

Cooperation as a vector of development

Belarus has developed a draft strategy to attract foreign direct investment up to 2035, which envisages doubling their volume on a net basis up to \$3 billion by 2025. To this end, investment legislation will be improved, and administrative procedures for business will be simplified. Work on attraction of foreign investments and promotion of Belarusian investment potential abroad should be stepped up using various instruments, including economic days in Belarus, investment forums, conferences, and meetings with businessmen. Such areas as high-tech and science-intensive production, logistics, transport and digital infrastructure, financial sector, social sphere - through public-private partnership projects - are considered as promising for attracting foreign direct investment into the Belarusian economy. It is planned to form a package of additional preferences for creation of industrial micro, small and medium enterprises by domestic business and foreign investors on the territory of districts with difficult economic situation. This is the subject of the proposed study.



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Zalesskij



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Collection of articles

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Belarus: attracting foreign investment as a topical media issue

Activation of the inflow of foreign investments has been one of the priority directions of development of the Belarusian economy for a number of years due to the limited other sources of economic growth, so this issue is currently paid special attention in Belarus. It was noted in the Address to the Belarusian people and the National Assembly in August 2020 that "investment is the most powerful and secure source of economic growth¹. That is why the tasks of integration of the Belarusian economy into the system of modern world economic ties and effective use of the available domestic scientific and technical potential urgently require renewal of the basic production assets and implementation of the newest foreign technologies. Among the existing mechanisms of state influence on investment activity, "along with tax benefits, soft loans, co-financing, administration, creation of special investment councils, regional development organizations and investment funds, information support of investment activity should be mentioned as well"². As promising areas to attract foreign direct investment in the Belarusian economy are considered such as high-tech and knowledge-intensive industries, logistics, transport and digital infrastructure, financial sector, social sphere - through public-private partnership projects, as well as the tourism industry. In addition, it is planned "to form a package of additional preferences for the creation of industrial micro, small and medium enterprises by domestic businesses and foreign investors in areas with a difficult economic situation³.

1 Message to the Belarusian People and the National Assembly [Electronic resource]. - – 2020. - URL: http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/poslanie-belorusskomu-narod-i-natsionalnomu-sobraniju-24168/

2 Zaleskii, B.L. Belarusian International Journalism: Peculiarities, Trends, Perspectives: Textbook / B.L. Zaleskii. - Minsk: Belarusian State University, 2014. - – C. 344.

3 Belarus intends to double the attraction of foreign direct investment by 2025 [Electronic resource]. - – 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-namerena-k-2025-godu-udvoit-privlechenie-prjamyh-inostrannyh-investitsij-338382-2019/>.

As is known, Belarus has already worked out a draft strategy for attracting foreign direct investment up to 2035, which envisages doubling their volume on a net basis by 2025 to three billion dollars. This would not only involve improving the investment legislation and simplifying administrative procedures for business, but would also involve stepping up efforts to attract foreign investment and promote Belarusian investment potential abroad through a variety of tools, including economic days. Domestic mass media and representatives of the international segment of national journalism should also find their niche in this context.

Recall that in 2019 foreign investors invested \$10 billion in the real sector of the Belarusian economy. At the same time, "the inflow of foreign direct investment amounted to \$7.2 billion, or 72.3% of all incoming foreign investment"⁴. The leaders of the list of the major investors were entities of Russia, which accounted for slightly less than half of all the incoming investments, as well as companies of Great Britain and Cyprus. In the first half of 2020, a similar figure was \$4.5 billion, and the share of foreign direct investment in this volume exceeded 70 percent. "The main investors of organizations of the republic were entities of the Russian Federation (42.8 percent of all incoming investments), Cyprus (10.9 percent) and Austria (7.9 percent)"⁵.

The peculiarity of the current state of the Belarusian economy lies in the fact that today it is necessary to significantly increase the inflow of foreign investments in the regions of Belarus, where they "should promote sustainable, high-quality, balanced development of small towns of the country, organization of production there attractive to the international

4 Foreign investors invested \$10 billion in the Belarusian economy in 2019 [Electronic resource]. - - 2020. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/inostrannye-investors-vlozhili-v-2019-godu-v-ekonomiku-belarusi-10-mlrd-379405-2020/>.

5 Foreign investors invested \$4.5 billion in the Belarusian economy in the first half of the year [Electronic resource]. - - 2020. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/inostrannye-investors-vlozhili-v-i-polugodii-v-ekonomiku-belarusi-45-mlrd-402451-2020/>.

market products"⁶ . Regional mass media can and must contribute to the solution of this problem by disclosing, summarizing and distributing in their publications for further use already existing positive experience based on concrete examples, of which there are quite a few in our country. In particular, the activities of free economic zones (FEZs) in Belarus are among such examples.

So, only in the FEZ "Minsk", where there are already about 120 residents registered, during the first six months of this year there has been received more than \$ 118 million from abroad, 85% of which were foreign direct investments, which is 76% higher than last year. "The key investors were Switzerland, Cyprus and China"⁷ . An active policy of attracting foreign investment has enabled a significant - almost a third - increase in exports of FEZ residents to the "far arc" countries, to achieve a foreign trade surplus of almost 85 million dollars. In addition, 482 people were employed in new jobs.

Another example. In the first half of 2020, the FEZ Gomel-Raton attracted over 55 million dollars of direct foreign investments. An active policy in this respect by FEZ residents even in the current difficult epidemiological conditions has allowed not only to increase industrial output for the first six months of this year by 2.6 percent, but also to increase the growth rate of revenues from sales of goods and services by 4 percent, to create 232 new jobs for this period, to receive a positive balance in foreign trade of almost 300 million dollars. The secret of success is also in the fact that "residents of FEZ "Gomel-Raton" sell the major part of their

6 Zalesky, B.L. Brest region: the purpose - attraction of foreign investments / B.L. Zalesky // Materials for XV international scientific practical conference, Present Investigations and Development - 2019, 15-22 January 2019; Sofia: Byal GRAD-BG. -- C. 28.

7 More than \$118 million of foreign investments arrived in FEZ "Minsk" in January-June [Electronic resource]. - - 2020. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/bolee-118-mln-zarubezhnyh-investitsij-postupilo-v-sez-minsk-v-janvare-ijune-403464-2020/>.

products outside Belarus⁸. This is despite the fact that as of August 1, 2020 there were only 69 economic entities registered here with investments from 16 countries of the world. Note that this trend is also typical for the Gomel region as a whole. Suffice it to say that in 2019, a significant increase in attracting foreign investment showed Gomel - at once one and a half times. The largest investments were then directed to the modernization of production facilities and infrastructure construction. It was, in particular, about technical modernization of the mineral fertilizer shop of the Gomel Chemical Plant, organization of production of innovative medical products at the Medplast enterprise, production of furniture, mattresses and components at the Delcom40 company, and reconstruction of sections of Gomelenergo's heating networks. As a result, "more than 3.2 thousand new jobs were created in Gomel due to new enterprises and productions"⁹

Investment cooperation with foreign partners is developing in a peculiar way in Vitebsk, where more than half of foreign direct investments in the first six months of 2020 were attracted by residents of FEZ "Vitebsk. This is despite the fact that "the share of employees of FEZ enterprises in the number of those employed in the region's economy does not exceed 3.5%¹⁰. Let us remind you that 53 investment projects are currently being implemented in the FEZ territory, 26 of which involve capital from 15 countries. And here in the first half of 2020 almost 22 million dollars of foreign direct investment on a net basis - this is almost a third more than in 2019. As a result, such investments made it possible to ensure the share of exports of FEZ residents in the total volume of products sold at 70 percent,

8 More than \$55 million of foreign investments came to FEZ Gomel-Raton in the first half of the year [Electronic resource]. - - 2020. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/bolee-55-mln-inostrannyh-investitsij-postupilo-v-sez-gomel-raton-za-polugodie-404136-2020>

9 Gomel exceeded the target for attracting foreign investment by 1.5 times in 2019 [Electronic resource]. - - 2020. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/gomel-v-2019-godu-perevypolnil-zadanie-po-privlecheniju-inostrannyh-investitsij-v-15-raza-379723-2020/>.

10 Residents of FEZ "Vitebsk" increased the volume of direct foreign investments almost by a third in the first half of the year [Electronic resource]. - - 2020. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/rezidenty-sez-vitebsk-za-i-polugodie-narastili-objem-prjamyh-inostrannyh-investitsij-pochti-na-tret-401152-2020/>.

and the geography of supplies included 63 countries, 23 of which are European Union states.

All these facts, which could go on and on, once again show that the topic of attraction of foreign investments into the Belarusian economy today is developing dynamically and becoming more and more relevant especially for the regions of the country. It is obvious that in this regard it should find its rightful place and be firmly fixed on the pages of the Belarusian regional press, which, unfortunately, according to our observations, does not happen there yet.

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Belarus: new residents, new projects

One of the obvious trends of the first quarter of 2021 was the active arrival of new residents to Belarusian special and free economic zones with their export-oriented innovation and investment projects. Thus, 65 companies with the focus areas of "medicine, fintech, e-commerce, gaming, transportation, industry and agriculture" were registered in March 2021.¹¹ were registered in March 2021 as residents of the special economic zone - High-Tech Park (HTP). As a result, at the beginning of March, the HTP already had 1,021 companies, showing an enviable rate of growth in production (+43%), exports (+25%) and foreign direct investment (+26%). At the same time, "the main consumers of IT products and services of HTP residents are the United States and EU countries - they account for about 90% of all exports¹².

Among the new HTP residents is the company Integration Distribution Projects, which intends to develop software and equipment for fare payment through biometric terminals in the Minsk metro, as well as to create a border guard workstation with a facial recognition system for border crossing. Another HTP resident, Badrobot, will develop a software and hardware complex consisting of an independently designed smart construction printer, embedded software and a CAD/CAM application to control the construction printer. AMIS-ITI plans to develop custom software for the areas of industrial safety, renewable energy, medicine, electric power, transport, oil and gas industry, and the product area will be represented by its own mobile application of medical profile for doctors and medical staff. RINGL Software Development plans to create a universal platform for comfortable everyday

11_The number of HTP residents exceeded 1 thousand [Electronic resource]. - – 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/chislo-rezidentov-pvt-prevysilo-1-tys-431144-2021/>

12_Absolute all-time record - HTP exports in 2020 exceed \$2.7 billion [Electronic resource]. - – 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/absoljutnyj-rekord-za-vsju-istoriju-ekспорт-pvt-v-2020-godu-prevysil-27-mlrd-432318-2021/>

communication and business communications with advanced features in security, social interaction and e-commerce.

In addition, residents with foreign capital have also joined the HTP, including two development centers of foreign corporations. In particular, Altoros Bel, as the development center of the American corporation Altoros, plans to create and support software in the areas of decentralized finance and COVID-19 distribution restrictions, and Deriv BAY represents the Deriv transnational group of companies and will work on various platforms in the sphere of online commerce.

If we talk about the special economic zone (SEZ) - the Sino-Belarusian Industrial Park "Great Stone", where 68 business entities operate today, it is planned to attract about 17 new residents in 2021, the work with which on their registration is already underway. As a rule, these "projects are very good, some of them are really <...> systemic. For example, the project to create a multimodal railway terminal with the participation of Germany, China, Belarus and Switzerland, the construction of which will begin this year.

The Belarusian free economic zones (FEZs) are also adding new participants, "the number of residents in which at the beginning of autumn 2020 exceeded 450 business entities¹³. Here are just a few examples. Already in January 2021 the resident of FEZ "Mogilev" became LLC "Empire Green" - a manufacturer of premium pellets and industrial pellets, which are sold not only in the domestic market, but also in foreign countries. Entering the FEZ will allow the company to increase production of the sought-after products, which "is considered one of the most effective areas of utilization of small wood waste and bark due to the use of almost 100% of the incoming raw materials"¹⁴.

13 Zalesky, B. Partnership in Focus. International interaction under uncertainty and volatility / B. Zalesky. - LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2021. - - C. 23.

14_New resident registered in FEZ "Mogilev" [Electronic resource]. - - 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/novyj-rezident-zaregistrirovan-v-sez-mogilev-423476-2021/>

And in March 2021, SodaStream LLC came to FEZ "Mogilev" with an investment project in the production of plastic products for packaging of goods, engaged in the production of special lids-siphons that can be used for all carbonated and low-alcohol beverages, as well as carbonated mineral and drinking water. The new resident is already supplying its products to Russia, Ukraine, Serbia, Moldova and Romania. The implementation of this project in the FEZ "will increase regional exports, as well as help create jobs for residents of Mogilev and the Mogilev region"¹⁵

At the end of February 2021, a new resident was also registered in the capital FEZ "Minsk" - the company "Altovatt", which will implement an investment project to build and maintain a power plant for the needs of other residents of the FEZ. Erection of this installation will allow them to reduce the cost of their products by optimizing the cost of electricity in the daytime. It is interesting that "at the stage of design and construction the project will be managed by Pua Energy, which oversees the projects of Irish investors in the Republic of Belarus. That is, there will be Irish investments in the amount of about 4.5 million euros"¹⁶.

15_The new resident of FEZ "Mogilev" will produce plastic products for packaging goods [Electronic resource]. - - 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/novyj-rezident-sez-mogilev-budet-proizvodit-plastikovye-izdelija-dlja-upakovki-tovarov-432388-2021/>

16_A new resident of FEZ "Minsk" will build an installation to save electricity by other residents [Electronic resource]. - - 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/novyj-rezident-sez-minsk-postroit-ustanovku-dlja-ekonomii-elektroenergii-drugimi-rezidentami-430335-2021/>

Belarus: the goal is to create innovative cities and regions

In March 2021 the forum of the International Telecommunication Union "Smart sustainable cities: organizational and technical aspects of development" took place in the Belarusian capital; about 200 people took part in it and the representatives of Russia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, the experts of the Green Cities Projects, the United Nations Development Program, the specialists of the leading Belarusian companies shared their practical experience of building a smart sustainable city. Let us note, that the concept of a smart sustainable city is defined today as "an innovative city, using information and communication technologies and other tools to improve the living standards, efficiency of urban activities and services, as well as competitiveness, while meeting the needs of present and future generations in the economic, social, environmental, cultural aspects"¹⁷. At this stage, in terms of the implementation of this topic, particularly relevant are the issues of determining comprehensive approaches to the construction of such cities, the development of conceptual documents and ways to assess the effectiveness of development. And in this regard, the choice of the venue for this forum of the International Telecommunication Union is far from accidental, as Belarus has a rather high level of infrastructure development. In particular, "fiber optic is brought here to almost every multi-storey building. A good level of 4G coverage. Therefore, it provides an excellent technical base for layering all sorts of electronic platforms and digital services on top of the existing infrastructure. All that remains here is to implement these digital services and teach all citizens to work with them"¹⁸

17_Belarus is gradually moving towards practical implementation of the smart city concept - Shulgan [Electronic resource]. - – 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/v-belarusi-poetapno-perehodjat-k-prakticheskoy-realizatsii-kontseptsii-umnogo-goroda-shulgan-432843-2021/>

18_The digital society should be built with people with physical disabilities in mind - ITU [Electronic resource]. - – 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/tsifrovoe-obschestvo-dolzno-stroitsja-s-uchetom-ljudej-s-fizicheskimi-ogranichenijami-mse-432906-2021/>

Indeed, back in 2019, Belarus developed a model concept for the development of smart cities and carried out its adaptation for Orsha and Orsha district with refinement of the roadmap for its implementation. In 2020, adaptation of the model concept was continued in such Belarusian potential centers of economic growth as Minsk, Baranovichi, Pinsk, Novopolotsk, Bobruisk and a number of other cities. For example, "in Polotsk, the project "My City" was implemented, where the mobile application offered the possibility of a single window of customer interaction with all organizations and infrastructure of this region¹⁹.

Having completed in 2020 the laying of fiber-optic communication lines to all settlements with more than 100 households and provided them to more than half of households with at least 50 households, Belarus has already started implementing certain fragments of the smart sustainable city concept, having advanced in three main directions. Firstly, the subscriber base of the "smart house" project is already about 60 thousand. Secondly, the total number of installed video cameras is about 35 thousand and the total number of consumers - physical and legal persons - is close to 65 thousand. Thirdly, the mobility of communication between enterprises, infrastructure of any district and the population was ensured.

In February 2021, our country adopted the State Program "Digital Development of Belarus" for 2021-2025, which consists of six subprograms: 1) "Information and analytical and organizational and technical support for digital development"; 2) "Infrastructure for digital development"; 3) "Digital development of public administration"; 4) "Digital development of economic sectors"; 5) "Regional digital development"; 6) "Information security and digital trust". At the same time, the subprogram "Regional Digital Development" provides for "the implementation of activities, the results of

¹⁹ Karaim: today it is important to develop the methodology and structure of the smart city [Electronic resource]. - -- 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/karaim-na-segodnja-vazhna-razrabotka-metodologii-i-struktury-umnogo-goroda-432929-2021/>

which will have a systemic nature for the development of "smart city" technologies in all regions of the country²⁰

In particular, in this case we are talking about the creation of a regional state model digital platform "Smart City (Region)", designed for the digital transformation of regional management processes, solving the problems of socio-economic and community development, organizing information interaction, including the formation of feedback to the citizens. The implementation of this digital platform is expected primarily in regional centers and cities with a population of over 80 thousand people. It is also planned to switch to the practical application of information modeling technologies of urban planning units and urban spaces or the creation of "digital twins" of cities, which will allow effective modeling of urban development and management of various spheres of city life. In addition, on the basis of the Smart City (Region) digital platform the typical services will be created, including housing and communal services, accounting and property management, construction and spatial planning, management of urban and transport infrastructure facilities, health, education, ensuring public safety, environmental monitoring, organization of citizen participation in the city management, cultural development, tourism and services in general. It should be assumed that the international forum "Smart Sustainable Cities: Organizational and Technical Aspects of Development" held in Minsk became another important step to solving the urgent issues of innovative development of the Belarusian cities and regions, enriching them with the effective international experience.

20 State program "Digital Development of Belarus" for 2021-2025. - Minsk, 2021. - - C. 19.

Vitebsk region: emphasis on innovation

To create new points of economic growth in the Belarusian regions, including for the implementation of complex "projects of the future" in order to reach the level of innovative development of the leading countries in Eastern Europe - the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary - by 2025 is the task of the Program of the Government of the Republic of Belarus for the period up to 2025. In this connection in Vitebsk region for the next five years five branches in which hi-tech enterprises will be created for the purpose of production of world standards were defined: 1) electric transport; 2) bioindustry; 3) pharmaceuticals; 4) robotics; 5) production of composite materials. And not just defined, but "there are already first steps in the implementation of these areas, and in 2021-2025 will be actively implemented innovative and investment projects in these areas"²¹.

As far as **electric transport and the electric industry** are concerned, great hopes are pinned here on Vityaz JSC. This company is the first Belarusian manufacturer of infrastructure for electric cars to create high-power models of chargers. We are talking about creating a prototype of an ultra-fast electric charging station for 200 kW. "The time to fully charge the battery of an electric vehicle capable of realizing the potential of such stations will be about 10 minutes"²². In 2021, these ultra-fast charging stations are planned to be delivered to the state operator for pilot operation. We would like to remind you that in 2020 Vityaz certified the system of design and production of electric charging stations for compliance with the requirements of international standard STB ISO 9001-2015. And the first

21_Pushnyakova, A. Matskevich on the industry of Vitebsk region: emphasis is placed on the development of five high-tech industries / A. Pushnyakova // [Electronic resource]. - - 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/matskevich-o-promyshlennosti-vitebskoj-oblasti-aktsent-sdelan-na-razvitii-5-vysokotekhnologichnyh-431976-2021/>

22_"Vityaz will create a prototype of an ultra-fast electric charging station for electric cars by the end of the year [Electronic resource]. - - 2020. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/tech/view/vitjaz-do-kontsa-goda-sozdast-opytnyj-obrazets-sverhbystroj-elektrozarjadnoj-stantsii-dlja-413363-2020/>

model of such station was installed on the parking lot near the enterprise back in 2017.

In terms of **bioindustry** development, we are talking about such "projects of the future" as the construction of a digitized plant for the production of innovative veterinary drugs of the "green line" series. This project is implemented in the free economic zone "Vitebsk. The enterprise, along with traditional veterinary drugs, will expand the production of original drugs for the treatment of animals, which are developed together with the scientists of the Vitebsk State Academy of Veterinary Medicine. The plant is being erected in three stages. This year the production of non-sterile drugs is supposed to be transferred to the new site. "The third start-up complex implies organization of sterile production. It is the most expensive part of the project, which is planned to be completed by 2025. At least 80 jobs will be created at the enterprise"²³. At the same time, implementation of the project will allow the Vitebsk company, established back in 1995, to significantly expand its export potential.

In the **pharmaceutical industry**, the five-year innovation plans are related to the work of the specialized cluster, which was created in Vitebsk in August 2015. To be absolutely precise, the medical-pharmaceutical cluster "Union of medical, pharmaceutical and scientific-educational organizations "Medicine and Pharmaceutics - Innovative Projects" today includes Vitebsk State Medical University, SOOO Nativita, OJSC "BelVitulifarm", "VitVar" LLC, "AconitPharma" JLLC, "Medelkombel" JLLC, "Pharmmarketing Group" LLC, CCUE "Vitebsk Regional Marketing Center", NP "Union of pharmaceutical and biomedical clusters" (Russia), RUP "Akadempharm", LLC "SIVital", Vitebsk State University named after P. Masherov. Masherov. Since 2018, expert councils with the participation of leading scientists, representatives of research centers and

23_Belkarolin company will launch pharmaceutical production according to GMP standards by 2025 [Electronic resource]. - - 2020. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/kompanija-belkarolin-k-2025-godu-zapustit-farmproizvodstvo-po-standartam-gmp-383600-2020/>

pharmaceutical industry enterprises began to be formed here to improve the interaction of science and practice. "This form of communication allows the participants of the pharmaceutical cluster to use the scientific potential not only of the Vitebsk region, but also of the country as a whole, and also makes it possible to reduce the time distance between the creation of a drug and its introduction into production." ²⁴.

The direction of **robotics** in the Vitebsk region is being developed, first of all, by Belwest LLC, where robotic software and hardware complexes developed in the company's own scientific laboratory are gradually being introduced. The fact is that the share of manual labor in the footwear industry is very high. "For some types of shoes the total number of operations performed is close to 250, of which only two are automated. Each product can go through up to 185 pairs of workers' hands"²⁵. That's why the company has set a course for full or partial automation of many of these processes. And they have already created samples of innovative equipment that have no analogues in the world.

As for **the production of composite materials**, even in 2018 specific steps in this direction were made on the Vitebsk region. In particular, they created Polotsk composite cluster, which already includes 11 enterprises. Today they not only produce composite materials, but also conduct scientific research on the development of high-tech production of composites. "Among the cluster projects are such as "Composite armature", "Basalt-plastic and fiberglass macro-fiber for concrete", "Human capital" ²⁶.

