

## New frontiers of partnership

Import substitution is an indispensable element of the development of Belarusian industries and regions, as it is aimed at increasing export potential, expanding the range and improving the quality of products, re-equipping enterprises, and reducing the import component in the cost of finished products. In 2024, Belarus will produce import-substituting products worth about thirty billion dollars. Belarusian enterprises sold most of these products for export. And in 2025, the Ministry of Economy of Belarus expects an even higher figure - more than 31 billion dollars. The experience of the "One District - One Project" initiative, which gives a new impetus to the development of Belarusian regions and strengthens the economy not only of enterprises, but also of districts as a whole, will be used in solving this task. Today, this policy is developing quite successfully in Belarus. Import-substituting products are in demand not only in our country, but also have a good export potential. They use local raw materials and actively involve scientific developments in their production. How are these issues solved in practice? This is the subject of this paper.



**Boris Zalesskij**

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



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*Prospects of internal and external economic development of Belarus*

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# **New frontiers of partnership**

**Prospects of internal and external economic  
development of Belarus**

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Boris Zalesskij

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Internal and external perspectives  
economic development of Belarus

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## Strong regions are the future of the country

In December 2024, a field meeting of the Expert Advisory Council under the Presidium of the Council of the Republic of Belarus, which was held in the urban settlement of Kopy, Orsha district, Vitebsk region, reviewed the progress of the "One District - One Project" initiative, which gives a new impetus to the development of Belarusian regions and strengthens the economy not only of enterprises, but also of districts as a whole. Recall that in 2021-2023 in Belarus within the framework of this initiative "28 such projects were implemented, this year [2024] 180 projects are being implemented for a total amount of Br7.2 billion" . Behind these figures are the opening of production facilities and enterprises, which make it possible to fix personnel in these settlements, villages, small towns and agro-towns.<sup>1</sup>

For example, in alone, **Minsk** region 16 projects worth over 170 million Belarusian rubles have already been implemented in the course of this program and over 400 jobs have been created. In particular, the in production of wooden products for palletizing ceramic products of was opened district **the UE "Kerawood" Berezinsk** . A line for the production of wooden pallets was purchased for the activity of this enterprise. "The cost of the project amounted to more than Br4 million. As a result of the opening of the new production enterprise, 70 jobs were created" .<sup>2</sup>

Two projects were implemented in district. The first one - "Creation of production of a new generation of **Borisov** automotive components meeting the requirements of Euro-5, Euro-6 and higher environmental standards for promising models of passenger cars,

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<sup>1</sup> Kochanova: for the development of regions - the future of our country [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/kochanova-za-razvitiem-regionov-budushee-nashei-strany-683617-2024/>

<sup>2</sup> From auto components to candy. In Minsk region 16 projects under the program "One district - one project" have been implemented [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/ot-avtokomponentov-do-konfet-v-minskoj-oblasti-realizovano-16-proektov-po-programme-odin-rajon-odin-690163-2025/>



commercial vehicles, trucks, agricultural and special-purpose machinery" - is included in the State Program of Innovative Development for 2021-2025 and has an export-oriented and import-substituting orientation. Over four years, **OJSC BATE, the managing company of Avtokomponenty Holding**, has acquired more than 50 units of the latest equipment, most of which are numerically controlled machine tools, electroplating and welding equipment, an annealing furnace, sheet-stamping press machines and electric discharge machines. The total amount of investments under the project is more than 20 million Belarusian rubles.

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

In **Volozhin** district - in the township of **Ivenets** - the implementation of the project "Organization of completed import-substituting production of confectionery products" in the **branch of OJSC "Confectionery Factory "SLODYCH"** worth more than five million Belarusian rubles was Here "they plan to produce nine types of candies: lemon, strawberry and apple flavored candies in stick form, pastilles "raspberry - lemon", "strawberry - banana" and "apple - pineapple", as well as caramel with apple, cherry and orange fillings" .

The peculiarity of this innovative and import-substituting project is that soft caramel has not been produced in Belarus so far. And an <sup>3</sup>innovative production of milk powder with capillary-porous structure has been organized in district. "This is an import-substituting and export-oriented project. The production is mainly focused on China, Turkey, Kazakhstan. The geography of such supplies is constantly being expanded by investors**Kopyl**" .<sup>4</sup>

One more fact. In November 2024, the first stage of the site No. 1 "Innovative closed-cycle quail farm" Farmwas opened of **JSC "Soligorsk Poultry "** . The fact is that this joint-stock company is continuously increasing production and sales of quail egg processing products with a high level of added value. Currently, these products account for 47 percent of the gross harvest. "Thanks to the modernization of the quail egg processing shop and the commissioning of the quail egg boiling and cleaning line, the production capacity of allows processing at least 90 million quail eggs" . The construction of the quail farm will make it possible to utilize existing reserves to increase the production of quail eggs, both smoked and boiled in marinade.<sup>5</sup>

**Vitebsk** region includes 35 projects of this initiative, which the region should implement by the end of the five-year period. So, in some districts two projects are being implemented each. And this list will be further expanded. In the meantime, in **Beshenkovichi** district within the framework of the initiative opened the enterprise "**Scorpio-Kvetka**" for

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<sup>3</sup> District scale project: Ivenets became the birthplace of Belarusian soft caramel [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/proekt-raionnogo-masshtaba-ivenets-stal-rodinoj-belorusskoj-mjagkoj-karameli-678573-2024/>

<sup>4</sup> Next year 15 initiatives "One district - one project" are planned to be realized in Minsk region [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/v-sledujuschem-godu-v-minskoj-oblasti-planiruetsja-realizovat-15-initsiativ-odin-rajon-odin-proekt-674606-2024/>

<sup>5</sup> Kochanova: "One district - one project" strengthens the economy not only of enterprises, but also of the district as a whole [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/kochanova-odin-rajon-odin-proekt-ukrepljaet-ekonomiku-netolko-predpriyatij-no-i-raiona-v-tselom-678347-2024/>

the production of food flavorings, which took the former school building for the implementation of the investment project. And as of today, more than 20 jobs have already been created. "The opening of such small enterprises allows to involve in turnover of unused objects, including in rural settlements<sup>6</sup>".

Two participants of the initiative "One District - One Project" are successfully working in District - : **Orsha** in the settlement of **KopysLLC "MILKCOP START"** and **woodworking site No. 2 of Orsha leskhoz**. The first one is engaged in cheese production; residents of Kopysi and neighboring settlements work there. The second one has recently opened a drying complex with a boiler house. "The increase in the volume of wood drying, the possibility to sell it at a higher cost are undoubted pluses that gave another impetus for development. It is also important that new jobs have been created ". And a in the <sup>7</sup>new juice production facility will be set up district. "The construction readiness of the facility is about 80%, equipment has already been purchased, both construction works are being carried out at the same time and landscaping is being carried out **Sharkovska** ". It is expected that in a year the enterprise will be operational.<sup>8</sup>

In **Brest** region, the initiative has also given an impetus to all regions to create new production facilities. For example, in four projects are already underway . In **PinskGantsevichy** district, "an innovative large-scale project related to blood plasma processing is being

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<sup>6</sup> Pharmaceuticals and animal husbandry. What sectors are the most promising for the creation of new industries in Vitebsk region [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/farmatsevtika-i-zhivotnovodstvo-kakie-otrasli-naibolee-perspektivny-dlja-sozdaniya-novyh-proizvodstv-v-685256-2024/>

<sup>7</sup> Kochanova on the initiative "One district - one project": without economy there will be nothing [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/kochanova-ob-initsiative-odin-rajon-odin-proekt-bez-ekonomiki-ne-budet-nichego-683695-2024/>

<sup>8</sup> Sergeenko: the program "One district - one project" gives a new impetus to the development of regions [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/sergeenko-programma-odin-rajon-odin-proekt-daet-novyy-tolchok-k-razvitiyu-regionov-679225-2024/>

implemented" . In <sup>9</sup>**Stolin KB Stolin LLC** district, within the framework of this initiative, a new production facility - was established in 2023- for metalworking , and in 2024 "an investment project for the expansion of the greenhouse complex of was completed ahead of schedule**KFH OlshanyAgro** " . In the <sup>10</sup>**Berezovsky** district, mastered the production of large-format ceramic tiles of **Berezastroymaterialy OJSC** has the same quality as European samples.

**The Brest Science and Technology Park (BSTP)** under the program "One Region - One Project" works in three areas at once. The first of them is the production of complex 3D molds. The equipment has already been purchased there and production has already started - piece products, which are necessary for enterprises in various industries. The technopark has also mastered production of robotic complexes, working in tandem with its residents. Emphasis is placed on the processing industry. One of the main partners is Savushkin Product OJSC, which, on the basis of BNTP, develops and assembles robotic complexes, primarily for its own consumption. And the technopark provides services of a collective use center for preparation and manufacturing of component parts. More than 70 sets of robotic complexes have already been produced in a year and a half. About 40 more are planned to be produced in 2025. In addition, robotic complexes help to optimize and automate production processes. For example, robot manipulators are programmed for sorting, labeling products on conveyor lines and other processes. Currently, work is underway to create a production facility for pumps made of composite materials. A prototype is scheduled for production in 2025 and will be subjected to testing. This is one of a

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<sup>9</sup> How the initiative "One district - one project" is realized in Brest region [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/kak-realizuetsia-initsiativa-odin-rajon-odin-proekt-v-brestskoj-oblasti-684389-2024/>

<sup>10</sup> Chebotar: the state will continue to create comfortable conditions for the emergence of new industries in the regions [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/chebotar-gosudarstvo-prodolzhit-sozdat-komfortnye-uslovija-dlja-pojavlenija-v-regionah-novyh-684101-2024/>

range of pumps for the refining industry. Based on the test results, it will be possible to understand how to further develop this project and reach the design capacity. Its perspective is more long-term. Within the framework of the business project development, reaching the design capacity is expected by 2032. "Pumps made of composite materials are mainly used for chemical, oil refining industry. They are more resistant to aggressive environment. Such pumps are not produced in Belarus, they are imported. The expediency of development of this direction is actual. The topic is not simple, the range of pumps is quite large. Now we are approving and preparing design documentation, purchasing additional equipment, test benches" . We would also like to add that the reconstruction of the technopark building continues at BNTP. Work on five floors remains to be completed. It will house production sites, offices, recreation and entertainment space, and an exhibition center. In general, the technopark has more than 50 residents who work in various sectors of the economy, including education, healthcare, high technology, processing, and manufacturing.<sup>11</sup>

In **Gomel** region, 25 projects of this initiative have already been implemented. For example, in **Buda-Koshelevsky** district, a private enterprise produces plastic products, which is already expanding production. "A rather interesting project has been implemented in **Gomel** district for the production of pita bread, phyllo dough. 155 jobs have been created" . In general, Gomel region has formed an investment portfolio of 103 projects of the initiative "One district - one project", which are expected to open two and a half thousand jobs.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> Production of robotic complexes established in Brest [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/proizvodstvo-robototekhnicheskikh-kompleksov-naladili-v-breste-691079-2025/>

<sup>12</sup> In Gomel region 25 projects of the initiative "One district - one project" have already been realized [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/v-gomelskoj-oblasti-uzhe-realizovano-25-proektov-initsiativy-odin-rajon-odin-proekt-684936-2024/>

And in **Grodno** region the production of glass containers using innovative energy-efficient and resource-saving technologies has been mastered at the **Grodno glass factory**, where "more than 100 jobs have been created" . In <sup>13</sup>**Svisloch** district, a new woodworking plant plans to produce more than 250 thousand cubic meters of sawn timber using waste-free technology.

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

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<sup>13</sup> Chebotar: in half of the country's districts at least 2 investment projects are realized [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/v-polovine-rajonov-strany-realizujutsja-minimum-po-dva-investproekta-initsiativy-odin-rajon-odin-proekt-687331-2025/>

"One district - one project" has already been launched in November 2024, which implies the introduction of a new laminating line<sup>14</sup> of particleboards of own production. And another one is planned, providing for the appearance of a new production of these boards.

As for the prospects of the "One District - One Project" initiative as a whole, 123 more projects are planned to be implemented in Belarus by the end of 2025. It is expected that new production facilities will appear in the regions or existing ones will be modernized with the expansion and production of new types of products. In November 2024, the Ministry of Economy of Belarus and stakeholders developed proposals to clarify the criteria for inclusion of projects in this list and its adjustment. Taking into account the specifics of the districts, commercial facilities of transportation and logistics infrastructure, tourism and recreation, and medical services will be created. As a result of the realization of each project "at least five new jobs should be created or at least five additional people should be employed" . It is planned that the list will eventually include 217 projects with investments worth more than eight billion Belarusian rubles and will create more than 10.5 thousand jobs. We would like to emphasize once again that all these projects "are aimed at liberating local initiative in the regions. This is the most important element of further development of each Belarusian district, which is involved in the implementation of the initiative "One District - One Project"<sup>15</sup> . At the same time, this program will be supplemented and constantly expanded during 2025. And there is every

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<sup>14</sup> Three investment projects are realized in woodworking under the initiative "One district - one project" [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/tri-investproekta-realizujut-v-derevoobrabotke-po-initsiative-odin-rajon-odin-proekt-692735-2025/>

<sup>15</sup> Chebotar: the implementation of the initiative "One district - one project" should be under constant control [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/chebotar-hod-realizatsii-initsiativy-odin-rajon-odin-proekt-dolzhen-byt-na-postojannom-kontrole-678321-2024/>

reason to believe that it can indeed be<sup>16</sup> scaled throughout the country into a "Regional Initiative". After all, this would be in keeping with its spirit.

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<sup>16</sup> Zalessky, B. From programs to concrete projects. Features of positive trends in the economy of Belarus / Boris Zalessky. - LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2024. - C. 11.



## New development tool industries and large enterprises

In 2024, Belarus produced import-substituting products worth about thirty billion dollars. Belarusian enterprises sold most of these products for export. And in 2025, the Ministry of Economy of Belarus expects an even higher figure - "more than \$31 billion in equivalent" . It should be reminded that import substitution is an indispensable element of the development of Belarusian industries and regions, as it is aimed at increasing export potential, expanding the range and improving the quality of products, re-equipping enterprises, and reducing the import component in the cost of finished products.<sup>17</sup>

For example, in the **woodworking** and **pulp and paper industries** last year import substitution affected 52 commodity positions. In this list one could see chipboard and fiberboard, plywood, joinery, doors, paper and cardboard for corrugation, sacks, sack kraft paper, napkins and paper towels, wallpaper, packaging paper, different types of cardboard, pulp and other goods. In the one of the main priorities in replacing imported products is the introduction of new technologies and production of innovative products. In particular, in 2024 it launched a line for the production of laminated particleboards, the surface of which **concern "Bellesbumprom"** has a unique effect of naturalness and imitates natural wood cut, deep pores and other natural materials - concrete, fabric, marble, natural leather, as well as various textures and decorative elements with a variety of tactile and visual effects, synchronized decors. Products of this class have not been produced in Belarus before, and analogs were imported as a product of high price segment. By 2030, the concern plans to launch the production of

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<sup>17</sup> Belarus in 2024 produced import-substituting products worth about \$30 billion [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-v-2024-godu-vypustila-importozameschajuschej-produktsii-na-summu-okolo-30-mlrd-691877-2025/>

decorative laminates by high-pressure method. This type of plastic is used to create furniture, table tops, floor coverings, wall panels, doors, window sills. It is used in the automotive industry, car building and even shipbuilding. Such plastics are characterized by high mechanical strength and resistance to moisture, scratches, chemicals and ultraviolet radiation. The product is unique and has not been produced in our country so far. "In general, the output of innovative products at the enterprises of Bellesbumprom is growing. According to statistical data, in 2024 the share of shipped innovative products in the total volume amounted to 18.4% with the target of 12.5%" .<sup>18</sup>

Another example of an enterprise from this industry. OJSC "Mozyr Woodworking Plant" currently produces blown-in coniferous substrate insulation and thermal insulation boards made of natural wood fiber, which are import-substituting. "The thermal insulation boards production line annually produces more than 200,000 cubic meters of finished products, which are high quality, environmentally friendly and meet the requirements of international norms. In 2024, exports of the company's products increased by 25% compared to 2023" . And the geography of supplies numbers about 20 countries.<sup>19</sup>

At the end of last year assured that the work on supplying the domestic market with new types of import-substituting products will continue in 2025. Moreover, much has already been done in this direction. "In 2024, enterprises of the confectionery industry produced over 36 thousand tons of import-substituting products, having mastered 50 types of sweets - chocolate, candy, wafer, bars, halva, marmalade, **Belgospishcheprom ...**" . Previously mastered positions were imported

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<sup>18</sup> Psheniy, A. A quarter of the world loves our furniture and paper! How woodworking enterprises work today / A Psheniy // [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/interview/view/chetvert-mira-ljubit-nashi-mebel-i-bumagu-kak-rabotajut-segodnja-predpriyatija-derevoobrabotki-9567/>

<sup>19</sup> Stake on import substitution: enterprises of Gomel region increase wood processing [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/photonews/view/stavka-na-importozameschenie-predpriyatija-gomelschiny-naraschivajut-pererabotku-drevesiny-41260/>

exclusively from abroad. In 2025, the factory "Red Foodservice" in Bobruisk will continue to expand its halvic line, adding a new flavor - cocoa. The work with innovative sugar-free products, which are in demand among adherents of a healthy lifestyle, will also be promoted, as the factory will start producing more marmalade with reduced energy value. In the first quarter of this year, the factory is set to complete the installation of an automatic line for the production of dragees, which will significantly expand the product range. And there they will also produce an analogue of the famous dragee with milk and dark chocolate in a crispy colored glaze. Small candies will be different: with peanuts, explosive caramel and in yogurt shell. At<sup>20</sup> capacities of the factory "Krasny esudovik" in Slavgorod this year will continue production of import-substituting innovative product - jelly marmalade with all kinds of fillings and gelatinizers: on the basis of pectin, on gelatin, on modified starch, with collagen. The production of marmalade without added sugar will also be launched there. In 2025, the Slodych factory at its production site in the town of Ivenets will diversify the assortment of caramel by adding the original flavor "elderberry-lemon" and will start producing jelly candies with juice and candy sweets with sour coating.

