



# ORASAM

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### 7TH SUMMIT OF THE TURKIC COUNCIL HAS BEEN HELD IN BAKU



The 7th Summit of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking Countries was held in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan.

At the summit, Turkic Council member state leaders gave important messages regarding the unity among Turkic states. According to information received from Anadolu Agency news website, President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev, President of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Founding President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of Kyrgyzstan Sooronbay Jeenbekov and President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev participated in the summit. The Prime Minister of Hungary Viktor Orban, a member of the Turkish Council observer and Purlı Agamuradov, Deputy Prime Minister of Turkmenistan, who participated in the activities, although not a member also attended the meeting.

**Aliyev: "Cooperation is one of the priorities of Azerbaijan's foreign policy"**

In his speech at the meeting, Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev thanked Kyrgyzstan for its successful term presidency. Aliyev congratulated Uzbekistan on its participation in the Council and said that this decision of Uzbekistan will contribute to the strengthening of the unity in the Turkic world and the deepening of cooperation. He

stated that cooperation with Turkic-speaking countries is one of the priorities of Azerbaijan's foreign policy. Aliyev said, "Azerbaijan will continue its efforts for the further development of both bilateral and multilateral cooperation between our countries during the presidency of the Turkic Council."

**Nazarbayev: "A new history page opens"**

Kazakhstan's founding President Nursultan Nazarbayev said that the union between the Turkic states made him happy. Nazarbayev said that they welcomed Uzbekistan to be a full member and Hungary to be an observer country, and said, "A new history page opens. The Turkic Council has gained significant political and economic popularity globally. We have also increased our integration. Interaction between Turkic countries is taking to a new level." Nazarbayev, pointing out that Turkic civilization has very deep roots, said, "The unity of the Turkic world can be expressed clearly with the promise of trust for me. I choose the words rebirth and trust to describe our association. At the same time, the word 'brotherhood' means a lot to me."

**Jeenbekov: "We are ready to cooperate with business people from the member states of the Council"**

President of Kyrgyzstan Sooronbay Jeenbekov said, "Today,

many commercial organizations from Turkey, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan operate in Kyrgyzstan. The member states of the Council should use their economic power. In this context, Kyrgyzstan successfully takes the necessary steps in the fields of enlarging the commercial freight transport corridor, energy, light industry and agriculture. We are also expanding bilateral relations in the fields of logistics, freight transport, tourism and innovation technologies. We are ready to cooperate with the business people we will agree from the member states of the Turkic Council in these areas.”

**Mirziyoyev: “A historical day for Uzbekistan”**

President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev stated that this day is ‘a historical day’ for them and that Uzbekistan joined the Turkic Council as a full member. Mirziyoyev talked about the economic achievements of his country in recent years. Mirziyoyev reminded that 40 percent of the population of the Turkic Council countries is composed of young people, and suggested that the Young Entrepreneurs Forum be formed and the first meeting to be held in Uzbekistan.

**Erdogan: “Quotas are the biggest obstacle to our trade”**

President of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan stated that as the Turkish Council, commercial quotas should be abolished because quotas are the biggest obstacle to trade. Erdogan said that measures should be taken to reduce foreign exchange pressure in the economy, stressed that the biggest threat to the Middle East peace is the terrorist organizations. President Erdoğan stated that The Operation Peace Spring against terrorism in the north of Syria has two important aims, the first of these is to free the region from terrorism, and the other is to ensure the return of the Syrians to these regions free of terrorism. President Erdogan especially stressed that they expect solidarity in this Turkey’s survival fight. Hungary’s Prime Minister Viktor Orban said that they are an observer member to contribute to the Turkic Council and that they want to play an important role in bringing the institution closer to Europe. He added that the Turkic Council’s Budapest office would play a major role in this. Deputy Prime Minister of Turkmenistan Purlı Agamuradov stated that they care and support the Turkic Council. Stating that the Turkish Council is one of the most important international organizations, Agamuradov said that their participation in the summit is an indication of Turkmenistan’s special interest in the issue.

**Presidency of the Turkic Council passed to Azerbaijan**

At the summit, due to his great contributions to the Turkic world, İlham Aliyev presented the title of ‘Honorary President of the Turkic Council for Lifetime’ to Nursultan Nazarbayev, the founding President of Kazakhstan.

At the end of the summit, the main subject of which was “Development of Small and Medium Enterprises”, the declaration including the support decision to The Operation Peace Spring of Turkey’s was accepted.