24_Vitebsk State University entered the medical-pharmaceutical cluster [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/vitebskij-gosuniversitet-voshel-v-sostav-mediko-farmatsevticheskogo-klastera-303786-2018/>

25_Sumaneyev Y. Director of Belwest about competition, robots in the light industry and bonuses for non-smokers / Y. Sumaneyev // [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/interview/view/direktor-belvesta-o-konkurentsii-robotah-v-legpromie-i-bonusah-dlja-nekurjaschih-6889/>

26_Innovative-industrial composite cluster Polotsk [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://clusterland.by/2019/11/16/innovacionno-promyshlennyj-kompozitnyj-klasterv-g-poloczki/>

Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange: the priority of interaction - Russian regions

The dynamics of growing interest on the part of Russian business in electronic trading, which is held at the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange (BUCE), indicates that in 2021 Russia may become a leader at BUCE not only in the number of accredited companies, but also in the volume of exchange commodity turnover. Let's remind, that "as of December 1, 2020, 2482 residents of Russia used BUTB services"²⁷. And the amount of exchange transactions carried out by them in January and February 2021, "almost three times exceeded the same period in 2020 and amounted to \$ 12 million"²⁸. This allowed Russia to enter the third place in the list of the largest export markets of the BUTB. Lithuania (\$32 million) and Latvia (\$18 million) retained the first two places. In the first quarter of 2021, the sum of all deals made by Russian exchange traders was close to \$38 million. Such growth in exports of Belarusian goods to the Russian market was a result of comprehensive measures taken by the BUOT to attract Russian business entities to the exchange trading floor in Belarus. Among the main ones one should mention: 1) simplification of the accreditation procedure at the BUTB; 2) regular webinars and online presentations for representatives of the Russian business community; 3) spot visits to leading industrial, woodworking and agrarian enterprises in various Russian regions. As a result, in the first two months of 2021 30 new Russian companies interested in buying Belarusian meat and dairy products, rapeseed oil and building materials, as well as in making transit deals for selling their goods to third countries were accredited at the BUTB. It should be noted that so far the determining role in the increase in the

27 Zalessky, B. With the Eye on the Future. Peculiarities of multi-vector partnership in modern conditions / B. Zalessky. - LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2021. -- C. 97.

28 Russia is one of the three largest export markets for BTBs [Electronic resource]. - - 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/rossija-voshla-v-trojku-krupnejshih-eksportnyh-rynkov-butb-432830-2021/>

exchange commodity turnover is played by the close cooperation of the BUTB with the Russian border regions of Smolensk, Bryansk, and Pskov.

In particular, the mention of **Bryansk Region** in this list is explained by the fact that Belarus accounts for about half of the foreign trade turnover of this Russian region, which by itself is evidence of a sufficiently high level of trade and economic cooperation. Nevertheless, during the working meeting at the Belarusian Trade and Business Bureau with the representatives of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Bryansk Region in March 2021, the parties noted the considerable potential for further expansion of cooperation exactly in the sphere of exchange trade. In this connection, the accent this year is planned "on the agrarian sector and realization of industrial goods as the most perspective spheres for the development of cooperation"²⁹. For this purpose the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Bryansk region will use its entire network of business contacts in order to inform the Bryansk region business representatives about the advantages of the electronic trading mechanism at the BUTB.

The planned cooperation of the Belarusian Steel Exchange with the **Chelyabinsk** region looks very promising. At the webinar on the exchange trade with Belarus held in the middle of March 2021 several large producers and sellers from this Russian region announced their plans to increase sales of metal products on the trading floor of the BUBS. "Interest in a more active application of the exchange mechanism, in particular, was expressed by representatives of Chelyabinsk Forge-and-Press Plant, Liteiny Zavod LLC and Trade House MKK LLC. First of all, we are talking about an increase in supplies of ferrous rolled metal products, which are in stable

29 BUTB and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Bryansk region agreed on cooperation [Electronic resource]. - - 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/butb-i-tpp-brjanskoj-oblasti-dogovorilis-o-sotrudnichestve-431815-2021/>

high demand among Belarusian industrial enterprises³⁰. We should note in passing that about 800 companies trade in ferrous metals and their products at the BUTB almost every day, and the amount of transactions in a single trading session can reach up to two million euros. It is clear that the arrival here of the largest Russian metal producers from the Chelyabinsk Region - the undisputed leader in the field of ferrous metallurgy among other Russian regions - will only open new opportunities and prospects for all participants of these trading sessions.

At the end of March 2021, with the assistance of the **Volgograd Region** Export Support Center, a meeting with business representatives of this Russian region was held at the BUTB. As a result several enterprises of Volgograd region "expressed their interest in selling their products in the industrial and consumer goods section of the BUTB. In particular it is planned to work out the issue of presenting at the auction the products for the construction industry, packaging materials and food products"³¹. And at the beginning of April 2021 the prospects of increasing exchange trade in Belarus were discussed with representatives of business circles of **Kursk** region in the framework of an online conference. And here, following the results of the discussion, a number of enterprises of the Russian region expressed their readiness to exhibit their products on the platform of industrial and consumer goods BUTB. So, "the question of selling equipment for the food industry, high-tech rubber products, packaging materials made of paper and corrugated cardboard is being considered"³². The BUOTB also expects real results from the agreement, made in March 2021, on the intensification of cooperation with **the St. Petersburg**

30_Enterprises of Chelyabinsk region are interested in selling metal products at the BUTB [Electronic resource]. - - 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/predpriyatija-cheljabinskij-oblasti-zainteresovany-v-realizatsii-metalloproduksii-na-butb-433059-2021/>

31_BUTB plans to establish closer cooperation with Volgograd Oblast [Electronic resource]. - - 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/butb-planiruet-naladit-bolee-tesnoe-sotrudnichestvo-s-volgogradskoj-oblastju-434981-2021/>.

32_Enterprises of Kursk region plan to work in the Belarusian market through BUTB [Electronic resource]. - - 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/predpriyatija-kurskoj-oblasti-planirujut-rabotat-na-belorusskom-rynke-cherez-butb-435331-2021/>

international commodity and raw materials exchange. The exchange was set up in 2008 and is now the largest commodity exchange in Russia "specializing in oil, oil products, gas, timber and mineral fertilizers trading"³³. It should be assumed that the actualization of cooperation with such a serious partner can bring no less serious results.

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³³ BUTB and St. Petersburg Commodity and Raw Materials Exchange agreed to intensify cooperation [Electronic resource]. - - 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/butb-i-sankt-peterburgskaja-tovarno-syrjevaja-birzha-dogovorilis-aktivizirovat-vzaimodejstvie-434334-2021/>

Belarus-Russia: export orientation

The results of the first two months of this year show that trade and economic ties between Belarus and Russia continue to develop along a steady growth trajectory. Thus, "the turnover of Belarusian-Russian foreign trade in goods and services in January-February 2021 amounted to \$5.3 billion, having increased by 11.9% compared with the same period in 2020. Exports of goods and services to Russia amounted to \$2.3 billion (an increase of 2%)"³⁴ [1].

The Minsk Motor Plant (MMZ), which doubled its export deliveries to Russia in the first quarter of 2021, should be mentioned among the Belarusian companies that feel confident in the Russian market. The main consumers of its products in the neighboring country are enterprises in Kursk, Moscow, St. Petersburg, Nizhny Novgorod and Yaroslavl regions, the Republic of Bashkortostan and the Republic of Mordovia. "During 2021 Minsk Motor Plant will continue to develop the distribution network in Russia in two areas: engines and spare parts, as well as special machinery, in order not to lose the momentum of exports. Exports are planned to increase by 11%"³⁵ [2]. The plant sees one more reserve to increase supplies to the Russian market in 2021 in organizing a permanent exhibition of an extended range of engines and special equipment at the trading and exhibition sites of LLC "Trading House "Minsk Motor Plant" in Noginsk and its partners in every federal district of Russia. Cooperating today with 59 Russian companies, Minsk motor builders are now working to establish cooperative relations with ten more partners.

Belarusian Gomselmash, which has a distribution network of 60 entities in this country, including 34 dealerships, two joint ventures and one

34 Roman Golovchenko: A package of proposals on deepening the integration of Belarus and Russia is in high readiness [Electronic resource]. - - 2021. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/9807>

35 Minsk Motor Plant doubled its deliveries to Russia in Q1 [Electronic resource]. - - 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/minskij-motornyj-zavod-v-i-kvartale-v-dva-razu-uvlechil-postavki-vrossiju-437469-2021/>.

trading house in Siberia, also announced large-scale plans to increase supplies of its equipment to Russia in 2021. Over the 13 years of its existence, the company has sold over 3,200 units of self-propelled grain and forage harvesters in the Russian market. In 2020 the sales of Gomselmash equipment in Russia increased by 163 percent. Together with Bryanskselmash alone, more than one thousand combines were sold to Russian regions. In addition, "in 2020, the company expanded the borders of supply and opened a new dealer center in Primorsky Krai - LLC AgroSupport".³⁶ [3]. All of these facts give good reason for the Belarusian company to set a truly ambitious task for itself in 2021 - to triple the volume of its supplies to Russia.

The Belarusian Steel Works (BSW) has been actively cooperating with Russian companies this year, and its partners in Russia are both suppliers of key raw materials and major consumers of metal products. Suffice it to say that "in January-February 2021 exports of BMZ to Russia exceeded 58 thousand tons, which is 8% more than during the same period in 2020. In monetary terms, exports to the Russian Federation exceeded \$43 million, which is a third more than during the same period last year.³⁷[4]. This was due to an increase in sales of rebar, structural rolled steel, steel wire, and steel cord.

Another clear example of such a plan is the Belarusian Automobile Plant (BELAZ). In March 2021 alone, it supplied foreign markets with more than 93% of the total volume of produced machinery and spare parts with an export growth rate of 142%. An important detail: "The share of the most capacious of the company's traditional markets - Russian - in the total

36 "Gomselmash plans to triple supplies of machinery to Russian regions in 2021 [Electronic resource]. - – 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/gomselmash-planiruet-utroit-postavki-tehniki-v-rossijskie-regiony-v-2021-godu-436585-2021/>

37 BMZ increases export deliveries [Electronic resource]. - – 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/bmz-velichivaet-eksportnye-postavki-433237-2021/>

March shipment was 89.1% (growth rate - 308.1%)³⁸ [5]. In particular, according to the long-term agreement on strategic partnership with the mining company Kuzbassrazrezugol JSC, BELAZ is to supply 29 mine dump trucks until the end of April 2021. Three of them, with a capacity of 220 tons, were shipped to one of Kuzbassrazrezugol's production branch offices - the Kedrovsky coal mine - at the end of January this year. It should be noted that the arrival of the rest of the machines will substantially enlarge the technological fleet of more than half a thousand vehicles, dominated by the Belarusian equipment at the coal mines. "Also at the enterprises of Kemerovo Oblast's flagship coal mining company BELAZ machines serve the mining and transportation operations, special equipment of the Belarusian manufacturer is used (irrigation machines, tractor-tuggers, loaders, bulldozers)"³⁹ [6]. The presence of BELAZ on the Russian market is also secured by the cooperation agreement signed with the St. Petersburg Mining University in April 2021, the implementation of which should help ensure that "in September [2021] modern and specialized classrooms equipped with exclusive equipment will start working in one of the major Russian universities in mining engineering"⁴⁰[7]. In this case, we are talking about the opening of the university's Innovation Center of BELAZ competence, which will be modeled on the best technological solutions in mechanical engineering, digital and information technology in the mining industry. Its main feature will be the use of virtual reality technologies, which will raise not only the training of university students, but also improve the skills of specialists and managers of enterprises that operate machinery of the Belarusian manufacturer.

38 BELAZ increased production, sales, and export volumes in Q1 [Electronic resource]. - - 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belaz-v-i-kvartale-uvelichil-objemy-proizvodstva-realizatsii-i-eksporta-produktsii-437188-2021/>

39 BELAZ will supply 29 dump trucks for one of the largest coal companies in Russia [Electronic resource]. - - 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belaz-postavit-29-karjernih-samosvalov-dlja-odnoj-iz-krupnejshih-ugolnyh-kompanij-rossii-427978-2021/>

40 BELAZ will open a Competence Center at the St. Petersburg Mining University [Electronic resource]. - - 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belaz-otkroet-tsentr-kompetentsij-v-sankt-peterburgskom-gornom-universitete-437447-2021/>

Belarus - Tatarstan: from cooperative ties - to growth of trade turnover

The Republic of Tatarstan is among those Russian regions, trade turnover with which in January-February 2021 increased significantly - by more than 80 percent and amounted to nearly 175 million dollars. At the same time the Belarusian export increased by almost a quarter and was close to \$55 million. This happened at the expense of growth in supplies from Belarus of tractors and tractor trucks, oil gases, twisted ferrous metal wire without electric insulation, parts and accessories for automobiles and tractors, tires, seamless pipes, tubes and sections of ferrous metals, waste derived from the extraction of soybean oil, fresh or chilled beef, unalloyed steel wire, cheese and cottage cheese, tire cords, synthetic polymer-based paints and varnishes in non-aqueous media, furniture and parts thereof. In April 2021, the parties signed a protocol of agreements, which "assumes further mutual interest in the development of trade, economic, scientific, technical and humanitarian cooperation between Belarus and Tatarstan."⁴¹In April 2021, the parties signed a protocol of agreements, which "assumes further mutual interest in the development of trade, economic, scientific and technical and humanitarian cooperation between Belarus and Tatarstan.

Recall that the interaction between the parties is developing today under an intergovernmental agreement on trade-economic, scientific-technical and cultural cooperation of June 23, 2004, which created the preconditions for the formation of a common scientific, technological and innovative space. Last year, the implementation of the Action Plan for 2017-2020 on the implementation of the basic agreement was completed. Due to the fact that today Tatarstan pays special attention to the development of production of high-tech products and creation of joint

41 Roman Golovchenko: Belarus and Tatarstan actively develop cooperation [Electronic resource]. -- 2021. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/9816>

ventures, in this Russian region Belarusian partners are given the opportunity to work at the "investment sites of the Republic. It is important to deepen cooperation of commodity producers, first of all, in the field of mechanical engineering and high technology"⁴².

Note that back in 2017, the parties set a goal to restore the record \$2 billion trade turnover, which was achieved in 2012. The 7th meeting of the Working Group on cooperation between Belarus and Tatarstan, held in October 2019, identified specific areas for joint work in the coming years to achieve the goal, "including supplies of passenger buses, Amkodor equipment, a wide range of agricultural equipment; implementation of joint projects in the gas vehicle sector, in particular - production of passenger transport, tractors, municipal and agricultural equipment, engines; expansion of the volume and range of supplies of autos. The National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tatarstan, as well as the Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radioelectronics and Kazan Federal University signed agreements on cooperation.

As a result of the implementation of the provisions of the 4-year plan by February 2020 in Tatarstan already: two assembly factories - Belarusian tractors and elevators of "Mogilevliftmash"; four companies with participation of Belarusian capital - "TPK MTZ-Tatarstan" LLC, "Amkodor-Bel" LLC, "Trading house "Molodechnomebel" LLC, representative office of "Pinskdtrev" holding - were functioning dealer network of such Belarusian enterprises as "Gomselmash", Minsk Tractor Works, "Mogilevliftmash", Minsk Automobile Plant, "Amkodor", Borisov Plant of Tractor Electrical Equipment; LLC "TPK MTZ-Tatarstan" became the official distributor of OJSC "MTZ" in Russia, having its own

42 Minnikhanov R. It is important to deepen cooperation of commodity producers, first of all, in the sphere of mechanical engineering and high technologies / R. Minnikhanov // Technologies and innovations in cooperation of the Union State regions as an impulse for Eurasian integration development: inform.-integration project / coauthors and interviewers: B. Zalessky, M. Valkovsky, A. Greshnikov. - Minsk: Biznesofset, 2017. -- C. 30.

production facilities, transportation and logistics division, engaged in service maintenance. Successful development of cooperation in machine building has led to the fact that "almost 60% of the park of agricultural machinery of Tatarstan is equipped with MTZ tractors, over 60% of forage harvesters and 40% of grain harvesters - with Gomselmash equipment". More than 50% of Kazan's fleet of passenger vehicles consists of MAZ buses and Belkommunmash streetcars"⁴³. And there are good prospects for cooperation in the gas-motor sphere, where there are joint projects implemented by RariTEK together with Minsk plants - automobile, tractor and motor works.

At the 8th meeting of the Working Group on Cooperation, which was held in the format of a video conference in November 2020, the parties noted the active development of economic relations between the enterprises of the machine-building and petrochemical industries, as well as in agriculture, passenger transport, ecology, healthcare science, while emphasizing that "the key area remains cooperation in the petrochemical sector, which accounts for half of Belarus' trade turnover with Tatarstan"⁴⁴. As a result, the Action Plan for 2021-2023 was approved, which provides for many new interesting joint projects. Already in January 2021 in Kichketan rural settlement of Agryz municipal district of Tatarstan Belarusian UE "Polymerconstruction" successfully implemented a pilot project in the field of ecology on water treatment"⁴⁵. And now the question of participation of this UE in implementation of projects at other objects of Tatarstan is being solved.

43 Pivovarov, E. Petrochemistry, industrial cooperation, transport projects - Semashko visited Tatarstan / E. Pivovarov // [Electronic resource]. - - 2020. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/neftehimija-promkoooperatsija-transportnye-proekty-semashko-posetil-tatarstan-378550-2020/>

44 Belarus and Tatarstan approved the Plan of Cooperation for 2021-2023 [Electronic resource]. - - 2020. - URL: <http://www.embassybel.ru/departments/kazan/news/53efd46968aa.html>

45 The Belarusian company UP "Polimerkonstruktsiya" successfully implemented a pilot project in the field of ecology in the Republic of Tatarstan [Electronic resource]. - - 2021. - URL: <http://www.embassybel.ru/departments/kazan/news/29939dd56309.html>

Belarus-Kazakhstan: Priority of partnership - agriculture

The results of 2020 show that in the relationship between Belarus and Kazakhstan, the key area of cooperation was the interaction of agro-industrial complexes, the implementation of joint projects in agriculture, and the further development of joint projects in the field of agricultural engineering. This is largely due to the fact that even in conditions of restrictions related to the spread of coronavirus infection, the agro-industrial complex of both countries continued to grow in 2020. This is evidenced by the data of the Eurasian Economic Commission that "the production of agricultural products in the territory of the member states of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) in 2020 grew by 2.3% and amounted to 114.3 billion US dollars. Kazakhstan (by 5.6%) and Belarus (by 4.9%) recorded the highest production growth among the EAEU countries⁴⁶.

Positive trends in the growth of interaction between the two countries in the agro-industrial complex were also recorded at the second meeting of the joint Belarusian-Kazakh working group on the development of promising areas of bilateral cooperation in agriculture, which was held in Minsk in February 2021. The meeting focused on the issues of trade in foodstuffs, crop and livestock production, veterinary medicine, breeding and selection, given the fact that "in 2020, trade turnover of agricultural products and food between Belarus and Kazakhstan increased 1.2 times against 2019 and reached \$ 307.2 million. Export was amounted to \$ 289.9 million (more than 20% growth)⁴⁷. The parties noted the serious potential for further stable growth of trade turnover and consolidation of positive trends in mutual trade.

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

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

From the Belarusian side, these prospects are seen in the supply of equipment for the construction of dairy farms, introduction of new technologies, expansion of procurement of agricultural machinery, retraining of personnel for the agro-industrial complex. Kazakhstan is particularly interested in the Belarusian experience in the development of the dairy and sugar industries, as well as in other areas of agricultural production. The nature of this interest lies in the fact that "the coronavirus has shown how much demand there is for all agricultural products now. New niches are opening up"⁴⁸.

In particular, the parties are pinning great hopes in 2021 on the continuation of cooperation between the Belarusian Gomselmash OJSC and Kazakhstan's largest company for the production of agricultural machinery, AgromashHolding KZ, which in 2020 increased its output by 1.7 times. The joint assembly of grain harvesters by these enterprises on Kazakh soil began back in 2007. "In 2019, the organization produced 429 harvesters and tractors, and in 2020 - 730 units of equipment"⁴⁹. Including the first harvester ESSIL KZS-790, which has already passed tests in the Karaganda region and showed good results. The new machine has increased engine power and cleaning area, and the threshing is combined: drum and rotor. In 2021 it is planned to start serial production of this model. In addition, the production of self-propelled mowers will also increase, which is explained by the growing demand for them among farmers of Kazakhstan. Recall also that back in the summer of 2020, more than 70 machine sets of the model KZS-10 MAX were sent from Gomel to Kazakhstan. "The innovations introduced on this model of harvester,

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

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

relating mainly to more comfortable work of machine operators, liked the agrarians of Kazakhstan. This prompted them to order another 30 such harvesters."⁵⁰ . And in the second half of December 2020, this additional batch of 30 sets of machines was sent to the Kazakh partners.

Among the events that should have a positive impact on the development of cooperation between Belarus and Kazakhstan in agriculture in 2021, let us mention a few more. First, an interesting result can be given by the idea, which in November 2020 was discussed at the meeting of the Belarus-Kazakhstan Business Council, which was attended by representatives of more than 160 enterprises of the two countries. Given the fact that one of the most important issues in the development of relations between the two former Soviet republics is holding exhibitions, "Belarus and Kazakhstan are considering the possibility of holding an agricultural exhibition Belagro in Kazakhstan"⁵¹. This could be another concrete step towards enhancing bilateral cooperation and increasing mutual trade turnover. Secondly, back in November 2020, the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange (BUCE) offered Kazakhstani companies to buy Belarusian meat and dairy products and sugar on the exchange trades. At the same time, BUTB could provide assistance to Kazakh companies in selling their products on the Belarusian market. As a follow-up to this proposal, in January 2021, the FTUB agreed to intensify cooperation in electronic trade with the "Astana" Universal Commodity Exchange, which "will create a single database with commercial offers of Belarusian and Kazakh companies and will facilitate the growth of mutual trade"⁵².

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

51_Utyupin: the possibility of holding the exhibition "Belagro" in Kazakhstan is being considered [Electronic resource]. - - 2020. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/utjupin-rassmatrivaetsja-vozmozhnost-provedenija-vystavki-belagro-v-kazahstane-417045-2020/>

52_BUTB and Kazakhstan's Astana Exchange intend to develop cooperation in the field of electronic commerce [Electronic resource]. - - 2021. - URL:

Belarus - Tajikistan:

In line with the positive dynamics of cooperation

The Intergovernmental Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation, established back in 1999, plays a key role in the development of effective bilateral cooperation between Belarus and Tajikistan. The scope of its interests "covers such priority areas as: the supply of machine-building products on the basis of new leasing schemes; cooperation in agriculture and energy; participation in joint economic projects; and the creation of a network of joint production enterprises in both countries"⁵³.

In April 2021, Dushanbe hosted the 14th meeting of the Tajik-Belarusian Intergovernmental Commission for Trade and Economic Cooperation, which addressed topical issues of cooperation in industry and production cooperation, agriculture and transport, healthcare and education, investments and information technology. At the same time, an exhibition of Belarusian manufacturers Made in Belarus, a business forum Belarus-Tajikistan-Afghanistan, and the TajBelAgro forum were organized in the capital of Tajikistan. All these events once again demonstrated that "despite the crisis phenomena in the world, Belarusian-Tajik trade and economic cooperation shows a positive and dynamic nature. Since 2016, the mutual trade turnover has grown 5.5 times and in 2020 it amounted to \$111.7 million"⁵⁴. At the same time, Belarusian exports to the Tajik market increased more than six times over the same period and reached almost \$110 million last year, while the surplus amounted to \$107.5 million due to the supply of cars, sugar, tractors and tractor trucks, flour, meat and fish products, paper and cardboard stationery and wood and chipboard from Belarus.

<https://www.belta.by/economics/view/butb-i-kazahstanskaja-birzha-astana-namereny-razvivat-sotrudnichestvo-v-sfere-elektronnoj-torgovli-425206-2021>

53 Zalesky, B. Vector of post-Soviet integration. A view from Belarus / B. Zalesky. - Palmarium Academic Publishing, 2019. -- C. 211.

