***Unofficial translation***

**Draft**

**PROTOCOL**

**OF THE ELEVENTH MEETING OF THE BELARUSIAN-TURKISH JOINT INTERGOVERNMENTAL**

**ECONOMIC COMMISSION**

The Government of the Republic of Belarus and the Government of the Republic of Turkey (hereinafter – ”the Parties“) in accordance with Article 9 of the Agreement on trade and economic cooperation of September 8, 1993 have established the Belarusian-Turkish Joint Intergovernmental Economic Commission (hereinafter – ”the Commission“), the eleventh meeting of which was held in Minsk, December 6-8, 2021.

The Belarusian delegation was headed by H.E. Vladimir V. Makei, Minister of Foreign Affairs. The Turkish delegation was headed by H.E. Bekir Pakdemirli, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry.

The composition of the delegations of both countries is given in
Annexes 1 and 2.

In order to continue the work of the parties to implement the strategic agreements reached at the highest level in April 2019 in Ankara to increase bilateral trade turnover to 1.5 billion US dollars and ensure the balance of mutual trade, the eleventh meeting of the Commission was held in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding and reflects the intention of the parties in further expansion of trade and economic cooperation.

Following the results of the negotiations, the Parties have agreed on the following.

# 1. On the organization of bilateral visits and contacts at the highest and high levels

1.1. The Parties noted that during the global pandemic of a new coronavirus, the Governments of Belarus and Turkey took necessary measures to prevent infection spread and supported bilateral contacts at the highest and high levels, giving an additional impetus to Belarusian-Turkish relations.

1.2. The Parties emphasized that during the telephone conversation between H.E. Alexander G. Lukashenko, President of the Republic of Belarus, and H.E. Recep T. Erdoğan, President of the Republic of Turkey, in May 2021, they reaffirmed their strong political will to implement their agreements reached in Ankara in April 2019.

1.3. The Commission welcomed the meeting on 15 July 2021 between
H.E. Nikolay G. Snopkov, First Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Belarus with H.E. Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, during the international conference ”Central and South Asia: Regional Interconnectedness. Challenges and Opportunities“ (Tashkent).

1.4. The Parties welcomed the meeting on 22 September 2021 between H.E. Vladimir V. Makei, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus and H.E. Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey in New York during the participation of the Heads of the Foreign Ministries in the events of the 76th session of the UN General Assembly.

1.5. The Parties welcomed the visit of a parliamentary delegation to the Republic of Turkey on 20-21 October 2021 headed by H.E. Andrei V. Savinykh, Chairperson of the Standing Commission on International Affairs of the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus.

1.6.  The Parties underlined the necessity of further systematic and continuous work on the implementation of the agreements reached at the highest and high levels.

# 2. Treaty and legal framework

2.1. The Parties emphasized the importance of further improvement of the legal framework between the Republic of Belarus and the Republic of Turkey, along with more than forty bilateral documents in force.

The Parties have noted that the Agreement on Trade and Economic Cooperation, the Agreement on Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Agreement on Mutual Assistance in Making and Protecting Investments, which form the basis of the treaty and legal framework for trade and economic cooperation between Belarus and Turkey, create a favorable climate and strengthen trade and investment activities of economic entities of the two countries.

The Parties expressed their satisfaction with the signing and entering into force of bilateral international treaties and other documents since the Tenth Meeting of the Commission:

– the Agreement on Cooperation in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear energy (Internal procedures completed by the Turkish Party, signed
on 11 November 2016);

– the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Belarus and the Government of the Republic of Turkey on cooperation in the field of education (entered into force on 3 January 2020);

– the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Belarus and the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Turkey (signed on 5 November 2019);

– the Memorandum of Cooperation between the National Historical Museum of the Republic of Belarus and the Museum of Anatolian Civilizations of the Republic of Turkey (signed in February 2020);

– the Agreement on Cooperation between the Belarusian Republican Foundation for Fundamental Research (BRFFR) and the National Nanotechnology Centre of Turkey (signed in July 2019);

– the Protocol of Intention of cooperation between the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus and the Ministry of National Education of the Republic of Turkey (signed on 30 April 2021);

– the Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Nuclear and Radiation Safety of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Belarus and the Nuclear Regulatory Agency of the Republic of Turkey on Cooperation and information exchange in the field of nuclear safety and radiation protection (signed on 17 August 2020);

– the Agreement on twin cities between Grodno and Edirne (signed in June 2019).

