipment and those who will be residents”⁶⁸⁷; in order to create a comfortable environment for business and produce in-demand products with an innovative component. The implementation of this project began on the basis of Technopark Polesie LLC. We are talking about providing ready-made industrial space for organizations interested in producing innovative products. The proposed specialization of the industrial park is mechanical engineering, metalworking, logistics services, chemical industry. Three plots of land have been selected for construction in the industrial and warehouse zone along Kozubovskogo Street with a total area of 50 hectares. Two of them are included in the free economic zone (FEZ) "Brest". Note that “the industrial park will consist of four production buildings with an area of about 6 thousand square meters each and engineering infrastructure. The starting point of the park will be an area of 11.5 hectares, which is located within the boundaries of the Brest FEZ. In the neighborhood there are OJSC "Kuzlitmash", CJSC "Pinskdrv", CJSC "Amkodor-Pinsk", OJSC "PINEMA", Pinsk plant of small-scale mechanization equipment”⁶⁸⁸. The industrial potential of these enterprises can be used to attract park residents and create production cooperation chains with them. This project is being carried out in several stages: the start of construction of the first stage - in September 2023; completion and launch of the first production facilities - at the beginning of 2025.

Another interesting example is **Zhabinka**. This satellite city of Brest aims to increase investment attractiveness and create comfortable conditions for business. Special attention in Zhabinka will be paid to manufacturers of

⁶⁸⁷ We need to create a comfortable environment for business. Igor Petrishenko on the construction of an industrial park in Pinsk [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.government.by/ru/content/10798>

⁶⁸⁸ Construction of the industrial park will begin in the fall in Pinsk [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/industrialnyi-park-nachnut-stroit-oseniu-v-pinske-545904-2023/>

innovative products. “First of all, we are talking about science and technology parks and their residents, technology transfer centers. There is a need to modernize existing production facilities and create new, high-tech ones ⁶⁸⁹. ” So far, one resident of the Brest Technopark is registered in Zhabinka. This is a private enterprise that deals with digital technologies and robotics in agriculture. Having become a resident of the Brest Science and Technology Park, the company retained its business in the Zhabinsky district, had the opportunity to purchase a complex of capital buildings to create the production of innovative and high-tech products, and even entered into an agreement to manufacture a line for the production of fuel pellets for a peat briquette plant. All this suggests that Zhabinka, as a satellite city, has high potential for attracting investment and is open to fruitful cooperation. The measures taken will ensure the progressive development of small and medium-sized businesses, increase their share in the regional economy and contribute to the creation of new enterprises and jobs. For reference, we note: more than 500 individual entrepreneurs, about 150 micro and small enterprises, as well as 13 medium-sized businesses are registered in the Zhabinkovsky district. In the region in 2022, 8 new commercial organizations were created, 5 of them in the satellite city. Small and medium-sized businesses provide more than 35 percent of total revenues to the consolidated budget of the Zhabinkovsky district. So, there are good innovation prospects in this region as well.

And another interesting point in the context of this topic can be seen in the **Gomel region** , where **the Coral technology park operates** . At the end of 2023, there were already about 20 residents operating here. In 2024-2025, expansion of this innovative platform is planned. “It is planned to build production facilities so that residents can more effectively develop innovative production, the production of innovative products ⁶⁹⁰. ” The fact that such

⁶⁸⁹ Residents of technology parks will be provided with preferences in the satellite city of Brest [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/rezidentam-tehnoparkov-predostavjat-preferentsii-v-gorode-sputnike-bresta-544234-2023/>

⁶⁹⁰ For innovative production: the Gomel Regional Executive Committee announced the expansion of the Coral technology park [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/dlia-innovatsionnogo-proizvodstva-v->

creative participants in the technopark will determine the future is no longer in question. For example, like the IdeaRobotics company, which developed an automated pharmacy in Gomel. This resident of the Coral technology park specializes in software for robotization of production and technological processes and the creation of artificial intelligence systems for production. “Gomel programmers and engineers became pioneers in this segment not only in Belarus, but abroad. Among the unconditional bonuses of an automated pharmacy are round-the-clock availability of medications, online consultation with a pharmacist, and a reduction in the selling price of medications ⁶⁹¹. ” And such developments, one must assume, will be introduced en masse into the real sector of the economy and the social sphere in the near future.

Let's summarize. Technoparks in Belarus, including Minsk City Technopark, Scientific and Technological Park Unitekhprom, Brest Scientific and Technological Park, Technopark Coral, are very effective tools for the development of small and medium-sized businesses, which play a significant role in the development of the country's regions. And in the future, in our republic they plan to create new technology parks and their branches in order to “develop the technological infrastructure to provide services to residents, attract extra-budgetary sources of funding for subjects of innovation infrastructure and to ensure their work ⁶⁹². ” All this suggests that technology parks are becoming a promising platform for the development of the innovative economy of Belarus.

[gomelskom-oblispolkome-anonsirovali-rashshirenie-tehnoparka-korall-611043-2024/](https://www.belta.by/regions/view/rezidenty-gomelskogo-tehnoparka-razrabotali-avtomatizirovannuju-apteku-584974-2023/)

⁶⁹¹ Residents of the Gomel Technopark have developed an automated pharmacy [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/rezidenty-gomelskogo-tehnoparka-razrabotali-avtomatizirovannuju-apteku-584974-2023/>

⁶⁹² Shlychikov, S. How innovation is supported in Belarus / S. Shlychikov // [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/interview/view/kak-v-belarusi-podderzhivajut-innovatsii-8554/>

Belarus: to promote trade and economic interests

Every year in Belarus the Plan of national exhibitions of the country in foreign countries is approved. Its distinctive feature is the focus of the Belarusian side on promoting its trade and economic interests in the countries of Asia, Africa, Latin America - Vietnam, Mongolia, South Korea, India, China, Turkey, Qatar, Iran, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Brazil. In this regard, the Asian continent is especially important, where “there are still many opportunities in this direction <...>. In order to use them successfully, it is necessary to continue systematic and consistent work, developing mutual interest and initiating new formats of contacts, as is, in fact, what is happening in the development of partnerships with a number of Asian countries ⁶⁹³,” including **Vietnam, Iran, Mongolia, Turkey, Pakistan, China** , where Belarusian exporters actively participate in specialized exhibition events.

It is characteristic that representatives of Belarus are participating in a number of exhibition events not for the first time, but already using the experience accumulated there earlier in promoting their interests. These include, in particular, the **Vietnam Trade Fair Expo** , which has been held annually since 1990, is one of the largest in Southeast Asia, regularly attracting hundreds of exhibitors and tens of thousands of professional visitors. In December 2018, this business event was held in Ho Chi Minh City for the 16th time. At it, Belarus was represented by a national exposition, the participants of which were more than 50 large enterprises, which focused “on high-tech, complex technical products, as well as agricultural products and food products ⁶⁹⁴.”

In particular, only the Belarusian State University (BSU) then presented about 30 scientific and technical developments in the field of agriculture, instrument engineering, chemistry, healthcare, and information technology. “In particular, the exhibition included the complex microbial

⁶⁹³ Zalesky, B. Horizons of the far arc. Potential for interaction of the Republic of Belarus with the countries of Asia and Africa / B. Zalesky. – Palmarium Academic Publishing, 2022. – C. 25 .

⁶⁹⁴ Grishkevich, A. The national exposition of Belarus is presented at a trade exhibition in Ho Chi Minh City / A. Grishkevich // [Electronic resource]. – 2018. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/natsionalnaja-ekspozitsija-belarusi-predstavlena-na-torgovoi-vystavke-v-hoshimine-328209-2018/>

preparation “Zhytsen”. Its use has proven effective in increasing grain yields, it improves soil quality and accelerates the decomposition of stubble and straw ⁶⁹⁵. " BGU biopesticides for complex plant protection “Aurin”, “Stimul”, which are used to stimulate the growth and development of plants and protect them from bacterial and fungal infections, were also presented here. Ultrasonic gas metering devices, a device for remote monitoring of the movement of mobile objects “Agent B-602”, a medical unit for general hyperthermia “Ptich-M”, antitumor drugs, disinfectants, and edible packaging films also aroused great interest among visitors to the exhibition.

The possibilities of Belarusian food exports were demonstrated in Ho Chi Minh City by such enterprises as OJSC Krinitza, OJSC Belsolod, JV OJSC Spartak, OJSC Minsk Crystal - the management company of the Minsk Crystal Group holding, OJSC Minsk Sparkling Wine Factory, OJSC “Confectionery factory “Slodych”, SOJSC “Kommunarka”, OJSC “Krasny Pishevik”, OJSC “Krasny Mozyryanin”, OJSC “Lidapischekontsentraty”. Their interest in this business forum can be explained by the fact that “Vietnam is not only a profitable consumer market with more than 92 million people, but also a kind of trade gateway to the entire region of Southeast Asia, whose population exceeds 600 million people.” ⁶⁹⁶.

In 2022, more than 350 companies from 16 countries took part in this forum, including China, the USA, Japan, India, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, and Cuba. At this forum, Belarus presented more than 100 scientific, technical and innovative developments in the field of high-tech equipment. The event is held under the auspices of the Ministry of Industry and Trade of Vietnam. “The topics of the exhibition are IT and telecommunications, science and education, mechanical engineering and industrial equipment, agriculture,

⁶⁹⁵ BSU will present scientific and technical developments at a trade fair in Vietnam [Electronic resource]. – 2018. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/bgu-predstavit-nauchno-tehnicheskie-razrabotki-na-torgovoi-jarmarke-vo-vietname-327981-2018/>

⁶⁹⁶ Belgospisheprom enterprises will present their products at an exhibition in Vietnam [Electronic resource]. – 2018. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/predpriiatija-belgospisheproma-predstavljat-produktsiju-na-vystavke-vo-vietname-327182-2018/>

food, pharmaceutical and medical products, building materials, chemical products, light industry, consumer goods⁶⁹⁷. ”

As for **Iran , the International Exhibition of Agriculture and Food Industry** Iran took place in June 2022 Agrofood . The National Exposition of the Republic of Belarus was organized at the Tehran International Exhibition Center. This forum is the key industry event in the field of food production and agriculture in Iran. The main sections of the exhibition: agricultural machinery, food and drinks, equipment for their production, catering, storage and packaging, ingredients. The exhibition is held annually. In 2021, 311 organizations and enterprises became its participants. This time Belarus, Brazil, Germany, Italy, Turkey, the Netherlands and others presented their products. Belarusian manufacturers showed a wide variety of products. Thus, the range of goods of the Vitba confectionery factory included more than 100 items, including breakfast cereals, waffles and cookies.

The National Academy of Sciences of Belarus demonstrated innovative developments in several areas. For example, the Scientific and Practical Center of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus for Animal Husbandry proposed a number of veterinary drugs and dietary supplements based on nanoparticles for farm animals. The Belarusian State Technological University presented “new types of mineral fertilizers, technologies for processing agricultural waste to produce construction and composite materials, technologies for processing plant raw materials and medicinal herbs to produce biologically active additives, new methods for analyzing the quality of flax and flax products” for the guests of the exhibition⁶⁹⁸. The Belarusian State University presented 15 scientific and technical developments at the international exhibition Iran Agrofood. Among the BSU innovations are edible films and coatings based on polysaccharides and plant antimicrobial and antioxidant additives. “They are the only type of

⁶⁹⁷ Belarus will present more than 100 projects at the Vietnam exhibition Expo [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/bolee-100-proektov-predstavit-belarus-na-vystavke-vietnam-expo-495765-2022/>

⁶⁹⁸ A wide range of Belarusian goods will be presented at the Iran exhibition Agrofood [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/shirokij-spektr-belorusskih-tovarov-budet-predstavlen-na-vystavke-iran-agrofood-507944-2022/>

biodegradable polymer packaging that does not require sorting or special disposal conditions and preserves the taste, aroma, aesthetic appearance and sterility of products. The new type of wrap is non-toxic, completely decomposes in the human and animal body, and can significantly reduce the use of plastic⁶⁹⁹. ”

And in **Mongolia**, in September 2022, the National Exposition of Belarus was presented at the 47th international multidisciplinary exhibition Ulaanbaatar Partnership in Ulaanbaatar. The exhibition was attended by large export-oriented Belarusian companies - manufacturers of food products, pharmaceutical products, engineering enterprises, scientific and technical organizations and others. “The Ulaanbaatar Partnership exhibition is universal in nature and covers a wide range of thematic sections: food and drinks, agriculture, mechanical engineering, construction, healthcare, pharmaceuticals, light industry, consumer electronics. The event is one of the largest multi-industry exhibitions in Mongolia: in 2021 it brought together 110 companies and 12 thousand visitors⁷⁰⁰. ” Belarus took part in the exhibition in Ulaanbaatar in the format of a national exposition in 2019. Then the exposition presented the products and services of 15 companies: mechanical engineering, food industry, science and education organizations. The business program included the Belarusian-Mongolian business forum with the participation of representatives of 60 Mongolian enterprises.

In **Turkey**, the National Exposition of Belarus was presented at the beginning of November 2022 in Istanbul - as part of the international multi-industry exhibition MUSIAD Expo. The participation of domestic enterprises and organizations in the national exposition within the framework of this exhibition contributed to the establishment of new business contacts with potential partners, increasing Belarusian exports and diversifying the product range. Türkiye is an important partner of Belarus. “Last year, trade turnover

⁶⁹⁹ Edible films, vitamins, veterinary preparations: BSU presents 15 developments at exhibitions in Iran [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/sjedobnye-plenki-vitaminy-vetpreparaty-bgu-predstavljajet-15-razrabotok-na-vvstavke-v-irane-508439-2022/>

⁷⁰⁰ Belarus will present an exposition at an exhibition in Mongolia in September [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-v-sentiabre-predstavit-ekspozitsiju-na-vvstavke-v-mongolii-511811-2022/>

between the two countries amounted to \$1,081.6 million (146% by 2020), including exports - \$360.5 million (270%), imports - \$721.1 million (119%). In 2021, the turnover of services between Belarus and Turkey amounted to \$94.8 million (162%), exports – \$52.8 million (134%), imports – \$42 million (220%)⁷⁰¹. ” As for the exhibition in Istanbul, MUSIAD Expo is the largest multidisciplinary event in Turkey, which is held every two years. In 2020, more than 500 companies and over 100 thousand visitors from 125 countries took part in it. The main sections of the exhibition are food industry, agriculture, construction, mechanical engineering and automotive industry, machine tool industry, metallurgy, petrochemical industry, pharmaceuticals and healthcare, services, tourism, real estate, consumer goods, furniture, energy, logistics, information technology, textile, clothing and footwear industry, leather goods.

In 2023, national exhibitions of Belarus will be organized in a number of Asian countries. Particularly in **Pakistan**. Let us recall that at the International Trade and Industry Fair, which was held in the Pakistani city of Karachi in November 2021, about 60 scientific, technical and innovative developments were presented at the Belarusian collective stand of the State Committee for Science and Technology. Institutions of the Ministry of Education, as well as in correspondence format, organizations of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus showed their exhibits in the field of processing and modification of surfaces, chemical technologies and materials, physical materials science and new materials. “Among the most interesting developments are the technology for producing optically selective composite absorbing coatings for solar collectors, smart windows based on the bistable effect, a multifunctional complex for the preparation and automatic filling of filled and unfilled multicomponent hybrid-composite mixtures, a technology for the production of energy-saving flat and flexible

⁷⁰¹ The national exposition of Belarus will be presented at a multi-industry exhibition in Turkey [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/amp/economics/view/natsionalnaja-ekspozitsija-belarusi-budet-predstavlena-na-mnogootraslevoi-vystavke-v-turtsii-514624-2022>

aluminum heaters with a resistive element carbon fiber ⁷⁰². " This year there will be even more Belarusian participants.

Speaking of **the China** International Import Exhibition, which is held annually in Shanghai, in November 2022 it has already become the fifth. 27 organizations from the food industry, logistics, science and education took part in the Belarusian exposition. The Belarus pavilion at the import exhibition included "two main sections: "Food and Agricultural Products" and "High-Tech Equipment and Information Technologies . " ⁷⁰³The total exhibition area of Belarus was about 100 square meters. In 2023 it will become even larger.

Let us note that in recent years Belarusian exhibitions have also been presented on the African continent. For example, in **Kenya**, Belarus' interest in the Kenya business forum International Trade Exhibition (KITE) is due to the fact that it is the largest exhibition event in East Africa. In 2019, our country was represented there for the first time with a national exposition at the 22nd international exhibition of food, hospitality and agriculture FoodAgro in Nairobi, which is part of KITE . At that time, enterprises of the Belgospishcheprom concern, OJSC Management Company of the Lidselmash Holding, as well as Gomselmash, MTZ, MAZ, Bobruiskagromash, Lidakhleboprodukt, and Smorgon Bakery Plant demonstrated their products in the capital of Kenya. Participation in the exhibition opened up "new opportunities for them to promote Belarusian agricultural machinery and equipment, fertilizers, food, and agricultural products to the Kenyan market ⁷⁰⁴," and also showed them the way to enter the markets of other countries in East and Southern Africa. In particular, a memorandum of understanding was adopted there between the official

⁷⁰² About 60 Belarusian scientific and technical developments will be presented at the international exhibition in Pakistan [Electronic resource]. – 2021. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/tech/view/okolo-60-belorusskih-nauchno-tehnicheskikh-razrabotok-predstavjat-na-mezhdunarodnoj-vystavke-v-pakistane-469010-2021/>

⁷⁰³ The China International Import Exhibition opened in Shanghai [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/world/view/v-shanhae-otkrilas-kitajskaja-mezhdunarodnaja-vystavka-importa-533320-2022/>

⁷⁰⁴ The national exposition of Belarus opened at the FoodAgro exhibition in Kenya [Electronic resource]. – 2019. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/natsionalnaja-ekspozitsija-belarusi-otkrilas-na-vystavke-foodagro-v-kenii-356942-2019/>

representative of the Belarusian enterprises MTZ, Lidagroprommash, Bobruiskagromash, Gomselmash, Lidselmash, MAZ and the Pewin company Motors and an agreement was reached on the supply of Belarusian agricultural machinery - tractors, agricultural machines, equipment, accessories. For example, only the “Management Company of the Bobruiskagromash Holding” signed an agreement for the supply of its equipment in the amount of about 500 thousand dollars. “The greatest interest among visitors [to the exhibition] was caused by tillage equipment, tractor trailers and semi-trailers, as well as forage equipment (mowers, rakes, balers) ⁷⁰⁵. ” In addition, “Lidselmash OJSC and Peter Wanjohi Company have established cooperation for the construction of grain procurement and grain processing complexes in Kenya, Uganda and other countries in the region ⁷⁰⁶. ” And the Belgospischeprom concern agreed to supply the first batches of sunflower oil and light canned beer to this African country. Finally, at the same time, “agreements were signed on the construction of a reinforced concrete plant on Kenyan soil and the creation of a fish farm with a total value exceeding one hundred million dollars ⁷⁰⁷. ”

In **Zimbabwe** in April 2022, the National Exposition of Belarus was presented at the 61st Zimbabwe International Trade Fair, the largest multidisciplinary exhibition event in South Africa. More than 400 companies from 15 countries showed their products, including Kenya, Mozambique, South Africa, Japan, and the United States of America. At the Belarusian stand in Bulawayo, “a wide range of technology and equipment, scientific and

⁷⁰⁵ “Bobruiskagromash” will supply equipment and spare parts worth \$500 thousand to Kenya [Electronic resource]. – 2019. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/bobruiskagromash-postavit-v-keniju-tehniku-i-zachasti-na-500-tys-358196-2019/>

⁷⁰⁶ Belarusian enterprises at FoodAgro agreed to supply agricultural equipment to Kenya [Electronic resource]. – 2019. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/beloruskie-predpriatija-na-foodagro-dogovorilis-o-postavkah-selhoztehniki-v-keniju-357705-2019/>

⁷⁰⁷ Zalesky, B.L. Belarus – Kenya: promising growth points identified / B.L. Zalesky // Materials for the XV International Scientific and Practical Conference, News on Scientific Progress - 2019, August 15 - 22, 2019: Sofia. “Byal GRAD-BG”. – P. 3.

technical developments, and medicines” were presented ⁷⁰⁸. The total exhibition area of the pavilion was about 170 square meters.

Foreign importers showed particular interest in the pharmaceutical products presented in the Belarusian pavilion. In particular, representatives of RUE Belmedpreparaty, part of the Belfarmprom holding, held effective negotiations. “This is expected to expand the presence of Belarusian medicines on the African market ⁷⁰⁹. ” The Zimbabwean side voiced its intention to develop cooperation in this area, as well as to act as representatives of Belarusian companies in the regional market. The National Academy of Sciences of Belarus has concluded a number of cooperation agreements with educational institutions and scientific organizations in Zimbabwe, and BELAZ has concluded a number of agreements on the supply of auto parts.

The interest of the Belarusian side in this forum is also explained by the fact that “today Zimbabwe is actively expanding mining, has significant reserves of coal, diamonds, gold, lithium, copper and is one of the promising export destinations for BELAZ equipment ⁷¹⁰. ” For reference, we note that in Zimbabwe they use Belarusian mining dump trucks with a carrying capacity of 55 and 130 tons, bulldozers, loaders, tow trucks and watering machines. At the exhibition in Bulovayo, a manufacturer from Belarus held negotiations with the National Diamond Mining Company ZCDC , “which operates more than 20 mining dump trucks with a lifting capacity of 55 tons and other BELAZ special equipment, as well as with the coal company HWANGE Colliery ” ⁷¹¹. As a result, agreements were reached on the development of existing partnerships.

⁷⁰⁸ The national exposition of Belarus is presented at the largest exhibition in Zimbabwe [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/natsionalnaja-ekspozitsiia-belarusi-predstavlena-na-krupneishei-vvstavke-v-zimbabwe-499129-2022/>

⁷⁰⁹ Belarusian drug manufacturers will present their products at an exhibition in Zimbabwe [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belorusskie-proizvoditeli-lekarstv-predstavjat-svoju-produktsiju-na-vvstavke-v-zimbabwe-498300-2022/>

⁷¹⁰ BELAZ will take part in the largest exhibitions on three continents [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belaz-primet-uchastie-v-krupneishih-vvstavkah-na-treh-kontinentah-497525-2022/>

⁷¹¹ BELAZ intends to develop cooperation and strengthen ties with companies in Zimbabwe [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL :

In 2023, Belarusian exhibitions will be presented in other African countries - **Algeria** and **Egypt**. In particular, the FIA international exhibition will be held in **Algeria**. For the first time, the Belarusian exposition at this exhibition forum was organized back in 2017. At that time, Belarus was represented by the products of enterprises of the Ministry of Industry, including OJSC MAZ, OJSC Gomselmash and OJSC Minsk Electrotechnical Plant, as well as the developments of the State Committee for Science and Technology, the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, and the Ministry of Education. "The exposition of Belarus at FIA 2017 aroused increased interest among representatives of Algerian government bodies, large private companies and enterprises, as well as the diplomatic corps. Based on the results of the negotiations that took place during the exhibition, memorandums of cooperation were signed between OJSC MTZ and the Belarus Motor Algeria company, as well as between the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and potential partners⁷¹². "In total, about one thousand companies from 40 countries took part in the FIA 2017 exhibition in Algeria. In 2023, apparently, there will be even more forum participants.

As for the international exhibition of food and beverages Food Africa Cairo, which is held annually in **Cairo**, the Belarusian exposition this year will be organized at this site for the fifth time. In December 2022, the exhibition Belarus. The Taste of Nature was presented at **the Egyptian** International Exhibition Center. As part of the exposition, 14 Belarusian enterprises presented a wide range of dairy, meat, starch products, as well as baked goods. "Enterprises of the Grodnomyasomolprom holding" (OJSC Bellakt, OJSC Molochny Mir, Lida Dairy and Canning Plant and its branch Smorgon Dairy Products, Rogoznitsa Starch Plant, Volkovysk and Slonim Meat Processing Plants), as well as the Skidelsky Agricultural Plant demonstrated their products to foreign visitors to the exhibition. , Smorgon

<https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belaz-nameren-razvivat-sotrudnichestvo-i-ukrepljat-delovye-svjazi-s-kompanijami-zimbabve-499547-2022/>

⁷¹² Belarus and Algeria have all the prerequisites for expanding cooperation - Rachkov [Electronic resource]. – 2017. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-alzhir-imejut-vse-predposylki-dlja-rashshirenija-sotrudnichestva-rachkov-247000-2017/>

Bread Products Plant, Primemilk LLC, Lidakhleboprodukt OJSC, Slutsk Cheese-Making Plant and Minsk Dairy Plant No. 1 OJSC ⁷¹³.

All these facts point to one thing: participation in major exhibition events in African countries can open up new export opportunities for Belarusian enterprises, the potential of which is truly enormous.

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⁷¹³ The Belarusian exposition was presented at the food exhibition in Egypt [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belorussskaja-ekspozitsija-predstavlena-na-prodovolstvennoj-vvstavke-v-egipte-538642-2022/>

Free economic zones : optimization as an impetus for the development of growth points in the regions

The results of 2021 showed that residents of six free economic zones (FEZs) operating in the Republic of Belarus were able to generate up to 70 percent of investments, up to half of the export of goods and a third of the industrial production volumes of their regions. And this despite the fact that “at the beginning of 2022, 432 business entities were registered in the SEZ, projects are being implemented attracting investments from more than 30 countries for a total amount of declared investments of about \$7.5 billion. During 2021, the composition of the SEZ was replenished with 25 new residents with the total volume of declared investments is \$441 million, of which a third is with foreign capital (\$401 million) ⁷¹⁴. ” In December 2021, amendments to the law “On Free Economic Zones” (FEZ) were approved in the Republic of Belarus, which provided for the transfer of powers to change the boundaries of these preferential plots of land from the head of state to the government. The purpose of these innovations is “to reduce the time from the idea to the start of implementation of new investment projects in territories that are considered growth points in the regions ⁷¹⁵. ”

Based on this decision, the Belarusian government in April 2022 adjusted the territory of **the Grodnoinvest FEZ**, adding areas that are areas of high demand for investors, and excluding areas that are not promising. Let us remind you that in 2018 this SEZ already changed its contours. Then, for the first time, the territories of Svisloch were included in its borders, and industrial parks in Smorgon and the Grodno region were expanded. This has since made it possible to attract more than one billion dollars of foreign investment into the SEZ. This time, adjustments were made to sites located in the Grodno, Svisloch and Smorgon regions, as well as in the cities of Lida, Novogrudok, Smorgon, Slonim and Grodno, which should “improve the

⁷¹⁴ FEZ residents in 2021 formed a fifth of the main republican indicators [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/rezidentv-sez-v-2021-godu-sformirovali-piatuju-chast-osnovnyh-respublikanskikh-pokazatelej-485111-2022/>

⁷¹⁵ Zalessky, B. Time for specific decisions. Chronicle of international cooperation / B. Zalessky. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2022. – P. 141.

conditions for attracting investment to the regions, use new industrial sites with investment with a capacity of up to \$60 million, to ensure the possibility of further effective implementation of investment projects of existing residents of the FEZ in the amount of more than \$120 million ⁷¹⁶. ”

Let us note that in 2021, residents of the Grodnoinvest FEZ have already seriously increased both industrial production and exports to near and far abroad countries, and also attracted a record volume of foreign direct investment. In numbers it looks like this: the foreign trade turnover of residents increased by more than 40 percent and exceeded two billion dollars. “The growth driver was the export of Belarusian products. Its volume amounted to \$1.4 billion with a growth rate of 146% compared to 2020. The positive balance of foreign trade turnover amounted to \$721 million, which is \$283 million more than in 2020. ⁷¹⁷” Geography of supplies: 63 countries. At the same time, exports to Denmark, Sweden, Austria, Italy, Great Britain, the Netherlands, Germany, and the USA increased significantly. But the key sales markets remained Russia, Poland and Ukraine. The lion's share of the volume of shipped products - more than 70 percent - fell on wood and paper products, furniture, food and agricultural products. In addition, manufacturers of optical equipment, chemical products and metal products also increased their exports. The basis of these successful results of activities of FEZ residents, of course, lies in their active investment policy. In 2021, they were able to attract \$160 million in foreign investment. Key investors were Austria, Cyprus, Poland and the Netherlands. In total, the investment vectors of SEZs already include 15 countries. The largest investments were made in production facilities located in industrial parks in Smorgon, Svisloch and Grodno.

