

Пэн. Исследования по совершенствованию педагогических способностей преподавателей вузов с точки зрения сообщества высшего образования Китая – АСЕАН / Пэн Ван // Промышленно-технологический форум. – 2022. – Т. 21, № 3. – С. 251–253.

7. 物流通道效能加速释放！中老铁路累计运输货物超2536万吨 [电子资源] // 人民网. – 访问方式: <http://finance.people.com.cn/n1/2023/0912/c1004-40075965.html> – 访问日期: 22.11.2024. = Эффективность логистических каналов повышается! Китайско-Лаосская железная дорога перевезла более 25,36 млн тонн грузов // Сеть Жэньминь. – URL: <http://finance.people.com.cn/n1/2023/0912/c1004-40075965.html> (дата обращения: 22.11.2024).

Yu. A. Shauruk,
*PhD in Economics, Associate Professor,
Belarus State Economic University
(Minsk, Republic of Belarus)
yshavruk@bseu.by*

I. V. Urish,
*PhD in Economics,
Belarus State Economic University
(Minsk, Republic of Belarus)
i.urish@inbox.ru*

STRATEGIC PERSPECTIVES OF BELARUSIAN- CHINESE COOPERATION WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE SHANGHAI COOPERATION ORGANIZATION

Abstract. *The article reflects the strategic prospects for the development of cooperation between Belarus and China within the SCO. The main forms of economic interaction between the countries are studied. The dominant areas of foreign trade, investment and scientific and technical cooperation are determined in the context of increasing global imbalances. The priorities of Belarus's membership in the SCO are identified.*

Keywords: *Belarus, China, cooperation, Shanghai Cooperation Organization, strategic prospects.*

Ю. А. Шаврук,
кандидат экономических наук, доцент,
Белорусский государственный экономический университет
(Минск, Республика Беларусь)
yshavruk@bseu.by

И. В. Уриш,
кандидат экономических наук,
Белорусский государственный экономический университет
(Минск, Республика Беларусь)
i.urish@inbox.ru

СТРАТЕГИЧЕСКИЕ ПЕРСПЕКТИВЫ БЕЛОРУССКО-КИТАЙСКОГО СОТРУДНИЧЕСТВА В РАМКАХ ШАНХАЙСКОЙ ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ СОТРУДНИЧЕСТВА

Аннотация. В статье отражены стратегические перспективы развития сотрудничества Беларуси и Китая в рамках ШОС. Исследованы основные формы экономического взаимодействия между странами. Определены ключевые направления торгово-экономического, инвестиционного и научно-технического сотрудничества в условиях нарастания глобальных дисбалансов. Выделены приоритеты членства Беларуси в ШОС.

Ключевые слова: Беларусь, Китай, сотрудничество, Шанхайская организация сотрудничества, стратегические перспективы.

In 2022, Belarus and China celebrated the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations, and a decision was made at the level of heads of state to upgrade bilateral relations between the countries to the level of an all-weather and comprehensive strategic partnership [1]. In 2023, the heads of state of Belarus and China adopted a Joint Statement on the Basic Principles for the Development of Exemplary Relations of an All-Weather and Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between Belarus and China in the New Era [2].

Currently, the People's Republic of China (PRC) is the second most important (after Russia) trade and economic partner of the Republic of Belarus. The development of a comprehensive strategic partnership meets the long-term interests of the countries and promotes the entire range of Belarusian-Chinese cooperation in trade, investment, finance, and innovation, as well as the creation and implementation of joint projects, etc. [3].

Despite the US and Western sanctions pressure, China and Belarus continue to intensify their cooperation. In 2023, the foreign trade turnover between Belarus and China reached a historic high of USD 8.5 billion, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1 – Main Indicators of Foreign Trade in Goods between Belarus and China for the Period 2020–2023, billion USD

Indicator	2020 r.	2021 r.	2022 r.	2023 r.	Rate of change, 2020–2023, %
Trade turnover	4,5	5,1	5,8	8,5	188,9
Export	0,8	0,9	1,6	2,1	262,5
Import	3,7	4,2	4,2	6,4	172,9
Balance	–2,9	–3,3	–2,6	–4,3	–

Note – Source: own development based on [4–6].

