

Facets of sustainable partnerships. Part I

In the conditions of global geopolitical and economic transformations, the ability to remain a sovereign state with a stable socio-political system, adequately responding to all new challenges and threats and effectively adapting to external factors becomes especially relevant for such small countries as the Republic of Belarus. The experience of the last decades shows that such a task can be solved if the principle of multi-vector foreign policy is realized, which implies systematic development of internal and external conditions for building a plurality of geopolitical pillars. In practice, this means that Belarus aims at strengthening mutually beneficial cooperation not only with all neighboring countries, but also with states located in Europe, Asia, Africa, and Latin America. The main condition of interaction, on which the Republic of Belarus is based, having established diplomatic relations with 177 states of the world, is an equal basis for dialog, absence of diktat and coercion. How is this policy of searching for chances and their effective realization in different corners of the planet actually implemented? This is the subject of the proposed study.



Professional experience in journalism - forty-five years. Now she is an associate professor of the Department of Foreign Journalism and Literature of the Institute of Journalism of the Belarusian State University. Areas of research: contemporary international relations, international journalism, international information exchange, export of media products and services.



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Boris Zalessky

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Global challenges and parliamentary diplomacy

In September 2016, the sixth parliament was elected in the Republic of Belarus. The time that has passed since then has shown that one of the most important areas of its activity is a significant activation of the so-called "parliamentary diplomacy", which should be based on the tasks "to diversify markets and promote Belarusian goods and services"¹. It should be reminded that the term "parliamentary diplomacy" refers to a set of active actions of the parliament, groups within it or individual parliamentarians to achieve foreign policy goals in dialog formats, as well as various aspects of international activities of parliamentarians related both to the fulfillment of international obligations of the state and the promotion of its various foreign policy and foreign economic initiatives.

It is believed that the dialog formats that people's elected representatives are called upon to build in the international arena can contribute to the search for effective strategies to resolve global and regional problems and contradictions. And if we recall that today's international environment is characterized by the persistence of heightened instability and increased uncertainty caused by ongoing global transformations and the negative impact of traditional and new challenges and threats, it is easy to understand why today "the trend towards the growth of multifunctional activities of parliaments in international relations is universal. It extends to virtually all states of the world and the inter-parliamentary structures they have created"².

When assessing the current state of development of parliamentary diplomacy, we should also proceed from the understanding that today it is increasingly returning to national interests and begins to address serious issues of foreign policy and economy. And this is quite understandable, as "the return to national interests and pragmatic

¹ International activity of deputies should contribute to the welfare of the people - Andreychenko [Electronic resource]. -. 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/politics/view/mezhdunarodnaja-aktivnost-deputatov-dolzna-sposobstvovat-povysheniju-blagosostoiianiia-naroda-224872-2016/>

² Likhachev, V. Parliamentary diplomacy / V. Likhachev // [Electronic resource]. - 2009. - URL: <https://interaffairs.ru/iauthor/material/122>

approaches is in many respects not just a reaction to external crises, but also a logical stage of rethinking the methodology of realizing <...> goals in global politics"³ . In turn, the intensification of parliamentary activity in the international arena is an important point of growth in the development of the institution of parliamentarism itself and the establishment of the national parliament as one of the centers of foreign policy strategy development, as "the increase in the effectiveness of parliamentary diplomacy at the global level is observed in the increase of powers, in the expansion of the geographical scope of activity and the range of issues under consideration" .⁴

In other words, parliamentary diplomacy is the tool that allows improving the methods of discussion and creating conditions favorable to international cooperation, both in bilateral and multilateral formats. At the same time, it is important that parliamentarians in the current political and economic global reality are organically embedded in the system of foreign policy implementation and effective decision-making, relying on strengthening the analytical component of their work, as it is precisely the deep analysis of the situation in foreign countries that can make effective their search for possible ways to influence civil society to solve existing issues of interaction.

In this context, the topic of improving the information support of the foreign policy activities of the national parliament for the purposeful formation not only of its international image, but also of the country as a whole is also relevant. Especially since "an important problem in the field of information is excessive closed access to information, excessive level of secrecy, the materials presented to the press could be greatly expanded by specifying the areas of activity and the list of some proposed initiatives"⁵ .

3 Gavrilov, S. Parliamentary diplomacy returns to national interests / S. Gavrilov.

Gavrilov // [Electronic resource] . 2016. - URL: http://185.37.61.231/news_rl/2016/04/26/parlamentskaya_diplomatiya_vozvrashaetsya_k_nacionalnym_interesam/

4 Kondrashova, E.V. Evolution of parliamentarism in the context of Russia's foreign policy activity / E.V. Kondrashova // [Electronic resource]. - 2008. - URL; <http://www.lib.ua-ru.net/diss/cont/295367.html>

5 Kondrashova, E.V. Evolution of parliamentarism in the context of Russia's foreign policy activity

The main forms of foreign policy activities of national parliaments today include several. First, the organizational and legal strengthening of international cooperation by creating a treaty-legal framework, improving international law, adopting statements, appeals and resolutions on foreign policy issues. Second, strengthening international security through the participation of parliamentarians in international conferences, symposiums, discussions, round tables, peacekeeping missions and observation of elections in other countries. Thirdly, the development of inter-parliamentary cooperation through international meetings of parliamentarians, personal contacts with foreign colleagues, representatives of both governmental and non-governmental organizations.

When it comes to the Belarusian parliament, interparliamentary cooperation occupies a special place in its system of foreign policy activities, as "this form contains the maximum potential for pursuing its own active international policy, as well as for assisting official diplomacy in the implementation of foreign policy initiatives"⁶. The priorities of Belarusian parliamentary diplomacy include anti-crisis issues and the promotion of international relations of Belarusian regions in all spheres.

/ E.V. Kondrashova // [Electronic resource]. - 2008. - URL; <http://www.lib.ua-ru.net/diss/cont/295367.htm>

6 Gorelik, A.A. Foreign policy activity of the Belarusian parliament in modern conditions / A. A. Gorelik // [Electronic resource]. . 2016. - URL: http://www.nac.by/ncatfiles/000038_786310_k_Gorelik.pdf

Belarus - Kazakhstan: reserve - parliamentary diplomacy

In March 2017, a parliamentary delegation from Kazakhstan headed by Chairman of the Majilis of the Parliament N. Nigmatulin visited Belarus. This visit highlighted the mutual and most interested desire of Minsk and Astana to expand the toolkit of Belarusian-Kazakh interaction through such an effective form of building a bilateral dialog as parliamentary diplomacy. Therefore, within the framework of numerous meetings of Kazakhstani parliamentarians on the Belarusian soil, they discussed not only interparliamentary cooperation, but also interaction in the trade and economic sphere, improvement of the legal framework, and operation of joint assembly plants in Kazakhstan.

The involvement of parliamentary diplomacy in addressing a number of issues of partnership between Belarus and Kazakhstan is very timely, if only for the reason that today the parties "need to make efforts to overcome the decline in trade and economic cooperation, both at the bilateral level and within the Eurasian Economic Union"⁷. Indeed, back in 2014, the Belarusian-Kazakh trade turnover became a record, reaching the mark of almost one billion dollars. But already in 2016, the volume of mutual trade decreased by more than two times, amounting to \$419.1 million. And although the trade balance in this case was positive for Belarus due to the supply of Belarusian tractors and tractors, milk and dairy products, machines and mechanisms for harvesting and threshing crops, trucks and furniture to Kazakhstan, the priority task for the parliamentarians of the two countries today is formulated as follows - "to provide effective legislative support for all decisions and agreements of the heads of state. <...> Another important task is to work on increasing trade turnover"⁸.

It should be noted that today the main document in the practical development of the

7 Meeting with the Chairman of the Majilis of the Parliament of Kazakhstan Nurlan Nigmatulin [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL: http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/vstrecha-s-predsdatelem-mazhilisa-parlamenta-kazaxstana-nurlanom-nigmatuliny-m-15817/.

8 Andreychenko and Nigmatulin agreed to more actively exchange experience in lawmaking [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/politics/view/andrejchenko-i-nigmatulin-dogovorilis-aktivnee-obmenivatsja-opytom-v-zakonotvorcheskoi-sfere-237815-2017/>

bilateral Belarus-Kazakhstan relations is the intergovernmental action plan for 2017-2018, which covers all areas of interaction, including trade and economic, scientific and technical, cultural, humanitarian, and regional issues. In accordance with this document, the parties set a task to restore the level of trade turnover of 2014 and even surpass it in the nearest future. And certain steps in this direction are being taken.

Kazakhstan has already organized the assembly of quarry and mining equipment of the Belarusian Automobile Plant, as well as Belarusian tractors, grain and forage harvesters, freight elevators, and fire-fighting equipment. A total of 8 joint assembly plants of Belarusian machinery and equipment are currently operating in this country. The parties are working on launching 6 more assembly plants⁹. In particular, Pinsk Small Mechanization Plant and Dorelectromash are planning to become their participants from the Belarusian side. In addition, cooperation in the industrial sphere will be expanded very soon through the creation of the Belarusian-Kazakh industrial and technological park in Kokshetau. And in early 2017, the production of trucks under the brand of Minsk Automobile Plant started at the plant of Astana Motors in Almaty. It is important that "the project for the production of MAZs in Kazakhstan provides not just a large-scale assembly of trucks. Already now the share of local components there is 30%. By the end of this year, this figure for localization of production will increase to 50%"¹⁰.

All these facts suggest that the parties have created a certain foundation for the development and adoption of the Program of Social and Economic Cooperation between Belarus and Kazakhstan until 2026, which is scheduled to be signed in August 2017. In this document, which will be promoted by the parliamentarians of the two countries, both the already launched projects on the creation of an industrial and technological park of agricultural and municipal machinery, on the joint

9 The parliamentary delegation of Kazakhstan arrived in Belarus [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/politics/view/parlamentskaja-delegatsija-kazahstana-pribyla-v-belarus-237708-2017/>

10 Belarusian products are in demand among consumers in Kazakhstan - Nigmatulin [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/belorusaskaia-produktsija-polzuetsja-sprosom-u-potrebitelej-v-kazahstane-nigmatulin-237925-2017/>

assembly of municipal dump trucks on the basis of Minsk Automobile Plant and Lidagroprommash combine harvesters, as well as those still under development, can and should find their continuation and development. In particular, this program could open "good prospects for cooperation of drones, interaction in the space industry"¹¹, as well as participation of the Belarusian side in the implementation of a large-scale initiative of the Kazakh leader N. Nazarbayev on the third modernization of the country. Recall that at the end of January 2017, the head of Kazakhstan outlined five main priorities for reforming the Kazakh economy, the implementation of which will ensure its growth above the global average and sustainable advancement into the top 30 advanced countries. "The first priority is accelerated technological modernization"¹², within the framework of which the program "Digital Kazakhstan" will be created, where the developments of Belarusian specialists can be used with the widespread introduction of such elements of the fourth industrial revolution as automation, robotization, artificial intelligence.

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11 Meeting with the parliamentary delegation of Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/7109>

12 Muminov, A. Nursultan Nazarbayev named five priorities of modernization of Kazakhstan / A. Muminov // [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL: <http://www.abctv.kz/ru/news/nursultan-nazarbaev-nazval-privat-prioritetov-modernizacii-ka>

Belarus-Pakistan: from parliamentary diplomacy to concrete projects

Pakistan is one of those Asian states whose relations with the Republic of Belarus have been developing particularly intensively over the past few years. Two visits to Pakistan by the Belarusian leader in 2015 and 2016, and exchange visits by Prime Ministers N. Sharif and A. Kabiakoŭ in August and November 2015 showed that the bilateral Belarusian-Pakistani relations have undergone fundamental changes. The adopted roadmap of cooperation between Belarus and Pakistan for the short- and medium-term perspective "sets the task to increase mutual trade turnover to \$1 billion by 2020"¹³.

In 2017, the parties came to the realization that "regular interaction between parliamentarians is necessary to deepen cooperation. It is parliaments that serve as important links in establishing people-to-people contacts, deepening mutual understanding and developing mutually beneficial cooperation"¹⁴. That is why in April 2017, the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of Belarus and the National Assembly of the Parliament of Pakistan signed a joint statement and a memorandum of understanding stating that "the development of full-fledged cooperation is impossible without the establishment and enhancement of effective inter-parliamentary dialog"¹⁵.

It should be noted that the potential for expanding the current Belarusian-Pakistani interaction is based on the realization that the economy of this Asian country is growing and offers great investment opportunities in agriculture, agro-industry,

13 Grishkevich, A. Belarus and Pakistan can increase mutual trade turnover up to \$1 billion by 2020 - Vovk / A. Grishkevich // [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/politics/view/belarusi-i-pakistanu-po-silam-narastit-vzaimnyi-tovarooborot-do-1-mlrd-k-2020-godu-vovk-239082-2017/>.

14 Pakistan-Belarus relations have been developing at an unprecedented pace in recent years - Sharif [Electronic resource] . 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/politics/view/otnosheniya-pakistanu-i-belarusi-v-poslednie-gody-razvivajutsja-besprecedentnymi-tempami-sharif-242294-2017/>

15 Belarus and Pakistan stated the importance of cooperation in the sphere of agro-industrial complex [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-pakistan-zajavili-o-vazhnosti-sotrudnichestva-v-sfere-ank-241978-2017/>.

pharmaceuticals, light industry, machine-building, and oil and gas. And in a number of these areas, concrete steps have recently been taken in terms of effective cooperation with Belarus. For example, just at the end of March 2017, the Pakistani side announced its intention to implement an investment project to open an assembly plant for Belarus tractors, which are already well known here, in Punjab Province.

Recall that Minsk Tractor Plant started supplying its machinery to Pakistan back in 1955. Since then, it has exported more than 130 thousand machines to Pakistan. In 2015, the Orient Tractor plant opened an assembly plant in this country to produce Belarusian machines - about four thousand tractors annually. But "today, Pakistan's tractor fleet is estimated at 700 thousand machines. The annual market demand is 85-90 thousand tractors"¹⁶. That is why there are reasons to believe that the new project of assembling Belarusian agricultural machinery will bring real benefits to its participants. Moreover, the Belarusian side has already offered its Pakistani partners not to limit themselves to the assembly of tractors, but to supply local farmers with machinery together with farming technologies. In the future, the joint venture in the state of Punjab will assemble not only agricultural but also municipal machinery.

Recently, the topic of developing bilateral cooperation in the agro-industrial sector received a strong impetus during the first joint Belarusian-Pakistani agricultural forum held in April 2017 in Pakistan, which was attended by a representative delegation headed by the Chairman of the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of Belarus V. Andreichenko. During this landmark event, the Belarusian side voiced the main priorities of bilateral cooperation in the agro-industrial sector, including "building up mutual turnover, establishing joint processing industries, sharing advanced achievements in agricultural science, and organizing joint training of personnel"¹⁷.

