

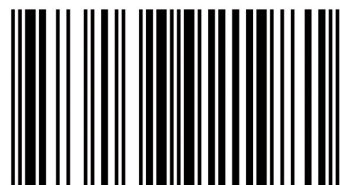
European Partnership Vector

It is known that the European Union is the second largest trade partner of the Republic of Belarus after the Russian Federation, the dialogue with which is gradually acquiring more and more pragmatic contours. Investment is growing, trade surplus has increased, and contacts are developing. In particular, in 2018 the share of the European Union in Belarusian exports increased from 26 per cent to over 30 per cent. Given the open nature of the Belarusian economy and its serious dependence on the situation in foreign markets in Minsk, attention is drawn to the need for further deepening of trade, economic and investment interaction with European partners so that the positive dynamics in relations with them become irreversible. And a certain foundation for this has already been laid. Over the past three or four years, the parties have achieved much more than in the previous decade, when restrictions and sanctions were imposed on the Republic of Belarus. How do these positive trends in relations with the European Union affect the bilateral relations of the Belarusian state with other European countries?

This book has been translated with Artificial Intelligence.



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978-613-8-92198-1

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European Partnership Vector

Chronicle of International Relations

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Publisher:

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17 Meldrum Street, Beau Bassin 71504, Mauritius

Printed at: see last page

ISBN: 978-613-8-92198-1

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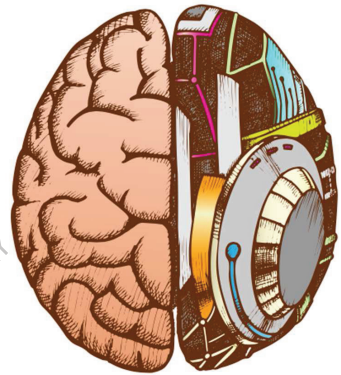
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Belarus - Germany: new projects, new opportunities

Today the Federal Republic of Germany is one of the most important economic and investment partners of the Republic of Belarus, as evidenced by specific figures. Suffice it to say that in 2017 trade turnover between countries has already increased by more than a quarter. This is despite the fact that "in 2016 Germany was ranked fourth in terms of trade turnover (\$2.28 billion) and exports (\$944 million) and third in terms of imports (\$1.33 billion)¹. The fact that there are now more than 300 enterprises with German capital and 90 representative offices of various companies from Germany in Belarus adds significantly to this statistics. And, to all appearances, their number, as well as the scale of the Belarusian-German economic cooperation in general, have all the prerequisites for further growth. This is evidenced, in particular, by the results of the Belarusian-European investment forum "Belarus" held in Luxembourg in October 2017. Invest in tomorrow", within the framework of which a number of agreements and memorandums were signed with representatives of German companies.

First of all, the 21st resident of the Chinese-Belarusian Industrial Park "Great Stone," became the company "Lanz Manufacturers," which signed an agreement according to which by 2020 "it is planned to implement an investment project for the production and manufacture of LED lamps and lamps LED Technology in the park. The volume of investments should amount to at least \$500 thousand"². The fact that this company plans to actively participate in preparations for the commissioning of facilities for the second Eurogames, which will be held in Minsk in 2019, as well as in the coverage of Moskovskaya Street in Brest for the 1000th anniversary of the founding of the city, says a lot. And this despite the fact that the main sphere of activity of "Lance Manufactures" is the production of medical rehabilitation equipment. In this regard, the production of LED lamps in the industrial park "Great Stone" may well be the beginning of the promising path of this German investor and to more global projects in Belarus.

¹ Belarus regards Germany as one of the most important economic partners - Ambassador [Electronic Resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-rassmatrivaet-germaniju-kak-odnogo-iz-vazhnejshih-ekonomicheskikh-partnerov-posol-273525-2017/>

² Dylenok, Yu. A number of agreements and memorandums were signed at Belarusian-European investment forum / Yu. Dylenok // [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/rjad-soglashenij-i-memorandumov-podpisan-na-belorusko-evropejskom-investforume-273539-2017/>

Secondly, in the same industrial park 3"Great Stone" together with the German company "Diffenbacher", which is engaged in the production of composite materials with great prospects for use in mechanical engineering and construction, it is planned to build a complex to produce these actual metal substitutes, which are beginning to be used everywhere. In this case it is a question of creation of innovative production with the corresponding engineering center, which will have to create the necessary scientific and technical reserve for this high-tech enterprise. "The project to be implemented is designed for more than 200 million euros. <...> Construction may begin as early as 2018" .

Third, the founders of the management company of the Chinese-Belarusian Industrial Park "Great Stone" - SZAO "Industrial Park Development Company" - "plans to enter the German enterprise that owns the largest river port in Europe - Duisburg. The same company largely controls rail transport in the EU"⁴. We're talking about the German joint stock company Duisburg Hafen. The port of Duisburg, located on the banks of the Rhine in North Rhine-Westphalia, is also available for sea ships. Attention to it has sharply increased after the launch of the Chinese mega-project of the New Silk Road Economic Zone. The point is that "the Chongqing-Duisburg railway line reduces the time of trains running between the initial point and the final point by 50% as compared to sea transportation"⁵. That's why it's very profitable to transport goods produced in the same Chinese Chongqing by rail to Duisburg and from there to other European countries by means of logistics companies. This is why Duisburg is today a globally important river port. And in the industrial park "Great Stone", as you know, with the participation of the world operator "China Merchants Group" is created its own logistics center, which with the arrival of a partner such as Duisburg Hafen, can get a reliable "European residence permit".

Fourth, high-tech companies from Germany and other segments of the Belarusian economy are expected to arrive. In particular, the Belarusian CJSC "Atlant" "with German partners is implementing a project to create a mobile refrigeration unit, which would be powered by a solar battery"⁶. It is clear that such devices are simply indispensable in places where there is no electrical power or there are interruptions in

³ Dylenok, Yu. A number of agreements and memorandums were signed at Belarusian-European investment forum / Yu. Dylenok // [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/rjad-soglashenij-i-memorandumov-podpisan-na-belorussko-evropejskom-investforume-273539-2017/>

⁴ Results of the working visit to Luxembourg [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/7600>

⁵ The new Silk Road strengthens ties between Germany and China - Chief Executive Officer of the Port of Duisburg [Electron Resource]. - - 2014. - URL: <http://russian.people.com.cn/31518/8582536.html>

⁶ Dylenok, Yu. The refrigerator on solar batteries is developed by "Atlant" together with German partners (in Russian) / Yu. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/holodilnik-na-solnechnyh-batarejah-razrabatyvaet-atlant-sovmestno-s-nemetskimi-partnerami-273807-2017/>

its supply. Therefore, the essence of the idea is that by converting the energy of the sun, the camera should be cooled so that it can work from morning to evening and preserve food. It is important that the participants in this innovation project have already created the first prototype.

All these examples show that Belarusian-German innovation cooperation has great potential and there are many points to deepen it.

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Belarus-United Kingdom: working together for mutual benefit

In September 2017, Minister of State for European and American Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Kingdom visited Minsk. Duncan, who became the first British minister to visit Belarus in more than 25 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the countries, and who, it is believed, has outlined a new level of cooperation that Minsk and London may reach in the near future.

In Belarus, the UK is considered an important partner in Europe, which is confirmed by specific figures. In 2016, the volume of Belarusian exports to this European country exceeded one billion dollars, putting the UK in third place among all countries in the world after Russia and Ukraine, ensuring a positive balance of Belarusian-British trade in the amount exceeding \$920 million. Oil products and bituminous mixtures, potassium and nitrogen fertilizers, construction fittings and raw lead, devices on liquid crystals and women's outerwear, binoculars and monoculars, X-ray equipment and furniture traditionally occupy the leading place among supplies from Belarus to the British market. In general, Belarus' trade "with Great Britain is rather multi-faceted - about 190 commodity items"⁷. Even higher - second place - Britain took the second place among the countries-investors in 2016, having directed \$1.46 billion to the Belarusian economy, of which \$1.39 billion were direct investments. Perhaps, this factor contributed to the fact that by today "about 450 enterprises with British capital are registered in Belarus"⁸.

The assistance of the British side in overcoming the consequences of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant is also highly appreciated in Belarus. Suffice it to say that "in Britain, more than 100 charities are engaged in assistance to the Belarusian side. Over the past six years, almost 8,000 children have been treated in the UK"⁹. Nevertheless, A. Duncan's visit demonstrated the mutual desire of the parties to take new steps to develop interaction, which is based on the confidence "in the presence of many areas

⁷ Matveev, V. Belarusian woodworking products will be actively promoted in Great Britain / V. Matveev // [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/beloruskuju-produktsiju-derevoobrabotki-budut-aktivno-prodviगत-na-ryнок-velikobritanii-268365-2017>

⁸ Great Britain [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <https://export.by/uk>

⁹ Transcript of the approach to the press by Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belarus V. Makei following the results of his talks with Minister of State for Europe and America of the British Foreign Office (September 26, 2017, Minsk) [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: http://mfa.gov.by/press/news_mfa/a49a1f18fb246015.html

in which Belarus and Great Britain can work together with mutual benefit"¹⁰. In particular, the Belarusian side expressed its interest in the implementation of such joint projects, which, as they are called, are aimed at the future and in which British business representatives are particularly strong. In this case we are talking about the electric motor industry and construction of alternative energy facilities, as well as information technologies. In order to speed up the movement in this direction, the parties signed an intergovernmental Conveyance on the elimination of double taxation of income and capital taxes and prevention of tax evasion during Duncan's visit.