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

Among the major joint projects implemented recently is the shipment to Afghanistan of the first batch of Belarusian tractors assembled at "Agrotekhservis" JSC in the Tajik city of Gissar, where in the future it is planned not only to produce modern equipment for the agricultural sector - forage harvesters, attachments, expanding the range of assembled tractors, but also to create over a hundred qualified jobs in view of further development of the project. In this regard, at a meeting of the intergovernmental commission an agreement to expand the assembly production through the development of tractor semi-trailers PST-9 at Gissar were signed by "UKH Bobruiskagromash" and "Agrotekhservis". "In addition, the companies signed a contract for the supply of the first batch of machine sets, which shipment is planned for the second quarter of 2021"⁵⁵ . Let us remind that with the help of Belarus "also operates a training center for training specialists for effective operation and maintenance of machinery and equipment operating in the fields of Tajikistan"⁵⁶. The implementation of the contract for the delivery of one hundred Belarusian trolleybuses with autonomous running to Dushanbe is in its final stage.

Belarusian-Tajik cooperation in agriculture also developed quite dynamically in 2020. Suffice it to say that the volume of mutual trade in agricultural products and foodstuffs between the two former Soviet republics reached nearly ten million dollars. An important detail is that "the Belarusian export of food to this country grew by 1.4 times and totaled \$9.5 million <...>. In January 2021, Tajikistan exported \$775 thousand worth of Belarusian agricultural products and foodstuffs (a seven-fold increase

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

56 Belarus and Tajikistan discussed the development of trade and economic cooperation and industrial cooperation. - - 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-tadzhikistan-obsudili-razvitie-torgovo-ekonomicheskogo-sotrudnichestva-i-promkooperatsiju-436006-2021/>

compared to the same period last year)⁵⁷. And there is every reason to believe that this positive trend will continue in the medium term. For instance, the Bellegprom Concern is now exploring possibilities to supply flax to this Central Asian country, which is of keen interest to Tajikistan's business circles. In particular, the intergovernmental commission discussed "the issue of supplies of Orsha flax processing plant products and Kamvol's flax-containing fabrics to the Tajik market"⁵⁸.

The exhibition of Belarusian manufacturers Made in Belarus, which was held in Dushanbe, was also designed to promote exports from Belarus to Tajikistan and demonstrated products of 40 domestic companies from key industries: Agrofood - agriculture and food products; TechMach - mechanical engineering and technology; Wood - woodworking industry and furniture products; Health - health care and pharmaceuticals; FMCG - consumer goods. Export opportunities of the Belarusian agro-industrial complex and the prospects of bilateral cooperation in crop and livestock Tajik partners were also able to learn at the agricultural forum "TajBelAgro", where they talked not only about contracts for mutual supplies of agricultural products and machinery, but also to explore options for cooperation. Finally, during the business forum "Tajikistan-Belarus-Afghanistan", which was attended by more than two hundred companies from the three countries, eight documents were signed on the development of partnerships in the fields of industry, education, supply of food and drinks ".⁵⁹This demonstrates the growing dynamics of partnership in this trilateral format as well.

57_The export of Belarusian agricultural products to Tajikistan in 2020 increased by 1.4 times [Electronic resource]. - - 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/eksport-belorusskoj-selhozproduksii-v-tadzhikistan-v-2020-godu-vyros-v-14-raza-434869-2021/>

58_"Bellegprom is working on the possibility of supplying flax to Tajikistan [Electronic resource]. - - 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/bellegprom-prorabatyvaet-vozmozhnosti-postavok-lna-v-tadzhikistan-435980-2021/>

59_Belarus, Tajikistan and Afghanistan signed eight documents on partnership development at a business forum [Electronic resource]. - - 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-tadzhikistan-i-afganistan-podpisali-na-biznes-forume-8-dokumentov-o-razvitii-partnerstva-435998-2021/>

Lisbon-Vladivostok Business Initiative: Toward a Common Economic Space

In November 2020, the first, statutory meeting of the Board of the Lisbon-Vladivostok Business Initiative was held, which included the chairman of the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry V. Ulakhovich. The Board considered "the key achievements in the process of creating the common economic space from Lisbon to Vladivostok, the strategic directions of work in 2021, the possibility of signing a memorandum of cooperation with the Eurasian Economic Commission"⁶⁰.

Recall that back in the 1950s French President Charles de Gaulle introduced the expression "Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals", implying political rapprochement between the leading European countries and the Soviet Union, which was in line with "his general foreign policy course aimed at strengthening France's role in Europe, countering the influence of the United States, distancing itself from NATO"⁶¹. In the 1980s, the idea of a "common European home" was voiced by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. In November 2010, in an article published in the German newspaper Sueddeutsche Zeitung, "to create an economic alliance that would stretch from Vladivostok to Lisbon."⁶²The German newspaper Sueddeutsche Zeitung suggested that "an economic alliance be created between Vladivostok and Lisbon. Putin, then prime minister of Russia, proposed the creation of an economic alliance to take advantage of the strengths of both economies.

Five years later, in 2015, the initiative to promote the idea of creating a common economic space within the European Union and the Eurasian

60_Chairman of the BelCCI joined the board of the Lisbon-Vladivostok initiative [Electronic resource]. -- 2020. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/predsedatel-beltpv-voshel-v-sostav-pravlenija-initsiativy-lissabon-vladivostok-414101-2020/>

61 Ilyin, E.Yu. The Concept of "Greater Europe" from Lisbon to Vladivostok: Problems and Prospects / E.Y. Ilyin // Bulletin of MGIMO-University. -- 2015. -- №2. -- C. 85–86.

62 Putin offered Europe an economic alliance from Vladivostok to Lisbon [Electronic resource]. -- 2010-. - URL: <https://lenta.ru/news/2010/11/25/wirtschaft/>

Economic Union finally resonated in European business circles. This time its goal was formulated as the establishment of a multilevel dialogue between these integration structures to harmonize all necessary procedures in the areas of technical and customs regulations, logistics, transport, tax and financial procedures, environmental protection, and digitalization.

In May 2018, the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry also joined the initiative, which already included the Austrian Chamber of Commerce, the Eastern Committee of the German Economy, the Franco-Russian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the German-Russian Forum, the Russian-German Chamber of Foreign Trade, the Association of Italian Industrialists Confindustria Russia, the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, the Association of European Business, the Schneider Group of Consulting Companies. In March 2020 the memorandum of accession to the initiative was signed by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Russia, as well as the special economic zone "Lotos" from the Astrakhan region, French online service to find hitchhikers BlaBlaCar, the Belgian logistics company Ahlers, Austrian coffee producer Julius Meinl, and in December 2020 - the Russian-German trade guild. The degree of their interest in this initiative is well illustrated by this fact. Thus, only in the Russian-German Chamber of Commerce, almost 80 percent of companies "support the idea of a common economic space from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean, while almost 50 percent of member companies believe the role of the EAEC is important for their business"⁶³. It is also important that today the Lisbon-Vladivostok Business Initiative already unites more than a hundred companies, as well as the largest business associations in 12 states of the European and Eurasian Economic Unions.

In 2020, the initiative received its organizational form in the form of working bodies - the board and a number of expert working groups in

63 Afanasyeva, M. New participants join the initiative "Lisbon - Vladivostok" / M. Afanasyeva // [Electronic resource]. - -- 2020. - URL: <https://russland.ahk.de/ru/mediacentr/novosti/detail/k-iniciative-lissabon-vladivostok-prisoedinajutsja-novye-uchastniki>

specific areas. These groups are already preparing specific proposals to harmonize standards between the EU and the EAEU in areas such as logistics and transport, customs clearance and taxation, the pharmaceutical market and rules for financial markets, ecology, and digitalization.

One of the most active working groups is on logistics and customs, which gathered more than 60 respected European logistics experts, owners and managers of logistics companies at its December 2020 meeting in Hamburg. Participants in the discussion agreed that the development of transport highways and transportation hubs within extended logistics corridors from Europe to Eurasia is a key to the economic development of the respective regions. At the same time "the identified potential for economic growth and infrastructure development is currently not being fully exploited. However, if there is political will, this development potential can be fully unlocked in the whole area from Lisbon to Vladivostok"⁶⁴

It is clear that in this case, businessmen can only voice their desires, and it is up to politicians to implement them. But when the arguments of the business community are strong enough, it is not easy to ignore them. In this case, the participants of the "Lisbon-Vladivostok" initiative are sure that "the greatest economic growth occurs where there are synergies between the complementary economies. To put it simply, the strengths of the partners complement each other"⁶⁵. We must assume that, in the near future, these hopes of businessmen will be fully justified by the real actions of politicians in countries from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean.

64_Business Initiative "Lisbon - Vladivostok": proposals for logistics [Electronic resource]. - - 2020. - <https://schneider-group.com/ru/news/post-reliz-biznes-iniciativa-lissabon-vladivostok-predlozheniya-dlya-logistiki/>

65 Vinokurova L. Friends of interest / L. Vinokurova // Moskovskaya germanskaja gazeta. - - 2020. - 16 Mar.

Belarus-European Union: Regional Component of Cooperation

In January 2020, the Republic of Belarus and the European Union signed agreements in Brussels on visa facilitation and readmission of persons staying without authorization. These documents were an important step forward in strengthening relations between the parties. In addition, Belarus and the European Union continue discussing joint partnership priorities, with considerable attention paid to regional issues.

Let us recall that local and regional development is an important part of the whole complex of interaction between the Republic of Belarus and the European Union, currently being implemented in a number of areas, which include: first, a **local economic development project** with a budget of about eight million euros, implemented within a larger program "**Stimulation of private initiative in Belarus**" (SPRING); second, the initiative "**Tool for efficient use of resources**" to support energy- and resource-efficient modalities in regions. Taken together, these regional projects cover almost the entire territory of Belarus.

In particular, **the local economic development project** will be implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Economy of Belarus in 12 regions of the country in the next few years. At the first meeting of the coordinating council of the international technical assistance project "Support for Local Economic Development in the Republic of Belarus" in March 2019, "its 12 participating districts were named - Berezovsky, Kobrinsky, Braslavsky, Orshansky, Braginsky, Zhlobinsky, Khoyniksky, Lidsky, Borisovsky, Molodechnsky, Bykhovsky, Khotimsky"⁶⁶

The **Resource Efficiency Instrument** initiative in the Brest and Grodno regions, with 15 million euros of EU funding, should contribute to

⁶⁶ [Zalesky, B.L. For economic development at the local level / B.L. Zalesky //MaterialyXVMezinarnodnivedecko-praktickakonferenc" Dnyvedy-2019" Volume7:Praha.PublishingHouse"EducationandScience". - - C. 30.](#)

the development, implementation and enforcement of more efficient resource and energy policies by all relevant parties. **The Regional Investment and Competitiveness Program** (BRIC), which is developed jointly with the Ministry of Economy of Belarus, will be funded at EUR 18 million. Its implementation is scheduled to start in 2020. "It is important in this work and involvement of local expertise"⁶⁷ in the Gomel, Mogilev and Vitebsk regions.

The "**Poland-Belarus-Ukraine**" program for 2014-2020 on the part of Belarus covers the Grodno and Brest regions as the main territories, as well as Minsk, Minsk and Gomel regions as adjacent regions, the population of which exceeds seven million people in total. Important detail: in the implementation of this program is mandatory to inform "the general public on a regular basis about the status of the program, namely the results of support and examples of best practices of joint projects"⁶⁸. The program "**Latvia-Lithuania-Belarus**" for 2014-2020, which from the Belarusian side involves Grodno and Vitebsk regions as main regions, and Minsk, Minsk and Vitebsk regions as adjacent ones, is focused on three strategic objectives - "support of economic and social development in regions on both sides of the common border; solving common problems of ecology, health, safety and security, creating better conditions and mechanisms for the mobility of people, goods and capital"⁶⁹.

The 2017-2020 **Mayors for Economic Growth** program supports cities in the Eastern Partnership countries by promoting economic growth and job creation by improving the local business environment, fostering entrepreneurship and attracting investment for sustainable economic

67 Vitebsk region discussed the prospects for cooperation between the region and the European Union [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <http://vitebsk-region.gov.by/ru/news-ru/view/v-vitebske-obsudili-perspektivy-sotrudnichestva-regiona-s-evrosojuzom-18865-2019/>

68 Cross-Border Cooperation Financing Agreement (CBA) [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: http://pravo.by/upload/docs/op/I01600084_1509656400.pdf

69 The European Neighborhood Instrument. Latvia-Lithuania-Belarus Cross-Border Cooperation Program 2014-2020 [Electronic resource]. - - 2014. - URL: http://www.eni-cbc.eu/llb/data/public/uploads/2016/03/llb_programme_2014_2020_ru_20160325.pdf

growth. At the end of 2017, it already included "205 cities and districts, including 17 in Belarus," ⁷⁰that had voluntarily made commitments to promote economic development and local employment. Finally, the **Covenant of Mayors** program, in which local governments make "voluntary commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 30% by 2030 in their territories," has now grown to seven thousand. ⁷¹Today, there are more than seven thousand cities and districts in different countries who have signed the document, including 49 in Belarus: from Baranovichi and Bereza to Chausy and Sharkovshchina.

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70_Mayors for Economic Growth (EU Initiative for Eastern Partnership Countries) [Electronic resource]. - – 2017. - URL: <https://euprojects.by/ru/projects/Green-Economy-Environment-and-Sustainable-development/mayors-for-economic-growth-eu-initiative-for-eastern-partnership-region/>

71 Covenant of Mayors on Climate and Energy [Electronic Resource]. - – 2020. - URL: <http://climate.ecopartnerstvo.by/ru/covenant>

Belarus-Czech Republic: industrial cooperation and cooperation between regions

The Czech Republic is among those European countries in which the Republic of Belarus is seriously interested in expanding ties, because the two countries have long-standing friendly relations, shared values and interests, and "more intensive trade and business relations, joint scientific and educational projects, cooperation between organizations and institutions will contribute to strengthening constructive relations"⁷². Minsk and Prague see considerable potential for the intensive development of the entire complex of bilateral relations. Positive tendencies in trade and economic sphere are especially evident as figures show: "This year trade turnover totals \$500 mln. <...> Over the last year the turnover has increased by 48%" .

The Belarusian-Czech business forum, which took place in Minsk in October 2019, once again confirmed that bilateral cooperation between Belarus and the Czech Republic today is not limited to trade. We are already talking about the implementation of mutually beneficial projects in a number of areas, including mechanical engineering and construction. The diverse spheres of mutual interest are evidenced by the composition of the participants in the aforementioned business forum, which was attended by almost a dozen Czech companies and about forty Belarusian companies interested in establishing and developing cooperation in the energy, construction, and banking sectors.

The parties see an important reserve in the annual increase in trade turnover in the development of industrial cooperation through the creation of joint ventures and the expansion of business ties between the regions of the two countries. In particular, Minsk Region has already accumulated

⁷² Congratulations to President of the Czech Republic Milos Zeman [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/pozdravlenie-prezidentu-cheshskoj-respubliki-miloshu-zemanu-22273/

interesting experience in cooperation with Czech partners. In 2018, its trade turnover with the Czech Republic increased at once by 66 percent and amounted to \$87 million. And by the fall of 2019, the volume of export supplies of Minsk region enterprises to the Czech market approached close to 18 million dollars. At the same time, "the growth of exports outstripped the growth of imports by almost two times"⁷³. So far, Belaruskali fertilizers and aluminum products made by AluminTekhno, a resident of the Minsk free economic zone, have been exported to the Czech Republic from Minsk Region, while the Czech companies export cardboard, paper and air conditioning systems. However, the parties intend to find new points of contact in the near future, both in terms of establishment of joint ventures and supply of products.

The Minsk Region has a particularly good partnership with the Czech region of Vysočina, with which a memorandum of cooperation was signed in 2014. In May 2019, the parties adopted a roadmap for the development of cooperation in 2019-2020. At the same time, the Minsk region proposed specific investment cooperation projects to Czech partners "in the food industry, agriculture, transport, logistics, woodworking"⁷⁴, and the cities of Soligorsk and Pelgrzymov agreed to sign a cooperation agreement in the near future.

Among other Belarusian regions that are actively developing mutually beneficial relations with the Czech Republic is the Vitebsk Region. The Czech partners see areas of mutual interest in the areas of "production of water treatment systems, projects related to agriculture and innovative technologies"⁷⁵. Note that today two investment projects with

73 Minsk Region and the Czech Republic plan to increase the supply of goods and create a joint venture [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/minskaja-oblast-i-chehija-planirujut-narastit-postavki-tovarov-i-sozdat-sp-367359-2019/>

74 The Minsk Region and the Czech region of Vysočina signed a road map for the development of cooperation [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/minskaja-oblast-i-cheshskij-kraj-vysochina-podpisali-dorozhnuju-kartu-razvitiija-sotrudnichestva-347606-2019/>

75 Bogacheva O. The Vitebsk branch of the BelCCI and the Czech Chamber of Commerce and Industry will cooperate / O. Bogacheva // [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL:

Czech capital are being implemented in the free economic zone "Vitebsk". Firstly, back in 2004, it was registered here as a resident LLC "Fortex - Water Technologies". Secondly, in December 2017, Cilinders-Bel LLC, which specializes in the production of import-substituting products such as steel seamless gas cylinders for industrial and medical gases, firefighting systems and food industry pressure up to 300 atmospheres, began operating here - on the premises of Legmash plant in Orsha. The enterprise will reach full capacity utilization by 2023. "The implementation of the project will make it possible to create 45 new jobs and provide the domestic market with import-substituting products. At the same time, more than 90% of the products will be exported." ⁷⁶. By November 2019, this company has already invested about nine million euros in this production.

In order to make such examples of successful industrial cooperation in Vitebsk region much more in the near future, at the end of October 2019, the Vitebsk branch of the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Czech Chamber of Commerce and Industry for CIS countries signed an agreement on cooperation, in the development of which representatives of a number of Czech companies, including Mavel JSC, Metrostav JSC, INTERMOS Praha Ltd, ERC-TECH JSC, Smart Heating Technology Ltd, Czechoslovak Trade Bank JSC, Export Guarantee and Insurance Company JSC, immediately discussed with their Vitebsk partners the issues of construction in industry and energy, construction waste processing technology, supply of piping, cleaning and heating systems, possible prospects and directions of cooperation in the financial sphere. To all appearances, the results of these negotiations will soon find their real implementation in new concrete projects of Belarusian-Czech cooperation.

<https://www.belta.by/regions/view/vitebskoe-otdelenie-beltp-i-cheshskaja-torgovo-promyshlennaja-palata-budut-sotrudnicat-367554-2019/>

76 Bogacheva O. An enterprise with Czech capital will produce gas cylinders in Orsha / O. Bogacheva // [Electronic resource]. - - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/predpriyatje-s-cheshskim-kapitalom-budet-vypuskat-gazovye-ballony-v-orshe-367588-2019/>

Belarus-Poland: town twinning as a powerful factor in the development of international cooperation of regions

In November 2019, the city of Molodechno, Minsk region, hosted the fifth meeting of twin cities of Belarus and Poland, which was attended by representatives of 20 Belarusian and 19 Polish cities and districts. The relevance of this event was explained by the fact that in 2019 trade and economic cooperation between Belarus and Poland continued to develop progressively, as evidenced by the figures. Thus, in the three quarters of this year, the volume of mutual trade in goods increased by another four percent and amounted to almost two billion dollars. Plus, almost 330 million dollars is the turnover of services. And this is not the limit. At the same time, twinning between the regions of the two countries plays an important role in achieving these figures.

According to Belarusian Foreign Minister Vladimir Makei, "the development of good neighborly relations between our countries is impossible without fruitful cooperation at the regional and local levels.⁷⁷ In the framework of which specific mutually beneficial projects in economic, investment, cultural, sports and educational spheres are implemented. According to the chairman of the Belarusian public organization "Twin Cities" Boris Batura, the twinning of cities is the most effective tool of cooperation in various fields, "an important component in the implementation of programs. Interest in more successful development of their city or region inevitably leads far-sighted leaders to mutually beneficial contacts. This is how the consolidated interaction of business, state and educational institutions is born"⁷⁸.

77_Grishkevich, A. Makei noted the great role of the twinning movement in strengthening cooperation between Belarus and Poland / A. Grishkevich // [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/special/politics/view/makej-otmetil-bolshuju-rol-pobratimskogo-dvizhenija-v-ukreplenii-sotrudnichestva-belarusi-i-polshi-371088-2019/>

78_Baturo, B. Twinning cities - the most effective tool for cooperation / B. Baturo // [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.mlyn.by/2019/11/boris-batura-pobratimstvo-gorodov-naibolee-effektivnyj-instrument-sotrudnichestva/>

The very fact of the fifth meeting of the twin cities, while the first four were held in Brest, Bialystok, Grodno, and Baranavichy, indicates that Belarus and Poland are now searching for new resources to develop cooperation. One of such resources is seen in the expansion of cooperation at the interregional level, taking into account the competitiveness of products, complementarity of production, and encouragement of mutual investments. For reference, it should be noted that "more than 80 agreements in various spheres have been signed between cities and regions of Belarus and Poland"⁷⁹. And a number of twinning pairs of Belarusian and Polish cities show interesting results of cooperation. They include: Brest - Biala Podlaska, Brest - Lublin, Brest - Terespol, Grodno - Bialystok, Grodno - Sokulka, Vitebsk - Zelena Gora, Nesvizh - Odolyanuv, Pinsk - Czestochow. In November 2019, the list of twin cities of the two countries was supplemented by Belarusian Volkovysk and Polish Lobeż. The agreement they signed in Molodechno on twinning "provides for the development of contacts in all spheres, including economy, trade, investment, as well as culture and education"⁸⁰. Another agreement on cooperation between: Smorgon District and Hajnówka Powiat, Smorgon District and Minsk Mazowiecki, Skidel and Sokulka, Oshmyany and Minsk Mazowiecki, Zavadsky District of Minsk and Wrocław.

The Grodno Region is among the Belarusian regions that are actively developing cooperation with Polish partners in a number of areas. This is largely facilitated by the fact that "almost all the districts of the region have agreements on cooperation with the administrative units of the neighboring

79. Grishkevich, A. Twin-cities of Belarus and Poland strengthen cooperation in economic and investment spheres / A. Grishkevich // [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/goroda-pobratimy-belarusi-i-polshi-ukrepjat-sotrudnichestvo-v-ekonomicheskoy-i-investitsionnoj-sferah-371106-2019/>

80. Grishkevich, A. Volkovysk and the Polish city of Lobeż signed an agreement on twinning / A. Grishkevich // [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/volkovysk-i-polskij-gorod-lobez-podpisali-soglasenie-o-pobratimskih-svjazjah-371170-2019/>

state⁸¹. Over 30 joint Belarusian-Polish projects in the fields of culture, history, tourism, health, security and ecology are being implemented here under programs of cross-border cooperation alone. In particular, the Volkovyssk district of Grodno region sees great prospects in the development of partnerships with the Polish side. In November 2019, here, in the village of Krasnoselsky, the third Belarusian-Polish economic forum "Steps towards" was held, which was attended, among others, by the Association of Polish business in the Republic of Belarus, the Podlasie Business Club, the Podlasie Association "Business Women's Club". The facts indicate that Polish businesses in Belarusian regions are interested in such areas of interaction as woodworking, logistics and food production in terms of implementing joint projects to work at the Eurasian Economic Union market as well. In particular, "the port of Gdansk is interested in logistics projects. ⁸²The Belarusian regions are considered for cooperation within the framework of the Chinese "Belt and Road" project.