16 Pakistan is ready to invest in the creation of a new assembly plant for BELARUS tractors [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/pakistan-gotov-investirovat-v-sozdanie-novogo-sborochnogo-proizvodstva-traktorov-belarus-240149-2017/>.

17 Andreichenko on the priorities of cooperation with Pakistan: increasing trade turnover and creation of JVs [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL:

Thus, the **increase in mutual trade turnover** will be facilitated by the intensification of export activities of such Belarusian producers as OJSC Polotsk Dairy Plant, OJSC Vitebsk Broiler Poultry Farm, OJSC Orsha Meat Canning Plant in the Pakistani market, CJSC "Meat and Milk Company", LLC "Biocom", OJSC "Agrocombinat Dzerzhinsky", OJSC "Lidselmash", OJSC "Gomselmash", which demonstrated their production and technological potential at the first joint agricultural forum. In terms of the emergence of **new joint productions**, it is a question of "creating enterprises for poultry meat processing, construction of greenhouses, grain drying complexes"¹⁸, as the parties already have good experience in designing the construction and equipping with equipment of livestock breeding facilities, fruit and vegetable storages, greenhouse complexes. As for the **exchange of advanced achievements in the field of agricultural science**, the memorandum of understanding and cooperation signed in April 2017 between the Belarusian State Agrarian Technical University and the Agrarian University of Faisalabad should provide additional opportunities.

<http://www.belta.by/economics/view/andreichenko-o-prioritetah-sotrudnichestva-s-pakistanom-naraschivanie-tovarooborota-i-sozdanie-sp-242175-2017/>

18 Belarus and Pakistan intend to create joint ventures [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-pakistan-namereny-sozdavat-sovmestnye-predpriiatiia-242021-2017/>.

Belarus-Malaysia: inter-parliamentary cooperation is the foundation of relations

Malaysia is a state in Southeast Asia, which the Republic of Belarus views as an important and promising partner in the region and whose potential for cooperation has yet to be unlocked. In 2015, this country ranked 25th in terms of Belarusian exports among all trade partners of Belarus. At that time, the volume of mutual supplies amounted to almost \$160 million with a positive balance of \$65.1 million for the Belarusian side. In 2016, this trend almost continued: over ten months, exports from Belarus to Malaysia exceeded \$85 million with a surplus of forty million dollars. However, potash fertilizers accounted for the lion's share of Belarusian supplies, which is understandable, as Malaysia is one of the largest consumers of potassium chloride in Southeast Asia. In 2015, 406.9 thousand tons of these fertilizers worth \$109.5 million were imported here, while in 2016 - 546.2 thousand tons worth \$104.6 million. These facts alone show that in terms of trade and economic cooperation, the parties have room to move towards diversification of mutual supplies. But for this purpose, it is necessary to determine the most effective mechanisms of bilateral cooperation.

Minsk has its own opinion on this matter, which, however, is also shared in Kuala Lumpur: "Interparliamentary cooperation should become one of the cornerstones in the foundation of Belarusian-Malaysian relations"¹⁹. And, to all appearances, the parties are already taking concrete steps to achieve the goal. Back in February 2013, the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus set up a working group on cooperation with the Malaysian Parliament. As a reciprocal step, in April 2014, the Malaysian Parliament formed the Malaysian-Belarusian Parliamentary Friendship Group, whose representatives, headed by Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives R. Kiandi, arrived in Minsk in August of the same year, where they

19 Meeting with the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Parliament of Malaysia Pandikar Amin Mulia [Electronic resource]. - 2016. - URL: <http://president.gov.by/ru/news/ru/view/vstrecha-so-spikerom-palaty-predstavitelei-parlamenta-malajzii-pandikarom-aminom-mulia-15126/>.

formulated with their Belarusian colleagues one of the most important tasks of the Belarusian-Malaysian partnership: "The two countries need to create and develop a legal framework for cooperation."²⁰ .

Work began immediately on a whole string of draft bilateral agreements: on economic, scientific, technical and cultural cooperation; on promotion and mutual protection of investments; on cooperation in combating crime; on mutual abolition of visas; on cooperation in the legal sphere; on military-technical cooperation; on cooperation between the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the National Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia; on cooperation between the Minsk branch of the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the International Chamber of Commerce and Industry; on cooperation between the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the National Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia; on cooperation between the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the National Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia; on cooperation between the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the National Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia and the International Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia

RTM; on cooperation in the field of prevention and elimination of emergency situations. Finally, in 2016, the parties signed the Memorandum on Interparliamentary Cooperation, noting that "Belarus and Malaysia have the necessary basis to deepen political dialogue, develop trade and economic relations, cooperation in culture, science, education, health care"²¹ , that there is a huge unrealized potential for interaction and there are many points of contact.

In December 2016, the visit to Minsk of the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Malaysian Parliament P.A. Mulia demonstrated the breadth of the thematic

20 Belarus and Malaysia have great opportunities for the development of bilateral cooperation [Electronic resource] . 2014. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/politics/view/belarus-i-malaizija-imejut-bolshie-vozmozhnosti-dlia-razvitiia-dvustoronnego-sotrudnichestva-51954-2014>

21Andreichenko: Belarus and Malaysia have a basis for deepening political dialog [Electronic resource]. - 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/politics/view/andreichenko-u-belarusi-i-malaizii-est-osnova-dlia-uglublenija-politicheskogo-dialoga-224305-2016/>.

range, which the parliamentarians of the two countries suggested would be involved in Belarusian-Malaysian cooperation in the near future: industry, tourism, education, high technology, military-industrial complex, creation of joint ventures, and building up interregional and scientific-technical ties. In particular, with regard to scientific and technical cooperation, "projects in the field of biotechnology, microbiology, laser optics, new materials could be realized as a starting point"²². Several agreements are being worked out between higher educational institutions of the two countries on issues related to the training of specialists, both at the university level and scientific personnel of higher qualification, as "strengthening cooperation in personnel training would help to develop political, trade and economic relations"²³.

A number of Belarusian exporters that have so far supplied small quantities of tires, measuring devices, equipment, and foodstuffs to the Malaysian market in addition to potash fertilizers appear to have interesting opportunities. In 2016, trial deliveries of mixed mineral fertilizers by Gomel Chemical Plant and malt by Belsolod took place in this country. Due to the intensive development of agriculture in Malaysia, there are prospects for resuming exports of Belarusian agricultural machinery. It should be recalled that the first supplies of Minsk Tractor Plant machinery to Malaysia were organized back in 1968, but then they were shipped via Singapore. Today, "the capacity of the agricultural machinery market in Malaysia is estimated at \$70-80 million a year. The fleet of tractor and other agricultural machinery amounts to about 43 thousand units. The main users of such machinery are farmers engaged in plantation farming"²⁴. So Belarusian tractors may be in high demand here in considerable quantities.

The Malaysian side also expressed its interest in such Belarusian companies as the

22 Andrei Kobayakov met with the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Parliament of Malaysia [Electronic resource]. - 2016. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/6900>

23 Belarus offers Malaysia to more intensively develop cooperation in the sphere of personnel training [Electronic resource] . 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-predlagaet-malaizii-bolsee-intensivno-razvivat-sotrudnichestvo-v-sfere-podgotovovoi-kadrov-224404-2016/>

24 Malaysia is considering the purchase of MTZ machinery for work in rice fields [Electronic resource]. - 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/malaizija-rassmatrivaet-vozmozhnost-zakupki-tehniki-mtz-dlja-raboty-na-risovyh-poliah-224664-2016/>.

Belarusian Automobile Plant in Zhodino and OJSC 558 Aviation Repair Plant in Baranovichi. Belarusian dump trucks may be in demand in this Asian country because "Malaysia has large reserves of minerals. These are iron ore, coal and non-ferrous metals. The country is one of the leading countries in tin. <...> Now the stage of recovery of this sector is beginning"²⁵. As for the enterprise in Baranovichi, it has already fulfilled one-off contracts for Malaysian customers. But today Malaysia is considering the possibility of expanding cooperation with Belarus in terms of aviation equipment, so it is a question of expanding cooperation of the Belarusian side "with the Ministry of Defense of Malaysia on repair and modernization of MiG-29 type aircraft"²⁶.

Apparently, Belarusian-Malaysian cooperation in the field of military equipment may expand significantly in the near future. At least, in March 2017, the Belarusian side made important steps in this direction by demonstrating its latest defense technologies at the 14th International Exhibition of Aerospace and Naval Equipment LIMA-2017 held in Malaysia on the island of Langkawi. It should be noted that this forum is one of the largest in the Asia-Pacific region shows of military equipment, which has been held every two years for 26 years under the patronage of the Ministry of Defense of Malaysia. This time it was attended by about 350 companies from 36 countries and about 400 thousand visitors. Belarus' participation in this event is understandable as "previous LIMA exhibitions have proven to be an excellent platform to showcase and promote the latest aerospace and naval equipment and technologies to the Malaysian ²⁷ market and the entire Asia-Pacific region"²⁷.

25 Ogneva, Y. BelAZ machinery may be of interest to the private sector of Malaysia - Parkhomchik / Y. Ogneva // [Electronic resource] . 2016. - URL:

<http://www.belta.by/economics/view/tehnika-belaz-mozhet-byt-interesna-chastnomu-sektoru-malajzii-parhomchik-225091-2016/>

26 Malaysia is interested in expanding cooperation *with* Belarus on repair of military aircraft [Electronic resource] . 2016. - URL:

<http://www.belta.by/economics/view/malajzija-zainteresovana-rasshirit-sotrudnichestvo-s-belarusiju-po-remontu-voennoj-aviatehniki-224895-2016/>

27 Zhibul, A. The latest defense technologies of Belarus will be presented at the LIMA exhibition in Malaysia / A. Zhibul // [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/society/view/noveishie-oboronne-tehnologii-belarusi-budut-predstavleny-na->

That is why the united stand of the State Committee of Military Industry presented the latest defense technologies and capabilities of the defense sector of the Belarusian economy in the field of development and production of robotic equipment, aviation components, modern radar equipment, radio communication suppression stations and complexes, optical and optoelectronic products, information display devices capable of operating in harsh operating conditions, as well as deep modernization of air defense anti-aircraft missile systems. The 558 Aviation Repair Plant also demonstrated its independent exposition at this exhibition, presenting a wide range of unmanned aerial vehicles - tactical UAVs of airplane type - Berkut-1(2), Condor-1(2), Moskit, vertical take-off and landing quadcopter type - Hornet UAV, Satellite UAV and more than 20 positions of aviation components manufactured at the Baranovichi-based enterprise.

There are also certain prospects for cooperation between the regions of Belarus and Malaysia. On the Belarusian side, this concerns, first of all, Minsk Region, where Belaruskali, the main exporter to Malaysia, is located. Interestingly, "the share of Belarusian potash fertilizers among all similar products on the Malaysian market reaches 25%"²⁸. But the capital region hopes that export supplies to the Malaysian market will not be limited only to potash fertilizers. Their range may expand to include agricultural and truck equipment, as well as food products. On the Malaysian side, the state of Sabah will be involved in this interregional cooperation. If the experience of interaction with it proves to be positive, Minsk Region does not rule out the development of close ties with other Malaysian regions.

It should be noted that the efforts to expand Belarusian-Malaysian interaction, which is based on interparliamentary cooperation, have started to yield real results over the past few years. In particular, "the growth rate of Belarusian exports to Malaysia in January 2017 compared to the same period last year amounted to 172.4%, the volume

vystavke-lima-v-malaizii-235856-2017/

28 Minsk region plans to develop cooperation with the Malaysian state of Sabah [Electronic resource]. - 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/minskaja-oblast-planiruet-razvivat-sotrudnichestvo-s-malaizijskim-shtatom-sabah-224590-2016/>.

of exports amounted to \$13.8 million"²⁹ . Currently, the agenda for the development of bilateral relations between Belarus and Malaysia includes the creation of such an important and effective tool for expanding mutually beneficial partnership as the intergovernmental Belarus-Malaysia Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation. It should be assumed that its appearance in 2017 could become a factor of further intensification of the relations between the two countries, which turned 25 years old in March this year. According to Minsk and Kuala Lumpur, over a quarter of a century, both sides have witnessed the growth of mutual trade turnover, development of political and cultural ties. Further development of this constructive dialogue will only "positively influence the realization of the existing rich potential of Belarusian-Malaysian cooperation"³⁰ .

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29 Belarus has sharply increased exports to Malaysia, Singapore and the Philippines in early 2017 [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-v-nachale-2017-goda-rezko-narastila-eksport-v-malaiziju-singapur-i-filippiny-235803-2017/>

30 The leaders of the Foreign Ministries of Belarus and Malaysia note the great potential of bilateral relations [Electronic resource] . 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/politics/view/rukovodstvo-mid-belarusi-i-malaizii-otmechaiut-bolshoi-potentsial-dvustoronnih-otnoshenii-237705-2017/>

Export culture and mass consciousness

³¹The recently adopted National Export Support and Development Program of the Republic of Belarus for 2016-2020 includes among its eight main tasks, along with diversification of trade and economic relations with various countries and regions, optimization of legislation in the field of export support, stimulation of exporters of goods and services to expand the product range and types of services provided, improvement of approaches to work with small and medium-sized businesses on export issues, formation of conditions for stimulating high-technology exports, as well as the development of a new export strategy for Belarus.

The appearance of such a task among the strategically important ones in the state document of the highest level is, presumably, not a coincidence. As is well known, exports are the basis of the open Belarusian economy, as they provide foreign currency, profits to enterprises, and taxes to the budget of the Republic of Belarus. The Address to the Belarusian People and the National Assembly in April 2016 noted in this regard that "the most important priority, the priority among priorities was and remains exports, its growth and necessarily diversification"³². However, the results of the past five-year period (2011-2015) revealed a number of factors constraining the growth and optimization of the structure of Belarusian exports. These include slow development of new markets, low competitiveness of domestic products, lagging behind the advanced countries in terms of labor productivity, insufficient use of competitive advantages, orientation of Belarusian industrial production towards external resources, lack of a wide range of innovative export goods, unpreparedness of sectoral and territorial management structures to respond quickly to changes in the market environment and actively promote products to new markets. All this is happening against the background of increasing "volumes of global sales of goods

31 National program of support and development of exports of the Republic of Belarus for 2016 - 2020. - Minsk, 2016. - C. 11.