And in the same September 2017, the topic of interaction in some of the above areas has already been discussed at the level of the leaders of the cities of Minsk and Nottingham, who became twins half a century ago. The fact is that Nottingham, which now operates mainly Indian and Chinese electric buses, is looking for new suppliers of this environmentally friendly transport equipment. British electric buses are equipped with a powerful battery, which allows the car to carry passengers all day and at night is charged. "The downside of such a power source is its high cost, enormous weight, which reduces passenger capacity, as well as its short service life. Batteries in Belarusian electric buses have a small capacity and can be charged in five minutes at the final stop points"¹¹. If we consider that the British have a limit on the use of each unit of public passenger transport - no more than eight years of operation, the result is the following picture. Electric buses in Nottingham have to change the batteries at least three times during this period. The Belarusian electric bus and its power source are designed for ten years. It turns out that in eight years, not a single battery replacement. The benefits are palpable. In addition, having set a goal - to fill the interaction between the twin cities with concrete actions - the authorities of the Belarusian capital suggested organizing cooperation in housing construction. The fact is that in Minsk, "a residential complex "Nottingham" is planned to be built, and it would be symbolic participation of companies from the UK in the project"¹².

Another area of cooperation that promises to yield interesting results in the near future is the promotion of Belarusian woodworking industry products to the British market. The companies of the Bellesbumprom concern already "supply lumber and plywood to

¹⁰ Meeting with Minister of State for Europe and America Affairs of the British Foreign Office Alan Duncan [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/vstrecha-s-alanom-duncanom-17170/

¹¹ The British were interested in Belarusian electric buses [Electron resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/anglichane-zainteresovalis-beloruskimi-elektrobusami-265575-2017/>

¹² Matveeva, N. Nottingham is interested in cooperation with Minsk in the field of education and electric transport / N. Matveeva // [Electron resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/nottingem-zainteresovan-v-sotrudnichestve-s-minskom-v-sfere-obrazovanija-i-elektrotransporta-265571-2017/>

Great Britain. But the volumes are still insignificant - \$188 thousand for January - July of this year"¹³.

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¹³ Belarusian woodworkers expect to increase exports to the UK [Electronic resource]. - – 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/beloruskie-derevoobrabotchiki-rasschityvajut-narastit-eksport-v-velikobritaniju-265392-2017/>

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Belarus-United Kingdom: trade dialogue begins

The first round of the Belarusian-British trade dialogue is scheduled for June 2019 in Minsk. An agreement to create such a format of bilateral interaction was reached in March 2018 during the official visit of Belarusian Foreign Minister V. Makei to the United Kingdom. This was the first visit of the Head of the Belarusian Foreign Ministry to the United Kingdom since 1993, within the framework of which "documents were signed: on trade and economic cooperation, providing for the establishment of an intergovernmental dialogue to facilitate further development of mutual trade and investment between Belarus and Great Britain, as well as on interaction between the customs authorities of the two countries"¹⁴.

It should be noted that the start of trade dialogue between Belarus and Great Britain is taking place against a rather favorable background of the growing trade turnover of bilateral trade. In particular, in 2017, the Belarusian-British mutual trade volume exceeded \$2.6 billion with a surplus of \$2.157 billion for the Belarusian side. In addition, in the same year 2017, Britain became the second largest foreign direct investment in the economy of Belarus - almost two and a half billion dollars. In 2018, bilateral trade volumes continued to grow. And not just for petroleum products. Thus, "for other commodity groups, trade turnover almost doubled"¹⁵.

In May 2018, the first official visit of the delegation of the British Parliament to Belarus took place, which "opens a new page of bilateral cooperation"¹⁶ and within the framework of which not only political, inter-parliamentary cooperation, but also trade and economic partnership issues were discussed. In particular, the parties stated then that "this meeting should give a new impetus to social projects in Belarus and Great Britain". The¹⁷IT industry, science, medicine and culture were also mentioned among the promising areas of cooperation. An important outcome of last year's visit of British MPs to Belarus was the speech of the head of the parliamentary delegation and the head of the inter-party group on Belarus, MP D. Wittingdale, at the end of April 2019

¹⁴ Results of the visit of Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belarus V. Makei to Great Britain [Electronic resource]. -- 2018. - URL: http://mfa.gov.by/press/news_mfa/d41e8234403a4dfb.html

¹⁵ Belarus offers Great Stone to the UK to open a pharmaceutical enterprise [Electronic Resource]. -- 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-predlagaet-velikobritanii-otkryt-v-velikom-kamne-farmatsevticheskoe-predpriyatje-346161-2019/>

¹⁶ M. Myasnikovich met with a delegation from the British Parliament [Electronic Resource]. -- 2018. - URL: <http://www.sovrep.gov.by/ru/news-ru/view/mmjasnikovich-vstretilsja-s-delegatsiej-parlamenta-velikobritanii-12664-2018/>

¹⁷ Representatives of the British Parliament visited Minsk [Electronic Resource] for the first time. -- 2018. - URL: <https://sputnik.by/politics/20180529/1035687794/predstaviteli-britanskogo-parlamenta-vpervye-posetili-minsk.html>

at the debate in the British Parliament, where he noted "the openness of Belarus for interaction with other countries, the intensification of bilateral cooperation"¹⁸.

In June 2018, Minsk hosted a forum on the development of Belarusian-British trade and economic cooperation and the organization of financing of Belarusian-British trade contacts, which "was attended by about 130 representatives of 70 Belarusian enterprises and organizations"¹⁹. The event was focused on telling, showing, and advising Belarusian companies on issues related to increasing trade cooperation with British partners. After all, entering the UK market is a daunting task due to the very tough competition that characterizes it. "But presence on it is a kind of global "mark of quality", evidence of international maturity <...> of business, demand and recognition <...> of products and services".

So far, supplies from Belarus to the UK are dominated by raw materials - oil products, products of coal tar distillation, bituminous mixtures, potash and nitrogen fertilizers, construction fittings, raw lead, as well as furniture, women's outerwear, devices on liquid crystals, binoculars and monoculars, X-ray equipment. British imports to the Belarusian market are also quite diverse: internal combustion engines supplied to Belarusian machine-building enterprises, air pumps, road and construction machinery, transformers, herbicides, chemical compounds, polymers and lubricants, medicines, as well as frozen fish, other food products, spirits, medical materials and equipment. In addition, "about 267 enterprises with British capital are registered in Belarus. In the UK, there are three entities of the Belarusian exporters' SCC - the company BNK UK Ltd (a subsidiary of CJSC Belarusian Oil Company), a representative office of Belavia and Adani Ltd. UK"²⁰.

In Minsk, the prospects of trade and economic cooperation with British partners are assessed as quite wide: from interaction in the scientific, technical and educational spheres to opening of a pharmaceutical enterprise by British entrepreneurs and production of charging stations for electric cars in the Chinese-Belarusian Industrial Park "Great Stone".

¹⁸ UK Trade Policy Minister plans to visit Belarus in June [Electronic Resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/ministr-po-torgovoj-politike-velikobritanii-planiruet-posetit-belarus-v-ijune-346186-2019/>

¹⁹ Belarusian-British Trade and Economic Forum [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - <https://belarus24.by/news/economics/belorusko-britanskiy-torgovo-ekonomicheskij-forum/>

²⁰ Trade and economic cooperation [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: http://uk.mfa.gov.by/ru/bilateral_relations/trade_economic/

Belarus - Italy: a reference point for close cooperation

In June 2019, Rome hosted the second meeting of the Intergovernmental Belarusian-Italian Commission on Economic Cooperation, within the framework of which the parties considered topical issues of mutual trade, interaction in the fields of industry, infrastructure and transport, banking and finance, and reached agreements on the implementation of a number of concrete steps designed to give additional impetus to the development of bilateral partnerships, thanks to which "in 2020 the level of bilateral trade will exceed 1 billion euros"²¹. Recall that the first meeting of this structure was held in February 2016 in Minsk. Then the attention of its participants was focused on promising areas of cooperation, "including the establishment of an Italian industrial district in the Brest region, the development of interregional contacts, the use of European financial instruments to support joint investment projects"²². In February 2019, during a visit to Italy, Prime Minister of Belarus S. Rumas and within the framework of the first meeting at the level of the leadership of the Belarusian and Italian governments over the past ten years it was agreed "to resume the work of the Belarusian-Italian intergovernmental commission on economic cooperation in an active format"²³. This happened against the background of a very positive dynamics in the bilateral Belarusian-Italian trade, the volume of which in 2017 and 2018 has consistently increased by 20 and 15 percent, exceeding \$900 million last year. At the same time, Belarusian exports of goods rose by more than a quarter. This was largely due to the fact that deliveries from Belarus to Italy were carried out on 188 commodity items, among which potash fertilizers, metal products, furniture prevailed, as well as a serious increase in supplies of timber, plywood, glass fiber, linen fabrics, synthetic yarns and cables.