Analyzing the data in Table 1, it can be stated that in 2023, the bilateral trade turnover between the countries amounted to 8.5 billion USD (an increase of 88.9 % by 2020).

The export of Belarusian goods to China in 2023 amounted to 2.1 billion USD and increased by 162.5 % or 1.3 billion USD compared to 2020.

Imports of goods from China to Belarus in 2023 increased by 72.9 % or 2.7 billion USD compared to 2020 and amounted to 6.4 billion USD.

The balance of the foreign trade turnover of goods of the Republic of Belarus with the People's Republic of China for the study period 2020–2023 has a negative value.

In 2022, Belarus was among the top ten countries supplying China with: potash fertilizers (2nd place); dairy whey (8th place); meat products (chicken meat – 6th place); milk powder (7th place); rapeseed oil (4th place) [7]. The main export items are also timber, cellulose, integrated circuits, polyamides, petroleum products, carbon, petroleum coke and bitumen, carpentry construction products, flat panel display modules, and others. Belarus offers high quality products in areas such as engineering, food and pharmaceuticals, which may be of interest to the Chinese market. Currently, 162 Belarusian brands are authorized to supply their products to China.

Belarus imports machinery and equipment, including spare parts and engines, LCD modules, monitors, projectors, computers, etc., from China (which is primarily due to the substitution of critical imports with high-tech Chinese analogues) [8]. In the first quarter of 2024, the key position of Chinese exports to Belarus was taken by passenger cars and other motor vehicles designed primarily for the transport of people (by 372.3 million USD). This is followed by monitors, projectors and television reception equipment (51.5 million USD). In third place are parts and accessories for motor vehicles and tractors.

Belarus also purchased smartphones, machine tools and industrial equipment, air conditioners, tableware, antibiotics, electronic integrated circuits, clothing and footwear, bicycles, etc. from China [9].

Investment cooperation between the countries is of certain importance, which is actively developing and has acquired a strategic character.

Chinese investments in Belarus increased by almost 80 % in 2022 [10]. The main investment areas for Chinese investments in the Belarusian economy are the food and machine-building industries, project activities, transport and logistics, infrastructure, and chemistry.

In 2022, Chinese investors sent more than 100 million USD to the Belarusian economy: more than 40 projects were implemented and 20 projects were identified as promising. The main direction of Chinese and international investments is the Great Stone Industrial Park: over 820 million USD of investments, 107 residents from 15 countries with high-tech projects with a total value of 1.3 billion USD are registered [11].

An agreement on trade in services and investment was signed in 2024, taking into account the favourable conditions created in the China-Belarus Great Stone Industrial Park. Five clusters have already been formed on its territory: in machine and machine tool building, telecommunications, medicine and logistics. In the future, the production of new pharmaceuticals, medical equipment, etc. is expected. [12].

The countries are actively creating an increasingly global space for mutually beneficial cooperation: in the field of high technologies: development and production of new composite materials, creation of unmanned vehicles, storage and processing of big data, etc. [13].

The USA imposed sanctions against dozens of Belarusian companies, including Belaruskali. The Lithuanian government cancelled the agreement on the transit of Belarusian fertilizers. Under the current circumstances, Belarus ships fertilizers to China in containers via the Russian railway.

We have systematized the main results of foreign trade cooperation between Belarus and China in the face of Western sanctions, which are presented in Table 2.

Table 2 – Achieved results of economic cooperation between Belarus and China in the context of opposition to Western sanctions

Restrictive measures of Western countries against Belarus	Impact of Restrictive Measures on Foreign Trade Cooperation between Belarus and China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – restrictions and bans in the financial, energy, transport and other spheres; – ban on supplies of high technologies and high-tech products: semiconductors, computers, telecommunication equipment, lasers, sensors, etc.; – blocking the operation of the potash fertilizer transshipment terminal in Klaipėda; – ban on imports of a number of critical goods – medicines, medical equipment, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – trade turnover between the countries in 2023 reached a historic high of the equivalent of 8.5 billion USD; – growth in exports of Belarusian goods; – settlements in national currencies; – increased investment activity: in industry, energy, transport, microelectronics, and information technology; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Belarus’ accession to the SCO in July 2024; – development of East-West and North-South transport corridors. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Approval of 20 joint scientific and technical projects for 2024–2026 [14]

Note – Source: compiled by the authors based on the results of the analysis.

In the face of external threats, cooperation between Belarus and China continues to deepen:

- “The National Strategy for Sustainable Social-Economic Development of the Republic of Belarus until 2030 envisages deepening cooperation with the People’s Republic of China, as well as expanding cooperation with the countries of the “far arc” [15];

- in accordance with the Draft National Strategy for Sustainable Development of the Republic of Belarus until 2040, developed by the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Belarus, in the period 2026–2030 one of the key directions is the expansion of comprehensive cooperation between Belarus and the PRC.

It deserves special attention that in 2024, during the meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the SCO member states in Astana, Belarus became a full member of the alliance, which opened up new prospects for cooperation not only with China, but also with the member states of the organization [16].

As President of Belarus A. Lukashenko noted it in his speech at the summit. Lukashenko: “Belarus considers the creation of a mechanism for bilateral payments in national currencies and a collective financial institution

of the SCO as a priority issue. We represent more than 40 % of the population, about one third of the world GDP in dollars, and in terms of purchasing power only one organization has two most powerful leaders: China and Russia” [17].

Undoubtedly, in the current difficult geopolitical conditions, membership in the SCO will provide Belarus with a wide range of opportunities for further integration of the country into the global economic system.

Priority areas of cooperation between Belarus within the SCO include trade in services, monetary and financial relations, production and supply of agricultural products, scientific, technical and expert-analytical cooperation, cooperation in defense and security, green, low-carbon and sustainable development, and others.

It should be particularly noted that membership in the SCO will allow Belarus to participate on an equal footing in the development of investment projects in the transport sector, improve logistics chains for the promotion of goods, and have access to information from transport agencies.

As important transport corridors from Asia to Europe pass through Belarus within the framework of the “One Belt, One Road” project, Minsk takes part in the development of the international transport corridor “North – South” and the Northern Sea Route. Therefore, Belarus is interested in participating in the development of the SCO common transport and logistics space, including through the development of international road, rail, sea and multimodal transport, acceleration and digitalization of control procedures, and development of transport corridors. As Belarus has capacity in industrial, scientific and technical, innovative and transit sphere it is attractive for the other members of SCO. For its part, Belarus is interested in scientific and technical cooperation and to find new export markets [18].

From our point of view, in the context of growing global imbalances, the deepening of foreign trade cooperation between the Republic of Belarus and China can also be considered in such areas as robotics, biotechnology, artificial intelligence, agricultural technology, medicine [19]. Attention should also be paid to the priority areas of deepening cooperation within the SCO: diversification of foreign trade cooperation, intensification of investment cooperation, technology transfer to stimulate the commercialization of scientific and technical projects and developments, development of interbank cooperation and financial mechanisms, creation of transport and logistics infrastructure and a common transport space, as well as the formation of security and cooperation architecture on a global scale.

References

1. Belarus and China: 30 years towards each other. – URL: <https://www.kp.kz/online/news/5326304> (date of access: 02.12.2024).

2. On political relations between Belarus and China // Embassy of the Republic of Belarus in the People's Republic of China: official website. – URL: <https://china.mfa.gov.by/ru/bilateral/political/> (date of access: 02.12.2024).

3. Urish, I. V. Deepening trade and economic cooperation of the Republic of Belarus and the People's Republic of China in the new international conditions / I. V. Urish, Yu. A. Shavruk // Scientific works of the Belarusian State Economic University: Collection of scientific papers. – Issue 15. – Minsk : Belarusian State Economic University, 2022. – P. 464–469.

4. Belarus and China Reach Record Trade Turnover. – URL: <https://easdaily.com/ru/news/2024/10/16/mezhdu-belorussiey-i-kitaem-dostignut-rekordnyy-tovarooborot> (date of access: 02.12.2024).

5. Abramenko, A. Trade turnover between Belarus and China has increased by 1.5 times over the past five years / Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Belarus. – URL: <https://economy.gov.by/ru/news-ru/view/alesja-abramenko-tovarooborot-belarusi-i-kitaja-za-poslednie-pjat-let-velichilsja-v-15-raza-47424-2023/> (date of access: 02.12.2024).