It is also important that in 2021, four companies operating in the chemical, metalworking and logistics industries became new residents of the Grodnoinvest FEZ. Thus, the Portela company with Portuguese investments

⁷¹⁶ The government has adjusted the boundaries of the Grodnoinvest FEZ [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/pravitelstvo-skorrektirovalo-granitsy-sez-grodnoinvest-496079-2022/>

⁷¹⁷ Exports from the Grodnoinvest FEZ increased 1.5 times last year [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/eksport-sez-grodnoinvest-za-proshlyj-god-vyros-v-1.5-raza-494540-2022/>

is implementing a project to build a transport and logistics center in the Grodno region. Another resident, Unis Trade, is busy organizing the production of metal structures in Grodno, where “a production and warehouse complex will be built, modern equipment for the production of various metal structures will be purchased. Production is planned to be launched by the end of 2022.”⁷¹⁸ And the OV-PlastSnab enterprise at an industrial site in the Aulsa area plans to produce a wide range of products from synthetic polymers. Finally, in December 2021, ServicePromPack Group LLC was registered in the FEZ with an investment project to create a high-tech enterprise for the production of a wide range of types of polyolefin packaging for export to other residents of the FEZ, which will be implemented in the Grandici area. “The release of the first batch of products is planned for the second quarter of 2022. It is planned that 45 jobs will be created”⁷¹⁹.

The positive dynamics of exports and attracting foreign investment will continue here in 2022. In particular, in January-March of this year, “over 70% of sold products were exported from here, which is 4 percentage points more compared to the 1st quarter of 2021. The geography of exports exceeded 60 countries”⁷²⁰. As for foreign investment, in the first quarter of 2022, almost \$135 million came to the SEZ from 12 countries, including the Netherlands, Cyprus, Austria, Great Britain, Poland, and the United Arab Emirates. “The main volume of investments fell on companies in the industrial park FEZ Grodnoinvest in the Smorgon region, where global manufacturers successfully operate. More than \$16 million was raised by FEZ residents located in Grodno”⁷²¹. Speaking about new residents, it should be

⁷¹⁸ Logistics, chemistry and metalworking: FEZ “Grodnoinvest” was replenished with 4 new residents in 2021 [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/logistika-himija-i-metallrobootka-sez-grodnoinvest-v-2021-godu-popolnili-4-novyh-rezidenta-481367-2022/>

⁷¹⁹ High-tech chemical production will be created by a new resident of the FEZ “Grodnoinvest” [Electronic resource]. – 2021. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/vysokotekhnologichnoe-himproizvodstvo-sozdast-novyi-rezident-sez-grodnoinvest-477539-2021/>

⁷²⁰ Residents of FEZ “Grodnoinvest” paid over Br 61 million in taxes and other fees in January-March [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/rezidenty-sez-grodnoinvest-za-janvar-mart-uplatili-svyshe-br61-mln-nalogov-i-inyh-sborov-501549-2022/>

⁷²¹ The FEZ “Grodnoinvest” received more than \$134 million of foreign investments in January-March [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL :

said that in 2022, the Unionway company has already been registered here, which is implementing a project to build a container terminal in the area of the Svisloch railway freight station. This terminal will “specialize in the transshipment of containers from 1520 mm gauge to 1435 mm gauge and back, depending on the direction of transportation. Modern equipment will make it possible to additionally organize the reloading of containers onto road transport and the storage of containers both in the open air and inside warehouses”⁷²². Investments in the project will amount to more than \$23 million. It is planned to create 70 new jobs here. Construction of the first stage will begin in 2022, and in 2025 the terminal should begin providing services. A memorandum of intent was also signed for the development of a transport and logistics terminal in the Grodno region worth about one hundred million dollars with the Arab company BRIKOIL TRANS - F . Z . E.

The Polish vector of interaction continues to remain relevant for the SEZ. This is evidenced by the fact that “in 2021, trade turnover between FEZ residents and Polish companies amounted to more than \$266 million, which is 147% more than in 2020. During the period of operation of the SEZ since 2002, \$140 million of investments have been attracted from Poland”⁷²³. Enterprises with Polish capital operate successfully here in the construction materials industry, woodworking, and chemical production. And in April 2022, the administration of the FEZ signed a cooperation agreement with the Polish company i 4- Mobile Sp . z o . o . , which will facilitate effective interaction between the parties.

In April 2022, the optimization of sector boundaries also took place in **the Vitebsk FEZ**, as a result of which its area decreased by approximately 500 hectares due to the exclusion of ineffective and unclaimed areas - floodplains, swamps, inconveniences, and residential buildings. At the same

<https://www.belta.by/regions/view/v-sez-grodnoinvest-za-ianvar-mart-postupilo-bolee-134-mln-inostrannyh-investitsij-501557-2022/>

⁷²² The new resident of the FEZ “Grodnoinvest” will build a container terminal in Svisloch [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/novvi-rezident-sez-grodnoinvest-postroit-v-svislochi-kontejnernyi-terminal-492911-2022/>

⁷²³ FEZ “Grodnoinvest” is expanding cooperation with Polish companies [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/sez-grodnoinvest-rasshiriaet-sotrudnichesvto-s-polskimi-kompanijami-497707-2022/>

time, this preferential territory included new promising plots of land for the implementation of significant investment projects, involving the creation of at least 470 jobs. In particular, 14 hectares were added in Vitebsk for the implementation of a project worth more than \$94 million - "Development of production of cable and wire products", where at least 320 jobs will be created. Two more SEZ sites appeared in Orsha and Dokshitsy district. In the first case, a local investor plans to develop the production of concrete mixtures there, creating about 20 jobs. In the second, "it is planned to locate an enterprise for processing low-value wood and producing wood-fuel pellets. The cost of the project is estimated at approximately \$30 million, the investor calculated the possibility of creating about 50 jobs ⁷²⁴. "

Two more sites are included in the SEZ in the Polotsk region. One of them is for the location of wood pellet production, which will require about \$30 million. The second should house the innovative production of cross-glued wooden wall slabs and floors for the construction of housing and buildings for various functional purposes, and will also organize the production of laminated veneer lumber and fuel pellets with an investment volume of \$60 million. To this end, in April 2022, KimaBel LLC became a new resident of the FEZ with a project to modernize wood processing production, which involves updating production sites and introducing new technological solutions for organizing the production of innovative export-oriented wood products. A new resident, operating since 2013 in the Polotsk region and specializing in the production of timber and boards, the sale of sawdust and chips, "the markets of the Middle East, East and South-East Asia are being explored as promising areas for exporting products ⁷²⁵. "

Speaking about the new residents of the FEZ, it should be recalled that the first here in 2022 was BRR Arshie ECO Health LLC, an enterprise with Iranian capital for the production of biodegradable tableware and packaging.

⁷²⁴ Optimizing the boundaries of sectors of the Vitebsk FEZ will attract more than \$200 million in investments [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/optimizatsiya-granits-sektorov-sez-vitebsk-pozvolit-privlech-bolee-200-mln-investitsij-496811-2022/>

⁷²⁵ The new resident of the FEZ "Vitebsk" will create the production of innovative wood products [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/novyj-rezident-sez-vitebsk-sozdast-proizvodstvo-innovatsionnyh-izdelij-iz-drevesiny-498382-2022/>

“Implementation of the project is aimed at gradually reducing the use of polymer packaging and replacing it with environmentally friendly packaging, which is identified as one of the priorities of the socio-economic development of Belarus ⁷²⁶. ” It is expected that by the end of 2022 the new resident will resolve all issues of designing a production site in the Zhurzhevo sector on the outskirts of Vitebsk, and in 2023 will begin construction of a facility where it is expected to create about 25 new jobs.

In total, at the end of April, 53 resident enterprises were already registered in the Vitebsk FEZ, which are implementing projects with the participation of investors from 14 countries. And they do it very successfully. For example, the Polotsk forestry enterprise managed to immediately increase production output threefold in 2021, and Production Association Energokomplekt LLC - more than one and a half times. Over the same period, JSC Vityaz increased its export supplies of its products by 2.7 times. The volume of exports of services from LLC “Raw Resources-Bel” increased almost 10 times. In this regard, we cannot help but recall the Polymerkonstruktsiya Unitary Enterprise, a well-known manufacturer of water treatment equipment and technologies, which ensured an almost double increase in production volume, the same amount in sales revenue, and net profit increased almost sixfold. “The company actively worked in foreign markets, more than doubling supplies to foreign partners ⁷²⁷,” and also demonstrated high innovative activity, shipping three million Belarusian rubles worth of innovative products to its consumers, which is 23 (!) times higher than the same indicator in 2020. All these facts indicate that the SEZ is very serious about achieving high levels in 2022. This is confirmed by the results of the activities of FEZ residents in the first quarter of this year. Suffice it to say that over these three months, industrial output here produced almost a quarter more than during the same period in 2021. In addition, “in January-

⁷²⁶ The first resident with Iranian capital is registered in the FEZ “Vitebsk” [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/pervyj-rezident-s-iranskim-kapitalom-zaregistirovan-v-sez-vitebsk-484100-2022/>

⁷²⁷ Seven enterprises were recognized as the best residents of the FEZ “Vitebsk” based on the results of 2021 [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/luchshimi-rezidentami-sez-vitebsk-po-itogam-2021-goda-priznanv-sem-predpriyatij-487020-2022/>

March, residents attracted about 31 million foreign investments, of which more than \$16 million on a net basis ⁷²⁸. ”

Active international activities of SEZs should contribute to maintaining competitive advantages and favorable conditions for doing business. An important step on this path is the signing in April 2022 by the administrations of the Vitebsk FEZ and the pilot zone of the China-SCO regional trade and economic cooperation of a memorandum of cooperation, in which the parties outlined promising areas of interaction. One of them is “promoting the investment opportunities of the Vitebsk FEZ and the China-SCO pilot zone as promising platforms for international cooperation within the framework of the One Belt – One Road initiative . ” ⁷²⁹Note that the China-SCO pilot zone in Shandong province, with which the Vitebsk region is linked by a cooperation agreement, appeared in 2018. It is located 40 kilometers from the city of Qingdao in the coastal part of the city of Jiaozhou. Thanks to its connection to the land, sea and air communications of this Chinese region, it represents a new platform for the implementation of trade, economic and innovation cooperation projects between the states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and their partners, which include Belarus, which opens up very attractive prospects for the development of interaction.

In April 2022, adjustments also affected the territory of **the Minsk FEZ** , where “territories with a total area unclaimed for development were excluded from the boundaries of this free economic zone. 140.01 hectares, located in Minsk and the Minsk region ⁷³⁰. ” In 2021, seven new enterprises appeared here with investments not only from Belarus, but also from Russia, Italy, Romania and Bulgaria. “Foreign direct investment on a net basis

⁷²⁸ Residents of the Vitebsk FEZ increased production by a quarter in the first quarter [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/rezidenty-sez-vitebsk-v-pervom-kvartale-narastili-na-chetvert-proizvodstvo-produktsii-496741-2022/>

⁷²⁹ SEZ “Vitebsk” and the pilot zone “China-SCO” will develop trade and investment cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/sez-vitebsk-i-pilotnaja-zona-kitaj-shos-budut-razvivat-torgovo-investitsionnoe-sotrudnichestvo-499010-2022/>

⁷³⁰ The boundaries of the Minsk FEZ have been adjusted [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/granitsy-sez-minsk-skorrektirovany-496357-2022/>

amounted to \$58.1 million. In 2021, more than a thousand jobs were created at the enterprises of the Minsk free economic zone⁷³¹. ” And exports of goods from FEZ residents to 85 countries increased by almost 40 percent and reached a record two billion dollars. It is characteristic that active work on registering new residents continues here in 2022. Thus, in January, the first resident registered in the Minsk FEZ in 2022 was 3D Paperko LLC, a company with Chinese investments that will implement a project here for the production of environmentally friendly cardboard packaging. The new resident will “produce all types of disposable cardboard packaging for fast food outlets. The project is focused both on supplying the Belarusian market and on export⁷³². ”

In the **Brest FEZ**, the first resident registered in 2022 was Soyuz Greenhouse Plant LLC, an enterprise with Belarusian-Polish capital, which was allocated a land plot of about 60 hectares in the area of Brest airport in January of this year. “Within three years, a high-tech greenhouse complex with a capacity of more than 30 thousand tons of vegetables per year should appear here, including 18 thousand tons of cucumbers and 13 thousand tons of tomatoes. The production volume will be about 33 million euros per year⁷³³. ” The new resident plans to invest 75 million euros in the implementation of this project and create 450 new jobs. About 80 percent of the grown vegetable products are expected to be sent to the countries of the Eurasian Economic Union and other foreign markets. The second resident in this SEZ in 2022 was registered in March - Dalmio LLC, which will implement an investment project related to the production of technological equipment, lines and components for the food industry. In this regard, “the enterprise acquired unused production space in the territory of the FEZ. Within three years, the

⁷³¹ The export of goods by residents of the Minsk FEZ last year reached a record \$2 billion [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/eksport-tovarov-rezidentov-sez-minsk-v-proshlom-godu-dostig-rekordnyh-2-mlrd-486329-2022/>

⁷³² The first resident in 2022 was registered in the Minsk FEZ [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/pervogo-v-2022-godu-rezidenta-zaregistrovali-v-sez-minsk-480078-2022/>

⁷³³ The new resident of the FEZ “Brest” will be engaged in the production of vegetables [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/novyi-rezident-sez-brest-zaimetsja-proizvodstvom-ovoschei-480900-2022/>

new resident intends to make at least Br 1.5 million in investments. The project provides for the expansion of production, an increase in the number of jobs ⁷³⁴, as well as an increase in export volumes and solving the problems of import substitution.

The Gomel-Raton FEZ also shows good results in developing the export component in 2022, where 67 residents were registered as of April 1. In the first three months of this year, they increased their exports by almost 30 percent. To be absolutely precise, here “the share of supplies outside Belarus amounted to almost 70% of the total sales revenue ⁷³⁵.”

All these facts once again indicate that even in the current difficult conditions, SEZs continue to be an effective tool for the accelerated development of regions of Belarus, “where today you can build a successful business” ⁷³⁶ and effectively solve pressing issues of the Belarusian economy. To prevent a decrease in the efficiency of activities is now the task facing every SEZ. After all, “it is in the preferential zones that the country’s investment, innovation, production and export potential receives concentrated expression in the form of promising business projects ⁷³⁷,” which, in turn, contribute to the sustainable and dynamic development of the Belarusian state.

⁷³⁴ A new resident was registered in the Brest FEZ [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/novogo-rezidenta-zaregistrovali-v-sez-brest-490538-2022/>

⁷³⁵ Residents of the Gomel-Raton FEZ increased exports by almost a third in the first quarter [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/rezidenty-sez-gomel-raton-pochti-na-tret-uvlechili-eksport-vi-kvartale-495702-2022/>

⁷³⁶ Zalessky, B.L. Amendments to the law as an incentive for investors / B.L. Zalessky // Materiały XVIII Międzynarodowej naukowi - praktycznej conference “Kluczowe” aspekty naukowej działalności – 2022”, Volume I. Przemysł : Science i studio . – C. 7.

⁷³⁷ Chervyakov: it is necessary to maintain competitive advantages and a favorable business climate in the SEZ [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/chervjakov-nuzhno-sohranit-konkurentnye-preimushchestva-i-blagopriyatnyj-biznes-klimat-v-sez-495990-2022/>

Free economic zones : an effective tool for accelerated development

In the current difficult conditions, free economic zones (FEZs) continue to be an effective tool for the accelerated development of regions of Belarus and effectively solve pressing issues of the Belarusian economy. To prevent a decrease in the efficiency of activities is now the task facing every SEZ. After all, it is in the preferential zones that the country's investment, innovation, production and export potential "receives concentrated expression in the form of promising business projects, which, in turn, contribute to the sustainable and dynamic development of the Belarusian state

⁷³⁸ .”

In the first half of 2022, the composition of the residents of the FEZ of Belarus was replenished with 15 new enterprises with a volume of declared investments of more than \$140 million and plans to create 760 new jobs. This is a record volume of declared investments in new projects over the past three years. "Among the largest projects is the organization of production in the Brest (creation of a greenhouse farm and construction of a complex for the production of extruded aluminum profiles), Svisloch (construction of a container terminal) and Polotsk (creation of a production of wood pellets and construction of a hot-dip galvanizing plant) regions”⁷³⁹ .”

The influx of residents is facilitated by the continuous work of the FEZ administrations to find new investors, regular presentations of their capabilities at international conferences and exhibitions, as well as the decisions taken by the government in April 2022 to expand the boundaries of these territories for the implementation of significant investment projects. "In the first half of 2022, the share of residents of free economic zones in republican indicators accounted for a quarter of foreign direct investment on

⁷³⁸ Zalesky, B. Result-oriented. Realization of the possibilities of international economic relations / B. Zalesky. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing , 2022. – P. 22.

⁷³⁹ SEZs of Belarus mark a three-year record volume of declared investments in new projects [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/sez-belarusi-otmechajut-rekordnyj-za-tri-goda-objem-zajavlenykh-investitsij-po-novym-proektam-518444-2022>

a net basis and exports of goods, a fifth of industrial production ⁷⁴⁰. ” Depending on the SEZ, residents generated up to 80 percent of investments, up to 54 percent of goods exports and up to 37 percent of regional industrial production volumes. Over three quarters, this figure increased 1.7 times – to more than \$415 million. In addition, “22 new residents were registered this year with projects in woodworking, chemical industry, logistics, agriculture and metalworking. The total investment will be \$167 million. 1,080 new jobs will be created ⁷⁴¹. ” This suggests that in 2022, the composition of the FEZ of Belarus has been replenished with interesting new residents. Let's get acquainted with some of them.

Let's start with **the Brest FEZ**. The first free economic zone in Belarus was created in 1996. Over a quarter of a century, the total investment amounted to about \$1.8 billion. The SEZ currently includes 16 sites, which are located in Brest and the Brest region, Kobrin and the Kobrin region, Ivatsevichi and the Ivatsevichi region, as well as Pinsk, Gantsevichi and Drogichin. “In 2021, FEZ business entities exported goods worth \$950 million to 80 countries. Compared to 2020, the volume of industrial production increased by 26.4% and reached Br3.2 billion. Investments in fixed capital amounted to Br135 million, foreign direct investment on a net basis - \$43.4 million ⁷⁴². ” Positive trends in SEZs continue in 2022. In January–September, export volumes increased by almost nine percent with a positive balance of more than \$300 million. “ For 9 months of 2022, foreign investments were attracted in the amount of \$ 133.6 million (growth rate - 105.7%). Foreign direct investment on a net basis

⁷⁴⁰ SEZs provided a quarter of foreign direct investment on a net basis in the first half of 2022 [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/sez-obespechili-chetvert-prjamyh-inostrannyh-investitsij-na-chistoj-osnove-vi-polugodii-2022-goda-519459-2022/>

⁷⁴¹ Abramenko: FDI on a net basis in SEZs increased 1.7 times in January–September [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/abramenko-pii-na-chistoj-osnove-v-sez-zajnavar-sentjabr-vozrosli-v-17-raza-536597-2022>

⁷⁴² The manufacturer of sanitary and hygienic equipment became a resident of the Brest FEZ [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/proizvoditel-sanitarno-gigienicheskogo-oborudovaniia-stal-rezidentom-sez-brest-527300-2022/>

amounted to \$ 59 million (growth rate - 135.9%)⁷⁴³. " In 2022, six organizations with a total investment volume of \$92 million have already been registered as residents of the Brest FEZ.

In particular, "the first resident registered in 2022 was LLC "Greenhouse plant "Soyuz" - an enterprise with Belarusian-Polish capital..."⁷⁴⁴. Then others followed. In July, the administration of the Brest FEZ registered the third new resident this year. Arlight PRO LLC intends to organize the production of extruded aluminum profiles. The project is aimed at solving the problems of import substitution: so far only one enterprise produces such products in Belarus. It is planned that the LLC's products will be mainly used for the production of electrical household appliances. "To organize production, the new resident of the FEZ will be allocated an investment site in the area of Brest Airport. This year, construction of an administrative, production and warehouse complex with its own gas-fueled heat source will begin there. The start of production is planned for the end of 2023."⁷⁴⁵ The total investment will be about \$10 million. More than 100 jobs will be created at the enterprise. An important detail: from January to June 2022, residents of the Brest FEZ produced industrial products worth more than one and a half billion Belarusian rubles, 65 percent of which were supplied to foreign markets. The export growth rate for the first half of the year was 100.6 percent.

In September 2022, two new residents were registered in the FEZ. Firstly, this is PolesieCenter LLC, which will engage in microclonal propagation of coniferous and ornamental plant seedlings. To implement this investment project, the company plans to lease a plot of land near the airport with an area of about six hectares, where a greenhouse complex will be built for growing seedlings with a closed root system. It is planned to produce more

⁷⁴³ Residents of the Brest FEZ continue to reorient export supplies [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://fezbrest.com/rezidentvi-sez-%C2%ABrest%C2%BB-prodolzhayut-pereorientaczivu-eksportnvix-postavok>

⁷⁴⁴ Zalessky, B. Challenges of multi-vectority. Ideology of international cooperation in conditions of global turbulence / B. Zalessky. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing , 2022. – C. 228.

⁷⁴⁵ The new resident of the Brest FEZ will be engaged in the production of aluminum profiles [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/novyi-rezident-sez-brest-zajmetsja-proizvodstvom-aluminievogo-profilja-512121-2022/>

than two and a half million coniferous tree seedlings per year, which will be used for reforestation. The complex is planned to be put into operation in 2023, and to reach its designed capacity in 2024. The investment project involves investments worth more than one million euros. It is planned to hire twelve workers for the additionally introduced jobs.

Secondly, the ranks of FEZ residents were also joined by Zubr Energy LLC, the Pinsk plant for the production of starter batteries. It is expected that the new status will allow the company with more than twenty years of history to increase product exports and improve production efficiency. The investment project in a short time “provides for modernization with the expansion of existing production facilities, production of new types of batteries”⁷⁴⁶ and is aimed at solving the problems of import substitution. The facility is scheduled to be completed in 2023. Investments in the project will amount to about twelve million euros. It is planned to employ more than 100 people in the additionally created jobs.

In October 2022, another new resident was registered in the FEZ - the limited liability company "AgroPischeProm", which was created in 2009. The company produces a wide range of specialized technological, transportation and container equipment for enterprises in the food, chemical and agro-industrial complexes. The range of products includes more than 300 items, including machines for washing containers, equipment for ensuring hygiene of enterprises, slaughter and primary processing of livestock, processing of offal, lifts, conveyors and other installations. Now the company employs more than 150 qualified specialists. Expanding the production base involves creating new jobs. The investment project will increase the production capacity of the enterprise and expand the range of products due to new areas. For this purpose, the production building on the territory of the FEZ will be reconstructed. The investor intends to invest about two and a half million Belarusian rubles in the implementation of the project. The launch of production at the new site is planned for 2024. By the end of the year, the

⁷⁴⁶ Two new residents were registered in the Brest FEZ [Electronic resource]. – 2022.
– URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/dvuh-novyh-rezidentov-zaregistirovali-v-sez-brest-525763-2022/>

Brest FEZ plans to consider the business plans of several more potential business entities.

Another FEZ resident plans to significantly expand its product line. OJSC Brestmash, a resident of the Brest FEZ since 2015, is a manufacturer of modern technological equipment for food industry enterprises, components for gas and electric household stoves. "The entry of Brestmash OJSC into the BelavtoMAZ holding has opened up new opportunities for the development of the enterprise⁷⁴⁷. " The production of components for the production of motor vehicles, large-scale assembly of trucks and passenger cars has become an important area of activity for the resident of the Brest FEZ. In September 2022, Brestmash OJSC presented prototypes of ambulances and social taxis manufactured on the chassis of the Minsk Automobile Plant. "The launch of a new line of minibuses, especially in the context of intensified work within the framework of the import substitution program, allows us to enter new market segments, as well as strengthen the position of the domestic brand abroad⁷⁴⁸. " An order for new vehicles has already been received from the Ministry of Health of Belarus. The first vehicles will enter the service of Belarusian doctors by the end of 2022.

The next example is **the Grodnoinvest FEZ**, where in the first half of 2022 they attracted foreign investment worth more than \$150 million. "Compared to last year, this amount is 2.5 times more. The geography of investments includes 12 countries. These include the UAE, Uzbekistan, Slovakia, Germany, Russia <...>. The main share of investments was attracted from the Netherlands, Cyprus, Austria, Great Britain and Poland. Their share in the total volume exceeded 95%⁷⁴⁹. " Two thirds of investments

⁷⁴⁷ A resident of the Brest FEZ takes part in the implementation of a project for the production of ambulances [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://fezbrest.com/rezident-sez-%C2%ABrest%C2%BB-prinimaet-uchastie-v-realizaczii-proekta-po-proizvodstvu-mashin-skoroj-pomoshhi>

⁷⁴⁸ A resident of the Brest FEZ plans to expand the line of cars produced [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/rezident-sez-brest-planiruet-rasshirit-linejku-vypuskaemyh-avtomobilej-526001-2022/>

⁷⁴⁹ Residents of the FEZ "Grodnoinvest" this year attracted foreign investment worth \$151 million [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/rezidenty-sez-grodnoinvest-v-etom-godu-privlekli-inostrannyh-investitsij-na-151-mln-518233-2022/>

were attracted by residents who implement projects in the Smorgon region. FEZ firms located in Grodno have raised almost \$18 million.