32 Annual Address to the Belarusian People and the National Assembly // Official Internet Portal of the President of the Republic of Belarus [Electronic resource]. - URL: http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/aleksandr-lukashenko-21-aprelja-obratitsja-s-ezhegodnym-poslaniem-to-belorusskomu-narodu-i-natsionalnomu-13517/

and services using information and communication technologies, which leads to partial displacement of Belarusian export goods sold in the traditional way"³³.

³⁴That is why the program documents of socio-economic development of the Republic of Belarus for 2016-2020 state that in the coming five-year period foreign economic activity, which implies implementation of a multi-vector foreign policy and achievement of sustainable growth of the export potential of the Belarusian economy, "will be aimed at ensuring a balanced foreign trade on the basis of accelerated export growth rates, use of the country's competitive advantages, effective participation in the international division of labor and integration into the international labor market". In order to eventually increase the volume of Belarusian exports of goods and services by 1.21-1.25 times, as well as to increase the scale of exports of industrial products produced in Belarus to 65%.

The solution of tasks of such complexity is possible only if all domestic producers of goods and services, regardless of the scale of production and forms of ownership, are involved in foreign trade and export activities. But here are the figures: "We have more than twenty-two thousand economic entities in the country, but

only eight thousand eight hundred economic entities take part in export activities"³⁵. In other words, two thirds of Belarusian enterprises, companies and firms remain outside the sphere of international business cooperation. However, the country's export opportunities also depend on "how successfully the transition to an innovation-type economy is carried out, a favorable institutional environment, investment and business climate is formed, the import intensity of products is reduced, and human capital grows"³⁶. In addition, all these problems must be solved

33 National program of support and development of exports of the Republic of Belarus for 2016 - 2020. - Minsk, 2016. - C. 7.

34 Main provisions of the program of socio-economic development of the Republic of Belarus for 2016 - 2020 // Belarusian Telegraphic Agency [Electronic resource]. - URL: <http://shod.belta.by/programma>

35 Transcript of the approach to the press of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belarus V. Makei within the framework of participation in the Assembly of Business Circles of the Republic of Belarus // Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus [Electronic resource]. - URL: <http://mfa.gov.by/press/smi/e19c618d70541f42.html>

36 Speech by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus Vladimir Makei at the

in the context of increasing globalization , international integration and internationalization of production and consumption. The experience of other countries shows that only carriers of high export culture can cope with them, which cannot be introduced into mass consciousness without the active participation of media structures.

This task is planned to be solved in several directions. Thus, under Priority 1 "Optimization of the national system of export support and development", in order to strengthen Belarus' position in promising world markets, it is planned to form a comprehensive national system of export support using not only financial, organizational, marketing, trade and political, diplomatic, and information tools. In accordance with this priority, not only such measures as the systematization of the regulatory legal framework, introduction of new approaches to training and deployment of personnel in the export area, changes in the format of organizational support for exports of goods and services, modernization of financial mechanisms of export support, development of non-financial instruments of export support, use of the potential of exhibitions, fairs and congresses, but also information and communication activities will be significantly strengthened.

Within the framework of Priority 6 "Development of innovative exports by increasing exports of knowledge-intensive products and technologies", the implementation of which will contribute to the intensification of the commodity structure of exports, increase the volume of exports of products of deep processing, modern materials and finished goods with improved properties, development of exports of technically and technologically complex products, to consolidate the innovative specialization of Belarusian exports it is envisaged to develop the national information and communication technology system, as well as to develop the national information and communication system.

An important element of promoting export culture in the mass consciousness should

XVII Assembly of Business Circles of the Republic of Belarus "Challenge to the Crisis" (March 2, 2016, Minsk) // Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus [Electronic resource]. - URL: <http://mfa.gov.by/press/smi/e19c618d70541f42.html>

be the popularization of export opportunities of our country abroad, in the global computer network, satellite TV and radio broadcasting system, as outlined in the Roadmap of measures for the implementation of the National Program of Support and Development of Exports of the Republic of Belarus for 2016-2020. Republican, sectoral and regional mass media and their Internet resources operating in Belarus can also contribute to this task.

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Programs of the Union State: Towards Renewal

The priority directions and primary tasks of further development of the Union State of Belarus and Russia for the medium term (2014-2017) envisaged the creation of prerequisites for the deepening of integration cooperation and interaction between the two countries in order to increase gross domestic product, sustainable development of industrial and agricultural production, increase commodity flows and investments, and ensure a stable balance of payments of the participants in the union construction. An important tool for achieving the set goals of deep integration is the implementation of union programs based on the coincidence of interests of Belarus and Russia. These include, first of all, import substitution programs, which "stimulate a more accelerated development of own production in those sectors where it is necessary to replace missing products and meet the demand for import substitution"³⁷. However, back in November 2016, the parties came to the conclusion that the mechanism of formation and adoption of the Union State programs should be seriously improved. "The programs are agreed upon for a very long time, very painfully, the delays are not always justified, there are a lot of participants in the approval process. <...> Something radical should be adopted here"³⁸. One of the directions of solving this problem is seen in expanding the format of interaction between the parties, developing ties and searching for new points of contact with the involvement of deputies of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union State. And, to all appearances, the realization of this direction has started this year.

Thus, in February 2017, at a meeting in the Russian Kaliningrad, the Commission of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union of Belarus and Russia on Social Policy, Science, Culture and Humanitarian Issues came up with an initiative to "identify

37 Rapota, G. Belarus and Russia are strategic partners and close allies. Their interaction is multidimensional and progressive / G. Rapota // Interaction of regions: the Union State - the locomotive of Eurasian integration : information-integration project / compiled by, interviewed by B. Zalesky, M. Valkovsky, A. Greshnikov. - Minsk : Biznesofset, 2016. - C. 12

38 Belarus and Russia will improve the mechanism of adopting union programs - Rapota [Electronic resource]. - 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-rossiya-usovershenstvujut-mehanizm-prinjatija-sojuznyh-programm-rapota-219063-2016/>.

priority tasks of the Union State development for 2018 - 2021"³⁹, so that they show new facets of cooperation between the Union State members. Among them is the new program "Innovative development of flax complexes of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus", the concept of which was considered by the Commission of the Parliamentary Assembly on Budget and Finance at a field meeting in the Belarusian Orsha in February 2017.

Interestingly, the parties came to the conclusion that a scientific program is necessary for the development of flax production in the Union State member countries as early as 2013. The relevance of the development of this area of Union integration is dictated by the fact that Russia annually imports more than 60 thousand tons of cotton, which is used for the production of bandages and other medical products and can be replaced by linen textiles. But for this purpose it is necessary to improve the quality of raw materials supplied to the Orsha Flax Factory in Belarus. That is why the task that the new program is intended to solve is "to obtain new varieties of fiber crop that would provide⁴⁰ with high quality and multivariant end products". That is why the program envisages the development of new zonal cultivation technologies for each variety and flax processing technologies, including deep flax processing. The implementation of this program can begin as early as 2018 with a completion date in 2022.

Another important Belarusian-Russian program that is currently at the approval stage, Microtech-SG, will be devoted to the development of technology for manufacturing electronic component base. It contains the necessary potential to become another confirmation of the fact that "it is in the course of the implementation of the Union

39 Pivovar, E. Union parliamentarians propose to define the priority tasks of SG development for 2018 - 2021 / E. Pivovar // [Electronic resource]. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/society/view/sojuznye-parlamentarii-predlagajut-opredelit-pervoocherednye-zadachi-razvitiya-sg-na-2018-2021-gody-233775-2017/>

40 Tikhonova, A. Implementation of the Union State flax program may begin in 2018 / A. Tikhonova // [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/realizatsiya-lnjanoi-programmy-sojuznogo-gosudarstva-mozhet-nachatsja-v-2018-godu-235409-2017/>

State programs that applied science is born and fundamental science is used"⁴¹ . In the same line is the Union State program - "Development of new innovative approaches to the health problems of children cured of oncological diseases", the implementation of which is planned to start in 2018. Taking into account the results of treatment, it "will be aimed at correcting the immediate and distant consequences of the therapy, introduction of sparing and organ-preserving techniques, atypical resections"⁴² .

All these examples indicate that in the Union State today there is a course for improving the results of joint activities, where special attention will be paid to the practical implementation of programs and calculations of their effectiveness.

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41 Bukato, N. Union programs will increase the export potential of the defense industry complex of Belarus and Russia, - Director General of JSC "Integral" / N. Bukato // [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL: <http://www.soyuz.by/news/joint-programs/32898.html>

42 A new program in the field of medicine is planned to be implemented in the Union State {Electronic resource}. - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/society/view/novuju-programmu-v-oblasti-meditiny-planirujut-realizovat-v-sojuznom-gosudarstve-239081-2017/>.

Twin Cities and Union Building

The beginning of 2017 demonstrated an important trend in the development of the Union State of Belarus and Russia. Despite the existing bilateral problems in the fuel and energy sector, "in January, the growth rate of trade turnover amounted to almost 144%. Moreover, the growth is observed both on the part of Belarus in supplies to Russia and in supplies of Russian goods to Belarus"⁴³. The most important component of the union integration is partnership ties at the regional level of the two countries, the expansion of which makes it possible to solve such important tasks as import substitution, stimulation of export-oriented production, bridging the technological gap with Western countries. The scale of the current Belarusian-Russian interregional interaction is evidenced by about 80 agreements on trade, economic, scientific, technical and cultural cooperation at the level of the Belarusian government and administrations of Russian regions, as well as about 300 agreements between Belarusian regions and subjects of the Russian Federation and municipalities. In addition, "heads of ministries, concerns, regional executive committees and Minsk City Executive Committee coordinate issues of cooperation with 57 regions of Russia"⁴⁴. Actually, it is precisely such extensive interregional ties that allow the participants of the Union State not only to develop trade relations, but also to create strong technological chains in machine-building, petrochemicals, pharmaceuticals and a number of other industries.

The most important element of interaction between the regions of Belarus and Russia is the twinning movement of the cities of the two countries, which has almost 25 years of history. The first agreement on twinning ties was signed on June 18, 1992. At that time Borisov and Podolsk were twinned. Today the movement unites "49 cities and district centers of Belarus with 67 cities of Russia. A significant number of

43 Meeting with the Prime Minister of the RUSSIAN Federation Dmitry Medvedev [Electronic resource]. - 20127. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/7139>

44 Grishkevich, A. The regions of Belarus and Russia have accumulated significant experience of industrial cooperation - Solovyov / A. Grishkevich // [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/regiony-belarusi-i-rossii-nakopili-znachitelnyi-opyt-promyshlennoi-koooperatsii-soloviev-240368-2017/>

Belarusian and Russian cities are in contractual relations of cooperation"⁴⁵ . At the ninth meeting of twin cities held in late March 2017 in the Belarusian city of Mogilev, which was attended by representatives of 35 Russian and 24 Belarusian cities, the leitmotif was the statement that "largely due to the twinning movement, Belarusian-Russian trade turnover has increased significantly in recent years. <...> Further unity of the peoples of the two countries should be supported by interregional and twinning ties"⁴⁶ .

The meeting held in Mogilev demonstrated the movement in the twinning ties between the cities of Belarus and Russia towards strengthening, first of all, the economic component. A very eloquent example in this regard is Mogilev itself, which trades with 92 countries and exports products of local manufacturers to more than 50 countries. But the main partner for it remains Russia, which accounts for three quarters of foreign trade and 85 percent of exports. The leading role is played by industry, where the leading positions are occupied by chemical, light and processing industries, as well as mechanical engineering and metalworking. In many respects, such results of interaction are explained by the fact that this Belarusian regional center has a very wide range of contacts with Russian regions. "Mogilev has three sister cities, 13 partner cities with which cooperation agreements have been signed. <...> For example, today Mogilev courtyards please citizens of Penza, Tula, Moscow and Yekaterinburg, and Moscow and Tula courtyards please residents and guests of Mogilev"⁴⁷ . And in the free economic zone "Mogilev" only the realization of the project with participation of the Russian company "Omsk Carbon Group" on

45 Grishkevich, A. Belarus cooperates in trade and economic sphere with 80 regions of Russia / A. Grishkevich // [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-sotrudnichaet-v-torgovo-ekonomicheskoi-sfere-s-80-regionami-rossii-240326-2017>

46 Surikov, A. The role of the movement in the further development of the Union State is very important / A. Surikov // [Electronic resource] . 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-sotrudnichaet-v-torgovo-ekonomicheskoi-sfere-s-80-regionami-rossii-240326-2017>

47 Kulyagin, S. About 85% of Mogilev's exports fall on Russia - Tsumarev // [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/okolo-85-eksporta-mogileva-prihoditsja-na-rossiju-tsumarev-240333-2017/>

creation of the enterprise on production of technical carbon is estimated at 175 million dollars. In Russia, the experience of Volgograd, which has 45 sister cities and partner cities, is of great interest in this regard. The city believes that "public diplomacy is an effective way to preserve and progressively develop interstate relations"⁴⁸. In 2000 Volgograd signed a cooperation agreement with Minsk, and since 2014 it has been positioning itself as a center of public diplomacy, which is engaged in systematizing "the experience of international activities of Russian cities"⁴⁹, implementing projects at the interregional level.

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48 Grishkevich, A. Public diplomacy plays a significant role in the development of interstate relations - the mayor of Volgograd / A. Grishkevich // [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL: <http://m.belta.by/society/view/obschestvennaja-diplomatija-igraet-znachimuju-rol-v-razviti-mezhgosudarstvennyh-otnoshenij-mer-240378-2017/>

49 Kosolapov, A. City policy is aimed at maximizing the involvement of civil society institutions in international relations / A. Kosolapov // Eurasian Economic Union: interaction of cities : information-integ. project / compiled by, interviewed by: B. Zalessky, M. Valkovsky, A. Greshnikov. - Minsk : Biznesofset, 2015. - C. 35.

Republic of Belarus - Irkutsk Oblast: the road map will set the accents

In December 2016, the governments of the Republic of Belarus and the Irkutsk Region of the Russian Federation signed the Agreement on Trade and Economic, Scientific, Technical, Cultural and Humanitarian Cooperation, and held the first meeting of the working group formed from representatives of the parties to prepare a roadmap - the Action Plan for 2017-2019 - for the implementation of the signed agreement in order to rapidly increase trade and economic cooperation within a short period of time.

The fact is that 2016 highlighted a serious problem in the development of partnership ties between Belarus and the Irkutsk Region - the trade turnover between the parties dropped by almost half. And this is despite the fact that in 2015 the mutual trade indicator was the highest for the last five years - \$115 million. This gave reason to the head of the Belarusian state A. Lukashenko and the governor of the Russian region S. Levchenko during the December meeting. During their December meeting in Minsk, Levchenko simply outlined the main task for the near future: "Belarus and the Irkutsk region of Russia should find reserves to increase mutual trade"⁵⁰.