The Presidency of the Turkic Council passed from Kyrgyzstan to Azerbaijan. President of Azerbaijan Aliyev announced that the next summit would be held in Turkey next year with the suggestion of President Erdogan.

## TURKIC BUSINESS AND INVESTMENT FORUM WAS HELD IN TASHKENT

Meeting of the Turkic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (TCCI) and Turkic Business and Investment Forum were held on 5 October 2019 in Tashkent.

More than 600 business people and officials from Azerbaijan, Turkey, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Hungary participated in Forum organized for the first time this year in cooperation with the Turkic Council and the Government of Uzbekistan.

At the opening of the forum Rifat Hisarcıkıoğlu, president of Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) and Turkic Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said, “We are the only nation with 6 different countries. 1.1 trillion dollars in economic size, 560 billion dollars in foreign trade volume and a population of 160 million. So together, we become a global power.”

Stating that the total trade volume between these countries constitutes 9 billion dollars and this is far below the current potential; Hisarcıkıoğlu added that Turkey’s investment in the member states of the Turkic Council was about 15 billion dollars, the total investments in Turkey of these countries were 8 billion dollars and these figures should be further increased.

**“We must work together and rise together”**

Hisarcıkıoğlu stated that trade is the greatest source of peace and prosperity and said, “We must first remove trade barriers between our countries and increase trade with each other. “

**“We must increase trade relations”**

The Secretary General of the Turkic Council Baghdad Amreyev stressed the importance of Uzbekistan’s membership in the Turkish Council. He said, “This decision of the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev is a historical decision. We are very pleased that this decision coincides with the 10th anniversary of the signing of the Nakhichevan Agreement and the 7th Summit of the Turkic Council. The relations between Uzbekistan and other Turkic-speaking countries will expand further under the unifying banner of the Turkic Council.”

President Shavkat Mirziyoyev proposed to hold a Turkic Business and Investment Forum in Tashkent at the 6th Summit of the Turkic Council last year in Kyrgyzstan. President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Uzbekistan Adham Ikramov said that the forum would contribute to the further development of cooperation between these countries.

Within the forum, Joint Turkish Chamber of Commerce and Industry Consultation Meeting was held with the participation of the heads of Turkey, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Hungary chambers of commerce and industry.

## BUS SERVICES BETWEEN KYRGYZSTAN AND UZBEKISTAN STARTED



The Kyzyl Kiya-Fergana- Kyzyl Kiya route bus services began between Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.

According to Asiatv.kg site, representatives of the Mayor of Kyzyl Kiya, members of the Kyzyl Kiya city council and

representatives of the Fergana region of the Presidency of Uzbekistan attended to the opening ceremony of the new route.

The first passengers of the newly opened bus service was not charged. The price for the route from Kyzyl Kiya to Fergana is estimated to be 65 Kyrgyzstani som (1 US dollar). Bus service on the Kyzyl Kiya -Fergana- Kyzyl Kiya route will be held every day between 09.00, 10.00, 14.00 and 15.00 from Kyzyl Kiya bus station. On 25 September 2019, bus services were opened on the route between Andijan and Uzbekistan's Osh cities of Kyrgyzstan and the fare was set at 100 Kyrgyzstani som (1.5 US dollars). After the events of 2005 in the Andijan province of Uzbekistan, Uzbekistan unilaterally closed the border crossing with Kyrgyzstan. After the talks between the presidents and prime ministers of the two sides between 2016 and 2017, it was decided to open the border gates again.

## CENTRAL ASIA RAILWAY SUMMIT HELD IN ANKARA



Central Asian Rail Summit, hosted by Turkey State Railways (TCDD) was held in Ankara with the participation of officials of Iran, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and Turkmenistan.

According to information received from Kabar.kg news site, at the Central Asian Railway Summit, container transportation tariff, establishment of logistics centers, opening of railway lines and cooperation in this area were discussed. The summit was held in Ankara Hotel Conference Hall with the participation of TCDD General Manager Ali İhsan Uygun, Chairman of the Board of TCDD Transportation Inc. Kamuran Yazıcı, Chairman of the National Railways of Kazakhstan Sauat Mynbaev, Deputy Minister of Iranian Road and Urbanization Saeid Rasouli, Vice President of Turkmenistan Railways Agency Receptmammət Receptmammedov and Chairman of Uzbekistan Railways Husnitdin Hasilov. In the summit where the lines and common tariffs to be established within the framework of the Southern Transport Corridor

for international rail transport are discussed, China-Kazakhstan-Uzbekistan-Turkmenistan-Iran-Turkey route in terms of container transport was laid on the table of tariffs. At the summit, the arrangements for the circulation of freight wagons in accordance with international standards of TCDD by bilateral agreements were evaluated, focused on making logistics centers in connecting points in certain regions of Turkey, Iran and Kazakhstan. After the talks, the Central Asian Railways Summit Goodwill Protocol was signed between the parties.