In 2022, the administration of the FEZ "Grodnoinvest" continues to improve the investment climate in the Grodno region and increase the level of accessibility of modern engineering and transport infrastructure. More than 32 million Belarusian rubles will be allocated for these purposes within the boundaries of the SEZ. "The plans include the construction in the regional center of a road access to the industrial zone of the FEZ (Grandichi district) and a roundabout at the intersection of street No. 1 and Skidelskoe highway (Auls district), reconstruction of Industrial Avenue in Smorgon, construction of new power supply sources in the FEZ sections in Svisloch and Grodno with a total capacity of up to 100 MW ⁷⁵⁰. " In particular, in the area of the village of Novaya Gozha, a new passage with a length of 1.2 kilometers was built, which made it possible to distinguish between the movements of heavy trucks and special equipment. In total, nine SEZ resident enterprises are located in the industrial zone of this area, which have collectively invested over \$30 million in the creation of modern production facilities in the woodworking, chemical, and textile industries. By 2025, residents plan to additionally invest more than \$8 million.

The results of the half-year for exports are no less significant: in six months, residents of the Grodnoinvest FEZ supplied products worth almost \$715 million. "The positive balance from foreign trade amounted to \$229 million. Residents of the free economic zone exported woodworking and furniture production, chemical industry, mechanical engineering and metalworking, light industry, construction materials and agro-industrial complex products to 54 countries around the world ⁷⁵¹. " The share of exports in the total volume of products of the Grodnoinvest FEZ in January–June

⁷⁵⁰ FEZ "Grodnoinvest" invested over Br 1.5 million in the construction of a road in the Grodno region [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/sez-grodnoinvest-investirovala-svyshe-br15-mln-v-stroitelstvo-dorogi-v-grodnenskom-rajone-520208-2022/>

⁷⁵¹ In the first half of the year, residents of the Grodnoinvest FEZ exported products worth \$714 million [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/za-pervoe-polugodie-rezidenty-sez-grodnoinvest-eksportirovali-produksii-na-714-mln-520243-2022/>

2022 increased to 69 percent. FEZ companies provided more than 46 percent of all exports of goods from the Grodno region.

In July 2022, Vimzovplast LLC became a resident in the Grodnoinvest FEZ, which will produce products from synthetic polymers and quartz agglomerate. The new resident involves the creation of a modern enterprise with high-tech equipment for injection molding, the formation of a wide range of products, as well as the launch of the production of import-substituting products - synthetic polymer granulate. Most of the products produced will be sold within the framework of the special legal regime of the SEZ through the development of cooperative ties with SEZ residents. The investor plans to begin production in the fourth quarter of 2022. "The total investment costs for the project will exceed 1 million euros. The total volume of investments within the framework of the project will exceed the total tax benefits by six times. It is planned to create 30 jobs over the entire period of project implementation ⁷⁵². "

In November 2022, Krones-Grodno LLC was registered in the FEZ Grodnoinvest with an investment project to create a multi-industry production of furniture and wood products. The new resident will build a new complex, including production, warehouse and administrative premises, and acquire modern technological equipment. "The implementation of the project will create about 30 new jobs, expand the range of products and increase export volumes, increase contributions to the budget and extra-budgetary funds ⁷⁵³. " All this will be carried out within the framework of the effectively operating furniture cluster of the FEZ "Grodnoinvest" in the Grodno region, in which more than 20 residents of the FEZ of various production areas take part. Cooperation will make it possible to create a product with high added value, concentrate resource potential within the region, and increase the profitability of manufactured products.

⁷⁵² The new resident of the FEZ "Grodnoinvest" will produce products from synthetic polymers [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/novyi-rezident-sez-grodnoinvest-budet-proizvodit-izdelija-iz-sinteticheskikh-polimerov-511741-2022/>

⁷⁵³ The new resident of the FEZ "Grodnoinvest" will create a multi-industry production of upholstered furniture in Grodno [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://grodnoinvest.by/press-center/novyi-rezident-sez-grodnoinvest-sozdast-v-grodno-mnogoprofilnoe-proizvodstvo-mvagkoi-mebeli/>

A little later, in November 2022, another resident was registered in the Grodnoinvest FEZ - Terminal West CJSC with an investment project to create a production and logistics enterprise. The company will be engaged in transshipment of liquefied hydrocarbon gases from broad gauge railway tank cars to narrow gauge ones, as well as from tank cars to road transport. In addition, services for the purification and compounding of liquefied hydrocarbon gases will be provided. "The project is being implemented in areas No. 4 (Grodno) and No. 12 (Svisloch district) of the Grodnoinvest SEZ. During the implementation, the enterprise will purchase new technological equipment, carry out technical modernization of gas filling stations, and improve the infrastructure ⁷⁵⁴. " Note that the company "Terminal West" became the fifth resident of the FEZ registered this year. Earlier in 2022, in the field of logistics, the company Unionway LLC was registered with Grodnoinvest, which is implementing a project to build a container terminal in the area of the Svisloch railway freight station. Construction of the first stage began this year, and "the company will begin providing services in 2025." Total investment costs will be more than US\$23 million. During the project implementation period, it is planned to create 70 new jobs ⁷⁵⁵. " In addition, the SEZ is already successfully implementing projects in the field of logistics by such residents as: the Portela company, which is building a transport and logistics center in the Grodno region; the Vilaris company - with capital from the United Arab Emirates; Silva Logistic BWay company – with investments from the Netherlands.

In 2022, the capabilities of the Grodnoinvest FEZ were repeatedly demonstrated at international conferences and exhibitions. For example, in November this year, as part of the International Exhibition MUSIAD EXPO in Istanbul, proposals for free economic zones in the investment, trade, economic and tourism fields were announced at the site of the Turkish-

⁷⁵⁴ A new production and logistics enterprise will be created in the FEZ Grodnoinvest [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/v-sez-grodnoinvest-sozdadut-novoe-proizvodstvenno-logisticheskoe-predpriatie-535377-2022/>

⁷⁵⁵ The new resident of the FEZ "Grodnoinvest" will build a container terminal in Svisloch [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://grodnoinvest.by/press-center/novyi-rezident-sez-grodnoinvest-postroit-v-svislochi-kontejnernyi-terminal/>

Belarusian Investment Forum. The conversation was about the implementation of new investment projects in the Grodno region, “including the creation of the Grodno industrial park with the participation of Turkish companies, the expansion of trade and economic ties and the development of industrial cooperation in the chemical, woodworking, engineering and other fields”⁷⁵⁶. One of the topics of discussion was a new ambitious project for the construction of the Grodno industrial park with ready-made infrastructure and developed logistics. The advantages of the special tourist and recreational park “Augustow Canal” were also presented. As a result of these negotiations, a Memorandum of Cooperation was signed between the administration of the FEZ Grodnoinvest and the Association of Independent Industrialists and Entrepreneurs MUSIAD, which involves expanding cooperation between Belarusian and Turkish companies in the production, investment, financial, trade and economic fields. For reference, we note that the SEZ is operated by a resident with Turkish capital - Europlastex Invest LLC, which is implementing two projects in the industrial park in Smorgon - organizing the production of cotton yarn and steel pipes.

In the same November, the SEZ proposals were also considered in Dubai at the Eurasian business forum “Focus on Belarus”, where negotiations were also held with the Sharjah Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the prospects for “interaction in the field of trade and investment, organizing mutual supplies of products and joint work” were discussed in the markets of the Middle East and North Africa”⁷⁵⁷. The parties agreed to cooperate.

As for the FEZ “Vitebsk”, then the volume of attracted foreign investment in the six months of 2022 exceeded \$30 million, or almost half of the total investment in the Vitebsk region. During this period, five residents were registered, including for the first time with the participation of capital from Iran. The new enterprises intend to implement projects in the field of

⁷⁵⁶ Turkish business is presented with investment opportunities in the territory of the FEZ “Grodnoinvest” [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://grodnoinvest.by/press-center/tureczkie-kompanii-zainteresovany-v-rashshirenii-sotrudnichestva-v-ramkax-sez-grodnoinvest/>

⁷⁵⁷ FEZ “Grodnoinvest” and the Sharjah Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the United Arab Emirates agreed on cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://grodnoinvest.by/press-center/sez-grodnoinvest-i-tpp-shardzha-obedinennyx-arabskix-emirato-v-dogovorilis-o-sotrudnichestve/>

wood processing, as well as to create the production of biodegradable disposable tableware and environmentally friendly packaging. And in June Novopolotsk LLC "SM" was registered. The company plans to implement an investment project to expand the existing production of modern medical dressings, as well as electrical, thermal insulation and sealing textile tapes, which are components for various industries. This will increase the enterprise's capacity to produce import-substituting products and increase export potential. It is expected to create more than 20 jobs.

In September 2022, the 6th resident since the beginning of the year, CJSC BELTANK, was registered in the FEZ with a project to create the production of steel containers. Import-substituting production will be organized in the Polotsk region at one of the sites included in the SEZ in 2018. The initiator of the project is a domestic investor who, by creating an enterprise in the Vitebsk FEZ, plans to increase the production of in-demand products by more than 2 times. "The basis of the new resident's production portfolio will be vertical and horizontal containers and tanks made of stainless steel and aluminum, including those with heating, cooling, insulation, and mixing. Within the framework of the project, it is also planned to produce metal tanks and reservoirs with a capacity of 1 thousand to 10 million liters according to individual orders of consumers ⁷⁵⁸. " The products can be used in the energy sector, petrochemical and construction complexes, organizations in the food, pharmaceutical, cosmetic industries, and public utilities. It is expected to create about 20 jobs. The main markets for BELTANK products are the countries of the Eurasian Economic Union.

In the FEZ "Vitebsk" there are two more projects in a high degree of readiness for registration, including those with the participation of foreign investors. "They involve organizing the production of fiberglass reinforcement, as well as creating a production facility for hot-dip galvanizing of metals, which is considered one of the most economical and widespread

⁷⁵⁸ A resident of the FEZ "Vitebsk" will create a production of import-substituting steel containers near Polotsk [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/rezident-sez-vitebsk-sozdast-proizvodstvo-importozameschajuschih-stalnyh-emkostej-pod-polotskom-526248-2022/>

methods of protecting metal from corrosion ⁷⁵⁹. ” In total, 56 resident enterprises are already registered in the SEZ today, which are implementing projects with the participation of investors from 15 countries. An important detail: in 2022, the Vitebsk FEZ passed a significant milestone in investment activity - since the establishment of the FEZ, the total volume of declared investments by residents has exceeded one billion Belarusian rubles.

As for exports, “residents of the Vitebsk FEZ exported goods worth \$425 million in January–June [2022], which is 4.4% more than in the same period in 2021. ⁷⁶⁰” The geography of supplies includes 68 countries, including 10 partner states of Belarus in the Commonwealth of Independent States. In response to the specific conditions of the current international situation, companies are restructuring supply chains and actively increasing supplies of products to distant countries, including Israel, Kuwait, Mongolia, Thailand, Turkey, and Uruguay.

As for the innovative component of the residents of the Vitebsk FEZ, there are interesting facts here too. In particular, the company “Polymerkonstruktsiya”, which in 2011 was registered as a resident of the FEZ with a project to expand the production of innovative water treatment and iron removal systems, has developed an innovative technology to purify the leachate of solid municipal waste landfills. The company's specialists collected and examined samples of wastewater from most landfills from different regions of Belarus. Based on the research results, Polimerkonstruktsiya has developed technologies and equipment that can be used taking into account the terrain, the characteristics of the test site and other aspects. The method is based on chemical treatment using, among other things, membrane technologies, as well as biological treatment as an alternative. The advantages of the domestic solution are the use of energy-independent natural removal of contaminants, process automation and long-

⁷⁵⁹ The new resident of the Vitebsk FEZ will develop the production of import-substituting textile components [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/novyi-rezident-sez-vitebsk-budet-razvivat-vypusk-importozameschajuschih-tekstilnyh-komplektujuschih-510424-2022/>

⁷⁶⁰ Residents of the Vitebsk FEZ exported goods worth \$425 million in the first half of the year [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/rezidenty-sez-vitebsk-v-l-m-polugodii-eksportirovali-tovarov-na-425-mln-521133-2022/>

term equipment performance. “Today Polimerkonstruktsiya is implementing a project to purify filtrate at the Orsha solid waste landfill, which will also serve the Orsha, Dubrovensky and Tolochinsky districts ⁷⁶¹. ” In 2021, a unique installation was created for Vitebskdrev, which allows waste chemical solutions to be returned back to production, thereby reducing the load on treatment facilities. Similar equipment is being developed for a number of wood processing and pulp and paper industry enterprises.

In 2022, active work continues to register new residents in **the Minsk FEZ**. Thus, in January, the first resident registered in the SEZ in 2022 was 3D Paperco LLC, a company with Chinese investments that will implement a project here for the production of environmentally friendly cardboard packaging. In June, another – the fifth – resident in 2022 was registered in the FEZ. This is a production and trading limited liability company "Agrostroy", which plans to implement an investment project on the territory of the FEZ for the production of drilling tools for the mining industry. “The project provides for the construction of an engineering production and warehouse complex, the creation of more than 40 jobs, and the attraction of more than 1 million euros of investment ⁷⁶². ” The created production will be high-tech and export-oriented.

In terms of strengthening work with foreign investors, the administration of the Minsk FEZ in November 2022 presented the investment potential of the FEZ at the Turkish-Belarusian Investment Forum and signed a memorandum of cooperation with the Association of Independent Industrialists and Entrepreneurs MUSIAD , which “will serve as an impetus for the generation of new ideas and the implementation of joint projects ⁷⁶³”

⁷⁶¹ A resident of the FEZ “Vitebsk” proposes to purify wastewater from MSW landfills in an innovative way [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/rezident-sez-vitebsk-predlagaet-ochischat-stoki-poligonov-eko-innovatsionnym-sposobom-520105-2022/>

⁷⁶² The new resident of the Minsk FEZ will be engaged in the production of drilling tools [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/novyi-rezident-sez-minsk-zajmetsja-proizvodstvom-burovogo-instrumenta-509471-2022>

⁷⁶³ FEZ “Minsk” will present investment potential at the Turkish-Belarusian forum in Istanbul [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/sez-minsk-predstavit-investpotentsial-na-turetsko-belorusskom-forume-v-stambule-533423-2022/>

It should be added that this association includes more than 60 thousand Turkish enterprises.

And further. In October 2022, the Council of Heads of Administration of the Free Economic Zones of Belarus appeared in Minsk, which is designed to coordinate work on developing the image of the Belarusian Free Economic Zones and provides for joint activities to improve the efficiency of the functioning of these structures, organizing educational programs, seminars, conferences to find effective ways to interact with international business circles and targeted promotion of national and regional branding. “This format of cooperation will help increase efficiency in the implementation of the assigned tasks of attracting investment into the country’s economy, use new opportunities and overcome negative trends in the current economic conditions ⁷⁶⁴. ” It is clear that today it is necessary to intensify work with investors in order to actively strengthen areas of industrial cooperation, measures to stimulate investment activity and access to alternative export markets.

⁷⁶⁴ Buben: The Council of Heads of FEZ Administrations will help improve the efficiency of attracting investments into the economy [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/buben-sovet-glav-administratsij-sez-pomozhet-povysit-effektivnost-privlechenija-investitsij-v-ekonomiku-530261-2022/>

Free economic zones as a tool for implementing business initiatives

In January 2023, at the conference in Vitebsk “Design and construction in the territories of free economic zones in modern economic conditions, allowing to shorten the investment cycle from the moment of a business idea to the start of production activities,” it was noted that in the conditions of Belarus the most important task is “to find optimal solutions, which will help the investor to start his activities as a resident of the FEZ as efficiently as possible ⁷⁶⁵. ” In the context of this topic, we note that in 2022, in the free economic zones (FEZ) of the Republic of Belarus, the Great Stone industrial park and the Bremino-Orsha special economic zone, the number of residents increased by 10 percent and amounted to 53 new business entities. “The total volume of declared investments is \$260 million, it is planned to create 2.7 thousand jobs ⁷⁶⁶. ” In addition, the SEZs of Belarus in 2022 provided almost a quarter of the volume of Belarusian exports of goods. And this despite the fact that as of January 1, 2023, 427 residents were registered in six SEZs. If we talk about the types of activities of FEZ participants, then last year “the most common was the manufacturing industry – 86.4%. 2.9% of residents are involved in the transport industry, trade - 2.4%, real estate transactions - 2.4%, agriculture, forestry and fisheries - 2.4%, construction - 1%, water supply, collection, waste treatment and disposal – 0.7%, professional, scientific and technical activities – 0.7% ⁷⁶⁷. ” In particular, interesting investment and innovation experience can be seen in the FEZ “Minsk”, “Vitebsk”, “Brest” and “Grodnoinvest”.

FEZ “Minsk” is one of the most attractive investment sites in the Republic of Belarus. It is located on 21 land plots, which are located in the

⁷⁶⁵ Buben: our task is to help investors effectively start working as residents of the FEZ [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/buben-nasha-zadacha-pomoch-investoram-effektivno-nachat-rabotu-v-kachestve-rezidentov-sez-544306-2023/>

⁷⁶⁶ The number of FEZ residents increased by 10% in 2022 [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/chislo-rezidentov-sez-v-2022-godu-uvlechilos-na-10-543104-2023/>

⁷⁶⁷ Free economic zones last year provided 22.3% of goods exports [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/svobodnye-ekonomicheskie-zony-v-proshlom-godu-obespechili-223-eksporta-tovarov-550537-2023/>

promising territories of the Minsk region - within the borders of Minsk, Molodechno, Fanipol, Zhodino and Borisov. In 2023, the FEZ celebrates its 25th anniversary. Over a quarter of a century, more than 100 enterprises with foreign capital from 19 countries have come here, including Great Britain, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, the United States of America, Latvia, Lithuania, Sweden, the Czech Republic, Poland, China, and Estonia. During this time, more than two and a half billion dollars were attracted into fixed capital, more than 29 thousand new jobs were created. The export geography is 85 countries. “Over the entire period of operation of the Minsk FEZ, enterprises exported products worth more than \$15 billion⁷⁶⁸. ” The main industrial areas where SEZ companies operate are mechanical engineering, metalworking, automotive, woodworking, production of building materials, electronics, printing and packaging.

At the end of 2022, the production of industrial products by FEZ residents increased by more than 10 percent. The share of import-substituting products amounted to more than 50 percent, and “the share of export supplies of FEZ enterprises amounted to 75%⁷⁶⁹. ” Another interesting fact: FEZ residents more than doubled their supplies to China in 2022. Let us also recall that last year the zone was replenished with six new residents with a total volume of declared investments - more than four million dollars, of which the share of foreign investments was about 30 percent. At the same time, more than 490 additional jobs were created. In particular, Belbansvi LLC became the sixth resident of the FEZ in December 2022, which will organize the production of technical fabric based on recycled materials and textile waste. “It is planned that the company will begin work in the second quarter of 2023 in Fanipol, where about 50 jobs will be created. The declared investment volume for the project during 2023-2027 will amount to more than 1 million

⁷⁶⁸ Buben, A. About the contribution of the Minsk FEZ to the country's economy, import substitution, work under sanctions / A. Buben // [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/interview/view/buben-o-vklade-sez-minsk-v-ekonomiku-strany-importozameschenii-rabote-v-usloviyah-sanktsij-8539/>

⁷⁶⁹ Residents of the Minsk FEZ attracted 1.7 times more foreign direct investment in 2022 [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/rezidenty-sez-minsk-v-2022-godu-privlekli-v-17-raza-bolshe-priamyyh-inostrannyh-investitsij-544008-2023/>

euros. The share of export supplies is more than 90% ⁷⁷⁰. " The products of Belbansvi LLC are in demand in the oil and gas industry, the furniture industry, automotive services, the medical field, as well as in other industries.

And further. In 2023, the main tasks that will be implemented in the Minsk FEZ are: 1) attracting new investors; 2) intensification of foreign economic activity; 3) use of new innovative technologies; 4) stimulation of business activity; 5) efficient use of resources; 6) expansion of import-substituting production capacities.

As for **the FEZ "Vitebsk"**, as of mid-January 2023, 57 organizations were already registered here as residents, implementing projects with the participation of investors from 14 countries. The SEZ consists of 17 sectors located in Vitebsk, Orsha, Polotsk, Postavy, Miory and Dokshitsy districts, as well as in the regional center. In January, the first resident of 2023, Lesdrevconsult LLC, was already registered here. At the site in Polotsk, the company plans to organize import-substituting production of chainsaws, brush cutters, and brush cutters to meet the needs of forestry enterprises. The project will be implemented with the support of Chinese partners. "Prototypes of products are expected to be released in the first half of the year. In the future, investors intend to organize the production of components in Polotsk, gradually increasing the degree of localization of the production of gasoline-powered tools. The volume of investments will exceed Br1.5 million ⁷⁷¹. " Half of the production volume is expected to be exported to the markets of the countries of the Eurasian Economic Union.

It should be noted that in 2022, seven new companies were registered in the SEZ. The sixth resident in September was BELTANK CJSC. The company will implement an investment project in the Polotsk region for the production of steel containers, which involves increasing the volume of production of import-substituting products and creating new jobs. "The

⁷⁷⁰ A resident of the Minsk FEZ will produce technical fabric based on recycled materials [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/rezident-sez-minsk-budet-proizvodit-tehnicheskiju-tkan-na-osnove-vtorsyrjia-538832-2022/>

⁷⁷¹ The new resident of the FEZ "Vitebsk" will create the production of gasoline-powered tools in Polotsk [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/novyi-rezident-sez-vitebsk-sozdast-proizvodstvo-benzoinstrumenta-v-polotske-542995-2023/>

products can be used in the energy sector, petrochemical and construction complexes, organizations in the food, pharmaceutical, cosmetics industries, and public utilities. It is expected to create about 20 jobs. The main markets for BELTANK products are the countries of the Eurasian Economic Union⁷⁷². " The seventh resident in November 2022 was Metal Rolling Company LLC with a project for the development of a tinplate production plant in the regional town of Miory, which "implies a significant increase in the volume of production of export-oriented products, involving more production workers in the economy of the Miory district⁷⁷³. " So this SEZ has good investment and export prospects.

If we talk about **the Brest FEZ**, then at the end of 2022, the volume of exports of residents of the zone for the first time exceeded one billion dollars. At the same time, a positive balance was ensured - \$460 million, which is 44 percent of the volume of products shipped outside Belarus. This means that FEZ residents exceeded the export target by almost three percent. More specifically, "exports of products from Battery Alliance LLC increased by 3.7 times, by Barkhim OJSC by almost 5.5 times, by more than 1.7 times by Vastega LLC, by 1.4 times." - IP "Inko-Food", 2.5 - IOO "Condor". Santa Bremor JV and STiM LLC exported their products by 18% more than last year. Export supplies of the Brest Hosiery Factory increased by 16%⁷⁷⁴. In general, the share of FEZ residents in the total volume of exports of enterprises in the Brest region amounted to 28 percent. Apparently, the positive dynamics will continue into 2023. Moreover, Santa Bremor plans to increase physical production volumes by more than seven percent, Gefest-Technika by eight percent, Involux by almost 20 percent, and Polipol Mebel Bel by almost 10 percent. In addition, 42 residents of the FEZ continued investing in production in 2022.

⁷⁷² Zalessky, B. Success is in development. Free economic zones as growth points / B. Zalessky. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2022. – P. 57.

⁷⁷³ Metal Rolling Company LLC is a new resident of the Vitebsk FEZ [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : http://fez-vitebsk.by/press-room/rezidentv/ooo-metalloprokatnava-kompaniya_-novyy-rezident-sez-vitebsk/

⁷⁷⁴ The annual export volume of residents of the Brest FEZ exceeded \$1 billion [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/godovoi-obiem-eksporta-rezidentov-sez-brest-previousil-1-mld-547421-2023/>

The year 2023 started well in the FEZ. In January, the first resident of this year was registered here - SanSpectr OJSC, which will implement the investment project to create the West-East transport and logistics complex. This project will be organized on a section of railway tracks near the Brest-Severny station and is focused on providing a wide range of logistics services - warehousing and storage of goods, forwarding, customs and other services. The implementation period is five years. The company with Belarusian capital intends to invest more than seven and a half million Belarusian rubles and create about 20 new jobs. "The project has already begun. Repair of access roads has begun. It is planned to build supply lines, arrange additional container sites, and purchase expensive special equipment. In parallel, the company is working on a certificate for its own services. This will provide an opportunity to attract new operators and expand the market for services in the field of rail container transportation ⁷⁷⁵. " It is expected that new and reconstructed infrastructure facilities designed for storing containers and reloading them onto vehicles will provide additional opportunities in solving problems associated with the insufficient capacity of Polish railways and the need to switch to another gauge. Thus, the transport and logistics complex will help to clear up bottlenecks in the processing of container trains within the Brest railway hub running in the East-West-East directions.

Also in January 2023, a resident of the FEZ, OJSC Brestmash, presented a new line of social vehicles, including a school bus, a social service vehicle, and an ambulance. The new line of cars is of interest to the city's social services. In December 2022, the "territorial center for social services for the population of the Moskovsky district of Brest acquired a new car manufactured at Brestmash OJSC for use as a "social taxi". The machine is equipped with a device for smoothly raising and lowering a wheelchair, which makes it easier to transport people with disabilities ⁷⁷⁶. " In the future, about

⁷⁷⁵ The first resident this year was registered in the Brest FEZ [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/pervogo-v-etom-godu-rezidenta-zaregistrovali-v-sez-brest-547274-2023/>

⁷⁷⁶ Resident of FEZ "Brest" OJSC "Brestmash" presents a new line of social cars [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://fezbrest.com/rezident-sez-%C2%ABbrest%C2%BB-oao-%C2%ABbrestmash%C2%BB-prezentuet-novuyu-lineiku-soczialnvix-avtomobilei>

500 units of special automotive equipment of 26 models will be assembled at the production facilities of the resident of the Brest FEZ. These are manufactured goods vans, vehicles for patrol and canine services, for transporting people with disabilities, and ambulances. The plant's production capacity allows it to assemble up to two thousand cars per year.

Another example. In 2011, Baranovich Cotton Production Association OJSC became a resident of the FEZ. In 2023, the company will celebrate its 60th anniversary. In January of this year, at a meeting held with the participation of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Belarus, the implementation of the association's development strategy for the next five years was considered. Note that this is one of the largest manufacturers of textile products in Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States. The association includes spinning, weaving, finishing and clothing factories and employs about 1,200 people. In recent years, this SEZ resident has already completed several stages of modernization, which has made it possible to increase the level of automation of the production process, develop new types of products and achieve the application of high-quality prints of any complexity. In conditions of fierce competition in this industry, where Asian manufacturers traditionally have a strong position, "the entire fabric manufacturing cycle will be preserved in Baranovich. The company plans to expand the production of polycotton. By adding acrylic, the canvas will acquire special antibacterial and non-flammable properties⁷⁷⁷." So the merger strategy will be implemented further - in line with powerful innovative modernization in order to take the JSC to a new level of development.

Let us remind you: today the Brest FEZ already "includes 16 sites, which are located in Brest and the Brest region, Kobrin and the Kobrin region, Ivatsevichi and the Ivatsevichi region, as well as Pinsk, Gantsevichi and

⁷⁷⁷ The development strategy of BPHO was discussed with the participation of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Belarus [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://fezbrest.com/strategiya-razvitiya-bpxo-obsuzhdalas-pri-uchastii-premera-ministra-respubliki-belarus>

Drogichin ⁷⁷⁸. ” At the beginning of February 2023, 76 enterprises from 16 countries are already operating as residents. This means that the Brest FEZ continues to actively address issues of increasing the export and innovation component in order to contribute to the dynamic development of the entire Brest region.