The situation in foreign markets has given a strong impetus to the development of the Belarusian as well **light industry** , stimulating active import substitution, localization of production facilities and improvement of industrial infrastructure. For this purpose, enterprises are being modernized and automated, with an emphasis on robotization of processes, modern technologies are being introduced, and the range of products is being expanded. In particular, we are talking about the Baranovichy Cotton Production Association, where in 2024 the first

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<sup>20</sup> Vasilevskaya, V. Dubai-style candies, marshmallows with Irish cream. What is in the top of sweet novelties? / V. Vasilevskaya // [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/konfety-po-dubajski-zefir-s-irlandskim-kremom-cto-v-tope-sladkih-novinok-693017-2025/>

automated line for sewing bed linen in the country was installed, "and the Belvest shoe factory introduced robotic complexes that perform leather cutting" . Or another example. Thus, for 2025-2027 Zhlobin sewing factory planned the implementation of the project "Modernization of production with the development of a new type of product "baseball cap", for which this product is innovative and import-substituting. "Due to the launch of the new product when<sup>21</sup> reaches its design capacity it plans to increase the production of import-substituting products by \$270 thousand" .<sup>22</sup>

In in **Vitebsk** region 2024, import-substituting products were produced by more than 80 enterprises, including 53 small and medium-sized businesses. In particular, the production of goods under this program was carried out by: "Prodexim" Ltd. and "Ivasi-Plus" UE - salted and smoked fish, fish preserves; confectionery factory "Vitba" - wafer products and biscuit rolls; "Gluboksky MCC" - canned milk and cheese; "Savushkin-Orsha" - several kinds of cheese - several types of cheese. "Other import-substituting products include canned meat for baby food from Orsha Meat Canning Plant, semi-finished poultry meat from Vitebsk Broiler Poultry Factory, clothes for children - "Belle-Bimbo Plus" and footwear production - "Managing Company of Holding "Belarusian Leather and Footwear Company "Marko", as well as "Krasny Oktyabr"" .<sup>23</sup>

Vitstroitehmash PUE has also long thought about the creation of import-substituting equipment. Now they are much more actively engaged in this business, as they already have the necessary equipment

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<sup>21</sup> Bamboo fiber began to be introduced at the enterprises of the Belarusian light industry [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/bambukovoe-volokno-nachali-vnedriat-na-predpriyatijah-belorusskogo-legproma-692285-2025/>

<sup>22</sup> Fashionable baseball caps will start to be produced at Zhlobin sewing factory [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/modnye-bejsbolki-nachnut-vypuskat-na-zhlobinskoj-shveinoj-fabrike-691713-2025/>

<sup>23</sup> Organizations of Vitebsk region began to produce more import-substituting products [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/organizatsii-vitebskoj-oblasti-stali-vypuskat-bolshe-importozameschajuschej-produktsii-659597-2024/>

and production facilities. Two years ago, the company built a separate shop for the assembly of car elevators. And it already has its own unique developments. "Vitebsk produces a 56-meter high elevator, which has no analogues in Belarus and in the CIS countries. This equipment is indispensable for power engineers when carrying out high-rise repair works" . Vitstroytekh mash also produces the proven crane-manipulator units Dvina and truck cranes under the brand Vizit. Last year at one of the international exhibitions the company presented these units and a new product - a telescopic hoist for 36 meters, which immediately found a customer. One more novelty has recently been released - these are hoists that will be used to return streetcar cars that have fallen off the rails back to their place.<sup>24</sup>

In 2024, also increased production of import-substituting products **Brest** voblast - by 5.5 percent. It should be noted that in 2023 the output of these products in the region provided "the volume at the level of \$980 million with an increase of more than 10% to the previous year" . In itself, <sup>25</sup>**Brest** last year, within the framework of the import substitution program, the enterprise "Brestmash" "mastered the production of silicone spigots. "Anrex", which used to produce cabinet furniture, created a workshop for the production of upholstered furniture" . The Brest site of the meat processing plant is being reconstructed, modernization of the production facilities of the group "Hephaestus" and expansion of the capacities of "AgroPischeProm" continue.<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>24</sup> Pushnyakova, A. Always on the rise. What heights conquers automobile equipment from "Vitstroytekh mash" / A. Pushnyakova // [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/vsegda-na-podjeme-kakie-vysoty-pokorjaet-avtotekhnika-ot-vitstroitehmasha-688280-2025/>

<sup>25</sup> Brest region enterprises in 2023 increased the output of import-substituting products [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/predpriiatiia-breŭstskoj-oblasti-v-2023-godu-narastili-objemy-vypuska-importozameschajuschej-produktsii-607604-2023/>

<sup>26</sup> Production, construction, transportation. Lobodinsky told about the development of Brest in 2024 [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/proizvodstvo-stroitelstvo-transport-lobodinskij-rasskazal-o-razvitii-breŭsta-v-2024-godu-686514-2025/>

In the in **Minsk** region 2024 the Mountain Wax Plant from Pukhovichi district in the direction of "import substitution" continued cooperation within the framework of road maps signed with domestic enterprises of the system of the Ministry of industry and State Production Association "Belenergo". The results of the implementation of this program over the past year revealed positive dynamics in increasing the company's market share in the country. Thus, "the growth rate of the plant's production of import-substituting products in 2024 in relation to 2023 amounted to more than 115%. Now the enterprise faces no less ambitious tasks to work with domestic manufacturers" . In 2025, about a third of all the enterprise's products will be innovative. Its list includes new types of products developed and put into production - transformer oil, wax emulsion, candles for garden heating, as well as products with improved properties.<sup>27</sup>

In 2025 and in **Mogilev** region the implementation of import-substituting production projects will become the basis for the development of new production facilities and large enterprises. In particular, "the plans include creation of bleached chemical-technological mass production, reconstruction of the mothballed capital structure for a specialized building for production of construction materials with engineering and transport infrastructure" . The same list includes investment projects implemented by large republican enterprises: OJSC "Mogilevliftmash" - high-tech production of a new series of electric motors; OJSC "Belshina" - production of all-metal cord tires of radial design; OJSC "Olsa" - production of import-substituting

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<sup>27</sup> "In 2025, about a third of products will be innovative". Mountain wax plant develops Asian markets [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/v-2025-godu-okolo-treti-produktsii-budet-innovatsionnoj-zavod-gornogo-voska-osvaivaet-aziatskie-rvunki-690670-2025/>

products with<sup>28</sup> implementation of technology for manufacturing electric-welded pipes and metalworking.

Let us summarize the results. Let us remind you that import substitution is one of the key priorities of Belarus' development in the near future. "Back in December 2021, the Belarusian government defined strategic directions of work and worked out specific tasks in this direction" . And today this <sup>29</sup>policy in Belarus is developing quite successfully. At the same time, import-substituting products are in demand not only in our country, but also have a good export potential. In addition, they use local raw materials and actively involve scientific research in their production.

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<sup>28</sup> New productions and jobs. What import-substituting projects will appear in Mogilev region [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/novye-proizvodstva-i-rabochie-mesta-kakie-importozameschajuschie-proekty-pojavjatsja-v-mogilevskoj-685474-2024/>

<sup>29</sup> Zalessky, B. The space of cooperation. Chronicle of economic interaction of the Republic of Belarus with the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States / Boris Zalessky. - Palmarium Academic Publishing, 2024. - C. 189.

## A year of breakthrough solutions

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

In March 2024, an official visit of a Belarusian delegation led by the head of the Foreign Ministry to Mongolia took place, during which an agreement was reached to bring the relations between Minsk and Ulaanbaatar to a higher level in order to intensify the whole range of contacts between the parties at the level of industries, economic entities, and business circles. In fact, it was said that "a new stage is beginning in the relations between Belarus and Mongolia" . In this regard, the two countries planned to develop a roadmap for cooperation<sup>30</sup> until 2026, where among the projects will be prescribed supplies of Belarusian agricultural machinery and equipment, municipal and road repair machines, emergency response equipment, elevator equipment, quarry equipment, a full cycle of creating high-class and highly efficient

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<sup>30</sup> Aleinik: a new stage begins in the relations between Belarus and Mongolia [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/politics/view/aleinik-v-otnoshenijah-belarusi-i-mongolii-nachinaetsja-novyi-etap-621446-2024/>



agricultural production complexes specially adapted to the needs and requirements of Mongolian customers. The fact is that "Mongolia is actively developing, so there is a growing interest of Mongolian consumers in goods, including high-efficiency machinery and foodstuffs" . In this context, the parties have already discussed the possibility of opening specialized trading platforms both in Minsk and Ulaanbaatar.<sup>31</sup>

But the most urgent issue for this East Asian country is the development of the agro-industrial sector, as they intend to modernize a lot of things in agriculture, especially in the livestock industry, so that it goes from extensive nomadic to intensive state, as well as to create joint production of agricultural machinery for the subsequent equipping of Mongolian farms. During the visit it was noted that the sectoral ministries of the parties "have prepared a road map for the development of cooperation in agriculture, there are prescribed projects and steps for their implementation. These include construction of new and modernization of existing full-cycle dairy farms, supplies of cattle of Belarusian selection, veterinary drugs, seeds, specialized equipment, training and upgrading qualifications of Mongolian specialists and, of course, supplies of agricultural machinery" .<sup>32</sup>

There are already several production facilities in Mongolia that cooperate with Belarus. For example, the plant for the production of dairy, carbonated and alcoholic beverages APU , which uses milk powder from Belarus to produce dairy products and Belarusian malt for beer production. In March 2024, Minsk Tractor Plant signed a roadmap with the Ministry of Agriculture and Light Industry of Mongolia to organize

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<sup>31</sup> Belarus and Mongolia will develop a road map of cooperation until 2026 [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/amp/politics/view/belarus-i-mongolija-razrabotajut-dorozhnyju-kartu-sotrudnichestva-do-2026-goda-621451-2024>

<sup>32</sup> What are Belarus and Mongolia ready to offer each other? Details of Aleinik's talks in the government [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/politics/view/chto-belarus-i-mongolija-gotovv-predlozhit-drug-drugu-podrobnosti-peregovorov-alejnika-v-pravitelstve-621640-2024/>

supplies of tractors with a capacity of 80-350 horsepower and ploughs, which reflects the plan of supplies for 2024-2025 with the prospect of cooperation until 2027. In March, the Belarusian side held talks with the Mongolian state-owned Agricultural Corporation to supply pedigree cattle, milking equipment, and build dairy production facilities for the needs of Mongolian farmers.

In addition, as part of this topic, following the meetings in March 2024 in Ulan Bator, the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange (BUTB) planned to diversify its commodity structure and increase the volume of exchange deliveries of Belarusian agro-industrial products to the Mongolian market. All the more so because "in September 2023, the first Mongolian stockbroker - United Meres Machinery Company, which has been working on the quite a long time Belarusian market for ..." . And the first transaction involving a resident from Mongolia was concluded in January 2024. But so far only products of Belarusian sugar mills have been supplied to the Mongolian market. Almost one and a half thousand tons of this product were sold for a total of more than \$770 thousand. The work in this direction will be continued in the near future. Besides, "Mongolia is interested in importing Belarusian milk powder and butter. An agreement on cooperation on these commodity items has already been reached with four potential buyers - large food industry enterprises"<sup>33</sup> .<sup>34</sup>

A separate topic is the interaction between Belarus and Mongolia in the sphere of emergency response. It is known that "thanks to the work of Belarusian equipment more than 13 thousand people have already been rescued and property damage worth over \$20 million has

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<sup>33</sup> Zalessky, B. Ideology of pragmatism. Features of partnership in the Belarusian economy: internal and external segments / Boris Zalessky. - LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2024. - C. 146.

<sup>34</sup> BUTB plans to increase exports of agricultural products to Mongolia [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/butb-planiruet-velichit-eksport-belorusskoj-selhozproduktov-v-mongoliju-622030-2024/>

been prevented" . The parties discussed several areas of prospective cooperation in this area. First, the Mongolian partners are interested in purchasing special fire-fighting equipment of Pozhsnab LLC on the basis of MAZ chassis, as well as other equipment and special clothing. The parties were preparing to sign a new contract. We are talking about the delivery of more than 100 units of Belarusian fire-fighting equipment. Second, there is great interest in continuing training programs for Mongolian specialists on the basis of specialized institutions of Belarus.<sup>35</sup>

Among other promising areas of Belarusian-Mongolian interaction in Ulaanbaatar were discussed: cooperation in the mining industry; modernization of elevator infrastructure in residential buildings. In addition, "emphasis was placed on the supply of municipal and passenger vehicles for the needs of Ulaanbaatar. Also, the Mongolian side was offered the possibilities of the Belarusian side to supply rolling stock for the subway" . In the humanitarian field, Minsk and Ulaanbaatar outlined projects "in the light of the large-scale state programs that are currently being implemented in Mongolia. Including the Billion Tree Program, which requires special training of forestry workers"<sup>36</sup> . In short, the parties agreed, expanding the legal framework of relations between Belarus and Mongolia, to speed up the work to sign about ten bilateral documents - in agriculture, education, inter-university cooperation, emergency response, between law enforcement agencies and scientific institutions of the two countries.<sup>37</sup>

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<sup>35</sup> How Belarusian machinery helps to save people in Mongolia and where our milk powder is used. New details about Aleinik's visit [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/politics/view/kak-belorusskaja-tehnika-pomogaet-spasat-ljudej-v-mongolii-i-gde-ispolzujuť-nashe-suhoe-moloko-novve-621781-2024/>

<sup>36</sup> Belarus plans to supply municipal and passenger vehicles to Mongolia [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-planiruet-postavljat-v-mongoliju-kommunalnuju-i-passazhirskuju-tehniku-621673-2024/>

<sup>37</sup> Transcript of the approach to the press of Minister S. Aleinik within the framework of the official visit to Mongolia (March 15, 2024, Ulan Bator) [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: [https://mfa.gov.by/press/news\\_mfa/b1f3b3594a37a807.html](https://mfa.gov.by/press/news_mfa/b1f3b3594a37a807.html)

In June 2024, the Presidents of the two countries signed the in Ulaanbaatar as part of the state visit of the Belarusian delegation. **Treaty on Friendly Relations and Cooperation between the Republic of Belarus and Mongolia** At the same time, the parties considered in detail the whole range of bilateral relations and concluded 14 different documents on the development of interaction in various areas, one of which was **roadmap of cooperation between Belarus and Mongolia until 2026**. In addition, a memorandum of cooperation between the State Secretariat of the Security Council of Belarus and the Apparatus of the National Security Council of Mongolia; intergovernmental agreements on mutual recognition and exchange of driving licenses and mutual recognition of education documents were adopted. more were also signed **Two roadmaps of cooperation** : the first one - **in the field of education** at the level of specialized ministries for 2024-2026; the second one - **in the field of agro-industrial complex** for the same three-year period. Finally, "an agreement on scientific and technical cooperation was concluded between the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the Ministry of Education and Science of Mongolia, and an agreement on scientific and technical cooperation was signed with the Mongolian Academy of Sciences. A number of other memorandums were signed. They concern cooperation in the spheres of justice, tourism, environmental protection, prevention and elimination of emergency situations, protection of industrial property" .<sup>38</sup>

Speaking about the **roadmap of cooperation between the two countries**, we note that "it contains more than 50 measures and projects in 16 sectors and areas of activity" . To implement it, in Ulan Bator, the Belarusian Ministry of Industry and the Mongolian Ministry of Food,

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<sup>38</sup> Presidents of Belarus and Mongolia signed a treaty on friendship and cooperation between the two countries [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/president/view/prezidenty-belarusi-i-mongolii-podpisali-dogovor-o-druzhbe-i-sotrudnichestve-dvuh-stran-638585-2024/>

Agriculture and Light Industry adopted an action plan for the realization of the economic part of the map, which defined the directions<sup>39</sup> of trade and economic interaction - the main area of mutual interest of the two countries. "The purpose of the document is to systematize Belarusian-Mongolian agreements on promising economic projects in one document and give impetus to their implementation in 2024 and beyond" . In particular, it envisages cooperation on the supply of Belarusian machinery in various areas, as well as other Belarusian and Mongolian products - foodstuffs, light industry goods, pharmaceuticals, and medical equipment. There are also plans to export Belarusian machinery for the Mongolian mining industry, agricultural machinery and equipment, and machinery for emergency response. The sides also discussed the establishment of joint assembly plants in Mongolia, including tractors, cars, elevators, and dump trucks.<sup>40</sup>

Speaking about the **roadmap for cooperation in the agro-industrial complex**, we have already pointed out above that now the most urgent task for this East Asian country is the development of the agro-industrial sector. "First of all, Mongolia plans to modernize the livestock industry. And this requires equipment, new farms and complexes" . For this purpose, the parties plan to create a joint production of agricultural machinery for the subsequent equipping of Mongolian farms. Recall that back in January 2024 at the 7-<sup>41</sup> m meeting of the IGC it was noted that Belarus will open a specialized center in

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<sup>39</sup> The head of the Belarusian Foreign Ministry estimates the effect of Lukashenko's visit to Mongolia in tens of millions of dollars [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/politics/view/glava-mid-belarusi-otsenivaet-effekt-ot-vizita-lukashenko-v-mongoliju-v-desjati-milijonov-dollarov-639780-2024/>

<sup>40</sup> Rogozhnik and Bolorchuluun signed an action plan for the implementation of the economic part of the roadmap [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/rogozhnik-i-bolorchuluun-podpisali-plan-meroprijatij-po-realizatsii-ekonomicheskoi-chasti-dorozhnoi-638692-2024/>

<sup>41</sup> Gorelik, D. Distant but close? Why Lukashenko is flying to Mongolia and what prospects are opening between the countries / D. Gorelik // [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/interview/view/dalekaja-no-blizkaja-zachem-lukashenko-letit-v-mongoliju-i-kakie-perspektivy-otkryvajutsja-mezhdu-stranami-9239/>

Mongolia. "It will be an assembly of agricultural machinery, a multi-brand center in Mongolia, where all machinery and all technology will be presented, from sowing to harvesting crops. It's a wide range of cooperation. This includes seed production, livestock breeding, light industry, quarry equipment" . The second direction is meat and dairy. A cattle-breeding farm based on Belarusian technologies is planned to be built in Mongolia. It is designed for 600 cattle of loose housing. The third area is veterinary drugs. There is potential for cooperation in this area through Belvitunifarm, which produces a wide range of vaccines and drugs.<sup>42</sup>

Speaking about the **roadmap for cooperation in education**, it should be noted that direct interaction between higher education institutions of Belarus and Mongolia is currently realized within the framework of 12 inter-university agreements. In June, an agreement between the governments of the two countries on mutual recognition of educational documents was adopted. In addition, "Hrodna State University named after Yanka Kupala and the Mongolian University of Science and Technology signed an agreement on cooperation. Both universities intend to create a working group and develop a roadmap" .<sup>43</sup>

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

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<sup>42</sup> Belarus plans to open a multi-brand center in Mongolia and help in building a farm [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/belarus-planiruet-otkrvt-v-mongolii-multibrendovyi-tsentr-i-pomoch-v-stroitelstve-fermy-638351-2024/>

<sup>43</sup> Educational departments of Belarus and Mongolia intensify personnel training for pedagogy and science [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/obrazovatelnye-vedomstva-belarusi-i-mongolii-aktivizirujut-podgotovku-kadrov-dlja-pedagogiki-i-nauki-638522-2024/>

scientific work to the contest of the Belarusian Republican Fund for Fundamental Research and the Mongolian Fund of Science and Technology. And I.P. Shamyakin Moscow State Pedagogical University together with the Mongolian Academy of Sciences are developing a project in the field of agronomy. Other universities - the Belarusian State Agrarian Technical University (BSATU), the Pushkin Brest State University, and the Masherov Vitebsk State University - are also interested in cooperating with Mongolian partners in such areas as information and computer technologies, physics and radiophysics, chemistry and chemical technologies, ecology, biotechnology, medicine, pharmacy, agro-industrial and food technologies, and social sciences and humanities. "In March of this [2024] year, a group of managers and specialists of one of the farms in Mongolia under the advanced training program "Innovative technologies in animal husbandry and fodder production" was trained at BGATU". We would like to add that the signed road <sup>44</sup>map includes an item on the development of academic mobility of students and teachers. Thus, Belarusian educational institutions are ready to organize training at the preparatory department for foreign students in English or Russian. The distance format is possible with the course of the program for eight to ten months. At the same time, professional staff will be trained for specific enterprises.