Another important trend that emerged in 2018 is the growth of the volume of Belarusian exports of services, which increased by 60% over this period and amounted to \$55.4 million. It happened at the expense of computer, telecommunication, information, tourist and construction services. But the lion's share was still in the transport services. "Here we must pay tribute to the airline Belavia, which first in 2018 tried the scheme of daily flights between Minsk and Rome, is also actively working on

²¹ Krishenik, E. Belarus and Italy expect to exceed the trade turnover of EUR 1 billion in 2020 / E. Krishenik // [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/politics/view/italija-i-belarus-rasschityvajut-v-2020-godu-dostich-tovarooborota-v-1-mlrd-evro-posol-349129-2019/>

²² Belarus - Italy: new impetus for cooperation [Electronic resource]. - - 2016. - URL: <http://investinbelarus.by/press/news/belarus-italiya-novyj-impuls-sotrudnichestva/>

²³ Meeting with the Vice-President of the Council of Ministers of Italy Luigi Di Mayo [Electronic Resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/8585>

the route Minsk-Milan and a variety of charter programs²⁴. Great prospects for Belarusian-Italian cooperation are now also opening up in the investment sphere. Suffice it to say that in 2018, \$23.3 million of investments were attracted from Italy to Belarus, including direct - \$23.1 million. Over the past two years, this has allowed setting up about 60 new enterprises with Italian capital on Belarusian soil, and bringing their total number to 263. In terms of intensifying investment cooperation between Belarus and Italy, great hopes are placed today on the development of partnerships between small and medium-sized enterprises of the two countries. To this end, back in December 2017, the Belarusian-Italian Business Council was established on the initiative of the Belarusian side to become "an instrument that will expand opportunities for trade and economic cooperation between the two countries, help establish cooperation between enterprises working for the benefit of their peoples".²⁵ Under the aegis of which the parties agreed to hold annually the Belarusian-Italian business forum with participation of both large companies and representatives of small and medium business in each country.

Another area, which can significantly update the Belarusian-Italian interaction, is the green economy, which in Belarus, taking into account the national and global challenges, is defined as a strategic priority and in December 2016 approved the National Action Plan for the development of the green economy until 2020. The first joint forum on this topic was held in Minsk back in March 2017 with the participation of more than two hundred organizations, half of which were Italian companies engaged in such areas as alternative energy, resource efficiency, recycling and environmental protection. They discussed opportunities for cooperation in the energy sector, "with particular attention to investment opportunities for Italian investors"²⁶. The Second Italian-Belarusian Green Economy Forum, held in April 2018 in Minsk, was attended by almost 50 Italian and 140 Belarusian enterprises interested in promoting "advanced Italian industry achievements in the green economy with special emphasis on waste management, renewable sources (solar and wind power plants), energy efficiency in civil and industrial construction, agriculture, "smart cities"²⁷. And as part of this event,

²⁴ Guryanov, A. Belarus considers new projects in cooperation with Italy / A. Guryanov // [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/interview/view/belarus-rassmatrivaet-novye-proekty-v-sotrudnichestve-s-italiej-6691/>

²⁵ Chumakov, V. In Moscow the Belarusian-Italian business council was created / V. Chumakov // [Electron resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.dompressy.by/2017/12/14/v-moskve-sozdan-belorussko-italyanskij-delovoj-sovet/>

²⁶ Italy intends to develop investment cooperation with Belarus in the field of green economy [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/italija-namerena-razvivat-investitsionnoe-sotrudnichestvo-s-belarusiju-v-sfere-zelenoj-ekonomiki-239145-2017/>

²⁷ About 190 companies will take part in the Italian-Belarusian forum on green economy [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/okolo-190-kompanij-primut-uchastie-v-italo-beloruskom-forume-po-zelenoj-ekonomike-299486-2018/>

the Association of Italian Entrepreneurs in Belarus has already signed the protocols of cooperation with the administrations of free economic zones "Gomel-Raton" and "Brest. The third similar forum on the green economy will be held in Minsk in October 2019. And there is every reason to believe that he will bring new bright colors to the cooperation between the two countries.

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Belarus-Spain: joint commission sets priorities

In October 2017, Minsk hosted the first meeting of the Joint Intergovernmental Belarusian-Spanish Commission on Economic and Industrial Cooperation. At the meeting, the sides considered the state and prospects of bilateral cooperation in trade and investment, as well as the expansion of the legal framework. An important outcome of this session was the identification of six priority sectors for the development of partnerships between the Belarusian and Spanish business communities - "modernization of industrial potential, energy efficiency, transport and logistics, infrastructure, public-private partnership projects, information technology"²⁸.

It should be reminded that Spain is seen by the Belarusian side as one of the priority global and regional partners with a serious potential for further development of bilateral relations. February 2017 marked the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Belarus and the Kingdom of Spain. Even today, Minsk hopes for an effective continuation of the open dialogue with Madrid, "which will certainly contribute to further strengthening of friendly ties between our states"²⁹.

Until recently, Spain was better known in Belarus as the third largest country among foreign countries by the number of children from the regions affected by the Chernobyl accident. It is also known that "more than a thousand Belarusian students annually get the qualification of a specialist in the Spanish language, exchange internships for teachers and students, joint research"³⁰. It was only in 2014 that the bilateral Belarusian-Spanish interaction began to enter an active phase, which led to the opening of the Embassy of the Republic of Belarus in Madrid at the end of 2016, one of the main priorities of which was the development of trade and economic cooperation.

Already in February 2017, the State Committee on Science and Technology of Belarus and the Secretariat of State for Research, Development and Innovation of the Ministry of Economy, Industry and Competitiveness of Spain declared their intention to sign an agreement in the field of science and technology, as they were convinced of each

²⁸ About the first session of the Joint Intergovernmental Belarusian-Spanish Commission on Economic and Industrial Cooperation [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: http://mfa.gov.by/press/news_mfa/d1d92f24e5decebe.html

²⁹ Congratulations to King Philip VI of Spain [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/pozdravlenie-korolju-ispanii-filippu-vi-17291/

³⁰ Communiqué to the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Belarus and the Kingdom of Spain [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: http://mfa.gov.by/press/news_mfa/fa1fde1918a571f4.html

other's significant potential "for mutual transfer of technologies in priority areas of cooperation, such as information technology, nanotechnology, biotechnology, medicine, new materials"³¹.

The international specialized exhibition Transfiere, held in February 2017 in Malaga, Spain, where organizations and institutions of the Belarusian Ministries of Education, Natural Resources and Environmental Protection and the National Academy of Sciences presented more than one hundred high-tech and knowledge-intensive developments and exhibits, was very eloquent about the prospects for cooperation between the parties in science, technology and innovation. Spanish investment and scientific-technical organizations have taken a keen interest in Belarusian developments in the field of new materials and additive technologies, as well as new magnetic materials and products based on them, recognizing that "some technological solutions of Belarus in the field of magnetic materials can be successfully used by Spanish producers of railway transport"³². In addition, an innovative project to develop an automated system for monitoring the radiation situation in the zone of influence of the Belarusian NPP aroused great interest among visitors and participants of this exhibition. And a number of projects and developments of the Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radio Physics and the Belarusian National Technical University have been placed by the Association of Science and Technology Parks of Spain on its information resource. At the same time, the Belarusian representatives discussed with the mayor of Malaga the prospects of creating a joint technopark, as well as the possibility of cooperation of technoparks in Malaga with similar structures in Brest and Minsk.

In June 2017, the parties had already signed a memorandum providing for the establishment of a joint intergovernmental commission on economic and industrial cooperation. The third Belarusian-Spanish business forum, which took place in Madrid in June 2017 and was attended by leading Spanish companies interested in "projects in energy, infrastructure, transport, agriculture, mining and processing of minerals, tourism" demonstrated that the interest of the parties to the development of the economic component of bilateral relations is quite high³³. Apparently, this business forum has become a kind of prologue to the first meeting of the joint commission,

³¹ Belarus and Spain are planning to sign an agreement on scientific and technical cooperation [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-ispnija-planirujut-podpisat-soglashenie-o-nauchno-tehnicheskome-sotrudnichestve-233474-2017/>

³² Spain was interested in the developments of Belarus in the field of new materials [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/society/view/ispnija-zainteresovalas-razrabotkami-belarusi-v-oblasti-novykh-materialov-233646-2017/>

³³ More than 60 representatives of business circles took part in the opening of the Belarusian-Spanish business forum [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/bolee-60-predstavitelej-delovyh-krugov-prinjali-uchastie-v-otkrytii-belorussko-ispanskogo-biznes-foruma-252716-2017/>

where the parties, having characterized investment cooperation as an important aspect of trade and economic interaction between the countries, came to the conclusion that the existing potential in this area is not yet fully used. That is why "in the coming months, agreements on investment projects between Spanish and Belarusian enterprises will be reached³⁴.

All these facts suggest that in the near future we will witness the concrete implementation of various Belarusian-Spanish investment projects in trade, economic, scientific and technological spheres, which was initiated by the first meeting of the Joint Intergovernmental Belarusian-Spanish Commission on Economic and Industrial Cooperation.

