

There will be more Uzbek vegetables and fruits in Russia

Fruits and vegetables from Uzbekistan will be delivered to Russia according to a simplified scheme. The corresponding agreement was signed in Tashkent on 1 October during a visit to Uzbekistan by a delegation of Russian senators led by Valentina Matvienko. This was reported by "Parliamentary newspaper", Russia.

Now dozens of our companies work in Uzbekistan, and the number of enterprises with Russian participation has long exceeded one thousand. More than seven billion dollars are investments in the country's economy from the Russian oil giant Lukoil, while Gazprom is developing the second field here.

One of the pillars of business contacts is the Russian-Uzbek business council, which so far unites 122 companies. The last important agreement in the framework of his work was signed recently. On 11 September, the business agreed that Ural trucks will now be assembled in Uzbekistan. An agreement was also reached on opening the Uzbek Commodity and Raw Materials Exchange in Chelyabinsk.

During the current visit of the senators, an agreement was signed between two geolocation systems - the Russian GLONASS and the Uzbek SMARTGEO. They expect the growth of the economies of both countries due to the work of joint information services.

On 1 October, representatives of the government and business of Russia and Uzbekistan put their signatures under another document that will help bring more grapes, persimmons, figs, pink pomegranate, tomatoes and other famous Uzbek fruits and vegetables to our country. This is a "road map" that aims to quickly deliver fruit and vegetable products from Uzbekistan to the Russian Federation, including by simplifying customs procedures.



According to the first deputy chairman of the Federation Council Committee on Agrarian and Food Policy and Environmental Management Sergey Lisovsky, Russian confectioners are ready to open their production in Uzbekistan - especially since our sweets in Uzbekistan are very popular.

Russia maintains second place in the list of Uzbekistan's main foreign trade partners, second only to China (16.9 percent of the turnover versus 19 percent). At the same time, the share of Russian exports grew by almost a third last year and made up US\$3.3 billion - compared with 2017, this is more than 20 percent. Basically, metals and transport, wood and agricultural raw materials come from Uzbekistan to us. Textiles and shoes go in the opposite direction - they account for more than half of Uzbek exports to Russia.

"The pace of our cooperation with Uzbekistan is increasing - if in 2016 the trade turnover amounted to US\$2.7 billion, then over two years it grew to US\$4.4 billion," said Ilyas Umakhanov, vice speaker of the Federation Council.

There is every reason to believe that the positive dynamics will continue here - in October 2018, the first forum of interregional cooperation between Russia and Uzbekistan was held in Tashkent. And the results exceeded expectations - more than 800 contracts and agreements were concluded, and the total volume of investments and contracts exceeded US\$27 billion.

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