⁵¹It is worth recalling that in the pre-crisis period, trade and economic cooperation between the parties was carried out in a fairly wide range of areas, including the creation of a system of business cooperation using modern information technologies and electronic systems, expansion of the product mix of mutual supplies, organization of service and repair centers for Belarusian-made machinery in the Irkutsk Region, organization and holding of joint trade fairs and exhibitions, as well as the establishment of a new trade and economic cooperation system. It seems that

50 Negotiations with the Governor of the Irkutsk Region Sergey Levchenko [Electronic resource]. - 2016. - URL: http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/peregovory-s-gubernatorom-irkutskoj-oblasti-sergeem-levchenko-15007/.

51 Kim, R. The strategic perspective should be based on new knowledge, innovations, new technologies introduced into serial production / R. Kim // Common Economic Space: integration of regions : information-integ. project / compiled by, interviewed by: B. Zalesky, M. Valkovsky, A. Mostovoy. - Minsk : Biznesofset, 2013. - C. 118.

today the parties will rely on the existing experience in searching for new reserves of trade and economic cooperation.

First, the Belarusian side proposes to make more active use of its export potential in Priangarie, where there are significant prospects for supplying quarry, truck and other special-purpose machinery, as well as loaders for coal and other mineral deposits in the Russian region. After all, Belarus is well aware that the Irkutsk region is one of the leaders in Russia in mining, so the quarry equipment of the Belarusian Automobile Plant for mining enterprises of the region would be very useful. Besides, "Minsk Automobile Plant is already ready to meet the needs of the region in passenger vehicles on gas motor fuel"⁵². At the same time, the Belarusian side offers such attractive financing schemes as leasing, budget subsidies, and preferential lending for its export supplies, which may also apply to the latest Belarusian novelties in the form of innovative urban electric transport - electric buses and trolleybuses with autonomous running.

Second, an important section of the roadmap for cooperation between Belarus and the Irkutsk Region being developed should be production cooperation not only with defense industry enterprises. In this regard, the attention of Belarusian manufacturers is attracted to the territory of advanced socio-economic development "Usolye-Sibirskoye" created in the Russian region, which has a special tax regime and where assembly production of Belarusian tractors could well appear. All the more so because "starting from 2017, the Irkutsk Oblast plans to put large areas of unused arable land into agricultural turnover. Under this project, the Russian region is resuming programs on leasing and investment projects. This should contribute to the growth of tractor equipment sales"⁵³.

The parties also name agriculture, construction, logging, and water resources among other reserves for intensifying cooperation. In total, this list includes more than a

52 Andrei Kobyakov met with the Governor of the Irkutsk region [Electronic resource]. - 2016. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/6866>

53 Assembly production of BELARUS tractors may appear in the Irkutsk region [Electronic resource]. - 2016. - URL: [http://www.belta.by/economics/view/sborochnoe- proizvodstvo- traktorov-belarus-mozhet-poiavitsia-v-irkutskoi-oblasti-222392-2016/](http://www.belta.by/economics/view/sborochnoe-proizvodstvo- traktorov-belarus-mozhet-poiavitsia-v-irkutskoi-oblasti-222392-2016/).

dozen promising areas of future joint activities, which, to all appearances, will be supplemented. In particular, we are also talking about cooperation between scientific institutions, primarily those related to agriculture, as well as in the tourism sector. All these facts speak about the seriousness of the parties' intentions to bring partnership ties to a qualitatively new level. They have everything they need for this.

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Republic of Belarus - Stavropol Krai: prospects outlined by the agreement

In mid-March 2017, the governments of the Stavropol Territory of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus signed an agreement on trade and economic, scientific and technical, and socio-cultural cooperation. This document markedly expanded the existing contractual and legal basis for interaction between this Russian region and the Belarusian side, once again eloquently emphasizing the conclusion that "integration with the regions of Belarus is a conceptual direction for the development of foreign relations of the Stavropol Territory"⁵⁴. Back in 2000 and 2002, the government of this region of Russia signed cooperation agreements with the Brest and Gomel regional executive committees, providing for cooperation in trade and economic, scientific, technical and cultural 1 areas. And in 2008 a cooperation agreement was signed between the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Stavropol Territory and the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry. And today the products of a number of leading Belarusian industrial enterprises are widely represented in the region. Among them are Minsk Tractor Plant and Minsk Automobile Plant. Belarusian food products are also popular here, which served as an incentive for opening a network of stores in Stavropol, selling meat and dairy products from Belarus. In turn, Stavropol enterprises have mastered supplies to the Belarusian market: agricultural raw materials and products of its primary processing - wheat, flour, sunflower and sunflower oil, sheep wool; engineering products - electricity meters and semi-trailers; chemical industry products - polymer materials, plastics, aerosols.

All these facts show that Stavropol Krai is one of the most promising economic partners of Belarus in Russia. Back in 2013, the trade turnover between the region and the republic increased one and a half times compared to 2012 and amounted to 6.7 billion Russian rubles. True, then there was a certain decline. And only in 2016

54 Vladimirov, V. Market expansion is always a boon for entrepreneurs / V. Vladimirov // Eurasian Economic Union: regional aspect : information-integ. project / compiled, interviewed. B. Zalesskiy, M. Valkovskiy, A. Mostovoy. - Minsk : Biznesofset, 2014. - C. 56.

the volume of mutual trade amounted to 140 million dollars. This meant that after two years of decline, the dynamics of its growth exceeded 9 percent. At the same time, this fact shows that the Stavropol Territory and the Republic of Belarus today have a real potential to significantly increase trade turnover and expand bilateral cooperation. That is why the visit of Stavropol Governor V. Vladimirov to Belarus in March 2017 was regarded in Minsk as a serious intention of the Russian side to "significantly increase mutual trade and launch new promising projects in the sectors where we are interesting and useful to each other"⁵⁵. Among such promising areas the parties include: 1) development of cooperation ties in industry; 2) effective cooperation in the agro-industrial sector; 3) implementation of promising projects in the construction sector; 4) intensification of cooperation in the light industry; 5) actualization of the innovation component of the partnership.

As for **industrial cooperation**, back in 2013, it was noted that "more than ten enterprises with Belarusian investments are registered in Stavropol Krai"⁵⁶. And today, in order to expand cooperation ties, the Belarusian side proposes to "implement joint projects of MAZ and Avtokomponenty Holding with enterprises of the Stavropol Territory"⁵⁷. Especially since Stavropol now "wants to return to the issue of organizing assembly production of Belarusian machinery and its servicing"⁵⁸. It is also a question of expanding supplies of various machinery from Belarus to the Russian region - passenger, municipal, cargo, road-building - for the realization of large infrastructure projects there. At the same time, "deliveries of equipment are possible on leasing terms"⁵⁹.

55 Negotiations with the Governor of the Stavropol Territory of Russia Vladimir Vladimirov [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL: http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/peregovory-s-gubernatorom-stavropolskogo-kraja-rossii-vladimirom-vladimirovym-15800/.

56 Vysheslavov, V. In perspective - joint development of innovative technologies / V. Vysheslavov // Common Economic Space: integration of regions : information-integ. project / compiled by, interviewed by: B. Zaleskiy, M. Valkovskiy, A. Mostovoy. - Minsk : Biznesofset, 2013. - C. 79.

57 Meeting with the Governor of the Stavropol Territory of Russia [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/7111>

58 Negotiations with the Governor of the Stavropol Territory of Russia Vladimir Vladimirov [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL: http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/peregovory-s-gubernatorom-stavropolskogo-kraja-rossii-vladimirom-vladimirovym-15800/.

59 Belarus counts on increasing supplies of machinery to Stavropol Krai and creation of new joint

In the **agro-industrial sector**, two areas are of the greatest interest: supplies to the Stavropol Territory of Belarusian modern technological equipment for the reconstruction of dairy farms with the involvement of Belarusian specialists in the implementation of projects for the reconstruction and construction of livestock breeding complexes; supplies of specialized machinery from the Minsk Tractor Plant, taking into account Stavropol's plans to develop viticulture. In the **field of innovation**, Belarusian and Stavropol scientists can really interact in robotics and resource conservation, geoinformatics and geophysics, microbiology and biotechnology.

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Vitebsk region - Russian regions: a course for intensification of contacts

The most important component of Belarusian-Russian interregional cooperation is the twinning movement, as twinning ties allow Belarus and Russia to expand their interaction. Moreover, "it is thanks to the twinning movement that the following activities are realized

joint projects in various fields"⁶⁰. In the Republic of Belarus, Vitebsk region is particularly active in developing this cooperation at the level of cities and districts. Its main export partners include Moscow region, Moscow, Smolensk region, St. Petersburg, the Republic of Tatarstan, as well as Pskov, Bryansk, Leningrad, Novgorod, Nizhny Novgorod and Sverdlovsk regions. At the beginning of 2016 Vitebsk region "concluded 81 regional agreements on trade, economic, scientific, technical and humanitarian cooperation with the administrations of the regions of the Russian Federation, of which 22 with oblast executive committees and 59 with district executive committees"⁶¹. In 2017, this trend continued: "Over the past 3-4 months, more than 20 agreements were concluded between the self-government and administration of the Vitebsk region and Russian regions, primarily the Pskov, Smolensk and Tver regions. *Mostly* now there is the establishment of ties between districts and cities"⁶².

Thus, in mid-March 2017, two cooperation agreements were signed by Gorodoksky district of Vitebsk region and Usvyatsky district of Pskov region - between the

60 Grishkevich, A. Twinning is an important component of interregional cooperation - Putin's greeting / A. Grishkevich // [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/politics/view/pobratimskoe-dvizhenie-javliaetsia-vazhnoj-sostavljajuschej-mezhregionalnogo-sotrudnichestva-240305-2017/>

61 Sherstnev, N. The main issue remains the mutual increase in the supply of products *with a high degree of processing* / N. Sherstnev // Interaction of regions: the Union State - the locomotive of Eurasian integration : information-integration project / compiled by, interviewed by B. Zalesky, M. Valkovsky, A. Greshnikov. - Minsk : Biznesofset, 2016. - C. 114.

62 Tikhonova, A. Vitebsk region and Russian regions intensify cooperation at the level of cities and districts / A. Tikhonova // [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/vitebskaja-oblast-i-rossijskie-regiony-aktivizirujut-sotrudnichestvo-na-urovne-gorodov-i-rajonov-242742-2017/>

executive authorities and between the deputy bodies. With the help of these documents, based on the spiritual kinship and common historical destinies of the population of the districts, geographical proximity and people's desire to strengthen economic, historical, cultural and humanitarian ties, the parties intend to actualize direct contacts between the authorities, deputy associations, enterprises of all forms of ownership, public organizations. It should be noted that before that Gorodok District "signed a cooperation agreement with the Nevelsk District of the Pskov Region and a protocol of intentions with the town of Babaevo of the Vologda Region"⁶³.

At the end of March 2017, the twinning agreement was signed by the Sharkovski District of Vitebsk Region and the Pskov District. This document, according to the parties, should "give a new impetus to the relationship between the two districts"⁶⁴, to promote mutually beneficial economic cooperation and attract new investments into the regional economy, which, in turn, will contribute to the development of both territories and the growth of living standards of the population of Sharkovska District and Pskov District.

On the eve of the Day of Unity of the Peoples of Belarus and Russia in 2017, the Treaty on Friendship, Good Neighborliness and Cooperation was also signed by Liozna District of Vitebsk Region and Demidovsky District of Smolensk Region. Documents similar to the said treaty "already cement good-neighborly relations of Liozna district with Rudnyane, Yelninsky, Velizhsky and Pitelinsky districts"⁶⁵, contributing to the development of interaction between the parties not only in the cultural, but also in the economic sphere.

63 Tikhonova, A. Border Gorodoksky and Usvyatsky districts will sign an agreement on cooperation / A. Tikhonova // [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/prigranichnye-gorodokskij-i-usvjatskij-raiony-podpishut-soglashenija-o-sotrudnichestve-237509-2017/>

64 Kulyagin, S. The twinning agreement was signed by Sharkovskaya and Pskov districts / S. Kulyagin // [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/dogovor-o-porodnenii-podpisali-sharkovschinskij-i-pskovskij-raiony-240341-2017/>

65 Tikhonova, A. Liozna and Demidov districts will mark the Day of Unity of the Peoples of Belarus and Russia with the Treaty of Friendship / A. Tikhonova // [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/lioznenskij-i-demidovskij-raiony-otmetiat-den-edinenija-narodov-belarusi-i-rossii-dogovorom-o-druzhbe-239817-2017/>

In April 2017, a protocol on joint actions to implement the cooperation agreement between the Vitebsk Regional Council of Deputies and the Legislative Assembly of the Tver region was signed. And following the visit of the Vitebsk delegation to Tver at the same time, "a concrete agreement was reached on signing documents for the supply of bakery, confectionery products, dairy products, breakfast cereals directly between the heads of enterprises"⁶⁶, and proposals for the supply of seedlings of coniferous trees, flax and rape from the Belarusian side to the Russian region were considered.

All these facts eloquently illustrate the aspiration of cities and districts of Vitebsk region to intensively expand ties with partners in Russia. And in the nearest future a number of documents on cooperation with Russian regions are expected to be signed here. And in order to reach the level of even denser interregional cooperation with the Russian side, the Vitebsk region plans to create a working group to coordinate partnerships with Russian regions.

66 Tikhonova, A. Vitebsk region plans to supply the Tver region with seedlings of coniferous trees / A. Tikhonova // [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/vitebskij-region-planiruet-postavljat-v-tverskiju-oblast-sazhentsy-hvoynyh-derevjev-242765-2017/>

Regions of Belarus - Pavlodar region: partnership as a point of economic growth

In 2016, the trade turnover between Belarus and Kazakhstan fell by more than a quarter and amounted to about \$420 million. That is why today both Minsk and Astana set an ambitious task to return to the record level of Belarusian-Kazakh mutual trade in 2014, when it amounted to \$966.8 million. One of the effective tools for solving this task is the intensification of interaction between the regions of the two countries, which is an important condition for their dynamic socio-economic development and a factor that ensures the promotion of trade and economic relations within the framework of the free movement of goods, services, capital, technology, labor and joint ventures declared in the Eurasian Economic Union. The conclusion that "the regions of Belarus and Kazakhstan have many promising areas for mutually beneficial economic cooperation" was reached by the participants of the April meeting of the Eurasian Economic Union.⁶⁷ The participants of the interregional meeting of representatives of Kazakhstan's Pavlodar and Belarus's Gomel regions held in April 2017 in Gomel also came to the conclusion that "the regions of Belarus and Kazakhstan have many promising areas for mutually beneficial economic cooperation.