During the state visit of the Belarusian delegation to Ulaanbaatar in June 2024, Belarus and Mongolia agreed to intensify cooperation in the **environmental sphere** in such areas as green economy, maximizing the use of waste through its involvement in economic turnover, preservation of landscape and biological diversity, and mineral exploration and mining. Earlier, in the interests of the Mongolian side

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<sup>44</sup> Belarus and Mongolia signed an agreement on mutual recognition of documents on education [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-mongolija-podpisali-soglashenie-o-vzaimnom-priznanii-dokumentov-ob-obrazovanii-638719-2024/>

under the contract with the Belarusian Republican Foundation for Fundamental Research, a research work was carried out on the topic "Humic preparations on the basis of peat, coal for green arrangement of desert territories, environmental protection". "The purpose of the work was to theoretically and experimentally substantiate the composition of humic preparations as natural compounds for green arrangement of desert territories of Mongolia". In June, the Belarusian side handed over to the Mongolian partners a report containing the theoretical results of the work, including a preliminary assortment of woody plants resistant to moisture deficit, soil salinity and other unfavorable soil and climatic conditions,<sup>45</sup> approximating the conditions of Mongolia. And proposed to continue the work in this direction to test the developed assortment of salt- and drought-tolerant plants directly in specific natural-climatic conditions of the regions of this East Asian country.

In this context, it should be added that back in March last year, the State Committee for Science and Technology of Belarus and the Ministry of Education and Science of Mongolia announced a **contest of joint scientific and technical projects for 2024-2025**, which will be held "in the priority areas of Belarusian-Mongolian cooperation: agriculture, agricultural and forestry machinery and equipment, intensive livestock breeding, reforestation and breeding, plant breeding, history and archaeology". So the scientific and technical ties between the two countries will get an additional impetus for cooperation.<sup>46</sup>

Returning to the state visit of the Belarusian delegation to Ulaanbaatar in June 2024, we note that a was held on its margins **joint Mongolian-Belarusian business forum** to discuss the prospects for

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<sup>45</sup> Belarus and Mongolia are interested to cooperate in the environmental sphere [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-mongolija-zainteresovany-sotrudnicat-v-prirodoohrannojsfere-638714-2024/>

<sup>46</sup> The contest of Belarusian-Mongolian scientific and technical projects for 2024-2025 has been announced [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/objjavlen-konkurs-belorussko-mongolskih-nauchno-tehnicheskikh-proektov-na-2024-2025-godv-623638-2024/>



cooperation between the business communities of the two countries. Forty enterprises of Belarus were represented at the forum, where 13 commercial documents were "signed. The total amount is \$20 million. <...> For comparison: the entire trade turnover between Belarus and Mongolia in 2023 amounted to about \$30 million" . This package of commercial<sup>47</sup> contracts and agreements included proposals, including those of Belarusian industrial enterprises. In particular, "a memorandum of intentions between BELAZ OJSC, its representative in the region - United Meres Machinery LLC and Ovoot Tolgoi Resources, and a memorandum of cooperation between Mogilevliftmash OJSC and the Mongolian elevator organization Best Fashion Elevators LLS were signed. " <sup>48</sup>Also a memorandum of cooperation was signed by JSC "UKH "BobruiskAgromash" and Mongolian KOGS "Agricultural Corporation", as the main interest for the market of this East Asian country are machines for fodder preparation. And "since 2021 more than 250 units of Bobruiskagromash forage harvesting agricultural machinery have been shipped to Mongolia" . In the same package there was an agreement to sign a contract for approximately 14.5 million euros for the supply of fire and rescue equipment. The fact is that the Mongolian partners received "about 12 million euros worth of Belarusian equipment in 2020. And it is successfully used here, and in difficult conditions"<sup>49</sup> <sup>50</sup>.

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<sup>47</sup> Mongolian-Belarusian business forum has already brought about \$20 million to the piggy bank of bilateral relations [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/mongolo-belorusskij-biznes-forum-uzhe-prines-okolo-20-mln-v-kopilku-dvustoronnih-otnoshenij-638654-2024/>

<sup>48</sup> Export potential of the enterprises of the Ministry of Industry presented at the Belarusian-Mongolian business forum [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/eksportnyj-potentsial-predpriyatij-minproma-prezentovana-belorussko-mongolskom-biznes-forume-638695-2024/>

<sup>49</sup> "Bobruiskagromash" is working out deliveries to Zimbabwe and Mongolia [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/bobrujskagromash-prorabatvvaet-postavki-v-zimbabve-i-mongoliju-640079-2024/>

<sup>50</sup> Rogozhnik about Belarusian equipment in Mongolia: our advantage in reliability [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/rogozhnik-o-belorusskoj-tehnike-v-mongolii-nashe-preimushchestvo-v-nadezhnosti-638625-2024/>

It should be said that after the visit of the Belarusian delegation to the Mongolian capital, Belarus and Mongolia promptly started to implement the agreements in a wide range of areas. Already in September 2024, the parties "agreed to supply Belarusian machinery and equipment for industry, agriculture, machinery for emergency response", and also discussed the purchase of special machinery from Belarus for fire and disaster response. In the same September, the exposition of Belarusian manufacturers <sup>51</sup>**Made in Belarus** was presented at the international multi-sectoral exhibition **Ulaanbaatar Partnership 2024** held in Ulaanbaatar.

This exhibition forum covered a wide range of thematic sections - from the food sector to healthcare, construction and heavy industry. And Belarus is among the main traditional participants of this exhibition. This time MAZ OJSC presented a production line of cargo, passenger, special and trailer vehicles. "As part of the Made in Belarus exposition, one of the world market leaders in the production of agricultural machinery - OJSC "Gomselmash", presenting developments and machinery, including combine harvesters GS12A1, GS400 and G5, self-propelled mowers CS100, CS200". BKM Holding showed a scale model of trolleybus model 32100D of Olgerd series with increased autonomous travel up to twenty kilometers. The sphere of design and production of professional machines, equipment for catering and trade facilities, food industry was presented by the specialized enterprise - JSC "Torgmash". Among the exhibits of Beltopgaz, peat products for non-fuel purposes were demonstrated: top peat of various fractions, peat<sup>52</sup> nutrient soils and covering material for growing champignons based on peat. During the

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<sup>51</sup> Development Bank: ready to offer comfortable conditions for financing supplies from Belarus to Mongolia [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/bank-razvitija-gotovj-predlagat-komfortnye-uslovija-finansirovanija-postavok-iz-belarusi-v-mongoliju-662879-2024/>

<sup>52</sup> Made in Belarus exposition is presented at the multidisciplinary exhibition in Mongolia [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/ekspozitsija-made-in-belarus-predstavlena-na-mnogootraslevoj-vystavke-v-mongolii-664105-2024/>

exhibition, Belarusian participants held effective business meetings and negotiations with representatives of major trading companies of Mongolia, during which new projects of trade and economic cooperation were outlined.

All these facts show that "2024 has become a turning point in the development of Belarusian-Mongolian ties" . Having signed an agreement on friendly relations and cooperation in June last year, Belarus and Mongolia are reaching a higher and qualitatively new level of bilateral relations, which opens up promising opportunities to create more favorable conditions for the development of trade, economic and cooperation projects.<sup>53</sup>

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<sup>53</sup> Grishkevich. A. Mongolian cashmere and Belarusian milk. The Ambassador of Mongolia told about the exchange of goods and ties with Belarus / A. Grishkevich // [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/intervju-mongolskij-kashemir-i-belorusskoe-moloko-posol-mongolii-rasskazal-pro-obmen-tovarami-i-688751-2025/>

## Comprehensive cooperation deepens ties

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

The parties intend to develop as one of the priority areas **production cooperation**. In particular, the Belarusian side plans to organize two assembly plants for tractors on Pakistani soil. "It will be a model range up to 60 hp and over 100 hp, which are in high demand in the Pakistani market,". Note that in 2025, Minsk Tractor Plant (MTZ) will supply at least 2.7 thousand machines up to 60 horsepower. And "the growth rate of exports of tractors <sup>54</sup>BELARUS for the first nine months of 2024 amounted to 107.9% compared to the same period last year [2023]" . In addition, in November, MTZ signed a memorandum of cooperation with Pakistani companies <sup>55</sup>Green Corporate Initiative Limited and Heavy Industries Taxila, which defines specific terms and an algorithm of actions to implement the project of assembly production of more powerful Belarusian machines. After all, "tractors over 100 hp have not been supplied to Pakistan on a permanent basis before. And the

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<sup>54</sup> Not only tractors. What assembly plants of Belarus may appear in Pakistan? [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/ne-tolko-traktory-kakie-sborochnye-proizvodstva-belarusi-mogut-pojavitsja-v-pakistane-678297-2024/>

<sup>55</sup> MTZ will supply to Pakistan at least 2.7 thousand tractors BELARUS in 2025 [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/mtz-postavit-v-pakistan-ne-menee-27-tys-traktorov-belarus-v-2025-godu-679583-2024/>

organization of assembly production has long-term mutually beneficial prospects" .<sup>56</sup>

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

In terms of **transport cooperation**, Belarus and Pakistan are working on the organization of the so-called "seamless" cargo logistics. It is known that cargo deliveries from our republic to this South Asian country are quite complicated. And "now the parties are working so that the enterprises could reduce their costs of supplying goods to Pakistan and from Pakistan to Belarus" .<sup>57</sup> In November last year in Islamabad, an intergovernmental agreement on international road communication was signed, which defines the procedure for transportation. It is planned that the two countries will actually halve the period of cargo delivery. The calculation is this. "Yes, road transport is more expensive than sea transport, but at the same time it moves at a much higher speed, i.e.

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<sup>56</sup> Assembly production of tractors BELARUS is planned to be organized in Pakistan [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/sborochnoe-proizvodstvo-tractorov-belarus-planiruetsja-organizovat-v-pakistane-678120-2024/>

<sup>57</sup> Belarus and Pakistan are working on the creation of "seamless" freight logistics [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-pakistan-rabotajut-nad-sozdaniem-besshovnoj-gruzovoj-logistiki-677983-2024/>

actually half as fast as sea transport. In the future, Belarus and Pakistan would also like to establish a railroad connection: in this case logistics will become more profitable".<sup>58</sup>

Returning to the Belarusian-Pakistani documents signed in November 2024, there are two more important agreements: on scientific and technical cooperation - between the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) of Belarus and the Pakistan Academy of Sciences; on cooperation in science and technology - between the NAS and the Pakistan Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. And already in January 2025, a competition of joint Belarusian-Pakistani scientific and technological projects for 2025-2027 was announced, which "will be held in the following areas: new materials, nano- and biotechnologies, renewable energy sources, industrial chemistry, mining, smart agriculture and precision farming, information and communication technologies, medicine and pharmaceuticals, food security, water management, environmental protection". This will be a concrete step towards deepening the science and technology ties between Belarus and Pakistan.<sup>59</sup>

Another topic related to the visit of the Belarusian delegation to Islamabad in November 2024 was the **business forum between Belarus and Pakistan**, which was attended by more than 40 representatives of domestic enterprises representing such areas of cooperation as machine building, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, veterinary drugs, and light industry. An interesting fact was noted at this forum. In 2023, Belarusian exports to Pakistan increased two and a half times. In the first half of 2024, it is plus 13 percent or more than \$17 million. "The total trade

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<sup>58</sup> Belarus and Pakistan will halve the time of cargo delivery [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-pakistan-vdvoe-sokratjat-srok-dostavki-gruzov-678276-2024/>

<sup>59</sup> The contest of Belarusian-Pakistani scientific and technical projects for 2025-2027 has been announced [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/objjavlen-konkurs-belorussko-pakistanskikh-nauchno-tehnicheskikh-proektov-na-2025-2027-godv-689099-2025/>

turnover between the countries amounted to almost \$50 million in 2023". And here is the result of this forum: eight documents totaling more than \$17 million were signed.<sup>60</sup>

Among those signed was a distribution agreement on cooperation for five years between Bellakt Open Joint Stock Company and Nutrifood & Pharmaceuticals. Beltsvetmet OJSC and the logistics company Raas International Trading signed a contract for the supply of white tinplate for 2025. In the industrial sector the following documents were signed: a memorandum of intentions between Belshina and Shahzad Trade Links to sell Belshina products on the Pakistani market; a cooperation agreement between Minsk Motor Plant and the same Pakistani company to supply Belarusian products in 2025. In the field of medicine, Belmedpreparaty RUE signed a memorandum of cooperation with Bio Medical System in the field of registration and supply of medicines. Business contacts have also been established in the field of veterinary drugs supply - Belvitunifarm OJSC and Mustafa Brothers signed a relevant contract".<sup>61</sup>

Within the framework of this forum, Pakistani business associations saw a significant potential for the development of electronic exchange trade with Belarus in order to use the full range of opportunities of the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange (BUTE) to conclude import-export deals, establish new business contacts and obtain up-to-date price and marketing information. At the same time, "the products of the timber industry of Belarus are of the greatest interest to Pakistani business circles. In this regard, it is planned to focus on

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<sup>60</sup> Belarusian enterprises reached agreements for \$17 million at the business forum in Pakistan [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/beloruskie-predpriyatija-na-biznes-forume-v-pakistane-dostigli-dogovorennostej-na-17-mln-677972-2024/>

<sup>61</sup> Industry and medicine. What the companies of Belarus and Pakistan agreed on at the forum in Islamabad [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/promyshlennost-i-meditsina-o-chem-dogovorilis-kompanii-belarusi-i-pakistana-na-forume-v-islamabade-678090-2024/>

attracting major Pakistani timber importers to BUTB in order to organize their regular participation in the exchange trading in sawn timber" .

<sup>62</sup>This work will be supported by the All Pakistan Timber Sellers Association, which has expressed its willingness to help inform industry representatives about the opportunities and benefits of the exchange mechanism. Similar arrangements have been made by BUTB with the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Pakistan Commodity Exchange. For statistical purposes, only two companies from Pakistan are currently accredited at the Belarusian Exchange. So the most important task at this stage is to increase the number of Pakistani traders. Already at this forum, several Pakistani companies trading in ferrous metal products through the BUTB, which participated in the same event in Islamabad, announced their intention to sell ferrous metal products through the BUTB.

To summarize, it should be added that "over the past nine years, the parties have already held seven meetings of the joint Belarusian-Pakistani commission on trade and economic cooperation" . In addition, there are already eight working groups between the countries, which develop cooperation on a wide range of interaction. All this should contribute to the expansion of trade and economic partnership and the implementation of a joint approach to regional economic integration.<sup>63</sup>

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<sup>62</sup> Pakistani business is ready to join the exchange trade with Belarus [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/pakistanskij-biznes-gotov-vkljuchatsja-v-birzhevuiu-torgovlju-s-belarusiju-678024-2024/>

<sup>63</sup> Zaleski, B. International Cooperation and Media. Part V. Collection of articles / Boris Zalessky. - LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2025. - C. 379.



## The dialog will be intensively expanded

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

<sup>64</sup>In particular, in November 2024, Minsk hosted the 11th meeting of the joint Belarusian-Serbian commission **for scientific and technical cooperation**, at which it was noted that from 2014 to 2024, 57 Belarusian-Serbian scientific and technical projects in technical, physical and mathematical, agrarian and biological, chemical, nanomaterials, material science and information technology areas were implemented, and at the end of the first 10 months of 2024, "exports of high-tech goods from Belarus to Serbia almost doubled, and their in the country's exports to Serbia increased by 1.5 times.share

Back in 2021, following the results of the 9th meeting of this commission, a contest of joint scientific and technical projects for 2022-2024 was agreed upon and then successfully conducted. As a result, "the implementation of 12 joint projects in such areas was finalized.as medicine, informatics, new materials and biotechnology" The parties identified information and communication technologies, artificial intelligence, biotechnology, energy, engineering and agriculture as priority areas of joint activities for 2025-2026. In this regard, a new competition for joint Belarusian-Serbian scientific and technical projects for the next two years was announced at the 11th meeting of the

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<sup>64</sup> Export of high-tech goods from Belarus to Serbia almost doubled [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/eksport-tovarov-vysokogo-tehnologicheskogo-urovnja-iz-belarusi-v-serbiju-vvros-pochti-vdvoe-676446-2024/>

commission. It will be held in "the following areas: artificial intelligence, information and communication and interdisciplinary technologies based on their application; biotechnology; energy, renewable energy sources, ecology and rational use of natural resources; mechanical engineering, engineering technologies, instrumentation and innovative materials; agriculture, agro-industrial and food technologies"<sup>65</sup> .<sup>66</sup>

As for cooperation in the **export of Belarusian food products** to the Serbian market, the volume of supplies from Belarus is growing steadily. Among the main export items: dairy products, including cheese, milk powder, animal oil, as well as yeast and fresh potatoes. "Over the past four years, the turnover of food and agricultural raw materials between Belarus and Serbia has tripled, including exports of domestic food products to Serbia the first 11 months of 2024 increased by 63.3% in " .<sup>67</sup> The parties believe that cooperation in the **agro-industrial sector** and food supplies should be intensified, including through the meeting of the Belarusian-Serbian **working group on cooperation** in this area. Recall that the **fifth** meeting of the industry group was held in Belgrade in December 2019. "At it, the parties, discussing the issues of veterinary and phytosanitary science, crop production and seed production, interaction between agrarian universities, agreed to work out possible options and prospects for cooperation between research organizations of the two countries, including in the field of breeding and seed production of alfalfa, sugar beet" . In January 2025, in order to intensify trade and economic ties and discuss topical issues of bilateral interaction, the

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<sup>65</sup> Belarus and Serbia finalize 12 joint projects in the spheres of medicine, informatics and biotechnology [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-serbija-zavershajut-12-sovmestnyh-proektov-v-sferah-medititsiny-informatiki-i-biotehnologij-654346-2024/>

<sup>66</sup> The contest of joint Belarusian-Serbian scientific and technical projects has been announced [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/objjavlen-konkurs-sovmestnyh-belorussko-serbskih-nauchno-tehnicheskikh-proektov-680253-2024/>

<sup>67</sup> Belarusian food exports to Serbia increased by 63% over 11 months last year [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://www.belarus.by/ru/business/business-news/eksport-belorusskogo-prodovolstvija-v-serbiju-za-11-mesjatsev-proshlogo-goda-vvros-na-63-i-183993.html>

Belarusian side proposed to consider the possibility of holding in the near future the next, <sup>68</sup>**sixth**, meeting of the sectoral group on cooperation in the agro-industrial sphere to develop partnerships in the field of crop production, increasing the volume of supplies of dairy products, as well as in **exchange** and **exhibition activities**.

It should be noted that in 2024, Belarus and Serbia intensified cooperation in **exchange trade**. In particular, "compared to 2023, the amount of transactions increased more than 37 times - mainly due to supplies of Belarusian dairy products to the Serbian market. Skimmed milk powder and whole milk powder were in the greatest demand. These items accounted for 64% of sales of Belarusian goods to Serbia" . In January 2025, the two countries expanded the commodity nomenclature of exchange trade. Two new positions - herbicides and seeds for sowing - appeared in the structure of the exchange turnover. Until then, Serbian companies have been acting on the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange (BUTB) exclusively as importers, buying Belarusian lumber, milk powder, butter and cheese through it. The plan is to increase the volume and diversify the structure of the Belarusian-Serbian exchange turnover, involving new commodity positions that are in demand in the markets of the two countries. For example, Serbia is interested in purchasing Belarusian meat and dairy products, rapeseed oil, feed additives, leather semi-finished products, and scrap metals. Belarus, in turn, is ready to import agricultural seeds, plant protection products, corn, polymers, technical oils, and non-ferrous metals from Serbia.<sup>69</sup>

For reference, it should be noted that "since the beginning of [2025] year, traders from Serbia have already concluded exchange transactions totaling \$1.6 million. The bill includes exports of Belarusian

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<sup>68</sup> Zalessky, B. Vector of development - cooperation. Collection of articles / Boris Zalessky. - LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2021. - C. 75.