In **FEZ “Grodnoinvest”** in 2022, such areas of activity of residents as woodworking, production of chemical products, mechanical engineering, and metalworking actively developed. Five companies were registered as residents of the FEZ last year. The total volume of declared investments for the implementation of projects amounted to about \$30 million. The implementation of the announced investment projects will create about 180 new jobs with decent wages. Firstly, in Grodno, on a site in the Grandichi area, the Krones-Grodno company organized a multi-industry production of furniture and wood products. As part of the project, a new complex will be built, including production, warehouse and administrative premises, and modern technological equipment will be purchased. Secondly, “another new resident - VIMZOVPLAST LLC - will create a modern plant in the regional center to produce a wide range of products from synthetic polymers and quartz agglomerate. The products are import-substituting and will be sold within the framework of the special legal regime of the SEZ through the development of cooperative ties with residents of the SEZ of Belarus...” ⁷⁷⁹. Thirdly, in the Grodno region, on a site in the Novaya Gozha region, the Barinpak company is implementing a project to produce environmental packaging from high-density fiberboards. The finished products are intended for export to near and far abroad countries, but some of them will be sold in Belarus as part of the country’s gradual transition from plastic packaging of goods to environmentally friendly ones. The first batch of products has already been released and received high praise at the republican competition of innovative projects.

⁷⁷⁸ Zalessky, B. Bet on performance. Features of economic relations of Belarus with Asian partners / B. Zalessky. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing , 2023. – C. 48.

⁷⁷⁹ 5 new residents are registered in the FEZ “Grodnoinvest” [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://grodnoinvest.by/press-center/5-novyx-rezidentov-zaregistrirovano-v-sez-grodnoinvest-v-2022-godu/>

Another important area of activity for residents of the Grodnoinvest FEZ in 2022 is logistics. Suffice it to say that just last year, six residents worked in the FEZ in the field of logistics, which was the largest number among similar structures. In 2022, the creation of production and logistics enterprises, in particular, was announced by CJSC Terminal West and Unionway, which are implementing investment projects at industrial sites in Grodno and Svisloch. In addition, last year between the administration of the FEZ and the Arab company BRIKOIL TRANS - T . Z. E. a memorandum of intent was signed to develop the existing transport and logistics terminal in the Grodno region.

In February 2023, ZapadTransGranitsa LLC became the seventh resident in the Grodnoinvest FEZ in the field of logistics, which will build an international trade and logistics complex near Grodno Airport. The project, located in the area of the agricultural town of Obukhovo, is to complete the construction of an unmothballed airport terminal building with partial demolition. “The company plans to create a complex of administrative, utility and storage facilities, build access roads, parking and taxiways for aircraft, as well as a cargo apron. The unique complex will become multimodal and utilize the potential of road and air transport. The first phase of construction will be completed by the end of 2025. In total, more than \$35 million will be invested in the project, and about 100 jobs will be created ⁷⁸⁰. ” This complex will make it possible to use the logistics potential of the Grodno region, attract investment in the creation of a multimodal center that has no analogues in the region, involve an unfinished airport terminal building into economic activity, attract tourists and foreign trading companies, thereby stimulating local business activity and trade turnover.

And a few more facts. In 2022, the administration of the FEZ Grodnoinvest built and put into operation seven new infrastructure facilities. New roads and communications were built in areas of the SEZ in the cities of Grodno and Smorgon, as well as in the Grodno region. On a site in Grodno,

⁷⁸⁰ Resident of FEZ “Grodnoinvest” will build an international trade and logistics complex [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/rezident-sez-grodnoinvest-postroit-mezhdunarodnyi-torgovo-logisticheskij-kompleks-550573-2023/>

in the Auls district, street No. 7 was reconstructed and its landscaping was carried out. The construction of the roundabout at the intersection of street No. 1 and Skidelskoe highway has been completed. “Here, 12 SEZ resident enterprises are successfully implementing projects for the production of building materials, chemicals and woodworking products. Next year [2023] the production of OJSC “Grodno Glass Factory”, unique for Belarus, will be launched ⁷⁸¹. ” In the Grodno region, on the “Novaya Gozha” site, three parking areas with 30 parking spaces for passenger vehicles were built and put into operation. At the expense of the development fund of the FEZ “Grodnoinvest”, the reconstruction of Industrial Avenue on the site in Smorgon continued. The 3rd launch complex worth over two million Belarusian rubles was put into operation, a traffic circle and pedestrian connections, outdoor lighting, storm drainage, and domestic water supply were installed. The implemented set of works made it possible to significantly improve the throughput of cargo flows of FEZ residents, improve the quality of transport logistics and ensure the proper level of road safety in this area.

In 2023, it is planned to design and build engineering infrastructure in areas of the Grodnoinvest FEZ for a total amount of about seven and a half million Belarusian rubles. This will increase the investment attractiveness of the Grodno region for the implementation of new projects and improve conditions for existing SEZ resident enterprises.

⁷⁸¹ 7 infrastructure projects were implemented in 2022 by the administration of the FEZ Grodnoinvest [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://grodnoinvest.by/press-center/7-infrastrukturnyx-proektov-realizovano-v-2022-godu-administraciei-sez-grodnoinvest/>

Free economic zones : facilitate the implementation of new projects

Free economic zones (FEZ) in Belarus are an effective tool for increasing Belarusian exports, attracting foreign investment and increasing profits. At the same time, the successful operation of SEZs attracts not only tax preferences and benefits, but also “reduction of paperwork time, simplification of administrative procedures for the arrival of investors, simplification of the procedure for allocating land plots within the SEZ and demolition of unused buildings”⁷⁸². ” In 2023, SEZs confidently confirmed the status of key investment attraction centers, which provide not only unique conditions for the functioning of resident enterprises, but also the effective development of regions, and also form a fifth of the main republican indicators - investment, exports and production.

Suffice it to say that as of January 1, 2024, 425 organizations were registered as residents of the FEZ, which “have already invested a total of about \$12.5 billion in the implementation of the declared projects”⁷⁸³. ” At the same time, 30 new companies came to the FEZ last year, planning to implement projects in logistics, food industry, furniture production, electrical equipment, metalworking and which would create more than 1,300 jobs. In addition, in 2023, the procedure for registering business entities as residents of the FEZ was simplified. The administrations of these formations received the authority to develop detailed plans for the development of territories. “7 large engineering and transport infrastructure facilities were also built for a total amount of more than Br130 million”⁷⁸⁴. ”

⁷⁸² Golovchenko: an oasis of the most popular business environment is being created for investors in the SEZ [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/golovchenko-dlja-investorov-v-sez-sozdaetsja-oazis-naibolee-vostrebovannoi-biznes-sredv-588296-2023/>

⁷⁸³ Chebotar: since the beginning of the year, SEZs have attracted 26 residents with a total investment of \$157 million [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/chebotar-s-nachala-goda-sez-privlekali-26-rezidentov-s-obschim-objemom-investitsij-157-mln-606717-2023/>

⁷⁸⁴ In 2023, 30 new companies received FEZ resident status [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/v-2023-godu-status-rezidenta-sez-poluchili-30-novyh-kompanij-616460-2024/>

For reference, we note that in 2022, 13 new infrastructure facilities were commissioned in the FEZ. The presence of ready-made infrastructure allowed the residents of the FEZ to complete the construction of modern enterprises in 2023 and subsequently launch the production of new export-oriented products. In particular, a wood processing plant was put into operation in the Svisloch region, and also allowed “in Grodno to open the production of glass containers using innovative energy-efficient and resource-saving technologies, in the Minsk region to build a plant of unique X-ray equipment, in Minsk to complete the construction of an aircraft repair plant, in Gomel - to establish the production of medical products”⁷⁸⁵.

One of the most powerful zones in Belarus is the Minsk FEZ, whose share in the industrial production of all Belarusian FEZs reaches almost 20 percent. In 2023, among the main tasks that were to be implemented in this zone, we note: “1) attracting new investors; 2) intensification of foreign economic activity; 3) use of new innovative technologies; 4) stimulation of business activity; 5) efficient use of resources; 6) expansion of import-substituting production capacities”⁷⁸⁶. “As of mid-December 2023, 105 enterprises with Belarusian and foreign investments were already operating here. Over a quarter of a century, residents of the zone have built “43 modern factories, 16 factories are at the construction stage (taking into account stages and queues), 10 are at the design stage”⁷⁸⁷. “Last year, new residents came to the FEZ with interesting investment projects in various industries.

For example, in February 2023, the company Carvalio LLC was registered in the Minsk FEZ, which took on the implementation of an investment project to create the production of furniture and its elements, wooden, metal building structures and carpentry. “Modern furniture production will ensure the comprehensive and rational use of wood and the

⁷⁸⁵ In 2022, 25 projects were successfully completed in free economic zones [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/v-2022-godu-v-svobodnyh-ekonomicheskikh-zonah-uspeshno-zaversheno-25-proektov-556389-2023>

⁷⁸⁶ Zalesky, B. Export growth strategy. Opportunities and challenges of an open economy in modern conditions / B. Zalesky. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2023. – C. 51.

⁷⁸⁷ Enterprises of the FEZ “Minsk” [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://fezminsk.by/residenty/predprivatiza-sez-minsk/>

production of in-demand products on the territory of the Minsk FEZ. The implementation of the project involves the construction of a facility on a land plot of 1.5 hectares in the Fanipol area (Minsk region) ⁷⁸⁸. The new enterprise will create more than 50 jobs, and the share of export supplies will be at least 80 percent.

In March 2023, another 100th resident was registered in the FEZ - Modul-Online LLC, which planned to “implement an investment project for the production of furniture parts based on laminated chipboard. Investment costs will be used to purchase new production equipment and modernize our own production facilities in the territory of the free economic zone ⁷⁸⁹. ” The company will create about one hundred jobs. Apparently, production will become a synthesis of a high-tech production process, a large potential of skilled workers, technologists, designers and management specialists. Moreover, more than 60 percent of the products are planned to be exported to the countries of the Eurasian Economic Union, as well as far abroad.

In the second half of 2023, five more new residents appeared in the FEZ in five months. In July – two companies. The first is Gualapak BiUay LLC, founded by a leading multinational flexible packaging group for food and non-food products, headquartered in Italy, operating on four continents through 11 manufacturing plants and selling its products worldwide. The implementation of the investment project of the new SEZ resident “will contribute to achieving the goal established by the program of socio-economic development of the Republic of Belarus to ensure environmentally safe life of the population, improve environmental protection, and efficient use of natural resources ⁷⁹⁰. ” It is planned that at least two-thirds of the production volume will be exported. The second resident is Albus Group LLC with an investment project to create the production of chemical additives for

⁷⁸⁸ The new resident of the Minsk FEZ will produce furniture and building structures [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/novvj-rezident-sez-minsk-budet-proizvodit-mebel-i-stroitelnye-konstruktsii-550914-2023>

⁷⁸⁹ The new resident of the Minsk FEZ will produce furniture parts based on laminated chipboard [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/novvj-rezident-sez-minsk-budet-proizvodit-mebelnye-detali-na-osnove-laminirovannogo-dsp-558219-2023/>

⁷⁹⁰ The new resident of the Minsk FEZ will produce flexible packaging [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/novvj-rezident-sez-minsk-zaimetsja-proizvodstvom-gibkoj-upakovki-577745-2023/>

various industries. The main idea of the project is the creation on the territory of the SEZ of a new production complex for the production of emulsion additives and other chemical products. "The first import-substituting product that is planned to be put into production is battery adhesive, used for processing paper products ⁷⁹¹. " The fact is that while there are no manufacturers of this glue in Belarus, for this reason the existing need of the Belarusian market is fully covered by imported supplies. So the new resident, hopefully, will be able to significantly strengthen its position in the market, expand its product range, reduce production costs and increase sales volumes.

The next new resident of the FEZ, in October 2023, was a company with Turkish capital, Diligent Company, which is planning an investment project to "organize the production of products from ABS plastic and polypropylene (travel suitcases). The project provides for the creation of 60 new jobs ⁷⁹². " And at the beginning of December, the company "Holtz Inc" came to the FEZ, one of the founders of which was the TMS group of companies, which is engaged in the construction of warehouses, hangars and industrial buildings, as well as the development of pre-project documentation. The new resident will implement a project for the production of furniture and parts, "and will be engaged in the construction of a production and warehouse complex with an area of 10 thousand square meters. m with all the necessary facilities and its equipment with technological equipment ⁷⁹³. " This will be a high-tech and highly profitable production facility with significant export potential.

In mid-December, the 105th resident of the Minsk FEZ became the company Manrosti LLC, which plans to implement an investment project to organize high-tech production of coffee products with its own research base.

⁷⁹¹ The new resident of the Minsk FEZ will create the production of chemical additives for industries [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/novvj-rezident-sez-minsk-sozdast-proizvodstvo-himicheskikh-dobavok-dlja-otraslej-promyshlennosti-577985-2023/>

⁷⁹² The new resident of the Minsk FEZ is a company with Turkish capital, Diligent Company [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/novvm-rezidentom-sez-minsk-stala-kompanija-s-turetskim-kapitalom-diligent-kompani-594996-2023/>

⁷⁹³ The new resident of the Minsk FEZ will be engaged in the production of furniture [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/novvj-rezident-sez-minsk-zajmetsia-proizvodstvom-mebeli-602938-2023/>

This will meet “the needs of domestic and foreign enterprises for quality products, increase the growth of export potential, and create high-tech jobs⁷⁹⁴. ” An important fact: at the enterprise, a third of the workplaces have already been allocated for workers with disabilities who are directly involved in the production of products. In the last days of 2023, the Municipal Unitary Enterprise “Department of Road and Bridge Construction and Improvement of the Minsk City Executive Committee” became a resident with an investment project for the construction of a hot-dip galvanizing plant. It is expected that this enterprise will become one of the largest in Belarus in this field and will provide services for hot-dip galvanizing of metal structures of various shapes and sizes to both Belarusian and foreign companies. 60 new jobs will be created here. “The production capacity of the plant is processing products with a total weight of 24 thousand tons per year. The start of production activities on the project is planned for 2026.⁷⁹⁵” As a result, the import of galvanizing services in the republic will decrease annually by more than six million dollars.

An important event in the development of this SEZ in December 2023 was the opening of a significant energy infrastructure facility for the region – the Cherkasy substation. The fact is that today in this territory “in the Fanipol area there are 12 residents working with a total volume of attracted investments in fixed assets of \$183.9 million, 1,725 new jobs have been created. FEZ enterprises in this territory produced products worth \$1.93 billion⁷⁹⁶. ” In 2022, a gas supply pipeline was put into operation here, and last year an on-site gas pipeline with a length of more than two kilometers was built. The launch of this infrastructure facility increases the attractiveness

⁷⁹⁴ A new resident of the Minsk FEZ is implementing an investment project for the production of coffee products [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/novvi-rezident-sez-minsk-realizuet-investproekt-po-proizvodstvu-kofejnyh-produktov-605440-2023/>

⁷⁹⁵ The new resident of the Minsk FEZ will take up an investment project for the construction of a hot-dip galvanizing plant [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/novvi-rezident-sez-minsk-zajmetsja-investproektom-po-stroitelstvu-zavoda-goriachego-tsinkovanija-607216-2023/>

⁷⁹⁶ The gas pipeline was put into operation in the Minsk FEZ in the Fanipol area [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/gazoprovod-vveli-v-ekspluatatsiju-v-sez-minsk-raione-fanipolia-607767-2023/>

of this territory, provides gas supply to new, modern, high-tech enterprises of FEZ residents, and will also attract a significant amount of investment and create more than 500 new jobs.

In January 2024, three more companies with interesting projects appeared in the FEZ. Firstly, BAZtube LLC, which produces cold-formed pipe products in Zhodino, is a unique enterprise. There are no such people in Belarus anymore. The new resident “will build a plant for the production of metal pipes and mechanical processing of metal products with a capacity of 4 thousand tons per year ⁷⁹⁷. ” This project, which will create at least 100 jobs, will increase production volumes and meet the steady demand for these products, since the production of sheet metal pipes is widely used in various fields - from construction to transport and industry. Secondly, MetalBelMash LLC, which will organize the production of sheets from hot-rolled coils, which will allow the production of high-quality import-substituting products for Belarusian business entities. After all, hot-rolled metal products occupy a large niche among all rolled products and are used in a variety of areas of construction, mechanical engineering, as well as in the automotive industry, shipbuilding, bridge construction, and fencing.

Thirdly, Densibel LLC, which is implementing an investment project to organize the production of sanitary and hygienic products, designed for seven years. The production facilities will be modernized and the necessary equipment will be installed - several lines that are highly productive and allow the production of a wide range of products. These “production facilities will allow us to produce more than 1.5 million packages of products per year. The declared volume of investment in fixed capital for the project will be about 1 million euros ⁷⁹⁸. ” It must be assumed that the new resident will be able to quickly develop new markets in order to increase the range of high-quality products.

⁷⁹⁷ New residents of the Minsk FEZ will engage in the production of import-substituting products [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/novye-rezidenty-sez-minsk-zajmutsja-proizvodstvom-importozameschajuschej-produktsii-609600-2024/>

⁷⁹⁸ The new resident of the Minsk FEZ will be engaged in the production of sanitary and hygienic products [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/novyi-rezident-sez-minsk-zajmetsja-proizvodstvom-sredstv-sanitarno-gigienicheskogo-naznachenija-611393-2024/>

Finally, already in February of this year, another resident was registered in the Minsk FEZ - Ampera Group LLC, which will begin producing charging stations for electric vehicles back in 2024 and will become a new participant in this market segment. "The technological novelty of the investment project lies in the possibility of producing charging stations with a power of up to 750 kW, weldless design, and liquid cooling of charging cables. The company's production capacity allows it to produce up to 1,200 charging stations per year ⁷⁹⁹. " More than 15 jobs will be created.

In general, in 2023, enterprises of the Minsk FEZ attracted investments in fixed assets of about 250 million Belarusian rubles, which is 1.2 times more than in 2022. "Despite a number of restrictive measures, foreign businesses are interested in investing in the development of enterprises. Foreign direct investment inflows amounted to approximately \$207 million, an increase of 7 percent compared to 2022. ⁸⁰⁰"

In 2024, they plan to involve even more organizations in the Minsk FEZ and use all available territories. After all, this SEZ "was conceived in order to give business an impetus for development in key industries ⁸⁰¹. " And a number of countries are already interested in investment cooperation with this SEZ. For example, in August 2023, the Turkish Association of Independent Industrialists and Entrepreneurs MUSIAD, which includes more than 60 thousand Turkish companies, stated that it was "interested in launching production in the chemical industry in Belarus, and is also ready to consider other areas of doing business" ⁸⁰² in partnership with the SEZ "Minsk". In September 2023, the capital's SEZ expanded interaction with

⁷⁹⁹ The new resident of the Minsk FEZ will produce charging stations for electric vehicles [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/novyy-rezident-sez-minsk-zajmetsja-proizvodstvom-zaryadnyh-stantsij-dlja-elektromobilej-618320-2024/>

⁸⁰⁰ Foreign business is interested in investing in the development of enterprises [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://fezminsk.by/news/inostrannyy-biznes-zainteresovan-investirovat-v-razvitiye-predpriyatiy/>

⁸⁰¹ Kartun: More organizations need to be involved in the Minsk FEZ [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/kartun-v-sez-minsk-neobhodimo-vovlekat-bolshe-organizatsij-562537-2023/>

⁸⁰² Turkish investors intend to launch production in the chemical industry in Belarus [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/turetskie-investory-namereny-zapustit-v-belarusi-proizvodstvo-v-sfere-himicheskoy-promyshlennosti-583837-2023/>

partners from Tajikistan, when three cooperation agreements with SEZs – “Sughd”, “Kulyab”, “Dangara” - were signed on the sidelines of the Belarusian-Tajik business forum. “The documents are aimed at developing bilateral relations, as well as cooperation in the field of research and implementation of international practices in the implementation of investment projects ⁸⁰³. ” And in October 2023, during the Iran-Belarus business forum, the Minsk FEZ signed a memorandum of cooperation with the Iranian Maku FEZ , in which the parties focused “on expanding bilateral trade and investment cooperation, including participation in joint projects, business events, trade and investment missions ⁸⁰⁴. ” Finally, in December 2023, delegations from China and India visited the capital’s SEZ and examined the prospects for expanding contacts and implementing investment projects.

So in 2024, the Minsk FEZ and its residents will show many more new projects and creative ideas in order to create innovative production and increase the export potential of the capital region and the entire republic. The main measures that will improve the efficiency of companies in developing exports are the modernization and technical re-equipment of existing production facilities, the introduction of modern technologies, reducing the cost of production, including through the full application of benefits at enterprises of the free economic zone, increasing production volumes high-tech, innovative and export-oriented products, development and development of new profitable types of products, as well as maintaining the positions of exporting enterprises with the reorientation of foreign trade strategy and export flows from Western markets to the direction of the East Asian region.

⁸⁰³ FEZ “Minsk” will expand cooperation with Tajikistan [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/sez-minsk-rasshirit-sotrudnichestvo-s-tadzhikistanom-590824-2023/>

⁸⁰⁴ FEZ “Minsk” and Iranian FEZ “ Maku ” signed a memorandum of cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/sez-minsk-i-iranskaja-sez-maku-podpisali-memorandum-o-sotrudnichestve-594179-2023/>

Free economic zones: investments as prerequisites for further growth

In 2024, the free economic zones (FEZ) of Belarus continue to successfully implement investment projects that relate to increasing exports, developing import substitution and increasing profits. For example, **the Brest FEZ** has the necessary potential for the implementation of regionally significant investment projects, whose residents in the first quarter of this year increased the volume of investments in fixed capital by 2.3 times, and also “increased production (by 17%), and increased exports goods...⁸⁰⁵” In particular, in February, **Barkhim OJSC**, a resident of the FEZ since 2011, implemented an investment project with a volume of about three million Belarusian rubles within the framework of the “One District – One Project” program. This is a workshop for the production of liquid detergents. As a result, “a second bottling line was built and the existing production was modernized. This allows us to significantly increase production volumes, including washing gels, liquid soap, conditioners and fabric bleaches⁸⁰⁶.”

And other residents of the FEZ this year will also ensure the pace of development of investment projects in key areas. The creation of a battery production enterprise will be completed in Pinsk. By the end of the year, a complex for the production of extruded aluminum profiles will be built in the Brest region. The implementation of new projects will also begin: in Pinsk - the creation of a production of plastic components for car batteries, in Kobrin - the creation of a production of chrome-plated blanks for hydraulic cylinder rods. In addition, FEZ residents will continue to expand the geography of sales of their products by developing new directions in the Asian and African regions. All this will be done in order to solve the priority tasks of the SEZ for the current year, including “to ensure an increase in investment in fixed

⁸⁰⁵ Residents of the Brest FEZ increased the volume of investments in fixed capital by 2.3 times in the first quarter [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/rezidenty-sez-brest-vi-kvartale-narastili-v-23-raza-objem-investitsij-v-osnovnoj-kapital-630171-2024/>

⁸⁰⁶ A resident of FEZ “Brest” implemented an investment project within the framework of the “One district - one project” program [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://fezbrest.com/rezident-sez-brest%C2%BB-oao-%C2%ABbarxim%C2%BB-realizoval-investproekt-v-ramkax-programmyi-%C2%ABodin- raion-%E2%80%93-odin-proekt%C2%BB>

assets by 25%, exports of goods by 8%, production by 5%, wages of workers by 11.6%”⁸⁰⁷, and also attract at least three new residents.

Let us remind you that there are currently 78 residents registered in the Brest FEZ. Of these, four appeared in 2023. Firstly, this is **SanSpektr LLC**, which is implementing an investment project to create a transport and logistics complex “West-East” on a section of railway tracks in the area of Brest-Severnoy station, where warehousing and storage of goods will be carried out, and related services will be provided. forwarding and customs services. The project implementation period is five years. The SEZ resident intends to “invest more than seven and a half million Belarusian rubles and create about 20 new jobs”⁸⁰⁸. ” This complex will help solve bottlenecks in the processing of container trains within the Brest railway hub running in the East-West-East directions.

Secondly, this is **ChTUP “EVIYAR”**, which is implementing an investment project on the free space of the Brest Electromechanical Plant, associated with the organization of production of LED lamps and lighting systems for industrial and consumer use - for poultry farms and greenhouse complexes, for street lighting. Subjects of the agro-industrial complex, farms, housing and communal services and owner's associations are considered as consumers of these products. At the same time, a significant part of the company's products is expected to be exported...⁸⁰⁹” At least 500 thousand euros will be invested in the new production over three years and an additional 20 jobs will be created.

Thirdly, this is **the private enterprise “Sifaniya-Ekotehnika”**, which plans to implement on a site of about six hectares a project for the export-oriented production of special machines and equipment for sorting and deep processing of waste, as well as grain drying equipment. This resident

⁸⁰⁷ Abramenko: FEZ “Brest” has the necessary potential for the implementation of regionally significant investment projects [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/abramenko-sez-brest-obladaet-neobodimym-potentsialom-dlja-realizatsii-regionalno-znachimyh-630919-2024/>

⁸⁰⁸ Zalessky, B. Hope for a positive future. Dynamics of partnerships in the conditions of economic realism / B. Zalessky. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2023. – C. 48.

⁸⁰⁹ The new resident of the Brest FEZ will establish the production of LED lamps [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/novyi-rezident-sez-brest-naladit-proizvodstvo-svetiodiodnyh-svetilnikov-565824-2023/>

produces full-cycle equipment that helps solve problems in the field of ecology and environmental protection. “The production of new products will be launched in production buildings that previously belonged to the Brestselmash plant after reconstruction. As part of the investment project, it is planned to develop the production of technological equipment for processing rubber and plastics, which will later be used in the production of various products⁸¹⁰. ” In addition, the production of equipment for processing solid municipal and industrial waste using the latest technologies will be mastered.

Fourthly, this is **1 AK-Plastik LLC** , which was registered in the FEZ on the eve of the new year with an investment project to create a production of plastic components for car batteries in Pinsk. We are talking, first of all, about the production of plastic cases, which are still purchased on foreign markets. “The project provides for investment in fixed capital in an amount equivalent to \$9.3 million. It is planned to hire about 90 workers for the additional jobs created⁸¹¹. ” Production, warehouse and administrative premises will be built.