It should be noted that Pavlodar region is among those Kazakhstani regions where business interests "develop within the framework of one of the main directions in the economic policy of Kazakhstan, Russia and Belarus - the Common Economic Space. For our region this cooperation is a priority direction in foreign economic activity"⁶⁸. The seriousness of its intentions to fill the partnership with Belarusian regions with

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

68 Bozumbaev, K. Interaction of regions plays an important role in the development and strengthening of integration / K. Bozumbaev // Eurasian Economic Union: regional aspect : information-integ. project / compiled, interviewed. B. Zalesskiy, M. Valkovskiy, A. Mostovoy. - Minsk : Biznesofset, 2014. - С. 177-178.

concrete economic content is evidenced at least by the following fact. The akimat of Pavlodar region signed an agreement on cooperation with the Gomel Regional Executive Committee in November 2016. And if for the whole 2016 the volume of mutual trade between Gomel residents and Pavlodar residents was noted at the level of two and a half million dollars, then only "in January-February 2017 trade turnover between the regions amounted to \$1.4 million (growth rate - 393.8%), including exports - \$0.9 million (256.1%). The main export items: condensed milk and cream, equipment for railroad tracks, hardware, tableware and kitchenware made of porcelain. Ferrosilicon"⁶⁹ was imported from Pavlodar region for the needs of Belarusian metallurgical plant.

The interregional meeting in Gomel showed that the parties intend to significantly expand the framework of interregional cooperation. For example, Pavlodar residents were very interested in the Belarusian experience in the improvement of settlements, including small towns. In this regard, the Kazakh side even proposed to invite Gomel architects and housing and communal services workers to Pavlodar so that they could work there for some time, passing on their experience. Another promising direction of cooperation is the purchase of Gomselmash agricultural machinery: "We are talking about the KZS-5 combine harvester designed to work on small fields, primarily in farms"⁷⁰. These promising areas of cooperation between the Belarusian and Kazakh regions can be supplemented by the planned purchase of young cattle in Homiel for the development of dairy farming in Kazakhstan and the expansion of supplies of Belarusian furniture there. In the same row is the interaction of free economic zones located on the territory of the regions, the agreement on which was signed in Gomel within the framework of the interregional meeting and which may turn out to be very productive. The fact is that the free economic zone of Pavlodar

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

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

region invites interested partners to participate in projects on joint use of subsoil on its territory. In particular, now in this Kazakh region "an aluminum cluster is being created with the involvement of large companies from Germany, Poland and Turkey"⁷¹ , in which Belarusian representatives of this market segment could participate.

It is important to note that the interests of Pavlodar region in developing partnership ties in Belarus are not limited only to Gomel region. Thus, in Minsk region, the Kazakh side showed great interest in cooperation in the construction of dairy farms. Handing over a package of standard projects of agricultural facilities to the Pavlodars, representatives of the capital region of Belarus expressed their readiness not only to advise them on the subject, but also to build dairy complexes on mutually beneficial terms. In the near future, the city of Ekibastuz, located in Pavlodar region, and Partizansky district of Minsk, which signed an agreement in April 2017, intend to contribute to the expansion of ties between the regions of the two countries. The agreement provides for "expansion of trade and economic cooperation, assistance in establishing contacts between economic entities, holding exhibitions, fairs, business forums, as well as the development of cooperation in the spheres of education, culture, sports and tourism"⁷² .

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

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

Vitebsk Oblast - Łódź Voivodeship: the geography of ties is expanding

Early March 2017 marked the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Belarus and Poland, a characteristic recent trend of which has been a noticeable intensification of dialogue not only at the level of the leadership of the governments and parliaments of the two countries, but also at the level of specific regions. After all, as a rule, their interaction is based on the pragmatic component in the form of trade and economic cooperation, implementation of joint investment projects, broad industrial cooperation. Figures show that "for 25 years of diplomatic relations 83 agreements on partnership and cooperation and 3 agreements on the intention of cooperation between various cities and regions of Belarus and Poland have been signed"⁷³. And today we can note very close cooperation of Grodno region with Podlaskie Voivodeship, Brest region with Lublin Voivodeship, Mogilev region with Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodeship, Gomel region with Lubuskie Voivodeship. Apparently, Vitebsk Region is going to bring its partnership with Lodz Voivodeship to a qualitatively new level of cooperation.

They signed a partnership agreement back in 2009. However, the experience of the implementation of this document showed that until recently, the parties interacting with each other were mainly focused on cultural exchange. Today, the Belarusian-Polish ties are characterized by the desire to develop contacts in all areas with a view to expanding "pragmatic and constructive cooperation in the interests of the peoples of Belarus and Poland"⁷⁴. That is why the signing of five agreements on cooperation between districts of Vitebsk region and municipalities of Lodz voivodeship in March 2017 looks absolutely timely and very encouraging. "To develop partnerships in trade and economic, social and cultural spheres will be Vitebsk district and the

73 Interview of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Belarus to Poland A. Averyanov to the BelTA news agency (March 1, 2017). Averyanov to the information agency "BelTA" (March 1, 2017) // [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL: <http://mfa.gov.by/press/smi/f247df4969db2386.html>

74 Alexander Lukashenko congratulated President of Poland Andrzej Duda [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL: http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/aleksandr-lukashenko-pozdravil-prezidenta-polshi-andzheia-dudu-15671/

municipality of Gomunice, Senno district and Goszczanów, Shumilinsky and Maków, Polotsky and Zgezh, Gorodoksky district and the city of Opoczno. In addition, a protocol of intentions on cooperation was signed by the Uszacz district and the municipality of Tomaszów Mazowiecki"⁷⁵.

The parties have one intention - to expand trade ties and increase mutual trade turnover. Moreover, the participants of the signed documents have a wide range of processing technologies in footwear, textile industry, meat and dairy production, construction and woodworking. That is why the representatives of Vitebsk region have already offered Polish partners a number of projects in the sphere of milk processing, production of meat products, baby food, drinking water, tailoring, growing flax and rape. In addition, such projects of international cooperation for this Belarusian region as the organization of garbage processing facilities, construction of hydroelectric power plants and logistics centers, including those based on the Vitebsk airport, are relevant projects of international cooperation.

In turn, the Łódź Voivodeship is interesting for Belarusian partners because this Polish region specializes in agricultural production - dairy products and fruits. Industrial enterprises are actively developing here. And the very location of the voivodship at the crossroads of transport routes creates a promising basis for the joint development of logistics infrastructure and joint access to the largest markets of the European and Eurasian Economic Unions. However, in order to compete successfully on foreign markets and obtain a significant financial result, the parties need to deepen cooperation and create joint products with high added value. To solve this problem, "together with Polish partners, it is necessary to form a single technological chain: financing - creation of innovations - introduction into production"⁷⁶.

75 Vitebsk region and Łódź voivodship expand interregional cooperation [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/vitebskaja-oblast-i-lodzinskoe-voevodstvo-rasshirajut-mezhregionalnoe-sotrudnichestvo-239226-2017/>.

76 Creation of a joint product will allow enterprises of Vitebsk and Lodz to compete successfully - Matskevich [Electronic resource] . 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/sozdanie-sovmestnogo-produkta-pozvolit-predpriatijam-vitebska-i-lodzi-uspeshno-konkurirovat-matskevich-239246-2017/>

The Vitebsk Free Economic Zone can provide good conditions for Polish business, where at the beginning of 2017 there were already 36 enterprises with capital from 14 countries in such spheres as mechanical engineering, electronics, veterinary medicine, chemical, fuel, food, and light industries. In addition, "in 2016, the FEZ administration concluded 6 cooperation agreements with foreign organizations that can assist in the search for potential investors, including the Lublin Business Club and the Lodz Regional Development Agency (Poland)"⁷⁷. Specific work on expanding Belarusian-Polish interregional cooperation will apparently be continued at the 6th International Economic Forum "Innovations. Investments. Prospects" to be held in Vitebsk in May 2017, where the business program, along with the business contacts exchange "Perspective scientific and technical developments and innovative development of the region" and the international scientific-practical conference "Energy and Resource Saving-2017", will include the section "FEZ - as a promising platform for attracting external investments".

77 FEZ "Vitebsk" residents in 2016 expanded the geography of export supplies to 6 countries [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/rezidenty-sez- vitebsk-v-2016-godu-rasshirili-geografiju-eksportnyh-postavok-na-6-stran-233960-2017/>

Belarus-Turkey: Towards New Forms of Regional Cooperation

The visit of Turkish President R.T. Erdoğan to Belarus in November 2016, the first visit of the President of Turkey to Belarus in the history of bilateral relations, may become a turning point in the Belarusian-Turkish relations. First, it set a goal of reaching one billion dollars in mutual trade turnover. Secondly, the parties decided to focus on the maximum use of the potential of trade and economic interaction with an emphasis on the creation of "joint production facilities for complex technical products in the regions of Belarus and Turkey, including for the purpose of their promotion to the markets of third countries"⁷⁸ and the organization of joint industrial zones.

The fact that the Turkish presence in many Belarusian regions has become quite commonplace is evidenced by the facts. For example, 96 enterprises with Turkish capital, including 14 joint ventures and 82 foreign ones, engaged in construction, hospitality, trade, food and light industry, are registered in **Minsk** alone. In the first nine months of 2016, the trade turnover with Turkish partners in the Belarusian capital for municipal enterprises and enterprises without departmental subordination increased by almost 60 percent and exceeded \$212 million, while exports of services reached almost \$30 million with a surplus of \$1.1 million. From Minsk to Turkey "timber, auto parts, oil and oil products, wooden products, plywood, devices and appliances used in medicine, pipes, carpentry products"⁷⁹.

Brest region has also started to restore economic relations with Turkish partners, exports from which grew by a third in the first three quarters of 2016, with the total increase in foreign trade with this country by 96 percent, which amounted to almost 23 million dollars. Among the largest suppliers of goods to the Turkish market are such Brest Region manufacturers as CJSC "Holding Company "Pinskdrv", LLC

78 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-redzhapa-tajipa-erdogana-14820/.

79 Matveeva, N. 96 enterprises with the participation of Turkish capital are registered in Minsk / N. Matveeva // [Electronic resource]. - 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/v-minske-zaregistrirovano-96-predpriyatij-s-uchastiem-turetskogo-kapitala-218824-2016/>.

"Belshpondrev", OJSC "Massidrev", exporting furniture and other wood products. In addition, "equipment, sheets for facing, monofilament, foundry pallets" are supplied from the region to Turkey⁸⁰.

In **Mogilev region** only on the territory of the free economic zone "Mogilev" three projects are being implemented with the involvement of Turkish investments: Karbeltex IOOO - production of home textiles; SBI Kauchuk IOOO - production of rubber products; BelEmsa LLC - organization of production of personal hygiene products. - production of home textiles; "SBI Kauchuk" LLC - production of rubber products; "BelEmsa" LLC - organization of production of personal hygiene products. It is assumed that in the future a whole Turkish industrial zone will appear on the territory of this FEZ. At least, a free land plot with the necessary engineering and logistics infrastructure has already been offered for consideration as a site for investment of companies from Turkey. "Emphasis in the Turkish industrial zone is planned to be made on the production of auto components, machine tool industry, development of chemical industry and woodworking"⁸¹.

Something similar may appear in **Grodno region**, where representatives of the Turkish joint industrial zone Ikitelli, the largest in Istanbul, are already studying the potential of placing enterprises in the free economic zone Grodnoinvest. Here the Turkish side is offered to locate production facilities in one of seven clusters, which concern wood and metal processing, machine building, chemical and oil refining industry, agro-industrial complex, light industry, logistics and tourism. And already "land plots for the special zone of Turkish investments have been selected in Hrodna, Lida, Smarhon"⁸², so that businessmen from Turkey could undertake their projects in

80 Brest region increased exports to Turkey in January-September by almost 30% [Electronic resource]. - 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/brestskaja-oblast-narastila-eksport-v-turtsiju-za-janvar-sentjabr-pochti-na-30-218733-2016/>.

81 Kulyagin, S. Creation of the Turkish industrial zone in FEZ "Mogilev" - a promising project - administration / S. Kulyagin // [Electronic resource]. - 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/sozdanie-turetskoj-promyshlennoj-zony-v-sez-mogilev-perspektivnyi-proekt-administratsiia-218783-2016/>.

82 Stasiukevich, E. Representatives of the Turkish industrial zone ISKOBIR are studying the potential of placing production facilities in FEZ "Grodnoinvest" / E. Stasiukevich // [Electronic resource]. - 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/newscompany/view/predstaviteli-turetskoj->

several clusters at once.

Especially since they already have experience in implementing investment projects in Grodno region: "The investment portfolio of Turkish business in Grodno region in 2016 exceeded \$10 million"⁸³. In particular, with the participation of Turkish capital on the basis of the plant of roofing and building and finishing machines in Volkovysk the production of new generation heating radiators and components for them is being created. And in Ostrovets the Association of Business Cooperation "Turkish Capital" in November 2016 realized a project for the construction of a 3-star hotel with an investment volume of about 12 million dollars. There, Turkish investors plan to build an apartment building, and not far from the checkpoint "Kotlovka" - a multifunctional roadside service facility with a hotel, gas stations, restaurant, café and parking lots for cars and trucks: "The amount of investment will be about \$30 million"⁸⁴. Turkish Capital is also interested in Braslav in **Vitebsk region**, where an agro-tourist complex will be built.

[promzony-iskobir- izuchajut-potentsial-razmeschenija-proizvodstv-v-sez-220628-2016/](http://promzony-iskobir-izuchajut-potentsial-razmeschenija-proizvodstv-v-sez-220628-2016/).

83 Turkish investments in Grodno region in 2016 exceeded \$10 million [Electronic resource]. - 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/turetskie-investitsii-v- grodnenskoj-oblasti-v-2016-godu-prevysili-10-mln-219510-2016/>

84 Turkish business is interested in investing in small Belarusian cities [Electronic resource]. - 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/turetskij-biznes- zainteresovan-v-investirovanii-v-malve-belorusskie-goroda-219503-2016/>.

Belarus-China: Towards Joint Innovation Creation

The high-level forum on international cooperation within the framework of the "One Belt and One Road" initiative, held in May 2017 in Beijing, focused the attention of the world community on the fact that the megaproject of the reviving new Great Silk Road is not just a trade route, but a channel for the movement of ideas and the joint creation of innovations based on their own national technological developments, which should be based on algorithms for interfacing the scientific potentials of the participating countries of this global initiative. The Republic of Belarus sees one of the most important directions of movement along this path as "at the interstate level and with state support to form centers of research and scientific exchange"⁸⁵, and is already taking concrete steps to solve this problem, in particular, in cooperation with the People's Republic of China.