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³⁴ Enterprises of Belarus and Spain intend to implement a number of investment projects [Electronic Resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/predpriyatija-belarusi-i-ispanii-namereny-realizovat-rjad-investproektov-271932-2017/>

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Belarus-Poland: revival of relations is based on openness

After a two-year break the Belarusian-Polish working group on trade and investment, which is an important part of the Joint Belarusian-Polish Commission on Economic Cooperation, resumed its activities. In October 2017, Minsk hosted the fifth meeting of the group, which demonstrated the parties' clear understanding of the fact that "the revival, which is now observed in Belarusian-Polish relations, should be based on an increasing openness and mutual readiness to seek solutions to existing issues that arise daily in trade, economic and investment relations between our states"³⁵.

Such figures testify to the noticeable revival of interaction between Belarus and Poland. In the first eight months of 2017, trade turnover between the parties reached almost 1.6 billion dollars. In addition, Belarusian exports have increased by 19 percent to almost \$700 million. At the same time, there is every reason to believe that the potential of Belarusian-Polish cooperation has not yet been fully realized. That is why, when discussing the possibilities of further partnership development, the participants of the fifth meeting of the working group on trade and investment "defined for themselves the growth of mutual trade in the near future up to \$4 billion"³⁶. This problem can only be solved with an effective approach to a wide range of bilateral cooperation issues, from investment cooperation, transport and logistics to standardization and insurance.

The issue of investment in this context is particularly important, as Poland is one of the largest investors in the Belarusian economy. In 2017 alone, the growth rate of Polish investments was 140 per cent. More precisely, "the volume of foreign direct investment from this country in 2016 exceeded \$200 million, and in the first half of this year from Poland to the Belarusian economy attracted more than \$150 million"³⁷.

In this regard, the prospects for cooperation between the two countries in transport and logistics look very tempting. Firstly, a number of Polish transport and logistics companies have already shown a concrete interest in investing in this area. Secondly, this interest is largely fuelled by the fact that "as part of the implementation of the state

³⁵ Belarus and Poland see each other as reliable partners [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-polsha-vidjat-drug-v-druge-nadezhnyh-partnerov-shestakov-272971-2017/>

³⁶ Belarus and Poland expect to increase trade turnover to \$4 billion [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-polsha-rasschityvajut-uvlichit-tovarooborot-do-4-mlrd-273021-2017/>

³⁷ Belarusian exports to Poland increased by 19% between January and August [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/beloruskij-eksport-v-polshu-za-janvar-avgust-uvlichilsja-na-19-272978-2017/>

program of the logistics system in Belarus, 50 sites have been identified for the construction of logistics centers, including 18 for facilities with the possibility of final processing of products³⁸. It is clear that the implementation of this program will make Belarus an even more attractive place in the Eurasian economic space and an important strategic hub in the implementation of the Chinese strategic initiative on the economic belt of the New Silk Road.

A good illustration of the relevance of this area of cooperation between Belarus and Poland can be the agreement reached on the fields of the Belarusian-European Investment Forum, held in October 2017 in Luxembourg, with a Polish investor to build a loading terminal at the Belarusian railway station Bruzgi. The investment in the project, which may be completed as early as 2019, will amount to about 15 million euros. Obviously, the appearance of this terminal will only contribute to an increase in transit cargo flow through Belarus. "We are talking about container trains from China to the Atlantic Ocean as part of the construction of the revived Silk Road"³⁹. An additional prerequisite for the successful implementation of this project is the fact that the Polish investor - OT Logistic Bel Ltd. - is planning to carry out its investment activities in the free economic zone "Grodnoinvest".

Not least, the fact that "Poland is implementing a strategy of responsible development until 2020 with a view to 2030, which creates a new stage in the management of the country's development processes, plays a role in the increased attention of Polish investors to projects in the Belarusian economy in the current circumstances. Economic legislation is being reformed, which is aimed at business needs and creating new incentives for investors"⁴⁰. Perhaps for this reason, too, the fifth meeting of the Trade and Investment Working Group helped the parties to specifically identify the prospects for collaboration in sectors such as construction, agricultural processing, vehicles, agricultural equipment, woodworking and even environmental technology. As for the latter direction, in the same October 2017, at a meeting of the Belarusian-Polish group on water resources, the parties agreed to sign an agreement on cooperation in the field

³⁸ Polish investors were interested in building logistics centers in Belarus [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/polskie-investory-zainteresovalis-stroitelstvom-v-belarusi-logisticheskikh-tsentrov-272987-2017/>

³⁹ Dylenok, J. Polish investor will build a loading terminal at the railway station Bruzgi / J. Dylenok // [Electron resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/polskij-investor-postroit-pogruzochnyj-terminal-na-zheleznodorozhnoj-stantsii-bruzgi-273814-2017/>

⁴⁰ Belarus and Poland have identified promising areas of economic interaction [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/politics/view/belarus-i-polsha-opredelili-perspektivnye-napравleniya-ekonomicheskogo-vzaimodejstviya-273031-2017/>

of protection and rational use of transboundary waters, as well as to solve "issues of updating threat and risk maps of floods on the Belarusian-Polish border"⁴¹.

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⁴¹ Belarus and Poland plan to cooperate in the field of transboundary water protection [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-polsha-planirujut-sotrudniczat-v-oblasti-ohrany-transgranichnyh-vod-272740-2017/>

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Belarus-Poland: there will be a new cooperation programme

In June 2019, Minsk hosted the 22nd Belarusian-Polish Economic Forum "Neighbourhood-2019," where its participants - "more than 440 Belarusian businessmen from all regions of the country and more than 140 Polish guests"⁴² - at the plenary session and in three panel discussions - "Interregional Cooperation and Development", "Logistics services. Creating a Favorable Climate", "Information Technologies" - considered the state and prospects of Belarusian-Polish trade and economic interaction, which has considerably strengthened over the past few years. Suffice it to say that "at the end of 2018, the volume of mutual trade reached \$2.55 billion for the first time in eight years. 339 organizations with Polish capital operate in Belarus. Polish investments in the economy of Belarus last year [2018] amounted to \$445 million"⁴³. Important detail: in 2018, the Belarusian side exported to the Polish market products worth \$1.344 billion in 495 commodity items.

Forum "Neighborhood-2019" became the platform where it was announced that the potential for the development of bilateral Belarusian-Polish cooperation is such that "there are reserves, which already today give us the opportunity to overcome the \$3 billion boundary".⁴⁴ and Polish investment in the Belarusian economy may exceed \$500 million per year. Among the promising areas of strengthening partnerships, the parties see primarily such areas as wood and metalworking, construction, food industry, transport and logistics, environmental protection, pharmaceuticals, banking and insurance, as well as agriculture, where "in the four months of this year [2019], exports of Belarusian agricultural products and foodstuffs to Poland almost doubled"⁴⁵.

The Belarusian-Polish production cooperation, where great hopes are placed today on the Polish Investment and Trade Agency, should become an effective tool for solving the tasks voiced. The fact is that back in 2016 the Polish government set an ambitious

⁴² Ulakhovich, V. Forum "Neighborhood-2019" will fill the relations between Belarus and Poland with new content (in Russian) / V. Ulakhovich // [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/opinions/view/forum-dobrososedstvo-2019-napolnit-otnosheniya-belarusi-i-polshi-novym-soderzhaniam-6885/>

⁴³ Lisatovich, T. Belarus considers Poland as an important and promising partner in the EU - Myasnikovich / T. Lisatovich / [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-rassmatrivaet-polshu-kak-vazhnogo-i-perspektivnogo-partnera-v-es-mjasnikovich-350203-2019/>

⁴⁴ Lisatovich, T. Belarus and Poland have opportunities to overcome the \$3 billion border in mutual trade - Ambassador / T. Lisatovich // [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/u-belarusi-i-polshi-est-vozmozhnosti-preodolet-rubezh-vo-vzaimnoj-torgovle-v-3-mlrd-posol-350228-2019/>

⁴⁵ Exports of Belarusian agricultural products to Poland in January-April increased almost twofold [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/eksport-belorusskoj-selhozproduksii-v-polshu-v-janvare-aprele-vyros-pochti-v-2-raza-350231-2019/>

goal to create a global network of 70 bureaus, which should provide a new quality of support to Polish entrepreneurs on global markets. It's a fact that "Belarus was chosen as one of these strategic markets".⁴⁶In 2018, the agency opened its trading office and immediately noted a significant increase in interest of Polish entrepreneurs in cooperation with Belarusian partners, which affected the results of the work. In particular, one of the examples of successful cooperation was an investment project in Belarus by Polish furniture company Szynaka. In this regard, the Belarusian side stresses that it is open for Polish business to come to the country, so "Polish companies, which need our wood, leather and other raw materials, have every opportunity to open their production facilities in Belarus"⁴⁷.