And in 2024, two more new residents appeared in the Brest FEZ. In the first case, we are talking about a specialized enterprise **OJSC “Kobrin Tool Plant “SITOMO”** , which is the only one in Belarus for the production of plumbing and assembly tools used in mechanical engineering, repair services, technological equipment and as household tools. In cooperation with OJSC BMZ - the management company of the BMZ holding, the new resident will establish “the production of import-substituting products, innovative for Belarus, which will be used in the manufacture of hydraulic cylinders and shock absorbers. For this purpose, it is planned to demolish the old production building and build a new workshop where modern high-tech equipment will be installed⁸¹² and where chrome-plated blanks for hydraulic cylinder rods

⁸¹⁰ The new resident of the Brest FEZ plans to develop export-oriented production [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://fezbrest.com/novvij-rezident-sez-%C2%ABbrest%C2%BB-planiruet-razvivat-eksportoorientirovannoe-proizvodstvo>

⁸¹¹ LLC “1 AK-Plastik” is a new resident of the FEZ “Brest” [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://fezbrest.com/ooo-%C2%AB1-ak-plastik%C2%BB-%E2%80%93-novvij-rezident-sez-%C2%ABbrest%C2%BB>

⁸¹² The new resident creates import-substituting production on the territory of the Brest FEZ [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://fezbrest.com/novvij-rezident-sez-%C2%ABbrest%C2%BB-planiruet-razvivat-eksportoorientirovannoe-proizvodstvo>

will be produced. This project will be implemented with the support of the Innovation Fund of the Brest Regional Executive Committee with the inclusion of “SITOMO” in the State Program for Innovative Development for 2021-2025. The total investment within five years will exceed 28 million euros, and the number of new jobs will be more than 40.

In the second case, the new resident of the FEZ - **Industrial Vostok Engineering-Bel LLC** - organizes in Baranovichi release non-standard equipment for the mining, chemical and oil refining industries, metallurgy, energy and construction industries. “The range of products planned for production includes: gas cleaning and dust collection equipment and its parts for various types of production; non-standard metal structures and non-standard equipment (valves, membranes, fans, pumps)”⁸¹³. At the first stage, the free production premises of another resident enterprise of the Brest FEZ - **OJSC Baranovichi Automatic Line Plant** - will be used - with an area of about two and a half thousand square meters.

And these residents do not exhaust the potential of new participants in this free economic zone. For example, just this year, representatives of the Brest FEZ have already taken part in such major business events as the Third Belarusian-Latin American Forum, the Brest-China Business Contacts Forum. Strategic Partnership”, 53rd China International Furniture Exhibition GIFF Guangzhou 2024, meeting with representatives of Italian business circles from the Veneto-Belarus association, where specific negotiations took place with business entities from a number of countries interested in cooperation. And in February 2024, in Uzbekistan, the Administration of the Brest FEZ signed a Cooperation Agreement with the Directorate of the Angren FEZ “with the aim of establishing direct contacts on issues of trade and economic interaction and developing promising projects based on industrial cooperation”⁸¹⁴. ” The parties agreed to develop business

[rezident-sozdaet-na-territorii-sez-%C2%ABrest%C2%BB-importozameshhavushhee-proizvodstvo](#)

⁸¹³ “Industrial Vostok Engineering-Bel” is a new resident of the FEZ “Brest” [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://fezbrest.com/%C2%ABindustrial-vostok-inzhiniring-bel%C2%BB-%E2%80%93-novyyj-rezident-sez-%C2%ABrest%C2%BB>

⁸¹⁴ Business meeting with Uzbek partners [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://fezbrest.com/361959-delovava-vstrecha-s-uzbekskimi-partnerami>

cooperation and maintain bilateral contacts on issues of mutual interest. And such facts show that the Brest FEZ continues to strengthen efforts to improve and create conditions for attracting new investors.

Now let's turn to the experience of **FEZ "Grodnoinvest"**, which, at the end of 2023, became the leader among other Belarusian SEZs in terms of the volume of accumulated foreign investment by its resident enterprises - \$880 million. And this year, the investment sites of this SEZ, having all the infrastructure for successful operation, have all the prerequisites for further growth. Suffice it to say that "over the past 5 years, foreign direct investment (FDI) on a net basis has grown by 2.6 times, product output by 1.9 times, revenue by 1.7 times <...>, product exports by 1,6 times ⁸¹⁵. " In regional terms, residents of the Grodnoinvest FEZ account for up to 85 percent of FDI on a net basis, up to 25 percent of industrial production and up to 43 percent of exports.

And in 2024, among the priority tasks of this SEZ should be mentioned - "increase in investment in fixed capital by 5.7%, export of goods by 7.8%, wages of workers by 12.4%, registration of 4 new residents, development of engineering and transport infrastructure of the SEZ with the construction of 4 new facilities ⁸¹⁶. " The fulfillment of these indicators will be ensured by increasing production volumes by existing residents, including through new enterprises in the Grodno and Svisloch regions, as well as the construction of a railway terminal in the Svisloch region, a production building for organizing the production of containers and packaging in Slonim and the expansion of a number of existing production facilities.

For reference, we recall that in the first quarter of 2023 alone, residents of the Grodnoinvest FEZ, as part of the implementation of investment projects in the Grodno region, commissioned nine production and engineering facilities totaling more than eight million Belarusian rubles. Among them is

⁸¹⁵ Abramenko: the investment sites of the FEZ "Grodnoinvest" have all the infrastructure for successful work [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/abramenko-investploschadki-sez-grodnoinvest-obladajut-vsej-infrastrukturaj-dlja-uspeshnoj-raboty-577583-2023/>

⁸¹⁶ Abramenko: FEZ administrations need to keep control over the progress of implementation of residents' investment projects [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://belta.by/society/view/abramenko-administratsiam-sez-nuzhno-derzhat-na-kontrole-hod-realizatsii-investproektov-rezidentov-631354-2024/>

Aquapack Industrial LLC, which installed an automatic line for assembling gratings as part of a project to create the production of packaging and flexible labels. "OJSC Plant Optik, in the course of modernizing fiber production, put into operation a glass melting furnace. The Slonimnibel enterprise installed new equipment during the modernization of production, the Slonim cardboard and paper plant Albertin reconstructed local treatment facilities. BelGreenline JLLC launched a new line for production and packaging of wet wipes ⁸¹⁷." As for PT LLC "Typhoon", during the expansion of the production of building mixtures, the company reconstructed the warehouse sites of the Republican Unitary Enterprise "Konus" and completed the construction of the building of the administrative and household complex of the Grodno Glass Factory as part of the project to create the production of glass containers. using innovative energy-efficient and resource-saving technologies, organized the first ignition of the furnace and began the process of debugging equipment and industrial testing of production lines. At this stage, the Smorgon Aggregate Plant is carrying out technical equipment to automate production processes, increase production volumes and introduce new models of agricultural machinery.

Another important detail: in 2023, six new residents were registered in the Grodnoinvest FEZ. Firstly, this is **ZapadTransGranitsa LLC**, which is building an international trade and logistics complex near the Grodno airport - in the area of the agricultural town of Obukhovo. "This complex will make it possible to use the logistics potential of the Grodno region, attract investment in the creation of a multimodal center that has no analogues in the region, involve the unfinished air terminal building into economic activity, attract tourists and foreign trading companies..." ⁸¹⁸.

Secondly, this is **OJSC Novogrudok Construction and Installation Management**, which produces construction materials in Novogrudok, including reinforced concrete and carpentry products, metal structures, with

⁸¹⁷ Residents of the FEZ "Grodnoinvest" commissioned 9 new facilities in the first quarter of 2023 [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/rezidenty-sez-grodnoinvest-v-pervom-kvartale-2023-goda-vveli-v-ekspluatatsiju-9-novyh-objektov-559606-2023/>

⁸¹⁸ Zalessky, B. International cooperation and media. Part IV . Collection of articles / B. Zalessky. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing , 2023. – P. 359.

the reconstruction of workshops and maximum utilization of existing capacities, as well as the acquisition of new equipment. This project will allow “to create new jobs with decent wages, expand the range of products and increase production volumes, establish export supplies...”⁸¹⁹.

Thirdly, this is **OJSC “Grodno Lathe Chuck Plant “BelTAPAZ”**, which produces lathe chucks and spare parts for them for the machine tool and tool industries. “The investment project involves the purchase and installation of new technological equipment to expand the existing one and develop the production of a new product line. The implementation of the project will allow the plant to increase export supplies, ensure an increase in revenues to the budget and extra-budgetary funds, and increase its own financial potential⁸²⁰. ” Let us note that in the FEZ “Grodnoinvest” more than ten projects are already being implemented in the production of machinery and auto components, industrial equipment and construction equipment, optics and electronics, the annual output of which exceeds two hundred million dollars.

In November, the fourth resident of 2023 was registered in the SEZ - **LuckyPet LLC**, which plans to organize in Grodno, in the Kolbasino region, the production of dry and wet food, as well as various accessories and natural fillers for pets. It is expected that these products “will contribute to the replacement of similar goods imported into the market of the Republic of Belarus, and will also be exported to the countries of the EAEU and neighboring countries. The start of production of finished products is planned for the second quarter of 2024.”⁸²¹

⁸¹⁹ The new resident of the FEZ “Grodnoinvest” will expand the production of building materials in Novogrudok [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://grodnoinvest.by/press-center/novvi-rezident-sez-grodnoinvest-organizuet-proizvodstvo-stroitelnykh-materialov-v-novogrudke/>

⁸²⁰ A new resident with export-oriented production is registered in the FEZ “Grodnoinvest” [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/novvi-rezident-s-eksportno-orientirovannym-proizvodstvom-zaregistrirovann-v-sez-grodnoinvest-596436-2023/>

⁸²¹ The new resident of the FEZ “Grodnoinvest” organizes the production of products for pets [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://grodnoinvest.by/press-center/novvi-rezident-sez-grodnoinvest-organizuet-proizvodstvo-produkcii-dlya-domashnix-zhivotnykh/>

In the same November of last year, another resident of the Grodnoinvest FEZ appeared - **ErNex Adaptive Technologies CJSC**, which creates innovative production of sodium and LED lamps for the needs of agriculture and medicine. The fact is that these products are able to adapt to the state of a living organism, taking into account its personal living conditions, growth phases, climatic components, and time of day, since this is in demand both for the greenhouse industry and for the animal world. “The construction of a modern production and warehouse complex and a research center is planned. Total investment costs will amount to more than \$9 million. Over the entire period of the project, it is planned to create 82 new jobs ⁸²². ” During the implementation of the project, the initiators are expected to participate in scientific developments and interact with large regional and foreign industry educational institutions. It is planned that the bulk of the products produced will be exported. The project will also be aimed at import substitution, as it will significantly reduce the import of similar products into Belarus.

The sixth resident of the FEZ in 2023 was **KOM-UNION LLC** with a project to expand the production of tools for the construction and agricultural sectors in the Grodno region - in Novaya Gozha. For this purpose, “it is planned to reconstruct the existing production, construct an administrative building and warehouses, as well as modernize and purchase additional equipment to expand the range of products ⁸²³. ” Interestingly, this project also has an export and import substitution focus. On the one hand, supplies of finished products from the new resident will be carried out to the markets of the countries of the Eurasian Economic Union and the European Union. On the other hand, they will allow a systematic reduction in imports of similar products to Belarus.

⁸²² New resident of FEZ “Grodnoinvest” organizes innovative production of adaptive lighting systems [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/novyi-rezident-sez-grodnoinvest-organizuet-innovatsionnoe-proizvodstvo-adaptivnyh-sistem-osveschenija-600747-2023/>

⁸²³ The new resident of the FEZ “Grodnoinvest” will expand the production of construction and agricultural tools [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://grodnoinvest.by/press-center/novyi-rezident-sez-grodnoinvest-rasshirit-proizvodstvo-instrumentov-dlya-stroitelnyx-rabot/>

And finally, already at the beginning of January 2024, the 81st resident of the Grodnoinvest FEZ was registered. This is **AgroFertCom LLC**, which is creating a diversified production of liquid fertilizers in the Aulsa region. The liquid fertilizers planned for release have high biological activity and provide better availability of nutrients for plants in comparison with corresponding inorganic fertilizers. The products will be characterized by low toxicity and high manufacturability. "In order to implement the investment project, it is planned to purchase and reconstruct production facilities, as well as modern technological equipment. During the project implementation period, it is planned to create more than 10 new jobs⁸²⁴." The new resident's products will be focused on developing export supplies to near and far abroad countries.

All these facts indicate that the FEZ "Grodnoinvest", where in 2023 six enterprises in the fields of logistics, mechanical engineering and metalworking, production of building materials in Grodno, Grodno and Novogrudok districts with a total investment of more than 50 million dollars, became residents in 2024 will, presumably, show even more impressive results, based on a well-thought-out strategy that can give a significant impetus to the socio-economic development of the Grodno region.

⁸²⁴ The new resident of the FEZ "Grodnoinvest" will create a modern multi-industry production of liquid fertilizers [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://grodnoinvest.by/press-center/novyi-rezident-sez-grodnoinvest-sozdast-sovremennoe-mnogoprofilnoe-proizvodstvo-zhidkix-udobrenij/>

Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange: the potential of the exchange platform in the field of foreign trade is enormous

The results of the activities of the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange (BUCE) in 2021 showed that the use of the exchange mechanism increasingly contributes to both the creation of equal and competitive conditions for doing business within the country, and the increase in effective procurement activities and the expansion of sales markets for Belarusian products. Let us remind you that “at the end of 2021, more than 27.5 thousand business entities from 69 countries were already registered with BUCE. <...> At the same time, the geography of new participants in the trading sessions held here continued to steadily expand at BUCE ⁸²⁵. ” In this regard, one of the main tasks of the exchange in 2022 is to assist domestic enterprises in promoting their goods for export. To do this, “special attention must be paid to realizing the potential of the exchange platform in the field of foreign trade. First of all, this is the diversification of the export of Belarusian goods with an emphasis on the People's Republic of China and other Asian countries... ⁸²⁶” And, it must be said, BUCE is already taking energetic measures to solve these tasks.

As for China, “in 2021, the Belarusian-Chinese exchange trade turnover increased three and a half times at once ⁸²⁷,” and according to the results of the first quarter of 2022, this country became, for example, one of the three largest buyers of rapeseed oil at BUCE. “This was facilitated by the expansion of the pool of Chinese buyers, as well as the increase in the number of transactions they completed. As a result, compared to the same period in

⁸²⁵ Zalessky, B.L. From expanding geography to deepening cooperation / B.L. Zalessky // Materials of the XVIII International Scientific and Practical Conference, Real Research and Development - 2022, January 17 - 25, 2022: Sofia. “Byal GRAD-BG”. – P. 6.

⁸²⁶ MARCH outlined the priorities for the development of exchange trading [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/mart-oboznachil-prioritety-razvitiya-birzhevoj-torgovli-488282-2022/>

⁸²⁷ Zalessky, B. From trust to cooperation. Collection articles / B. Zalessky . – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2022. – P. 135.

2021, sales of rapeseed oil in China increased by 67% in value terms, to \$2.2 million⁸²⁸. ”

In the first half of 2022, Belarusian-Chinese exchange trade turnover exceeded more than \$40 million, which is one and a half times more than in the same period last year. Since the beginning of the year, 20 new residents have joined the exchange. Now there are almost 90 of them. About half regularly participate in trading, three have the status of brokers. “The most popular among the Chinese were edged softwood lumber and unrefined rapeseed oil. Metal products – rolled sheets and seamless steel pipes – were coming to Belarus from China⁸²⁹. ”

Another interesting fact: the first deal for the sale of skim milk powder to China was concluded at BUCE in July 2022. “ The volume of the pilot batch was 75 tons, and the amount was \$250 thousand. The purpose of the trial transaction is to practically work out the issues of mutual settlements and logistics, which will allow in the future not only to increase the volume of purchases of Belarusian milk powder, but also to organize supplies of other types of dairy products to the Chinese market, such as butter, cream, cheeses and whey⁸³⁰. ” Until now, Chinese companies have used the Belarusian exchange platform mainly to purchase lumber, which has not made it possible to fully realize the potential of exchange trading between the two countries. The expansion of the product range creates additional opportunities for increasing the volume of mutual trade, so the first successful experience of exporting milk powder to China through the exchange can subsequently be extrapolated to other dairy products presented on the exchange platform. The advantage is that Chinese consumers have already become convinced of the high quality of Belarusian dairy products, buying them on the over-the-counter market.

⁸²⁸ China is one of the three largest buyers of rapeseed oil at BUCE [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/kitaj-voshel-v-trojku-krupnejshih-pokupatelej-rapsovogo-masla-na-butb-493049-2022/>

⁸²⁹ Markina, T. Why Belarusian enterprises enter the Chinese market / T. Markina // [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/schem-belorusskie-predprijatija-vyhodjat-na-rynok-kitaja-513455-2022>

⁸³⁰ Belarusian dairy products were sold to China through BUCE [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belorusskaja-molochnaja-produktsija-prodana-v-kitaj-cherez-butb-512556-2022/>

In June 2022, BUCE in China acquired another international partner - the Xinjiang Asia-Europe International Trade Center (AEEX), which is the operator of the Asia Europe Exchange electronic trading platform. The goal is to join forces and jointly promote an increase in trade turnover between the Belarusian and Chinese sides. The priority areas of cooperation include the promotion of Belarusian-made goods to the Chinese market, informing Chinese companies about the possibilities of finding business partners in Belarus through the BUCE platform, the exchange of analytics and statistical data reflecting the current situation in the commodity markets of the two countries. As for commodity items that are promising for mutual trade, “the most liquid Belarusian product is lumber, which is in consistently high demand in China, especially in the construction sector. In this case, delivery of goods purchased at BUCE is possible by rail along the New Silk Road. In addition, to diversify export supplies of Belarusian forest products, it is planned to use the AEEX network of business contacts in the countries of the Asia-Pacific region ⁸³¹. ” Special attention is paid to the prospects for the participation of suppliers from China in trading on the import substitution exchange platform. In particular, it is expected that the arrival of Chinese manufacturers of spare parts and technological equipment will increase the concentration of supply of these products and expand their range, which will have a positive impact on the price level for Belarusian consumers.

And one more fact. In April 2022, the Chinese company China Merchants CHN-BLR Commerce and Logistics Company (CMCB), part of the China Merchants Group corporation, signed a memorandum with BUCE, which provides for interaction between the parties in the field of transport and trade logistics. The parties proceed from the fact that an extensive logistics infrastructure and well-established transport links are the basic conditions for the functioning of the Belarusian-Chinese commodity exchange market. Therefore, only through the synergy of electronic exchange trading

⁸³¹ BUCE and the Chinese platform AEEX will cooperate in the field of e-commerce [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/buth-i-kitajskaja-ploschadka-aeex-budut-sotrudniczat-v-sfere-elektronnoj-torgovli-510290-2022/>

technologies and extensive logistics capabilities can the potential of bilateral cooperation be fully realized.

Since July 2022, the Chinese side has been providing assistance in attracting suppliers and customers from China to the electronic import substitution platform of the commodity exchange. In order to optimize logistics costs, CMCB together with BUCE will work on alternative routes for the delivery of Belarusian goods purchased on the exchange to China using various modes of transport. The prospects of this area are also evidenced by the results of the analysis of purchase applications placed on the BUCE import substitution platform. "This is especially true for product categories such as electrical equipment, communications equipment, and industrial components and materials. So far, only a few suppliers of import-substituting products from China operate on the exchange trading platform, but their number may increase in the near future. Primarily due to Chinese companies already accredited at BUCE, but participating in bidding in other product sections ⁸³². " As for logistics issues, the delivery of goods from Belarus to China and back is carried out as usual.

Speaking about the implementation of plans to diversify exchange exports by reaching end consumers in the Middle East, we note that until recently, residents of Israel, Lebanon and Egypt were most active on the Belarusian exchange platform. In February 2022, the United Arab Emirates was added to this list when the first deal to sell lumber to this Gulf country was completed at BUCE. During the export trading session, a company from the Emirate of Abu Dhabi purchased a trial batch of edged hardwood lumber from a Belarusian wood processing enterprise. The goods were delivered to the destination country by the buyer. Now at BUCE, the primary task is to gain a foothold in the Emirati market by increasing the number of accredited companies and supply volumes. After all, this Middle Eastern country is an international trade and logistics hub. "This means that by supplying their products to Abu Dhabi, Dubai or Sharjah, Belarusian enterprises

⁸³² The Chinese company will help attract suppliers and customers to the import substitution site BUTB [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/kitajskaja-kompanija-pomozhet-privlech-postavschikov-i-zakazchikov-na-ploschadku-importozameschenija-514280-2022>

automatically gain access to potential buyers from Africa, Southeast Asia and other regions⁸³³. ”

In March 2022, participating in the international exhibition of timber and woodworking equipment Dubai International Wood & Wood Machinery Show in the UAE, BUCE representatives held a number of productive meetings with companies interested in business partnerships. As a result, “a large importer and distributor of timber in the UAE, Beston Wood Industries LLC announced its readiness to enter the Belarusian market through the exchange platform, and the Egyptian manufacturer of furniture panels and door panels Good Wood LLC intends to be accredited at BUCE for the purchase of softwood edged boards and other products of Belarusian woodworking enterprises⁸³⁴. ” And now BUCE is focusing its main efforts both on developing new markets and expanding its presence in countries whose share in the import of wood products was previously insignificant. For this reason, in addition to China, where supplies of lumber have already tripled, such Asian countries as Azerbaijan, Georgia, Israel, Lebanon, Turkey, which are ready to increase the import of Belarusian lumber, seem to be very effective. Thus, “more than half of last year’s total volume has already been sold to Azerbaijan alone in the first three months of 2022.⁸³⁵” Let us recall that as of mid-May 2022, more than 28.5 thousand companies from 70 countries were already accredited to BUCE. Now “about 5 thousand types of goods are traded here, with more than 400 thousand transactions carried out per year⁸³⁶. ” And there is every reason to believe that these figures will only increase in 2022.

⁸³³ Belarusian lumber was sold to the UAE for the first time through BUCE [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belorusskie-pilomaterialy-vpervye-prodany-v-oe-cherez-butb-485480-2022/>

⁸³⁴ BUCE redirects lumber exports to the countries of the Middle East and North Africa [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/butb-pereorientiruet-eksport-pilomaterialov-v-strany-blizhnego-vostoka-i-severnoj-afriki-491054-2022/>

⁸³⁵ BUCE is expanding its export geography: the first transactions were carried out by the UAE and Switzerland [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/butb-rasshiriaet-geografiju-eksporta-pervye-sdelki-proveli-oe-i-shvejtsarija-493578-2022/>

⁸³⁶ More than 28.5 thousand companies from 70 countries are accredited to BUCE [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/na-butb-akkreditovano-bolee-285-tys-kompanij-iz-70-stran-502289-2022/>

If we talk about promoting the interests of BUCE in Central Asia, it should be noted that in March 2022, the Belarusian exchange platform accredited a new broker in Kazakhstan - First - KO LLP, which became the 16th in the network of BUCE stock brokers, already representing 11 countries. It is expected that the arrival of this broker will increase the number of trading participants from Kazakhstan, of which 85 were already accredited as of March 1, 2022, and will also contribute to the growth of Belarusian-Kazakh trade turnover. For reference, we note that in 2021, “exchange trade turnover between Belarus and Kazakhstan amounted to about \$30 million. The Kazakh market was mainly supplied with meat and dairy products, leather goods and sugar, while the most popular goods among Belarusian buyers were coal and ferrous metal products⁸³⁷. ” The new broker is going to simplify the work of Kazakh enterprises on the Belarusian market as much as possible and focus on goods for which Belarus is a leader in the post-Soviet space - dairy products, potatoes, tires, spare parts for special equipment.

Another partner of BUCE in Central Asia is Uzbekistan. For reference, we note that as of April 1, 2022, 5,673 foreign organizations, including 40 Uzbek ones, were accredited to participate in trading on the Belarusian exchange platform. And in the same April, the first transaction was made here to export chemical industry products to this Central Asian country. During the trading session, “the Uzbek company purchased 20 tons of polyacrylonitrile fiber on terms of shipment from the manufacturer’s warehouse. Previously, only agricultural goods were supplied to the Uzbek market through the exchange platform – primarily meat and meat by-products⁸³⁸. ” Considering the fact that synthetic fibers are in stable demand among enterprises of the textile industry of Uzbekistan, there is every reason to believe that the exchange transaction that took place will be the first step of Belarusian exporters to expand the potential of this area in the Uzbek market. The grounds for this conclusion are seen in the fairly high level of

⁸³⁷ BUCE accredited a new broker in Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/butb-akkreditovala-novogo-brokera-v-kazahstane-490807-2022>

⁸³⁸ BUCE has expanded its product range of exports to Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/butb-rasshirila-tovarnuij-nomenklaturu-eksporta-v-uzbekistan-494941-2022/>

development of the Uzbek textile, clothing and knitting industry and the constantly growing need of local enterprises for high-quality raw materials.

Another interesting step towards expanding the potential of exchange trading with the countries of Asia and the Middle East was taken at BUCE in February 2022, when the Belarusian CJSC Meat and Dairy Company, which is the official exporter of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food of the Republic of Belarus, was registered as a new broker. This company represents the interests of all Belarusian exporters of meat and dairy products. Combining its efforts with BUCE can certainly ensure more efficient work of domestic agricultural organizations in the markets of non-CIS countries, as well as help expand the geography of sales. In this case, we are talking not only about intensive work in the Chinese market. Apparently, other Asian countries, as well as the Middle East region, will not be left without attention. These are areas with great export potential, which <...> together with the exchange will have to be revealed ⁸³⁹. ” And there is every reason to believe that in the near future this interaction will demonstrate high effectiveness in terms of increasing Belarusian exports to the countries of the Asian continent.

And we will consider another relevant topic regarding BUTB in this context. The Belarusian side today is looking for new forms of industrial and business development. One of these decisions in 2022 is import substitution. This process has already involved not only large enterprises, but also private, medium and small businesses. “Import substitution has become the most important task for every import-related enterprise in order to be proactive ⁸⁴⁰. ” And there are already interesting examples.

In particular, an import substitution platform has been operating in BUCE for more than three months, which is gaining momentum, proving its effectiveness and on which there are already about three hundred companies from the countries of Central Asia and the Far East, including from the

⁸³⁹ The official exporter of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food became a broker of BUCE [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/ofitsialnyj-eksporter-minselhozproda-stal-brokerom-butb-482741-2022/>

⁸⁴⁰ Zalessky, B.L. The most important task of each enterprise / B.L. Zalessky // Materiały XVII Międzynarodowej naukowej - praktycznej konferencji “ Nauka : theory” i praktyka – 2022”, Volume 1. Przemysł : Nauka i studio . – C. 15.

People's Republic of China and the Commonwealth of Independent States. During this time, “since May 27, 2022, 6,387 transactions worth Br 46.6 million have been completed at the BUTB import substitution platform ⁸⁴¹. ” In June–August, the structure of sales of import-substituting goods was dominated by products for construction, components and materials for industry, electrical connections and electrical equipment, heating equipment and air conditioning systems, as well as measuring instruments and workwear . “ In particular, products made of plastic and rubber, adhesives, LED lamps, and paint and varnish products are in particular demand among customers. These groups of goods account for more than a quarter of the total amount of transactions made on the exchange platform since the day of its launch ⁸⁴². ” The vast majority of suppliers are domestic small and medium-sized businesses, which, thanks to the import substitution service, received an additional sales channel and were able to find new business partners, including among large public sector companies. Also, “the Belarusian Metallurgical Plant and Bellesbumprom enterprises are now successfully operating at the site ⁸⁴³. ” In the second half of August, a new company from China was accredited specifically to participate in the auction at the import substitution site.