Another important reserve in the development of the Belarusian-Polish twinning movement is seen today in encouraging the interest of residents of the two countries to consciously participate in joint projects aimed at improving the quality of life. After all, international ties between the cities is a special kind of public diplomacy, which has a number of economic and civil opportunities. In this regard, it is worthy of attention the call, sounded at the fifth meeting of the twin-cities in Molodechno, - "to more widely promote the idea of twinning, forming a positive perception of this format of cooperation, providing a systematic monitoring of partnerships, publicity of its results"⁸³.

81_Poland may take part in the reconstruction of the Old Castle in Grodno [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/polsha-mozhet-prinjat-uchastie-v-rekonstruktsii-starogo-zamka-v-grodno-367496-2019/>

82_Polish businesses in Belarus are interested in woodworking, logistics and food production [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/polskomu-biznesu-v-belarusi-interesny-derevoobrabotka-logistika-i-proizvodstvo-produktov-pitanija-369771-2019/>

83_Grishkevich, A. It is important for Belarus and Poland to expand cooperation at the interregional level - Batura / A. Grishkevich // [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL:

Belarus - Italy: reserve - scientific and technological cooperation

Italy is among the most important trade partners of the Republic of Belarus in the European Union. The volume of mutual trade between the countries increased by another 15 percent in 2018, coming close to one billion dollars. And although Belarusian supplies to the Italian market were in 188 commodity items, "potash fertilizers, metal products, furniture, and timber took the largest share in Belarusian exports." ⁸⁴. The task that the parties are solving today in terms of the development of bilateral relations is the maximum expansion of cooperation vectors for the implementation of joint projects. This was discussed, in particular, at the second meeting of the intergovernmental Belarusian-Italian commission on economic cooperation, held in June 2019 in Rome, where the parties "agreed to implement a number of specific steps designed to give an additional impetus to the development of bilateral cooperation in areas of mutual interest," ⁸⁵, including in the scientific and technological sphere.

In December 2019, the State Committee for Science and Technology of Belarus and the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research have agreed to hold the first meeting of the joint Belarusian-Italian commission for cooperation in science and technology. The executive program of bilateral cooperation will be signed and the schedule of the first contest of joint Belarusian-Italian S&T projects for 2020-2021 will be approved at the sitting. The intensification of scientific and technological cooperation between Belarus and Italy is related primarily to the fact that "the law on the ratification of the agreement between the governments of

<https://www.belta.by/regions/view/dlja-belarusi-i-polshi-vazhno-rasshirenie-kooperatsii-na-mezhregionalnom-urovne-batura-371114-2019/>

84 Results of a working visit to Italy [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.024.by/2019/02/itogi-rabochego-vizita-v-italiyu/>

85 On the participation of Deputy Foreign Minister of Belarus E. Shestakov at the session of the Intergovernmental Belarusian-Italian Commission on Economic Cooperation [Electronic resource]. - - 20129. - URL: http://mfa.gov.by/press/news_mfa/b053842964a85150.html

Belarus and Italy on cooperation in science and technology was published in the official gazetta Ufficiale of Italy on October 21, 2019"⁸⁶, which means the completion by the Italian side of the domestic procedures for the entry into force of this document.

It should be reminded that scientific interaction between Belarus and Italy began with the Agreement on cooperation in culture, science, technology, education, youth policy, media, human rights, sports and tourism signed back in 1994, which provided for the creation of the Joint Commission for the formation and coordination of cooperation programs. In June 2011, the parties adopted an updated intergovernmental agreement on cooperation in science and technology, which created the "framework conditions for the development of long-term contacts between scientists, research and production organizations and enterprises of the two countries, including the possibilities and modalities of exchange of scientific and technological information"⁸⁷. Since then, the parties have signed many documents at the level of scientific institutions and universities.

In particular, in 2009 the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the major Italian company Finmeccanica adopted a Protocol of Intent on cooperation in the field of high technology, which secured the creation of seven working groups for: 1) processing tools for multi-zone and radar imagery, as well as digital terrain maps for operational monitoring of territories and selection of given classes of objects; 2) development of new methods and software to solve various problems of machine vision and biomedical image processing; 3) development of new methods and software for the processing of biomedical images.

86_Belarus and Italy will hold a contest of joint scientific and technical projects [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-italija-provedut-konkurs-sovmestnyh-nauchno-tehnicheskikh-proektov-368825-2019/>

87 Belarus and Italy signed an intergovernmental agreement on cooperation in science and technology [Electronic resource]. - - 2011. - URL: <http://belisa.org.by/ru/news/stnews/international/aa92ba2301d108c5.html>

In December 2019, the Belarusian and Italian sides agreed to significantly intensify scientific, technological, and innovative cooperation in information and communication technologies, medicine, energy, and new materials, including within the framework of the European Union's Horizon 2020 program. Belarusian scientists and specialists together with their Italian partners participate in 11 projects of the European Union program on science and innovations "Horizon 2020" with the total budget of 1 million 160 thousand euros⁸⁸, Belarus will be able to significantly expand the topics of joint fundamental and applied projects in relevant areas, including those discussed at the third Italian-Belarusian forum on green economy that took place in Minsk in October 2019 - "construction of smart cities, introduction of energy efficient technologies in civil and industrial construction, agriculture"⁸⁹

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88_Belarus and Italy intensify cooperation under the European Union's Horizon 2020 program [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: http://www.gknt.gov.by/news/2019/belarus_i_italiya_aktiviziruyut_sotrudnichestvo_v_ramkakh_programmy_evrosoyuza_gorizont_2020/

89_Belarus and Italy intend to significantly increase mutual trade turnover [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-italija-namereny-znachitelno-uvlechit-vzaimnyj-tovarooborot-364968-2019>

Belarus-Germany: potential for cooperation in the regions

In February 2020, Leipzig hosted the 17th meeting of the Belarusian-German Working Group on Trade and Investment, where participants discussed the prospects of increasing bilateral trade and expanding the presence of German business in the Belarusian market, including in areas with preferential investment regimes, and noted "the presence of significant potential for further expansion of mutual trade, including through the implementation of new investment projects in Belarus with the participation of German business"⁹⁰. The very fact of this working group session in Saxony, as well as the organization of the session of the Belarus-Saxony Business Council, created in 2009 by the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Leipzig, once again emphasizes the desire of the parties to significantly increase cooperation in 2020 at the level of Belarusian and German regions. Let us remind you that "today about 20 cities of Belarus have friendly relations with regions of Germany. In particular, Minsk is partnered with Bonn, Brest - with the Union of communities of the Middle Schussenthal, Grodno - with Minden, Vitebsk - with Nienburg and Frankfurt on Oder, Mogilev - with Eisenach"⁹¹. The Belarusian-German twinning and partnership movement reflects the aspiration of both local authorities and peoples of the two countries to strengthen friendship and mutual trust through long-term and multifaceted international

90 On the 17th meeting of the Belarusian-German Working Group on Trade and Investment [Electronic resource]. - - 2020. - URL: http://www.mfa.gov.by/press/news_mfa/ddfed039edafba4c.html

91 A meeting of the partner cities of Belarus and Germany will be held in Brest in March [Electronic resource]. - - 2020. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/vstrechu-gorodov-partnerov-belarusi-i-germanii-provedut-v-marte-v-breste-379215-2020/>

partnership"⁹². The facts show that today the parties have a serious desire to take interregional cooperation to a new level.

In particular, German companies see a number of areas for effective investment cooperation in the Belarusian capital. "First of all, these are the technological startups of the High-Tech Park - small enterprises that start operating on the basis of new ideas. There is a huge potential here"⁹³. In addition, of great interest to the German side are Belarusian vehicles powered by electricity, as well as cooperation in the automotive sector and instrumentation through the production of components for machinery produced in Germany.

The Belarusian capital region is also quite interesting to German entrepreneurs in terms of implementation of investment projects in Belarus. Statistics show that among other countries, except for potash fertilizers, "Germany ranks fourth in trade turnover with the Minsk region and third after Lithuania and Poland in export of goods to the EU countries"⁹⁴. Minsk Oblast believes that the development of twinning arrangements with German partners will expand cooperation with them not only in the social sector but also in trade and economic areas. In order to increase the volume of cooperation in small and medium business, in February 2020 the Belarusian side voiced a proposal to establish cooperation between the Minsk region and the Federal Union of Small and Medium Business of Germany, which would give a powerful impetus to the development of contacts between enterprises and organizations of the capital region with partners in the federal states.

92 Zalesky, B. Belarus - Europe: Potential of Partnership. The policy of multi-vectorism in the context of global challenges / B. Zalesky. - LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2016. - - C. 18.

93 Ilyicheva N. Germany is interested in Belarusian electric transport and investment in HTP startups / N. Ilyicheva // [Electronic resource]. - - 2020. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/politics/view/germanija-zainteresovana-v-beloruskom-elektrotransporte-i-investirovanii-v-startapy-pvt-378332-2020/>

94 Minsk region as an investment site is of interest to German companies - Huterer [Electronic resource]. - - 2020. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/politics/view/minskaja-oblast-kak-investitsionnaja-ploschadka-interesna-nemetskim-predpriyatijam-huterer-380069-2020/>

The topic of Belarusian-German interregional cooperation is also relevant for the Grodno Region, where Germany is considered an important foreign trade partner, "but the potential for trade and investment cooperation is far from exhausted⁹⁵. A number of enterprises with German capital are already operating here. In particular, there are examples of already implemented projects in Grodno and Svisloch districts. Another one may appear quite soon in the Lida district, where an investor from Germany plans to organize a farm for the production of onions. This agricultural project is called "Tsybulka. by". The German entrepreneur will be allocated 50 hectares to grow five varieties of onions on Lida land. "In the long term it is planned to grow up to 10 thousand tons of onions in the area. The planned markets include not only Belarus, but also the EEU and EU countries⁹⁶. It is quite possible that carrots, potatoes, barley, rape and rye will also be grown here according to the German technology in the future.

One more priority is to activate the twinning relations between the cities of the two countries in 2020. Apparently, a constructive conversation on this topic will take place at the next meeting of representatives of Belarusian and German cities, which is to be held at the end of March 2020 in Brest, the city that has 30 years of cooperation with Ravensburg and Weingarten, as well as the communities of Bayenfurt, Bayndt and Berg. The cooperation agreement between the cities of Grodno and Minden has been in effect for over 20 years. Besides, Grodno has established relations with Magdeburg, which also has considerable potential for the development of interaction. And now the parties intend to substantially renew these ties.

95_Germany and the Grodno region intend to deepen cooperation in the fields of production and logistics [Electronic resource]. - - 2020. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/germanija-i-grodnenskaja-oblast-namereny-uglubit-sotrudnichestvo-v-sferah-proizvodstva-i-logistiki-382549-2020>

96_An investor from Germany plans to organize an onion farm in the Lida District [Electronic resource]. - - 2020. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/investor-iz-germanii-planiruet-organizovat-v-lidskom-rajone-hozjajstvo-po-vyraschivaniju-luka-382778-2020/>

Belarus-Hungary: partnership vector - agriculture

In May 2020, the tenth meeting of the Intergovernmental Belarusian-Hungarian Commission for Economic Cooperation, a leading bilateral platform where positions converge and solutions are developed on a wide range of topical issues on the economic and humanitarian agenda, took place. As part of this meeting, the parties discussed pressing issues of trade cooperation, as well as the state of partnership in agriculture, pharmaceuticals, energy, transport, science, education, and tourism. For the first time in the practice of the bilateral relations this event was held in the form of a videoconference for obvious reasons of epidemiological nature; however, it did not lose its relevance in terms of understanding the prospects of Belarusian-Hungarian cooperation, in the development of which several main trends can be identified.

On the one hand, "in 2019, trade turnover with Hungary increased 1.3 times (\$253.7 million), exports - 1.67 times (\$130.6 million), imports - by 5.8% (\$123 million) ⁹⁷. The fact that in January 2019, the two countries signed a number of important documents that defined the outlines of promising areas for cooperation, including two of them - "the intergovernmental Belarusian-Hungarian agreement on the promotion and mutual protection of investments, and the memorandum of the foreign ministries of the two countries on promoting interregional cooperation" - probably contributed to such positive results in the development of cooperation between Belarus and Hungary last year.

On the other hand, statistics for the first quarter of 2020 showed that the bilateral trade turnover, although not much - about five percent, but still decreased to \$51 million. At the same time, the growth dynamics of

97 On holding a meeting of the Belarusian-Hungarian intergovernmental commission on economic cooperation [Electronic resource]. - - 2020. - URL: http://mfa.gov.by/press/news_mfa/c279e9b64ee4da42.html

Belarusian exports remained intact. The volume of deliveries from Belarus to the Hungarian market during the first three months of the current year increased by almost four per cent and amounted to \$23.8 million. More specifically, "Belarusian exports to Hungary account for nearly 48% of the supplies of railway cars and accessories, 13.1% - tractors and spare parts, 12.3% - timber and wood products, 2% - metals and their products, 1.4% - potash fertilizers. Almost 23% - products of the petrochemical, processing industry and other goods"⁹⁸. These figures demonstrate that today there are considerable growth reserves in the interaction between the two countries, which both Minsk and Budapest would like to put into action in the near future.

One of the drivers of this growth back in 2020 could be agriculture, as evidenced by the following facts. According to the results of 2019, the turnover of agricultural products and food products between Belarus and Hungary increased by almost 15 percent and exceeded 17 million dollars. Important detail: "The export of Belarusian agricultural products during this period increased more than threefold. Among the main export items are seeds and fruits of various oil crops, shellfish"⁹⁹. In the first quarter of 2020 there was a similar picture: the turnover of agricultural products and foodstuffs increased by almost ten percent and Belarusian exports - by twenty percent. At the same time, the parties continued to actively step up efforts to implement new joint projects in this area. In March 2020, during the visit of Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Economic Relations P. Szijjártó to Belarus, the parties "identified the main areas for further cooperation in food supplies, investments, and poultry"¹⁰⁰.

98_Ponomarev, A. Viktor Orban's visit - a new stage of Belarusian-Hungarian cooperation / A. Ponomarev // [Electronic resource]. - - 2020. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/interview/view/vizit-viktora-orbana-novyj-etap-belorusko-vengerskogo-sotrudnichestva-7346/>

99 Markovich, E. Belarus in 2019 increased the export of agricultural products to Hungary by more than three times / E. Markovich // [Electronic resource]. - - 2020. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-v-2019-godu-uvelichila-eksport-produktsii-apk-v-vengriju-bolee-chem-v-tri-raza-393476-2020/>

100 Belarus and Hungary plan to expand cooperation in the agro-industrial complex [Electronic resource]. - - 2020. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-vengrija-planirujut-rasshirjat-sotrudnichestvo-v-sfere-apk-381906-2020/>

In June 2020, the 1st Minsk poultry farm and the Hungarian company "Babolna Tetra" signed a framework cooperation agreement worth about three and a half million euros. The three-year document provides for breeding work with poultry and obtaining young breeding stock of egg breeding. Due to this project, the Belarusian party since 2020 will be "practically released from import of breeding flocks of laying hens, and since 2023 will be able to fully satisfy the domestic market with its own egg breed¹⁰¹ and poultry. In particular, here we are talking about a joint project with Hungarian partners on goose breeding in Gomel region "for restoration of regions affected by the Chernobyl nuclear power plant disaster¹⁰². At least during the talks that took place on this subject in June 2020, the financing of this project has already been discussed, as well as where this production will be organized and who from the Belarusian side will take part in it.

101 Markovich, E. Belarus and Hungary will cooperate in poultry farming / E. Markovich // [Electronic resource]. - - 2020. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-vengrija-budut-sotrudnichat-v-sfere-ptitsevodstva-393454-2020/>

102 Markovich, E. Belarus is interested in implementing a joint project with Hungary on goose breeding / E. Markovich // [Electronic resource]. - - 2020. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-zainteresovana-v-realizatsii-sovmestnogo-s-vengrijej-proekta-po-vyraschivaniju-gusej-393464-2020/>

Belarus-Hungary: the partnership agenda is determined by the business community

In April 2021, at the initiative of the Hungarian business community, a Hungarian-Belarusian business forum was held online, which was attended by more than 80 companies from both countries. This happened in the context of maintaining very active trade relations between Budapest and Minsk. Suffice it to say that "the trade turnover between Belarus and Hungary during the pandemic has generally demonstrated resistance to external shocks. In 2020, it reached \$245.5 million, with Belarusian exports amounting to \$121.8 million"¹⁰³. Railroad cars, potash and mineral fertilizers, plywood, parts and accessories for cars and tractors, and furniture made up the bulk of supplies from Belarus to the Hungarian market. In addition, 412 Belarusian tractors worth more than seven million dollars were delivered to Hungary via Poland in 2020. All these facts show that there is a serious potential both to further increase the volume and expand the range of mutual trade, and to attract mutual investments.

Proceeding from the understanding of the existing prospects in the bilateral trade and economic cooperation, the participants of the business forum eventually came to a conclusion about the need to establish a joint Belarusian-Hungarian business council on the basis of the chambers of commerce of the two countries. It has been decided to formalize its structure at the next session of the intergovernmental trade and economic commission, which is scheduled for the second half of 2021. The parties associate not only hopes for new business contacts, revival of the export-import and investment component of the bilateral cooperation with the

103 Belarus and Hungary will create a joint business council [Electronic resource]. - – 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-vengrija-sozdadut-sovmestnyj-delovoj-sovet-439230-2021/>

appearance of such a council. "This platform could become a discussion platform where problematic issues are discussed, new ideas and recommendations for the governments of the two countries on the development of bilateral trade are elaborated¹⁰⁴

It should be noted that trade and economic cooperation is traditionally one of the main priorities in the development of partnership between Belarus and Hungary. For example, at the tenth meeting of the Intergovernmental Belarusian-Hungarian Commission for Economic Cooperation, which was held in May 2020, they discussed "pressing issues of trade cooperation, as well as the state of partnership in agriculture, pharmaceuticals, energy, transport, science, education, and tourism¹⁰⁵. A month later, in June 2020, economic interaction was the focus of the visit of Hungarian Prime Minister V. Orban to Belarus. A month later, in June 2020, economic cooperation was the focus of the visit of Hungarian Prime Minister Orban to Belarus, where he announced a goal for the next two to three years - to increase trade between the two countries to 500 million euros. This can happen at the expense of implementation of various projects "which include both attraction and use of Belarusian technologies in Hungary in such spheres as mechanical engineering, construction, and Hungarian technologies in Belarus - agriculture and pharmaceuticals"¹⁰⁶. In this regard, the interaction of the parties in the field of electric transport can be especially effective, because "taking into account Hungary's plans to

104_Ponomarev, A. Viktor Orban's visit - a new stage of Belarusian-Hungarian cooperation / A. Ponomarev // [Electronic resource]. - - 2020. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/interview/view/vizit-viktora-orbana-novyj-etap-beloruskogo-vengerskogo-sotrudnichestva-7346/>

105 Zalesky, B.L. Belarus-Hungary: partnership vector - agriculture / B.L. Zalesky // Materials for XVI International Scientific and Practical Conference, Innovations in European Science - 2020, 15 - 22 June 2020. Ekonomiki. : Sofia. "Byal GRAD-BG". - - C. 37.

106 Roman Golovchenko: Belarus is ready to share experience with Hungary in the development of electric transport [Electronic resource]. - - 2020. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/9444>

switch to green technologies, cooperation in the production of buses, electric buses .¹⁰⁷..” is especially promising.

Another promising area of economic partnership between the two countries, which could focus the attention of the business council to be formed, is the electricity sector. It is worth reminding that in June 2020, the Ministry of Energy of Belarus and the Office of the Prime Minister of Hungary signed a memorandum on cooperation, which confirmed the mutual interest of the parties in cooperation in the nuclear energy sector in order to develop contacts between business entities whose activities are related to the construction of nuclear power facilities and infrastructure. "In addition, it is planned to exchange experience in the operation of nuclear power plants, storage and disposal of radioactive waste. The memorandum provides for various forms of interaction, including the establishment of joint ventures to participate in investment projects in the field of electric power."¹⁰⁸ .

It should be assumed that the future business council will not ignore the issues of intensifying interregional cooperation, the potential of which the parties have yet to really master. Thus, the free economic zone (FEZ) "Grodnoinvest", the administration of which was among the participants of the April Hungarian-Belarusian business forum, is ready to become one of the active participants of this partnership. The interest of Grodno residents is based on the existing foundation of cooperation with partners from this European country. In particular, "the trade turnover of FEZ "Grodnoinvest" residents with Hungary in 2020 amounted to USD 2.1 mln. The trade turnover of the residents of FEZ "Grodnoinvest" with Hungary in 2020 amounted to USD 2,1 mln, including USD 575 th. THE MAIN EXPORT

107_Negotiations with Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban [Electronic resource]. - – 2020. - URL: <https://president.gov.by/ru/media/details/peregovory-s-premer-ministrom-vengrii-viktorom-orbanom-1591375023>

108_Belarus and Hungary signed a memorandum on cooperation in the field of electricity [Electronic resource]. - – 2020. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-vengrija-podpisali-memorandum-o-sotrudnichestve-v-oblasti-elektroenergetiki-393689-2020/>

IS WOOD-WOOD-BOARDS. The basis of exports consists of chipboard, furniture and plastic products¹⁰⁹

There are reserves for enhancing cooperation in other Belarusian regions as well. Recall that an agreement on cooperation between the two capitals - Minsk and Budapest - was signed in 2016. And in April 2018, a similar document was adopted by the Partizan district of Minsk and the district of Cepel Budapest to open "new opportunities, first of all, for economic interaction. After all, both districts are industrial, so businesses located in their territory will be able to cooperate mutually beneficially."¹¹⁰. Knowing this, there is every reason to believe that the future business council will provide them with the help they need to strengthen their business ties.

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109 Administration of FEZ "Grodnoinvest" took part in the Hungarian-Belarusian business forum [Electronic resource]. - - 2021. - URL: <https://grodnoinvest.by/press-center/administraciya-sez-grodnoinvest-prinyala-uchastie-v-rabote-vengersko-belorusskogo-biznes-foruma/>

110 Zalessky, B.L. Belarus-Hungary: cooperation grows with investments and regions / B.L. Zalessky // Materials of the XV International scientific and practical conference "Modern scientific potential - 2019", February 28 - March 7, 2019. Economic sciences. : Sheffield. Science and education LTD. - - C. 18-19.

Belarus-Serbia: priority - science and innovation

Belarusian and Serbian leaders agreed to significantly step up efforts to increase bilateral trade, implement initiatives to create joint production facilities, and launch mutual investment projects in December 2019 as part of Lukashenka's official visit to Belgrade. Following the talks with Serbian President A. Vucic signed a package of eight documents on the development of bilateral cooperation in various sectors. A characteristic detail: half of them concern the scientific sphere. Among them were "a memorandum of understanding on cooperation in innovations and development of digital technologies, agreements on scientific and technical cooperation between the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, and the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development of Serbia"¹¹¹. They are complemented by the intergovernmental program of cooperation in education for 2020, which was signed at the same time.

In general, cooperation between the two countries in science, technology and innovation has been developing since the signing of the relevant intergovernmental agreement in 1996 between Belarus and then Yugoslavia. In the last five years alone, "23 joint scientific and technical projects have been implemented, including in the field of agrarian and biological, physical and mathematical, chemical sciences and information technologies"¹¹². According to A. Shumilin, chairman of the State Committee on Science and Technology of the Republic of Belarus, "Belarusian national priority directions in science and technology and

111 . Matijevski, M. Belarus and Serbia signed a package of documents after the meeting of the presidents, half of them in the field of science / M. Matijevski // [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-serbija-podpisali-posle-vstrechi-prezidentov-paket-dokumentov-polovina-v-sfere-nauki-371489-2019/>

112 Belarus and Serbia will sign a program of scientific and technical cooperation for 2020-2021 in autumn [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-serbija-osenju-podpishut-programmu-nauchno-tehnicheskogo-sotrudnichestva-na-2020-2021-gody-359969-2019/>

innovation areas largely coincide with the Serbian ones. These are, first of all, energetics, medicine and pharmacy, information and communication technologies, bio- and nanotechnologies"¹¹³.