Another important area of cooperation between Belarus and Poland, which was discussed at the forum "Neighborhood-2019," has become more relevant over the past few years and concerns the unification of efforts of the two countries in the global project "Belt and Way. In this regard, Minsk and Warsaw have already made some important steps towards each other. In particular, they signed an agreement on the maintenance of border railway bridge facilities at the Belarusian-Polish border. This topic was continued by the decision of the parties announced at the end of June 2019, following the fifth meeting of the Belarusian-Polish working group on cooperation in the field of transport, to begin construction of a new road border bridge across the Zapadny Bug river at the Domachevo-Slovakhichi border crossing in 2020. The project is expected to take approximately four years to complete, of which the bridge will take a year and ten months. "The length of the bridge will be about 209 meters. The crossing will make it possible to ensure twenty-four-hour non-stop operation of the Republican Highway R-94 Brest-Poland border (Domachevo) and Domachevo border crossing, which, in turn, will reduce the load on the Warsaw Bridge and Kozlovichi border crossings"⁴⁸.

But perhaps the most significant result of the economic forum "Neighbourhood-2019" was the agreement of the parties to develop a new program of cooperation for 2021-2027, initiated by "Marshal of the Senate of Poland and Marshal of Podlaskie Voivodeship. This is a program that will address not only cross-border projects, but

⁴⁶ Interest of Polish entrepreneurs in Belarus is growing [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/interes-polskih-predprinimatelej-k-belarusi-rastet-350224-2019/>

⁴⁷ Lisatovich, T. Koltovich: Belarus is open for Polish business / T. Lisatovich // [Electron resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/koltovich-belarus-otkryta-dlja-polskogo-biznesa-350234-2019/>

⁴⁸ Lisatovich, T. Belarus and Poland will start building a new bridge at Domachevo-Slovatichi border crossing in 2020 / T. Lisatovich // [Electron resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-polsha-v-2020-godu-nachnut-stroit-novyy-most-na-pogranperhode-domachevo-slovatichi-352908-2019/>

also educational and commercial"⁴⁹. The fact is that in 2020 the European Union cross-border cooperation programme "Poland-Belarus-Ukraine" will come to an end. That is why we can only welcome the intention of the parties to continue close cooperation not only in the short term, but also in the long term for the benefit of the peoples of the two countries.

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⁴⁹ Lisatovich, T. Belarus and Poland agreed on new cooperation program / T. Lisatovich // [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-polsha-dogovorilis-o-novoj-programme-sotrudnichestva-350246-2019/>

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Vitebsk region - Łódź voivodship: geography of connections expanding

Early March 2017 marked the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Belarus and Poland, a characteristic trend of recent times being marked by a marked intensification of the dialogue not only at the level of government and parliament leaders of the two countries, but also at the level of specific regions. As a rule, their interaction is based on a pragmatic component in the form of trade and economic cooperation, implementation of joint investment projects, wide industrial cooperation. The figures show that "during 25 years of diplomatic relations 83 agreements on partnership and cooperation and 3 agreements on intention of cooperation between different cities and regions of Belarus and Poland have been signed"⁵⁰. Even today we can note very close cooperation of Grodno region with Podlaskie voivodship, Brest region with Lublin voivodship, Mogilev region with Kujawsko-Pomorsk voivodship, Gomel region with Lubus voivodship. Apparently, a qualitatively new level of cooperation is going to be reached with the Łódź Voivodeship and the Vitebsk Oblast.

They signed a partnership agreement back in 2009. However, the experience of the implementation of this document has shown that until recently, the parties, interacting with each other, still mainly focused on cultural exchange. Today, the Belarusian-Polish relations are characterized by an aspiration to develop contacts in all spheres with the aim of expanding "pragmatic and constructive cooperation in the interests of the peoples of Belarus and Poland"⁵¹. That is why the signing of five agreements on cooperation between the districts of the Vitebsk Oblast and the municipalities of the Łódź Voivodeship in March 2017 looks absolutely timely and very encouraging. "Vitebsk district and the municipality of Gomunitsa, Senno and Goshanov, Shumilinsky and Makuv, Polotsky and Zgezh, Gorodok district and the town of Opochno will develop partnership relations in trade, economic, social and cultural

⁵⁰ Interview with Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Belarus to Poland A. Averyanova to the BelTA news agency (March 1, 2017) // [Electron resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://mfa.gov.by/press/smi/f247df4969db2386.html>

⁵¹ Alexander Lukashenko has congratulated President of Poland Andrzej Duda [Electronic Resource]. - - 2017. - URL: http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/aleksandr-lukashenko-pozdravil-prezidenta-polshi-andzheja-dudu-15671/

spheres. In addition, the protocol of intent on cooperation was signed by the Ushach district and the municipality of Tomaszów Mazowiecki"⁵².

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

For its part, the Łódź Voivodship is interesting to the Belarusian partners because this Polish region specializes in agricultural production - dairy products, fruit. Industrial enterprises are actively developing here. And the very location of the Voivodship at the intersection of transport routes creates a promising basis for joint development of logistics infrastructure and joint access to the largest markets of the European and Eurasian Economic Union countries. But in order to successfully compete on external markets and obtain a significant financial result, the parties need to deepen cooperation and create joint products with high added value. To solve this problem, "together with Polish partners it is necessary to form a single technological chain: financing - creation of innovations - implementation into production"⁵³.

Good conditions for Polish business can be provided by the Free Economic Zone "Vitebsk", where at the beginning of 2017 already 36 companies with capital from 14 countries were operating in such areas as mechanical engineering, electronics, veterinary medicine, chemical, fuel, food, light industry. In addition, "in 2016, FEZ administration concluded 6 cooperation agreements with foreign organizations that have the opportunity to assist in finding potential investors, including Lublin Business Club and Łódź Regional Development Agency (Poland)"⁵⁴. Specific work to expand Belarusian-Polish interregional cooperation is likely to be continued at the 6th International Economic Forum "Innovations. Investments. Prospects", which will be

⁵² Vitebsk region and Łódź voivodship expand inter-regional cooperation [Electron resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/vitebskaja-oblast-i-lodzinskoe-voevodstvo-rasshirjajut-mezhregionalnoe-sotrudnichestvo-239226-2017/>

⁵³ The creation of the joint product will allow Vitebsk and Lodz enterprises to successfully compete - Matskevich [Electronic Resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/sozdanie-sovmestnogo-produkta-pozvolit-predpriyatijam-vitebska-i-lodzi-uspeshno-konkurirovat-matskevich-239246-2017/>

⁵⁴ In 2016 residents of FEZ "Vitebsk" expanded the geography of export supplies to 6 countries [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/rezidenty-sez-vitebsk-v-2016-godu-rasshirili-geografiju-eksportnyh-postavok-na-6-stran-233960-2017/>

held in Vitebsk in May 2017 and where, along with the exchange of business contacts "Prospective scientific and technical developments and innovative development of the region" and the international scientific-practical conference "Energy and Resource Saving-2017", the section "BMS - as a promising platform for attracting foreign investment" will work.

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Belarus - Hungary: cooperation will grow with investments and regions

In January 2019, Belarus and Hungary signed a number of important documents outlining promising directions for the development of bilateral relations. Among them there are two - the intergovernmental Belarusian-Hungarian agreement on promotion and mutual protection of investments, as well as the memorandum of foreign policy ministries of the two countries on promotion of interregional cooperation.

Minsk and Budapest see special importance in the agreement on mutual protection of investments, as "it is extremely important for investors in any country. <...> It's a great incentive for investment projects". The document, which has been being worked on for almost a decade, sends an important signal to the business community of the two countries to increase interaction. Especially since "Hungary and Belarus are already developing cooperation in many areas, there are joint projects in mechanical engineering, pharmaceuticals, construction, financial sector"⁵⁵. In particular, in 2017, a joint venture with Belarusian partners in the construction field appeared in Hungary. The company, established with the participation of Belstroycentre, is involved in construction projects here, as well as supplying Belarusian construction materials. And the pharmaceutical company "Gedeon Richter" has been operating in Belarus for many years. In total there are "eight companies with Hungarian capital"⁵⁶. Perhaps, for this reason, the Belarusian-Hungarian trade turnover for the first 11 months of 2018 grew by another eight percent, approaching \$180 million. In January-October 2018, bilateral trade in services grew even more dynamically - by more than 20 percent - to more than \$16 million, based on transport, computer and tourism services.

Nevertheless, today, according to the parties, "there is a need for joint new investment projects, deep industrial cooperation with the prospect of entering not only national markets, but also the capacious markets of the European Union for Belarus and the Eurasian Economic Union for Hungary"⁵⁷. And such plans should get their real shape very soon. Thus, in 2019 "the first Belarusian-Hungarian agricultural enterprise, where Hungarian technologies for corn processing will be used, will be established in

⁵⁵ Meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Hungary Peter Sijarto [Electronic Resource]. -- 2019. - URL: http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/vstrecha-s-ministrom-inostranyx-del-i-vneshnej-torgovli-vengrii-peterom-sijarto-20273/

⁵⁶ Meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Hungary Peter Sijarto [Electronic Resource]. -- 2019. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/8529>

⁵⁷ Transcript of the approach to the press by Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belarus V. Makei following the results of the talks with Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Hungary (January 14, 2019) [Electronic resource]. -- 2019. - URL: http://mfa.gov.by/press/news_mfa/c74a125b79ae2a47.html

Mogilev region⁵⁸. And in the same year the two countries plan to open a joint line for the production of double-deck cars for railway trains. "A total of 19 double-decker trains are to be built. This will be the first time in the history of the Hungarian railways, it will be used on the most popular routes"⁵⁹.