Through the import substitution platform, BUCE expects to establish exchange trade with Pakistan as well. It is planned to work on the issue of selling lumber, which is in high demand in the construction and furniture industries, to the Pakistani market, as well as to organize the export of petrochemical products, which are already actively purchased on the stock exchange by companies from India. Pakistan is a new market for BUCE, but

⁸⁴¹ About 300 companies from Central Asia and the Far East work on the import substitution platform BUTB [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/okolo-300-kompanij-iz-stran-srednej-azii-i-dalnego-vostoka-rabotajut-na-ploschadke-importozameschenija-521269-2022/>

⁸⁴² The top sellers at the BUTB import substitution site are goods for construction and industry [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/v-liderah-prodazh-na-ploschadke-importozameschenija-butb-tovary-dlja-stroitelstva-i-promyshlennosti-520451-2022>

⁸⁴³ Parkhomchik told us which enterprises operate at the BUTB import substitution site [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/parhomchik-rasskazal-kakie-predprijatija-rabotajut-na-ploschadke-importozameschenija-butb-521262-2022/>

it has great potential both in terms of sales of Belarusian goods and in terms of imports of Pakistani products. For this purpose, in July 2022, the first broker company from Pakistan was accredited with BUCE - AP Sakafat Forever, which since December 2021 has been participating in export exchange trading in lumber products as a trade visitor. "As a professional trading participant, she intends to attract buyers of lumber and agricultural goods to the exchange platform, as well as assist Pakistani producers of rice, non-ferrous metals and textiles in finding business partners in Belarus ⁸⁴⁴. " With the help of the new broker, it is also possible to arrange supplies of Belarusian synthetic fiber, polyethylene, ammonium sulfate and other chemical and petrochemical products to Pakistan. The brokerage company has planned "a turnover of about \$150 million and will try to use all exchange tools to achieve it ⁸⁴⁵. " One of the Pakistani companies that produces sports equipment has expressed a desire to enter the Belarusian market by placing its products in the electronic catalog of import-substituting goods. As for making transactions, at the initial stage the option of participating in trading through a broker is considered.

And the Iraqi company Al Seraj Al Mubeen Co. plans to work on the issue of organizing supplies of Belarusian milk powder and beef to Iraq. The company "specializes in the import and wholesale trade of food products, the demand for which has increased significantly against the backdrop of ongoing instability in the global food market ⁸⁴⁶. " In this regard, there was a need to expand the geography of procurement, and Belarus is considered one of the most promising markets.

Another country that is very actively working on product lines with Belarusian partners at BUCE is Switzerland. In particular, in the first half of

⁸⁴⁴ BUCE plans to establish trade between Belarus and Pakistan through an import substitution platform [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/butb-planiruet-naladit-torgovlju-belarusi-i-pakistana-cherez-ploschadku-importozameschenija-515035-2022/>

⁸⁴⁵ The first broker from Pakistan is accredited at BUCE [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/na-butb-akkreditovan-pervyj-broker-iz-pakistana-519087-2022/>

⁸⁴⁶ The Iraqi company intends to purchase Belarusian milk powder and beef [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/irakskaja-kompanija-namerena-zakupat-belorusskoe-suhoe-moloko-i-goviadinu-515773-2022/>

2022, agricultural products accounted for 95 percent of the exchange trade turnover between Belarus and Switzerland, “which is a net importer of Belarusian goods, since all 16 Swiss companies accredited at the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange act exclusively as buyers at the auction. In January – June of this year, the amount of transactions made by Swiss companies on the stock exchange platform amounted to about \$6 million. Of this, more than \$5 million came from the export of Belarusian rapeseed oil and wet-blue leather⁸⁴⁷. ” This indicates the high demand for products of the Belarusian agro-industrial complex on the Swiss market and significant potential for deepening cooperation in this area. Moreover, not only rapeseed oil, but also other equally liquid items, such as milk powder and whey, cattle meat, and beet molasses. It remains to add that agricultural products are far from the only group of Belarusian goods that are in demand in Switzerland. There are other directions too.

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⁸⁴⁷ BUCE: agricultural products accounted for 95% of the exchange trade turnover of Belarus and Switzerland [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/butb-produktsiia-selskogo-hoziaistva-sostavila-95-birzhevogo-tovarooborota-belarusi-i-shveitsarii-515347-2022>

Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange: Asian vector expands cooperation

Increasing the supply of Belarusian goods to the countries of Asia and the Middle East is one of the priorities of the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange (BUCE). Figures show that at the end of 10 months of 2022, the export of domestic products with the help of BUCE in a number of Asian countries increased significantly: to Singapore - 6.6 times, to Turkey - 21 times, to Uzbekistan - 30 times.

In this context, in 2022, **the Chinese** segment of electronic exchange trading at BUCE significantly intensified. However, even "in 2021, the Belarusian-Chinese exchange trade turnover increased three and a half times at once ⁸⁴⁸. " And in October 2022, 100 companies from China were already working at BUCE, three of which have the status of stock brokers. Over the nine months of 2022, the amount of transactions they completed amounted to \$27 million. At the same time, more than \$24 million was provided by lumber - mainly edged boards from softwood. China became the 100th Chinese company accredited to bid at BUCE Township Enterprise Co. , Ltd . (CTEC), which at the initial stage intends to use the exchange platform to purchase woodworking products. Indeed, since the end of October 2022, BUCE has resumed the practice of holding special trading sessions for the sale of lumber to China with delivery in containers to its destination. "Along with lumber, unrefined rapeseed oil and skimmed milk powder were supplied to China through the exchange this year. The total amount of transactions amounted to over \$3 million ⁸⁴⁹. " Considering that one of the activities of CTEC in China is trading in agricultural products , it is possible that in the future the Chinese company will develop this segment of the exchange commodity market.

Returning to the topic of exports of lumber products to China, we note that following the results of a special trading session, which took place in the first ten days of November 2022 at BUCE, more than 20 thousand cubic

⁸⁴⁸ Zalesky, B. Systemic partnerships. Specifics of economic interaction between the Belarusian side and the post-Soviet republics / B. Zalesky. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing , 2022. – C. 45.

⁸⁴⁹ The 100th company from China has been accredited to BUCE [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/na-butb-akkreditovalas-100-ja-kompanija-iz-kitaja-530408-2022/>

meters of Belarusian-made lumber were sold to the Chinese market. 11 Chinese residents took part in this session. “At the same time, for the convenience of buyers, several bases for the supply of goods were provided, namely the cities of Taicang, Tianjin, Shanghai and Changsha. The key feature of special trading sessions is that they are targeted at a specific market – in this case, China⁸⁵⁰. ” And in December 2022, on the Belarusian exchange platform, following the results of a special export trading session, these trades became a record both in terms of the amount of transactions completed and in the volume of resources sold to the Chinese market. This is more than 60 thousand cubic meters of lumber “with a total value of 85.5 million yuan, or \$12.3 million in equivalent <...>. As a result, residents of China and Singapore purchased 10 lots of lumber with a volume of 62.2 thousand cubic meters, that is, half of all lumber products put up for auction⁸⁵¹. ” Note that special trading sessions for the sale of lumber to China have been held at BUCE since December 2020 with the support of the Ministry of Forestry of Belarus in order to diversify export supplies of products from domestic wood processing enterprises and increase export revenue through the use of a competitive exchange trading mechanism.

For reference, we note: as of November 1, 2022, 103 Chinese companies were already accredited at BUCE. Among the new participants in the Belarusian electronic platform was a company from China, which for the first time bought a tanned semi-finished product “wet-blue” at BUCE. Thus, the geography of sales of these products through this platform has expanded to eight countries. “The wet-blue semi-finished product is in stable demand among leather goods manufacturers around the world. At exchange trading, these products are regularly purchased by companies from Russia, Kazakhstan, Great Britain, Italy, Switzerland, Lithuania and Poland. During January-October of this year, the total amount of transactions amounted to

⁸⁵⁰ Lumber products worth more than \$4 million were purchased at BUTB by companies from China and Singapore [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/piloproduktisiju-na-bolee-chem-4-mln-priobreli-na-butb-kompanii-iz-kitaja-i-singapura-533965-2022/>

⁸⁵¹ Lumber worth \$12.3 million was sold to China through BUCE [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/pilomaterialy-na-123-mln-prodany-v-kitaj-cherez-butb-541419-2022/>

\$6.5 million ⁸⁵². ” Such products have not yet been shipped to China from Belarus. Apparently, after the pilot deal, new supplies of tanned leather are just around the corner.

Another interesting fact. In November 2022, a large Chinese trading company with a head office in Chongqing, specializing in the supply of cattle meat, chicken and seafood to the southern provinces of China, expressed interest in participating in trading in agricultural products at BUCE. The company “has an extensive network of suppliers around the world, including in Belarus, but during the pandemic, all relationships were paused. Using the BUCE trading platform, which represents leading domestic suppliers of meat and meat products, the Chinese importer intends to establish new business contacts and resume purchases of frozen beef in Belarus ⁸⁵³. ” Moreover, in recent years, Belarusian-made products have gained popularity in the Chinese market and are in high demand among Chinese consumers. Therefore, the company does not expect any problems with sales . At the same time, in addition to the office and wholesale sales points in Chongqing, the company has representative offices in other provinces of China, which will ensure the widest possible geography of sales of meat purchased on the exchange.

In order to promote the development of Belarusian-Chinese e-commerce, BUCE continues to expand the list of partners from the Middle Kingdom to further strengthen trade and economic relations between the Republic of Belarus and the People's Republic of China. In particular, in September 2022, BUCE signed a memorandum of cooperation with the Chinese branch of the BRICS Institute for the Study of Future Networks (BIFNC) to promote greater involvement in cross-border exchange trading of Belarusian and Chinese companies, including small and medium-sized businesses. “One of the promising areas of cooperation could be accreditation of BIFNC as a broker. This will allow not only to fully utilize BIFNC’s wide

⁸⁵² Now China: the geography of exports of Belarusian leather products through BUCE has expanded [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/teper-i-kitaj-geografija-eksporta-belorusskoj-kozhevennoj-produkcii-cherez-butb-rasshirilas-533733-2022/>

⁸⁵³ A large Chinese importer of meat and seafood became interested in cooperation with BUCE [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/krupnyi-kitajskij-importer-miasa-i-moreproduktov-zainteresovalsja-sotrudnichestvom-s-butb-536236-2022/>

network of business contacts to attract sellers and buyers from China to exchange trading, but also to conclude transactions on their behalf, thereby ensuring the growth of exchange trade turnover between Belarus and China⁸⁵⁴. ” It is expected that at the initial stage the main emphasis will be on supplies of Belarusian lumber and fuel pellets to China as the most popular product items on the Chinese market.

Another new partner of BUCE in November 2022 was the Alliance of Economic and Commercial Advisors of China. The Chinese side is interested in such highly liquid commodity items as lumber, rapeseed oil and wet blue leather, since “in the near future the level of demand will increase, including for Belarusian-made goods that have proven themselves well in the Chinese market⁸⁵⁵. ” So the Belarusian-Chinese exchange trade, apparently, is reaching a new qualitative level.

BUCE also has big plans with other countries of the Asian continent, including **India, Pakistan, Turkey and Mongolia**.

For example, in September 2022, BUCE and the Inventivepreneur Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ICCI), headquartered in New Delhi (**India**), decided to join forces to attract Indian companies interested in entering the Belarusian market to the Belarusian exchange platform. After all, the use of the exchange mechanism will not only help strengthen trade relations between Belarus and India, but will also create favorable conditions for closer cooperation in related areas. Let us remember that ICCI has more than 10 thousand members throughout India. Mainly, these are small and medium-sized businesses operating in various sectors of industry and agriculture and receiving services from the Chamber of Commerce and Industry for effective business management, including market analytics, assistance in attracting investments, advanced training courses for employees,

⁸⁵⁴ BUCE and the Chinese branch of the BRICS Institute will promote the development of electronic exchange trading [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/butb-i-kitajskij-filial-institut-a-briks-budut-sodejstvovat-razvitiyu-elektronnoj-birzhevoj-torgovli-525751-2022/>

⁸⁵⁵ BUCE and the Alliance of Economic and Commercial Advisors of China have identified areas of cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/butb-i-alijans-ekonomicheskikh-i-kommercheskich-sovetnikov-kitaja-opredelili-napravlenija-sotrudnichestva-535514-2022/>

and search for business partners in India and abroad. The main task of ICCI is to provide assistance in scaling business, which, as a rule, involves entering the markets of other countries, including Belarus. Taking into account low risks, a wide product range and direct access to leading Belarusian enterprises, BUCE is the optimal solution for starting work in Belarus ICCI . In particular, “Belarusian acrylic fiber and other petrochemical products are in high demand in India, since transactions for this group of goods are regularly made <...>. No less promising positions are lumber, dairy products, and light industry products ⁸⁵⁶. ”

Another interesting fact: in November 2022, a pharmaceutical company from India, Tosco , was accredited for the first time at BUCE for the purpose of purchasing petrochemical products. Pharmachem , which manufactures and markets specialty chemicals and reagents for the Indian pharmaceutical industry. “On the Belarusian exchange platform Tosco Pharmachem plans to purchase acetone cyanohydrin, and in the future other chemicals and drugs it needs ⁸⁵⁷. ” This company’s interest in the BUTB platform is due to a number of reasons. Firstly, India is one of the three world leaders in terms of pharmaceutical production volumes. Secondly, the Indian enterprise, through exchange trading, will open up new export opportunities for Belarusian companies in the petrochemical industry. Thirdly, in addition to increasing the Belarusian-Indian exchange trade turnover, BUCE will allow one to gain experience in the Indian market, which can be useful in selling other popular commodity items to this South Asian country, including synthetic fibers. In December 2022, the first transaction was registered at BUCE: the Tosco enterprise Following the trading session, Pharmachem bought 23 tons of Belarusian acetone cyanohydrin. The small volume of purchases is due to the Indian company’s desire to work out the entire scheme for importing goods from Belarus. “The Indian side is interested in long-term

⁸⁵⁶ BUCE and the Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry plan to cooperate in the field of exchange trading [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/butb-i-indijskaja-torgovo-promyshlennaja-palata-planirujut-sotrudnicat-v-sfere-birzhevoj-torgovli-524659-2022/>

⁸⁵⁷ BUCE plans to start exporting petrochemical products for the Indian pharmaceutical industry [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/butb-planiruet-nachat-eksport-neftehimicheskoi-produksii-dlja-indijskoi-farmotrasli-535977-2022/>

cooperation with the exchange, which involves regular participation in exchange trading and an increase in purchase volumes. At the same time, due to the lack of practical experience in working on the Belarusian market through the exchange platform, the company preferred to first conclude a trial transaction for a small amount in order to minimize possible risks⁸⁵⁸. ” And in this regard, BUCE is counting on an increase in supplies of Belarusian petrochemical products to India. For reference: export exchange trading in chemical and petrochemical products has been held at BUCE since October 2021. The entire range of goods produced by petrochemical enterprises in Belarus is supplied abroad. In 2022, synthetic fibers, gasoline, oils and solvents were in particular demand among foreign buyers. The main sales markets are a number of countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, as well as the countries of the “far arc” - China, Syria, Pakistan, the United Arab Emirates, Turkey.

In 2022, certain steps to intensify exchange trading were also made between Belarus and **Pakistan**. In particular, the first broker company from this country has already been accredited to BUCE, and, thanks to the efforts of the Pakistani Embassy in Belarus, the central office of the exchange was visited by 70 representatives of the Pakistani business community who are interested in purchasing products from Belarus. And this is not only lumber, but also chemical and petrochemical products. For example, “Belarusian acrylic fiber is in high demand in Pakistan, which has recently been regularly supplied to this market through our trading platform. The volume of transactions is not very large yet, so expanding the circle of Pakistani buyers is a task of paramount importance”⁸⁵⁹ in order to really increase trade turnover between Belarus and Pakistan.

Another country in Asia that is very promising in terms of selling Belarusian goods through BUCE is **Turkey**. Over the three quarters of 2022,

⁸⁵⁸ An Indian company made a deal for the first time at BUCE [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/indijskaja-kompanija-vpervye-sovershila-sdelku-na-butb-537935-2022/>

⁸⁵⁹ BUCE organizes supplies of Belarusian lumber for the industry of Pakistan [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/butb-organizuet-postavki-belorusskih-pilomaterialov-dlja-promyshlennosti-pakistana-535371-2022/>

27 Turkish companies were accredited on the exchange. “This year they purchased domestic lumber, as well as scrap and non-ferrous metal waste at exchange auctions. When compared with January-September last year, the amount of transactions made by Turkish participants increased almost 1.5 times ⁸⁶⁰. ” Not only traditional export-import operations with the participation of Belarusian enterprises, but also transit transactions between non-residents are considered as possible areas of cooperation.

In November 2022, BUCE agreed to develop exchange trading in agricultural and wood products with the Istanbul Commodity Exchange (ISTIB) in order to “join efforts to increase the volume of mutual trade between Belarus and Turkey, with the main emphasis planned on agricultural products and the wood processing industry, demand for which is consistently high in both countries ⁸⁶¹. ” In this regard, Belarusian partners hope for support and assistance from ISTIB , whose members are more than ten thousand Turkish enterprises and for many of them ISTIB could become a “window” to the market of Belarus and the Eurasian Economic Union. After all, the exchange platform is an effective tool for establishing direct contacts between producers and consumers of the two countries, which will allow organizing regular trade in such highly liquid commodity items as lumber and dairy products.

Starting from December 2022, in order to increase the attractiveness of the exchange mechanism for foreign companies, including potential buyers of fuel pellets or pellets and other wood products, BUCE introduced a simplified accreditation procedure for residents of Turkey. Note that “a simplified accreditation procedure is already in effect for residents of 21 countries, which makes the exchange mechanism more accessible to foreign companies and contributes to the growth of supplies of Belarusian goods to

⁸⁶⁰ BUCE will present the advantages of exchange trading at an exhibition in Turkey [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/butb-predstavit-preimuschestva-birzhevoj-torgovli-na-vvstavke-v-turtsii-529829-2022/>

⁸⁶¹ BUCE and the Istanbul Commodity Exchange will develop trade in agricultural and wood processing products [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/butb-i-stambulskaja-tovarnaja-birzha-budut-razvivat-torgovliu-produktsiei-apk-i-derevoobrabotki-533002-2022/>

these markets ⁸⁶². ” At the first export auction, aimed at the Turkish market and held in the first ten days of December 2022, more than 18 thousand cubic meters of light and gray pellets were offered. More than 20 Turkish companies have expressed interest in purchasing Belarusian biofuel. And, apparently, the clear logistics and significant capacity of the Turkish market makes it one of the most promising export destinations for Belarusian fuel products.

And further. In January 2023, the first company from **Mongolia was accredited to participate in the bidding at BUCE** . This means that the geography of Belarusian exchange trading has expanded in the new year and now covers 71 countries on four continents. Through BUCE, “the Mongolian enterprise plans to supply mining products to Belarus, including fluorspar and slags used in the metallurgical industry, as well as purchase Belarusian metal products and agricultural goods ⁸⁶³. ” The interest of Mongolian business in the Belarusian exchange platform is not accidental. All metallurgical enterprises of Belarus are accredited at BUCE and participate in trading, and the amount of transactions in the metal products section for 2022 exceeded two billion Belarusian rubles. The exchange is home to the largest consumers and producers of goods that the Mongolian company intends to trade. In the segment of the agro-industrial complex, the situation is similar: BUCE presents the widest range of products from Belarusian agricultural enterprises, including exporters of milk, cream and butter, which are especially in demand in Mongolia. It is expected that the next step in the cooperation of the Belarusian exchange platform with the Mongolian enterprise will be to grant it the status of an exchange broker, which will allow it to act as the official representative of BUCE in Mongolia and attract new importers and exporters to the Belarusian market.

In general, speaking about BUCE’s cooperation with Asian countries, we note that this area of ties has enormous export potential. And “in the near

⁸⁶² BUCE simplifies accreditation for Turkish companies [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/butb-uproschaet-akkreditatsiju-dlja-turetskih-kompanij-537787-2022/>

⁸⁶³ The first company from Mongolia is accredited to BUCE [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/na-butb-akkreditovana-pervaja-kompanija-iz-mongolii-545414-2023/>

future this interaction will demonstrate high effectiveness ⁸⁶⁴. ” And the first steps in this regard have been taken.

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⁸⁶⁴ Zalessky, B. Potential of the exchange mechanism. Collection articles / B. Zalessky . – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2022. – P. 52.

Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange: to promote domestic exporters and help foreign importers

Back in early March 2023, the People's Republic of China (PRC) and the Republic of Belarus adopted a Joint Statement on the further development of all-weather and comprehensive strategic partnership relations in a new era, in which the parties agreed to promote the development of bilateral trade and economic cooperation and to steadily increase the volume of bilateral trade. One of the tools for increasing and diversifying Belarusian-Chinese trade today is the use of the exchange mechanism, which has actively begun to develop since 2019.

At the end of 2022, the amount of transactions made by Chinese companies at the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange (BUCE) increased by almost 15 percent and amounted to about \$53 million. At the beginning of 2023, the number of participants in trading sessions from China increased significantly - from 67 to 113, two of whom had the status of stock brokers. "Last year, lumber, rapeseed oil, milk powder, wet blue leather and synthetic fibers were supplied to China through the exchange platform. In turn, Belarusian enterprises purchased Chinese-made ferrous metal products and soybean meal at BUTB⁸⁶⁵. "

The positive dynamics of the volumes of Belarusian-Chinese exchange trading was achieved thanks to active work to attract Chinese residents to exchange trading, as well as through the creation of favorable conditions for representatives of Chinese business. In particular, the accreditation procedure at the exchange was simplified, the possibility of settlements for transactions in Chinese yuan was provided, and consulting support was organized in Chinese. In addition, during 2022, special export trading sessions focused on the Chinese market were regularly held, which allowed Chinese importers to buy Belarusian lumber products with delivery to convenient points in the Middle Kingdom. In 2023, BUCE expected to

⁸⁶⁵ The amount of transactions of Chinese companies at BUCE increased by 14% [Electronic resource]. — 2023. — URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/summa-sdelok-kitajskih-kompanij-na-butb-vozrosla-na-14-551264-2023/>

even more actively increase supplies to this country of a whole range of domestic products. In particular, lumber, vegetable oils and meat and dairy products.

For example, in March 2023, the Chinese company **SUMEC expressed interest in cooperation with BUCE International Trading**, providing about three percent of the total volume of wood and lumber imports into this country. The parties considered “two forms of interaction: the company’s participation in exchange trading as a visitor, concluding transactions on its own behalf and at its own expense, or obtaining the status of a stock broker, which allows attracting new buyers from China to the Belarusian trading platform ⁸⁶⁶. ” Now the geography of purchases of SUMEC International Trading is quite diversified. Timber products are imported from Brazil, Canada, Congo, Russia, Finland and other countries, including Belarus, where the company recently opened a subsidiary. At the same time, the Chinese side is ready to purchase Belarusian lumber through BUCE on a regular basis, provided that the price offers of domestic wood processors are competitive and the rhythm of supplies is guaranteed. Let us recall that in March 2023, at a special session at BUCE, focused on the Chinese market, Belarusian bidders placed applications for the sale of lumber with a volume of more than 100 thousand cubic meters.

The Chinese corporation **Xiamen Xiangyu Group Corporation (XMXYG)**, which is included in the list of the 500 largest companies in the world according to Fortune magazine, confirmed its readiness to increase the volume of purchases of woodworking products at the BUCE auction, as well as to develop cooperation in other promising product areas, in April 2023. March 2022, its subsidiary is **Xiamen Xiangyu Superchain Supply Chain Development Co., Ltd.** – regularly participates in lumber trading on the Belarusian stock exchange. “During this time, XMXYG purchased almost 10 thousand cubic meters through BUTB. m of lumber worth about \$2 million

⁸⁶⁶ BUCE agreed on cooperation with one of the largest Chinese importers of forest products [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/butb-dogovorilas-o-sotrudnichestve-s-odnim-iz-krupnejshih-kitajskih-importerov-lesoproduksii-553935-2023/>

⁸⁶⁷. " Thanks to the exchange, the company has already purchased four trains of lumber and is determined to continue cooperation in the same vein, gradually increasing purchase volumes. XMYG is also interested in expanding the list of goods that the corporation purchases at BUCE, and not only in the forest industry segment. We are talking about the possibility of participating in trading in agricultural products and, first of all, rapeseed oil, which is in stable demand in China and in 2022 was already supplied to the Chinese market through BUCE. Then it was sold for more than \$42 million, including as part of import transactions made by Chinese participants. Therefore, taking into account the significant production capacity of Belarusian oil extraction plants, this area may become a new point of growth for the Chinese corporation in Belarus.

Another partner of BUCE, which is interested in interacting with the Belarusian exchange platform, in May 2023, became the Chinese company **Beijing Huibaocheng Technology**. This importer purchases dairy products and vegetable oils, which are widely used in the Chinese food industry. The company plans to "purchase about 10 thousand tons of rapeseed oil on the exchange monthly with the possibility of increasing supplies in the future ⁸⁶⁸. " The Chinese importer is interested in Belarusian milk powder, so he will actively participate in the auction.

In June 2023, another large Chinese importing company announced its intention to increase purchases of lumber products at BUCE - **Taomu (Suzhou) Information Technology**. The fact is that based on the results of five months of 2023, the company has already purchased about 53 thousand cubic meters of this product through the exchange, which is almost twice as much as last year's figure for the same period. But this is far from the limit. And by the end of 2023, "it is planned to purchase at least another 20 thousand cubic meters. m. Thus, Belarus can become one of the three main markets

⁸⁶⁷ The Chinese corporation is ready to increase purchases of Belarusian lumber through BUCE [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/kitajskaja-korporatsija-gotova-naraschivat-zakupki-belorusskih-pilomaterialov-cherez-butb-560768-2023>

⁸⁶⁸ BUCE expects to increase supplies of lumber, vegetable oils, meat and dairy to China [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/butb-rasschityvaet-narastit-postavki-v-kitaj-pilomaterialov-rastitelnih-masel-miasa-i-molochki-567273-2023/>

from where Taomu (Suzhou) Information Technology imports woodworking products ⁸⁶⁹. ” It is interesting that in 2022, the strategic partners of this company for the supply of lumber were Russia, Canada and Sweden, and Belarus took only fourth place.

Let us remind you once again that at the beginning of 2023, the number of participants in BUCE trading sessions from China was already 113. And as of November 27 of the same year, 152 of them were already accredited on the Belarusian exchange platform. “Based on the results of 10 months [2023], China has become the largest export destination for Belarusian participants in exchange trading. <...> As a result, compared to January-October last year, the volume of export transactions increased two and a half times” ⁸⁷⁰ and amounted to almost 60 million dollars.