The Commission recommended to finalize and sign the following bilateral documents:

– the Agreement between the Republic of Belarus and the Republic of Turkey on free trade in services;

– the Memorandum of Understanding between the National Bank of the Republic of Belarus and the Banking Regulation and Supervision Agency (Republic of Turkey) in the field of Banking Supervision;

– the Agreement on Cooperation in export lending between the JSC ”Development Bank of the Republic of Belarus“ and Ziraat Bank.

2.2. The Parties emphasized the importance of development of Belarusian-Turkish interregional cooperation through the implementation of previously signed and concluding new twin cities arrangements between cities and regions, as well as by conducting work between administrative authorities with a focus on strengthening trade, economic, scientific and cultural ties.

# 3. Trade, economic and investment cooperation

3.1. The Parties expressed their commitment to developing bilateral trade and investment relations for the benefit of the two countries and confirmed the priority of the following sectors to further enhance economic cooperation:

– refining and petrochemical industry;

– production of parts and components for automotive and agricultural machinery;

– mechanical engineering;

– clothing and textiles;

– forestry, wood processing and furniture manufacturing;

– banking and financial sphere;

–  tourism;

– agriculture, development of trade in meat and dairy products, fruit and vegetables, nuts and dried fruits;

– construction and production of construction materials;

– pulp industry;

– leather industry;

– plastics and rubber industries;

– cosmetics industry;

– production of pharmaceuticals and medical equipment;

– logistics.

3.2. The Parties underlined the importance of further boosting cooperation between private sector entities in order to increase bilateral trade and investment ties. For this purpose, the Parties have agreed to further develop active cooperation between the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB), the Foreign Economic Relations Board of Turkey (DEIK) and the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BelCCI).

3.3. The Parties agreed to hold the second Belarusian-Turkish Investment Forum in the first half of 2022. The forum will be organized by the National Agency of Investment and Privatization of the Republic of Belarus and the Foreign Economic Relations Board of Turkey (DEIK) for businessmen from the two countries to present actual investment projects and inform Belarusian and Turkish business communities about opportunities for bilateral collaboration.

The Parties will consider the possibility of concluding an Agreement on Cooperation in Investment in order to formalize arrangements for the exchange of business delegations, to hold other business events between the two countries and to ensure continuous exchange of information regarding the trade potential of the two countries.

3.4. The Parties emphasized that mutual investments have a great importance for ensuring sustainable economic cooperation and pointed out that a safe and transparent environment for investment projects will contribute to successful cooperation models.

The Parties have agreed to provide necessary support to Belarusian and Turkish investors in implementing projects through the National Agency of Investment and Privatization of the Republic of Belarus and the Investment Office of the Presidency of the Republic of Turkey.

3.5. The Parties have agreed to continue informing Belarusian and Turkish investors about investment opportunities in the Republic of Belarus and the Republic of Turkey, promising projects and the investment climate in free economic zones on the territory of both countries, including in the ”Great Stone“ Industrial Park, as well as to promote interaction between Free Economic Zones (FEZ) of the Republic of Belarus and Organized Industrial Zones (OIZ) of the Republic of Turkey.

3.6. The Belarusian Party noted a considerable imbalance in mutual trade and asked for granting access to the Turkish market for Belarusian agricultural and food products of animal and vegetable origin, as well as for facilitation in promoting promising Belarusian machinery products.