<sup>69</sup> Belarus and Serbia expanded the commodity nomenclature of exchange trade [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-serbija-rasshirili-tovarnuju-nomenklaturu-birzhevoj-torgovli-687941-2025/>

dried milk, as well as supplies of beet seeds and herbicides to Belarus. By the way, last year the exchange trade turnover between Belarus and Serbia increased more than 37 times - from \$110 thousand in 2023 to \$4.1 million in 2024" . The partners intend to develop the exchange vector of cooperation by accrediting new trading participants from Serbia to the BUTB, and in the future - a stock broker, who will inform the Serbian business about the advantages of the exchange <sup>70</sup>trade and assist in concluding transactions. Also, with the support of the Serbian side, it is planned to establish partnership relations between BUTB and the Novi Sad Commodity Exchange, which will make it possible to join efforts to popularize exchange instruments among business entities of Belarus and Serbia.

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

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<sup>70</sup> Increase the volume and diversify the structure: Belarus and Serbia activate exchange trade [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/narastit-objem-i-raznoobrazit-strukturu-belarus-i-serbija-aktivizirujut-birzhevuiu-torgovlju-690582-2025/>

packaging, transportation and storage of food products, design and construction in the agricultural and food industries.<sup>71</sup>

Belarus presented scientific organizations, producers of petrochemical and industrial products at this exhibition. "Among the participants are the State Committee for Science and Technology (GU "Belarusian Institute of System Analysis and Information Support"), organizations of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, institutions of the Ministry of Education, as well as petrochemical enterprises "Grodno Azot", Mountain Wax Plant, "Belshina", "Lakokraska", "Mogilevkhimvolokno" . The open area displayed samples of agricultural machinery from the flagships of the Belarusian industry - Minsk Tractor Plant, Bobruiskagromash and Lidagroprommash. As part of this exhibition, Novi Sad hosted a Serbian-Belarusian business forum, where it was emphasized that the parties have "significant potential for intensifying bilateral cooperation in such areas as logistics, veterinary medicine, wholesale trade, science, food industry, meat and dairy production"<sup>72</sup> . In addition, an agreement on cooperation between the free economic zones Grodnoinvest and Novi Sad was signed at the forum. All this shows that the parties have a real interest and concrete proposals for the development of cooperation and realization of joint projects.<sup>73</sup>

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

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<sup>71</sup> Belarusian producers will take part in the largest agricultural exhibition in Serbia [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/beloruskie-proizvoditeli-primut-uchastie-v-krupnejšej-selskohozjajstvennoj-vvstavke-v-serbii-553678-2023/>

<sup>72</sup> The national exposition of Belarus is presented at the agricultural exhibition in Serbia [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/natsionalnaja-ekspozitsija-belarusi-predstavlena-na-selhozvvstavke-v-serbii-567630-2023/>

<sup>73</sup> Belarus and Serbia discussed the development of trade and economic cooperation [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-serbija-obsudili-razvitie-torgovo-ekonomicheskogo-sotrudnichestva-567510-2023/>

active cooperation between the two republics in a number of areas, in first of all in the economy, and "agreed to hold a meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission in the first half of 2025 " with the global goal of increasing trade turnover. In order to ensure a systematic approach to joint work, a road map will be developed, which Belarus and Serbia will sign during the meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation. And this document will become a reliable foundation for finding new niches of Belarusian-Serbian effective interaction.<sup>74</sup>

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<sup>74</sup> Dairy products, timber, transportation, tourism. Belarus and Serbia have identified points of growth in mutual trade [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/molochka-lesomaterialy-transport-turizm-belarus-i-serbija-opredelili-tochki-rosta-vo-vzaimnoj-torgovle-690546-2025/>

## Towards the first Forum of the Regions

**Kazakhstan** is a strategic partner of Belarus in Central Asia. In late May 2024, the 18th meeting of the Intergovernmental Belarus-Kazakhstan Commission (IGC) on Trade and Economic Cooperation in Minsk noted that the parties have all the necessary prerequisites and opportunities to significantly increase bilateral interaction aimed at intensifying joint work in various areas of partnership. For reference, it should be noted that "trade turnover between the two countries amounted to \$1.1 billion in 2023, including exports of Belarus - \$867 million. Our country supplies mainly tractors, machines and mechanisms for harvesting and threshing crops, cheese and cottage cheese, milk and cream, sausages and meat products, furniture, semi-finished products made of non-alloy steel". In addition, 55 enterprises with Kazakh capital are registered in Belarus, including 17 joint ventures and 38 foreign enterprises, while in Kazakhstan there are more than 170 subjects of the commodity distribution network of domestic enterprises. Cooperation projects on joint production of tractor, agricultural, automobile and trailer, fire and rescue equipment, as well as elevator equipment are being implemented.<sup>75</sup>

At the same 18th IGC meeting, the parties also agreed to intensify interregional ties, the potential of which has not yet been fully utilized. And already in November 2024, within the framework of the working visit of the government delegation of Kazakhstan headed by Prime Minister O. Bektenov, Minsk and Astana "agreed that in the near future they will hold the first Forum of Regions of Kazakhstan - Belarus, as this is a very effective format that allows to significantly promote interaction

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<sup>75</sup> Belarus and Kazakhstan will discuss the possibility of creating an industrial cooperation fund [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-kazakhstan-obsudjat-vozmozhnost-sozdaniya-fonda-promyshlennoj-kooperatsii-619287-2024/>

in various areas" . Let's see how the Belarusian regions approach this important event.<sup>76</sup>

Let's start with the **Belarusian capital**. Kazakhstan is already implementing a number of important and significant projects in the economic sphere, which operate within the framework of industrial cooperation with the active participation of such Minsk enterprises as tractor and automobile plants and Amkodor. In particular, in May 2024 in Kostanai city a new workshop for production of cabins for tractors was opened BELARUS on the site of "Machine-Building Plant MTZ-Kazakhstan" LLP. This is the second stage of this project. Joint work began back in 2018. And a total of four stages will be realized until 2027. Localization of cabins production at the machine-building plant in Kostanai will allow to use them both in their own production and to meet the needs of tractor assembly plants in Kazakhstan. After all, the opening of a new workshop for production of cabins for BELARUS tractors means the appearance of another high-tech production and creation of additional jobs on the Kazakhstani soil. Thus, "today 150 of them have already been created. As a result of completion of the fourth stage of the project, they are expected to be more than 500" .<sup>77</sup>

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

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<sup>76</sup> Zalesky, B. Time for New Initiatives. Ideology of Belarus' partnership expansion in turbulent conditions / Boris Zalesky. - LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2024. - C. 16.

<sup>77</sup> A new workshop for the production of cabins for tractors BELARUS appeared in Kazakhstan's Kostanai [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/novyi-tseh-po-proizvodstvu-kabin-k-tractoram-belarus-pojavilsja-v-kazhastanskom-kostanae-637069-2024/>



of the object, providing for the construction of more than 39.2 thousand square meters of apartment housing with an open-air parking garage for 300 parking spaces" . It should be added that the Kazakhstani side has already approved the conceptual design. And by the end of 2024 it is planned to complete the design.<sup>78</sup>

Kazakhstan is one of the most important economic partners of **Mogilev** Region and ranks second in the foreign trade turnover and exports of the Belarusian region among the countries of the Eurasian Economic Union. The main items of Mogilev exports to this country are tires, dairy products, poultry meat, elevators, spare parts for cars and tractors, pumps, chipboard boards. Fruitful cooperation has been established at the level of large production facilities. In particular, "for JSC "Mogilevliftmash" Kazakhstan is one of the main sales markets, there are two assembly plants - in the cities of Aktobe and Almaty" . In 2023, about 350 elevators were delivered there. But the potential of the Mogilev enterprise is much greater: it is ready to participate more actively in the program for replacement of elevator<sup>79</sup> equipment, as well as to supply its products for new construction. Bobruisk Belshina is also ready for further cooperation. In 2023, despite the fall in export prices more than twice, the enterprise sold 51 thousand more tires to Kazakhstan than in 2022. Also. To date, Mogilev region has signed cooperation agreements with only two regions of Kazakhstan - Turkestan and East Kazakhstan. And there is confidence that at the first Forum of Regions of the two countries these documents will be colored with new colors.

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<sup>78</sup> Belarus and Kazakhstan plan to expand political and cultural interaction [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-kazakhstan-planiruiut-rasshirjat-politicheskoe-i-kulturnoe-vzaimodejstvie-663284-2024>

<sup>79</sup> Integration and joint productions. Isachenko on cooperation of the Mogilev region with Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://belta.by/politics/view/integratsiya-i-sovmestnye-proizvodstva-isachenko-o-sotrudnichestve-mogilevskoj-oblasti-s-kazahstanom-607349-2023/>

**Gomel Region** intends to expand cooperation with partners from Kazakhstan. In this regard it should be reminded ,that in September 2024, the annual Gomel Economic Forum was held for the 18th time. Among the active participants from the Commonwealth of Independent States was Kazakhstan, "the potential for cooperation with the Belarusian southeastern region is simply enormous. This, first of all, concerns issues of industrial cooperation and agriculture" . In particular, within the framework of cooperation, Kazakhstan has set up an assembly production of machinery together with Gomselmash, which is successfully developing. Within the framework of the economic forum, the parties agreed that the number of joint projects will increase. Apparently, this dialog between the interested parties will continue at the First Forum of Regions of Belarus and Kazakhstan.<sup>80</sup>

**Brest region** is also interested in closer cooperation with Kazakhstan in various areas. In particular, it is about increasing investment cooperation of the Kazakh side with Brest region in the sphere ofin agricultural production, processing of agricultural products order to "invest in the area of dairy production, given the great competence, high potential that the Belarusian side has in this area. Another interesting sector is the production of building materials, floor coverings, ceramic tiles, sanitary ware" . The parties also have great potential in the sphere of transit, tourism, travel and health improvement. In short, there are still many points for strengthening cooperation. Thus, Brest Oblast, to all appearances, will approach the first Forum of Regions of Belarus and Kazakhstan with new interesting projects and promising proposals.<sup>81</sup>

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<sup>80</sup> Zalessky, B. From programs to concrete projects. Features of positive trends in the economy of Belarus / Boris Zalessky. - LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2024. - C. 49.

<sup>81</sup> Investments, technologies, tourism. Brest region and Kazakhstan are aimed at closer cooperation [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/investitsii->

## **The potential for collaboration is there, it's just a matter of implementation**

**Kyrgyzstan** is an important partner of Belarus in Central Asia, and the relationship with it is developing positively in all areas. In November 2024, Bishkek hosted the 12th meeting of the Intergovernmental Belarusian-Kyrgyz Commission (IGC) on Trade and Economic Cooperation, where its participants paid special attention to the development of industrial cooperation, the formation of a favorable climate for investment, and the increase in trade turnover between the countries through a large-scale increase in the supply of Belarusian products. For reference, we note that for three quarters of 2024, "the trade turnover between Belarus and Kyrgyzstan increased by 14.1% compared to the same period of 2023 and amounts to almost \$135 million". Among the successful domestic exporters that are dynamically increasing their supplies to the Kyrgyz market are the enterprises of the Belarusian Production and Trade Concern of Forestry, Woodworking and Pulp and Paper Industry "Bellesbumprom". "Mainly board products and sawn timber are supplied to this Central Asian country. For 7 months of 2024, exports to Kyrgyzstan increased 1.3 times"<sup>82</sup>.<sup>83</sup>

Recall that at the 11th meeting of the IGC, held in August 2023 in the Belarusian capital, the parties noted a noticeable intensification of interaction and outlined several important areas of cooperation: the growth of trade turnover and development of production cooperation. Then by the end of 2022, "trade turnover exceeded \$160 million and

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[tehnologii-turizm-brejskaja-oblast-i-kazahstan-natseleny-na-bolee-tesnoe-sotrudnichestvo-680543-2024/](https://tehnologii-turizm-brejskaja-oblast-i-kazahstan-natseleny-na-bolee-tesnoe-sotrudnichestvo-680543-2024/)

<sup>82</sup> Sivak: trade turnover between Belarus and Kyrgyzstan increased by 14.1% in January-September [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/sivak-tovarooborot-belarusi-i-kyrgyzstana-za-ianvar-sentjabr-vvros-na-141-678763-2024/>

<sup>83</sup> Belarus is increasing supplies of woodworking products to Kyrgyzstan [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-naraschivaet-postavki-produktsii-derevoobrabotki-v-kyrgyzstan-664450-2024/>

increased by 56% compared to 2021. <...> In the first half of the year, we added \$19 million..." . And in terms of industrial cooperation, the organization of joint production of elevator equipment by OJSC "Mogilevliftmash" on Kyrgyz soil was noted. The degree of localization of production has reached 25 percent in less than a year, the production plan is 100 elevators.<sup>84</sup>

At the same time, the parties identified a large untapped potential for cooperation in the industrial sector. In particular, Kyrgyzstan offered all the necessary conditions for the establishment of joint cooperative industrial enterprises. All the more so because the mechanisms of special investment contracts of the Industrial Development Fund, subsidiary support measures aimed at attracting private investment in industry, and export support infrastructure have already been "formed and implemented" . The foundation for any production is mineral and raw material reserves, and in Kyrgyzstan there are more than 100 raw material products concentrated, which makes it possible to open enterprises with a high level of localization of manufactured products. Mainly titanium, gold, copper, antimony, tin and other minerals - tungsten, silicon, uranium, fuel and energy raw materials are concentrated in the country. There are prospects for organizing iron mining.<sup>85</sup>

In addition, at the 11th IGC meeting, the possibility of organizing a textile cluster and implementing a leather and wool processing project was voiced. It is necessary to make a small remark in this regard. "In 2022, Belarusian clothing exports to Kyrgyzstan amounted to a record \$5.1 million, which is 8.4 times higher than in 2021. The main sub-items

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<sup>84</sup> Sivak: trade turnover between Belarus and Kyrgyzstan is growing, we plan to develop industrial cooperation [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/sivak-tovarooborot-mezhdu-belarusju-i-kyrgyzstanom-rastet-planiruem-razvivat-i-promkooperatsiju-584179-2023/>

<sup>85</sup> Torobaev outlined what joint productions could be created by Belarus and Kyrgyzstan [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/torobaev-oboznachil-kakie-sovmestnye-proizvodstva-mogli-bv-sozdat-belarus-i-kvrgyzstan-584198-2023/>

supplied were women's and children's dresses made of machine or hand-knitted cotton, men's and children's pants, overalls, shorts and breeches made of cotton, men's and children's shirts also made of cotton". For this reason, the Belarusian side will rely on these commodity items when planning new exports.<sup>86</sup>

Returning to the 12th IGC meeting, we would like to emphasize that the Belarusian side also voiced its proposals on the implementation of joint trade and economic projects and expressed readiness "to increase supplies of agricultural machinery, municipal and other equipment, develop industrial cooperation projects in other areas. There are good prospects for establishing joint production of electrical products". For this purpose, within the framework of the IGC meeting, the banks of the two countries signed a basic agreement on general conditions for granting export credits, which "envisages the creation of a universal financial<sup>87</sup> infrastructure to support domestic exports". And already AMKODOR is considering the possibility of implementing joint projects in Kyrgyzstan, including the creation of production facilities and service centers to maintain AMKODOR machinery. "Such a step will strengthen industrial cooperation and expand opportunities for the development of economic ties between the countries<sup>88</sup>".<sup>89</sup>

In addition, in 2025, Belarus and Kyrgyzstan also intend to intensify interaction in the field of exchange trade by involving new

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<sup>86</sup> Dresses, shirts, breeches - all made of cotton. What are the prospects for Belarusian clothes in the market of Kyrgyzstan? [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/platija-rubashki-bridzhi-vse-iz-hlopka-kakie-perspektivy-u-belorusskoj-odezhdy-na-rynke-kyrgyzstana-640865-2024/>

<sup>87</sup> Sivak: Belarus is ready to increase supplies of municipal and agricultural machinery to Kyrgyzstan [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/sivak-belarus-gotova-naraschivat-postavki-kommunalnoj-i-selhoztehniki-v-kyrgyzstan-678782-2024/>

<sup>88</sup> Belarus and Kyrgyzstan signed an agreement on export credits [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-kyrgyzstan-podpisali-soglasenie-ob-eksportnyh-kreditah-678790-2024/>

<sup>89</sup> "AMKODOR" will consider the possibility of creating joint projects with Kyrgyzstan [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/amkodor-rassmotrit-vozmozhnost-sozdaniya-sovmestnyh-proektov-s-kyrgyzstanom-666338-2024/>

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

A characteristic feature of the development of cooperation between the two countries in the exchange sphere is the regular expansion of the nomenclature of goods involved in mutual trade. "Initially, these were only supplies of sunflower seeds to address of Belarusian agricultural organizations, but over the past few years, a number of new positions have appeared in the structure of exchange transactions" . In particular, ferrous metal products manufactured in Kyrgyzstan began to be imported to Belarus through exchange trading, while Belarusian exporters began to successfully sell lumber, sugar, and now dairy products to Kyrgyz traders. And in October 2024, the first deal on the sale of textile raw materials by a Kyrgyz resident was concluded at BUTB. "The counterparty to the transaction was one of the largest domestic light industry enterprises, and the subject of the purchase was harsh calico - unprocessed fabric from cotton fiber"<sup>90n</sup> .<sup>91</sup>

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<sup>90</sup> Kyrgyzstan purchased the first batches of Belarusian dairy products at the exchange trading [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/kyrgyzstan-zakupil-pervye-partii-belorusskoj-molochnoj-produktsii-na-birzhevyh-torgah-641884-2024/>

<sup>91</sup> Kyrgyzstan expanded the commodity nomenclature of exchange trade with Belarus [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/kyrgyzstan-rasshiril-tovarnuju-nomenklaturu-birzhevoj-torgovli-s-belarusju-667300-2024/>

In general, 30 Kyrgyz economic entities are currently accredited at the exchange, five of which participated in exchange trading for the first time in 2024. "According to the results of 10 months of 2024, the exchange trade turnover with Kyrgyzstan increased 2.4 times, up to \$5.7 million. Almost 65% of this amount was provided by export supplies of Belarusian butter" . At the 12th meeting of the IGC it was decided to give additional impetus to the development of the Belarusian-Kyrgyz exchange trade, including by joining efforts with the Kyrgyz Stock Exchange, which is considering the possibility of launching trading in the commodities market and is interested in studying the experience and technologies of the BUTB. In this regard, the Belarusian and<sup>92</sup> Kyrgyz stock exchanges reached a preliminary agreement to sign a cooperation agreement in 2025, which will become the basis for further joint work of the exchange platforms of the two countries.