One of the primary tasks that BUCE will solve in 2024 with its Chinese partners is to expand the range of goods from Belarus and China involved in mutual exchange trading. Let us note that “ Belarusian lumber, rapeseed oil, meat products and milk powder are exported to China through the exchange. At the same time, the exchange mechanism is becoming increasingly in demand among Chinese businesses, providing high positive dynamics in terms of the amount of transactions ⁸⁷¹. ” To further develop these processes in Belarus and China, it is planned to focus on small and medium-sized businesses, primarily producers of import-substituting goods. In addition, it is planned to ensure further diversification of the product range through targeted work of BUCE with industry business associations and chambers of commerce and industry in various regions of China, which “will

⁸⁶⁹ A large Chinese importer intends to increase purchases of lumber products at BUCE [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/krupnyi-kitajskij-importer-nameren-naraschivat-zakupki-piloprodukcii-na-butb-571701-2023/>

⁸⁷⁰ Osmolovsky: BUCE will provide comprehensive support to Belarusian exporters [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/osmolovskij-butb-okazhet-kompleksnuju-podderzhku-belorusskim-eksporteram-599485-2023/>

⁸⁷¹ BUCE and the Chinese Embassy have identified priorities for interaction in the trade and economic sphere [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/butb-i-posolstvo-kitaja-opredelili-prioritety-vzaimodejstviya-v-torgovo-ekonomicheskoi-sfere-594539-2023/>

allow establishing interaction both with manufacturers of products in demand in Belarus and with potential consumers of Belarusian goods”⁸⁷².

In particular, in July 2023, BUCE and **Xinjiang Asia-Europe International Trade Center (AEEX)** , operator of the Asia electronic trading platform, agreed to increase exports to China **Europa Exchange** , which will directly attract Chinese importers to Belarusian exchange trading. At the same time, attention will be focused “on the regions through which the New Silk Road passes. First of all, these are Shanghai, Taicang and Xinjiang⁸⁷³,” where there are AEEX offices that are already establishing interaction with representatives of Chinese business interested in working through BUCE.

And in August 2023, **the China National Forestry Industry Corporation announced its intention to expand cooperation with BUCE** , which plans not only to increase purchases of Belarusian lumber, but also to sell Chinese-made goods through the Belarusian import substitution platform. The parties also reached an agreement to explore the possibility of importing Belarusian rapeseed oil and powdered milk to China as the most liquid commodity items. “In this context, the issue of accreditation of the corporation as a stock broker is also being considered, which will allow it to attract business entities from other sectors of the economy to BUCE⁸⁷⁴.”

Another fact: in September 2023, **the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region** , which “has four main features: a vast territory, huge reserves of natural resources, highly developed agriculture and a powerful energy industry,” expressed its interest in developing cooperation with BUCE⁸⁷⁵.

⁸⁷² The prospects for the development of exchange trading in Belarus and China were discussed at a business forum in Shanghai [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/perspektivy-razvitiya-birzhevoj-torgovli-belarusi-i-kitaia-obsudili-na-biznes-forume-v-shanhae-597700-2023/>

⁸⁷³ Xinjiang Asia-Europe Trade Center will help increase exports to China through BUCE [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/sintzjanskij-aziatskij-evropejskij-torgovij-tsentr-pomozhet-narastit-eksport-v-kitaj-cherez-butb-576501-2023/>

⁸⁷⁴ The Chinese timber industry corporation intends to expand cooperation with BUTB [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/kitajskaja-lesopromyshlennaja-korporatsija-amerena-rasshirit-sotrudnichestvo-s-butb-581070-2023/>

⁸⁷⁵ Belarus and China discussed prospects for the development of exchange trading [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL :

The Chinese side is confident that exchange trading can play a key role in creating favorable conditions for companies from this region of China to do business in Belarus. And in this regard, BUCE, with its wide import and export capabilities, is able to simplify the activities of companies from Inner Mongolia in the Belarusian market.

Finally, in November 2023, within the framework of the 13th China International Timber Trade Conference, which was held in the administrative center of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region - Nanning, a memorandum of cooperation in the field of electronic exchange trading was signed by BUCE and the **China Timber Trade and Forest Products Association (CTWPDA)** to assist Chinese enterprises in entering the Belarusian market. Let us recall that in less than 11 months of 2023, “over 467 thousand cubic meters of Belarusian lumber products were sold on the Chinese market. This is almost five times more than in January-November last year. At the same time, when working with domestic suppliers, Chinese importers actively use the mechanism of exchange-based targeted transactions, the volume of which has already reached 237 thousand cubic meters in just a few months ⁸⁷⁶.” In this regard, the establishment of partnership relations between BUCE and CTWPDA will not only help find new buyers for lumber produced in Belarus, but will also provide an additional incentive for the development of Belarusian-Chinese cooperation in the exchange sector.

In general, in January 2024, 162 Chinese residents were already accredited to BUCE, which is 51 more than in January 2023. “At the same time, the amount of transactions completed by Chinese trading participants increased 2.7 times – from \$30.4 million in 2022 to \$80.6 million in 2023. ⁸⁷⁷” This happened mainly due to the export of Belarusian products. These

<https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-kitaj-obsudili-perspektivy-razvitiia-birzhevoi-torgovli-590151-2023/>

⁸⁷⁶ BUCE and the Chinese Timber Trade Association signed a memorandum of cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/butb-i-kitajskaja-assotsiatsija-torgovli-lesom-podpisali-memorandum-o-sotrudnichestve-602012-2023/>

⁸⁷⁷ The new BUCE broker will supply import-substituting goods from China [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/novyi-broker-butb-zajmetsja-postavkami-importozameschajuschih-tovarov-iz-kitaja-611688-2024/>

were mainly supplies of lumber, rapeseed oil, milk powder and petrochemical complex products. If we talk about imports from China, “Belarusian bidders predominantly purchased products made of ferrous and non-ferrous metals through BUCE⁸⁷⁸. ” For this reason, BUCE’s plans for 2024 include not only a further increase in export sales volumes, but also an expansion of the range of Chinese-made goods. Moreover, in 2023, about a quarter of transactions on the BUTB industrial and consumer goods platform were for products of Chinese origin.

Developing the topic of import substitution, we note that in January 2024, **Shanghai Duxia Industry and Trade Co. , Ltd** became the first stock broker from China that will specialize in the supply of import-substituting products to BUCE and attract manufacturers of goods in demand in Belarus - industrial and consumer goods - to the exchange platform. Note that this company from Shanghai today traditionally produces printing presses and equipment for the production and processing of plastic packaging, which are sold not only in the Middle Kingdom, but are also exported abroad, mainly to the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Europe. As a broker, BUCE’s Chinese partner intends to attract to exchange auctions manufacturers of import-substituting goods that are in high demand on the Belarusian market. We are talking, first of all, about electrical equipment, household appliances, video and sound recording equipment, measuring instruments, industrial tools, as well as components and spare parts for machines and mechanisms. As a result, the purchasing capabilities of Belarusian bidders will significantly expand, and the appearance of Chinese manufacturing plants on the Belarusian electronic platform will provide more favorable conditions for concluding transactions. And one more fact in this regard: the new broker was accredited by BUCE with the assistance of the exchange’s representative office in Shanghai, which opened in 2023 to expand the pool of Chinese users of the exchange platform, promote Belarusian goods on the Chinese market and organize the supply of import-

⁸⁷⁸ BUCE and the administration of Chinese Shenyang agreed on cooperation in the field of exchange trading [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/butb-i-administratsija-kitajskogo-shenijana-dogovorilis-o-sotrudnichestve-v-sfere-birzhevoj-torgovli-606169-2023/>

substituting products in demand on the Belarusian market. And with the participation of the representative office, 19 new Chinese residents have already been accredited at BUCE.

By the way, already in the new year, 2024, BUCE established partnerships with the Chinese holding **Osell Group**, which brings together a number of electronic trading platforms for manufacturers from China and facilitates their entry into foreign markets. The fact is that the “Osell digital ecosystem Group is used by thousands of companies from various sectors of industry and agriculture, and the goal of cooperation with BUCE is to involve Chinese business representatives in cross-border trading on the Belarusian exchange platform”⁸⁷⁹. ” And already in January of this year BUTB and Osell Group organized a round table in the city of Wuxi, in Jiangsu province, for the business community of this region, given the high level of economic development and significant export potential of this province. We must assume that the results of this event will appear in the near future.

Returning to the topic of Belarusian exports to China through BUCE, it should be noted that this trend will dominate in 2024. Especially in terms of successful supplies of Belarusian woodworking products to the Chinese market. This is evidenced by figures that show that “in 2023, Chinese companies purchased 501 thousand cubic meters on the exchange floor. m of lumber, which is 4 times more than in 2022. Over 53% of the total sales volume was provided by exchange-traded transactions. At the same time, about 30 buyers from China regularly participated in the auction”⁸⁸⁰. ” This year, BUCE will further expand the circle of buyers of these supplies in China.

For example, on the eve of 2024, as part of the work to diversify sales markets and increase exports of the Belarusian timber industry complex, BUCE agreed on accreditation with the **BNBM company Group Forest Products**, which is a subsidiary of one of the largest construction holding

⁸⁷⁹ BUCE began to cooperate with a large Chinese trading platform [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/butb-nachala-sotrudnichestva-s-krupnoj-kitajskoj-torgovoj-platfornoj-612305-2024/>

⁸⁸⁰ . BUCE expands the circle of buyers of lumber from China [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/butb-rasshirjaet-krug-pokupatelej-pilomaterialov-iz-kitaja-607633-2023/>

companies in this country - **China National Building Materials Group** , which is among the leading importers of roundwood and lumber. In the near future after the first trial purchase of BNB Group Forest Products plans to gradually increase volumes taking into account the dynamics of demand in China and supply them to warehouses in the cities of Changxing (Zhejiang Province) and Chengdu (Sichuan Province), and then ship to end consumers.

Taomu (Suzhou) Information Technology already mentioned above **Technology** , which became the largest foreign buyer of lumber at BUCE by the end of 2023, plans to scale its business in Belarus. Last year, the company purchased more than 140 thousand cubic meters of lumber on the exchange, which is almost four times more than in 2022. In 2024, the company will continue to increase purchase volumes. “At the same time, we are talking not only about increasing the import of lumber through BUCE, but also about purchasing other Belarusian goods popular in China ⁸⁸¹. ” This is milk powder, rapeseed oil, sugar. In order to further deepen cooperation in the field of exchange trading, the parties also agreed to work out the issue of integrating the BUCE platform and the electronic marketplace Taomu (Suzhou) Information Technology , in which banking and logistics services are already connected, which will allow Belarusian exporters accredited at BUCE to better and more efficiently promote their products on the Chinese market, interacting with their end consumers.

All these facts indicate that in 2024, the use of the exchange mechanism will reach a qualitatively new level of increasing and diversifying Belarusian-Chinese trade and will give a powerful impetus to the relations of all-weather and comprehensive partnership between the two countries in a new era.

⁸⁸¹ The largest foreign buyer of lumber at BUCE is ready to scale up its business in Belarus [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/krupnejshij-inostrannyi-pokupatel-pilomaterialov-na-butb-gotov-masshtabirovat-biznes-v-belarusi-610932-2024/>

Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange: to ensure high growth dynamics in volumes and number of transactions

In 2023, the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange (BUCE) interacted very effectively with foreign companies, both from the “far arc” countries and neighboring countries. In particular, last year there were already 660 exporters and importers from **Asian countries operating on the Belarusian exchange platform**. The leader in the number of trading participants and transaction volumes on this continent was **China**. Suffice it to say that during this period 46 new Chinese residents came to BUCE, and the amount of exchange transactions increased 2.7 times and amounted to more than \$80 million. In 2024, a new wave of activity from participants from Asian countries is expected at BUCE, including **South Korea**, **Singapore**, **Mongolia**, **Turkey**, **Pakistan**, and **the United Arab Emirates**.

For example, at the end of 2023, the first deal was concluded at BUCE for the sale of lumber products to **the Republic of Korea**, when an importing company from this Asian country purchased a trial batch of 400 cubic meters of edged hardwood lumber from one of the Belarusian forestry enterprises. And the geography of exchange exports of these products of the domestic woodworking industry has expanded to 17 countries. In this regard, the entry of the Republic of Korea into the BUCE auction opens up new opportunities for Belarusian manufacturers. “At the same time, we are talking not only about lumber, but also about dairy products, which are in high demand in this country. In particular, the import of milk powder and butter amounts to hundreds of millions of dollars⁸⁸².” So the pilot transaction for the purchase of lumber could become the starting point for regular transactions by Korean businessmen at BUCE for a wide range of products.

Another participant in interaction with the Belarusian exchange platform is **Singapore**. To the beginning In 2023, nine companies from this Southeast Asian country were accredited to BUCE. Previously, Singaporean firms participated in exchange trading exclusively as buyers. Basically,

⁸⁸² BUCE began supplying lumber to the Republic of Korea [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/cherez-butb-nachalis-postavki-pilomaterialov-v-respubliku-koreja-602882-2023/>

companies from Singapore bought Belarusian skimmed milk powder; recently there has also been an increased demand for woodworking products. In particular, “in 2022, exchange exports of lumber to Singapore amounted to \$9.3 million, which is an order of magnitude higher than in 2021.⁸⁸³” In 2023, special attention began to be paid to the development of the Singapore direction. At the end of January, goods from Singaporean manufacturers were presented at the BUCE auction for the first time. The discussion was about the sale of high-tech industrial equipment at the BUTB import substitution site. The purchase application placed by one of the Belarusian industrial flagships attracted laser equipment manufacturers from Singapore interested in working in the domestic market. For this purpose, two new Singaporean companies were accredited on the exchange. And then the first bids for sale were put out. Even then, it was expected that placing applications in the BUCE trading system for the sale of import-substituting goods produced in Singapore would help create a favorable competitive environment and reduce the costs of Belarusian enterprises purchasing at exchange auctions. In the future, this made it possible to even more actively develop exchange trade with this state, which is part of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

And by the end of 2023, Singapore was included in the list of eight countries that began to use the mechanism of exchange-traded transactions, which became available on BUCE from June 22, 2023. “The main feature of such transactions is that they can be concluded directly with foreign buyers, however, the selling price of goods must not be lower than the current exchange quotation for this product, formed based on the results of exchange trading. In addition, since targeted transactions are registered on the exchange, their participants have the right to use all risk insurance instruments available at BUCE⁸⁸⁴. ” It remains to add that Singapore, along with China, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan and Russia, entered the top five largest buyers of

⁸⁸³ Products of Singaporean manufacturers will be presented for the first time at the BUCE auction [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/tovary-singapurskih-proizvoditelej-budut-vpervye-predstavleny-na-torgah-butb-547522-2023/>

⁸⁸⁴ Targeted transactions at BUCE are concluded by companies from eight countries [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/adresnye-sdelki-na-butb-zakljuchajut-kompanii-iz-vosmi-stran-599332-2023/>

Belarusian lumber products in 2023 at BUCE, increasing the purchase of these products by almost two and a half times and was able to reach the mark of 120 thousand cubic meters. And already in February 2024, the first Singaporean brokerage company, Vooking Pro Pte, was accredited on the Belarusian exchange platform. Ltd., which had previously worked for BUCE for more than two years as a trade visitor. In the status of a professional participant, the new broker “plans to attract buyers of forest products from the Asian region to the exchange platform, contributing to the further expansion of the geography of exchange exports⁸⁸⁵. ” After all, broker accreditation in Singapore is the next stage in the development of exchange trade with this country in order to help increase the pool of buyers from Asian countries, including the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Korea, where exchange supplies of Belarusian lumber have already been organized. In addition, the broker usually takes upon himself the solution of transport and logistics issues, which, of course, helps to increase the attractiveness of the exchange mechanism for foreign companies. This is especially true for the “far arc” countries.

If we talk about **Mongolia**, the first broker from this country - the United Meres Machinery company - was accredited at BUCE in September 2023 and planned to begin its activities with goods in high demand - ferrous metals and coal, as well as with products of the petrochemical industry and agro-industrial complex. And in January 2024, with the help of the first Mongolian broker, the first deal for the supply of granulated white sugar was concluded - 312 tons. “Given the high demand for sugar in Mongolia, it can be assumed that this product line could become one of the most promising for Asian markets. Moreover, after the successful execution of the first contract, Mongolian partners are already expecting an increase in export volumes from Belarus⁸⁸⁶. ”

⁸⁸⁵ BUCE accredited the first broker in Singapore [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/amp/economics/view/butb-akkreditovala-pervogo-brokera-v-singapore-613819-2024>

⁸⁸⁶ Zalesky, B. On the course of cooperation. Specifics of interaction between Belarus and Asian countries / Boris Zalesky. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2024. – C. 38.

BUCE also demonstrated high positive dynamics of trade turnover in 2023 with **Turkey**. In particular, “the amount of transactions concluded by Turkish bidders in January – August was 31% more than for the entire 2022. The key growth drivers were active purchases of Belarusian lumber, including through the use of a targeted mechanism, as well as exports of ferrous and non-ferrous scrap metal to Turkey⁸⁸⁷.” Last year, 18 new Turkish residents came to BUCE. And by mid-September 2023, 50 companies from this country were already represented at the auction, including one stock broker. And in the same September, a large Turkish manufacturer of synthetic and natural yarn, threads and fibers sold its products for the first time - 40 tons of viscose yarn - to a Belarusian textile industry enterprise at the BUTB industrial and consumer goods site. This fact made it possible to expand the geography of foreign suppliers of textile raw materials using this trading platform to operate on the Belarusian market to four countries. The first three are Moldova, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

The priority areas of cooperation between BUCE and **Pakistan** in 2024 are: from the Pakistani side - import of lumber, milk powder, sugar, vegetable oils; on the Belarusian side – purchase of rice, grains, yarn and non-ferrous metals. In addition, this is logistics, which “will allow optimizing transport costs and making products sold by Belarusian participants in exchange trading more attractive in price for Pakistani buyers⁸⁸⁸.” BUCE also plans to expand the geography of manufacturers of import-substituting products presented on the exchange platform at the expense of Pakistani companies interested in creating a trading or manufacturing business in Belarus. In particular, the Pakistani holding Afil Industries “is studying the possibility of implementing an investment project in Belarus for the production of food products, and also intends to establish regular wholesale supplies of Pakistani products that are in demand on the Belarusian market

⁸⁸⁷ Supplies of textile raw materials from Turkey began to be sold through the BUCE platform [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/postavki-tekstilnogo-syrjia-iz-turtsii-nachali-realizovvatsja-cherez-ploschadku-butb-588124-2023/>

⁸⁸⁸ BUCE intends to increase the number of accredited companies from Pakistan [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/butb-namerena-uvlichit-kolichestvo-akkreditovannyh-kompanij-iz-pakistana-578951-2023/>

⁸⁸⁹. ” We are talking, first of all, about specific products - various types of rice, soccer balls, gloves, belts, as well as such a specific product as Himalayan salt.

Finally, this year BUCE plans to intensify cooperation with **the United Arab Emirates** (UAE), an international trade hub with a powerful transport, logistics and financial infrastructure. For reference, we note that “as of April 1, 2023, 14 companies from the UAE were accredited to BUCE. The main volume of transactions in 2022-2023 was in wood processing and petrochemical products ⁸⁹⁰. ” The Emirati side believes that BUCE’s interaction with companies from the UAE will open up wide opportunities for promoting Belarusian goods to North Africa and Asia, since this export direction is very promising for bidders from Belarus. And in the near future, the parties intend to take new concrete steps to attract representatives of Emirati business to the Belarusian exchange platform to establish long-term trade relations.

Now let's focus on the development of cooperation between the Belarusian exchange platform and **African countries** . First, we note that in general our republic plans to increase exports to this continent by at least 2.5 times in 2024. At the same time, it is necessary to “focus on products that are less dependent on world market conditions. <...> And focus on promotion, actively use effective merchandising tools, quality service, as well as e-commerce opportunities ⁸⁹¹. ” So BUCE has already formulated clear objectives for using the exchange mechanism to enhance mutual trade and increase trade turnover this year with African partners, including **Egypt, Nigeria, and Ethiopia** .

⁸⁸⁹ BUCE expects to attract suppliers from Pakistan to the import substitution site [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/buth-rasschitvvaet-privlech-na-ploschadku-importozameschenija-postavschikov-iz-pakistana-571569-2023/>

⁸⁹⁰ The UAE Embassy will assist BUCE in the development of exchange trade with the countries of the Middle East [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/posolstvo-uae-okazhet-sodejstvie-butb-v-razvitii-birzhevoj-torgovli-so-stranami-blizhnego-vostoka-559908-2023/>

⁸⁹¹ Belarus plans to increase exports to African countries by at least 2.5 times in 2024 [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-planiruet-v-2024-godu-narastit-eksport-v-strany-afriki-ne-menee-chem-v-25- raza-602900-2023/>

In particular, back in August 2021, BUCE signed a memorandum of understanding with the Egyptian Commodity Exchange (EMX), which was established by the **Egyptian Ministry of Supply and Internal Trade** in 2020. In November last year, the parties discussed issues of improving e-commerce technologies, exchanging analytical data, organizing trade in new product items and ensuring favorable conditions for effective trade partnerships between business entities in Belarus and Egypt. “The main efforts are planned to be focused on activities that will contribute to the growth of bilateral trade volumes and the expansion of the use of the exchange mechanism in export-import activities. In this regard, BUCE and EMX intend to explore the possibility of mutual participation of Belarusian and Egyptian companies in exchange trading on both platforms ⁸⁹². ” All this will not only give impetus to the development of exchange trade between the two countries, but will also increase the efficiency of the implementation of joint projects in other areas. In particular, the entry of Egyptian enterprises into the BUCE industrial and consumer goods platform will contribute to industrial cooperation between the two countries, as well as addressing issues of import substitution.

As for **Nigeria** , in February 2024, a business forum “Belarus–Nigeria: direct dialogue” was held in Minsk, at which promising areas of cooperation between BUCE and the business community of this country interested in purchasing Belarusian products, including rapeseed oil and dry milk. For reference: products of the oil and fat and dairy industries are among the most popular commodity items among foreign participants of the Belarusian exchange platform, “and the Nigerian market, taking into account its capacity and purchasing power, is of significant interest to Belarusian exporters ⁸⁹³. ” So, accreditation of Nigerian companies at BUCE, apparently, will allow manufacturers from Belarus in the near future to expand their

⁸⁹² Commodity exchanges of Belarus and Egypt agreed to develop cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/tovarnye-birzhi-belarusi-i-egipta-dogovorilis-razvivat-sotrudnichestvo-599879-2023/>

⁸⁹³ BUCE plans to establish supplies of Belarusian agricultural products to Nigeria [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/buth-planiruet-naladit-postavki-belorusskoi-selhozproduksii-v-nigeriju-615084-2024/>

export geography without additional costs and establish regular supplies to this promising market.

Speaking about BUCE's partnership with **Ethiopia**, let us recall that back in 2023 the parties identified promising commodity items that could be traded on the stock exchange in 2024 as part of export- import transactions between Belarusian and Ethiopian companies. "If we talk about imports from Ethiopia, then first of all, these are, of course, agricultural products - coffee, soybeans and grain crops. <...> From the point of view of exporting Belarusian goods to Ethiopia, it is advisable to focus on dairy products – milk powder and whey ⁸⁹⁴. " It only remains to add that while Ethiopian residents are not yet participating in exchange trading at BUCE, African partners have a business interest in this topic. And this year it will definitely appear.

In 2023, among the foreign participants of the BUCE from the countries of the **Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)**, which significantly increased interest in Belarusian exchange trading and showed high growth dynamics in the volume and number of transactions, it is necessary to note the enterprises of **Uzbekistan**. If in 2022 only six Uzbek companies regularly participated in exchange trading sessions, then in 2023 there were already 29 of them. And the amount of transactions at the end of last year increased 17 times - "from just over \$1 million in 2022 to almost \$18 million in 2023. ⁸⁹⁵" At the same time, the product range of mutual trade has expanded. In particular, now, in addition to lumber, residents of Uzbekistan have also begun to buy Belarusian sugar on the exchange. This happened in May 2023, when the first such transaction was registered at BUCE. "The seller was one of the domestic sugar factories, and the buyer was a brokerage company accredited at BUCE and the Uzbek Republican Commodity and Raw Materials Exchange (UzRTSB). The volume of the pilot

⁸⁹⁴ BUCE presented the possibilities of exchange trading to the business community of Ethiopia [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/butb-predstavila-vozmozhnosti-birzhevoj-torgovli-delovym-krugam-efiopii-575836-2023/>

⁸⁹⁵ Exchange trade turnover between Belarus and Uzbekistan in 2023 increased 17 times Korea [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/birzhevoj-tovarooborot-belarusi-i-uzbekistana-v-2023-godu-vyros-v-17-raz-611161-2024/>

purchase was 134 tons ⁸⁹⁶. " This fact is interesting for another reason. After all, in this way the first practical result of the joint project of BUCE and Uzbekistan on mutual accreditation of brokers was obtained. The fact is that back in April 2023, as part of a strategic partnership agreement between the two exchanges, after appropriate certification, seven brokerage organizations from each side received mutual access to the exchange trading platforms of Belarus and Uzbekistan. On the Belarusian side, OJSC Belresursy, the management company of the holding Belresursy, private unitary enterprise Belresursbrok, RUE Beltamozhservice, CJSC BirZheks, IP Sokol Lyubov Leontievna, LLC StatusBrock, and LLC "Belresursy" became stock brokers. Center for Brokerage Services" ⁸⁹⁷ which, together with Uzbek partners, will allow us to expand the circle of trading participants much faster.

As for the plans for the development of exchange trade in Belarus and Uzbekistan in 2024, the main areas identified are woodworking, agriculture, metallurgy and light industry, which can take the partnership of the two countries to a qualitatively new level. For this purpose, the exchange mechanism will be more actively used for the supply of Uzbek-made goods to Belarus. In this regard, the capabilities of the BUTB industrial and consumer goods platform will be used. Let us recall that in 2023, Uzbek manufacturers for the first time used the Belarusian import substitution platform to sell cotton yarn. In August last year, "two trial transactions were completed with a total volume of 140 tons. In both cases, the buyer was one of the leading domestic enterprises in the textile industry ⁸⁹⁸. " Thus, the exchange platform provided the Belarusian enterprise with direct access to direct producers of the raw materials it needed and provided full support for the procurement procedure. The total amount of transactions amounted to

⁸⁹⁶ BUCE registered the first transaction for the sale of sugar to Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/butb-zaregistirovala-pervuju-sdelku-po-realizatsii-sahara-v-uzbekistan-566927-2023/>

⁸⁹⁷ Seven BUCE brokers were accredited at the Uzbek Republican Commodity and Raw Materials Exchange [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/sem-brokerov-butb-akkreditovalis-na-uzbekskoj-respublikanskoi-tovarno-syrjevoj-birzhe-561922-2023/>

⁸⁹⁸ Uzbek yarn producers concluded their first deals on the BUCE platform [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/uzbekskie-proizvoditeli-priazhi-zakljuchili-pervye-sdelki-na-ploschadke-butb-585558-2023/>

more than one million dollars. As part of the development of exchange imports in 2024, it is planned not only to increase sales volumes for this product item, but also to put up for auction other types of import-substituting products produced in this country. To the above, we add that “as of February 1, 2024, 101 companies from Uzbekistan are accredited at BUCE <...>. In January, the amount of transactions of Uzbek participants amounted to \$5.2 million. In January 2023, this figure was equal to \$60 thousand.”⁸⁹⁹.

