

УДК 811.111:339.92 (476:410)

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Belarusian and British International Cooperation

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International cooperation is the joint actions of subjects of international law in any area of their common interests, their coordinated activities to regulate actions, solve common problems and make mutually acceptable decisions. Because of the cooperation of nations and governments, the progressive development of humanity, the formation of the international community and international relations has become possible. In the historical confrontation "war-peace", "force-law", "confrontation-cooperation", humanity has given priority to cooperation, reinforcing this by recognizing it as a legally binding principle.

Nowadays Belarus is an independent European state that pursues a peaceful foreign policy, actively cooperates with foreign partners and strategic allies around the world. Moreover, our country is one of the initiators and actively participates in regional integration projects and structures, makes a significant contribution to strengthening international security and stability. Today Belarus maintains diplomatic relations with 183 countries and is represented by 70 foreign institutions in 58 countries.

Diplomatic relations between the Republic of Belarus and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland were established on January 27, 1992. In July 1993, the Consulate General of the Republic of Belarus was opened in London, which in June 1994 was transformed into the Embassy of the Republic of Belarus in the United Kingdom of Great

Britain and Northern Ireland. Since 1993, the Embassy of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland has been functioning in Minsk [1].

Now the UK is one of the most important trade and economic partners of Belarus, being one of the main foreign investors. 211 organizations with British capital have been established in Belarus. Over the past few years, the UK has been a leading importer of Belarusian goods. So, in January – April of this year, the export of Belarusian goods to the UK amounted to \$9.4 million, which is 13 times more than in the same period last year [2].

Currently the legal framework of the Belarusian-British cooperation includes a number of international agreements on trade, economic and customs cooperation, as well as on cooperation in the field of education, science and culture.

Today direct contacts between higher educational institutions of the two countries are developing dynamically. 10 Belarusian institutions of higher education (the Belarusian State University, Minsk State Linguistic University, the Belarusian State Economic University, Brest State Technical University, Grodno State University, etc.) have 11 bilateral cooperation agreements. English is taught in more than 2,500 institutions of general secondary education. Belarusian universities are actively involved in the implementation of international projects under the programs "Erasmus+", "Horizon Europe", "MOST" [3].

As for business, the priority areas in Belarus are IT and agriculture, as the British themselves are among the world leaders in these areas. Free offices, research and development grants, and business expansion opportunities are provided for Belarusian IT companies in the United Kingdom. In addition, Belarusian electric transport technologies are of great interest to British companies.

Interregional cooperation is an important indicator of the development and intensification of cooperation between the United Kingdom and Belarus. Today, Minsk (with the city of Nottingham), Gomel (with the city of Aberdeen), Svetlogorsk (Mendip district) have twinned relations with the cities of Great Britain. Priority areas of interregional cooperation are healthcare, education, environmental protection, greening and landscaping, cultural and youth exchanges, and assistance in overcoming the effects of the Chernobyl accident. The United Kingdom has helped Belarus to improve the health of children living in the regions affected by the Chernobyl accident.

There is a huge potential for further cooperation between the United Kingdom and the Republic of Belarus, since the countries have similar development priorities in economy and in the social sphere, where the emphasis is on supporting health care, education, and protecting the rights of citizens. In addition, the UK's exit from the European Union opens up a huge potential for trade and economic cooperation, and the involvement of British specialists and the expansion of contacts in the field of education will create a solid foundation for joint research and projects.

References:

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