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

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<sup>92</sup> Belarus and Kyrgyzstan will strengthen the exchange vector of cooperation [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-kyrgyzstan-usiljat-birzhevoj-vektor-sotrudnichestva-678941-2024/>

## Universities strengthen cooperation

In March 2023(PRC) signed the Joint Declaration on the Further Development of an All-Weather Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in a New Era, which outlines a new path of cooperation between Minsk and Beijing in various sectors, including trade, economy, and investment. And today they are already actively carrying out practical interaction, including in the educational sphere. In particular, over the past two years, many significant events have been held in this context: two meetings of the Belarusian-Chinese Association of Universities, a forum of rectors of Belarus and China in Minsk, the seventh meeting of the commission on cooperation in education of the Belarusian-Chinese Intergovernmental Committee for Cooperation in Beijing and Dalian. And "over the past five years, the number of students from China studying in Belarus has tripled. At the moment there are already more than 12 thousand of them, the Republic of Belarus and the **People's Republic of China** ". And there are more than a thousand Belarusian students studying in the Celestial Empire.<sup>93</sup>

One of China's strategic partners in Belarus in the field of education is **Belarusian State University** (BSU), which, as of early November 2024, has already signed 133 cooperation agreements with 74 Chinese institutions, developing scientific, expert, and cultural contacts. In the last three months of 2024 alone, BSU has established new partnerships, as well as developing existing ones. For example, in October, two new cooperation documents were signed with **Chongqing University** and **Chongqing Institute of Foreign Business and Economics**. In the first case, the memorandum of understanding provides for academic exchange of students, teachers, implementation of joint educational, research programs and projects, exchange of

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<sup>93</sup> The number of students from China has tripled in Belarus over the last five years [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/v-belarusi-za-poslednie-piat-let-v-tri-raza-vyroslo-chislo-studentov-iz-kitaja-669005-2024/>



information, teaching materials and scientific reports, organization of conferences, seminars, workshops, courses, preparation of collective publications. In the second case, the memorandum regulates the intentions of the parties to develop educational and scientific partnership and the development of joint training programs for Chinese citizens. It is expected that "exchange of experience in the fields of international business, intellectual engineering, foreign languages and foreign trade, literature and creativity, management, mathematics and computer science, art and design, television and integrated media will allow universities to use modern approaches and programs in training students"

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In November, BSU signed a memorandum with **Peking University** on the opening of the **Belarusian-Chinese Center for Fundamental Scientific Research**, which will become a key structure in bilateral cooperation in basic sciences. Its functioning will make it possible to strengthen scientific cooperation between the two countries, attract leading and young scientists, research workers and teams for the implementation of joint projects in promising areas in mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology and medicine. "The center will result in multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary fundamental and applied development and research. This will increase the efficiency of joint training of specialists at different levels of education, will promote the exchange of educational and scientific resources, the quality of training of scientific personnel" <sup>95</sup>

In the same November, the Chinese capital hosted a detailed discussion on the establishment of a joint research center for

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<sup>94</sup> BSU concluded cooperation agreements with leading universities of China [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/bgu-zakljuchil-soglashenija-o-sotrudnichestve-s-veduschimi-vuzami-kitaia-667159-2024/>

<sup>95</sup> BSU and Peking University will create a center of fundamental scientific research [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/bgu-i-pekinskij-universitet-sozdadut-tsentr-fundamentalnyh-nauchnyh-issledovanij-673112-2024/>

humanitarian exchange between China and Belarus, involving BSU and **Beijing Foreign Studies University**. The parties have already considered the final organizational and legal issues on the opening of the center. "Its activity will allow creating a unique platform for training linguistic specialists to work with artificial intelligence, conducting scientific research on topical topics in the field of humanities" . addition, negotiations were held with the Chinese <sup>96</sup>**In corporation Jing Ying** on the organization of joint training of Chinese students in BSU educational programs and considered the possibility of opening a joint educational preparatory center in program of **Hebei Province**, where Chinese citizens could learn Russian as a foreign language and take preparatory courses for admission to a master's degree the Belarusian university.

Finally, in December 2024, BSU, firstly, concluded an agreement with **Guangzhou University of Commerce and Industry (GCCU)** on the implementation of a joint educational program of general higher education, which provides for comprehensive cooperation between the parties in the field of education, science and cultural and educational activities. It should be noted that in total in this Chinese university has about 27 thousand students studying in 35 bachelor specialties in economics, management, engineering, literature, art, pedagogy. The library fund of the university is more than three million books. The educational process of GTCU is provided by more than two thousand teachers, 98 percent of whom have a scientific degree of master or doctor. As for the signed agreement, "the key point of the document is the opening of a joint educational program "1+3" in the specialty "management". The curriculum of this program assumes four-year education in the Russian language, whereby the training of first-year students will be carried out at SCCU, and students of 2-4 years - at BSU"

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<sup>96</sup> Innovation and educational centers of BSU will appear in China [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/innovatsionnye-i-obrazovatelnye-tsentry-bgu-pojavjatsja-v-kitae-673790-2024/>

. At the end of the training, graduates will receive a diploma of general higher education from BSU, which is recognized by both parties.<sup>97</sup>

Secondly, BSU signed an agreement on joint training of students with the **Institute of Innovative Education (IIE)** in Sanya, Hainan Province, which regulates the implementation of joint educational programs in the "1+3" format. Recall that the IIE is a Belarusian-Chinese institute, which was established in March 2024 with the participation of BSU and the **Hainan Center of Excellence in International Education in Sanya**. This collective initiative is focused on cooperation between the two countries in the field of education, developing exports of educational services and increasing the contingent of Chinese citizens in Belarusian universities. It is expected that "this institute will become a center for attracting other universities, including foreign ones. At the moment Chinese citizens from Hainan province are preparing for admission to BSU and taking courses in Russian language". And there are plans to assign the status of a legal entity to the Institute and reorganize it into a branch of BSU in China, which will qualitatively improve international cooperation in the field of education and expand the vectors of interaction. Especially since Chinese regions are now showing wide interest in IIE's activities. "Since September [2024], schools in Beijing, Yunnan, Guangdong, Hebei, Shaanxi, Shandong, Henan, Fujian, Zhejiang provinces, the cities of Shanghai and Chongqing, and the Ningxia Autonomous Region have become partners of the Institute.<sup>98</sup>..". The opening of the branch will intensify the implementation of programs for joint training of Chinese applicants in

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<sup>97</sup> BSU and Guangzhou University will open a joint educational program on management [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/special/society/view/bgu-i-guanchzhouskij-universitet-otkrojut-sovmestnuju-obrazovatelnuju-programmu-pomenedzhmentu-680651-2024/>

<sup>98</sup> Agreement on joint training of students signed by BSU and Chinese Institute of Innovative Education [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/soglasenie-o-sovmestnoj-podgotovke-studentov-podpisali-bgu-i-kitajskij-institut-innovatsionnogo-684104-2024/>

Russian/English using information and communication technologies, launching academic exchanges, holding joint educational forums, open lectures, development of business initiatives within the framework of joint Belarusian-Chinese economic and industrial relations.<sup>99</sup>

Thirdly, BSU has intensified cooperation with other Chinese universities - **East China Pedagogical University (ECPU), Chongqing Institute of International Business and Economics** and **Hainan Institute of Software Technology**. In particular, the interaction with VKPU is developed thanks to the cooperation agreement signed in 2011 and is enshrined in the student exchange program. "One of the main results of fruitful joint work of the two universities was the opening of the Center for the Study of Belarus on the basis of VKPU. The main Belarusian university equipped the institution with necessary literature, state symbols of Belarus and cultural and historical items" . The December negotiations with these universities resulted in a package of documents regulating the interaction between the parties in the field of education, science, and joint implementation of projects. For example, with Hainan Institute of Software Technologies it is planned to exchange students, master students, invite teachers and researchers for joint work on research and educational projects. In addition, the signed document regulates the processes of exchange of information, educational materials, joint scientific and educational events and preparation of publications.<sup>100</sup>

All these facts show that in general BSU in 2024 strengthened its presence in the global academic space, contributed to the "development of international communications and the formation of a sustainable positive image of the university abroad" , including the People's

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<sup>99</sup> Belgosuniversity plans to open branches in China [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/belgosuniversitet-planiruet-otkrvt-filialy-v-kitae-683983-2024/>

<sup>100</sup> BSU and East China Pedagogical University intensify cooperation [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/bgu-i-vostochno-kitajskij-pedagogicheskij-universitet-aktivizirujut-sotrudnichestvo-684461-2024>

Republic of China. Today the university has about five and a half thousand students from 40 countries, and the volume of exports of educational services has almost doubled.<sup>101</sup>

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<sup>101</sup> The results of international activities are presented in BSU [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://bsu.by/news/itogi-mezhdunarodnov-devatelnosti-predstavleny-v-bgu-d/>

## From increasing the number of customers - before opening new markets

In 2024, the **Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange** (BUTB) increased its activity on different continents, where it showed good rates of sales of export goods from Belarus to foreign business partners. "Among the reasons for the successful activity of the exchange platform are the increase in the number of non-resident buyers, the opening of new markets, and the introduction of additional commodity positions..."<sup>102</sup>.

Positive trends in this context are noted in countries **East Asian**, in particular, in **China**, where as of January 1, 2025, 247 residents of this country, including three stockbrokers, were accredited on the BUTB. In 2024, the volume of transactions of Chinese traders amounted to about \$135 million, which is 1.7 times more than in 2023. Belarusian-made timber products prevailed in the structure of trade turnover with a specific weight of 95 percent. At the same time, Chinese importers of woodworking products are ready to increase the volume of lumber purchases, as they are attracted to BUTB by the opportunity to purchase these products directly from Belarusian producers at transparently formed market prices, as well as a number of related services that simplify doing business in Belarus. For this reason, for example, a large trading company from Shandong Province, specializing in the import and distribution of wood raw materials and wood products in the Celestial Empire, in 2024 "concluded exchange transactions for the purchase of softwood sawn timber with a total volume of 11 thousand cubic meters, and from 2025 plans to participate even more actively in trading", in order to reach even higher figures, including by expanding the size range of sawn timber. In general, following the results of 11

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<sup>102</sup> Zalessky, B. Priorities of multidirectionality. Chronicle of international economic cooperation of Belarus with interested partners on different continents / Boris Zalessky. - LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2024. - C. 573.

months of 2024, Chinese residents headed the top five largest importers of Belarusian wood products at the BUTB. During this period, they purchased these products one and a half times more than in the same period of 2023. And at the beginning of 2025, the pool of buyers of sawn timber from China, regularly participating in export trade sessions, totaled about 85 companies.<sup>103</sup>

Among the new items for Chinese partners in 2024, other goods appeared on the BUTB. In particular, we are talking about the organization of exports of Belarusian kraft pulp and butter to China. "Until 2024, Chinese companies did not purchase these goods on the exchange". In addition, in December 2024, the first deal for the sale of meat products to the Celestial Empire was concluded on the BUTB, when a Chinese importer purchased semi-finished beef meat - 25 tons - at the exchange trading, and the seller was a large meat processing company from Brest region. In general, in 2024, the Chinese direction of agricultural exports developed both quantitatively and qualitatively. "Thus, the amount of transactions compared to 2023 increased six times, to \$2.1 million, and<sup>104</sup> commodity portfolio was supplemented with butter, dried milk whey and meat products".<sup>105</sup>

And in January 2025, the first stock exchange deal was concluded on BUTB to purchase components for electric vehicle charging stations directly from a Chinese manufacturer. The cost of the equipment amounted to 893 thousand Belarusian rubles. The fact is that at present Belarus is actively developing the sphere of electric transportation,

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<sup>103</sup> Chinese business is ready to increase purchases of Belarusian lumber products at the exchange trading [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/kitajskij-biznes-gotov-naraschivat-zakupki-belorusskoj-piloproduktov-na-birzhevyy-torgah-679946-2024/>

<sup>104</sup> Exchange exports of Belarus to China increased 1.6 times [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/birzhevoj-eksport-belarusi-v-kitaj-vyros-v-16-raz-681702-2024/>

<sup>105</sup> Belarusian meat products were first sold to China through BUTB [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belorusskie-mjasoprodukty-vpervye-prodany-v-kitaj-cherez-butb-685396-2024/>

including charging infrastructure for electric cars. This implies the purchase of appropriate equipment, and China is known to be the world leader in this field. Therefore, in order to assist Belarusian enterprises in organizing imports of charging stations and their components from China, a number of Chinese manufacturers were accredited to participate in the bidding. This transaction was "part of a set of measures to develop the industrial-consumer direction of exchange trade between Belarus and China, which was successfully launched in mid-2024 and is gradually gaining momentum. Thus, at the end of last year, the amount of exchange transactions on imports of equipment, spare parts and components from China reached \$1 million" . Thus, in 2025, the interaction between the Belarusian exchange platform and Chinese partners will, to all appearances, traditionally develop along an upward trajectory.<sup>106</sup>

In 2024, BUTB intensified cooperation with two countries **South Asian - India and Pakistan**. In particular, in November last year, the Belarusian exchange platform agreed on a preliminary list of areas of cooperation with the **Indian Chamber of International Business (ICIB)** to focus on attracting the Indian business community to make import and export transactions with goods on BUTB. "For India, it is lumber, flax fiber, synthetic yarns and plastic products, while for Belarus it is rice, food raw materials, horticultural products and cotton yarn" . In addition, in December last year, BUTB and ICIB agreed to accredit a stock broker to not only attract new Indian traders to the Belarusian

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<sup>106</sup> Chinese electric vehicle charging equipment manufacturer sold products on BUTB for the first time [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/kitajskij-proizvoditel-zarjadnogo-oborudovanija-dlja-elektromobilej-vpervye-prodal-produktsiju-na-butb-688167-2025/>



trading floor, but also to facilitate the activities of four Indian companies already accredited there.<sup>107</sup>

By the way, one of them in early November 2024 concluded the first deal for the purchase of lumber. A Delhi-based manufacturer of lumber and floor coverings concluded a contract for three thousand cubic meters using the mechanism of exchange-targeted transactions. Prior to that, woodworking products were not sold to the Indian market through exchange trades, although India is undoubtedly an attractive export destination for Belarusian woodworking companies. "Every year this South Asian country imports about 30 million cubic meters of timber from abroad. <...> Softwood species common in Belarus are especially in demand, which opens up wide opportunities for supplying domestic lumber products to the Indian market". It is noteworthy that a targeted mechanism was used to conclude the first deal with an importer from India, which implies a simplified accreditation procedure at the stock exchange and a symbolic exchange fee of one Belarusian ruble from the buyer. In general, the volume of transactions on BUTB with Indian companies "at the end of 11 months [2024] amounted to \$1.6 million. <...> Accordingly, the potential for expanding the range of bidders and increasing trade turnover is enormous<sup>108</sup>". So the parties plan to achieve much higher results in 2025.<sup>109</sup>

BUTB intends to intensify cooperation in the field of exchange trading in the new year with two new partners from **Pakistan**. First, with the **Pakistan Mercantile Exchange (PMEX)**. In November 2024, the parties discussed the possibility of implementing mutually beneficial

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<sup>107</sup> BUTB and the Indian Chamber of International Business agreed on areas of cooperation [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-i-indijskaja-palata-mezhdunarodnogo-biznesa-soglasovali-napravlenija-sotrudnichestva-678777-2024/>

<sup>108</sup> India started buying Belarusian lumber through BUTB [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/indija-nachala-pokupat-belorusskie-pilomaterialy-cherez-butb-673332-2024/>

<sup>109</sup> BUTB plans to accredit a stockbroker in India [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-planiruet-akkreditovat-v-indii-birzhevogo-brokera-683642-2024/>

joint projects, as well as "the issue of settlement of exchange transactions, including the use of various financial mechanisms to secure obligations" . For further cooperation, a memorandum of understanding will be signed, which will define the key tasks, principles, directions and forms of joint work of the two exchanges.<sup>110</sup>

Second, with the **Pakistan Timber Traders Association (APTTA)**. Last December, BUTB and APTTA agreed to assist in informing Pakistani business circles about the possibilities of using exchange instruments. The Pakistani side believes that "import of Belarusian lumber products, given their high demand in Pakistan, can become a starting point for long-term mutually beneficial cooperation between Belarusian and Pakistani business in the exchange sector" . So this agreement will give due impetus to the development of trade and economic contacts between the two countries.<sup>111</sup>

**Turkey is** among the promising partners of BUTB in the **Middle East**. Suffice it to say that as of November 1, 2024, 102 residents of this country were accredited on the Belarusian exchange platform. In January-October last year, "the exchange turnover of Turkish companies reached \$17 million. This is 2.5 times more than in the same period of 2023, and the growth driver was not one but several commodity directions. Thus, Belarus supplied Turkey with lumber, sugar, wheat gluten, dried milk, ferrous metal scrap and flax fiber, while imports of polyester yarn and threads, which are in demand in the textile industry of Belarus, were purchased" .<sup>112</sup>

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<sup>110</sup> BUTB and Pakistan Commodity Exchange agreed to intensify cooperation [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-i-pakistsanskaja-tovarnaja-birzha-dogovorilis-ob-aktivizatsii-sotrudnichestva-674954-2024/>

<sup>111</sup> BUTB to collaborate with the Forest Products Traders Association of Pakistan [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-budet-sotrudnichat-s-assyatsiej-torgovtsev-lesoproduktsiej-pakistana-684173-2024/>

<sup>112</sup> BUTB and Istanbul Commodity Exchange to promote cooperation in BRICS [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-i-stambulskaja-tovarnaja-birzha-budet-razvivat-sotrudnichestvo-v-briks-678324-2024/>

In November 2024 confirmed its interest in joint work with BUTB on all relevant aspects of the and multilateral agenda , **the Istanbul Commodity Exchange (ISTIB)** bilateral and plans to add new promising positions to the list of bilateral areas of cooperation, especially in the segment of agro-industrial complex. In the same November, the first successful trades in linen products for export took place at the ISTIB. During the trading session, **a Turkish textile company** purchased two lots of kotonized flax fiber with a total volume of more than 35 tons, and the seller was one of the leading Belarusian enterprises of the flax industry. It should be noted that the last time this commodity was traded in the foreign market on the BUTB back in 2005. Now "with the help of the exchange mechanism it is planned to expand export opportunities of Belarusian flax processors and to ensure more effective price formation for their products. The first trading session on the sale of flax fiber for export demonstrated the demand for Belarusian products and the readiness of foreign importers to work through the exchange" . It remains to add that further work on the development of export exchange trade in flax fiber will be carried out in two directions: expanding the pool of foreign buyers and attracting Belarusian flax mills to the exchange.<sup>113</sup>

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<sup>113</sup> Belarusian flax fiber for the first time sold for export through BUTB [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belorussskoe-linjanoe-volokno-vpervve-prodano-na-eksport-cherez-butb-676512-2024/>

## Exhibitions stimulate exports

In 2024, a program of action to promote cooperation between Belarus and was approved, **Africa** for 2024-2026 as well as a roadmap for cooperation with all the continent's pivotal countries. At the international legal forum "Africa: Legal Subtleties of Doing Business" held in the Belarusian capital in October 2024 and attended by more than 240 participants, it was noted that today the African market generates a steady demand for food, machinery, equipment, agricultural machinery, mineral products, chemical products, metals. And there are great opportunities for Belarus to develop the African market. Suffice it to say that "in January-August 2024, Belarusian exports increased 4 times and amounted to almost half a billion dollars" . At the same time, Belarus is ready for more advanced forms of interaction, offering a comprehensive approach to developing cooperation, working for the future and gradually moving "away from simple trade in favor of investment cooperation and industrial cooperation"<sup>114</sup> .<sup>115</sup>

In this context, the Belarusian side's desire to maximize the assistance to domestic suppliers of export products to show their potential at international exhibitions in the countries of the African continent, which are one of the effective ways to develop trade and economic relations between the countries, comes to the fore. All the more so because "for Belarusian enterprises Africa is a priority region for developing cooperation and establishing business communication. Moreover, the interest of African companies in Belarusian products is obvious" . This can be judged by looking at how business entities from

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<sup>114</sup> Belarus surpassed the level of peak 2019 exports to Africa [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-prevzoshla-uroven-pikovogo-2019-goda-po-eksportu-v-sotrudnichestve-s-afrikoi-671648-2024/>

<sup>115</sup> Myatlikov: Africa is a promising partner for long-term cooperation [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/mjatlikov-afrika-perspektivnyj-partner-dlja-dolgosrochnogo-sotrudnichestva-671631-2024/>

Belarus participated in a number of international exhibition forums on the African continent in 2024.<sup>116</sup>

In particular, last April, **Algeria** hosted the International Food Industry Exhibition **DJAZAGRO**, where the participants of the exposition of Belarusian producers Belarus. The Taste of Nature presented a wide range of goods and services, offering products tailored to the specifics of the region. Among the Belarusian companies were "presented well-known domestic enterprises and companies of the food industry: OJSC "Babushkina Krynka" - the managing company of the holding "Mogilev Dairy Company "Babushkina Krynka", Volkovyssk OJSC "Bellakt", OJSC "Lida Dairy Canning Plant", OJSC "Soligorsk Poultry Farm"". The exposition also presented the largest spot exchange in Eastern Europe and the only commodity exchange in Belarus - the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange. And in <sup>117</sup>**Kenya** in June 2024 at the **25th International Exhibition** "" "in the section of engineering **BUILDEXPO AFRICA 2024** equipment and goods the Republic of Belarus [was] represented by the stand of Mashkhimprom LLC and UMKA Company LLC".<sup>118</sup>

In the same June last year, Belarusian companies presented their potential at two major forums in **South Africa - Africa's Big 7** and **SAITEX 2024**. It is an interesting detail that "in 2013 and 2015, the national exposition of Belarus was demonstrated at Africa's Big 7 and SAITEX". Given the active interaction between Belarus and BRICS

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<sup>116</sup> Kurash, N. Namibia, Tanzania, DPRK: what countries Belinterexpo plans to open for exhibitors this year / N. Kurash // [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/interview/view/namibija-tanzanija-kndr-kakie-strany-belinterekspo-planiruet-otkryt-dlja-eksponentov-v-etom-godu-9259/>

<sup>117</sup> Belarusian enterprises presented their potential at the exhibition of food industry in Algeria [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/beloruskie-predpriyatija-predstavili-potentsial-na-vystavke-pischevoi-promyshlennosti-v-alzhire-629938-2024/>

<sup>118</sup> Belarusian companies participate in the International exhibition "BUILDEXPO AFRICA 2024" in Kenya [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/beloruskie-kompanii-uchastvuut-v-mezhdunarodnoj-vystavke-buildexpo-africa-2024-v-kenii-639801-2024/>

member countries and the expansion of business partnerships within the framework of this organization, the Made in Belarus exposition is becoming a key link in promoting domestic products and goods in South Africa and the region as a whole.<sup>119</sup>

As for the first exhibition, **Africa's Big 7**, it is the leading specialized international food and beverage forum in the region, identifying opportunities to coordinate and build new business relationships between food producers, retailers and the catering industry. Africa's Big 7 united about four thousand participants, 170 exhibitors from 20 countries. The main thematic sections of the exhibition were raw materials for food production, production and sale of food products, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages for trade and catering, catering, technological solutions in retail and catering, agriculture and fertilizers. From Belarus were presented "the largest holding JSC "Minsk Crystal" - managing company holding company "Minsk Crystal Group" and the flagship of the wine industry of Belarus JSC "Minsk Sparkling Wine Plant", presenting a range of dessert drinks and liqueur and vodka products"<sup>120</sup>.