In 2024, the Belarusian exchange platform plans to significantly intensify joint events on trade topics for business representatives of **Kyrgyzstan**. The fact is that at the end of 2023, “the amount of transactions of exchange trading participants from Kyrgyzstan increased by almost one and a half times, mainly due to a significant increase in purchases of Belarusian sugar and lumber⁹⁰⁰. ” At the same time, Kyrgyz companies almost did not use the export opportunities of the exchange, although this Central Asian country has a well-developed agricultural sector and can expand the geography of agricultural exports, including to Belarus. In January of this year, BUCE agreed on cooperation with the National Investment Agency under the President of the Kyrgyz Republic. The parties specifically identified priority commodity items for the development of mutual exchange trade. For this purpose, suppliers of raw materials and cotton yarn from Kyrgyzstan will be attracted to Belarus. After all, these products are in demand among Belarusian trading participants, and an increase in their sales volumes will have a positive impact on the dynamics of the Belarusian-Kyrgyz exchange trade turnover. As for Belarusian supplies, “the main attention will be paid to the products of the sugar industry and the timber industry. In 2023, these groups of goods accounted for almost the entire volume of Belarusian exports to Kyrgyzstan through BUCE. In addition, the National Investment Agency expressed its readiness to assist in the

⁸⁹⁹ Metallurgy, agriculture and light industry. BUCE has outlined areas of cooperation with Uzbek business [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/metallurgija-selskoe-hozjajstvo-i-legprom-butb-oboznachila-napravlenija-sotrudnichestva-s-uzbekskim-614003-2024>

⁹⁰⁰ BUCE and the embassy of Kyrgyzstan agreed on cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/butb-i-posolstvo-kyrgyzstana-dogovorilis-o-sotrudnichestve-609545-2024/>

accreditation of the first broker from Kyrgyzstan at BUCE ⁹⁰¹, which will expand the pool of Kyrgyz clients of the exchange, the number of which reached 25 by the beginning of this year.

As for BUCE's cooperation with **Azerbaijan**, let us recall that in 2023 this country of the South Caucasus entered the top 3 in sales of Belarusian goods, and in the purchase of timber it ranked second, second only to China. In addition, the transactions were regular, and their amount gradually grew. "As a result, compared to January-September last year [2022], supplies of wood products to Azerbaijan increased in physical terms by 4.3 times to 218 thousand cubic meters. m" ⁹⁰². Thus, Azerbaijani companies provided about a quarter of the total export of lumber products through BUCE. At the international exhibition BakuBuild, held in October 2023 in the Azerbaijani capital, the Belarusian exchange platform attracted potential buyers from Azerbaijan interested in importing products for the construction industry. And there is every reason to believe that in 2024 new interesting opportunities will appear to continue interaction with the business of this country in the post-Soviet space.

Speaking about BUCE's partnerships with **Moldova**, we note that in 2023 the first exchange transactions were made for the sale of granulated white sugar and material for the textile sector. In the first case, the trial purchase volume was 210 tons, which was purchased by a company that is the largest importer of sugar to Moldova. And there is a possibility that "the pilot deal will become the starting point for regular supplies of Belarusian sugar to this country, since the same algorithm was previously used to work with Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, which are the main buyers of Belarusian sugar at exchange trading ⁹⁰³. " Moreover, the Moldovan market is promising

⁹⁰¹ BUCE and the National Investment Agency of Kyrgyzstan agreed on cooperation [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/butbi-natsionalnoe-agentstvo-po-investitsijam-kyrgyzstana-dogovorilis-o-sotrudnichestve-612497-2024/>

⁹⁰² BUCE's export opportunities were presented at the international construction exhibition in Azerbaijan [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/eksportnye-vozmozhnosti-butbi-predstavleny-na-mezhdunarodnoj-stroitelnoj-vystavke-v-azerbajdzhane-594979-2023/>

⁹⁰³ Belarusian sugar was sold to Moldova for the first time through the exchange [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL :

for the export of sugar factories from Belarus, since this country annually consumes more than 80 thousand tons of this product, and the exchange platform provides direct access to manufacturing enterprises along with low risks and transparent market pricing. In the second case, a transaction between business entities from Belarus and Moldova was registered on the BUTB industrial and consumer goods platform, within which the import substitution service operates. “The subject of the purchase made by one of the domestic textile industry enterprises was a membrane for fabric lamination worth Br 845 thousand.”⁹⁰⁴. This suggests that the circle of countries whose residents use this exchange platform to sell goods on the Belarusian market has been expanded by Moldova. And we must assume that this deal with Moldovan partners will be the beginning of a new interesting experience in Belarusian-Moldavian e-commerce.

In the same 2023, the first transaction for the purchase of products from a resident company **of Tajikistan was registered at the BUTB import substitution platform**, when “during exchange trading, a domestic light industry enterprise purchased 40 tons of carded yarn from a Tajik trade organization - one of the most popular types of raw materials in knitting industry”⁹⁰⁵. And in this case, the exchange also helped the Belarusian enterprise meet the need for foreign raw materials. It is curious that the last time companies from this Central Asian country used the exchange mechanism to operate on the Belarusian market was 16 years ago – in 2008. Let’s hope that new deals with Tajik businessmen at BUCE are just around the corner.

And one more interesting fact of cooperation between the Belarusian exchange platform and partners from the CIS. Last November, BUCE agreed to develop cooperation in 2024 with one of the leading electronic trading

<https://www.belta.by/economics/view/beloruskij-sahar-vpervve-prodan-v-moldovu-cherez-birzhu-573850-2023/>

⁹⁰⁴ A company from Moldova entered into a deal for the first time on the BUTB industrial and consumer goods platform [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/kompanija-iz-moldovy-vpervve-zakljuchila-sdelku-na-ploschadke-promyshlennyh-i-potrebitelskih-tovarov-578041-2023/>

⁹⁰⁵ The purchase of import-substituting products in Tajikistan was carried out for the first time through BUCE [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/zakupku-importozameschajuschej-produktsii-v-tadzhikistane-vpervve-proveli-cherez-butb-560416-2023/>

platforms **in Kazakhstan** – ETS -Tender – in the field of corporate procurement. It is planned that “the interaction between the parties will be of a purely practical nature and will contribute to the increased participation of manufacturers and suppliers from Kazakhstan in the procurement procedures of Belarusian enterprises, as well as to ensure an increase in the share of Belarusian-made products in the procurement of Kazakh companies in the public and private sector⁹⁰⁶. ” Partners from Kazakhstan were of great interest in BUCE’s experience in organizing exchange trading in industrial and consumer goods. In particular, we are talking about a separate digital platform that allows round-the-clock purchasing of a wide range of products in demand in various sectors of the economy: from light industry and agriculture to energy and mechanical engineering. In addition, in 2022, an import substitution service was introduced at BUCE, thanks to which Belarusian enterprises were able to quickly purchase analogues of imported goods and increase sales of their own products. So, with the assistance of the ETS-Tender, in 2024 it is planned to attract many more manufacturers from Kazakhstan to the BUCE auction.

⁹⁰⁶ BUCE and the Kazakh ETS -Tender platform intend to cooperate in the field of electronic procurement [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/butb-i-kazahstanskaja-ploschadka-ets-tender-namerenv-sotrudnicat-v-sfere-elektronnoy-zakupok-602493-2023/>

Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange: from Europe to Asia and Africa

Since the beginning of this year, the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange (BUCE) has shown impressive rates of sales of domestic goods to foreign companies. Among the reasons for the successful operation of the exchange platform, one can note the increase in the number of non-resident buyers, the opening of new markets, the introduction of additional commodity items, as well as the opening of a representative office of the exchange in Shanghai, the expansion of the network of exchange brokers in the countries of Central Asia, the introduction of a mechanism for exchange address transactions and the intensification of cooperation with Belarusian diplomatic missions abroad. As a result, “in January-February 2024, foreign participants in exchange trading concluded more than 1.5 thousand transactions for the purchase of Belarusian goods for a total amount of \$170 million. During the same period last year, the number of transactions was 155, and their amount was \$14 million⁹⁰⁷. ”

Today, among foreign clients of the Belarusian exchange platform, among the leaders are products of domestic agriculture and the woodworking industry. For example, lumber is actively imported by China, Azerbaijan, and Uzbekistan, and Kazakhstan is in first place in sugar purchases. Moreover, as of March 1, 2024, 167 companies from China, 116 from Kazakhstan, and 108 from Uzbekistan were already accredited to BUCE. 100 are from Azerbaijan. And in **Europe** - in the Baltic countries and Switzerland - rapeseed oil, beet pulp and molasses are traditionally in demand. And in 2024, a number of European countries plan to intensify interaction with BUCE.

In particular, in January of this year, BUCE agreed to cooperate with **the Belarus-Italy Chamber of Commerce** in the field of electronic exchange trading in order to promote the export of Belarusian agricultural products to the **Italian market** , as well as to establish supplies of Italian-made goods in demand in Belarus, including industrial equipment , special

⁹⁰⁷ Companies from 23 countries buy Belarusian goods at BUTB [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/kompanii-iz-23-stran-pokupajut-belorusskie-tovary-na-butb-620798-2024>

equipment, spare parts and components, since “Italian business is interested in working with Belarusian enterprises, and the BUCE platform is exactly the tool that will allow intensifying business contacts and realizing the potential of mutual trade”⁹⁰⁸. ” Note that as of January 1, 2024, 22 Italian companies were already accredited on the Belarusian exchange platform. Last year, their stock exchange transactions were actually limited to purchases of “wet-blue” leather from Belarusian tanneries. This year, apparently, Belarusian rapeseed oil, beet pulp and molasses will also be in demand among partners from Italy.

Beet molasses, produced by Belarusian sugar factories, is also in high demand on the Hungarian market. For this reason, organizing its supplies through BUCE can significantly increase exchange trade turnover between the two countries. So, companies from **Hungary** are already ready to be accredited on the Belarusian exchange platform and participate in trading as sellers and buyers of agricultural products. “As for exports from Hungary, these could be agricultural seeds, which <...> are in great demand among Belarusian participants in exchange trading”⁹⁰⁹.

Another interesting partner of BUCE in Europe is **Serbia**. As of December 1, 2023, three companies from this country were accredited on the Belarusian exchange platform, which at auction, as a rule, were limited only to the purchase of lumber. But at the end of last year, the first transaction for the sale of butter to Serbia was registered at BUCE. “The volume of the trial batch was 20 tons, and the buyer was a Serbian food importer accredited in November 2023.”⁹¹⁰ It must be assumed that after working out the entire scheme for purchasing this product, supplies of butter to the Serbian market will become regular.

Turkey in 2024, we recall that last year the number of Turkish companies accredited to participate in exchange trading increased from 32 to

⁹⁰⁸ BUCE will cooperate with the Belarus-Italy Chamber of Commerce [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/butb-budet-sotrudniczat-s-torgovoi-palatoj-belarus-italija-611942-2024/>

⁹⁰⁹ Hungarian business is interested in exchange trading of agricultural products with Belarus [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/vengerskij-biznes-zainteresovan-v-birzhevoj-torgovle-selhozproduktsiej-s-belarusiju-615721-2024/>

⁹¹⁰ Belarusian butter was sold to Serbia for the first time through BUTB [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/beloruskoe-slivochnoe-maslo-vpervve-realizovano-v-serbiju-cherez-butb-604633-2023/>

70, which increased the amount of transactions during this period by 2.7 times. At the same time, the greatest demand among Turkish business entities was for woodworking products and scrap metals, which provided over 90 percent of the Belarusian-Turkish exchange trade turnover. And imports accounted for only about two percent. These were mainly supplies of viscose yarn for Belarusian textile enterprises. In March 2024, at a business forum organized by the National Marketing Center together with **the Turkish Businessmen's Association**, the priority task was to expand the range of goods involved in exchange trading with this country in order to “attract Turkish enterprises from areas such as agriculture to BUCE, mechanical engineering, chemical industry, which will contribute to the growth of Belarusian-Turkish exchange trade turnover”⁹¹¹. ” In the agro-industrial complex segment, supplies of Belarusian vegetable oils, powdered milk, beet pulp and molasses to Turkey are already being worked out. And in Belarus, Turkish spare parts and components for cars and equipment, and industrial equipment may be in demand. As a result, within the framework of this business forum, agreements were reached on the accreditation of importers of meat products and oilseed processing products from Turkey to BUCE. In addition, suppliers of spare parts for construction equipment, plumbing equipment and polymer materials from this country were interested in participating in these auctions.

Among **Asian countries, companies from China** traditionally trade powerfully on the Belarusian stock exchange in 2024. And BUCE plans to even more actively increase both the export of Belarusian agricultural products and Chinese imports of metals and metal products, through participation in international exhibition events in the Middle Kingdom. In particular, in March and April of this year, BUCE specialists visited three authoritative forums at once. Firstly, at one of the largest food exhibitions in China - **China International Allfood Expo** in Shenzhen, in Guangdong province, where more than one and a half thousand manufacturers from all

⁹¹¹ The amount of transactions of Turkish companies at BUCE in 2023 increased almost threefold [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/summa-sdelok-turetskih-kompanij-na-butb-v-2023-godu-vvrosla-pochti-v-tri-raza-619661-2024/>

over the world participated. Based on the results of meetings with more than 50 Chinese companies, “an agreement was reached on the accreditation of buyers of skimmed milk powder, whey powder and beef at BUCE. In addition, Chinese manufacturers of packaging lines, freezers, pasteurizers and beverage bottling systems showed interest in the Belarusian exchange platform⁹¹². ”

Secondly, at the **Qingdao International Metallurgy and Metalworking Specialized Exhibition International Metal Processing Equipment Expo** , where “major suppliers of sheet steel, rolled pipes, cast alloys and cable and wire products declared their readiness to participate in exchange trading⁹¹³. ” And already in the same March, the first exchange transaction for the sale of import-substituting products by a Chinese resident was concluded at BUCE. The subject of the transaction was a trial batch of cutting discs for cutting pipes. The seller “was a large supplier of equipment, spare parts and components for the steel, cement and electric power industries from Qingdao (Shandong Province), and the buyer was a Belarusian metallurgical enterprise⁹¹⁴. ” This fact suggests that the list of states whose residents supply their products to Belarus using the import substitution service available on the BUCE industrial and consumer goods platform has expanded to eight.

Thirdly, at the **135th Canton Fair** , which was held in April in Guangzhou and where BUCE specialists held “substantive negotiations with a number of large manufacturers of lighting devices, video equipment, special equipment and electronics interested in entering the Belarusian market through exchange trading⁹¹⁵. ” The fact is that, despite the shift in emphasis

⁹¹² BUCE took part in a food exhibition in China [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/butb-prinjala-uchastie-v-prodovolstvennoj-vystavke-v-kitae-619317-2024/>

⁹¹³ BUCE plans to increase supplies of metals and metal products from China [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/butb-planiruet-uvelichit-postavki-metallov-i-metalloizdelij-iz-kitaja-620557-2024/>

⁹¹⁴ For the first time, a Chinese enterprise sold products through the import substitution service BUTB [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/kitajskoe-predpriatie-vpervve-realizovalo-produktsiju-cherez-servis-importozameshenija-butb-622959-2024/>

⁹¹⁵ The BUCE site has attracted the interest of manufacturers of machinery and equipment from China [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL :

towards imports and domestic consumption, which has been observed in China in recent years, a significant part of Chinese companies are still export-oriented and are ready to use any opportunities to reach potential buyers, including with the help of BUCE, considering not only exports, but also the conclusion of transit exchange transactions with companies from third countries, in particular, Central Asia - Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

And in the same April, a second resident broker from the Middle Kingdom appeared, accredited by BUCE in 2024 as part of a set of measures to develop exchange trading with China and other Asian countries - the **VIA company Technology Import and Export Limited**, which “intends to assist importing organizations from far arc countries in matters of purchasing Belarusian goods at exchange auctions ⁹¹⁶. ” At the initial stage, the new broker plans to focus on the countries of South and Southeast Asia - India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Cambodia. Previously, this company has already collaborated with lumber buyers from China, and now plans to extend its experience of cooperation with BUCE to other product items, providing logistics and, if necessary, helping with mutual settlements. In general, as a result of the work carried out, the amount of transactions of Chinese companies at BUCE “in the first quarter [of 2024] increased 7.5 times to \$56.3 million ⁹¹⁷. ” At the same time, the entire volume of export sales was provided by products of the woodworking industry.

Among the countries of East Asia, cooperation between BUCE and **Mongolia is of interest**. Firstly, in 2024 it is planned to increase the export of Belarusian sugar through exchange trading, which is currently in high demand among Mongolian producers of soft drinks. “In the first quarter of this year alone, 2.7 thousand tons of Belarusian sugar were sold to Mongolia.

<https://belta.by/economics/view/ploschadka-butb-zainteresovala-proizvoditelej-tehniki-i-oborudovaniia-iz-kitajia-630456-2024/>

⁹¹⁶ The new BUCE broker will promote the export of Belarusian goods to the far arc countries [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/novyi-broker-butb-posodejstvuet-eksportu-belorusskikh-tovarov-v-strany-dalnej-dugi-625415-2024/>

⁹¹⁷ The amount of transactions of Chinese companies at BUCE in the first quarter increased 7.5 times to \$56.3 million [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/summa-sdelok-kitajskikh-kompanij-na-butb-v-kvartale-vozroslo-v-75-raz-do-563-mln-630224-2024/>

The next stage is organizing the purchase of dairy products and flour⁹¹⁸. ” In particular, the issue of supplying domestic butter, skimmed milk powder and wheat flour to the Mongolian market is being considered. And appropriate agreements have already been reached with potential buyers of these goods - large retail chains and distributors.

As for the countries **of Central Asia** , in 2024 BUCE plans to significantly increase trade turnover by realizing the export potential of the exchange platform with **Turkmenistan** . In particular, the focus is on items that are in demand on the Turkmen market, such as lumber, dairy products and sugar. “Currently, 14 residents of Turkmenistan are accredited on the exchange, who use the exchange mechanism primarily to purchase softwood lumber⁹¹⁹. ” In order to expand the pool of buyers of these products, as well as to develop other promising areas of interaction with the business circles of the country, in March of this year, BUCE specialists visited Ashgabat, who held a number of meetings with potential importers of timber products and food industry enterprises of Turkmenistan interested in purchasing in Belarus skimmed milk powder and white granulated sugar. In addition, as a result of negotiations with **the State Commodity and Raw Materials Exchange of Turkmenistan** (STCOM), an agreement was reached on the exchange of experience, technologies and methodological developments in the field of electronic exchange trading, and the possibility of mutual accreditation of exchange brokers BUCE and GTSBT to participate in trading on both platforms is being considered. .

In **Kyrgyzstan**, BUCE will join efforts to develop exchange trading with **the Chamber of Commerce and Industry** of this country. Back in February 2024, the parties identified promising areas of cooperation, the implementation of which would increase the number of Kyrgyz companies using the exchange mechanism and significantly increase the volume of

⁹¹⁸ Mongolia is interested in importing Belarusian flour and dairy products [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/mongolija-zainteresovana-v-importe-belorusskoi-muki-i-molochnoj-produktsii-624977-2024/>

⁹¹⁹ BUCE hopes to intensify exchange trade with Turkmenistan [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/buth-rasschitvvaet-na-aktivizatsiju-birzhevoi-s-turkmenistanom-622734-2024/>

transactions concluded by residents of this Central Asian country on the BUCE platform. In particular, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Kyrgyzstan expressed its readiness to assist in attracting new participants from among the members of the chamber to exchange trading, as well as help in finding a company that would become a BUCE broker in this country. As for commodity items of interest for mutual exchange trade, it is advisable to export lumber, sugar beet processing products, milk powder and steel fittings to Kyrgyzstan through the exchange platform, while food raw materials, groceries and cotton fiber will be in demand on the Belarusian market. Let us add that as of mid-February of this year, “25 residents of Kyrgyzstan are accredited to BUCE. At the end of 2023, the amount of transactions of exchange trading participants from this country increased by 34% due to purchases of Belarusian lumber and sugar ⁹²⁰. ”

And in **Kazakhstan**, in February 2024, BUCE accredited a new broker - **Profit Standard LLP** , which will focus on organizing regular supplies of products from the Belarusian timber industry to the Kazakh market. The fact is that in 2023, the share of lumber in the structure of transactions with residents of Kazakhstan was relatively small, therefore, with the assistance of a Kazakh broker, it is planned to increase this key indicator, as well as attract new participants to the exchange who are ready to work as sellers or buyers. Note that “last year [2023], the amount of exchange transactions of Kazakh companies increased by 13%. At the same time, the lion's share of trade turnover was provided by the import of Belarusian sugar, and purchases of forest products were irregular. As a result, they accounted for only about 3% of the total sales of Belarusian goods to Kazakhstan ⁹²¹. ” For comparison: in trade with neighboring countries of Kazakhstan, such as Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan, wood products occupy a significantly larger share.

⁹²⁰ The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Kyrgyzstan will promote the development of exchange trade with Belarus [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/torgovo-promyshlennaja-palata-kyrgyzstana-budet-sodejstvovat-razvitiiju-birzhevoj-torgovli-s-belarusiju-617034-2024/>

⁹²¹ BUCE accredited a broker in Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/butb-akkreditovala-brokera-v-kazahstane-615531-2024/>

Finally, let's look at the development of cooperation between the Belarusian exchange platform and **African countries**. BUCE plans to promote effective e-commerce opportunities on this continent and has already formulated “clear objectives for using the exchange mechanism to enhance mutual trade and increase trade turnover this year with African partners⁹²²,” including from **Egypt**. And already in May 2024, the Egyptian company **International Co. for Industry & Projects** became the first BUCE broker in this African country. After all, it “has a wide network of business contacts in Egypt and beyond, as well as its own warehouse and office premises in Cairo, which can be provided to Belarusian exporters working for BUCE⁹²³. ” BUCE's new partner plans not to limit itself to the Egyptian market, but to ensure supplies of Belarusian goods to Algeria, Morocco, Sudan and Tunisia, where there is also high demand for products manufactured in Belarus. It is planned that exchange trading in Belarus and Egypt will be developed both in already developed commodity areas and to use new liquid positions, which include dairy products, sugar and potato starch. “In the past, Egyptian companies have already purchased woodworking products on the exchange, so this area is certainly one of the priorities. However <...> Belarusian agricultural products are also in great demand in Egypt. In this regard, the launch of supplies of milk powder and whey, beet sugar and potato starch to the Egyptian market will significantly increase exchange trade turnover with Belarus⁹²⁴. ” In the future, the new broker intends to establish the export of Belarusian goods to states neighboring Egypt, and this is a completely different scale and opportunity.

Another business entity from Egypt interested in accreditation at BUCE to carry out export-import activities on the Belarusian market is the **KATO holding Investment**, which plans to supply Belarusian lumber, dairy

⁹²² Zalessky, B. Realization of economic potential in conditions of global turbulence / Boris Zalessky. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2024. – C. 70.

⁹²³ BUCE is considering the possibility of accreditation of a broker in Egypt [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/butb-rassmatrivaet-vozmozhnost-akkreditatsii-brokera-v-egipte-615805-2024/>

⁹²⁴ The BUCE broker in Egypt will supply Belarusian goods to North Africa [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/broker-butb-v-egipte-budet-postavljat-belorusskie-tovary-v-severnuiu-afriku-631847-2024/>

products, sugar, vegetable oils and synthetic fiber to Egypt, and Egyptian polymer products, cotton yarn and fruit and vegetable products to Belarus. And “this is only the foundation on the basis of which further interaction between the Egyptian holding and the exchange will be built, since the range of mutual interests of Belarus and Egypt is much wider ⁹²⁵. ” It only remains to add that as of February 1, 2024, five residents from this African country were already accredited on the Belarusian exchange platform, the structure of whose transactions is dominated by the import of woodworking products from Belarus. But in the near future the situation in this matter, presumably, will change significantly for the better. Both in terms of the number of residents and the variety of transactions.

Another potential partner on the African continent, where BUCE intends to develop exchange trading, is **Algeria**, since the market of this country is interesting for Belarusian exporters for a number of reasons. Firstly, due to high effective demand from local consumers. Secondly, there is the possibility of entering the markets of neighboring countries through Algeria. So, using the exchange trading mechanism for the supply of meat, dairy and fat and oil products, which are in high demand here, trading these goods through the exchange platform will provide an additional sales channel for exporting enterprises from Belarus, and Algerian importers will have the opportunity to purchase directly from Belarusian producers . At the international food industry exhibition DJAZAGRO , which was held in April of this year in Algeria, BUCE specialists attracted Algerian companies to the exchange that are ready to import agricultural products from Belarus, as well as partner organizations that can assist in the development of Belarusian-Algerian exchange trade. Including the Algerian Association of Employers, which has already expressed interest in cooperation with BUCE in informing the business community of this country about the potential and advantages of using the Belarusian exchange platform in mutual trade. As a result of these negotiations, “an agreement was reached on the sale of Belarusian milk

⁹²⁵ BUCE will simplify access of Egyptian business to the Belarusian market [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/society/view/butb-uprostit-dostun-egipetskogo-biznesa-na-rynok-belarusi-618011-2024/>

powder and rapeseed oil to the Algerian market, which are now actively supplied to the countries of Europe and Asia⁹²⁶. ”

In 2024, BUCE also plans to take joint steps with another African country, **Tanzania**, to organize the participation of Tanzanian companies in exchange trading in agricultural products and industrial goods. To this end, an action plan will be drawn up to inform Tanzanian businesses. **The Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture of Tanzania**, “which unites about 9 thousand companies from different sectors of industry and agriculture, will be involved in this work. Many of them are actively engaged in export-import activities...⁹²⁷” The parties also formed a preliminary list of commodity items for organizing mutually beneficial exchange trading between Belarusian and Tanzanian enterprises. Thus, promising goods for export to Tanzania include plant protection products, microfertilizers, feed additives and petrochemical products, and for supplies to Belarus - seeds for sowing, groceries, raw materials for the food industry and cotton yarn.

Let's summarize. As of May 1, 2024, 7,192 non-resident companies from 70 countries were accredited to BUCE. This indicates that since the beginning of this year, 345 new trading participants have come to the exchange from 36 countries. And in four months, the amount of export transactions concluded at BUCE “exceeded the amount of import contracts by \$138 million. Moreover, compared to January-April 2023, the volume of exchange exports increased 10 times in value terms...”⁹²⁸. All these facts show that BUCE is developing exchange trading on different continents and in different countries, both in developed commodity areas, and promoting the emergence of new export-import positions that will significantly increase the

⁹²⁶ BUCE intends to develop exchange trade in agricultural products with Algeria [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/butb-namerena-razvivat-birzhevuju-torgovlju-selhozproduktsej-s-alzhirom-630079-2024/>

⁹²⁷ BUCE is considering the participation of companies from Tanzania in exchange trading [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/butb-prorabatyvaet-uchastie-kompanij-iz-tanzanii-v-birzhevyh-torgah-622486-2024/>

⁹²⁸ The positive balance of foreign trade of BUCE since the beginning of the year amounted to \$138 million [Electronic resource]. – 2024. – URL : <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/polozhitelnoe-saldo-vneshnej-torgovli-butb-s-nachala-goda-sostavilo-138-mln-632116-2024>

exchange trade turnover of Belarus with partners - from Europe to Asia and Africa – already in the near future.

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