The executive program of scientific, technological and innovation cooperation for 2020-2021 signed in December 2019 by the Belarusian State Committee for Science and Technology and the Serbian Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development is intended to give a powerful impetus to the development of Belarusian-Serbian partnerships in the scientific sphere. It envisages the implementation of ten joint scientific and technical projects in such areas as agriculture and food, biotechnology, nanomaterials, laser and chemical technologies.

At a meeting of the Belarusian-Serbian commission on scientific and technical cooperation, held in December 2019, the parties also agreed to jointly move towards new strategic goals in high-tech, pharmacy, optics, and bioorganic chemistry. Recall that last year, Belarusian and Serbian scientists also carried out ten scientific and technical projects, including five in the physical and mathematical sciences, three in agrarian and biological sciences, two in chemical sciences and earth sciences. "On the Belarusian part, seven projects are implemented by organizations of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, and three projects - by the Ministry of Education"¹¹⁴

It should be noted that such a coordinating structure of Belarusian-Serbian cooperation as the working group for the development of cooperation in agriculture and food, the fifth meeting of which was held in Belgrade in December 2019, also focuses on the development of scientific and innovative ties. At it, the parties, discussing the issues of veterinary and

113 Belarus and Serbia discussed the prospects of scientific, technical, and innovative cooperation [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: http://www.gknt.gov.by/news/2019/belarus_i_serbiya_obsudili_perspektivy_nauchno_tekhnicheskogo_i_innovatsionnogo_sotrudnichestva/

114 Belarus and Serbia in 2020-2021 will implement 10 joint scientific and technical projects [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-serbija-v-2020-2021-godah-vypolnjat-10-sovmestnyh-nauchno-tehnicheskikh-proektov-371346-2019/>

phytosanitary, crop and seed production, interaction between agrarian universities, agreed to elaborate possible options and prospects of interaction between research organizations of the two countries, including in the field of breeding and seed production of alfalfa, sugar beet. Attention to these topics is explained by the fact that cooperation in this area has been developing very intensively recently. Suffice it to say that for the three quarters of 2019, "the turnover of agricultural products and food products between the two countries increased by more than 30% compared to the same period of 2018. Exports tripled to \$3.597 million. Belarus supplies potatoes, seeds, butter, onions, shallots, leeks and garlic to Serbia"¹¹⁵

With regard to education, the parties see priority areas for cooperation in expanding partnerships between specific educational institutions of the two countries, an active information exchange on basic and additional adult education, additional - children and youth, as well as inclusive and vocational education. In particular, the Belarusian side is interested in the Serbian experience "in the introduction of international educational programs in the national education system"¹¹⁶. To solve the task, apparently, will contribute, in particular, the cooperation agreement between the Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno and the University of Belgrade, signed in December 2019 in the Serbian capital. This document provides for "the interaction of universities in the field of educational and scientific activities, as well as in the use of best practices and implementation of scientific developments in the educational process."¹¹⁷. Note that Belgrade University ranks first in the national ranking of Serbia's universities.

115_Serbia is interested in supplies of Belarusian milk [Electronic resource]. - – 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/serbija-zainteresovana-v-postavkah-beloruskogomoloka-371388-2019/>

116 Belarus - Serbia: priorities for cooperation [Electronic resource]. - – 2019. - URL: <https://edu.gov.by/news/belarus--serbiya-prioritety-sotrudnichestva/>

117_Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno signed a cooperation agreement with the University of Belgrade [Electronic resource]. - – 2019. - URL:

Belarus-Turkey: the aim is to intensify scientific and technical cooperation

In early December 2020 there was the second meeting of the joint Belarusian-Turkish commission on cooperation in science and technology in which the parties confirmed their mutual desire to develop scientific and technological cooperation in the fields of energy, information and communication technologies, medicine, chemical technology, new materials.

Let us recall that the basis for interaction between the scientific communities of the two countries "was laid by cooperation agreements signed by the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus: in 2002 - with the Turkish Research Council for Science and Technology; in 2009 - with the Turkish Academy of Sciences¹¹⁸. These partnerships intensified markedly after the signing of an intergovernmental agreement on cooperation in science and technology in November 2016. In this document, the parties agreed to fully promote cooperation between organizations of both countries in such priority areas as "energy; agro-industrial technology; industrial and construction technology and manufacturing; medicine and medical technology, pharmacy; chemical technology; nano- and biotechnology; information and communication technology (electronic services, cybersecurity); aerospace technology; new materials; environmental management; prevention and elimination of consequences. To coordinate this work, the parties then established a joint commission on cooperation in science and technology, the first meeting of which was held in November 2018 and at which the main directions of scientific and technological cooperation between Belarus and Turkey until 2020 were

<https://www.grsu.by/component/k2/item/31876-grgu-imeni-yanki-kupaly-zaklyuchen-dogovor-o-sotrudnichestve-s-belgradskim-universitetom.html>

118 Zalessky, B.L. Belarus - Turkey: science, technology, education / B.L. Zalessky // Materialy XV Mezinarodni vedecko-prakticka konference "Vedecky pokrok na prelomu tysyachalety - 2019". Volume 14: Praha. Publishing House "Education and Science". - - C. 40.

fixed. Already in June 2019 in the Turkish capital an agreement on cooperation between the Belarusian Republican Foundation for Fundamental Research and the National Nanotechnology Center of Turkey was signed, which provides for various forms of scientific cooperation between the two countries. In particular, in 2019, the State Committee on Science and Technology of Belarus with the support of the Belarusian Innovation Fund and the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey announced a competition of joint Belarusian-Turkish innovation projects for 2019-2021, the objectives of which were "to launch, as well as initiate joint Belarusian-Turkish innovation projects by providing direct financial support at an early stage of the project"¹¹⁹. At the second meeting of the joint commission on cooperation in science and technology, it became known that a joint project of the United Institute of Informatics Problems of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the Turkish company Novosim Engineering Services to develop a warehouse autonomous multi-robot system has already been accepted for funding. This system "will be designed to move goods in automatic mode inside the projected and existing warehouses and logistics centers, taking into account the information about their configuration"¹²⁰. In addition, two more innovative projects of Belarusian scientists, which have already received a positive expert evaluation, are now under consideration of the Turkish side.

Another topical area of Belarusian-Turkish scientific and technical cooperation, which was considered at the second meeting of the joint commission on cooperation in science and technology, is the interaction of Turkish and Belarusian technoparks. For the Belarusian party this topic is very relevant, because "in Belarus there are 25 subjects of innovation infrastructure: 16 technoparks (including 3 private ones), 8 technology

119__Cooperation in science [Electronic resource]. - - 2020. - URL: https://turkey.mfa.gov.by/ru/bilateral_relations/scientific/

120_Belarus and Turkey plan to develop cooperation in energy, ICT and medicine [Electronic resource]. - - 202-. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-turtsija-planirujut-razvivat-sotrudnichestvo-v-sferah-energetiki-ikt-i-medsiny-418159-2020/>

transfer centers and the Belarusian Innovation Fund. The network of technoparks covers all regional centers"¹²¹ . Technoparks also operate in Pinsk, Novopolotsk, Gorki, Lyakhovich district. In 2020 it is planned to open them in Baranovich, Bobruisk, Borisov, Orsha and Molodechno. All this shows that Belarus introduces systematic measures for development of technoparks as regional innovation platforms for organization of high-tech productions. That is why mastering the best foreign experience in this sphere is especially relevant for the Belarusian side today. And Turkey, it must be said, has such experience.

Technoparks or technopolises in this country began to be created in 2001. By mid-2019, their number had increased to 84, of which 63 were active, and 21 more were undergoing infrastructure work. "Now there are technoparks in 54 provinces of the country, more than 5 thousand companies are working in the territories of technological development zones."¹²² Most technoparks are in Istanbul - 11. Ankara has nine, Kocaeli has five and Izmir has four. Their purpose is to contribute to the development of high-tech production and services, to ensure the cooperation of entrepreneurs, researchers and scientists. The scale of activities of Turkish technology parks is very eloquently illustrated by the following figures. As of mid-2019, almost 33 thousand projects were implemented in them, about ten thousand more were under development. And the number of jobs there exceeded 55 thousand. Finally, the exports of technology park resident companies as of July 2019 amounted to more than four billion dollars. And all of this - in less than twenty years. What can I say, their Belarusian colleagues have a lot to learn from their Turkish partners.

121 Shumilin, A. Forecast till 2040 - about perspectives of science development and international cooperation / A. Shumilin // [Electronic resource]. - -- 2020. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/interview/view/prognoz-do-2040-goda-o-perspektivah-razvitiya-nauki-i-mezhdunarodnom-sotrudnichestve-7168/>

122 There are 84 technoparks created in Turkey [Electronic resource]. - -- 2019. - URL: <https://restproperty.ru/news/v-turtsii-sozdano-84-tekhnoparka/>

Global Data Security Initiative as a response to challenges in cyberspace

In September 2020, the People's Republic of China launched the Global Data Security Initiative at the International Symposium on Global Digital Governance to help address data security issues and challenges and promote global digital governance. The initiative arose as "the U.S. continues to put pressure on China's largest technology companies and persuades countries around the world to block them"¹²³. According to the U.S. side, Chinese technology companies pose threats to national security in the process of collecting user data and then sending it to Beijing. In this regard, back in May 2020, U.S. lawmakers approved a bill under which "foreign companies whose shares are traded on U.S. exchanges will have to comply with a number of requirements, which should strengthen control over such companies and make their reporting even more transparent"¹²⁴. And in August 2020, the U.S. Presidential Administration presented a program of measures that could be imposed on Chinese technology companies.

China's Global Data Security Initiative generally calls on all countries on the planet to make efforts to ensure the openness and stability of the global information and communication technology supply chain. It contains a total of **eight** main points, which **include**:

- (1) Countering the use of information technology to damage the critical infrastructure of other countries or to steal sensitive data;
- 2) taking measures to prevent and suppress actions related to violation of confidentiality of personal information;

123 China blames the U.S. for global economic pressure [Electronic resource]. - - 2020. - URL: <https://www.finversia.ru/publication/kitai-obvinyact-ssha-v-globalnom-ekonomicheskompresinge-80960>

124 China proposed global data security [Electronic resource]. - - 2020. - URL: <https://www.kommersant.ru/doc/4483436>

3) It is unacceptable to request data located in other countries directly from companies or individuals;

4) Inadmissibility of misuse of information technology for large-scale surveillance of other countries or illegal collection of personal information of citizens of other countries;

(5) The requirement to respect the sovereignty and jurisdiction of other countries, as well as their data management rights;

6) the requirement for suppliers of information technology products and services that they do not create any loopholes in their products for the illegal acquisition of user data;

7) Requirement for the authorities of the countries that supported the initiative not to compel companies operating in these states to store data created and received abroad in their country;

8) Requirement for IT companies not to use the dependence of users of their products for illegal benefits.

In other words, this global initiative aims to comprehensively develop the integration of the digital and real economies, accelerate the transformation of new and old development impulses, and create new industries and management practices. The relevance of this issue is underscored by its scale, as the digital economy already accounts for more than 15 percent of the world's gross domestic product. To respond effectively to the current risks and challenges of data security, the Chinese side believes that certain principles must be followed, among which "we must adhere to multilateralism. Joint discussion, construction and utilization is the true way to solve the global digital governance deficit"¹²⁵.

In this connection, it is important to emphasize that this Global Initiative is already supported in many countries of the world. Russia, for example, has been very attentive to it. The September 2020 joint statement

125_Cui, C. China welcomes Belarus' participation in the Global Data Security Initiative / C. Cui // [Electronic resource]. - - 2020. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/comments/view/knr-privetstvuet-uchastie-belarusi-v-globalnoj-initsiative-po-bezopasnosti-dannyh-7487/>

of the Russian and Chinese foreign ministers, in particular, notes that the security of digital data storage affects national security, the public interest and the rights of individuals in every state. For this ¹²⁶reason, the document calls on all countries "to achieve participatory global digital security rules that reflect the aspirations of all states and are based on respect for the interests of all parties. In addition, the two sides intend to continue to cooperate on international information security through the United Nations, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Regional Security Forum and a number of other global and regional platforms.

Pakistan has also supported the Global Initiative, where it attaches importance to the application of digital technologies to stimulate socio-economic development. Islamabad believes that "dialogue and international cooperation are necessary to create an open, secure, peaceful and inclusive cyberspace, it is also extremely important to strike a balance between technological progress, economic development and protection of national security¹²⁷¹²⁸. In short, with broad international support, the Global Data Security Initiative could become a prototype for the formation of international digital security rules around the world, the need for which is very great today, not to mention the day of tomorrow.

126 Joint Statement of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China, Moscow, September 11, 2020 [Electronic resource]. - - 2020. - URL: https://www.mid.ru/foreign_policy/news/-/asset_publisher/cKNonkJE02Bw/content/id/4335948

127 Pakistan welcomes China's Global Data Security Initiative [Electronic resource]. - - 2020. - URL: http://russian.news.cn/2020-09/15/c_139369622.htm

128 On the Meeting of Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belarus V. Makei with the Ambassador of China [Electronic resource]. - - 2020. - URL: https://www.mfa.gov.by/press/news_mfa/af6c3e35067d43fd.html

Belarus-China: towards new technologies and investments

In July 2019, the China-Belarus Industrial Park "Great Stone" will host the International Forum on Regional Cooperation and Development under the Belt and Road Initiative aimed at attracting new investments and investors, strengthening ties between the international investment community, business representatives and government authorities, increasing competitiveness and investment attractiveness at the international level and securing the status of the most open and comfortable platform for doing business along the Economic Belt. It will be the first regional international forum within the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative, the idea of which "belongs to the leaders of Belarus and China - they agreed on it at the meeting in Qingdao. <...> It's about inviting business circles from major technology and investment-owning countries to the event.

As a reminder, in June 2018, at a meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization held in Qingdao, China, it was noted that Belarus had already taken the first step in the joint action plan to dock national development strategies, as well as to interface the Eurasian Economic Union with the Belt and Road Initiative. In our country, the implementation of the Chinese-Belarusian Industrial Park "Great Stone" fully corresponds to the identification of new points of contact and the expansion of areas of cooperation. It is not for nothing that the name "the pearl of the Silk Road" has stuck to it¹²⁹. In April 2019, the leaders of Belarus and China put their signatures under the concept of holding the Forum on Regional Cooperation and Development as part of the Belt and Road Initiative.

129 Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/zasedanie-soveta-glav-gosudarstv-shanxajskoj-organizatsii-sotrudnichestva-18898/

The facts show that the stage of building infrastructure, building conditions, and creating some regulatory documents in the China-Belarus Industrial Park is already behind us. And today, "the success of the project depends primarily on our residents"¹³⁰. As of early May 2019, there were 44 residents registered at Great Stone. Importantly, they include not only companies from China and Belarus, but also investors and manufacturers from Austria, Germany, Israel, Lithuania, Russia, and the United States. Their activity illustrates the fact that the Great Stone is "not only or even not so much a production zone, but above all a unique and original incubator of innovative ideas about how the synergy between the tasks of organizing an efficient production process with the development of a sustainable, environmentally friendly and socially effective urban environment can be achieved"¹³¹. In the future, it could become a prototype for new types of industrial-logistic urban centers, which could make the Belt and Road network truly sustainable and efficient.

Another characteristic detail of the China-Belarus Industrial Park is that 28 residents of Great Stone have either already started producing their products or are in the active construction phase. Among the residents who have already mastered production are MAZ-Weichai LLC, as well as Chengdu Xinju Silk Road Development LLC, which has opened a plant to produce supercapacitors. In 2019, American manufacturer IPG Photonics of RuchTech should start producing fiber lasers. All in all, about ten more production facilities are expected to be commissioned here by the end of the year. On the whole, "more than 4 thousand high-performance jobs will be created once the enterprises already located on the territory are put into

130 Krutoy, D. The success of the China-Belarus Industrial Park today depends on its residents / D. Krutoy // [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/opinions/view/uspeh-kitajsko-belorusskogo-industrialnogo-parka-segodnja-zavisit-ot-ego-rezidentov-6857/>

131 Dapkiunas, A. Belarus intends to strengthen its role in the development of trans-European economic conjugation / A. Dapkiunas // [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/interview/view/belarus-namerena-usilit-svoju-rol-v-razvitii-transjevrazijskoj-ekonomicheskoy-soprazhennosti-6823/>

operation¹³². Belarusian, Swiss and Chinese companies may soon be among the new residents of the Great Stone. A resident from Belarus should come with new technologies and materials in the field of packaging. The Swiss project deals with software products, storage and processing of big data. A Chinese company will present a large project in the field of car components. In general, "the park plans to increase the number of residents to 60 this [2019] year¹³³.

Another landmark project, which will be discussed at the forthcoming International Forum on Regional Cooperation and Development within the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative, is the industrial and logistics complex Bremino-Orsha, where investors are also granted benefits and preferences. And where the first steps towards its development are already being taken. In particular, in May 2019, Bremino Group LLC and the Chinese company Shaanxi Zhongqiao Silk Road Technology Development Co., Ltd. agreed that under a comprehensive strategic cooperation agreement they will create an international construction materials town in the Bremino-Orsha special economic zone. At that, "investment in the first phase, which will last three years, will amount to about \$100 million¹³⁴. And, by all appearances, this is not the only project the Chinese company is ready to implement in Belarus.

132 The number of Great Stone residents could double in the coming years [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/chislo-rezidentov-velikogo-kamnja-v-blizhajshie-gody-mozhet-vyrasti-vdvoe-343201-2019/>

133 Lisatovich, T. The forum on regional cooperation will help attract new investors in the "Great Stone" - Yaroshenko // T. Lisatovich // [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/forum-po-regionalnomu-sotrudnichestvu-pomozhet-privlech-novyh-investorov-v-velikij-kamen-jaroshenko-347184-2019/>

134 International building materials town will appear in the special economic zone "Bremino-Orsha". [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/mezhdunarodnyj-gorodok-strojmaterialov-pojavitsja-v-osoboj-ekonomicheskoy-zone-bremino-orsha-346313-2019/>

Minsk - Shanghai: the vector of twinning ties

In November 2019, Minsk and Shanghai signed an agreement on the establishment of twinning relations. Interestingly, before this document appeared, the Belarusian capital had already "signed 22 cooperation agreements with Chinese cities, among which 3 were twinning agreements (Beijing, Changchun, Shenzhen)¹³⁵. This may be the reason why Chinese companies have already invested about \$30 million in Minsk. While signing a new document on twinning, the parties "determined the priority areas of cooperation - increase of mutual trade, infrastructure construction, tourism¹³⁶. Minsk is highly interested in Shanghai's experience in a number of areas. In particular, in the organization of the working process in educational institutions, medical infrastructure, social services and rehabilitation centers for people with disabilities. The attention of Minsk administrative and business circles is also attracted by the Shanghai Free Trade Zone, which is used in the People's Republic of China for economic and social reforms.

One of the most effective forms of coordination of trade and economic cooperation between Minsk and Shanghai has already become an annual business forum of business circles of Belarusian and Chinese cities. For example, a similar forum organized in Minsk in September 2018 brought together "more than 130 domestic and Chinese companies interested in cooperating in mechanical engineering, construction, information technology, chemical industry, food, and jewelry production¹³⁷. At that time, Chinese manufacturers of electronics and household appliances, clothing and fabrics, medical equipment packaging,

135 The Days of Minsk in Shanghai will be held on November 7-9 [Electronic resource]. - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/dni-minska-v-shanhae-projdu-7-9-nojabrja-368252-2019/>

136 Grishkevich, A. Minsk and Shanghai established twinning ties / A. Grishkevich // [Electronic resource]. - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/minsk-i-shanhaj-ustanovili-pobratimskie-svjazi-368815-2019/>

137 Zalesky, B. Vector of partnership - China. Collection of articles / B. Zalesky. - Palmarium Academic Publishing, 2019. - - C. 149.

cosmetics, toys, jewelry, as well as importers of cars, electrical and welding equipment, and computer equipment interested in finding business partners in Minsk visited the Belarusian capital.

The Shanghai-Minsk Business Forum, which took place in November 2019 and brought together over a hundred Chinese and more than thirty Belarusian enterprises and companies, was equally broad in scope. The program of the forum provided for discussion of topical issues of cooperation "in specialized three sections: 1) Food, food industry; 2) Tourism and hospitality of Minsk and Shanghai; 3) Industry"¹³⁸. The high practical value of this event is proven by the documents adopted following its results. In particular, the Minsk City Executive Committee signed a Memorandum of Intent to establish cooperation with the Lotusland Shanghai Corporation to introduce heat pump technology and equipment in the construction of industrial and civil facilities in the Belarusian capital. The point is that "the application of heat pump installations for satellite towns of Minsk would allow to refuse laying of many kilometers of heating networks"¹³⁹

A memorandum on strategic partnership in the sphere of tourist exchanges was the result of negotiations between representatives of Belarusian RUE "Tsentrkurot" and Chinese group tourist company "Shanghai Airlines Tours International (Group) Co. CJSC "Minskexpo" and "Shanghai industry and commerce exhibition Co." signed an agreement on cooperation in the field of international exhibitions. Besides, the Minsk free economic zone and Shanghai Allynv Technology Co., Ltd., as well as Slodych Confectionery Factory OJSC and Shanghai Teemo Foods have signed protocols to actively cooperate in the near future. Kommunarka is going to increase supplies of its confectionery products to the Shanghai

138 Shanghai-Minsk Business Forum, November 8, 2019. [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: https://www.tppm.by/announcement/index.php?ELEMENT_ID=23213

139 Beluga, V. Forum of business cooperation "Minsk - Shanghai" was held in China / V. Beluga // [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://minsknews.by/forum-delovogo-sotrudnichestva-minsk-shanhaj-prohodit-v-kitae/>

market in 2020, having signed a memorandum of understanding with the Chinese Misier Trading and Economic Company LLC.

The fact that the market of this Chinese city attracts serious attention of manufacturers of the Belarusian capital is also confirmed by the fact that immediately nine Minsk enterprises took part in the second China International Exhibition of Imported Goods and Services, held in Shanghai in November 2019. Among them were Kommunaraka SAO, Minsk Grape Wine Factory CJSC, Krinitza OJSC, Slodych OJSC, Kristal OJSC, Minsk Kombinat of Bread Products OJSC, Minskhhlebprom KUP and Minsk Refrigeration Plant No. 2 TUPUP.

And more. A memorandum on the establishment of friendly relations between the Moscow district of the Belarusian capital and the Jiading district of Shanghai, signed in November 2019, also opens up interesting prospects for interregional cooperation. Just a month later - in December - a delegation from the Jiading district was already in Minsk, where they discussed with the leadership of the Moscow district of the Belarusian capital ways to implement the memorandum in the context of "intensifying bilateral trade and economic cooperation, as well as cooperation in the exchange of students of the two districts"¹⁴⁰. One of the concrete results of the visit was an invitation from the Chinese side to the students of the Moscow district of Minsk to visit a summer camp in Shanghai in 2020. Apparently, in the near future, friendly relations between the Soviet district of Minsk and another Shanghai district - Changning - will also be intensified.