**SAITEX** is a multi-sectoral exhibition that serves as a platform for business negotiations and business interaction between foreign and local manufacturers, wholesale organizations, suppliers and buyers to establish import and export relations in the region. The thematic sections of SAITEX included industrial production, light industry, electronics and household appliances, grooming and decorative cosmetics, tools and equipment for construction and repair, IT-technologies, travel services, insurance, financial, investment, logistics and business services, agency

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<sup>119</sup> Belarusian enterprises present their potential at the two largest exhibitions in South Africa [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/beloruskie-predpriyatija-prezentujut-potentsial-na-dvuh-krupnejshih-vvstavkah-v-juar-619553-2024/>

<sup>120</sup> Belarusian enterprises participate in the largest international exhibition of South Africa Africa's Big 7 [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/beloruskie-predpriyatija-uchastvujut-v-krupnejšej-mezhdunarodnoj-vystavke-juar-africas-big-7-640514-2024/>

support of import and export operations. More than 160 exhibitors and 4.3 thousand visitors from several dozens of countries took part in this forum. Belarus was represented by the brands "Naftan", "Belshina", Gomel Chemical Plant, "Grodno Azot", "PO Energokomplekt"<sup>121</sup>.

In July 2024, Belarusian enterprises took part in the international exhibition in **FILDA Angola**, an important event in the economic life of South Africa. This multi-sectoral project is designed for a wide range of exhibitors. The exhibition brought together "more than 1.3 thousand companies from 18 countries in Africa, Europe, America and Asia". Even before the beginning of the exhibition the organizers paid special attention to the flagship of the Belarusian machine building - JSC BELAZ - the managing company of the holding BELAZ-HOLDING and its sales representatives within the framework of the Belarusian exposition, since the machinery from the famous domestic plant is time-tested at the Angolan mining quarries. After all, the development, production and sales of Belarusian dump trucks of large and extra large load capacity, special and specialized machinery, as well as other heavy transport equipment used in mining, construction, metallurgical and other industries are among the most demanded and confidently holding leading positions in the world. As a result, the BELAZ delegation carried out active work on "establishing new business relations, replenishing the order portfolio, studying the requests of mining enterprises of the Republic of Angola and other states of Southern Africa"<sup>122</sup>.<sup>123</sup>

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<sup>121</sup> Industrial giants of Belarus present their potential at the multi-sectoral exhibition SAITEX in South Africa [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/promyshlennye-giganty-belarusi-prezentuiut-potentsial-na-mnogootraslevoi-vystavke-saitex-v-juar-640602-2024/>

<sup>122</sup> More than 1.3 thousand companies, 18 countries. exposition Made in Belarus at the exhibition in Angola interested business [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/bole-13-ty-s-kompanij-18-stran-ekspozitsija-made-in-belarus-na-vvstavke-v-angole-zainteresovala-biznes-650112-2024/>

<sup>123</sup> Study of requests and business relations: BELAZ presents its industrial potential at the exhibition in Angola [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/izuchenie-zaprosov-i-delovye-svjazi-belaz-prezentuet-promyshlenniy-potentsial-na-vvstavke-v-angole-650150-2024/>

Among the Belarusian goods presented at this exhibition were also shown the products of CEFI LLC - a leading manufacturer of medical products for first aid in emergency situations, disaster medicine, and tactical medicine. Beldekorkosmetics LLC presented beauty products - a line of the Belarusian brand of decorative cosmetics and face and body care cosmetics LiLo, founded in 2017. One of the highlights of the BelarusianBelarus exposition Made in was the products of representatives of the domestic food industry. Thus, the assortment line of products was presented by Lidakhleboproduct OJSC - a leading manufacturer of flour, pasta and fodder products in Belarus with more than 30 years of successful development. The company has experience of cooperation with partners all over the world and delivery of products to the port/warehouse of the buyer. The Made in Belarus exposition offered "a wide range of goods and product solutions (non-cooked porridge, cereals, grits, flour, rapeseed oil) from one of the largest Belarusian producers of flour-milled grain, fodder and oil and fat products - the unitary production enterprise Smorgon Bread Products Plant".<sup>124</sup>

In September 2024, the in in the largest city of **International Exhibition of the latest technologies mining and mineral processing MINEXPO AFRICA** was held - Dar es Salaam**Tanzania** , where the stand of the Belarusian Automobile Plant was presented and where the most significant innovative developments for the mining industry were shown. It should be noted that this industry today is one of the most rapidly developing areas of the country's economy. After all, "Tanzania is the 4th largest gold producer in Africa after South Africa, Ghana and Mali, plus, according to experts, there is a great potential for exploration and development of useful minerals, especially diamonds, nickel and

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<sup>124</sup> Belarusian enterprises presented their potential at the multi-sectoral exhibition in Angola [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/beloruskie-predpriyatija-predstavili-potentsial-na-mnogootraslevoj-vystavke-v-angole-649948-2024/>



coal" . So there were many people interested in Belarusian new machinery, equipment, services and modern transportation solutions in the field of mining and mineral resources extraction at the exhibition.<sup>125</sup>

Finally, last December in **Egypt**, the exposition of Belarus. The Taste of Nature was presented within the framework of the largest **International Trade Fair of Food and Beverages Food Africa Cairo - 2024**, which took place in Cairo and brought together about one thousand exhibitors from more than 30 countries, including Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, China, Russia, Turkey, Italy, Greece, France, Spain, Switzerland, Japan. It should be said that this exhibition forum over the years has deservedly received the status of a well-known exhibition brand, which is an effective business platform that brings together representatives of Egypt, the Middle East, North Africa and foreign partners of the world level. This shows that Egypt is a major regional player interested in purchasing Belarusian goods and services.

In this case, the exposition Belarus. The Taste of Nature brought together a number of well-known enterprises of Grodnoyasomolprom holding and flagships of the Belarusian food industry. Bellact, the largest manufacturer of baby food and dry specialized products for pregnant women and nursing mothers, athletes, middle-aged and elderly people, students, was presented at the exhibition. Within the framework of Food Africa Cairo companythe presented a wide range of products, including infant formula, instant cereal, skimmed and whole milk powder, butter, coffee and cocoa-containing drinks, milk candies. Kashi, instant cereals, cereals and rape seed products, fodder products and mixed fodder were shown by Smorgon Bread Products Plant. Lidakhleboprodukt demonstrated bakery semi-finished products, complex bakery mixes, flour and cereals, pasta, premixes and mixed fodder. The assortment

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<sup>125</sup> BELAZ presented Belarusian industrial potential at the exhibition in Tanzania [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belaz-predstavil-belorusskij-promyshlennyy-potentsial-na-vystavke-v-tanzanii-661272-2024/>

product line, including beef meat, cuts and beef by-products, canned products was presented by one of the leaders of the meat processing industry of Belarus - Volkovysk meat processing plant. One of the leaders of the dairy sector - Minsk Dairy Plant No. 1, a managing company of the First Dairy Holding. - the managing company of "First Dairy" holding in Cairo exhibited skimmed milk powder, whole milk powder, milk whey powder. Whole milk powder, whey powder, casein powder, as well as a range of curds, cheeses and butter were offered by Lida Dairy Canning Plant. A wide product line, including ice cream and dry mixes for ice cream, butter, was presented by Slutsk Cheese Factory. In addition, on the first day of the Cairo exhibition, "a number of agreements and contracts were signed with the participation of Lida Dairy Canning Plant and Minsk Dairy Plant No. 1. For example, First Dairy signed a contract with a large Egyptian company to supply skimmed milk powder and whole milk powder to the markets of Egypt, Kuwait and Yemen for the amount of \$1 mln" .<sup>126</sup>

All these facts show that the exposition Belarus. The Taste of Nature has already proven itself on the African continent. And in 2025, Belarusian exporters, apparently, will visit different exhibition sites in African countries. After all, "Belarus has every chance to exceed \$1 billion in exports to Africa by the next [2025] year" . For reference, we note that this year the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry intends to organize national expositions in 25 countries, including "eight international exhibitions in Africa"<sup>127</sup> , including Egypt, South Africa, Ethiopia, and Kenya. There are plans for Belarusian exporters to

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<sup>126</sup> Famous dairy and million-dollar contracts: Belarusian food conquers the African market [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/znamenitaja-molochka-i-millionnye-kontrakty-belorusskoe-prodovolstvie-pokorjaet-afrikanskij-rvno-680216-2024/>

<sup>127</sup> Ministry of Economy: we have every chance to exceed \$1 billion of exports to Africa by next year [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/societv/view/minekonomiki-u-nas-est-vse-shansy-prevysit-1-mlrd-eksporta-v-afriku-k-sledujuschemu-godu-673839-2024/>

participate in exhibitions in Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Namibia, and Tanzania. "The possibility of <...> participation in the second half of the year is also being discussed with the organizers of the exhibition in Uganda<sup>128</sup>".

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As for Africa itself, we must note the continent's deepening integration. Since the beginning of 2021, the African Continental Free Trade Area, which is the largest in the world and brings together 55 countries of the African Union and eight regional economic communities, has been in operation. It is "designed to stimulate the processes of pan-African industrialization at both national and regional levels, to create and develop competitive industries" and is aimed at creating a single market with a population of about 1.3 billion people and a combined gross domestic product of about \$3.4 trillion. The operation of the African Continental Free Trade Area is expected to increase the size of the African economy to 29 trillion dollars by 2050. This suggests that interaction with this association can have a significant impact on the dynamics of trade and cooperation between Belarus and its partners on the continent. This shows that Belarus and Africa are serious and long-lasting.<sup>130</sup>

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<sup>128</sup> BelCCI plans to organize expositions in 25 countries this year [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/beltp-planiruet-v-etom-godu-organizovat-ekspozitsii-v-25-stranah-688338-2025/>

<sup>129</sup> "Belinterexpo" plans to organize about 40 expositions at international exhibitions in 2025 [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belinterekspo-planiruet-organizovat-okolo-40-ekspozitsij-na-mezhdunarodnyh-vystavkah-v-2025-godu-688738-2025/>

<sup>130</sup> Cooperation with the African Union receives additional impetus [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: [https://eec.eaunion.org/comission/departement/dep\\_razv\\_integr/novosti/sotrudnichestvo-s-afrikanskim-sovuzom-poluchaet-dopolnitelnyy-impuls/](https://eec.eaunion.org/comission/departement/dep_razv_integr/novosti/sotrudnichestvo-s-afrikanskim-sovuzom-poluchaet-dopolnitelnyy-impuls/)

## Chairmanship to continue development of integration ideas

In January 2025, assumed the chairmanship of the the third time. **the Republic of Belarus Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU)** for Let us recall that during the previous presidency of our republic in this international organization, the Strategic Directions for the Development of Eurasian Integration were adopted, which will be completed in 2025. And in the same year the foundation is being laid for the start of a new stage and the realization of the Declaration on further development of economic processes within the EAEU until 2030 and for the period until 2045 "Eurasian Economic Way", which was signed by the heads of states of the Eurasian "five" at the end of 2023 and where they outlined "specific and clear goals: further construction of a common Eurasian market, providing it with key goods and resources, the development of cooperation, the formation of a common transport and logistics space and a common financial ".<sup>131</sup>market

In its address on Belarus' presidency of the EAEU in 2025, the Belarusian side identified nine main priorities that should be the focus of common attention this year and the consistent implementation of which will contribute to the further development of Eurasian integration and the expansion of mutually beneficial cooperation: 1) technological potential and cooperation; 2) food security; 3) common transport space and logistics; 4) equal conditionsEurasian and transparent competition; 5) protection of the domestic market; and 6) protection of the economy. Let us familiarize ourselves with some of them in more detail.

Back at the meeting of the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council (EIC) in December 2024, the Belarusian side emphasized that "one of

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<sup>131</sup> The leaders of the EAEU countries adopted a declaration on the further development of the Union until 2030 and for the period until 2045 [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://belta.by/president/view/liderv-stran-caes-prinjali-deklaratsiju-o-dalnejshem-razviti-sojuza-do-2030-go-i-na-period-do-2045-607074-2023/>

the areas that should be in the focus of close attention is **industrial cooperation and ensuring technological sovereignty**. Without solving this task, there are no prospects for the development of our union" . For reference, we note that in 2024 the EAEU will be 10 years old. Over these years, the combined gross domestic product (GDP) of the P5 countries has grown by 12.5 percent. "Mutual trade within the EAEU has doubled over the 10-year period, while trade with third countries has grown by more than 60 percent<sup>132</sup>" . At the January (2025) MEA meeting, it was emphasized that trade, financial and production ties in the association have demonstrated resilience and economies have demonstrated the ability to adapt to new changing conditions. In particular, "the aggregate GDP of the EAEU grew by 4% in 2024, which is higher than the global average growth rate (3.2%) the initial forecasts<sup>133</sup> and " and will reach almost \$100 billion by 2026. Nevertheless, the Belarusian side, as<sup>134</sup> chairing the union, will contribute even more actively to joint efforts to develop the EAEU's technological potential and form a common space of cooperative interaction in all sectors of the economy.

Speaking about **food security**, we note that at the already mentioned January (2025) meeting of the IGC it was decided to work on the issue of expanding the mechanisms of financial support for joint cooperation projects to the agro-industrial complex and its infrastructure in order to promote cooperation on food production, development of trade and logistics infrastructure. Among the highest priority areas of

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<sup>132</sup> Pivovarov, E. Golovchenko: without the development of industrial cooperation and technological sovereignty the EAEU has no development prospects / E. Pivovarov // [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/golovchenko-bez-razvitiya-promkooperatsii-i-tehnologicheskogo-suvereniteta-u-eaes-net-perspektiv-682567-2024/>

<sup>133</sup> Igor Petrishenko: Belarus has always been an active promoter of integration ideas in the Eurasian space [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://www.government.by/ru/content/11118>

<sup>134</sup> Economic growth rates of the EAEU for the second year in a row above the world average [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/tempy-ekonomicheskogo-rosta-eaes-vtorov-god-podrvad-vvshe-srednemiroyvkh/>

cooperation are "development of breeding and seed production of agricultural plants, livestock breeding, processing of agricultural products, improvement of agro-industrial complex infrastructure" . The application of financial support mechanisms in the agro-industrial complex will make it possible to develop own technologies, build efficient supply chains of products and resource support.<sup>135</sup>

A very important priority of Belarus' chairmanship in the EAEU in 2025 is the **common transport space and logistics**. The fact is that Eurasian transport corridors are the backbone of the transport infrastructure in the association, ensuring the formation of a common transport space and the development of the transit potential of the Eurasian Five. They "account for about 70% of the volume of transit traffic in the EAEU, which emphasizes the importance of synchronization in the development of national sections of each country" . The Belarusian side believes that the effective functioning of the logistics complex and transportation system is an important factor of economic growth in the union and promotion of Eurasian products to foreign markets, "it is a stable functioning of the transport and logistics system, adapted to the reorientation of commodity flows to friendly jurisdictions of the countries of the East, Asia-Pacific region, Global South"<sup>136</sup> . For this reason, the EAEU should actively develop promising areas for joint industrial cooperation - new railway rolling stock for cargo transportation, sea vessels of various classes and purposes, cargo and passenger aircraft, modern fleet of passenger wheeled vehicles. In this context, we can mention "the interstate program "Eurasian electric bus" developed by Belarus. The realization of this pilot project has

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<sup>135</sup> The EAEU discusses the use of mechanisms of financial support for cooperation projects in the agro-industrial complex [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/v-caes-rasshirvaetsva-primenenie-mekhanizmov-finansovov-podderzhki-kooperatsionnykh-proektov/>

<sup>136</sup> EAEU develops Eurasian transport corridors [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/caes-razvivaet-evrazivskie-transportnye-koridory/>

already begun<sup>137</sup>". And this cooperation project, as well as others, will also develop. It is important that the products manufactured under this project will be considered as originating from an EAEU member state, which will ensure the possibility of access of such products to public procurement in the territory of EAEU member states. So our country attaches great importance to this pilot project.<sup>138</sup>

Belarus' chairmanship of the EAEU in 2025 will also develop the necessary conditions for **international cooperation of the Eurasian Five** in all its formats, creating additional conditions for promoting the Union's goods to foreign markets. For this purpose, the potential of agreements on free trade zones with third countries will be fully utilized. To date, "agreements on free trade zones have been concluded with China, Vietnam, Singapore, Serbia, Iran (temporary agreement). Negotiations are underway with Indonesia, UAE, Tunisia, Morocco, Pakistan, India. In total, more than 30 countries are interested in concluding free trade agreements with EAEU member states". And these contacts are only growing.<sup>139</sup>

In particular, the EAEU in 2025 plans to discuss issues of industrial-technological cooperation, joint development of new technologies, and cooperation on digitalization of economies with such an integration association as BRICS. After all, "it is industry as a driver of economic growth that concentrates high-tech and knowledge-intensive competencies". In January 2025, the parties agreed to coordinate

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<sup>137</sup> Pivovarov, E. Golovchenko: EAEU needs new airplanes, sea vessels, railroad rolling stock / E. Pivovarov // [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/golovchenko-eaes-nuzhny-novye-samolety-morskie-suda-zheleznodorozhnyj-podvizhnoj-sostav-682570-2024/>

<sup>138</sup> Belarus counts on the development of the project "Eurasian electric bus" [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/belarus-rasschitvvaet-na-razvitiye-proekta-evrazijskij-elektrobus-689054-2025/>

<sup>139</sup> Petrishenko: EAEU needs to fully utilize the potential of agreements on free trade zones [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/petrishenko-eaes-neobhodimo-v-polnoj-mere-zadejstvovat-potentsial-soglashenij-o-zonah-svobodnoj-689067-2025/>

preparations for the meeting of the BRICS and EAEU industry ministers.<sup>140</sup>

One more fact. At present, the procedures necessary for the free trade agreement between the EAEU and Iran to enter into force have already been finalized. They will soon be finalized in Iran as well. And then the document will work very soon. In order to realize the full available potential for the growth of trade and economic interaction, it is now necessary "not only to develop cooperation on issues of mutual interest at the interstate level, but also to assist in strengthening contacts between the business circles of the partner countries". This will make it possible to achieve full disclosure of existing arrangements.<sup>141</sup>

Again in January 2025, the Council of the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) adopted an order to form a joint research group to study the feasibility of concluding a free trade agreement with the Republic of Tunisia. Preliminary analysis shows that "the transition to a preferential trade regime may allow the Eurasian Economic Union to increase supplies of grains, oilseeds, finished food products, metals, timber products and petrochemicals to the Tunisian market, while allowing the partner to increase exports of fresh fruits, nuts and certain categories of industrial goods".<sup>142</sup>

All these facts suggest that the intensification of negotiations with prospective partners of the Eurasian Five, including Belarus, is a key practical element in positioning the EAEU as an international regional organization successfully functioning on the continent. Let us hope that

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<sup>140</sup> ECE-Brazil cooperation within BRICS opens new opportunities [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/sotrudnichestvo-eek-i-brazilii-v-ramkakh-briks-otkrvvaet-novve-vozmozhnosti/>

<sup>141</sup> Andrei Slepnev: "The EAEU has completed the procedures necessary for the entry into force of the free trade agreement with Iran" [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/andrev-slepnev-eaes-zavershil-neobkhodimve-dlva-vstupleniya-v-silu-soglasheniya-o-svobodnov-torgovle/>

<sup>142</sup> The EEC Council approved the formation of a joint research group to study the feasibility of a free trade agreement with Tunisia [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/sovet-eek-odobril-formirovanie-sovmestnov-issledovatel'skov-gruppv-dlva-izucheniya-tselesoobraznosti/>



all these contacts and agreements will contribute to the growth of trade turnover, as well as to the intensification of cooperation and investment cooperation.