Belarus and China have been developing scientific and innovation contacts since the early 1990s. Since 2016, the Republic of Belarus has considered the formation of joint research and scientific-practical centers and the joint development of sectoral science to be among the key areas of trustful comprehensive strategic partnership and mutually beneficial cooperation with the People's Republic of China. There are three main vectors in this segment of Belarusian-Chinese interaction. The first one is in the field of scientific research, where the parties are involved in the implementation of major 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 and mutual internships of specialists, teachers and students take place. The progressive development of bilateral ties in these areas is evidenced by the following facts.

Currently, 28 Belarusian-Chinese scientific and scientific-technical projects are already underway, including those in microelectronics, optical and laser technologies, biotechnologies, and new materials. Their list was approved following the results of

85 Participation in the round table of heads of state at the forum "One Belt and One Road" [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL: http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/uchastie-v-kruglom-stole-glav-gosudarstv-na-forum-odin-pojas-i-odin-put-16194/.

the first meeting of the commission for scientific and technical cooperation of the Belarusian-Chinese Intergovernmental Committee for Cooperation, which was held in June 2016 in Minsk and Brest. In other words, the number of joint projects increased by 40 percent at once. "Another very important innovation is that for the first time the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology is working out the issue of direct targeted financing of these projects. Previously there was no such thing, the funding went through different lines"⁸⁶.

By May 2017, the parties had held 11 meetings of the Commission for Cooperation in Science and Technology of the Intergovernmental Committee, which addressed many topical issues, including joint financing of innovation projects. A landmark event in this regard was the Belarusian-Chinese forum on commercialization of the results of scientific and technological activities held in Minsk in August 2016, which brought together about 150 representatives of scientific and business spheres and presented about two hundred innovative projects. As a result of the forum, a list of 43 promising scientific-technical and innovative projects, which aroused the greatest interest of potential investors, was formed. Besides, within the framework of the forum the documents on cooperation between Belarus and China in the field of industrial, financial and research interaction and on cooperation between the Belarusian Innovation Fund and Chinese venture capital companies on the development of the market of direct and venture investments were signed. At the same time, an agreement was signed on the establishment of a center for the development of innovative technologies in the field of industrialization of scientific and technological achievements.

In September 2016, the State Committee for Science and Technology of the Republic of Belarus and the Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China signed a memorandum of cooperation in the field of joint financing of Belarusian-Chinese scientific and scientific-technical projects, which will allow the

86 Mikhovich, S. Belarus and China plan to realize in 2016-2017 about 30 joint scientific and technical projects / S. Mikhovich // [Electronic resource]. - 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-kitaj-planiruiut-realizovat-v-2016-2017-godah-okolo-30-sovmestnyh-nauchno-tehnicheskikh-206324-2016/>

Chinese side to directly finance joint projects. And at the same time it was said that "a list of 25 joint Belarusian-Chinese scientific and scientific-technical projects has been prepared and approved for 2016-2017"⁸⁷. And at the end of December 2016, the China-Belarus Center for Commercialization of Innovations was opened in Minsk, which is designed to "support scientific, technical and innovation projects, search for investors in order to create joint production facilities on the basis of the Great Stone Industrial Park"⁸⁸. A number of other facts also testify to the fact that the scientific and technical cooperation between Belarus and China is reaching a qualitatively new level.

Thus, in mid-May 2017, the State Committee for Science and Technology of Belarus, the Chinese investment company China Merchants Capital and the Industrial Park Development Company signed an agreement on the key terms of the contract on the creation of the Chinese-Belarusian venture fund Great Stone, the size of which will be at least \$20 million. The founders of the new structure - the Belarusian Innovation Fund, the Chinese-Belarusian Industrial Investment Fund, and the Industrial Park Development Company - intend to direct these investments to the high-tech industry - "high-tech, innovative products, and innovations in traditional sectors of the economy"⁸⁹. The fund plans to finance the initial stages of projects in the industrial park: "These may be unmanned aerial vehicles (NAS projects), projects in the food industry (BSU, for example, has developed edible packaging-film)"⁹⁰. And the parties have already started looking for venture projects "in order to finance them at

87 The best joint projects of young scientists of Belarus and China will receive financial support [Electronic resource]. - 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/society/view/luchshie-sovmestnye-proekty-molodyh-uchenyh-belarusi-i-kitaja-poluchat-finansovuyu-podderzhku-221347-2016/>.

88 Karuna, O. Chinese-Belarusian center for commercialization of innovations opened in Minsk / O. Karuna // [Electronic resource]. - 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/society/view/kitajsko-belorusskij-tsentr-kommertsializatsii-innovatsij-otkryt-v-minske-225839-2016/>.

89 Belarus and China agreed on the key conditions of the joint venture fund [Electronic resource] 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-kitaj-dogovorilis-o-kljuchevyh-uslovijah-dejatelnosti-sovmestnogo-venchurnogo-fonda-247427-2017/>

90 Karuna, O. Belarus and China create a venture capital investment fund *with an* initial volume of \$20 million / O. Karuna // [Electronic resource]. - 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-kitaj-sozdaiut-fond-venchurnyh-investitsij-s-nervonachalnym-obiemom-20-mln-225848-2016/>.

the expense of the Belarusian-Chinese fund already this year"⁹¹ , as the founding documents will be prepared in the coming summer months, and the fund itself should be established by September 1, 2017.

Just a week later - in the twentieth days of May 2017 - Minsk hosted the Belarus-China Science and Technology Forum organized by the National Academy of Belarus, the People's Government of Harbin, the State Committee for Science and Technology of Belarus, the Harbin Science and Technology Administration, the Republican Center for Technology Transfer, and the Academy of Sciences of Heilongjiang Province. More than four hundred scientists and experts from the two countries took part in the forum. They considered promising directions and mechanisms for the development of scientific and technical cooperation between Belarus and China within the framework of the implementation of the "One Belt and One Road" concept, which were identified as priorities for the subsequent implementation of joint scientific and technical projects and which include "issues of cooperation development in the field of new materials and technologies, energy saving technologies, food industry, agriculture, construction technologies"⁹² . Such a comprehensive approach makes the Belarusian-Chinese Science and Technology Forum a very important stage in the development of the entire scientific and innovation interaction between Minsk and Beijing, ensuring the formation of new mutually beneficial programs and projects in advanced fields of science and technology.

It is not by chance that representatives of the Chinese province of Heilongjiang and its administrative center Harbin were among the organizers of this scientific and technical forum. This is explained by their serious desire to create joint laboratories

91 Matievsky, M. Belarus and China expect to establish a joint venture fund by September 2017 / M. Matievsky // [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-kitaj-rasschityvajut-uchredit-sovmestnyi-venchurnyi-fond-k-sentjabriu-2017-goda-247444-2017/>.

92 More than 400 scientists and experts participate in the Belarusian-Chinese scientific and technical forum [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/society/view/bolee-400-uchenvh-i-ekspertov-uchastvuiut-v-belorussko-kitaiskom-nauchno-tehnicheskom-forume-248649-2017/>.

and scientific and technical centers with partners in Belarus. Moreover, the parties are already "planning to intensify scientific and technical cooperation in medicine and pharmacy, industry, ecology, agriculture and to implement several innovative projects on the basis of the Chinese-Belarusian Industrial Park "Great Stone"⁹³. Here it is appropriate to recall that back in June 2016, the China-Belarus Center of Agricultural Microbiology opened in Harbin, where at the first stage it is planned to implement the project "Microbial technology for the elimination of oil pollution and accidental oil spills", as well as "to create a pilot zone for cleaning oil pollution in China"⁹⁴.

Another new subject of the Belarusian-Chinese innovation infrastructure is planned to be created on the basis of the Belarusian National Technical University and the China-Belarus Industrial Park Veliky Kamen. The agreement on the creation and organization of the activities of such a joint center for incubating innovative projects was signed in mid-May 2017 by the State Committee for Science and Technology of Belarus and the Ministry of Science and Technology of China. It is assumed that this center will provide support in scientific, technical and innovative activities to entrepreneurs and participants of the youth startup movement. To this end, "its structure will include a startup center, an expert council, a co-working center and a rapid prototyping laboratory"⁹⁵.

Against this background, the activation of the Belarusian-Chinese scientific and innovation interaction is becoming more and more relevant.

cooperation between Belarus and regional science institutions in China, which is already characterized by a wide range of partnerships with great innovation potential.

93 Belarus and China discussed the prospects of creating joint scientific and technical centers [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-kitaj-obsudili-perspektivy-sozdaniya-sovmestnyh-nauchno-tehnicheskikh-tsentrov-248589-2017/>.

94 Chinese-Belarusian center of agricultural microbiology opened in Harbin [Electronic resource]. - 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/society/view/kitajsko-belorusskij-tsentr-selhozmirobiologii-otkrylsia-v-harbine-198355-2016/>.

95 Belarus and China signed an agreement on the creation of a center for incubation of innovative projects [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-kitaj-podpisali-soglasenie-o-sozdanii-tsentra-podinkubirovaniyu-innovatsionnyh-proektov-247121-2017/>.

An eloquent illustration in this regard is the Chinese company Huawei, which is "establishing a science and technology center in Belarus with the A.V. Lykov Institute of Heat and Mass Transfer. Other institutes of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus are also developing mutually beneficial cooperation in various fields, in particular, unmanned aviation, nanotechnology, materials science"⁹⁶. In particular, such structural subdivisions of the National Academy of Belarus as the Institute of Physics and Technology, the Stepanov Institute of Physics, the Institute of Chemistry of New Materials, the Institute of Microbiology, the Central Botanical Garden, which have developed a number of joint projects of mutual importance, make a significant contribution to the realization of the main directions of scientific, technological and innovative cooperation with Chinese scientists and researchers. In total, "the National Academy of Belarus implements projects worth over \$4 million in China. <...> It is realistic to achieve at least 10 times more"⁹⁷.

Thus, HAH Belarus together with Ningbo University is implementing the project "Pressure treatment process and a set of equipment for economical precision rolling of shafts with spiral surfaces", the results of which will be used to create in Belarus the production of new-generation anchorages used in the mining industry and significantly improve the safety of underground work. "The project envisages export of this type of products in 2017-2020 in the amount of over \$800 thousand"⁹⁸. In addition, together with BSU and the Chinese corporation ZTE, scientists of the Belarusian Academy of Sciences are working on the creation of the Belarusian-Chinese research laboratory of Internet of Things technologies, which is designed to promote innovative solutions for monitoring of goods transportation flows and the

96 Grishkevich, A. Belarus develops scientific cooperation *with* Chinese regional institutions / A. Grishkevich // [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-razvivaet-nauchnoe-sotrudnichestvo-s-kitaiskimi-regionalnymi-uchrezhdenijami-234788-2017/>

97 HAH Belarus is interested in acquiring Chinese experience in selling scientific developments [Electronic resource]. - 2015. - URL: http://atom.belta.by/ru/news_belta/view/nan-belarusi-zainteresovana-v-priobretenii-kitajskogo-opyta-po-prodazham-nauchnyx-razrabotok-5598/

98 Belarus and China plan to implement about 30 joint scientific and technical projects [Electronic resource]. - 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-kitai-planiruiut-realizovat-okolo-30-sovmestnyh-nauchno-tehnicheskikh-proektov-198938-2016/>

implementation of joint projects and research in the field of REID-technologies. Plus, "in a whole range of areas: energy, information technologies, lidar and lidar technologies, production of new materials"⁹⁹ the Chinese corporation China Electronics Technology Group is interested in cooperating with organizations of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus.

The creation of joint science and technology parks and centers has become an important mechanism of exchanges in the field of commercialization of scientific developments. Agreements on mutual establishment of such centers are already in place with the governments of the Chinese provinces of Henan, Shandong, Jilin, and Guangdong. In January 2014, the Agreement on the establishment of a joint laboratory on optoelectronic and laser technologies was signed between the Institute of Physics of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the Institute of Oceanographic Instrumentation of the Academy of Sciences of Shandong Province. In May 2016, the Agreement on Comprehensive Scientific and Technical Cooperation was signed by the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the Academy of Sciences of Shandong Province in order to start the transition to specific projects and developments, as well as "to create a special organization for the transfer of Belarusian technologies for enterprises and organizations of Shandong Province"¹⁰⁰. At the same time, the joint Belarusian-Chinese scientific and technical institute Zhong Xin" was opened in Minsk, founded by the Scientific and Practical Center for Materials Science of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the Electronic Company of Linyi City, located in Shandong Province.

It is quite possible that the cooperation between the State Committee for Science and Technology of Belarus and Zhongguancun Development Group, a state-owned

⁹⁹ Chinese companies are interested in developing scientific and technical cooperation *with* Belarus [Electronic resource]. - 2016. - URL: https://belarus-online.by/?news=8108_kitajskie-kompanii-zainteresovany-razvivat-nauchno-tehnicheskoe-sotrudnichestvo-s-belarusiiu-209431-2016

¹⁰⁰ Karuna, O. The Chinese province of Shandong is interested in the transfer of Belarusian technologies / O. Karuna // [Electronic resource]. 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/society/view/kitajskaja-provintsija-shandun-zainteresovana-v-transfere-belorusskih-tehnologij-194533-2016/>

enterprise established in 2010 to support and develop the National Innovation Demonstration Park, which includes 29 subsidiaries and is financed by the People's Government of Beijing, will add its colors to the overall picture of Belarusian-Chinese scientific and innovation cooperation. At least, when discussing the possibilities of implementing joint projects, the parties named "information and communication and aerospace technologies, bio- and nano-industry, medicine and pharmacy, as well as energy efficient and industrial technologies" as priority areas¹⁰¹.

The higher education institutions of the two countries are not left out of the processes of expanding Belarusian-Chinese interaction. They have already signed more than a hundred agreements and established joint laboratories and research structures in such areas as optical, electronic, magnetic, plasma technologies, identification systems, and road surfaces. "The latest agreements with the Ministry of Science of the People's Republic of China provide \$10 million to fund joint research projects in promising areas"¹⁰². More specifically, there are "more than 120 direct cooperation agreements between higher education institutions and centers of Belarus and China"¹⁰³.

The Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radioelectronics shows effective results in the field of joint scientific and technical developments, taking part in the implementation of such major joint projects and programs as the development and manufacture of microwave devices and devices, software and hardware for solving problems of electromagnetic compatibility and interference protection of radioelectronic devices, creation and transfer of new technologies in the field of microelectronics and hydroacoustics. Suffice it to say that in 2014, eight contracts

101 Belarus offered the Chinese Zhongguancun partnership in venture capital investment and high technology [Electronic resource]. - 2016. - URL:

<http://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-predlozila-kitajskoi-zhongguancun-partnerstvo-v-sfere-venchurnyh-investitsij-i-vysokih-211548-2016/>

102 Interview of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belarus V. Makei to the news agency "BelTA" (January 13, 2017, Minsk) [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL: <http://mfa.gov.by/press/smi/ace33f437fd634f6.html>

103 Belarusian and Chinese universities develop cooperation under more than 120 agreements [Electronic resource]. - 2015. - URL: <http://www.belarus.by/ru/press-center/press-release/beloruskie-i-kitajskie-vuzy-razvivajut-sotrudnichestvo-po-bolee-chem-120-dogovoram-i-0000022732.html>

worth almost \$1.5 million were carried out in this Belarusian university under the orders of Chinese corporations and organizations. In 2015-2016, three more contracts were signed with a total funding of 3.8 million dollars.

Another interesting example is the Belarusian-Chinese Research Center established by the Science and Technology Park of the Belarusian National Technical University "Polytechnik" and the Chinese company Henan Gaoyuan. One of the goals of its creation was to conduct joint research and master new technologies in the field of design, construction and operation of highways. The center has already developed a system of diagnostics of asphalt-concrete road surfaces in Henan province, which was rated by the Chinese side at the advanced international level. The center also actively cooperates with such provinces of China as Jilin, Shandong, Heilongjiang, Guangdong. "Every year, with the assistance of the center, Belarusian organizations conclude contracts for various educational and scientific services worth about \$1.5 million"¹⁰⁴. In addition, BITU and the North-Eastern University of Shenyang are working on the possibility of opening a Belarusian-Chinese center for advanced applied engineering and technical scientific research, which will be used to implement joint research projects, develop and promote the commercialization of modern knowledge-intensive technologies and innovative products.

The example of Gomel State University named after F. Skaryna, which in February 2017 reached an agreement on cooperation with Sichuan University, founded in 1896, located in Chengdu and having 28 institutes, 41 laboratories, 9 research bases, 16 scientific institutions, is also very illustrative. In total, Gomel University has already signed more than 20 cooperation agreements with Chinese universities and scientific centers, within the framework of which the most productive relations are formed with Nanjing University of Science and Technology, Shanghai Professional Institute of Industry, Commerce and Foreign Languages, as well as with the Pedagogical University of Jiangsu Province. In particular, Gomel State University

104 Bogush, V. Bogush, V. Belarusian-Chinese interaction in the field of education and science makes a real contribution to strengthening friendship between the peoples / V. Bogush // [Electronic resource]. - 2015. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/opinions/view/belorusko-kitaiskoe-vzaimodeistvie-v-oblasti-obrazovaniia-i-nauki-vno-sit-realnyi-vklad-v-ukreplenie-druzhby-4501/>

named after F. Skaryna focused its cooperation with Chinese partners on joint work in the field of vacuum-plasma technologies and manufacturing of special equipment. For this purpose, back in 2013 Gomel and Nanjing University of Science and Technology established joint laboratories, where they are now engaged in the development of "scientific foundations of plasma chemical synthesis and research of structure and properties of nanocomposite coatings based on polymers with antibacterial activity"¹⁰⁵. The following figures speak volumes: "Since 1992, 335 citizens of the People's Republic of China have studied at the State University named after F. Skaryna. 140 people graduated from the university and received a bachelor's degree, 168 received a master's degree and 26 received a specialist's diploma"¹⁰⁶. And in the near future the first regional Confucius Institute in Belarus will be opened here. The priority areas of work of this international cultural and educational center will be Chinese language teaching and training of Chinese scholars, academic exchange, and dissemination of Chinese culture and traditions.

The Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno, which signed a memorandum of understanding with Chongqing University on February 1, 2013, is also intensifying ties with Chinese partners. In January 2017, the parties have already signed an agreement on joint training of specialists in the field of information technologies. This document significantly expands the areas of cooperation between the universities, as it is aimed at training specialists in demand for the socio-economic development of the countries, exchange of teaching staff and development of research activities. In addition, "the agreement allows for enrollment in joint postgraduate programs"¹⁰⁷. In August 2016, a cooperation agreement was also signed

105 Sidorchik, V. Gomel State University named after Skaryna cooperates *with* 25 universities and organizations of China / V. Sidorchik // [Electronic resource]. - 2015. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/gomelskij-gosuniversitet-imeni-skoriny-sotrudnichaet-s-25-vuzami-i-i-organizatsijami-kitaja-2080-2015/>.

106 Lysenko, Y. Gomel University named after F. Skaryna expands cooperation with Chinese universities / Y. Lysenko // [Electronic resource]. F. Skaryna expands cooperation *with* universities of China / Y. Lysenko // [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/gomelskij-universitet-im-fskoriny-rasshirjaet-sotrudnichestvo-s-vuzami-kitaja-234443-2017/>

107 Yanka Kupala GrSU and Chongqing University agreed on joint training of specialists [Electronic resource] . 2017. - URL:

by Belarusian State University and Guangxi University of Finance and Economics, which unites 17 educational institutes and units and offers 25 educational directions for obtaining a bachelor's degree. This document "provides for the exchange of lecturers for lecturing, undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate students, teaching materials and scientific reports, as well as the implementation of joint research and educational projects"¹⁰⁸. Four agreements on inter-university contacts were signed in July 2016 between - Belarusian National Technical University and Lanzhou University of Economics and Finance, Belarusian State Agrarian Technical University and Gansu Agrarian University, Belarusian State Agricultural Academy and Gansu Agrarian University, Belarusian State University of Economics and Lanzhou University of Economics and Finance.

The dynamics of cooperation between Belarus and China in the field of education is complemented by the following figures: in the 2014/15 academic year alone, 1,851 Chinese students studied at Belarusian universities. In terms of the total number of foreign citizens who came to study in Belarus, China ranked second after Turkmenistan, ahead of Russia, Nigeria, and Iran. It is curious that "Chinese citizens choose philological specialties in Belarus. They are also interested in international relations, international journalism, law and economic specialties"¹⁰⁹. In Belarus itself, the Chinese language is studied from the first grade as a basic language, and since 2015, applicants have been taking centralized tests in this subject. In addition, more than 600 Belarusian students studied in China in the 2014/15 academic year.

All these facts testify to the fact that the promotion of science and innovation in Belarusian-Chinese interaction is becoming a real tool for the realization of integration processes within the framework of the One Belt and One Road initiative.

<http://www.belta.by/regions/view/grgu-imjanki-kupaly-i-chuntsinskij-universitet-dogovorilis-o-sovmestnoj-podgotovke-spetsialistov-230701-2017/>

108 BSU and Guangxi University of Finance and Economics signed a cooperation agreement [Electronic resource]. - 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/society/view/bgu-i-universitet-finansov-j-ekonomiki-guansi-podpisali-soglashenie-o-sotrudnichestvo-207125-2016/>.

109 About 2 thousand Chinese citizens study in Belarusian universities annually [Electronic resource]. - 2015. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/society/view/ezhegodno-v-belorusskih-vuzah-obuchaetsja-okolo-2-tys-grazhdan-kitaja-173360-2015/>.

Moreover, at the Second Forum of the Association of Science and Technology Parks, High and New Technology Zones "Silk Road" held in May 2017 in Minsk, it was emphasized that "scientific and technological cooperation between China and Belarus is continuously developing" [26] and is becoming more and more significant in the implementation of the integration processes within the framework of the One Belt and One Road initiative¹¹⁰ [26] and is becoming an increasingly important example of improving innovation infrastructure and expanding scientific and innovation cooperation in the countries along the route of the new Silk Road. It should be noted in passing that the Association of Science and Technology Parks, High and New Technology Zones "Silk Road" was established recently - in July 2016 - with the support of the Ministry of Science and Technology of China. It includes science and technology organizations, research institutes, agencies providing related services, as well as research institutions from different countries. Thus, the very fact that the second forum of the young association was held in Minsk and that it was attended by representatives of more than ten countries once again emphasizes the positive influence of the Republic of Belarus on the development of the scientific and innovation component of the Chinese initiative "One Belt and One Road" not only in the bilateral but also in the multilateral format.

110 Scientific and technical cooperation between China and Belarus is continuously developing - Luo

Zhanhui [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - Mode of access:

<http://www.belta.by/society/view/nauchno-tehnicheskoe-sotrudnichestvo-kitaia-i-belarusi-neprervno-razvivaetsia-lo-chzhanhoi-248817-2017/>. - Date of access: 23.05.2017.

Belarus - Hunan: From Points of Contact to Partnership Line

In April 2017, the Agreement on the Establishment of Friendly Relations was signed by the Hunan Province of China and the Belarusian Mogilev Region. This fact is another eloquent illustration of the course of comprehensive strategic partnership and mutually beneficial cooperation that the Republic of Belarus and the People's Republic of China are following today and in which "interregional interaction should become the locomotive in the relations between the two countries"¹¹¹. After all, Hunan Province is not only an agrarian, but also a significant industrial region, which is successfully developing and is at the forefront of China. Suffice it to say that "about 70 million people live here, the province ranks 9th in the country in terms of GDP. In addition, Hunan is the birthplace of Mao Zedong, who created a new China"¹¹².

The signed agreement was a natural continuation of the already established partnership between the parties, which back in the summer of 2016 adopted a Memorandum of Cooperation, which actually facilitated the creation of a joint LLC "Zoomlion - MAZ", established by the Chinese company Zoomlion and JSC "Minsk Automobile Plant", and the production base of which became the enterprises of Mogilev region - "Mogilevtransmash" and "Strommashina". On their premises the parties "will organize the production of special equipment for construction and municipal spheres, including truck cranes, concrete mixers, concrete pumps, truck lifts, cleaning and fire-fighting vehicles"¹¹³. The new agreement between the Chinese province and the Belarusian region, based on the principles of equality and mutual

111 Meeting with Du Jiahao, Secretary of the Communist Party of China Hunan Provincial Committee [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL: http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/vstrecha-s-sekretarem-komiteta-kommunisticheskoi-partii-kitaja-provintsii-xunan-du-tsziaxao-16018/.

112 Grishkevich, A. Cooperation between Belarus and Hunan should become a model for other Chinese provinces - Du Jiahao / A. Grishkevich // [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/politics/view/sotrudnichestvo-belarusi-i-hunanjia-dolzno-stat-obraztsom-dlja-drugih-kitajskih-provintsij-du-tszi-ahao-242496-2017/>.

113 Emelyanova, O. Agreement on the establishment of friendly relations signed by Hunan Province and Mogilev region / O. Emelyanova // [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/soglasenie-ob-ustanovlenii-druzhestvennyh-otnoshenij-podpisali-provintsija-hunan-i-mogilevskaja-oblast-242796-2017/>.

benefit, will expand exchange and cooperation in economy, trade, tourism, culture, education, and training of specialists.

In addition, Belarus hopes that the Chinese company Zoomlion, which registered a joint venture for the production of construction and municipal special equipment in February 2017 in the free economic zone "Mogilev", will be able to expand with even greater scope in the Chinese-Belarusian industrial park "Great Stone", where with its participation in April 2017 the first stone was laid in the foundation of the plant for the creation of equipment for Belarusian-Chinese special equipment. The very fact of the start of this construction speaks volumes. After all, the Belarusian side is creating a powerful infrastructure in this park and provides serious preferences to those investors who will give the result "in the form of the arrival of high technologies, creation of export-oriented production facilities with a guaranteed sales market"¹¹⁴.

So, in two years, the new plant "will produce road-building, construction and municipal equipment. Initial capital investments will be about \$50 million. And in the near future this enterprise should produce up to \$300 million worth of products per year"¹¹⁵. The scheme of work will be as follows: in Smolevichi district of Minsk voblast, Chinese attachments will be created; from there they will be transported to Mahiliou; there they will be installed on Belarusian chassis at the vacant premises of "Mahiliovtransmash" in order to get ready special machines. It is assumed that the number of employees at this enterprise in the industrial park will amount to about five hundred people.

Initially, the products of the future plant are planned to be supplied to the countries of the Eurasian Economic Union, the Commonwealth of Independent States and,

114 Meeting with Zhang Dejiang, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress [Electronic resource] . 2017. - URL:

http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/vstrecha-s-predsedatelem-postojannogo-komiteta-vsekitajskogo-sobranija-narodnyx-predstavitelej-chzhan-16055/

115 Ogneva, Y. A plant for the creation of equipment for special vehicles is planned to open in "Velikiy Kamen" in two years / Y. Ogneva // [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/zavod-po-sozdaniyu-oborudovaniia-dlia-spetstehniki-planiruetsja-otkryt-v-velikom-kamne-cherez-dva-goda-242899-2017>

possibly, Europe, as this equipment is "absolutely competitive in terms of technical parameters, price and quality. The level of equipment is world-class, and the price is significantly lower"¹¹⁶. This is explained by the fact that Minsk Automobile Plant and Zoomlion already have experience in the creation and certification of several types of machinery - truck cranes with lifting capacity of 40 and 60 tons, a municipal vehicle. In addition, even before December 2017, "specialists will have to study the market and develop 8 new models, and next year launch them into mass production"¹¹⁷.

As for other promising areas of cooperation with Hunan province, the same Mogilev region plans to organize supplies of food and, first of all, dairy products to Chinese partners - yoghurts, ice cream, milk, the demand for which in China is now noticeably growing. It looks promising to attract investors from this province to the free economic zone "Mogilev", as well as to seven districts of the Pridneprovsky Krai, bordering the Russian Federation and falling under the decree of the President of Belarus "On the socio-economic development of the south-eastern region of the Mogilev Oblast". This document is known to provide significant preferences to investors who will come here to implement their projects.

Among the priority areas offered in Mogilev region for investment by Chinese partners are the processing of agricultural products, alternative energy, as well as high-tech industries related to the extraction and processing of local minerals. In particular, we are talking about local peat-mining enterprises, which could organize cooperation with the Chinese side on peat extraction and production of mineral complex fertilizers on its basis in order to sell them not only in China, but also on the markets of other countries. After all, "China today is interested in restoring its soils, taking into account state support, and this requires fertile quality fertilizers based on

116 Ogneva, Y. Zoomlion plant in the park "Great Stone" has a great export potential - Semashko / Y. Ogneva // [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/zavod-zoomlion-v-parke-velikij-kamen-obladaet-bolshim-eksportnym-potentsialom-semashko-242901-2017/>

117 Zoomlion will build a plant in Velikiy Kamen to create equipment for special vehicles [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/newscompany/view/zoomlion-postroit-v-velikom-kamne-zavod-po-sozdaniyu-oborudovaniia-dlia-spetstehniki-242736-2017/>

legnin and peat. This is a real investment project that can be economically effective for the western districts of the Mogilev region, where there are large deposits of high peat"¹¹⁸ .

