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FACT SHEET

EU-Kazakhstan Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement

On 12 September 2014 in Astana, the European Union and the Republic of Kazakhstan successfully concluded the negotiations of the EU-Kazakhstan Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement. The President of the European Commission Mr Jose Manuel Barroso and the President of Kazakhstan Mr Nursultan Nazarbayev will meet in Brussels on 9 October 2014 to confirm the conclusion of negotiations.

This is an important moment both for the EU and Kazakhstan as the new Agreement will significantly deepen political and economic ties between the two sides for the benefit of the people of both Kazakhstan and Europe.

Objectives and content of the Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement

The EU-Kazakhstan Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement counts about 280 pages and is comprised of 9 Titles as follows: *General Principles and Aims of this Agreement; Political Dialogue, Cooperation in the Field of Foreign and Security Policy; Trade and Business; Cooperation in the Area of Economic and Sustainable Development; Cooperation in the Area of Justice, Freedom and Security; Other Cooperation Policies; Financial and Technical Cooperation; Institutional Framework; and General and Final Provisions.*

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Main areas of cooperation:

Values: the Agreement puts a strong emphasis on democracy and the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms and sustainable development.

Enhanced cooperation in foreign and security policy, with the focus on regional stability, weapons of mass destruction (WMD), international cooperation in the fight against terrorism, conflict prevention and crisis management;

Trade: the Agreement ensures better regulatory environment for the economic operators in areas such as trade in services, establishment and operation of companies, capital movements, raw materials and energy, government procurement and intellectual property rights;

Justice, Freedom and Security, covering the rule of law, data protection, migration, the fight against money laundering and terrorism, tackling illicit drugs, and the fight against organised crime and corruption;

Enhanced cooperation in some other 29 key sector policy areas, including in the sectors of economic and financial cooperation, energy, transport, environment and climate change, employment and social affairs, culture, education and research.

Implementation and immediate benefits

Once signed and implemented, concrete benefits can flow from the Agreement. Examples include a better protection of consumers including lower prices and better-quality products; more business opportunities for small and medium enterprises, as a result, more jobs; more efficient use of energy and the development of renewable energy sources; a better functioning judiciary sector, a strengthened rule of law and increased transparency.

The Agreement foresees provisional application so that positive impacts can be expected already prior to ratification.

Background

Kazakhstan is the first Central Asian partner to have concluded an Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement with the EU. The new Agreement will replace the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement in force since 1999, and will give EU – Kazakhstan relations a new up-to-date and stronger foundation.

Over the past decades, the EU has become Kazakhstan's first trading partner and first foreign investor, representing over half of total FDI in Kazakhstan. Bilateral trade amounts to above 31 billion EUR, from which 24 billion EUR is Kazakhstan's exports, notably oil, while about 7,5 billion EUR is EU exports to Kazakhstan, mainly manufactured goods, machinery and equipment.