



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

MEMO

Astana, 3 June 2013

Joint Communiqué by the President of the European Commission José Manuel Barroso and the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev

Following the invitation extended by H.E. Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev, the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, H.E. Mr. José Manuel Barroso, the President of the European Commission, visited the Republic of Kazakhstan for the first official visit on 2-3 June, 2013.

The meeting provided for a discussion of the current state of affairs in bilateral relations between Kazakhstan and the European Union, as well as regional and international issues. There was mutual interest in deepening and widening bilateral cooperation, raising the interaction in all spheres to qualitatively new levels.

The Presidents agree that the development of relations between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the European Union so far has shown a promising potential for a more strategic partnership and created a solid basis for further expanding of bilateral relations.

The Presidents confirm their interest in proceeding with negotiating and concluding a new enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the Republic Kazakhstan and the European Union as soon as possible, which would reflect a next, more mature stage of mutual relations. They agree on the need to intensify the negotiation process.

Considering that good governance, human rights and fundamental freedoms form a fundamental part of relations and of the political dialogue between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the European Union, the Presidents agree on the importance of continuing engagement and cooperation on promoting human right protection and reform of the legal and judicial system.

Taking into consideration the very significant trade and economic cooperation between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the European Union, and the continued substantial role of the EU, as Kazakhstan's first trading and investment partner, in the development and diversification of Kazakhstan's economy, the Presidents agree that we have a mutual interest in developing cooperation in this vital field of our bilateral relations.

The Presidents welcome the positive results of negotiations on the accession of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the World Trade Organization. President Barroso expresses his support for membership of the Republic of Kazakhstan of the WTO which will help dismantle remaining trade barriers and further boost bilateral trade.

Special significance is attached to the creation of new power capacities and development of energy transportation infrastructure, design and development of high-tech technologies in the field of extraction, processing and use of hydrocarbons and uranium raw materials, attraction of investments into the energy sector on mutually advantageous conditions.

President Barroso underlines the importance of Kazakhstan as a reliable energy partner to the European Union, in particular as a supplier of oil, and in this context looks forward to the upcoming launch of the Kashagan field. He welcomes the good level of cooperation developed in the context of the Memorandum of Understanding on Energy Cooperation signed in 2006 and emphasises the importance of an open investment climate for economic development and expansion of energy resources in the country. He underlines the importance of Kazakhstan's participation in the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI) for the sustainable economic development of the country and encourages Kazakhstan's full accession.

President Barroso also welcomes President Nazarbayev's commitment to a sustainable future, including the Green Economy concept, Astana Expo 2017, the start of emissions trading, and the expansion of renewables.

The importance of promoting dialogue between civilisations, different cultures and beliefs was underlined by the two Presidents and in this regard the work of the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional religions was noted with interest.

Kazakhstan expresses interest in development of the scientific and technical cooperation with the European Union, and is open for joint projects on development of new technologies and alternative energy sources taking into account the plans on transition to «green economy».

Both Presidents share the objective to improve people to people contacts between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the European Union and are ready to work towards progress on this area, building on the intensified cooperation that has developed on issues related to migration, border management, document security and visas

The Republic of Kazakhstan continues to actively support the implementation of the European Union's Strategy for Central Asia.

The Presidents attach great importance to the protection of the environment and rational use of water resources in the region of Central Asia, and intend to further develop our cooperation in these areas.

The Republic of Kazakhstan and the European Union share common approaches to most important issues of regional and international security. The EU highly values Kazakhstan's contribution to facilitate talks on the Iranian nuclear programme by hosting talks in Almaty.

The Presidents agree on the importance of interaction at bilateral and multilateral levels in the prevention of and fight against terrorism, countering violent extremism, organised crime, illegal drug and weapons trafficking.

The Presidents welcome respective efforts directed towards the strengthening of international security and confidence building measures and the launch of an EU-Central Asia High Level Security Dialogue that will meet for the first time in Brussels on 13 June. They agree on the importance of coordinated efforts to promote cooperation in Central Asia and ensure stability and security in Afghanistan, including in the framework of the Istanbul Process.