Other topical areas of Belarusian-Hungarian cooperation include cooperation in the nuclear power sector. The fact is that "Hungary, as well as Belarus, has decided to cooperate with Russia on the development of nuclear energy. The model, identical to the Belarusian power units, will be used in the expansion of NPP Paksz. This opens up additional possibilities for finding touch points"⁶⁰.

As for the memorandum on promoting interregional cooperation, it gives the parties an opportunity to expand interaction between the regions not only through the two capitals, Minsk and Budapest, but also on the scale of their countries. It should be reminded that the Agreement on Cooperation between the Minsk City Executive Committee and the Municipality of Budapest was signed in 2016. The Belarusian capital was then seriously interested in the experience of Hungarian partners in the use of large sports facilities, public transport management, waste processing, water purification. In April 2018, Budapest hosted the Days of Minsk, which once again showed what serious potential of the partnership the parties can still use in practice. Suffice it to say that in 2017 Minsk enterprises sold on the Hungarian market of goods "for more than \$26 million, having increased export volume by 37.2% compared to 2016"⁶¹.

At the same time, in April 2018, an agreement on cooperation between the Partisan district of Minsk and the district of Chepel Budapest was signed, which opens new opportunities, primarily for economic cooperation. After all, both districts are industrial, so the enterprises located on their territory will be able to cooperate mutually

⁵⁸ Grishkevich, A. The first Belarusian-Hungarian agricultural enterprise will be created in Mogilev region / A. Grishkevich // [Electronic resource]. - – 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/pervoe-beloruskoe-vengerskoe-selhozpredpriyatie-sozhdadut-v-mogilevskoj-oblasti-332570-2019/>

⁵⁹ Belarus and Hungary will produce double-deck cars for trains [Electronic resource]. - – 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-vengrija-budut-proizvodit-dvuhetazhnye-vagony-dlja-poezdov-332532-2019/>

⁶⁰ Khainovsky, A. Belarusian-Hungarian cooperation is pragmatic and effective / A. Khainovsky // [Electronic resource]. - – 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/special/interview/view/belorusko-vengerskoe-sotrudnichestvo-javljaetsja-pragmatichnym-i-effektivnym-6383/>

⁶¹ Parukova, E. Days of Minsk in Budapest: what connects two capitals and how their cooperation will develop / E. Parukova // [Electronic resource]. - – 2018. - URL: <https://minsknews.by/dni-minska-v-budapeshte-cto-svyazyvaet-dve-stolitsyi-i-kak-budet-razvivatsya-ih-sotrudnichestvo/>

beneficially. And they're already doing it. For example, "the Kozlov factory works with Siemens. <...> The search for touch points continues" .

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⁶² The leaders of Partisanski district of Minsk and Chepel Budapest district signed a cooperation agreement [Electronic Resource]. - -- 2018. - URL: <http://part.gov.by/3744-rukovoditeli-partizanskogo-rajona-minska-i-rajona-chepel-budapeshta-podpisali-soglashenie-o-sotrudnichestve>

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Belarus-Czech Republic: prospects - in partnership relations between regions

In April 2019, Prague hosted the 11th meeting of the Belarusian-Czech Commission for Economic, Industrial, Scientific and Technical Cooperation, where the parties "agreed to strengthen industrial and scientific contacts"⁶³. In general, Belarus and the Czech Republic today cooperate in a wide range of areas - energy, mechanical engineering, agriculture, science, technology and innovation, finance, through the Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and take measures to develop the legal framework of bilateral relations. The fact that the volume of mutual Belarusian-Czech trade increased by more than a third in 2018 and amounted to \$393 million says a lot. At the beginning of 2019 more than one hundred companies with Czech investments were registered in Belarus, working in a wide range of sectors - IT, production of automation equipment for transport, trade, industry, providing architectural and construction services. At the same time, according to the Deputy Foreign Minister of the Czech Republic A. Khmelarzha, "a number of regions of the Czech Republic are interested in establishing relations with Belarusian regions. Regional cooperation between countries can be deepened"⁶⁴ and the priority areas of such cooperation are industrial cooperation, food supply, high technology, science and education.

In terms of deepening cooperation with Belarusian regions, the Czech diplomatic mission in our country intends to implement at least four major projects in 2019. Three of them concern the organization of business missions of Belarusian businessmen and entrepreneurs to the Czech Republic to get acquainted there with the traditions of fish production in lakes, the brewing industry and enterprises that produce brewing equipment, as well as to study the Czech experience in reconstruction of water treatment facilities. We would like to remind you that in 2018 one of the Czech companies won the tender for the reconstruction of Brest's municipal wastewater treatment plants and has already had a positive experience in this matter. The fourth project envisages a mission of Czech businessmen to Belarus to familiarize and establish business contacts with partners in Minsk and Vitebsk regions.

⁶³ Grishkevich, A. Belarus and Czech Republic agreed to strengthen industrial and scientific contacts (in Russian) / A. Grishkevich // [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/politics/view/belarus-i-chehija-dogovorilis-ukrepljat-promyshlennye-i-nauchnye-kontakty-344555-2019/>

⁶⁴ The Czech Republic looks forward to signing an agreement on partnership priorities between the EU and Belarus [Electronic Resource] as soon as possible. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/politics/view/chehija-rasschityvaet-na-skorejshee-podpisanie-soglasheniya-o-prioritetah-partnerstva-mezhdu-es-i-347265-2019/>

In this regard, it should be noted that only on the territory of Vitebsk region today "14 enterprises with Czech capital are operating. Last year [2018] the trade turnover between the region and the Czech Republic increased 1.6 times"⁶⁵. And the prospects of increasing cooperation with Czech partners in the Vitebsk region are seen in the increase in the number of joint ventures, including fish farming - breeding and processing of trout and sturgeon. As for Minsk Oblast, it signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Czech Republic's Vysochina back in 2014. Promising areas of interaction between these regions are agriculture - crop production and breeding, as well as education. At the same time, "cooperation in the educational sphere is favored by the opening of a unique specialty for secondary school "Energy" in the Vysochina region, which may interest the Belarusian side due to the construction of a nuclear power plant"⁶⁶.

It should be noted that ties between other regions of Belarus and the Czech Republic are also actively developing. Thus, in 2015, the Mogilev Region and the Ustetsky Krai signed a Memorandum of Cooperation aimed at developing cooperation in the sphere of economy, culture and tourism. By signing this document, the parties agreed that the region and the region have "great potential in implementing joint investment projects to modernize the Belarusian economy, establish joint production facilities and industrial cooperation."⁶⁷ as well as to promote joint products to third world countries. In addition, Mogilev residents were interested in the Czech experience in the field of medical services, recovery and tourism in terms of its use for the development of the south-eastern districts of Mogilev region.

In 2016, the Grodno Region and the Central Bohemian Krai signed a Memorandum of Cooperation. And in 2017, the trade turnover of this Belarusian region with the Czech Republic amounted to \$14.8 million with the share of Hrodna exports - \$7.6 million. "Mostly synthetic threads, polyamides, timber, anhydrous ammonia, welded pipes, paper and cardboard."⁶⁸ And among the exporters should be mentioned JSC Grodno Azot, ChTUP Aedrev, LLC Aedrev Logistic, LLC Proektinveservice, JSC Slonim Cardboard and Paper Plant Albertin. In addition, according to the head of the Czech

⁶⁵ Bogachyova, O. Czech Embassy this year is implementing four projects to deepen cooperation with Belarus / O. Bogachyova // [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/politics/view/posolstvo-chehii-v-etom-godu-realizuet-chetyre-proekta-dlja-uglublenija-sotrudnichestva-s-belarusiju-340867-2019/>

⁶⁶ Vysochina Krai and Minsk Oblast signed a Memorandum of Cooperation [Electronic Resource]. - - 2014. - URL: https://www.mzv.cz/minsk/ru/x2002_05_17_4/x2014_10_01.html

⁶⁷ Kulyagin, S. Mogilev region and Ustetsky territory of Czechia signed a memorandum of cooperation / S. Kulyagin // [Electron resource]. - - 2015. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/mogilevskaja-oblast-i-ustetskij-kraj-chehii-podpisali-memorandum-o-sotrudnichestve-5040-2015/>

⁶⁸ Belarusian-Czech business forum was held in Grodno [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <http://region.grodno.by/special/ru/econnews-ru/view/belorusko-cheshskij-biznes-forum-proshel-v-grodno-24173-2018/>

diplomatic mission in Belarus, T. Pernicki, "Hrodna region is interesting for Czech business as one of the leaders in the agricultural sector of Belarus. Possible areas of cooperation are milk processing and cheese production"⁶⁹.

All these facts confirm the conclusion that it is the regions of the two countries that have everything necessary to become drivers of active economic cooperation between Belarus and the Czech Republic in the near future.

