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The EU Newsletter No. 190

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Welcome to the EU Newsletter. This Newsletter will keep you abreast of all important developments in the EU and its relations with Kazakhstan.

- EU Industry: Economic recovery continues at a slower pace
- The Commission proposes to open negotiations on Visa Facilitation and Readmission Agreements with Azerbaijan and Armenia
- The EU project expert participated in the International Conference on Accreditation held in Astana
- The EU holds CENTRAL ASIA INVEST networking meeting in Almaty
- EU project continues to train experts from Central Asia and Mongolia for uniform methods of handling regional bio-safety challenges
- Experts of the EU project consider that over 60% of the recommendations of the National Action Plan for Human Rights at the stage of inquest, investigation and trial are not fulfilled in Kazakhstan

EU Industry: Economic recovery continues at a slower pace

Brussels 19 September 2011 - In the last three months to July 2011, manufacturing production was 4.5% higher than a year ago, but was almost unchanged compared to the first quarter. Manufacturing production in recent months has been affected by supply disruptions stemming from the Japanese tsunami. Manufacturing output is now some 14% higher than its trough in early 2009 and still 8% below its peak in early 2008.

[Press release](#)

The Commission proposes to open negotiations on Visa Facilitation and Readmission Agreements with Azerbaijan and Armenia

Brussels, 19 September 2011 – Today the Commission proposed to open negotiations on agreements to facilitate the procedures for issuing short-stay visas as well as on the readmission of irregular migrants between the European Union and Azerbaijan.

"Easier access to visas will improve cooperation and exchanges between the EU and Azerbaijan. Visa facilitation and readmission agreements are very tangible results of the Eastern partnership and I know how much this means to the citizens of these countries", said Cecilia Malmström, EU Commissioner for Home Affairs. [Press release](#)

The EU project expert participated in the International Conference on Accreditation held in Astana

The EU-funded project “Development and Implementation of Trade Policies and Regulations” participated in the International Conference on Accreditation organized by the Kazakhstan National Centre on Accreditation (NCA). This Conference took place on 16 September 2011, in Astana (Kazakhstan) enjoying the participation of prominent personalities of the international accreditation community. Ms. Daniela Clejanu, the Project’s senior long-term expert in the MSTQ area, made a presentation about the international practice of accreditation of medical laboratories for compliance with ISO 15189. [Press release](#)

The EU holds CENTRAL ASIA INVEST networking meeting in Almaty

A two-day networking meeting CENTRAL ASIA INVEST takes place in Almaty on 20-21 September in the framework of the eponymous EU programme. The Central Asia Invest gathers together projects partners, beneficiaries, the EU representatives and Government Officials from the different Central Asian countries. The event offers a platform for all programme stakeholders to develop further their initiatives and share experience on private sector development in Central Asia. [Press release](#)

EU project continues to train experts from Central Asia and Mongolia for uniform methods of handling regional bio-safety challenges

The EU project for providing bio-safety and bio-security training opens a new training season in 2011-2012 academic year for experts from Central Asia and Mongolia. The project started in 2010 and targeted to improve bio-safety and bio-security in the region by raising the scientific and practical skills of the personnel working at the supervising relevant laboratories in the region. [Press release](#)

Experts of the EU project consider that over 60% of the recommendations of the National Action Plan for Human Rights at the stage of inquest, investigation and trial are not fulfilled in Kazakhstan

One is currently fully executed, three are partially executed, 11 - are not executed of the 17 major recommendations stated in the paragraph "Right to a fair trial" of the National Plan for Human Rights, a number of recommendations is not covered anywhere else and not taken into account. These data were presented at the regular expert review of the effectiveness of the measures for the protection of civil and political rights and freedoms of the Kazakhstani people under National Plan. [Press release](#)

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[Statement by High Representative Catherine Ashton on the situation in Yemen](#)

[Statement by the High Representative Catherine Ashton at the UN High Level Symposium on International Counter-Terrorism Cooperation](#)