Another interesting project was accepted for implementation in 2015, when the enterprise "Mogilevliftmash" started to create a joint production of escalators with Chinese partners. "The creation of new production is conditioned by market demands. <...> New products are in demand today both in the domestic and foreign markets, including in connection with the active construction of large shopping and entertainment centers, construction and development of subways"¹¹⁹ . In addition, Mogilev residents plan to equip elevators with Chinese control stations and sell them to third world countries.

An important direction in the development of interregional partnership, which is also planned in Hunan province and Mogilev region, will be based on strengthening the relationship between the cities of the two regions. And "the possibility of signing a cooperation agreement between the administrative center of Hunan Province Changsha city and Mogilev is already being considered"¹²⁰ .

118 Kulyagin, S. Investment projects for \$200 million are prepared in Mogilev region for the development of Chinese loans / S. Kulyagin // [Electronic resource]. - 2015. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/investproektv-na-200-mln-podgotovleny-v-mogilevskoi-oblasti-dlja-osvoenija-kitajskih-kreditov-174377-2015/>.

119 "Mogilevliftmash" started to create a JV with Chinese partners to produce escalators [Electronic resource] . 2015. - URL: <http://mogilev-region.gov.by/news/mogilevliftmash-pristupil-k-sozdaniju-sp-s-kitavskimi-partnerami-po-vypusku-eskalatorov>

120 Emelyanova, O. Agreement on the establishment of friendly relations signed by Hunan Province and Mogilev region / O. Emelyanova // [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/soglashenie-ob-ustanovlenii-druzhestvennyh-otnoshenij-podpisali-provintsija-hunan-i-mogilevskaja-oblast-242796-2017/>.

Brest region - provinces of China: prospects of mutually beneficial cooperation

Brest region is one of those Belarusian regions that see real prospects for increasing the volume of mutually beneficial trade and economic cooperation with the People's Republic of China in the development of ties with the People's Republic of China, and therefore gradually increase the scale of interaction. Suffice it to say that in January-February 2017, Brest region enterprises, thanks to the export of stone products, flax, dairy products, supplied goods worth one and a half million dollars to the Chinese market, which is 42 percent more than in the same period of 2016. Moreover, "Brest region plans to increase supplies to \$10 million, thus increasing them by more than a quarter to the level of 2016"¹²¹. At the same time, the activation of relations with Chinese partners is carried out in several directions at once.

First, it is attracting investments from China into the region's economy. Back in late 2015, the Belarusian side started working out the issues of financing a number of projects in Brest Region at the expense of Chinese investors. These include "the construction of the Volat battery plant in Beloozersk, a plant for the production of methyl ethers in the FEZ, and the reconstruction of the inter-district oncological dispensary in Pinsk"¹²². Among recent examples in this regard, one can recall the commissioning in February 2017 in the area of Zarechitsa Park of Brest-Severny station under an intergovernmental agreement between Belarus and China of an inspection and screening complex designed to control goods transported by rail. "The total investment to finance the project amounted to 39 million yuan, or about \$5.5"¹²³

121 Chernovolova, A. Brest region in 2017 plans to increase exports to China up to \$10 million / A. Chernovolova // [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL:

<http://www.belta.by/regions/view/brestskaja-oblast-v-2017-godu-planiruet-narastit-eksport-v-kitaj-do-10-mln-244339-2017/>

122 Vechorko, S. Expansion of exports is determined as the main factor of economic growth in Brest region in 2016 / S. Vechorko // [Electronic resource]. - 2015. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/rasshirenie-eksporta-opredeleno-glavnym-faktorom-rosta-ekonomiki-brestskoj-oblasti-v-2016-godu-175763-2015/>.

123 Vechorko, S. Inspection and inspection complex for scanning freight trains is introduced in Brest / S. Vechorko // [Electronic resource]. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/inspeksionno-dosmotrovyi-kompleks-dlja-skanirovanija->

. This complex is equipped with rapid inspection technology, with the help of which moving railcars are "shined through". The speed of the train must be between 8 and 30 kilometers per hour. We can also recall the registration in Baranovichi of the enterprise "CRRC-KUEC ZheldorTekhnika", in which Chinese investors invested one million dollars. In 2018, in the free economic zone "Brest" should be put into operation an enterprise for the production of LEDs, which also attracted investments from China. In total, Brest residents have already handed over 37 investment projects to the Chinese partners for joint implementation in the medium term.

The second strategic area of cooperation between Brest Region and China is the full strengthening of interregional contacts. Among the main partners of the Belarusian region in this respect are the provinces of Hubei, Anhui, and Henan. In particular, cooperation with **Hubei** Province has a history of more than 20 years. "During this time, Brest and Xiaogan, Baranovichi and Chibi, located in these regions, have also become sister cities"¹²⁴. It is the interaction of sister cities that has the necessary potential to turn into the most important instrument of Belarusian-Chinese interregional cooperation. Thus, Xiaogan can become a springboard for Brest exporters to develop the Chinese market. For this reason, partners from this twin city have already offered "Brest processing enterprises to establish cooperation in the supply of meat and dairy products to China"¹²⁵. A new pair of partner cities from Brest region and Hubei province - Pinsk and Xiang Yang, which signed a cooperation agreement in April 2017, may have a very promising cooperation. This document provides for the development of mutually beneficial trade and economic, scientific, technical and cultural cooperation. And the opportunities here are not insignificant. After all, Xiang Yang, which is located in the central part of China, "is home to 6 million people. The city dates back about 2.8 thousand years. Many sights related to

gruzovyh-poezdov-vveden-v-brete-233118-2017/

124 Zalesky, B. International relations and media. Features of multi-vector international cooperation in the period of global challenges / B. Zalesky. - Palmarium Academic Publishing : Saarbrücken, Deutschland / Germany, 2016. - C. 219.

125 Chernovolova, A. Chinese companies are interested in cooperation with the processing enterprises of Brest / A. Chernovolova // [Electronic resource]. - 2015. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/kitajskie-kompanii-zainteresovany-v-sotrudnichestve-s-pererabativajuschimi-predpriiatijami-brete-167088-2015/>

the ancient period of Chinese history have been preserved there. Agriculture, mechanical engineering, and electronics are well developed in Xiang Yang"¹²⁶.

As for **Anhui** Province, in December 2016, a protocol of intentions was signed with its representatives to establish partnership relations in the spheres of economy, industry, agriculture, education, tourism. It is expected that "on the basis of this document a cooperation agreement between Brest region and Anhui province will be concluded"¹²⁷. And at the same time the parties discussed the first concrete projects of this interregional interaction. In particular, the company JAC Motors, which is engaged in the production of minibuses, expressed its interest in establishing a joint venture with Brestmash OJSC to produce light-duty cars and minibuses with good export potential.

Another joint project was recently discussed during the stay in Belarus of representatives of the foreign economic construction company of Anhui Province, who were studying the possibilities of mining in our country. In Brest region they were offered to build a mining and processing plant at the Gorodnoe deposit in Stalin district, where quartz sands are found, which can be used for the production of construction materials, as well as in the glass industry. The capabilities of Anhui Foreign Economic Construction Corporation are already well known in Brest region, because it won the tender for the construction of residential buildings here under general contract with the help of technical and economic assistance from China. And now in this Belarusian region four 10-storey houses, each of which will house social apartments, are being built according to the standard project. Two of them are being built in Brest's new-build neighborhoods - South-East No. 4 and South-West No. 3. Two more panel multi-storey houses will appear in Zagorski microdistrict of Pinsk. At the same time, "the construction of four high-rise buildings is the first stage of the

126 Pinsk and Chinese Xiang Yang signed an agreement on cooperation [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/pinsk-i-kitajskij-sjan-jan-podpisali-soglashenie-o-sotrudnichestve-243097-2017/>

127 Chernovolova, A. Chinese company is interested in creating a joint production with "Brestmash" / A. Chernovolova // [Electronic resource]. - 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/kitajskaja-kompanija-zainteresovana-sozdat-sovmestnoe-proizvodstvo-s-brestmashem-222370-2016/>

joint project. Its second stage provides for the construction of three more apartment buildings of social use: one each in Baranavichy, Pinsk and Zhabinka"¹²⁸ .

Another Chinese region with which Brest region intends to sign a cooperation agreement is **Henan** province. At least, the Brest Regional Executive Committee hopes that "signatures under the agreements with Henan Province will be put, possibly, in 2017"¹²⁹ . In the meantime, among the participants of the second forum of business contacts Brest-2017", held in late April 2017, among businessmen from 14 countries, four companies from Henan Province were represented at once, whose professional interests include issues of investment and export of Belarusian goods to China. They are Zhong Bai Shiye, Navigation built antisepsis installation engineering, The Yellow River explosion-proof crane, Yuan Henry jewelry. It is to be expected that the established contacts between the representatives of the business community of the parties will pave the way for full-scale cooperation between Brest region and Henan province on the whole range of interregional partnerships in the very near future.

128 Chernovolova, A. The houses built with the involvement of Chinese capital in Brest region will be delivered in early 2017 / A. Chernovolova // [Electronic resource]. - 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/postroennye-s-privlecheniem-kitajskogo-kapitala-doma-v-brejskoj-oblasti-sdadut-v-nachale-2017- goda-220261-2016/>.

129 Chernovolova, A. Brest region plans to sign a cooperation agreement with the provinces of Anhui and Henan / A. Chernovolova // [Electronic resource]. - 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/brestskaja-oblast-planiruet-podpisat-dogovory-o-sotrudnichestve-s-provintsijami-anhoi-i-henan-212791-2016/>.

Belarus - Syria: from stabilization to cooperation

The Syrian Arab Republic is one of the priority partners of the Republic of Belarus in the Middle East. Diplomatic relations with it were established back in 1993. Since then, political interaction with this country has been characterized by a high level and regularity of interstate contacts, coincidence of approaches of Minsk and Damascus to solving most international problems, and mutual support in international organizations. In the economic sphere, cooperation between the two countries has been developing along its own steady trajectory and was manifested by the supply of hundreds of Belarusian trucks to the Syrian market and thorough elaboration of the project for the assembly of Belarusian-made vehicles. Due to the aggravation of the internal situation in Syria in 2011, the implementation of these plans had to be slowed down. However, even in the most difficult time for Damascus, the Belarusian side expressed "conviction in Syria's successful recovery from the crisis and interest in further development and strengthening of bilateral relations in all areas"¹³⁰.

The highest level of Belarusian-Syrian interaction was recorded in 2008, when bilateral trade amounted to \$85.5 million. Five years later, this indicator decreased almost tenfold to \$8.9 million due to the well-known events in that country. But already 2014 showed the dynamics of the beginning of overcoming the crisis on Syrian soil, which awakened hopes in Minsk for the "restoration of the previously existing level of bilateral cooperation"¹³¹. And this was immediately reflected in the rapid growth of Belarusian exports to Syria to \$32.2 million, with the total trade turnover amounting to \$33.8 million. Belarusian semi-finished products made of non-alloy steel, instrumentation, medicines, and liquid crystal devices began to find their niche in the Syrian market. Against this background of an obvious revival of trade and economic ties in 2015, Minsk and Damascus actively searched for new areas of

130 Alexander Lukashenko congratulated Bashar al-Assad on his election as President of the Syrian Arab Republic [Electronic resource]. - 2015. - URL: http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/aleksandr-lukashenko-pozdravil-bashara-asada-s-izbraniem-na-post-prezidenta-sirijskoi-arabskoi-republiki-8994/

131 President of Belarus accepted credentials [Electronic resource]. - 2014. - URL: http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/prezident-belarusi-prinjal-veritelnye-gramoty-10410/

cooperation in order to "not only restore the previous level of trade turnover in the best years, but also to surpass it many times over"¹³² . At the same time, the parties decided to adhere to the principle of mutual complementarity, whereby Belarus produces products in which Syrians are interested, while Syria has a number of goods in which Belarusians are interested.

It should be recalled that when a trend towards stabilization in the security sphere emerged in the central regions of Syria and around Damascus in 2014-2015, the government of this country immediately expressed its interest "in developing trade and investment cooperation, in resuming and expanding cooperation ties with the countries that in the most difficult moments of trials <...> did not stop political, economic and other support"¹³³ . Among these states is Belarus, which in 2016 sees significant opportunities for intensifying interaction with Syrian partners across the entire spectrum of bilateral relations, which are based on a legal and contractual framework of a dozen and a half documents. These include agreements on: trade, economic and technical cooperation; promotion and mutual protection of investments; avoidance of double taxation; military-technical cooperation; cooperation in education, science and culture; air communication; scientific and technical cooperation; international road transportation of passengers and cargo. There are also agreements on bank payments, in the field of agro-industrial complex, veterinary medicine, quarantine and plant protection, and mass media.

The relations in the information sphere between Belarus and Syria are based on the provisions of the relevant agreement of 11 March 1998, the Agreement on Cooperation between the National State Television and Radio Company of the Republic of Belarus and the General Organization for Television and Radio Broadcasting of Syria of 12 November 2007 and the Memorandum of Understanding

132 Materials of the press conference on the results of the visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belarus Vladimir Makei to Syria (February 9, 2015, Damascus) [Electronic resource]. - URL: http://mfa.gov.by/press/news_mfa/b49e0d253459ccba.html

133 The study of the project to create an assembly plant of Belarusian automobiles in Syria has been resumed [Electronic resource] . 2015. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/vozobnovlena-prorabotka-proekta-sozdaniia-v-sirii-sborочно-go-proizvodstva-belorusskoj-avtotehniki-155561-2015/>

between the Belarusian Telegraphic Agency and the Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) of 27 November 2008. These documents note "the importance of objective information support of interstate cooperation. The role of mass media in strengthening mutual understanding between countries and peoples is emphasized"¹³⁴.

Indeed, the thematic range of the Belarusian-Syrian interaction is now actively expanding. These include cooperation in the electric power sector, resumption of supplies of Belarusian automobiles to the Syrian market, establishment of assembly production of Minsk Automobile Plant machinery in Syria, expansion of regional cooperation, supply of Belarusian construction machinery for public works related to the reconstruction of Syria. Finally, cooperation in science and technology, within the framework of which today "Belarusian and Syrian scientific institutes have signed 7 'pilot' contracts for joint scientific research works"¹³⁵. In this regard, the task of journalists is to comprehensively reflect these trends in the media sphere.

134 Cooperation between Belarus and Syria in the information sphere [Electronic resource]. - 2015. - URL: <http://mininform.gov.by/special/ru/news-ru/view/sotrudnichestvo-belarusi-i-sirii-v-informatsionnoi-sfere-275/>.

135 Cooperation in the field of science, education, culture [Electronic resource]. - 2015. - URL: http://syria.mfa.gov.by/ru/bilateral_relations/cooperation/ec5318cc4fb8b9c5.html

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