140_ About the visit of the delegation of Jiading district of Shanghai to Minsk [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: http://shanghai.mfa.gov.by/ru/o_generalnom_consulstv/news/b8beff0b9304c615.html

Belarus-China: The Year of Regions as a Topical media topic

In January 2021, the Republic of Belarus and the People's Republic of China reached an agreement at the highest level on the Year of Regions of the two countries over the next three years - from 2021 to 2023. This decision once again emphasizes the enormous role played in the development of bilateral Belarusian-Chinese relations by the intensification of interaction at the level of autonomous regions, regions, provinces, and cities of the two countries, the potential of which is only beginning to be truly explored by both countries. This is evidenced by the results of 2020, when trade turnover between Belarus and China exceeded \$4.5 billion and Belarusian exports increased by almost 10%. Agricultural and wood processing products became "the driver of Belarusian exports to China, with deliveries doubling. It is also important that more than a hundred Belarusian agricultural producers have already been accredited in China, and the overwhelming majority of them are located in the regions of our country.¹⁴¹

The facts show that the parties are now taking a variety of measures to unlock the full potential of the bilateral cooperation between Belarus and China. Particular attention in this regard is paid to addressing the issues related to the access of Belarusian goods to the Chinese market. In particular, at the meeting of the Belarusian-Chinese Intergovernmental Committee on Cooperation that took place in December 2020, a practical platform for working out all the issues of access to the Chinese market, as well as veterinary and quarantine supervision and logistics chains, was created in the form of the Commission on Customs and Quarantine

¹⁴¹ On the results of bilateral trade with China in 2020 [Electronic resource]. -- 2021. - URL: <https://china.mfa.gov.by/ru/embassy/news/c603710a55ba783e.html>

Cooperation. A working group composed of specialists from the Chinese Ministry of Commerce and the Belarusian Ministry of Economy, which was formed in late 2020, will also simplify trade procedures and create a basis for active trade. The working group is to work out an agreement on trade in services and investments, "the realization of which will change the essence and depth of the joint development, simplify the mutual investments without restrictions and prohibitive lists. Simplification of trade in services at the present stage is the basis for active trade, because modern goods are 80% of services"¹⁴². The same December (2020) meeting of the intergovernmental cooperation committee also pointed to the need to involve as soon as possible the remaining Chinese credit resources of about \$4 billion for specific projects to develop social and transport infrastructure in the economic turnover in Belarusian regions.

As we can see, the tasks set at the interstate level are ambitious and specific. Certainly, it will hardly be possible to solve them without the most interested participation of the regions themselves. It is here that the regional media should have a say in promoting the ideas of the Belarusian-Chinese comprehensive strategic partnership and mutually beneficial cooperation in the next three years. Especially since they are now facing no less ambitious tasks to update both their form and content.

It should be reminded that at the February 2021 board meeting of the Ministry of Information of the Republic of Belarus, regional print media, which constitute a significant segment of the Belarusian media sphere and cover almost the entire territory of the country, were named among the most important issues of developing the information field of our country that must be elaborated and solved as a matter of priority. The priority of their activities should be the creation of a high-quality media product. At the same time, they "should meet the challenges of time, be able to quickly

142 Belarus and China have created a platform for working out issues of access to the Chinese market [Electronic resource]. -- 2020. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-knr-sozdali-ploschadku-dlja-otrabotki-voprosov-dostupa-na-kitajskij-rynok-420487-2020/>.

adapt to the needs of the reader".¹⁴³ and contribute to the creation of a positive image of Belarus. In this regard, the most active participation of the Belarusian regional press in covering the implementation of the "three-year plan" of the regions of Belarus and China can and should become a very important step in the formation and development of its international segment. Especially since the thematic focus of publications devoted to the cooperation between the regions of the two countries can and should already be very diverse.

In particular, such form of cooperation between the regions of the two countries as twinning and partnership relations should receive an especially powerful impetus for development in the next three years. Their current level is eloquently demonstrated by the following fact: every Belarusian region and Minsk have already become twinned or partnered with two or more Chinese regions, which ensures coverage of almost all provinces in the Celestial Empire. For example, the Brest region is the province of Hubei (since 1994) and Qinghai (2015), Qinghai (2015), Anhui (2016), Shanxi (2019); Vitebsk region - Shandong (2004), Heilongjiang (2005), Guizhou (2015), Jiangxi (2018); Gomel - Inner Mongolia (2011) and Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Regions (2016), Sichuan (2011) and Jiangsu (2016); Grodno - Gansu (2007), Fujian (2018), Hainan (2019) Minsk - Chongqing (2002), Guangdong (2012) and Zhejiang (2015) provinces; Mogilev - Jiangsu (1997), Henan (2008), Hunan (2016), Shaanxi (2018), Tianjin (2019) cities; the Belarusian capital - Changchun (1992), Beijing (1997), Shenzhen (2013), Shenyang (2016), Shanghai (2018) cities. In addition, "more than 20 agreements on the establishment and development of city-to-city cooperation between

143 Igor Petrishenko: Today a journalist should be a universal media worker, able to work on different platforms - in a newspaper, on a website, in social networks and messengers [Electronic resource]. -- 2021. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/9758>

regional centers and cities of Belarus and administrative centers and cities of central subordination of China were concluded¹⁴⁴.

It is characteristic that the process of expansion and actualization of twinning and partnership relations continues today. Thus, in the development of twinning relations between the Grodno Region and Hainan Province, "agreements between such cities as Lida and Sanya, Ostrovets and Qionghai are already at the draft stage"¹⁴⁵. In April 2021 Gomel region and Sichuan province decided to significantly expand twinning relations in the economic, social and cultural spheres. In late March 2021, Brest Region and Hubei Province discussed the whole range of interaction. As a result, "the parties agreed to agree on a roadmap for the development of cooperation in the near future"¹⁴⁶.

All these facts suggest that the topic of Belarusian-Chinese inter-regional cooperation should be firmly and permanently "fixed in the Belarusian regional press and reflect the experience already gained in this respect as much as possible"¹⁴⁷. This will require creative strategies specific to international regional issues, which representatives of this segment of Belarusian journalism should develop in the near future.

144 Belarus-China Interregional Cooperation and Twinning [Electronic resource]. - - 2021. - URL: <https://china.mfa.gov.by/ru/bilateral/regional/info/>.

145 Zalessky, B.L. Grodno region: Chinese vector of interregional cooperation / B.L. Zalessky // *Materialy XVII Miedzynarodowej naukow-praktycznej konferencji "Kluczowe aspekty naukowej dzialalnosci - 2021"*, Volume 4. Przemysl: Nauka i studia. - - C. 8.

146 China's Hubei and Brest region intensify cooperation [Electronic resource]. - - 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/kitajskij-hubej-i-brestskaja-oblast-aktivizirujut-sotrudnichestvo-434998-2021/>.

147 Zalesskii, B.L. Information sovereignty and international journalism / B.L. Zalesskii // *Rehiyanalnyy Mass Media of the Republic of Belarus in the personal era: from lokalnaya problematyki to iifarmatsiyy bias of the country: materialy Resp.Practical Conference, Minsk, May 5, 2020 / Belarusian State University; editor: V.M. Samusevich (ed.) [and others]. - Minsk: BDU, 2020. - - C. 114.*

Belarus-Bangladesh: joint commission outlines prospects

In April 2019, Minsk hosted the first meeting of the Belarus-Bangladesh joint commission for trade and economic cooperation, where its participants reviewed the current state of mutual trade and discussed priority steps to increase it. The very fact of holding such an event testifies to the fact that "Belarus views Bangladesh as an important and promising partner in the region of South Asia."¹⁴⁸ The complementary nature of the Belarusian and Bangladeshi economies opens up great opportunities for the growth of mutual supplies of industrial goods and agricultural products. This is evidenced by the dynamics of bilateral trade in recent years. In particular, "the volume of mutual trade in the last [2018] year increased by 18%, but this is not the limit."¹⁴⁹ The first meeting of the joint commission allowed the sides to clearly define "the most promising joint projects in mechanical engineering and <...> possibilities for attracting Belarusian specialists and technologies to build infrastructure facilities in Bangladesh."¹⁵⁰ The first meeting of the joint commission allowed the parties to clearly define "the most promising joint projects in the field of mechanical engineering < > the possibilities of attracting Belarusian specialists and technologies to build infrastructure facilities in Bangladesh.

In particular, Bangladesh is interested in receiving Belarusian technologies and training specialists in: 1) mechanization of agriculture, including potato growing and processing of agricultural products; 2) medical education and research; 3) ensuring nuclear safety; 4) high-tech production. In its turn, Belarus is ready: 1) to substantially increase

148 Alexander Turchin met with the Minister of Commerce of Bangladesh Tipu Munshi [Electronic resource]. -- 2019. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/8761>

149 Belarus negotiates \$100 million worth of equipment supplies to Bangladesh [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-vedet-peregovory-o-postavke-v-bangladesh-tehniki-na-100-mln-345058-2019/>

150 On the first meeting of the Belarus-Bangladesh joint commission [Electronic resource]. -- 2019. - URL: http://mfa.gov.by/press/news_mfa/fa91ae00727e926d.html

deliveries of road-building, agricultural and cargo machinery to this South Asian state, including the organization of a relevant maintenance base; 2) to actualize cooperation in the energy sphere, including the construction of power lines and transformer substations within the framework of the infrastructure projects program implemented in this country; 3) to assist in training specialists in nuclear safety and physical protection of a The coincidence of the parties' declared interests enabled the sides to discuss two contracts - worth USD 100 million and USD 17 million - for supplies of Belarusian road-building, agricultural and freight equipment under different financing schemes, including via Promagroleasing, the financial operator, and export financing provided by the Belarus Development Bank. In this regard, it should be noted that "Belarus has already sold \$50 million worth of Amkodor machinery to Bangladesh. Small-size machinery has also been supplied to that country"¹⁵¹.

There are interesting prospects for Belarus-Bangladesh cooperation in science, technology, and education. It should be recalled that back in 2012, the governments of the two countries signed agreements on cooperation in education, as well as in science and technology. At the same time, the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the Bangladesh Academy of Sciences adopted a Memorandum of Cooperation. In April 2015, Dhaka hosted the first meeting of the Belarus-Bangladesh Commission on Science and Technology, at which the parties agreed to "develop mutually beneficial cooperation in science, technology, and innovation, including through the creation of joint high-tech industries"¹⁵². At the same time, the State Committee on Science and Technology of Belarus and the Ministry of Science and Technology of Bangladesh

151 Belarus negotiates \$100 million worth of equipment supplies to Bangladesh [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-vedet-peregovory-o-postavke-v-bangladesh-tehniki-na-100-mln-345058-2019/>

152 Belarus and Bangladesh will develop cooperation in priority areas of science and technology [Electronic resource]. - - 2015. - URL: <https://www.interfax.by/news/belarus/1181817>

identified priority areas for joint projects: biotechnology and genetics in agriculture - crop and livestock production, nanotechnology and materials, water treatment technology, fertilizer production and "green" construction, biological methods of plant protection, bioreactors and biogas production. In March 2017, at the second meeting of this joint commission on cooperation in science and technology, they were already talking about specific cooperation "in the field of mutual transfer of technology, the creation of joint production facilities for the production of high-tech and high-tech products"¹⁵³.

As for education, back in 2015, in order to increase the number of Bangladeshi students to study at Belarusian universities, including technical and technological specialties, the Republican Institute of Higher Education "implemented a "pilot project" to attract Bangladeshi citizens to the Republic of Belarus through the opportunities of the Bangladeshi recruiting agency "Raduga International"¹⁵⁴. At the same time, the idea of creating a Belarusian-Bangladeshi technical university in Dhaka was voiced. It was supposed that "Bangladesh would provide the necessary infrastructure and financing, and Belarus would provide modern educational programs and technologies as well as teaching staff"¹⁵⁵. We have to assume that this project is yet to take its concrete shape.

153 Meeting of the Belarus-Bangladesh Commission for Cooperation in Science and Technology takes place in Minsk [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: http://www.gknt.gov.by/news/2017/v_minske_prokhodit_zasedanie_belorussko_bangladeshsko_y_komissij_po_sotrudnichestvu_v_oblasti_nauki_i/

154 Bangladesh [Electronic resource]. - - 2015. - URL: <https://export.by/bangladesh>

155 The Belarusian-Bangladeshi University is planned to be established in Dhaka [Electronic resource]. - - 2015. - URL: https://www.belarus.by/ru/press-center/press-release/belorussko-bangladeshkij-universitet-planiruetsja-sozdat-v-dakke_i_0000023707.html

Belarus-Mongolia: from general agreement to road map

In June 2019, the fifth meeting of the Joint Belarusian-Mongolian Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation was held in Ulaanbaatar, where the practical implementation of the intergovernmental general agreement on export credit was considered, and the Roadmap for the development of cooperation between the Republic of Belarus and Mongolia for 2019-2021 was signed.

As a reminder, the intergovernmental general agreement adopted in April 2019 on the provision of an export credit will allow for the supply of Belarusian machinery to Mongolia. In accordance with this document, "in the coming years, the parties will work on the supply of fire, agricultural, municipal, road construction and road cleaning equipment, passenger elevators and railway cars¹⁵⁶¹⁵⁷.

It should be noted that since the establishment of Belarusian-Mongolian diplomatic relations in January 1992, Belarusian exports have traditionally formed the basis of bilateral trade. In 2018, with the total volume of trade turnover at \$19.5 million, the value of exports from Belarus exceeded \$19 million with a surplus for the Belarusian side - \$18.8 million. Milk, condensed and dried cream, trucks, plastic containers, road and construction equipment, butter, medicines, bread and flour confectionery products, synthetic unbleached fibers, footwear, sugar, engines and power plants made up the bulk of supplies from Belarus to Mongolia. Service turnover between the two countries also increased nearly 1.8 times in the same year in 2018, exceeding six million dollars.

156 Belarus will provide an export loan to Mongolia for the purchase of its machinery [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-predostavit-eksportnyj-kredit-mongolii-na-pokupku-svoej-tehniki-345020-2019/>

157 A regular meeting of the Belarusian-Mongolian commission on trade and economic cooperation was held in Ulan Bator [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <http://mongolia.mfa.gov.by/ru/embassy/news/ddb45d27a11bdef0.html>

Evidence shows that bilateral ties between Belarus and Mongolia have markedly intensified over the past six years after 1) the creation in 2013 of the Joint Belarusian-Mongolian Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation; 2) the opening in June 2014 of the Belarusian Embassy in Ulaanbaatar; 3) the appearance in 2015 of the Joint Belarusian-Mongolian Commission on Cooperation in Science and Technology and the bilateral interagency Working Group on Cooperation in Agriculture.

In June 2018, in the margins of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit in Qingdao, China, Presidents Lukashenka and Battulga said during a bilateral meeting that "Belarus and Mongolia are located between large states or blocs, so it is important to take advantage of this situation and find advantages in terms of economy¹⁵⁸. The Belarusian side then voiced its readiness to establish high-performance enterprises and machinery production on the Mongolian land, while the Mongolian side expressed its interest, first of all, in establishing dairy production using Belarusian technologies.

Overall, over the past five to six years, "the legal and contractual framework between Belarus and Mongolia has expanded, and trade and economic cooperation has strengthened. Cooperation in agriculture and science and technology has begun. Bilateral ties in education and sports have been restored¹⁵⁹. In the future, the Mongolian side is not only interested in more active cooperation with Belarus in agriculture, mechanical engineering, food industry, science, and education, but also sees great opportunities for a broad mutual use of each other's transit potential. Thus, according to D. Tsogtbaatar, head of the Mongolian Foreign Ministry, "Belarus can become a

158 Negotiations with the President of Mongolia Haltmagiin Battulga [Electronic resource]. -- 2018. - URL: http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/vstrecha-s-prezidentom-mongolii-xaltmagijn-battulgoj-18894/

159 Transcript of the approach to the press of Belarusian Foreign Minister V. Makei following talks with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia (June 4, 2018, Minsk) [Electronic resource]. -- 2018. - URL: http://mfa.gov.by/press/news_mfa/d211839fb93936d7.html

gateway to Europe for Mongolia and its goods, and Mongolia can become a conductor to Asia for Belarusian products¹⁶⁰

In addition, interesting prospects are opening up in Belarusian-Mongolian cooperation in education, the basic element of which is the intergovernmental agreement on cooperation in this area signed in 2013, which provides for the annual exchange of students to study at universities of the parties. Implementing the provisions of this document and as part of the implementation of the Memorandum on Cooperation and Cooperation between the Dalanzadgad aimag of Umnugov Aimag and the city of Zhodino, signed in 2016, "in the 2017/2018 academic year six Mongolian citizens were enrolled to study at the Branch of BNTU "Zhodino State College"¹⁶¹.

All these facts suggest that Belarus and Mongolia still have many unused opportunities for cooperation. And "the task of the governments of both states is not to miss these opportunities, to create conditions for their implementation into specific mutually beneficial economic projects"¹⁶²

160 Tsogtbaatar, D. Belarus may become an exit to Europe for Mongolia and its goods / D. Tsogtbaatar // [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/opinions/view/belarus-mozhet-stat-dlja-mongolii-i-ee-tovarov-vyhodom-v-evropu-6281/>

161 Humanitarian cooperation [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: http://mongolia.mfa.gov.by/ru/bilateral_relations/cultural/e6d8f5ae8191d258.html

162 Meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: http://mongolia.mfa.gov.by/ru/bilateral_relations/cultural/e6d8f5ae8191d258.html

Belarus-Iran: Priority - restoration of partner relations

In April 2021, it became known about the intention of the Belarusian Homiel Region to resume and develop cooperation with the Mazandaran Province of Iran, the document on trade, economic, scientific, technical, and cultural cooperation with which was signed back in 2009, but the plans therein were never implemented. At that time, when signing the memorandum on cooperation, the parties noted good prospects in the organization of exports of agricultural products, metal and agricultural machinery from the Belarusian region. Iranian exporters planned to establish permanent supplies of citrus and other southern fruits to the Gomel market. "In addition, there are large deposits of solid fuels in Mazandaran province, which could be exploited by economic entities of the Gomel region"¹⁶³

Among the projects, which the Belarusian region and the Iranian province intend to return to now, the parties name "production of copper rod in Rechitsa district, development of the chalk deposit in Vetka, mining of rocks in Lelchitsa district"¹⁶⁴. Besides, the Belarusian side offered to supply machine tools, timber, cardboard, cellulose, confectionary products, as well as gas-engine harvesters to the Iranian market. Noting the great potential in the interaction between the two regions, the Iranian side complemented the possible areas of partnership in such areas as oil production, chemical industry, industry. Concrete steps to implement all these proposals will be discussed during the webinar to be held in the near future.

163_Sidorchik, V. Gomel region and Iranian Mazandaran province will sign a memorandum of cooperation / V. Sidorchik // [Electronic resource]. - - 2009. - URL: <http://cenadm.gov.by/ru/region/view/gomelskaja-oblast-i-iranskaja-provintsija-mazandaran-podpishut-memorandum-o-sotrudnicestve-1957/>

164_Gomel Region and Mazandaran Province of Iran will resume trade and economic cooperation [Electronic resource]. - - 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/gomelskaja-oblast-i-iranskaja-provintsija-mazandaran-vozobnovjat-torgovo-ekonomicheskoe-sotrudnichestvo-439208-2021/>

The actualization of partnership ties between the Gomel region and Mazandaran province shows that Belarus and Iran, having survived the coronavirus pandemic, are beginning to return bilateral cooperation to a growth trajectory. As a reminder, the 14th meeting of the Joint Belarusian-Iranian Commission on Economic Cooperation was held in January 2018, which resulted in the signing of the Roadmap for the Development of Cooperation between the Republic of Belarus and the Islamic Republic of Iran for 2018-2020. It discussed the development of bilateral cooperation "in various fields of politics, investment, trade, industry, transport, agriculture, health, education, science, technology and energy".¹⁶⁵ It also contained the intention to increase Belarusian-Iranian trade turnover to \$500 million. However, American sanctions, which blocked bilateral cooperation between Minsk and Tehran in a number of important areas, became a serious obstacle to the development of economic cooperation between Belarus and Iran. However, "despite the restrictions, the trade turnover between Belarus and Iran amounted to \$24.7 million in 2020"¹⁶⁶. Tires, wood products, newsprint, and bearings made up the bulk of Belarusian exports to the Iranian market.

Currently, the parties are preparing for the 15th meeting of the joint commission, where they intend to develop a roadmap for trade and economic cooperation in order to give an additional impetus to the relationship. The high interest of the parties in such partnership development can be judged by the composition of the participants in the Belarusian-Iranian business forum, which was held in Minsk in July 2019 under the auspices of the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines, and Agriculture. At that time, Iranian companies interested to cooperate "in the areas of banking, production of medical and pharmaceutical

165_Belarus and Iran have developed a roadmap for cooperation for 2018-2020 [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-iran-razrabotali-dorozhnyu-kartu-sotrudnichestva-na-2018-2020-gody-285761-2018/>

166 Trade and economic relations [Electronic resource]. - - 2021. - URL: https://iran.mfa.gov.by/ru/bilateral_relations/economic/

products, gas equipment, parts and equipment for refrigerators, agricultural machinery, construction materials and construction equipment, petrochemical and oil refining industry, production and supply of food and spices, textile industry (supply of Persian carpets)" took part in negotiations with the Belarusian business circles¹⁶⁷.

Cooperation between the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange (BUCE) and the Iranian Commodity Exchange (ITB) may also become one of the promising areas for economic cooperation between the two countries. The parties agreed to actualize their partnership back in October 2019, as "the use of the exchange mechanism will reduce commercial risks and simplify the search for business partners for Belarusian and Iranian business entities¹⁶⁸. Moreover, Iranian businessmen are interested in using the BUTB platform to promote ferrous and nonferrous metallurgy products, textiles, nuts and dried fruits to Belarus. Belarusian companies are interested in the exchange platform for the export of lumber, wood slabs, and petrochemical products to Iran.

Another promising resource for expanding Belarusian-Iranian trade and economic cooperation is the Interim Agreement leading to the formation of a free trade zone between the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) and Iran, which entered into force in October 2019. This document established a list of goods for which exporters of EEU countries, including Belarus, received preferences in the Iranian market. It "includes meat and fat-and-oil products, certain types of confectionery and chocolate, electronic and mechanical equipment, as well as metals and cosmetics¹⁶⁹. So the parties have great opportunities for solving the tasks in order to activate the trade and economic relations. It is necessary to use them.

167 Belarusian-Iranian business forum to be held on July 24 in Minsk [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belorusko-iranskij-biznes-forum-projdet-24-ijulja-v-minske-355013-2019/>

168 BUTB and the Iranian Commodity Exchange intend to intensify cooperation [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/butb-i-iranskaja-tovarnaja-birzha-namereny-aktivizirovat-sotrudnichestvo-364553-2019/>

169 Zalessky, B. The Potential of Multi-vectorism. Chronicle of international cooperation / B. Zalessky. - LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2020. - - C. 7.

Belarus-Pakistan: the key task is to realize the potential of cooperation

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan is one of the states in South Asia, in relations with which the Republic of Belarus has created the necessary legal and infrastructural framework over the past five years to strengthen and develop bilateral cooperation aimed at the full-scale implementation of the existing potential of partnership relations. We recall that in 2015, the Islamabad Declaration of Belarus-Pakistan Cooperation was adopted at the highest level, "in which the parties consolidated the basic principles of political dialogue"¹⁷⁰ [1, p. 86]. The Roadmap of Bilateral Cooperation for 2015-2020 was signed at the same time in order to gradually transition from simple trade to more advanced forms of cooperative interaction. Joint efforts to create a legal and contractual framework for Belarusian-Pakistani cooperation resulted in 77 memorandums of understanding and agreements signed by early 2021. At the moment, many agreements are under development"¹⁷¹ [2]. For example, an amended intergovernmental agreement on cooperation in the field of industrial, scientific and technical cooperation.

