



PRESS RELEASE

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European Union presents a tool aimed at bringing Kazakhstan's businesses closer to the EU market

ASTANA – European consumers are interested in Kazakhstani products and Kazakhstan's businesses are interested in selling on the EU market. To facilitate this process, the European Union Delegation in Kazakhstan presented the Export Helpdesk at the Astana Economic Forum (3-4 May 2011).

The European Union (EU) is the world's largest single market. Besides, Kazakhstan's businesses enjoy preferential conditions to export to the EU that reduce significantly the import duties when entering the EU market.

Speaking at the IV Astana Economic Forum, the Head of the European Union Delegation to Kazakhstan, Ambassador Norbert Jousten stressed that *"Kazakhstan is an important partner of the EU, and the EU offers various preferential treatments to Kazakhstan,"* adding that *"We are pleased to see that both the EU and Kazakhstan put great emphasis in strengthening the economic and trade relationship both today and in the long term."*

Kazakhstani producers can increase and diversify their exports even more. To inform Kazakhstan's businesses and government officials on how to help them achieve that, Mr. Mushtaq Hussain, Head of Trade Section at the EU Delegation to Kazakhstan, and Ms. Ines Escudero from the European Commission's Trade Department presented the Export Helpdesk at the Astana Economic Forum.

"The Export Helpdesk is the one-stop-shop for Kazakhstani exporters to obtain the necessary information to access European markets. It is a handy Internet-tool that allows to search specific information country-by-country and product-by-product. In just a few clicks you can find out which requirements apply to your product, which forms you need to fill in, how much duties you have to pay and how much you do not have to – as Kazakhstan benefits from a preferential trade arrangement on many products," – commented Mr. Hussain.

Besides, there are statistics and links to European business associations, and all of that is in English and Russian. *"This is a very useful tool for exporters from Kazakhstan and we would like to present it to our members at our next board meeting"* said Mr. Peruashev, Chairman of the Board "Atameken" Union" National Economic Chamber of Kazakhstan.

Take a look at the Export Helpdesk at: www.exporthelp.europa.eu

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The European Union is made up of 27 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders.