

## **RECENT CHANGES IN RELATIONS BETWEEN CHINA AND BELARUS**

This paper focuses on the relationship between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Belarus. As the aim of it is to show the recent changes in relations between these countries, one should first learn about the past cooperation between them and «look into its history».

Collaboration in international organizations became more active in the 1990s. Belarus and China began mutually support each other in many issues. It became clear that Belarus and China have common principles of domestic and foreign policy, and this is the basis for building such relations between two countries.

For example, in 1999 there was a hot question about the situation in Yugoslavia, and then both countries declared that they condemn the NATO aggression against Yugoslavia and advocate an immediate cessation of resolution of the conflict by peaceful means.

In March 1999, the President of the Republic of Belarus said that Belarus shared the position of China in respecting human rights. Next year the Vice-President of the People's Republic of China during his visit to Belarus stated that, «the Chinese side fully supports the actions of the Belarusian government aimed at protecting its sovereignty». All these actions led to further cooperation between China and Belarus.

In January 2014, a comprehensive partnership programme from 2014 to 2018 was adopted. This programme was a good reason for the development of relations between these countries. The interaction between them has become even stronger.

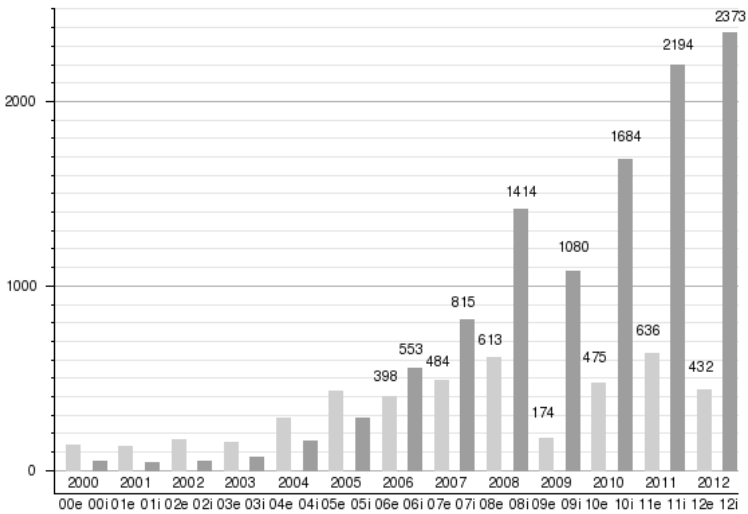
In September 2016, the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation entered into force, which was signed in May 2015 during the state visit of the President of the PRC to Belarus.

The highest level in the history of relations between countries was established in 2016. During the state visit of the President of the Republic of Belarus to China in 2016, the heads of state agreed to establish a new level of relations: trustful all-round partnership and mutually beneficial cooperation.

There were regular visits to China by Heads of Administration of the President of the Republic of Belarus. The President of Belarus visited China 10 times between 1995 and 2017. The chairman of the People's Republic of China also visited Belarus several times. It goes without saying that visits are very important for supporting relations between countries.

At the moment, Belarus and China are actively interacting in many international organizations (UN, SCO and CICA). The high level of political relations between countries provides a reliable basis for the development of bilateral trade relations.

China provides the Belarusian economy with cheap equipment, as well as consumer goods. Thanks to this, economic cooperation with China is actively developing. China is the fifth largest trading partner of Belarus.



This vertical bar chart shows the dynamics of the development of trade in China and Belarus. The level of exports to China is shown in green and imports from China are blue in this bar chart. As you can see, from time to time the level of turnover goes down, but mostly it increases.

Belarus and China regularly assist each other in the event of natural disasters and man-made disasters. On June 1, 2010, China was trans-

ferred a check for a million dollars provided as part of assistance to overcome the effects of the earthquake that occurred in Qinghai Province. The PRC regularly provides Belarus with free technical assistance for the implementation of significant projects. During the visit in May 2015, the Chairman of the PRC announced the provision of technical and economic assistance to Belarus in the amount of 200 million yuan for the construction of social housing, as well as for additional funding for the construction of a student dormitory.

On August 10, 2018, a visa-free agreement between Belarus and China came into force. In 1993, a similar agreement was signed on reciprocal visits to countries without a visa, but only on official business. It should be noted that this was a good start for the development of relations not only in politics, but also between nations. Now Belarusians can visit the country with regular passports for 30 days.

In conclusion, we'd like to say that relations between China and Belarus have really changed over the past couple of years and these are definitely good changes.

So, it is very important to have not only business relations with countries, but also friendly ones. Belarusian-Chinese political and economic ties are based not only on profit, countries have common principles of domestic and foreign policy, and this is the basis for building good relations between them.

### References

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