In 2015, Minsk and Islamabad created the basic institutional mechanism for bilateral trade and economic relations - a joint Belarusian-Pakistani commission for trade and economic cooperation, having organized five meetings to date. Within the framework of the joint commission, working groups in various fields, such as industry and agriculture, focus their attention on specific issues of bilateral cooperation. And in December 2020, the first meeting of the Belarusian-Pakistani working group on cooperation in healthcare and pharmaceuticals was held, which "identified possible areas for

170 Zalesky, B. Belarus - Asia: Vector of Partnership. Chronicle of mutually beneficial cooperation / B. Zalesky. - LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2018. - - C. 86.

171 Sajjad, H.H. How the pandemic affected the relations between Belarus and Pakistan / H.H. Sajjad // [Electronic resource]. - - 2020. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/interview/view/kak-pandemija-povlijala-na-otnoshenija-belarusi-i-pakistana-7589/>

mutual cooperation in the export of medical and educational services. 3] and outlined the prospects for further cooperation.¹⁷²

As for partnerships between the business communities of the two countries, they are structured within the framework of the Joint Belarusian-Pakistani Business Council, the first three meetings of which were held in August 2015, in March 2016 and 2017. In April 2021, the parties held the fourth meeting of this council, which was attended by representatives of more than a hundred Belarusian and Pakistani companies. They discussed not only the development of bilateral trade, but also opportunities to increase investment cooperation, industrial cooperation, and the creation of joint companies and productions, noting among the priority areas of interaction industry, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, as well as education, information technology, and logistics. In addition, they considered "the possibility of doing business by Pakistani enterprises within the framework of the Industrial Park "Great Stone", the main directions of the new policy of automotive development in Pakistan and the existing in connection with it preferences for foreign companies, the prospects for urban electric transport in Pakistan, as well as the main directions of work of chambers of commerce and industry to promote business contacts".¹⁷³ [4].

The potential for the expansion of Belarusian-Pakistani relations is evidenced by the figures. "In 2020, trade turnover between the countries amounted to \$52.2 million, which is 4% more than in 2019"¹⁷⁴ [5]. At the same time, the surplus for the Belarusian side exceeded \$20 million. This was facilitated by the supplies of such export items as "tractors and spare parts, trucks, potash fertilizers, synthetic filament harnesses and synthetic

172_International cooperation. Meeting of the Joint Belarus-Pakistan Working Group on Cooperation in Healthcare and Pharmaceutics [Electronic resource]. - - 2020. - URL: <https://belmapo.by/mezhdunarodnaya-sotrudnichestvo-zasedanie-sovmestnoj-belorussko-pakistanskoj-raboczej-gruppyi-po-sotrudnichestvu-v-sfere-zdravooxraneniya-i-farmaczevtiki.html>

173 Online Meeting of the Belarus-Pakistan Business Council [Electronic resource]. - - 2021. - URL: <http://grotpp.by/onlayn-zasedanie-belorussko-pakista-2/>

174_Belarus is interested in developing mutually beneficial cooperation with Pakistan - Karankevich [Electronic resource]. - - 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-zainteresovana-v-razvitii-vzaimovygodnogo-sotrudnichestva-s-pakistanom-karankevich-436781-2021/>

fibers, tires, machine tools, polycarboxylic acids (phthalic anhydride), newsprint, baby food (dry mix)¹⁷⁵ from Belarus to Pakistan [6].

In 2021, the Belarusian side plans to only increase its exports to the Pakistani market, using a variety of tools to promote products from Belarus to Pakistan. One of them is participation in international exhibitions organized in that South Asian country. In particular, "in October [2021], Belarusian companies are scheduled to take part in the industrial exhibition in Karachi"¹⁷⁶ [7]. Note that a year and a half ago, in September 2019, the national exposition of Belarus was organized at the largest exhibition event of the South Asian region - the International Engineering & Machinery Asia Exhibition (IEMA) in the Pakistani city of Lahore, where "such leading Belarusian enterprises as BelAZ, MAZ, MTZ, Mogilev Metallurgical Plant, and organizations of the Belneftekhim concern (Belshina, Naftan, Polotsk-Steklovolokno) presented their products" [8]¹⁷⁷. Then, numerous visitors to this business forum were also able to get acquainted with the best Belarusian higher education institutions and advanced scientific developments of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus. The Belarusian State University alone demonstrated in Lahore "more than 20 scientific and technological developments in the field of instrumentation, new materials, metal optics, and tribophatics,"¹⁷⁸ [9] and signed a protocol of intent to develop academic, scientific, and technological cooperation with the Ali Power company from Islamabad. This was not a bad experience of participation.

175 Trade and economic relations between the Republic of Belarus and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan [Electronic resource]. - - 2021. - URL: https://pakistan.mfa.gov.by/ru/trade_and_economic_bilateral_relations/

176 Ulakhovich: there are many opportunities to strengthen cooperation between Belarus and Pakistan [Electronic resource]. - - 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/ulakhovich-dlja-ukreplenija-sotrudnichestva-mezhdu-belarusiju-i-pakistanom-est-mnogo-vozmozhnostej-429292-2021/>

177 The national exposition of Belarus opened at the IEMA exhibition in Pakistan [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/natsionalnaja-ekspozitsija-belarusi-otkrylas-na-vystavke-iema-v-pakistan-363543-2019/>

178 Results of BSU participation in the International Engineering & Machinery Asia Exhibition (IEMA) (Lahore, Islamic Republic of Pakistan) [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <http://research.bsu.by/2019/10/08/b-su-results-in-the-international-exhibition-international-engineering-machinery-asia-exhibition-iema/>

Belarus-Africa: new benchmarks for joint projects

In December 2020, a business forum "Africa-Belarus: current situation and new benchmarks for joint business projects" was held in a videoconference format, attended by representatives of 17 embassies of African countries, including Burkina Faso, the Gabonese Republic, Djibouti, Egypt, Morocco, Namibia, Sudan and South Sudan, South Africa, as well as over two hundred Belarusian companies. The relevance of this event for the Belarusian side is explained by the fact that the official Minsk pays great attention to the development of relations with the countries of the continent, as "Africa is a storehouse of natural resources, an important source of global labor resources and a huge undeveloped market¹⁷⁹. And in this regard, today it is important not only to increase the volume of mutual trade with the states of the continent, but also to diversify Belarusian exports, to deepen economic and industrial cooperation, actively using a project approach, the essence of which is to implement projects to establish joint ventures and enterprises in Africa, to promote industrial and food products, as well as scientific, technical and industrial developments in the industrial and agricultural sectors, energy

Developing this thesis, participants of the December African-Belarusian Business Forum noted that "for Belarus, in terms of business, there are three main areas for cooperation with African countries¹⁸⁰. First, everything to do with mechanical engineering and the development of the relevant infrastructure. Secondly, everything that has to do with food production, agricultural technologies, and agricultural machinery. Thirdly, everything that involves the concept of "services," and especially

179_Africa becomes a promising and long-term partner of Belarus - Ulahovich [Electronic resource]. - - 2020. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/afrika-stanovitsja-perspektivnym-i-dolgosrochnym-partnerom-belarusi-ulahovich-413176-2020/>

180_Belarus invites African countries to cooperate in services, agriculture, and mechanical engineering. - - 2020. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-predlagaet-afrikanskim-stranam-sotrudnicat-v-sfere-uslug-apk-i-mashinostroenii-419342-2020>

education, medicine, and IT technology. Of course, in each of these areas the Belarusian side has already accumulated a certain experience of cooperation, which can be used to further implement the huge potential for the development of foreign economic relations that exists here.

A good example in this regard is the Minsk tractor plant, which in the first ten months of 2020 increased its export supplies to African countries by almost three and a half times, opening two new markets - Zimbabwe and Burundi. But the address of the main deliveries of Belarusian tractors to the "black continent" was Sudan, where 153 machines were sent in 2019 and 510 in January - October 2020. This is the result of cooperation between MTZ and the Sudanese company MIG Agricultural Co. Ltd., which began back in 2003, thanks to which more than two and a half thousand BELARUS tractors are already working in the Sudanese fields.

In addition, the Minsk tractor plant in Africa has created a certain reserve for the future in the form of a cooperation road map signed back in February 2020 with the Ministry of Defense Industry of Egypt, which provides for the organization of the assembly production of tractors and engines on the basis of the plant of Helwan Diesel Engines Co. with access to the localization of up to 40 percent in the next three years. It is important that the Egyptian partners have already "submitted a model project for the organization of the assembly production for 500 units of machinery, as well as a list of the necessary equipment and accessories. In addition, MTZ will prepare and submit a standard project of assembly production for the production of 10,000 machines per year"¹⁸¹

In the first eight months of 2020, BMZ, the managing company of BMK Holding, increased its shipments to Africa by almost 20 percent, having shipped more than \$11 million worth of fittings. This allowed increasing the share of African countries in the total exports of the company to 12 percent. Senegal, Cote d'Ivoire, Benin and Ghana are among the main importers of the

181__MTZ tripled exports to Africa [Electronic resource]. - - 2020. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/mtz-vtroe-uvlichil-eksport-v-afriku-416304-2020/>

Belarusian metallurgists' products. Interestingly, "shipments to the latter country [Ghana] increased threefold in physical terms this year"¹⁸².

Another African country where the Belarusian presence is growing very fast is Zimbabwe, which two years ago reached an agreement with its government on deliveries of agricultural equipment from Belarus worth 58 million dollars. And "100 tractors, 20 combine harvesters, 52 seeders, five tractors and five semi-trailers made in Belarus have already been delivered to Zimbabwe. By the end of this year [2020] another 370 tractors, 20 harvesters and 138 seeders will arrive by sea"¹⁸³. The fact is that for the economy of this country, along with the mining industry, the agricultural sector is a key segment. And they see mechanization as the main way of development of national agriculture. For this reason, in September 2020, Zimbabwe announced at the state level the launch of a joint government program with Belarus to mechanize the country's agricultural sector. In this regard, a Belarusian trade and service center was opened in the capital, Harare, where "equipment will be provided to Zimbabwean farmers as part of the government agricultural mechanization program of the country"¹⁸⁴.

Also. In the near future, efforts to establish ties between Belarus and Namibia, which in November 2020 declared their intention to pay special attention to "the development of the legal framework and the creation of a joint intergovernmental committee on trade and economic cooperation" will also be significantly intensified¹⁸⁵.

182 BMZ has increased sales of rebar to Africa by almost 20% [Electronic resource]. - – 2020. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/bmz-uvulichil-prodazhi-armatury-v-afriku-pochtina-20-407746-2020/>

183 Zimbabwe has launched a joint program with Belarus to provide farms with agricultural equipment [Electronic resource]. - – 2020. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/v-zimbabwe-zapuschena-sovmestnaja-s-belarusju-programma-obespechenija-ferm-selhoztehniko-408853-2020/>

184 "Gomselmash strengthens its position in the Zimbabwe market [Electronic resource]. - – 2020. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/gomselmash-ukrepljaet-pozitsii-na-rynke-zimbabwe-408968-2020>

185 Belarus and Namibia plan to create a committee on trade and economic cooperation [Electronic resource]. - – 2020. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/politics/view/belarus-i-namibija-planirujut-sozdat-komitet-po-torgovo-ekonomicheskomu-sotrudnicestvu-417026-2020/>

Belarus-Kenya: promising points of growth are outlined

In August 2019, the Belarusian-Kenyan business forum was held in Nairobi, where its participants outlined promising points of growth in bilateral trade and economic cooperation. At the same time, the parties focused on the prospects of joint projects that would contribute to the implementation of the strategic "Big Four Program" of the Government of Kenya, which includes "food security and nutrition, universal health care, affordable housing and production" ¹⁸⁶. As a result, agreements were signed at the forum on the construction of a reinforced concrete structures plant on Kenyan land and the creation of a fish farm, worth more than a hundred million dollars. Agreements were also reached on deliveries of automotive tractors and equipment from Belarus to Kenya for nearly twenty million dollars with the subsequent establishment of an assembly facility for Belarusian tractors in that African country with a capacity of up to five thousand units per year.

These facts show that the business forum became an important concrete step on the way to bilateral cooperation between Belarus and Kenya, diplomatic relations between the two countries were established 26 years ago. True, the contractual and legal framework for Belarusian-Kenyan cooperation is still in the formation stage. However, it is encouraging that the two countries are now preparing to sign a number of joint documents regulating bilateral relations in various areas, including agriculture, higher education, science and technology.

A positive trend in recent years in the development of partnership relations between the two countries is the rapid growth - more than forty percent - of mutual trade turnover in 2018, which came close to 50 million dollars. "The traditional items of Belarusian exports to Kenya are: potash

186 About Belarusian-Kenyan business forum [Electronic resource]. - – 2019. - URL: <http://kenya.mfa.gov.by/ru/embassy/news/e02ca9530a8dcc63.html>

and mineral mixed fertilizers, newsprint, and printing products. The basis of Kenyan imports to Belarus is formed by supplies of flowers and buds, nuts, fruits and vegetables, coffee and tea"¹⁸⁷ . This gives grounds for the Belarusian side to predict at the highest level that "Kenya will soon become one of the key partners of Belarus in Africa"¹⁸⁸

The seriousness of the intention of the Belarusian side to thoroughly familiarize itself with the Kenyan market is confirmed by the organization of the first national exposition of Belarus at the FoodAgro international exhibition of food, hospitality business, and agriculture, which was held in Nairobi in early August 2019. Minsk is confident that participation in this exhibition, which is part of the largest exhibition event in East Africa - Kenya International Trade Exhibition, "will promote Belarusian agricultural machinery and equipment, fertilizers, food, agricultural products to the Kenyan market, as well as become a launching pad for Belarusian enterprises to enter the KOMECA (the integration association of East and Southern Africa)"¹⁸⁹ .

In the Kenyan capital the enterprises of the concern "Belgospisheprom", OJSC "Holding Management Company "Lidselmash", open joint stock companies "Gomselmash", "MTZ", "MAZ", "Bobruiskagromash", "Lidahleproduct", and the unitary enterprise "Smorgon Bakery Products Plant" presented their products. The participation of these Belarusian exporters in the named exhibition can be explained by the fact that Kenya is an agricultural country, where "more

187 Belarus - Kenya [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: http://kenya.mfa.gov.by/ru/bilateral_relations/

188 Lukashenko expects Kenya to become one of Belarus' key partners in Africa [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://belta.by/president/view/lukashenko-rasschityvaet-cto-kenija-stanet-odnim-iz-kljuchevyh-partnerov-belarusi-v-afrike-328984-2018/>

189 The national exposition of Belarus opened at the FoodAgro exhibition in Kenya [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/natsionalnaja-ekspozitsija-belarusi-otkrylas-na-vystavke-foodagro-v-kenii-356957-2019/>

than 35% of GDP accounts for the agricultural sector,"¹⁹⁰ where in December 2017 a new program of planned economic development of the country until 2022 with a focus on the development of national production, food security and construction of affordable housing was launched. In this regard, Belarusian manufacturers, with a competent approach, can really claim to increase the supply of their agricultural equipment, fertilizers, crop protection chemicals here. The development of meat and dairy production is also promising in this African country, because "the range of such products in Kenya is not wide, so they respond with interest to proposals to establish meat and dairy complexes, poultry complexes, meat processing lines and production of cheese"¹⁹¹. Another interesting fact is this. There are many manufacturers working in Kenya today, assembling tractors, tractors and cars here. There is a company that assembles three models of Volkswagen vehicles on its premises. It is the company that would like to expand the range of machinery assembled there with Belarusian tractors.

It should be noted that the exhibition in Nairobi was a continuation of the course taken by the Belarusian side to actively participate in various business events held on the African continent in 2019. For example, in March this year, for the first time, a national exposition of Belarus was organized at the Agrofood International Exhibition of Agriculture and Livestock, Food, Beverages, and Packaging Technology, which was held in the Nigerian city of Lagos. In April, Made in Belarus was presented at the 60th Zimbabwe International Trade Fair 2019 in the Zimbabwean city of Bulawayo, one of the largest in the southern African region.

190. FoodAgro exhibition will allow Belarus to expand its presence in the Kenyan market - Sadoho [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/vystavka-foodagro-pozvolit-belarusi-rasshirit-svoe-prisutstvie-na-rynke-kenii-sadoho-349941-2019/>
191 Demand for Belarusian agricultural machinery in Kenya is constantly growing [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/spros-na-belorusskuju-selhoztehniku-v-kenii-postojanno-rastet-349964-2019/>

Belarus - Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe: Project for Sustainable Development and Prosperity

In April 2019, Minsk hosted the second International Parliamentary Conference of the Silk Road Support Group of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, "One Belt and One Road: Deepening Cooperation for Sustainable Development and Prosperity. It was attended by parliamentarians and business representatives from Austria, Azerbaijan, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Russia, Serbia, Turkey, Switzerland, and Belarus.

As a reminder, the Silk Road Support Group was established in 2017 at the 26th annual session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, held in the Belarusian capital, to expand areas of cooperation and strengthen political, economic and cultural ties between the member states of this international organization. In essence, the group serves as a platform for facilitating mutually beneficial economic and trade relations through the development of transport corridors, transport facilitation measures and trade procedures, and the promotion of the free and secure movement of persons, goods, services and investments. The first conference of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's Silk Road Support Group was held in Azerbaijan in 2018. The very fact that the second conference was held in Minsk shows that "the Silk Road Support Group has become another peaceful platform for dialogue and avoidance of confrontation on different planes."¹⁹²

It is no secret that many problems have accumulated in the region of influence of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, among which "the lack of a friendly business environment makes it difficult to attract outside private investment. Meanwhile, they are needed

192 Meeting with the Chairman of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly George Tsereteli [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/vstrecha-s-predsedatelem-parlamentskoj-assamblei-obse-georgiem-tsereteli-20978/

for economic development and the promotion of political stability in the OSCE region¹⁹³. That is why the April forum in Minsk can be called a promising opportunity for closer economic integration on the Eurasian continent. All the more so because for the Republic of Belarus the holding of this conference was also an important step in terms of facilitating trade between the member states of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, reducing administrative barriers, developing customs cooperation, and mutually beneficially resolving problems that arise in the course of such work. After all, Minsk sees particular importance in encouraging "mutual integration of infrastructure facilities. We are talking about railroads, highways, air and waterways, oil and gas pipelines, airports and ports¹⁹⁴

In this regard, it is the Silk Road Economic Belt, initiated for implementation back in 2013 by China and envisaging the creation of three trans-European economic corridors - the northern one (from China through Central Asia, Russia and Belarus to Europe), the central one (from China to the Persian Gulf and the Mediterranean Sea) and the southern one (from China through South and Southeast Asia to the Indian Ocean) - that offers "not just a trade route, but a powerful channel for exchanging new ideas, knowledge and technology. It also serves as a space for dialogue among civilizations and a fundamentally new way for countries with different levels of economic development to interact¹⁹⁵. And today, a hundred and fifty countries and various international organizations and associations are already involved in infrastructure and investment projects under this initiative. "The geographical scope and the undeniable financial and economic scale of the projects implemented and planned under the

193 Tsereteli: OSCE PA countries are committed to open dialogue on the Minsk platform [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/politics/view/tsereteli-strany-pa-obse-nastroeny-na-otkrytyj-dialog-na-minskoj-ploschadke-345762-2019/>

194 Belarus welcomes trade facilitation between OSCE countries - Andreichenko [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-privetstvuet-uproschenie-torgovli-mezhdu-stranami-obse-andrejchenko-345773-2019/>

195 Ibid.

Initiative give grounds to rightfully consider it one of the largest in the history of mankind¹⁹⁶.

We should also remind you that Belarus was among the first countries in the world to support this Chinese megaproject because it has unique advantages for the development of the Silk Road Economic Belt, being located simultaneously in the central part of the European continent and on the Silk Road itself. And now it is taking concrete steps to strengthen the integration of its own transport infrastructure into the global network by attracting foreign investors to build roads, bridges, electrification and reconstruction of railroad sections. The following figures speak volumes in this regard. Today, goods from Asia to Europe and from Scandinavian countries to the Balkans are already moving about twenty specialized express trains through Belarus. "In 2018, they transported about 325,000 containers to OSCE countries in the communication China - Europe. This number is expected to increase to 1 million per year by 2025."¹⁹⁷ .

In order to expand cargo delivery capabilities and accelerate the flow of goods and passengers between Asia and Europe, synchronizing the actions of the countries through which these land routes pass becomes a critical task. That is why the Second International Parliamentary Conference of the Silk Road Support Group of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe "One Belt and One Road: Deepening Cooperation for Sustainable Development and Prosperity" held in Minsk drew attention to the need to adopt uniform standards for electronic documents and information exchange methodologies for the member countries of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

196_Dapkiunas, A. Belarus intends to strengthen its role in the development of trans-European economic conjugation / A. Dapkiunas // [Electronic resource]. - – 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/interview/view/belarus-namerena-usilit-svoju-rol-v-razvitii-transjevrazijskoj-ekonomicheskoy-soprjazhennosti-6823/>

197 Ministry of Transport: Belarus supports China in creating a digital Silk Road [Electronic resource]. - – 2019. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/mintrans-belarus-podderzivaet-kitaj-v-sozdanii-tsifrovogo-shelkovogo-puti-345882-2019/>

Belarus - Shanghai Cooperation Organization: interaction with a focus on economic projects

In early November 2019, Tashkent hosted a meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), in which the Republic of Belarus has observer status, but traditionally takes an active part in the discussion of topical issues of this international structure. As a reminder, SCO was established in 2001. Today, its composition already includes eight states: India, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Four more countries have the status of observer: Afghanistan, Iran, Mongolia and Belarus received it in 2015. In addition, six more states are partners in the dialogue - Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Nepal, Turkey and Sri Lanka. The composition of the SCO clearly shows that this transcontinental organization now "unites almost 40% of the world's population and generates about 22.5% of world GDP¹⁹⁸.

In other words, the SCO is a large geopolitical, economic and humanitarian space, within which the Belarusian side is interested in developing cooperation in a number of areas. That is why at the meeting in Tashkent Belarus proposed "a number of initiatives to further intensify the work of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.¹⁹⁹ Considering the development of trade and economic ties to be the most important priority. The thing is that for 18 years of SCO's activity, about thousand and a half documents have been adopted. But only 7 percent of the total number of documents deal with trade and economic cooperation. Nevertheless, given

198 The SCO is interested in developing trade and economic cooperation with Belarus [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/shos-zajinteresovana-v-razvitii-torgovo-ekonomicheskogo-sotrudnichestva-s-belarusiju-367873-2019/199> Belarus is interested in discussing practical economic issues on the SCO platform - Dapkiunas [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/politics/view/belarus-zajinteresovana-v-obsuzhdenii-na-ploschadke-shos-prakticheskikh-ekonomicheskikh-voprosov-dapkiunas-367903-2019/>

the rapidly growing interest in this vector, Belarus has been building its policy of participation in this international organization.

As for specific initiatives, firstly, in Tashkent a proposal was made by official Minsk to develop and implement under the auspices of the organization "measures to promote mutually beneficial trade in food and agricultural products, including the harmonization of rules and requirements for the import and export of food products"²⁰⁰. Relevance of this proposal lies in the fact that ensuring food security in a changing climate is one of the most important tasks in today's world. And the SCO member states are no exception in this sense, since almost three billion people live on their territory. Belarus, with its considerable industrial and agricultural potential, its high technology development and its interest in solving practical economic issues, could make a major contribution to solving this problem within the SCO.

