



DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION TO THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

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**Speech by H.E. Ambassador Aurelia Bouchez, Head of the EU Delegation to Kazakhstan, delivered at the Forum «Innovative Decade», dedicated to the 10th anniversary of «National Agency for Technological Development»,**

*20 September 2013, Astana*

Dear Deputy Prime Minister, Excellences,  
Distinguished Guests,

I am very pleased to participate in today's "Innovative Decade" Forum, dedicated to the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the "National Agency for Technological Development". Let me extend my sincere congratulations and express my appreciation for our excellent cooperation.

This year also marks the 20th anniversary of EU-Kazakhstan diplomatic relations. Throughout these years, investment, high-technologies and promotion of innovation were at the heart of EU-Kazakhstan cooperation.

This translated into a number of high-level visits and joint projects together with the Ministry of Industry and New Technologies, the "National Agency for Technological Development" and other partners.

I would like to make specific mention of one of the most recent and most successful events: the exhibition of EU-Kazakhstan technologies and the discussion panel "EU-Kazakhstan cooperation through innovation" on the occasion of Astana Economic Forum. This example illustrates well our common willingness to develop concrete projects, thus paving the way for the future.

Let me say a few words about our cooperation perspectives.

Innovation is a broad subject, involving issues of trade policy, regulations, technical standards, procurement and competition. I will focus on two key elements of innovation where the EU has long experience, and which may be of interest to Kazakhstan, its policy makers, its companies, research institutes and universities.

These two elements are cooperation in scientific research and technology transfer.

The European Union's chief instrument for funding research is the Seventh Framework Programme for research and technological development (FP7). FP7 provides possibilities for Kazakhstan scientists to join research and technological development projects with European research institutions. A number of innovative projects are being implemented, such as development of new solutions for use of Coal Mine Methane in a manner compliant with the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

The next programme, Horizon 2020, will have a reinforced focus on innovation. The programme will start next year and it will offer new opportunities for cooperation with the EU. Participants

from Kazakhstan will be able to join with European consortia and make joint proposals to the programme.

The Horizon 2020 proposal has several key pillars. Two of them, Industrial Leadership and Societal Challenges, offer many opportunities for cooperation in key enabling technologies, such as ICT, nanotechnologies and biotechnology, as well as cooperation in manufacturing and space research and innovation.

The pillars on Societal Challenges address such issues as health, food security, efficient energy, transport, climate and secure societies. These are major issues for our societies today.

It is noteworthy to mention that some other EU international partners, such as Russia and China, are considering maximizing benefit from the programme by providing direct funding to their participants. This approach may be interesting for Kazakhstan as well.

May I also underline that Kazakhstan can usefully continue dialogue with European institutions regarding participation in the Enterprise Europe Network, which gives direct access to a database of around 13,000 technologies. These technologies are offered by research and industry experts looking for partners to develop new ideas. The Enterprise Europe Network will be closely coordinated with Horizon 2020.

There are excellent opportunities for cooperation also under the EU INCONET project. The programme funds the interested partners with "twinning" schemes to link industries, institutes and universities from Kazakhstan with EU partners.

Let me conclude, once again, by expressing my sincere congratulations to the National Agency for Technological Development on its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

I would also like to express my appreciation to Deputy Prime Minister Isshekeshev, FP7 National Coordinator and other partners for their continuous efforts and support for innovation processes. I hope that our successful cooperation will continue for another decade.

The space for innovation actions is big, especially because the EU and Kazakhstan have different characteristics and needs that can be complementary. Indeed, this can be a "win-win" cooperation, which will contribute powerfully to the diversification of the economy of Kazakhstan and to the goals of Strategy 2050.

Thank you for your attention.