The Belarusian Party will provide a package of commercial proposals on machinery products to the Ministry of Trade of Turkey for further circulation among Turkish business circles and facilitation in finding potential partners.

3.7. The Parties welcomed the start of the project to implement the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Belarus and the Government of the Republic of Turkey on the system of promoting mutual trade dated November 11, 2016.

3.8. The Parties expressed their willingness to work closely together on solving problematic issues arising in the framework of enterprises’ activities on the territory of each country with investments, as well as on settlement of debts between the economic entities of the two countries, in case of their occurrence.

3.9. The Parties welcomed the extension of cooperation between the Belarusian Light Industry Concern ”Bellegprom“ and the Istanbul Textile and Apparel (ready-made clothes) Exporters Associations ”ITKIB“ and agreed to intensify the mutual exchange of business delegations of the member enterprises of these organizations.

3.10. The Parties welcomed the active cooperation between the enterprises belonging to the Belarusian State Concern of Oil and Chemistry ”Belneftekhim“ and the companies belonging to the Turkish Chemical Manufacturers Association ”TCMA“.

The Parties expressed their satisfaction regarding the signing of additional long-term contracts between OJSC ”Naftan“ and the Turkish companies ”AKSA“ and ”Polisar Tekstil“.

3.11. Regarding the joint work for stimulating the growth of mutual trade turnover, the Commission recommended business entities to use more actively the export support system operating in the Republic of Belarus through specialized institutions in the field of export crediting, leasing and insurance of export risks.

The Belarusian Party will provide in the near future to the Turkish Party for its consideration the information on financial mechanisms to support exports.

3.12. The Parties welcomed constructive collaboration and approval of important issues concerning the implementation by the Turkish company ”Güriş Inşaat ve Mühendislik A.Ş.“ of the project for the construction of the ”Veleshkovichi“ wind farm in the Vitebsk Region of the Republic of Belarus.

3.13. The Parties have agreed to provide necessary facilitation to the Ministry of Communications and Informatization of the Republic of Belarus and the Turkish company ”Turkcell İletişim Hizmetleri A.Ş.“ to agree on approaches concerning further development of CJSC ”BeST“.

# 4. Cooperation in the banking and financial sphere

4.1. The Parties pointed out that there are no legislative obstacles for mutual settlements in national currencies and agreed to recommend to the banks of both countries to actively use the Belarusian Ruble and the Turkish Lira for mutual payments.

4.2. The Parties have agreed to recommend to the National Bank of the Republic of Belarus and the Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey to reconsider the possibility of concluding an Agreement on Settlement in national currencies.

4.3. In order to promote the financing of bilateral projects and to ensure the sustainability of the operating environment in mutual settlements of foreign trade contracts, including in national currencies, the Parties expressed their readiness to continue working together on establishing a bank with Turkish capital in Belarus.

4.4. The Belarusian Party pointed out the readiness to provide financial support to the Turkish companies in purchasing goods, works and services from the Belarusian organizations through JSC ”Development Bank of the Republic of Belarus“.

4.5. The Parties have agreed to promote the development of interbank cooperation in terms of financing projects with the insurance coverage provided by the Türk Eximbank, as well as exports of goods and services from Turkey on a country limit or under the guarantees of the Government of the Republic of Belarus.

4.6. The Belarusian Party has noted the readiness of the Joint Stock Company ”Savings Bank ”Belarusbank“ to be a financial expert and provide advisory support in terms of interaction between Belarusian and Turkish businesses.

# 5. Cooperation in the field of industry, science and technology

5.1. The Parties welcomed conduction of the fourth meeting of the Joint Working Group on industrial-technological cooperation in the Republic of Turkey (Istanbul) in January 28-29, 2020 on the level of deputy Ministers of Industry and also conduction of the second meeting of the Joint Belarusian-Turkish commission on cooperation in science and technology in December 1, 2020.