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⁶⁹ The Czech Republic is interested in developing cooperation with the regions of Belarus in the agricultural sector [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/chehija-zainteresovana-v-razvitii-sotrudnichestva-s-regionami-belarusi-v-selskohozjajstvennoj-sfere-337476-2019/>

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Belarus - Turkey: topical issues of interaction between regions

The visit of Turkish President R.T. Erdogan to Belarus in November 2016, the first in the history of bilateral relations, may become a turning point in the Belarusian-Turkish relations. First, it set a task to reach the volume of mutual trade turnover at the level of one billion dollars. Secondly, the parties decided to focus on maximizing the potential of trade and economic interaction with an emphasis on the establishment of "joint production of complex technical products in the regions of Belarus and Turkey, including for the purpose of their promotion in the markets of third countries"⁷⁰ and the organization of joint industrial zones.

The facts testify to the fact that the Turkish presence in many Belarusian regions has become quite usual. Thus, 96 enterprises with Turkish capital are registered in **Minsk** alone, including 14 joint ventures and 82 foreign ones engaged in construction, hotel business, trade, food and light industry goods. In the first nine months of 2016, the trade turnover with Turkish partners in the Belarusian capital for utility companies and enterprises without departmental subordination increased by almost 60% and exceeded \$212 million, while service exports reached almost \$30 million with a surplus of \$1.1 million. From Minsk to Turkey "wood, auto parts, oil and petroleum products, wooden products, plywood, appliances and devices used in medicine, pipes, carpentry were supplied"⁷¹.

Brest region also began to restore economic relations with Turkish partners, exports from which increased by a third in three quarters of 2016, with a total increase in foreign trade with the country by 96 percent, which amounted to almost \$23 million. Among the largest suppliers of goods to the Turkish market such manufacturers of Brestchina, as JSC "Holding Company" Pinskdrv ", LLC" Belshpondrev ", JSC" Massivev", exporting furniture and other wood products. In addition, from the region, Turkey receives "equipment, sheets for facing, monofilament, casting pallets"⁷².

In the Mogilev **region** only on the territory of the free economic zone "Mogilev" three projects with attraction of Turkish investments are being implemented at once:

⁷⁰ Official visit of President of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan [Electronic resource]. - - 2016. - URL: http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/ofitsialnyj-vizit-prezidenta-turtsii-redzhepa-tajipa-erdogana-14820/

⁷¹ Matveeva, N. In Minsk 96 enterprises with participation of Turkish capital are registered / N. Matveeva // [Electronic resource]. - - 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/v-minske-zaregistrirvano-96-predpriyatij-s-uchastiem-turetskogo-kapitala-218824-2016/>

⁷² Brest region increased exports to Turkey by almost 30% in January-September [Electron resource]. - - 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/brestskaja-oblast-narastila-eksport-v-turtsiju-za-janvar-sentjabr-pochti-na-30-218733-2016/>

"Carbeltex" Ltd. - production of home textiles; "SBI Rubber" Ltd. - production of rubber goods; "BelEms" Ltd. - organization of personal hygiene means production. It is assumed that in the future the whole Turkish industrial zone will appear in this FEZ. At least a vacant land plot with the necessary engineering and logistics infrastructure has already been offered for investment by companies from Turkey. "The emphasis in the Turkish industrial zone is planned to be on the production of automotive components, machine tool engineering, development of the chemical industry and woodworking"⁷³.

Something similar may appear in the Grodno **region**, where representatives of the Turkish United Industrial Zone "Ikitelli", the largest in Istanbul, are already studying the potential of placing enterprises in the free economic zone "Grodnoinvest. Here the Turkish side is offered to locate production facilities in one of the seven clusters, which relate to wood and metal processing, mechanical engineering, chemical and oil refining industry, agro-industrial complex, light industry, logistics and tourism. And already "land plots for special zone of Turkish investments are selected in Grodno, Lida, Smorgoni".⁷⁴ so that businessmen from Turkey can take on their projects in several clusters.

Moreover, they already have experience in implementing investment projects in Grodno region: "Investment portfolio of Turkish business in Grodno region in 2016 exceeded \$10 million"⁷⁵. In particular, with the participation of Turkish capital on the basis of the plant of roofing and construction and finishing machines in Volkovysk is created production of radiators of new generation and components for them. And in Astraviec Business Cooperation Association "Turkish Capital" in November 2016 implemented a project to build a 3-star hotel with an investment volume of about 12 million dollars. There, Turkish investors plan to build an apartment building, and near the checkpoint "Kotlovka" - a multifunctional object of roadside service with a hotel, gas stations, restaurant, cafe and parking for cars and trucks: "The amount of

⁷³ Kulyagin, S. Establishment of the Turkish industrial zone in FEZ "Mogilev" - promising project - administration (in Russian) / S. Kulyagin // [Electronic resource]. - - 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/sozdanie-turetskoj-promyshlennoj-zony-v-sez-mogilev-perspektivnyj-proekt-administratsija-218783-2016/>

⁷⁴ Stasiukevich, E.E. Representatives of Turkish industrial zone ISKOBIR study the potential of production location in FEZ "Grodnoinvest" (in Russian) / E.Stasiukevich // [Electronic resource]. - - 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/newscompany/view/predstaviteli-turetskoj-promzony-iskobir-izuchajut-potentsial-razmeschenija-proizvodstv-v-sez-220628-2016/>

⁷⁵ Turkish investments in Grodno region in 2016 exceeded \$10 million [Electronic resource]. - - 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/turetskie-investitsii-v-grodnenskoj-oblasti-v-2016-godu-prevysili-10-mln-219510-2016/>

investment will be about \$ 30 million⁷⁶. In the sphere of interests of "Turkish Capital" is Braslav, which is in **Vitebsk region**, where an agro-tourist complex will be erected.

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⁷⁶ Turkish business is interested in investing in small Belarusian cities [Electronic resource]. - – 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/turetskij-biznes-zainteresovan-v-investirovanii-v-malye-belorusskie-goroda-219503-2016/>

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Belarus - Turkey: science, technology, education

In April 2019, the President of the Republic of Belarus a. A. paid an official visit to Turkey. Within the framework of the visit, the priority areas of Belarusian-Turkish cooperation in trade and investment, implementation of joint projects in machine-building, agriculture, construction, finance, chemical and light industries were identified, and concrete steps to enhance contacts in the areas of technology, innovation, education, intensification of cooperation "in the field of joint scientific developments, academic process-related projects" were outlined.⁷⁷The seriousness of the parties' intentions to actively develop cooperation in the scientific, technical and humanitarian areas is evidenced by the fact that following April (2019) negotiations between the leaders of Belarus and Turkey, a number of documents were signed - an intergovernmental agreement on cooperation in education, a road map for cooperation between the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the Research Council of Turkey for 2019-2021, and a memorandum on scientific and technical cooperation in the Antarctic between the NAS of Belarus and the Ministry of Industry.

In particular, the intergovernmental agreement on cooperation in the field of education aims to establish and develop direct contacts between institutions of higher education and scientific organizations of the two countries so that students and specialists from Belarus and Turkey can participate in activities aimed at demonstrating the educational, scientific, technological and innovation potential of their countries. Parties intend to provide a place for higher and postgraduate education in the relevant institutions, inform each other about mutual recognition of documents on training, education and academic degrees, and create all necessary conditions "for the expansion and deepening of contacts between countries across the full range of educational activities, attracting Turkish citizens to study in Belarus"⁷⁸.

If we talk about cooperation between scientific circles of the two countries, its basis was laid by the agreements on cooperation signed by the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus: in 2002 - with the Turkish Research Council on Science and Technology, in 2009 - with the Turkish Academy of Sciences. In 2016, the governments of Belarus and Turkey signed an agreement on cooperation in science and technology. A year later, there were memorandums of understanding between the

⁷⁷ Official visit to Turkey [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/ofitsialnyj-vizit-v-turtsiju-20884/

⁷⁸ Belarus and Turkey are interested in developing contacts between universities and scientific organizations [Electronic Resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-turtsija-zainteresovany-v-razviti-kontaktov-mezhdu-vuzami-i-nauchnymi-organizatsijami-344261-2019/>

National Intellectual Property Centre of Belarus and the Turkish Patent and Trademark Agency, and on cooperation between the Belarusian Innovation Fund and the Scientific and Technical Research Council of Turkey. And in November 2018, the first meeting of the joint Belarusian-Turkish commission on cooperation in the field of science and technology was held, in the framework of which the parties agreed to "intensify bilateral cooperation through the subjects of the innovation structure, in particular, between technology parks of Belarus and Turkish science parks"⁷⁹. At the same meeting of the Commission it was stated that "scientists of Belarus and Turkey intend to develop cooperation in the field of polar research"⁸⁰.

The Roadmap for Cooperation Development for 2019-2021, adopted in April 2019, is designed to intensify joint activities of Belarusian and Turkish scientists in the most promising areas of scientific and technical cooperation. "These include optics for space-based observation of the Earth's surface, unmanned aerial vehicles, batteries for electric vehicles and other vehicles, composite organo-mineral materials, mineral processing, and the use of information technology to predict natural hazards"⁸¹.