6. Foreign trade in goods // National Statistical Committee of the Republic of Belarus. – URL: <https://www.belstat.gov.by/ofitsialnaya-statistika/realny-sector-ekonomiki/vneshnyaya-torgovlya/vneshnyaya-torgovlya-tovarami/> (date of access: 01.12.2024).

7. Belarus has doubled its exports of potash fertilizers to China, increased supplies of dairy and meat products. – URL: <https://www.beresta.by/belarus-v-dva-raza-velichila-jeksport-v-kitaj-kalijnyh-udobrenij-narastila-postavki-molochnoj-i-mjasnoj-produkcii> (date of access: 02.12.2024).

8. The Ministry of Economy explained what goods Belarus imports to China and what it exports from it. – URL: <https://prodelo.by/minekonomiki-rasskazalo-kakie-tovary-belarus-importiruet-v-kitaj-i-kakie-eksportiruet-iz-nego/> (date of access: 02.12.2024).

9. Belarus – China: How to Develop a Trade Business in the Context of External Restrictions. – URL: <https://ibmedia.by/news/belarus-kitaj-kak-razvivatsya-torgovomu-biznesu-v-usloviyah-vneshnih-ogranichenij/> (date of access: 02.12.2024).

10. Chinese investments in Belarus increased by almost 80 % in 2022 // Belarusian Telegraph Agency (BelTA): official website. – URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/kitajskie-investitsii-v-belarus-vyrosli-v-2022-godu-pochti-na-80-572737-2023/> (date of access: 02.12.2024).

11. Abramenko, A. On the specifics of doing business in China, joint projects and prospects for cooperation / A. Abramenko. – URL: <https://pionerprodukt.by/pionerprodukt-news/abramenko-ob-osobennostyax-vedeniya-biznesa-v-kr-sovmestnix-proektax-i-perspektivax-sotrudnichestva.html> (date of access: 02.12.2024).

12. Ministry of Economy: Trade turnover between Belarus and China has reached a historical maximum. – URL: <https://mlyn.by/09102024/minekonomiki-tovarooborot-belarusi-i-knr-dostig-istoricheskogo-maksimuma/> (date of access: 02.12.2024).

13. Shavruk, Yu. A. Current state and prospects for the development of trade cooperation between the Republic of Belarus and the People's Republic of China / Yu. A. Shavruk, I. V. Urish // Scientific works of the Belarusian State University of Economics / Belarusian State University of Economics. – Issue 12. – Minsk : Belarusian State University of Economics, 2019. – P. 476–483.

14. Belarus and China approved 20 joint scientific and technical projects for 2024–2026. – URL: <https://belinfund.by/belarus-i-kitaj-utverdili-20-sovmestnyh-nauchno-tehnicheskikh-proektov-na-2024-2026-gody> (date of access: 02.12.2024).

15. Urish, I. V. Foreign trade in goods of the Republic of Belarus: challenges and prospects / I. V. Urish, Yu. A. Shavruk // Bulletin of the Belarusian State Economic University. – 2023. – № 3 (158). – P. 58–67.

16. Gritsenko, E. SCO summit in Astana: what agreements were reached / E. Gritsenko. – URL: <https://iz.ru/1722512/elizaveta-gritsenko/sammit-shos-v-astane-kakikh-dogovorennosti-dostigli> (date of access: 02.12.2024).

17. Belarus joined the SCO: what does this mean? – URL: <https://www.fondsk.ru/news/2024/07/06/belorussiya-vstupila-v-shos-cto-eto-znachit.html> (date of access: 02.12.2024).

18. Prospects for cooperation with the SCO for Belarus. – URL: <https://ibmedia.by/news/perspektivy-sotrudnichestva-s-shos-dlya-belarusi/> (date of access: 02.12.2024).

19. Shavruk, Yu. A. Transformation of foreign trade cooperation of the Republic of Belarus with individual countries of the Asia-Pacific region / Yu. A. Shavruk, I. V. Urish // Scientific works of the Belarusian State Economic University: Collection of articles. – Issue 16. – Minsk : Limited Liability Company “Kolorgard”, 2023. – P. 528–536.