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## Prospects for cooperation are encouraging

Leaders of the **Eurasian Economic Union** at the December (2024) meeting of the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council approved the Main directions of the Eurasian Economic Union's (EAEU) international activities for 2025. The priority areas include "continuing the dialogue on trade and economic issues with the nearest neighbors, developing cooperation with the Union's observer states, deepening cooperation with key integration associations in Eurasia, Africa..." . The EAEU countries count on active international positioning of the association also with the states and integration associations of Latin America and the Caribbean to develop the established mechanisms of cooperation, including within the framework of memorandums, declarations and trade agreements. An important detail: "Now the share of Latin American countries in the EAEU trade turnover is only 3%, although the potential for cooperation is huge"<sup>143</sup> .<sup>144</sup>

By the beginning of 2025, the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) has formed an extensive network of cooperation with the states and integration associations of Latin America and the Caribbean through the conclusion of memorandums of cooperation. At the governmental level - with Chile, Peru, Cuba; at the ministerial level - with Ecuador, Argentina; at the level of integration structures - with the Andean Community, the **Latin American Economic System** (**SELASecretariat for Economic Integration in Central America** (**SIECA**), the , the Pacific Alliance, the **Southern Common Market** (**MERCOSUR**). Let us familiarize ourselves with some of them.

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<sup>143</sup> Approved the Main directions of the EAEU international activities for 2025 [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/utverzhdny-osnovnye-napravleniya-mezhdunarodny-devatelnosti-eaes-na-2025-god/>

<sup>144</sup> EEF-2023: EAEU and Latin America outlined new priorities for cooperation [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/eeef-2023-eaes-i-latinskaya-amerika-oboznachili-novye-prioritetv-sotrudnichestva/>

Back in 2018, the ECE signed a memorandum of understanding with **LAEC**, an intergovernmental regional organization founded in 1975 that brings together 25 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean: Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Chile, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela. The LACEC was the first regional intergovernmental entity in Latin America and the Caribbean with which the ECE adopted a document of understanding aimed at "sharing experiences in regional economic integration, aiming at the sustainable and inclusive development of regional integration groupings, jointly developing a methodology for the calculation of integration indices integration index. ", as well as cooperation on regional and interregional trade, fair competition development, regional labor market, and the development of a regional Statistics state that "in 2021, the Union's foreign trade turnover with Latin American countries increased by 54.4% to \$16.9 billion, including exports<sup>145</sup> of the Union increased by 2.2 times to \$8.7 billion and imports by 17.3% to \$8.3 billion" .<sup>146</sup>

In June 2024, the parties discussed the overlapping benchmarks for the development of the associations, as well as the potential for cooperation in a number of economic areas and decided to first hold joint thematic seminars. Six months later - in December - the first such meeting was held under the title "EAEU-LAEC: Best Integration Practices", where participants exchanged experience "in such areas as transport and financial infrastructure, logistics, food security,

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<sup>145</sup> Eurasian Economic Commission signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Latin American Economic System [Electronic resource]. - 2018. - URL: [https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/29-05-18-3/?sphrase\\_id=350633](https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/29-05-18-3/?sphrase_id=350633)

<sup>146</sup> SPIEF-2022: specific proposals to stimulate trade and investment cooperation between the EAEU and Latin America under the new economic reality [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/pmef-2022-vyrabotany-konkretnye-predlozheniya-po-stimulirovaniyu-torgovo-investitsionnogo-sotrudnich/>

technological cooperation in industry and agriculture, tourism and health care". The practice of these seminars will be continued in 2025.<sup>147</sup>

**Cuba** . should be named among the LABEC countries that are actively developing cooperation with the EAEU. In January 2024, the third meeting of the Joint Commission on Cooperation between the EEC and the Government of Cuba was held, during which they discussed "issues of promoting trade and economic cooperation, cooperation in the areas of agro-industrial complex, tourism, industry, technical regulation, circulation of medicines and medical devices". The parties agreed to give<sup>148</sup> cooperation a practice-oriented nature by identifying and implementing joint projects, primarily in such areas as industry, agro-industry, energy and infrastructure. We would like to add that the EAEU-Cuba cooperation already "covers 34 areas of cooperation, including trade, banking, finance, biotechnology, agriculture, information and communication technologies. The EAEU's trade turnover with Cuba in 2023 amounted to \$290 million".<sup>149</sup>

<sup>150</sup> And already in September 2024, within the framework of the EAEU-Cuba business dialogue, the possibilities of establishing joint ventures in Cuba to enter the consumer market of the entire Latin American region were noted, which "could be engaged in the production of citrus fruits, pork and poultry meat, modernization of Cuban industrial production, digital transformation of the economy, production of organic

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<sup>147</sup> Representatives of the Commission and the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System discussed best practices [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://eec.eaunion.org/news/predstaviteli-komissii-i-latinoamerikano-karibskov-ekonomicheskoy-sistemy-obsudili-luchshie-praktiki/>

<sup>148</sup> EAEU and Cuba intend to diversify trade and economic interaction [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://eec.eaunion.org/news/eaes-i-kuba-namereny-diversifitsirovat-torgovo-ekonomicheskoe-vzaimodeystvie/>

<sup>149</sup> EAEU and Cuba intend to deepen cooperation [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/eaes-i-kuba-namereny-uglubit-vzaimodeystvie-640962-2024/>

<sup>150</sup> New opportunities for the development of trade and economic cooperation discussed during the business dialog "EAEU - Cuba" [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://eec.eaunion.org/news/novye-vozmozhnosti-razvitiya-torgovo-ekonomicheskogo-sotrudnichestva-obsudili-v-khode-biznes-dialoga/>

fertilizers and other goods for export both to EAEU countries and third countries of the region, as well as generation of electricity using solar panels" xml-ph-00. But for this purpose it is necessary to work closely in such areas as legal relations in the field of land use and intellectual property, operation of mobile communications and payment systems in Cuba, opening of bank branches, improvement of logistics, including the entry of vessels flying the flags of third countries into sea ports, regulation of the Cuban labor market. So in 2025 system dialogue will continue on topical issues, which will include "issues of intensification of trade and economic cooperation, implementation of agreements in priority areas of interaction (pharmaceuticals, circulation of medicines and medical devices, technical regulation, logistics, industrial cooperation, informatization, tourism), strengthening cooperation of business circles and joint activity on international platforms".<sup>151</sup>

Another country in the LAEC, which is going to actualize cooperation with the EAEU is .. In January 2024, the parties signed a memorandum of cooperation, which defines such key areas of cooperation development as customs and technical regulation, industry, agribusiness, SPS measures, consumer protection. It should be noted that the EAEU trade turnover with Nicaragua has positive dynamics. From January to October 2023, exports of the Eurasian Five to this country increased by 14%, while imports more than doubled. Exports are dominated by medicines, cars and parts for them, nitrogen fertilizers, sunflower oil, oil products; imports include peanuts, coffee, tobacco products and raw materials, knitwear and textiles**Nicaragua**". And already in December 2024, the first meeting of the joint working group on interaction was held, where the issues related to the activation of trade and economic cooperation in the field of pharmaceuticals, industry, agro-

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<sup>151</sup> EEC and Cuba discussed plans to deepen the dialog [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://eec.eaunion.org/news/eeek-1-kuba-obsudili-planv-uglubleniva-dialoga/>

industrial complex were considered. The main emphasis was placed on the establishment and development of direct contacts between<sup>152</sup> business circles in such promising areas of cooperation as "creation of digital platforms for e-commerce, introduction of innovations, processing of food raw materials, garment production, chemical and furniture industry, as well as agro-industrial complex and energy" . It is planned that in the future the parties will sign a relevant memorandum, which will strengthen communication channels with key business associations of the EAEU countries and Nicaragua.<sup>153</sup>

Now let's look at the **Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR)**. It is a trade union of South American countries founded in 1991. Today it includes Argentina, Brazil, Venezuela, Paraguay and Uruguay. The total population of the association - more than 300 million people, and the combined gross domestic product exceeds three trillion dollars. The EEC and Mercosur signed a memorandum on trade and economic cooperation back in 2018. In the first eight months of 2024, trade turnover between the two sides grew by almost 17 percent. In November 2024, specific proposals for cooperation were discussed during the talks between representatives of the EEC and Mercosur. Among the areas of cooperation that are of particular interest is the study of experience in organizing the exchange of information between the customs services of Mercosur member countries, as well as in the digitalization of customs infrastructure. It should be noted that plays the "first violin" in this international organization **Brazil** . Suffice it to say that "Brazil accounted for 87.9% of the total trade turnover of the EAEU and Mercosur in January-August [2023]. The EAEU's trade turnover

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<sup>152</sup> EEC and the Government of Nicaragua signed a Memorandum of Cooperation [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/eeek-i-pravitelstvo-nikaragua-podpisali-memorandum-o-vzaimodeystvii/>

<sup>153</sup> EAEU and Nicaragua develop trade and economic cooperation [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/eaes-i-nikaragua-razvivayut-torgovo-ekonomicheskogo-sotrudnichestvo/>

with Brazil for 8 months 2024 increased by 15.9% compared to the same period in 2023. EAEU exports to Brazil increased by 32.1%". And in 2025, there seems to be a possibility of a bilateral memorandum between the EEC and Brazil.<sup>154</sup>

Lastly. In 2021, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between ECE and the **Secretariat for Economic Integration in Central America (SIECA)**, which aims to "intensify cooperation in areas such as mutual trade, technical regulation and standardization, industry and agribusiness, and macroeconomics". This international organization was formed in October 1993. Its members are Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama and El Salvador. And "the signing of the memorandum is a first step to boost trade and investment cooperation and, in the long term, to insert into global value chains<sup>155</sup>". In May 2024, ECE and SIECA representatives agreed, as a further step to deepen cooperation, to hold a joint workshop to exchange integration experiences, which will allow to learn more about each other's economic opportunities. After all, in the first half of 2025 has already become the chair of SIECA<sup>156</sup>, **Costa Rica**, which "will contribute in every possible way to deepening the dialog between the two integration structures". So this joint seminar is in the near future.<sup>157</sup>

Assessing all these facts, it is safe to say that the functioning of the EAEU as a pole of economic attraction in the international arena is already actively developing and will continue "with interested

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<sup>154</sup> EEC and Brazil defined vectors of customs cooperation [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://eec.eaunion.org/news/eeek-i-braziliva-opredelili-vektoryv-tamozhennogo-sotrudnichestva/>

<sup>155</sup> ECE and the Secretariat for Economic Integration in Central America signed a Memorandum of Understanding [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://eec.eaunion.org/news/eeek-i-sekretariat-po-ekonomicheskoy-integratsii-v-tsentralnoj-amerike-podpisali-memorandum-o-vzaimoponimanii/>

<sup>156</sup> Zalessky, B. Looking ahead. Features of multi-vector partnership in modern conditions / Boris Zalessky. - LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2021. - C. 21.

<sup>157</sup> EAEU and Costa Rica are interested in the development of economic cooperation [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://eec.eaunion.org/news/eaes-i-kosta-rika-zainteresovanv-v-razvitiiekonomicheskogo-sotrudnichestva-/>

international integration associations and organizations, as well as countries seeking equal and constructive partnership" , which include partners from Latin America and the Caribbean and who want to promote joint projects with all states of the Eurasian Economic Union.<sup>158</sup>

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<sup>158</sup> Declaration on the further development of economic processes of the Eurasian Economic Union until 2030 and for the period until 2045 "Eurasian Economic Way" [Electronic resource]. - 2023. – URL: [https://docs.eaeunion.org/docs/ru-ru/01443175/ms\\_26122023](https://docs.eaeunion.org/docs/ru-ru/01443175/ms_26122023)



## **Mutual Complementarity - foundation for a strong partnership**

In November 2024, the Malaysian capital Kuala Lumpur hosted a business dialog between the (EAEU) and the **Eurasian Economic Union Association of Southeast Asian Nations** (ASEAN), which was attended by more than 350 representatives of political, business and academic circles of the parties. And where it was noted that trade between the two integration platforms shows steady growth with double-digit rates, which indicates great potential for the development of multi-vector dialog, both at the inter-integration and country levels. The key driver of this process is the business community, as "joint EAEU and ASEAN expert and business platforms allow to create direct communication between entrepreneurs, eliminate information barriers and create a space of trust. The key task facing the two associations today is to create transparent and understandable conditions for business community interaction".<sup>159</sup>

Recall that ASEAN is an economic association formed in 1967. The members of the association are Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines, Brunei Darussalam, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar and Cambodia. Papua New Guinea and East Timor have observer status. This is one of the largest regional integration associations in Asia with a total gross domestic product exceeding two and a half trillion dollars and a population of about 625 million people. We would like to add, that the [memorandum of understanding](#) between the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) and ASEAN in the field of economic cooperation was signed in November 2018 in Singapore, which created the foundation for the formation of a dialog platform to discuss a wide range of issues of interaction between integration blocs on the scale of the

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<sup>159</sup> Business Dialogue of the EAEU and ASEAN was held in Malaysia [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/biznes-dialog-eaes-i-asean-sostovalsya-v-malavzii/>

Eurasian continent. And to implement the memorandum, a Program of Cooperation for 2020-2025 was adopted, which "covers such areas as customs legislation and law enforcement, trade policy, business activities, technical and antitrust regulation, SPS measures, energy, and the functioning of domestic markets" .<sup>160</sup>

In November 2023, the round table "Economic Agenda of the EAEU and ASEAN: Overlapping Interests" highlighted such promising areas of cooperation as technology platforms, food production and information technology being created in the Eurasian Five countries. And "the planned launch of a single energy market in the EAEU is potentially interesting for ASEAN countries, which import oil and natural gas, while drug manufacturers from ASEAN countries have the opportunity to work in the EAEU's single pharmaceutical market with a capacity of 10 billion US dollars" . Besides, if we take into account that by 2045 EAEU aims to become a self-sufficient, safe, harmoniously developed and attractive macro-region of the polycentric world<sup>161</sup>, achieving economic, technological and intellectual leadership with a high level of well-being of the population, then such a task statement, given the large territory, population, economic potential and dense transport networks of these integration associations, determines new prospects for economic cooperation and civilizational connectivity. Possible mechanisms for realizing promising areas of cooperation could be the creation of a global free trade zone between them, as well as technological partnership.

In June 2024, within the framework of the EAEU-ASEAN Business Dialogue, its participants noted that "the two associations need

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<sup>160</sup> EAEU and ASEAN plan to develop trade and economic cooperation [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/caes-i-asean-planiruvut-razvivat-torgovo-ekonomicheskoe-sotrudnichestvo/>

<sup>161</sup> Sergey Glazyev: "The EAEU-ASEAN Dialogue Improves Economic Connectivity in Eurasia" [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/sergey-glazev-dialog-caes-i-asean-uluchshaet-ekonomicheskuyu-svzannost-v-evrazii/>

to create a new dimension of dialog, which will allow to multiply the volume of trade turnover and eliminate existing barriers. These include problems in international settlements and information barriers for business representatives". And the development of network forms of interaction with the participation of business and scientific circles of the parties will help to bring cooperation between these two partners to a qualitatively new level. At the same time, more attention should be paid to the diversification of trade and economic interaction, deepening dialog and exchange of practical experience in the field of innovation, digital transformation and increasing market transparency. Moreover, at the moment, such areas as cooperation in energy efficiency, food security, transportation, logistics, finance and tourism are the points of growth and mutual strengthening of the economies of the member countries of the two associations.<sup>162</sup>

Returning to the November (2024) EAEU-ASEAN Business Dialogue held in Malaysia, we note that its participants agreed to apply the experience of cooperation and best practices in such areas as artificial intelligence, green economy, big data economy, and to focus the greatest potential for cooperation between business communities on issues of digitalization, industrial cooperation, food security, transport and logistics, and financial policy. All this can be seen in the examples of interaction between a number of ASEAN countries - **Vietnam, Indonesia, Myanmar** - and the Eurasian Five.