5.2. Parties welcomed further work on bilateral industrial projects.

5.3. The Belarusian Party informed regarding the elaboration with the Turkish company ”Karakaya Industrial Technologies“ of the possibility to promote electric buses to the Turkish market with an assessment of the prospects for establishing an assembly line.

5.4. The Belarusian Party pointed out the prospects for the implementation of projects in Belarus to establish import-substituting production capacities with the participation of Turkish capital.

The Turkish Party will send in the near future to the Belarusian Party information about possible areas for cooperation on the substitution of imported goods from the EU with Turkish products in Belarus and possible establishment of joint production capacities as a response to the proposal of the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Belarus dated on July 26, 2021.

5.5. The Parties welcomed the continuation of work on joint scientific and technical projects in the fields of optical electronics, physics, informatics.

5.6. The Parties expressed their satisfaction with the cooperation in the field of standardization, conformity assessment, accreditation, testing and calibration.

The Parties emphasized the importance of further cooperation between the Turkish Standards Institution (TSE) and the State Committee for Standardization of the Republic of Belarus (GOSSTANDART).

5.7. The Parties expressed their satisfaction with the development of cooperation between the State Committee of Science and Technology, the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK) in the field of information and communication technology, optoelectronics, nanomaterials, etc.

# 6. Cooperation in transport and logistics

6.1. The Parties emphasized the successful cooperation in the transport sphere within the framework of the implementation of the signed intergovernmental agreements on international road transport, on air traffic and air transport cooperation and on international combined transport of goods.

The Parties expressed their satisfaction with the growth in trade and road transportation between the two countries and welcomed the start of the project on information exchange within the framework of the Agreement on mutual trade promotion system.

The Parties have agreed to conduct the next meeting of the Belarusian-Turkish Joint Commission on International Road Transportation in Ankara in 2022 within a timeframe agreed through diplomatic channels.

In order to promote mutual trade, the Commission recommended to the Ministry of Transport and Communications of the Republic of Belarus and the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure of the Republic of Turkey to consider the possibility of providing the necessary number of permits to carriers for the year 2022.

The Parties shall issue and convey through diplomatic channels 6,000 permits for bilateral and transit carriage of goods by road (type ”A“) free of charge, 1,500 permits for bilateral and transit carriage of goods by road (type ”B“) free of charge and 2,000 permits for bilateral and transit carriage of goods by road (type ”C“) free of charge.

6.2. The Parties have agreed to promote the implementation of projects to reduce the cost of cargo delivery between Belarus and Turkey.

6.3. The parties have agreed to enhance contacts between logistics companies of the two countries, including the implementation of joint logistics projects.

6.4. The Commission welcomed the strengthening and further development of bilateral cooperation in the field of air transport.

The Parties have agreed to promote the implementation of the agreements between the national air carriers Belavia Belarusian Airlines and Turkish Airlines.

# 7. Cooperation in the field of agriculture

7.1. The Commission welcomed the conducting of the first meeting of the Belarusian-Turkish Working Group on Agriculture in the format of videoconference on 26 August 2021 and the signing of the Minutes.

The Parties have agreed to increase the volume and nomenclature of mutual supplies of foodstuffs and agricultural raw materials, as well as to intensify work in the following areas:

– Animal health (veterinary) and livestock;

– Phytosanitary and plant production;

– Agriculture and rural development;

– Fisheries and aquaculture.

7.2. The Belarusian Party noted its interest in organizing beef supplies to Turkey and informed the Turkish Party, that it expects the responses to the requests of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food of the Republic of Belarus regarding the following information:

– the list of requested data that the competent authorities of the Republic of Turkey require in order to evaluate the possibility of supplying Belarusian beef;

– a sample veterinary certificate that can be used when supplying beef to Turkey;

– consideration of a sample of the Halal certificate submitted by the Belarusian Party.

7.3. The Parties have agreed to finalize in the first half of 2022 the harmonization of the forms of veterinary certificates for foodstuffs in order to grant access to the Turkish market for Belarusian products of animal origin.

7.4. The Parties have agreed to hold the second meeting of the Belarusian-Turkish Working Group on Agriculture in 2022. The dates of the meeting were proposed to be agreed through diplomatic channels.

#  8. Cooperation in the field of tourism

8.1. The Parties welcomed conduction of the sixth meeting of the Joint Belarusian-Turkish Tourism Commission in Antalya on 12 September 2019.

8.2. The Parties have agreed to continue mutual facilitation in promoting each other’s tourism products and to conduct the next meeting of the Joint Commission on Tourism in Minsk in 2022.

8.3. The Parties have agreed to prepare in the first quarter of 2022 a Programme of cooperation in tourism between the Ministry of Sports and Tourism of the Republic of Belarus and the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Turkey for 2022-2023 and to sign it during the next meeting of the Joint Commission for Tourism.

8.4. The Parties expressed their willingness to continue preparations for the signing of bilateral agreements to increase the number of visa-free days for citizens of both countries up to 90 days in a half year.

# 9. Cooperation in urban planning and construction activities

9.1. The Parties have agreed to continue cooperation and exchange of experience between the competent authorities of the two countries in the fields of high-level social facilities planning, sustainable urban development policy and urban economy, rural planning, urban renewal projects and risk management.

9.2. The Parties emphasied the importance of further interaction in the field of general contracting services to intensify bilateral economic relations and agreed to continue working on the exchange of bilateral visits of delegations and conducting various events in this field.

The Belarusian Party has noted the interest in joint implementation of promising road construction projects included in the State Programme ”Roads of Belarus“ for 2021-2025.

9.3. The Parties have agreed to develop cooperation in the implementation of projects based on the public-private partnership model and to inform each other about the improvement of legislation in this area.

**10. Cooperation in the field of education**

10.1. The Commission welcomed the visit of H.E. Yekta Saraç, President of the Council of Higher Education of the Republic of Turkey, to the Republic of Belarus in October 2019.

10.2. The Parties welcomed the intention of a delegation of the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus headed by H.E. Igor V. Karpenko, Minister of Education of the Republic of Belarus, to visit the Republic of Turkey in order to further develop cooperation with the Council of Higher Education of the Republic of Turkey and the Ministry of National Education of the Republic of Turkey.

10.3. The Parties have agreed to promote cooperation between educational institutions of the Republic of Belarus and the Republic of Turkey on the exchange of experience, training, internships, educational, scientific and cultural events.

**11. Cooperation in the field of prevention and elimination of emergency situations**

11.1. The Commission welcomed the active cooperation of the Parties in the field of elimination of emergency situations and nuclear and radiation safety.

11.2. The Turkish Party has expressed gratitude to the Belarusian Party for its regular assistance in extinguishing forest fires since 2009 and, especially, for the participation of Belarusian crews consisting of two helicopters MI-8 and one helicopter MI-26T in aviation operations on extinguishing large forest fires in south-western Turkey in 2021.

11.3. The Parties have noted effective interaction in the field of nuclear and radiation safety regulations in the two countries.

The Commission has decided to continue interaction in the field of prevention and elimination of emergency situations and has also identified the need to further develop relations by extending the legal and treaty framework for bilateral cooperation.

**12.  Cooperation in healthcare**

The Parties have agreed to continue cooperation and exchange of experience between the competent authorities of the two countries in the field of health care and medical tourism.

# Concluding provisions

The Parties have agreed to conduct the Twelfth meeting of the Belarusian-Turkish Joint Intergovernmental Economic Commission in Ankara on a date to be agreed upon through diplomatic channels.

This Protocol is signed in Minsk on 8 December 2021 in duplicate in Russian and Turkish languages, both texts being equally authentic.

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| **FROM THE GOVERNMENT** **OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS** | FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY |
| **H.E. Vladimir V. Makei** **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_****Minister** **of Foreign Affairs** | **H.E. Bekir Pakdemli****\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_****Minister** **of Agriculture and Forestry** |