Second, transnational transportation is becoming increasingly important for the space of this international organization. This topic is extremely relevant for Belarus as well, since it is its transit potential "that allows the SCO member states to go directly to Europe"²⁰¹. However, so far only one agreement was signed within the framework of the organization on transport issues - on the creation of favorable conditions for road transport. It took place in September 2014. Belarus, although not a full member of the SCO, four years later joined the document first of the observers and dialogue partners of this organization - in November 2018, based on the understanding that the agreement "creates additional positive conditions for increasing the work of Belarusian carriers in the direction of the SCO region and, consequently, in the direction of neighboring states,

200 Belarus proposes under the aegis of the SCO to develop mechanisms for mutually beneficial trade in agricultural products [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/mehanizmy-dlja-vzaimovygodnoj-torgovli-selhozproduksiej-belarus-predlagaet-razrabotat-pod-egidij-shos-367906-2019/>

201 The Shanghai Cooperation Organization is interested in developing trade and economic cooperation with Belarus [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/9097>

which will contribute to increasing the export of road transport services²⁰². At the meeting in Tashkent, the Belarusian side drew attention to the existing and emerging opportunities for the implementation of new international transport and logistics projects, because the expansion of cooperation in this area will allow to take full advantage of global trade opportunities and create new socio-economic infrastructure facilities.

Third, Tashkent supported the initiative of the Belarusian side to create a common IT ecosystem of the SCO, which would unite everything related to the digital economy, artificial intelligence, and the Internet of Things. The international organization proceeds from the fact that "Belarus already has a concrete result in the IT-sector and export successes, so the country could initiate joint thematic activities, conferences and round tables²⁰³. Recall that this initiative at the SCO summit, which was held in June 2018 in Qingdao, China, was made by the head of the Belarusian state, proposing to unite in the "IT ecosystem of the SCO" "capabilities of electronic media, social networks, e-commerce and much more. This will strengthen cooperation and improve the competitiveness of national economies in a globalized world²⁰⁴the IT sphere.

202 On the Accession of the Republic of Belarus to the Agreement between the Governments of the SCO Member States on the Creation of Favorable Conditions for International Road Transport [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: http://bamap.org/information/news/2018_11_01_95712/

203_SCO Secretary General supports Belarus' initiative to create a common IT-ecosystem [Electronic resource]. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/politics/view/gensek-shos-podderzhivaet-realizatsiju-initsiativy-belarusi-po-sozdaniyu-obschej-it-ekosistemy-367870-2019/>

204_Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: http://president.gov.by/ru/search_ru/getExtendedResults/?query=&search_type=type_all_words&group=0&from_day=10&from_month=6&from_year=2018&to_day=10&to_month=6&to_year=2018&search_type_sort=desc&search_ok.x=31&search_ok.y=5&search_mode=&search_node=de=news&search_node_id=374&search_title_name=events

Belarus - International Atomic Energy Agency: Interaction with a view to strengthening cooperation

Among the main areas of Belarusian economic diplomacy actualized by the processes of globalization and growing interdependence of the world economies is "participation of the Republic of Belarus in the work of universal and specialized, global and regional international organizations"²⁰⁵. One of the successful examples of such a plan is the interaction of the Belarusian side with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Thus, the IAEA mission on comprehensive assessment of national nuclear energy infrastructure development (INIR 3) worked in Belarus quite recently - from February 24 to March 4, 2020. The mission not only reviewed the report prepared by the Belarusian side on the development of all areas of nuclear infrastructure, but also analyzed the infrastructure in "all 19 areas of its development, outlined in the Agency's Milestones for newcomer countries in the field of nuclear energy"²⁰⁶. In particular, it was about such areas as nuclear power training, accident management and emergency preparedness and response, public relations, radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel management, radiation safety, the legislative framework, and state policy in the field of nuclear safety.

As a result, the mission experts identified five good practices in the Belarusian experience, which can be implemented in other countries and relate to such areas as: 1) coordination of programs and projects; 2) use of independent expert groups; 3) cooperation with regulatory bodies of other

205 Zalessky, B. International Relations and the Media. Peculiarities of multi-vector international cooperation in the period of global challenges / B. Zalessky. - Palmarium Academic Publishing, 2016. - - C. 345.

206 The IAEA identified five practices useful to other countries as a result of the INIR 3 mission to Belarus [Electronic resource]. - - 2020. - URL: https://atom.belta.by/ru/belaes_ru/view/magate-vydelilo-po-itogam-missii-inir-3-v-belarusi-pjat-poleznyx-dlja-drugix-stran-praktik-10563

countries; 4) interaction with international stakeholders; 5) emergency preparedness. Besides, the IAEA mission issued seven recommendations concerning improvement of the national nuclear power infrastructure development in a number of areas, including repair and maintenance of the Belarusian nuclear power plant in Astravets, the commissioning of the first power unit of which is planned in 2020, and the second - in 2021.

We emphasize that this IAEA mission was not the first one to Belarus, although visits of such missions are not mandatory, as each country invites experts of the agency on its own initiative. Belarus has already received a number of IAEA expert and assessment missions in the field of nuclear safety including those on "Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review (INIR, 2012), Regulatory Infrastructure Review (IRRS, 2016), Site Evaluation Considering External Events (SEED, 2017), Emergency Preparedness Review (EPREV, 2018) and Accounting for and Control of Nuclear Materials (ISSAS, 2019)"²⁰⁷

All these facts once again emphasize the desire of the Belarusian side to create a safe, economically efficient and environmentally friendly nuclear industry in the country. To this end, as we can see, Belarus actively uses the whole range of tools and services provided by the agency, considering as a matter of principle "strict compliance with all international obligations in the nuclear sphere and adherence to all IAEA standards and recommendations".²⁰⁸ based on international best practices on "how and what can be improved before the launch of a nuclear power plant to ensure its many years of safe and reliable operation"²⁰⁹. In this regard, the final conclusion of the INIR 3 mission that the first unit of the Belarusian

207 Cooperation between the Republic of Belarus and the International Atomic Energy Agency [Electronic resource]. -- 2020. - URL: http://austria.mfa.gov.by/ru/int_org/iaea/

208 Sergei Rumas: Belarus is determined to create a safe, efficient, and environmentally friendly nuclear industry [Electronic resource]. - - 2020. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/9307>

209 Belarus is ready for NPP operation - IAEA [Electronic resource]. - - 2020. - URL: https://atom.belta.by/ru/belaes_ru/view/belarus-gotova-k-ekspluatatsii-aes-magate-10552/

nuclear power plant is practically ready for launch and that the agency "has no technical claims to the Belarusian NPP"²¹⁰ seems very important.

It should be recalled that the IAEA, established within the framework of the United Nations in 1957, as of February 2019 united more than 170 states, assisting them in the development of nuclear energy and nuclear technologies, ensuring nuclear and radiation safety, helping to conduct research in the field of nuclear energy and technology. Belarus actively participates in the practical implementation of international agreements concluded under the auspices of this international organization, which include: Agreement on the Application of Safeguards between the Republic of Belarus and the IAEA; Conventions - on prompt notification of a nuclear accident, on assistance in the event of a nuclear accident or radiation emergency, on the physical protection of nuclear material, on civil liability for nuclear damage, on nuclear safety; the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management.

Since 2013, when the country began building its first nuclear power plant, cooperation with the agency has become truly extensive and comprehensive. Moreover, with the commissioning of the first power unit, Belarus only expects to strengthen cooperation with the IAEA in the operation of the nuclear power plant. They have already invited the agency's next mission to the country - on nuclear security (IPPAS). In early March 2020, it became known that "this mission to Belarus will be included in the IAEA's work plan for 2021"²¹¹.

210_The IAEA has no technical claims to BelNPP - deputy director of the agency [Electronic resource]. - – 2020. - URL: https://atom.belta.by/ru/belaes_ru/view/u-magate-net-texnicheskix-pretenzij-k-belaes-zamgendifektora-agentstva-10558/

211_Belarus invited IAEA mission on nuclear security [Electronic resource]. - – 2020. - URL: https://atom.belta.by/ru/belaes_ru/view/belarus-priglasila-missiju-magate-po-voprosam-fizicheskoj-jadernoj-bezopasnosti-10560

Belarus-World Bank: Interaction in the Epidemic

In April 2020, the Belarusian government passed a resolution approving a draft loan agreement between Belarus and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, under which the Belarusian side will attract a loan of EUR 90 million for 11 years in 2020-2021 from this financial institution, a member of the World Bank Group, to finance emergency response activities in the epidemiological situation²¹². These funds are only a part of the assistance that Belarus expects to receive from external lenders to fight the coronavirus. In total, we are talking about two and a half billion dollars. To implement these intentions, the Belarusian side has intensified interaction with a number of international organizations, including the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the European Investment Bank. At that, the negotiations with the IMF amount to approximately \$900 million. "The World Bank is negotiating about \$300 million and the European Investment Bank about \$300 million"²¹³

In this regard, it is noteworthy that the World Bank, which believes that a return to global economic growth requires a rapid and flexible response to the emergency situation, has already provided assistance in the fight against the pandemic coronavirus to hundreds of countries that account for more than two-thirds of the world's population, is on this list. And over the next 15 months, the bank will provide "\$160 billion in grants, loans, and investments to developing countries to combat the effects of the

212 Belarus will attract 90 million euros from the IBRD to respond to the epidemiological situation [Electronic resource]. -- 2020. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-privlechit-90-mln-evro-ot-mbrd-dlja-reagirovanija-na-epidsituatsiju-388653-2020/>.

213 Belarus counts on \$2-2.5 billion from foreign creditors to overcome the consequences of COVID-19 [Electronic resource]. - - 2020. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-rasschityvaet-na-2-25-mlrd-ot-vneshnih-kreditorov-na-preodolenie-posledstvij-covid-19-388808-2020/>

pandemic.²¹⁴In May 2020, the World Bank approved a EUR 90 million package of financial support for Belarus to meet urgent needs in medical equipment, medical devices, and staff training for managing severe COVID-19 infections. The allocated funds will also be used "for activities to raise the awareness of citizens about social distancing measures and hygiene. In addition, public health laboratories and epidemiological control services will receive assistance for the early detection of confirmation and reporting of COVID-19 cases."²¹⁵ Equipment and products for the detection of COVID-19 will also be purchased, including test systems, personal protective equipment, and laboratory reagents. All this assistance will significantly supplement the World Bank's long-term support of the Belarusian healthcare system, including the ongoing project "Modernization of healthcare system in Belarus" and the project for hospital network optimization and long-term care. It should be reminded that the World Bank's current investment portfolio in Belarus includes nine projects worth almost \$950 million. In the near future, it appears that these figures will change towards an increase.

First, in May 2020 the Board of Executive Directors of the World Bank approved a loan of one hundred million euros to support higher education in Belarus in the form of a project to modernize and equip the teaching and laboratory facilities of 18 institutions of higher education, as well as major repairs and reconstruction of the buildings of some of them. In addition, the project will allow the Belarusian educational institutions - universities and colleges - to participate more actively in international programs and initiatives. A National Agency for Quality Assurance in Education will be created in Belarus to meet the requirements of the

214_Pandemic may push 60 million people into extreme poverty - World Bank [Electronic resource]. - - 2020. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/world/view/v-krajnej-nischete-iz-za-pandemii-mogut-okazatsja-60-mln-chelovek-vsemirnyj-bank-391536-2020/>

215_World Bank approves 90 million euros for Belarus to combat COVID-19 [Electronic resource]. - - 2020. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/vsemirnyj-bank-utverdil-vydelenie-belarusi-90-mln-evro-dlja-borby-s-covid-19-391910-2020/>

Bologna Process, a pan-European initiative aimed at reforming higher education. As a result, "during the project implementation from 2020 to 2025, about 300,000 students and teachers will be provided with better learning conditions every year <...>. This is intellectual capital, which can ensure the transformation of the resource-based economy of the country into a knowledge economy²¹⁶. Secondly, according to the head of the World Bank office in Belarus, A. Kremer, this international organization is now considering the possibility of financial support for Belarusian small and medium-sized businesses to "support the country's efforts to finance small, micro and medium enterprises, to support households through social programs"²¹⁷ .

All these facts indicate that the interaction of the Republic of Belarus with the World Bank, which began back in 1992, is acquiring new relevant and effective formats of cooperation today. Perhaps, this is due to the fact that the attitude of the Belarusian side to this international organization is based on a fairly simple, but very important statement: "The World Bank is the least politicized financial and economic institution"²¹⁸.

216_The World Bank allocates 100 million euros to modernize the system of higher education in Belarus [Electronic resource]. - - 2020. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/vsemirnyj-bank-vydeljaet-100-mln-evro-dlja-modernizatsii-sistemy-vysshego-obrazovanija-v-belarusi-391733-2020/>

217_The World Bank considers the possibility of financial support for small and medium-sized businesses in Belarus [Electronic resource]. - - 2020. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/vsemirnyj-bank-rassmatrivaet-vozmozhnost-finpodderzhki-malogo-i-srednego-biznesa-v-belarusi-392356-2020/>

218 Zalesky, B. International Relations and the Media. Peculiarities of multi-vector international cooperation in the period of global challenges / B. Zalesky. - Palmarium Academic Publishing, 2016. - - C. 359.

Belarus-United Nations Industrial Development Organization: New Program to Expand Cooperation

In December 2020, the Government of the Republic of Belarus and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) signed a framework cooperation program for five years, aimed at expanding cooperation between the parties, taking into account the priorities of socio-economic development of the Belarusian state. Belarus has been a member of this international organization since 1985. Since then, the Belarusian side, supporting UNIDO's leading role in promoting inclusive and sustainable industrial development of the states of the world, has been consistently "using the export potential and capabilities of the organization to improve the competitiveness and environmental friendliness of its productions, to introduce modern technologies and standards"²¹⁹. It is also important for us that "UNIDO was one of the first international organizations that provided Belarus with technical assistance to minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster"²²⁰.

Recall that UNIDO was founded in 1966 to promote and accelerate industrial development in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, as well as to promote international industrial cooperation. The priorities of its activities cover four areas: the achievement of social well-being; the development of economic competitiveness; environmental protection; and the strengthening of knowledge and institutions. Today, the organization, with 170 member countries, "is a leading provider of industrial energy efficiency and renewable energy promotion, and assists developing countries in

219_The program of cooperation between Belarus and UNIDO signed in Vienna [Electronic resource]. - - 2020. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/politics/view/programma-sotrudnichestva-belarusi-s-junido-podpisana-v-vene-419594-2020/>

220_UNIDO experts presented the methodology of regional innovation development in Minsk [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/ekperty-junido-predstavili-v-minske-metodologiju-regionalnogo-innovatsionnogo-razvitija-342956-2019/>

implementing multilateral environmental agreements while pursuing their economic and environmental goals²²¹

The previous framework cooperation program between Belarus and UNIDO was signed in 2013. It defined the areas of joint work, where among the main areas of cooperation were "highlighted, including resource-efficient and cleaner production, energy efficiency, innovation, investment promotion and technology transfer, development of small and medium enterprises, strengthening of the agro-food and automotive sectors²²². And, it must be said, in recent years, Belarus has implemented a number of joint projects with UNIDO, both to modernize enterprises producing components for the automotive sector, and to support food industry enterprises and the processing of crops.

In particular, only the economic effect of the international technical assistance project "Institutional development and policy support for the modernization of enterprises-manufacturers of components for the automotive sector in the Republic of Belarus" exceeded 18 million Belarusian rubles. This project was implemented by UNIDO in Belarus in 2015-2019 to improve the competitiveness of enterprises of the automotive sector through the optimization of production processes. As a result: assistance was provided to 44 business entities, including the enterprises of BelAZ Holding, Amkodor, Avtokomponenty, MTZ; a unique UNIDO methodology based on resource-efficient production was developed and adapted to the Belarusian context; over 25 training events were held for managers and specialists of industrial enterprises of Belarus; over 500 specialists were trained in production optimization tools. The main result of this project can be considered the creation of the Production Modernization Center in our country - "the structure, which will become

221 About UNIDO [Electronic resource]. - -- 2020. - URL: www.unido.ru/overview/unido/

222_Belarus is interested in developing cooperation with UNIDO - Myasnikovich [Electronic resource]. - -- 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-zainteresovana-v-razviti-i-sotrudnichestva-s-junido-mjasnikovich-291046-2018/>

the center of the concepts of production optimization and transition to Industry 4.0 in Belarus²²³.

A good example in this context is the implementation by the Belarusian National Center for Resource Efficiency and Cleaner Production together with UNIDO of the technical assistance project "Closed Loop Economy and New Growth Opportunities. Together with UNIDO in Belarus, it is also planned to "establish technical competence centers and demonstration factories²²⁴. The point is that our country is currently creating competence centers where representatives of small and medium-sized businesses could test the implementation of technologies for digital transformation of business processes. This project is being implemented jointly with UNIDO. "Two or three technoparks in the regions are being considered as pilot ones."²²⁵ In addition, in 2020 Belarus became a member of a new technical cooperation project with UNIDO, aimed at implementing the potential of the fourth industrial revolution and smart manufacturing at a total cost of one million dollars, the implementation of which in 2021 will be the first practical step of the new framework cooperation program, which was signed in December 2020 in the Austrian capital.

223 Lisatovich, T. The effect of the UNIDO project to support the automotive industry in Belarus exceeded Br18 million / T. Lisatovich // [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/effekt-ot-realizatsii-proekta-junido-po-podderzhke-predpriyatij-avtoproma-belarusi-prevysil-br18-mln-347529-2019/>

224 Digital transformation projects are planned to be implemented in the areas of pharmacy, instrumentation, and petrochemistry [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/proekty-tsifrovoj-transformatsii-planirujut-realizovat-v-sferah-farmatsii-priborostroenija-neftehimii-362638-2019/>

225 Competence centers for process automation are planned to open in Belarus on the basis of technology parks [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/tsentry-kompetentsij-dlja-avtomatizatsii-protsesov-planiruetsja-otkryt-v-belarusi-na-baze-tehnoparkov-362309-2019/>

Belarus-World Trade Organization: The goal of the campaign is to inform the population and business entities

In April 2021 the information campaign "World Trade Organization (WTO) Weeks in the Republic of Belarus" started in our country - an event of the UNDP project "Assisting the Government of the Republic of Belarus in WTO Accession through Strengthening Expert and Institutional Capacity" implemented with the financial support of the Russian Federation. As part of this information campaign, representatives of local businesses in all Belarusian regions are already familiarizing themselves with the dynamics of the accession process of Belarus to this international organization and the main benefits of its membership. Representatives of the ministries of foreign affairs, economics, national experts in the field of foreign trade at regional round tables focus the attention of the business community on the issues of customs and tariff protection of Belarusian producers, mechanisms of access of Belarusian goods to the markets of the third countries, opportunities to promote export of services within the accession to the WTO. The organizers see the relevance of the event in the fact that "the local authorities should convey to business entities and maybe even to the population the information that the WTO is necessary for Belarus. We export more than 70% of our gross domestic product, and full membership in the organization is in our interest. It's important to have predictability in foreign markets and to be able to defend our interests when they are violated, using this international platform"²²⁶ .

Recall that the Republic of Belarus has been negotiating for WTO accession since 1993, when the Working Party on its accession was established, in three areas - "bringing legislation into conformity with

226_Belarus' WTO membership in the interests of our export-oriented economy - Gorelik [Electronic resource]. - - 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/chlenstvo-belarusi-v-vto-v-interesah-nashej-ekspornno-orientirovannoj-ekonomiki-gorelik-438183-2021>

WTO rules; market access for goods and services; state support for agriculture"²²⁷ . After Russia joined the WTO in 2012, our country actually began to comply with most of the conditions and rules of this international organization. The other countries of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) had already joined the WTO earlier: Kyrgyzstan, in 1998; Armenia, in 2003; and Kazakhstan, in 2015. That is why "the completion of the accession procedure of the Republic of Belarus to the WTO is a strategically important task both for the Belarusian economy as a whole, and for the development of a common trade policy within the EAEU"²²⁸

At the moment the Republic of Belarus is negotiating about the accession to the WTO with five subjects of international law: the European Union as a single trade and economic bloc, as well as the United States, Ukraine, New Zealand and Canada. Accession to the WTO is one of the priority tasks of Belarus' foreign trade policy already for the reason that membership in this organization will "ensure stable and predictable terms of trade with countries of the international community, and foreign investors and manufacturers will ensure generally accepted rules of foreign economic activity in Belarus"²²⁹ .

In the course of this information campaign, special attention is paid to the issues around which the Belarusian society has a rather ambiguous attitude. One of them is to what extent the state support of domestic agriculture will be reduced after the country's accession to the WTO. The first regional round table with the business community in Vitebsk region gave clear answers to this question: the volume of state support will not decrease, but the system of its provision will have to be reformatted. The matter is that WTO rules allow internal support of agricultural production

227 Belarus' accession to the WTO [Electronic resource]. - - 2020. - URL: <https://mfa.gov.by/export/wto/accession/>

228 Negotiations on Belarus' accession to the WTO [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.economy.gov.by/ru/peregovory-ru/>

229 World Trade Organization Weeks in Belarus" campaign starts April 21 [Electronic resource]. - - 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/kampanija-nedeli-vsemirnjoj-torgovoj-organizatsii-v-belarusi-startuet-21-aprelja-438066-2021/>

and the European Union is the leader by its volume. There are three "baskets" - red, yellow and green. "The red basket contains prohibited measures (direct subsidies for exports and import substitution, a number of other measures), and they will have to be abandoned after the accession to the WTO. The ²³⁰yellow basket contains instruments that distort competition, but their application is permissible within the framework of the WTO in agreement with the interested members of the organization, primarily with the countries that are major exporters of agricultural products. The experience of Russia and Kazakhstan shows that after joining the WTO state support of agriculture there has not decreased in absolute values, but the channels of its provision were reformatted with the use of tools from the green basket, including subsidies for infrastructure, scientific and educational projects. The Belarusian agrarian sector should be prepared for such reformatting as well.

We should also note that the Republic of Belarus is now the largest economy among the states that are now at an advanced stage of negotiations - the stage of formation of the final commitments to the WTO. In November - December 2021 the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference is to take place, where, apparently, important issues for our country will be addressed. But in April this year, the Belarusian side expressed its willingness to participate "as an observer in negotiations on new international rules in the field of electronic commerce, simplification of investment procedures, support for small and medium enterprises". ²³¹Since these areas are absolutely consonant with the priorities of the Belarusian government.

230_After Belarus joins the WTO the volume of state support for agriculture will not decrease - MFA [Electronic resource]. - - 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/posle-vstuplenija-belarusi-v-vto-objem-gospodderzhki-selskogo-hozjajstva-ne-snizitsja-mid-438239-2021/>

231_Geneva confirms readiness to continue providing the necessary assistance to Belarus on accession to the WTO [Electronic resource]. - - 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/v-zheneve-podtverzhdena-gotovnost-i-dalee-okazyvat-neobhodimoe-sodejstvie-belarusi-po-vstupleniju-v-vto-438064-2021>

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2. Zaleskii, B.L. Belarusian International Journalism: Peculiarities, Trends, Perspectives: Textbook / B.L. Zaleskii. - Minsk: Belarusian State University, 2014. - - 374 c.

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4. foreign investors invested \$10 billion in the Belarusian economy in 2019 [Electronic resource]. - - 2020. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/inostrannye-investors-vlozhili-v-2019-godu-v-ekonomiku-belarusi-10-mlrd-379405-2020/>.

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