



DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION TO THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

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**Speech delivered by Ambassador Aurélia Bouchez, Head of the European Union Delegation to Kazakhstan, at the Panel "Prospects of Cooperation KZ-EU: European technology platforms and targeted technological programmes of Kazakhstan" in the framework of VII Astana Economic Forum**

*Astana, 22 May 2014*

Mr. Vice-Minister,

Honorable guests,

I am very pleased to participate in today's Congress on Innovations. I would like to express my sincere congratulations to the organizers for excellent organization and continuous efforts in support of innovation processes in Kazakhstan.

Research and innovation was at the heart of EU-Kazakhstan cooperation. This translated into a number of joint projects together with the Ministry of Industry and new Technologies, "National Agency for Technological Development" and other partners.

Innovation is a broad subject, involving issues of trade policy, regulations, technical standards, procurement and competition, amongst others. I will focus on two key elements of innovation where the EU has a 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.

A number of innovative projects are being implemented under the Seventh Framework Programme for research and technological development (FP7), such as e.g. the development of new solutions for use of Coal Mine Methane in a manner, compliant with the reduction of GHG emissions.

The launch of the new EU Research and Innovation programme Horizon 2020 will open new opportunities for our cooperation. It is the biggest European Union ever with nearly EUR 80 billion of funding available over 7 years (2014 to 2020) – in addition to the private investment that this money will attract.

Recognising the global nature of producing and using knowledge, Horizon 2020 builds on the success of international cooperation in previous framework programmes and is fully open to participation from third countries. Horizon 2020 is open to everyone, with a simple structure that reduces red tape and time so participants can focus on what is really important. This approach makes sure new projects get off the ground quickly – and achieve results faster.

Each year, the programme "Horizon 2020" launches about 1500 collaborative research and innovation projects. They are all open to participating partners from Kazakhstan. All projects are selected through competitive peer review, giving Kazakh participants a chance to qualify themselves and compete at international level. Kazakhstan's researchers from universities, institutes, firms are strongly encouraged to participate and benefit from this programme.

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 participations. This opportunity may be interesting for Kazakhstan as well.

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

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

The space for our cooperation on innovation actions is big, especially because the EU and Kazakhstan have different characteristics and needs that can be complementary.

I strongly believe that this can be a "win-win" cooperation, which will contribute powerfully to the diversification of the economy of Kazakhstan and to goals of Strategy 2050.

Thank you for your attention and wish you very fruitful discussions.