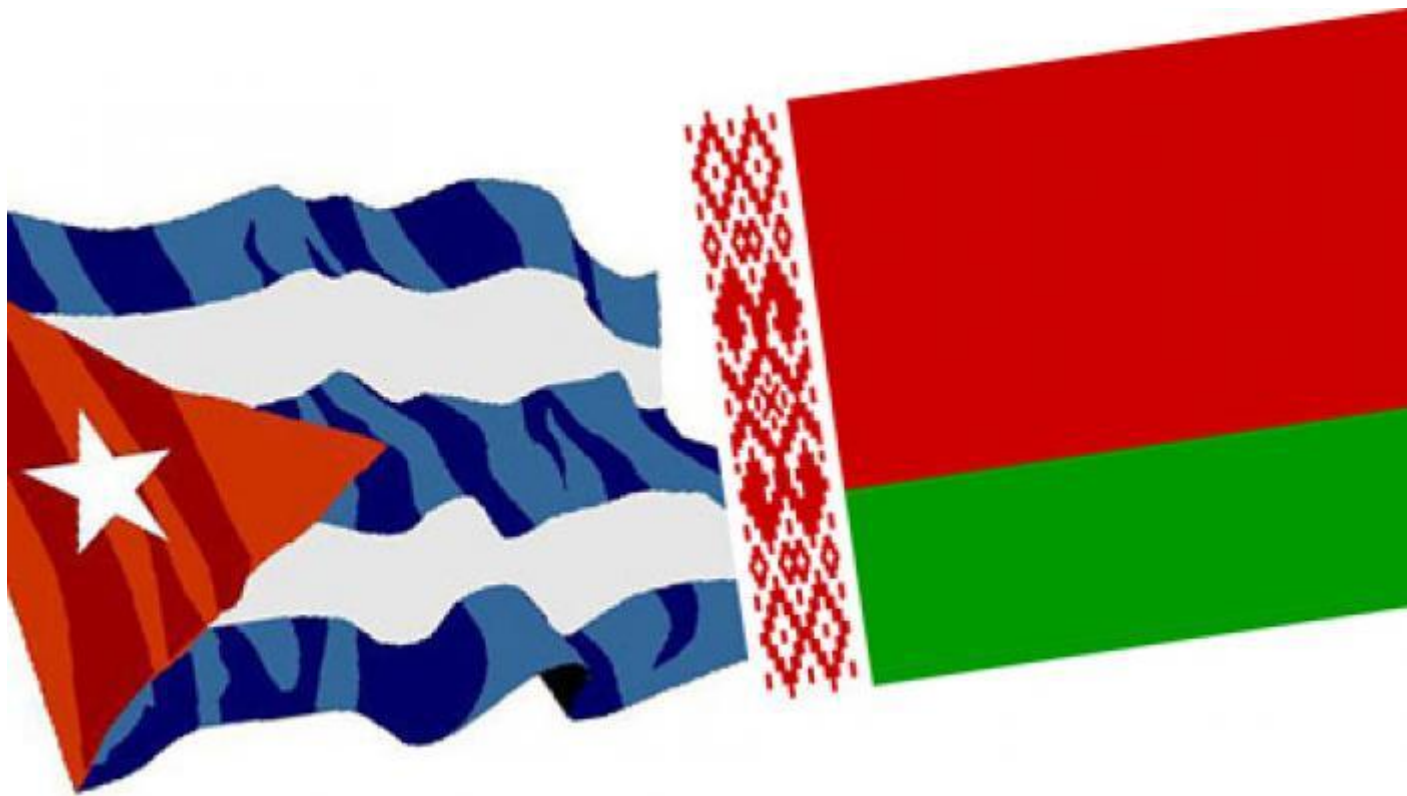


# *Belarus, Cuba to Expand Mutually Beneficial Ties*

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Minsk, April 8 (RHC), – Belarus and Cuba have vowed to further the development of cooperation in all areas, particularly industry and health, BelTA news agency reports.

During a meeting between the Chairman of the National Assembly of Belarus, Anatoly Rubinov, and Cuban ambassador to Belarus, Gerardo Suarez Alvarez, on Monday in Minsk, both sides expressed the willingness of their respective governments to enhance cooperation for the mutual benefit of their two economies and peoples.

Highlighting the high level of political understanding between the two nations, Rubinov also expressed Belarus' condemnation of the economic blockade imposed by the United States on Cuba.

For his part, the Cuban diplomat recalled the great contributions made by Belarusian specialists to the development of Cuban economy, and said expanding Belarusian cooperation with Cuba, worked to the benefit of relations of that European country with Latin America.

The officials also proposed new projects of economic partnership, such as the establishment in Cuba of a specialized facility to repair and refurbish Belarusian machinery, such as tractors and vehicles. They also highlighted pharmaceuticals as one promising area for cooperation.

Belarus and Cuba established diplomatic relations in 1992; however, close friendly ties go back decades, to when the country was part of the Union of Soviet Republics.

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