In addition, the adopted road map provides for the organization of a joint competition for projects in priority areas of science and technology development in areas that were identified during the joint workshops: in 2018 - in Gebze, in 2019 - in Minsk. B In particular, in March 2019, the State Committee on Science and Technology of Belarus, with the support of the Belarusian Innovation Fund and the Council for Scientific and Technological Research of Turkey, announced a competition for joint innovation scientific and technical projects for 2019-2020 to provide them with "direct financial support at an early stage of development" in such priority areas of Belarusian-Turkish cooperation as information and communication technologies, optoelectronics, nanomaterials, unmanned aerial vehicles, etc.

As for the road map, this document also contains measures to develop, improve the organization and increase the effectiveness of joint scientific and technical activities and joint work of the Belarusian Republican Foundation for Fundamental Research and the Research Council of Turkey.

⁷⁹ Belarus and Turkey will hold a competition for joint innovation projects [Electronic Resource]. -- 2018. - URL: http://www.gknt.gov.by/news/2018/belarus_i_turtsiya_provedut_konkurs_sovmestnykh_innovatsionnykh_prouektov/

⁸⁰ Belarus and Turkey intend to develop cooperation in polar research [Electronic Resource]. -- 2018. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-turtsiya-namereny-razvivat-sotrudnichestvo-v-oblasti-poljarnyh-issledovanij-324445-2018/>

⁸¹ Belarus and Turkey signed a road map for scientific cooperation until 2021 [Electronic Resource]. -- 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-turtsiya-podpisali-dorozhnuju-kartu-nauchnogo-sotrudnichestva-do-2021-goda-344282-2019/>

Belarus - Serbia: topical media topics for cooperation

In June 2017, within the framework of the Days of Minsk in Belgrade, an agreement on cooperation between "STV" TV channels was signed. (Minsk) and "Studio B" (Belgrade). This document has become another concrete step towards the formation of a common Belarusian-Serbian media and information space, which should become an effective tool in the development of the entire complex of relations between Belarus and Serbia.

Back in October 2012, at the governmental level of the two countries, the representatives of the Belarusian and Serbian media sphere were tasked to do everything possible to "give our peoples an opportunity to learn more about each other using mass media, radio, television, and the Internet"⁸². And in March 2013 the Memorandum of Cooperation in the field of information was signed by the Ministry of Information of Belarus and the Ministry of Culture and Information of Serbia.

In June 2015, the Belarusian Telegraph Agency and the Serbian news agency TANYUG signed a cooperation agreement to expand and enrich the information and analytical capabilities and to establish regular exchange of information on events in Belarus and Serbia. This document assumes "regular exchange of operative and reliable information materials in Russian and English about actual events of domestic and international life of their countries"⁸³. In addition, the parties have provided for the possibility of cooperation in studying best practices and improving the qualifications of journalists, photographers and other media professionals.

All these agreements and arrangements imply a serious intensification of efforts of the parties in the media sphere to cover the Belarusian-Serbian cooperation, which has been rapidly developing in recent years, as evidenced by numerous facts. After all, Serbia is among those European countries with which the volume of cooperation of the Republic of Belarus has a steady positive dynamics. This is largely due to the fact that back in 2009 the parties signed an intergovernmental Free Trade Agreement. Since then - for seven years - the Belarusian-Serbian trade turnover has grown almost five times. And despite a slight decline in 2016, when the volume of mutual trade amounted to \$ 113.6 million, in the first two months of 2017 it increased by 62.2 percent. At the

⁸² Zaleskiy, B.L. Belarusian international journalism: features, tendencies, prospects / B.L. Zaleskiy. - Minsk, BSU, 2014. -- C. 73.

⁸³ BelTA signed an agreement with the Serbian news agency TANUG [Electronic Resource]. - - 2015. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/society/view/belta-podpisala-soglashenie-s-serbskim-informagentstvom-tanjug-4114-2015/>

same time, "the volume of Belarusian exports to Serbia increased by 42.5% and amounted to \$10.9 million. Imports from Serbia increased by 83.8% to \$12.9 million"⁸⁴. In January 2017, Belarus and Serbia signed a road map to develop cooperation over the next two years, in which they outlined measures to increase mutual trade turnover, implement long-term joint projects and create new ones, as well as to strengthen cooperation between the regions of the two countries. Conclusion that "cooperation at the regional and city levels is an important tool for bilateral cooperation".⁸⁵ he was also heard at the tenth session of the Intergovernmental Belarusian-Serbian Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation, held in April 2017 in Belgrade. It is a fact that today not only all Belarusian regional centers, but also a number of district centers have agreements on cooperation with Serbian partners. Among them: Minsk and Belgrade, Mogilev and Kragujevac, Gomel and Novi Sad, Grodno and Kraljevo, Vitebsk and Nis, Brest and Subotica, Borisov and Pozharevac, Zaslavl and Topol, Baranovichi and Cacak, Novopolotsk and Krusevac, Zhlobin and Smederevo, Molodенno and Valevo, Polotsk and Sremska Mirovica, Nesvizh district and Zemun municipality.

A characteristic feature of these partnerships is that in recent years they have been significantly strengthened through the economic component of cooperation. The example of Minsk is very telling in this respect. According to the results of the first quarter of 2017, Serbia was among the ten largest trade and economic partners of the Belarusian capital. "In January-March this year, the growth rate of trade with this country amounted to 307% compared to the same period last year and reached \$33 million. Serbia supplies tractors, motor vehicles, electric motors, refrigerators and other products"⁸⁶. But that's not all. Two major investment projects with the participation of Serbian entrepreneurs are currently being implemented in Minsk - "Minsk Mayak" and "Minsk-Mir". And only within the framework of the Minsk Lighthouse Project, the opening ceremony of the Dana Center business center and Dana Mall shopping center took place in January 2017. In addition, in early 2017, another investment project with the participation of partners from Serbia - the construction of multifunctional complex "BC Capital Center" - began on October Square of the Belarusian capital. Another promising area of cooperation between Minsk and Belgrade is cooperation in the field of urban electric public transport. In particular, Minsk company Belkommunmash expects to deliver about 60 electric buses to the Serbian capital. The fact is that "public

⁸⁴ Grishkevich, A. Belarus and Serbia will strengthen economic cooperation - Kravchenko / A. Grishkevich // [Electron resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-serbija-budut-ukrepljat-ekonomicheskoe-sotrudnichestvo-kravchenko-243503-2017/>

⁸⁵ Grishkevich, A. Bratistic cooperation develops 15 pairs of Belarusian and Serbian cities (in Russian) / A. Grishkevich // [Electron resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/society/view/pobratimskoe-sotrudnichestvo-razvivajut-15-par-gorodov-belarusi-i-serbii-243217-2017/>

⁸⁶ Days of Minsk [Electronic resource] started in Belgrade. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/v-belgrade-startovali-dni-minska-251030-2017/>

transport in Belgrade needs to be renewed. <...> Currently the entire trolleybus park of the Serbian capital (about 90 units) is produced by Belkommunmash. The deliveries were made about 5 years ago⁸⁷.

As for other regions of Serbia, there are already several enterprises with the participation of the Belarusian side. Thus, for the assembly production of MTZ tractors in the city of Novi Sad, it is important to support it by including it in the state regional agricultural development programs in Serbia. It should be noted that in this Serbian city there is also the Institute of Field and Vegetable Industry, with which Belarusian scientists "are working on cooperation in the selection and seed production of corn, sunflower, perennial grasses"⁸⁸. And for the joint venture "MAZ-Balkan" in Kragujevac, it is important to maximize the involvement of its capabilities "in all tenders for the supply of buses and trucks with engines using gas fuel for government agencies in Serbia"⁸⁹. Apparently, the interaction between the regions of Belarus and Serbia will be developed not only by deepening the existing partnerships, but also by expanding the number of their participants. This is evidenced by the fact that during the Gomel Economic Forum in May 2017, an agreement on cooperation was signed between the Gomel region and the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, one of the most developed regions in Serbia, where it is believed that in cooperation with the Gomel region "there is great potential for building up relations in various fields"⁹⁰.

⁸⁷ "Belkommunmash expects to deliver about 60 electric buses to Belgrade [Electronic Resource]. -- 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/belkommunmash-rasschityvaet-postavit-v-belgrad-okolo-60-elektrobusov-250255-2017/>

⁸⁸ Grishkevich, A. Belarus and Serbia intend to develop cooperation in seed production and phytosanitary / A. Grishkevich // [Electronic resource]. -- 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-serbija-namereny-razvivat-sotrudnichestvo-v-proizvodstve-semjan-i-fitosanitarij-243604-2017/>

⁸⁹ Grishkevich, A. In Belarus favorable conditions for functioning of Serbian business and investment are created - Koltovic / A. Grishkevich // [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/v-belarusi-sozdany-blagoprijatnye-uslovija-dlja-funkcionirovanija-serbskogo-biznesa-i-vlozhenija-243601-2017/>

⁹⁰ Lysenko, Y. Gomel region and the autonomous province of Vojvodina Serbia signed an agreement on cooperation / Y. Lysenko // [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/gomelskaja-oblast-i-avtonomnyj-kraj-voevodina-serbii-podpisali-soglasenie-o-sotrudnichestve-248291-2017/>

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