In particular, 2025 will mark 10 years since the conclusion of the Free Trade Agreement between the EAEU countries and **Vietnam**. During this time, the positive dynamics in this area has shown good growth. Suffice it to say that "in 2023, trade turnover increased 1.6 times

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<sup>162</sup> Sergey Glazyev at SPIEF-2024: "EAEU and ASEAN can use network formats to intensify interaction" [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://eec.eacunion.org/news/sergey-glazev-na-pmef-2024-caes-i-asean-mogut-ispolzovat-setevye-formaty-dlya-aktivizatsii-vzaimodev/>

compared to 2016, and in the first half of 2024 there was an increase in this indicator by 17% compared to the same period of 2023". At the same time, the arrangements outlined in this agreement currently provide preferences for about 90 percent of the commodity nomenclature, ensuring duty-free access for virtually all trade.<sup>163</sup>

Back at the fifth meeting of the EAEU-Vietnam Joint Committee on the Implementation of the Free Trade Agreement, held in November 2023, the parties agreed to intensify work on major investment projects, which will undoubtedly provide prospects for further growth mutual supply of products. At the same time they discussed "issues of additional liberalization of access of goods to each other's markets, protective measures, sanitary and phytosanitary regulation, climate agenda, exchange of information in the field of investment", as well as existing technical barriers to trade, issues of electronic exchange of customs information and rules of origin of goods. In terms of sanitary and phytosanitary regulation, the participants of the meeting considered problems, including access of meat products from Belarus to the Vietnamese market.<sup>164</sup>

In July 2024, the first meeting of the regular EAEU-Vietnam dialog on market access issues related to the area of technical barriers to trade, products of the pharmaceutical and automotive industries was held in Hanoi. Based on the results of the dialog, the parties "managed to significantly increase understanding of Vietnam's regulatory systems on specific issues and identify possible further actions to improve conditions for access of EAEU products to the Vietnamese market". And in the October 2024 talks, the parties noted the effectiveness of

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<sup>163</sup> Bakytzhan Sagintayev held talks with Prime Minister of Vietnam Pham Minh Tinh [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/bakytzhan-sagintaev-provel-peregovory-s-premer-ministrom-vetnama-fam-min-tinem/>

<sup>164</sup> Andrey Slepnev: "Further increase in the volume of trade with Vietnam will be facilitated by the realization of joint investment projects" [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/andrey-slepnev-dalnevshemu-uvlicheniyu-obemov-torgovli-s-vetnamom-budet-sposobstvovat-realizatsiya/>

various tools for the development of trade and customs administration, including the introduction and application of digital solutions. And now joint work is underway to prepare a document on the electronic exchange of information on issued certificates between the EAEU and Vietnam.<sup>165</sup> So in 2025, the interaction between the integration platforms will undoubtedly rise to a new height.

As for **Indonesia**, the EEC concluded a memorandum of cooperation with it in October 2019 to address the issues of trade facilitation, customs and technical regulation, development of financial markets. And in September 2022, the EEC Council decided to start negotiations with this country to conclude a free trade agreement. After all, "Indonesia is the largest economy in ASEAN and the fourth largest in the world in terms of population, so trade relations with this Asian state have significant potential" . And from April 2023 to July 2024, five rounds of negotiations on a free trade agreement between the EAEU and Indonesia have already taken place.<sup>166</sup>

In September 2024, during the Indonesia-EAEU Digital Dialogue, its participants noted that "the future agreement lays down mechanisms to strengthen cooperation and cooperative ties between the businesses of our countries in the areas of telecommunications, innovation, digital technologies and e-commerce" and will facilitate the establishment of links between digital companies to share solutions, technologies, expertise and explore new opportunities for cooperation. Apparently, in

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<sup>165</sup> EAEU discussed with Vietnam the issues of access to the market of automotive and pharmaceutical products [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/caes-obsudil-s-vetnamom-voprosy-dostupa-na-rvnyok-avtomobilnov-i-farmaceuticheskoy-produkcii/>

<sup>166</sup> Zalessky, B. Export Growth Strategy. Opportunities and challenges of open economy in modern conditions / Boris Zalessky. - LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2023. - C. 5.

2025, the EAEU and Indonesia will reach the final stage of signing this important document.<sup>167</sup>

Finally, **Myanmar** expressed interest in cooperation with the EAEU as early as 2021, and in June 2023 signed a memorandum of cooperation with the Eurasian Five, which "provides for cooperation in such areas as customs regulation, technical regulation, application of sanitary, veterinary-sanitary and quarantine phytosanitary measures, financial markets, transportation, energy, agro-industrial complex..." . On the basis of this document, the parties are already beginning to address specific tasks to remove barriers to trade, exchange information, and work out cooperation mechanisms for the creation of new projects and investments. In April 2024, at the first meeting of the joint working group on interaction, it was noted that "Myanmar has a geographically favorable position - it neighbors such economically powerful countries as India and China, is located as a bridge connecting Southeast Asia and the Eurasian market<sup>168</sup>" . For this reason, the establishment of direct large-scale and continuous cooperation through business circles will allow to intensify trade and economic interaction between Myanmar and the EAEU states, develop cooperation in the field of construction, transportation links, creating conditions for settlements in national currencies. The idea of business to establish trading houses was also supported, which will increase the supply of goods.<sup>169</sup>

At the negotiations in June 2024, representatives of Myanmar expressed interest in "expanding exports of agricultural products to the EAEU market order to strengthen food security of the countries of the

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<sup>167</sup> EEC supports the interaction of business communities of the EAEU and Indonesia [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/EEK-podderzhivaet-vzaimodevstvije-biznes-soobshchestv-eaes-i-indonezii/>

<sup>168</sup> EEC and Myanmar signed a memorandum of cooperation [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/EEK-i-myanma-podpisali-memorandum-o-vzaimodevstvii/>

<sup>169</sup> EAEU and Myanmar develop trade and economic cooperation [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/eaes-i-myanma-razvivayut-torgovo-ekonomicheskoe-sotrudnichestvo/>

regionin " , as well as in cooperation in the production of medicines, pharmaceutical technologies and cooperation in the regulation of this area. And already at the first joint seminar of the EEC and Myanmar in December 2024, they discussed common approaches to a single customs regulation in the EAEU, the application of the "single window" mechanism and the implementation of interstate electronic exchange of information in the customs sphere. It should be noted that the high rate of development of the parties' dialog within the framework of the implementation of the memorandum on cooperation and the great potential of the format of joint seminars "allows not only to carry out information exchange, but also to identify points of economic activity and effectively form proposals for the draft agenda of the next meeting of the joint working group"<sup>170</sup> . In 2025, the practice of joint seminars between the EEC and Myanmar on finance, digital economy, and agro-industry will be continued in order to deepen interaction in key areas of cooperation, increase the volume of trade turnover between the EAEU countries and Myanmar and eliminate imbalances in mutual trade.<sup>171</sup>

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<sup>170</sup> Sergey Glazyev: "The key task of cooperation between the EAEU and Myanmar is to eliminate the problem of trade imbalance and involvement of business circles in the sectoral dialog" [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/sergev-glazev-klyuchevaya-zadacha-sotrudnichestva-eaes-i-myanmar-ustranenie-problemy-torgovogo-disbal/>

<sup>171</sup> The cycle of joint seminars between ECE and Myanmar has started [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/startoval-tsikl-sovmestnykh-seminarov-eek-i-myanmar-/>

## From the interim agreement - to observer status

In December 2024, the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council decided to grant **Iran** observer state status in the **Eurasian Economic Union** (EAEU). Note that such status is granted to a state interested in mutually beneficial trade and economic cooperation with the EAEU and its members and the convergence of legal regulation. "Currently, Cuba and Uzbekistan also have the status of an observer state to the EAEU" .<sup>172</sup>

For reference, we note that back in 2018, the EAEU and Iran adopted their first joint document - a temporary free trade agreement, which was "localized, covered few items and did not provide for zero duty rates..." . In December 2023, the EAEU and Iran have already signed a free trade agreement, which opened up a wide range of new opportunities, as well as "will significantly improve the competitiveness of goods of EAEU member states and through this exports to Iran<sup>173</sup>; increase " and in general will contribute to the growth of trade turnover, intensification of cooperation and investment cooperation.<sup>174</sup>

In April 2024, the Council of the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) approved an action plan aimed at implementing this agreement, which provides for deepening cooperation between the business communities of the parties. In order to create a business dialogue platform, the existing memorandum of cooperation between the EAEU Business Council and the Iranian Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mining and Agriculture dated September 25, 2019 has been amended.

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<sup>172</sup> Iran received the status of an observer to the EAEU [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/iran-poluchil-status-nabljudatelja-pri-caes-685429-2024/>

<sup>173</sup> Pivovarov, E. EEC: free trade zone between EAEU and Iran can be created by the end of the year / E. Pivovarov // [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/eeek-zona-svobodnoj-torgovli-mezhdu-caes-i-iranom-mozhet-byt-sozdana-do-kontsa-goda-566030-2023/>

<sup>174</sup> EAEU agreement with Iran on free trade signed in St. Petersburg [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/soglashenie-caes-s-iranom-o-svobodnoj-torgovle-podpisano-v-sankt-peterburge-607037-2023/>



"Activities under this platform will be carried out taking into account such areas of sectoral interaction as cooperation in transportation, development of multimodal transportation, joint projects in research and development, establishment of cooperation ties between enterprises, projects of the fuel and energy complex, as well as energy efficiency, energy saving and renewable energy, education, medicine, telecommunications". Additionally, the sides prepared a plan of joint trade facilitation activities, including business forums, exhibitions and business missions. In addition, the Iranian side proposed to hold a presentation of the EAEU in 2025 in Tehran in order to "raise awareness among Iranian business circles about the Eurasian agenda, as well as the opportunities for foreign business. This initiative is aimed at strengthening mutually beneficial cooperation and expanding commercial ties between EAEU countries and Iranian partners"<sup>175</sup> .<sup>176</sup>

Among the interesting initiatives on the part of the EAEU, in which Iran is already getting involved, is the project "Eurasian Agroexpress". Recall that the implementation of a joint project of the EAEU member states to implement accelerated rail and multimodal transportation "Eurasian Agroexpress" for the development of regular mutual supplies of agricultural products and food, as well as export supplies in the Asian and European directions, was supported by the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council in February 2022. And in February 2023, the project was scaled to the routes of the North-South corridor. In this context, we are talking about the supply of products from the countries of the Union to Iran, as well as the organization of large-scale transportation of Iranian fruits and vegetables to the market of the "five"

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<sup>175</sup> Pivovarov, E. The EEC Council approved the plan to implement the free trade agreement with Iran / E. Pivovarov // [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/soviet-eek-utverdil-plan-po-realizatsii-soglasheniya-o-svobodnoj-torgovle-s-iranom-627572-2024/>

<sup>176</sup> EEC and Iran discussed cooperation plans [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://eec.eaunion.org/news/eek-i-iran-obsudili-planv-sotrudnichestva/>

countries. The fact is that with the help of this project "agricultural products will be delivered more quickly, with better quality and fewer intermediaries" . In this regard, it is planned to organize interaction with a large Iranian holding, which can either directly enter the project or act as a "single window" to organize the supply of agro-industrial products of the P5 countries to Iran and export Iranian products in the opposite direction.<sup>177</sup>

All these facts show that Iran is gradually becoming one of the EAEU's important partners. Suffice it to say that "over the past five years of operation of the temporary trade agreement, trade turnover between the EAEU and Iran has more than doubled - from \$2.4 billion in 2019 to \$5.2 billion in 2023" . The most promising areas of interaction between the parties are the development of transport and logistics infrastructure, expansion of cooperation ties between enterprises<sup>178</sup>, cooperation in the agro-industrial complex, oil refining and petrochemical industries, scientific research and development. In addition, statistics for 2024 show that for ten months the trade turnover still "increased by 12.8%, exports of goods to Iran increased by 16%, imports - by 8%" .<sup>179</sup>

One last thing. Belarus ratified a free trade agreement between the EAEU and Iran in July 2024 to ensure diversification of export supplies by removing tariff and non-tariff barriers on access to the market of this country for a wide list of goods, as well as improving conditions for trade and economic cooperation. "Opening up the Iranian market by zeroing duties will provide exporters of Belarus with more competitive

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<sup>177</sup> Pivovarov, E. Iran joins the EAEU project "Eurasian Agroexpress" / E. Pivovarov // [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/iran-podkliuchaetsia-k-realizatsii-proekta-caes-evrazijskij-agroekspress-619975-2024/>

<sup>178</sup> Pivovarov, E. The EEC is confident in the entry of trade between the EAEU and Iran to a new level / E. Pivovarov // [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/v-EEK-uvereniy-v-vyhode-torgovli-caes-i-irana-na-novyj-uroven-637183-2024/>

<sup>179</sup> Bakytzhan Sagintayev: "Dialogue with Iran has the potential for development in a number of directions" [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/bakytzhan-sagintayev-dialog-s-iranom-imeet-potentsial-razvitiya-po-tselomu-rvadu-napravleniy/>

conditions for supplying goods" . By removing tariff barriers, Iran, whose population has already passed the 80-million mark, can already successfully trade with Belarus. And the Belarusian side has a great chance to promote its machine-building and food products, while enjoying good preferences.<sup>180</sup>

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<sup>180</sup> Belarus ratified the EAEU free trade agreement with Iran [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-ratifikirovala-soglashenie-o-svobodnoj-torgovle-eaes-s-iranom-645885-2024/>

## **Integration as a tool promising areas of cooperation**

In 2025, the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) intends to intensify the expansion of mutual cooperation, increase trade volumes, and establish an integration dialogue with the countries of the African Union (AU) and international regional organizations on the continent. Especially since "trade and economic cooperation between the EAEU and the AU is of mutual strategic interest to the parties, based on the similarity of many competencies and areas of integration construction" .

<sup>181</sup>The fact is that in November 2024, representatives of the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) and the AU Commission (AUC) discussed the practical aspects of preparing a new memorandum on cooperation between the EEC and the AUC, which will facilitate the realization of trade and economic potential of the countries of the Eurasian Five and Africa.

It should be recalled that the African Union was established in 2002, uniting 55 states of the continent. Among the declared objectives of the AU are the protection of sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of member states, strengthening peace, security and stability, accelerating political and socio-economic integration on the continent, promoting democratic principles and institutions, promoting coordinated approaches of African countries on the world stage, creating the necessary conditions to ensure Africa's dignified role in the global economy. The Memorandum of Understanding between the EEC and the AUC was signed in October 2019. And already "in 2021, foreign trade turnover EAEU with African countries increased by 21.9% (to \$18.9

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<sup>181</sup> EEC and the African Union Commission discussed the development of trade and economic cooperation [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/eeek-i-komissiya-afrikanskogo-soyuza-obsudili-voprosy-razvitiya-torgovo-ekonomicheskogo-sotrudnichest/>

billion), exports - by 24% (to \$15.4 billion), imports - by 13.7% (to \$3.5 billion)" .<sup>182</sup>

In November 2024, at the session "EAEU-Africa: Identifying Key Points of Interaction with Countries and Regional Integration Associations of the Continent", it was emphasized that the logic of the Eurasian Five's dialogue with African partners is to promote trade and economic cooperation, as "integration is a tool that makes the economy more stable, unlocks competitive advantages, and makes a significant contribution to economic growth" . По этой причине было предложено в качестве первого шага предпринять меры к сокращению дефицита информации о коммерческих возможностях и упрощению процедур доступа на рынки, содействовать установлению прямых контактов между ассоциациями деловых кругов, активизировать взаимодействие с участием институтов развития, а также отраслевое сотрудничество в сферах, представляющих взаимный интерес, и углубить диалог с интеграционными структурами африканского континента, в том числе с Экономическим сообществом государств Центральной Африки, Африканским э<sup>183</sup>

At the already mentioned session in November 2024, representatives of the EAEU and the **Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)** agreed "to start work on formalizing cooperation by developing a memorandum and a plan of joint activities for the coming years" . Also, the EAEU Business Council and the ECCAS business community association will work out the issue of concluding a joint document on cooperation. We would like to add that this international organization - ECCAS - was established in 1994 on the

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<sup>182</sup> EAEU and Africa intend to develop cooperation in food security issues [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/caes-i-afrika-namerenv-razvivat-sotrudnichestvo-v-voprosakh-prodovolstvennov-bezopasnosti/>

<sup>183</sup> Eldar Alisherov: "The logic of the EAEU dialog with partners in Africa is to promote trade and economic cooperation" [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/eldar-alisherov-logika-dialoga-caes-s-partnerami-v-afrike-soveststvovat-razvivitu-torgovo-ekonomichesk/>

basis of the Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa. Participating countries: Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Cameroon, Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe. The stated objectives of this structure are to develop integration processes, promote their comprehensive deepening with reliance on their own economic strengths, and move towards the creation of a common market.<sup>184</sup>

When it comes to the Eurasian Five's partnership with the **African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank)**, it is a pan-African supranational multilateral financial institution that is the designated authority to finance and promote intra- and extra-African trade, as well as Africa's leading regional integration bank that plays a crucial role in supporting the establishment of the African Continental Free Trade Area. It was established in 1997 under the auspices of the African Development Bank and works with African and non-African export credit agencies, development finance institutions, commercial banks, and other multilateral institutions.

As early as the end of 2023, at the talks between representatives of the EEC and Afreximbank, it was emphasized that "promising joint projects for companies from the EAEU and African countries could be the production of chemical products, machinery and equipment, including agricultural machinery, cultivation of crops and livestock products, their transportation, as well as such areas as exploration, mining and processing of minerals, energy, electronic services..." . But the solution of these problems should begin with the elimination of "bottlenecks" limiting trade between regions, including joint work on the optimization of logistics chains, certification and expertise, the search for

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<sup>184</sup> ECE establishes direct interaction with subregional integration structures in Africa [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/eek-nalazhivaet-prvamoe-vzaimodevstvие-s-subregionalnvmi-integratsionnvmi-strukturami-afriki/>

mutually beneficial forms of payments for trade transactions using national currencies, including digital currencies, the development of other issues of providing financial services related to foreign trade supplies, primarily in the field of freight and insurance, the establishment of direct correspondent relations between the financial sector, the establishment of direct correspondent relations between the financial sector, and the establishment of direct correspondent relations between the financial sector and the private sector.<sup>185</sup>

In order to attract entrepreneurs to joint projects, it is necessary to promote awareness of each other's trade and economic opportunities and mechanisms of price formation for major exchange commodities through the use of information systems to search for potential partners and goods, mutual recognition of ratings, as well as joint Eurasian business missions to African countries. Then the parties agreed to continue developing constructive dialogue in the field of regulating economic activities in the EAEU and AU, including through joint events and information exchange, as well as to work out the issue of deepening and institutionalizing cooperation between the EEC and Afreximbank in order to reach a more effective and practice-oriented trade and economic cooperation at the level of the EAEU and Africa. And already in November 2024, the parties "agreed to work on the formation of a plan of joint events to offer business platforms for direct communication" in 2025.<sup>186</sup>

Finally, in the new year, the EAEC expects to promote partnerships with the **Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)**, which has 21 member states: Burundi, Comoros,

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<sup>185</sup> EEC and Afreximbank intend to develop trade and economic cooperation [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/EEK-i-afreksimbank-namerenv-razvivat-torgovo-ekonomicheskoe-sotrudnichestvo/>

<sup>186</sup> EEC and the African Export-Import Bank intensify cooperation [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/EEK-i-afrikanskiy-eksportno-importnyy-bank-aktiviziruyut-vzaimodeystvie/>

Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Kenya, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Madagascar, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, Sudan, Swaziland, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. In July 2022, the EEC and the COMESA Competition Commission signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Competition Policy and Enforcement, which "opens up new opportunities for closer agency collaboration" . In July 2024, the parties outlined "a common goal of promoting the sustainable development of their regions through economic<sup>187</sup> integration" and outlined prospects for cooperation in 2025.<sup>188</sup>

In general, the realization of the high potential for the development of trade and economic cooperation between the EAEU and African countries shows that it is taking place in the context of constructive dialogue, including through joint events and information exchange, elaboration of issues of deepening and expanding cooperation between the parties.

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<sup>187</sup> EEC and COMESA signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Competition Policy and Enforcement [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/news/eeek-i-komesa-podpisali-memorandum-o-vzaimoponimani-i-v-oblasti-konkurentnov-politiki-i-pravoprimeneni/>

<sup>188</sup> ECE and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) will expand opportunities for dialog between the parties [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/eeek-i-obschij-rynok-vostochnoj-i-juzhnoj-afriki-komesa-rasshirjat-vozmozhnosti-dlja-dialoga-storon-640960-2024/>



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