“We aim to increase trade volume.”

TCDD Director General Uygun, in his speech, stated that the trade between Europe and Asia is increasing day by day, said the situation makes railways more attractive. Within this scope, the Director emphasized that they aim to increase the trade volume among the countries of the region by creating a new transportation corridor, which may also be called the Southern Transportation Corridor also noted: “In recent years, China has been implementing important projects to improve its transport network. This project with fly freight trains from China, South Transport Corridor rail line from Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, a major commercial opportunity for our countries to reach Europe via Iran and Turkey. I firmly believe that we will turn this opportunity into profit on behalf of our countries through close cooperation. As TCDD, we always wish to contribute to our cooperation and to keep our relations at the highest level.” The Southern Transport Corridor is seen as the new silk route, as it is of great importance for the Chinese trade, especially transportation and transport, to the west through Central Asia.

## PRESIDENT JEENBEKOV VISITED TOKYO ROPE MFG CENTER



On 21.09.19, Kyrgyz President Sooronbay Jeenbekov visited the head office of Tokyo Rope MFG Company, Japan's technological rope manufacturer in Tokyo. According to the KirTAG news agency, President Jeenbekov had the opportunity to see the company's activities in place and had a meeting with Tokyo Rope MFG Chairman Shigeto Tanaka. At the meeting, opinions were exchanged on investment and cooperation issues. President Jeenbekov stated that almost all of the

agreements signed in Bishkek during the meetings with Tokyo Rope MFG Company Managers between 2017 and 2018 have been implemented today and the company's subsidiary in Kyrgyzstan has been operating successfully. President Jeenbekov said, "We need a lot of investments. We would like to cooperate with large organizations like you in investment with Japan. Japan has helped us since independence."

Tokyo Rope MFG Chairman Shigeto Tanaka shared plans to expand the activities of the subsidiary of the company operating in Kazakhstan, Sri Lanka and the Philippines in Bishkek with President Jeenbekov. Shigeto Tanaka stressed that the company is interested in the development of cooperation with Kyrgyzstan and said that they wanted to contribute to the development of Kyrgyzstan's economy through the implementation of modern and innovative technologies.

With the support of the Japanese government, the company's subsidiary in Bishkek carries out joint projects in Kyrgyzstan. The avalanche deflection walls continue to be installed against the danger of avalanches on the Bishkek-Osh highway.

Tokyo Rope MFG is one of the world's largest manufacturers of high-tech ropes and derivatives, and its subsidiary in Bishkek began operations in 2017.

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## NEW ERA IN TRADE RELATIONS BETWEEN KYRGYZSTAN AND TURKEY

At the meeting of the Committee on International Relations and Protection of the National Assembly of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan on 15.10.19, the law project "Supporting and Protecting Investments Law" between the Republic of Kyrgyzstan and the Republic of Turkey was discussed. According to the news website Tazabek.kg, Deputy Minister of Economy of Kyrgyzstan Sultan Ahmatov said in a statement that the purpose of this law to attract investments from Turkey and to provide appropriate opportunities for Kyrgyz investors in Turkey. Within the framework of this law, it is aimed to protect the rights of Turkish investors in Kyrgyzstan and to improve the trade relations of the parties. In 2017, the foreign trade volume between the two countries was 356.1 million US dollars and in 2018, this amount reached 394.5 million dollars. In the first eight months of 2019, this figure has reached 190.8 million dollars.



## JEENBEKOV INVITED TURKIC LANGUAGE STATES TO COOPERATE

President of Kyrgyzstan Sooronbay Jeenbekov invited the member states of the Turkic Council to cooperate closely in the fields of information technologies and green economy. According to Azattyk.org, President Jeenbekov addressed this issue at the 7th Council of Turkic Summit held in Baku, Azerbaijan on 15.10.19. At the summit, the main subject of which was “Development of Small and Medium Enterprises”, President Jeenbekov said that cooperation on trade, economy and investment should be improved and Kyrgyzstan’s door is always open for business people with whom we agree to come from Turkic-language countries. President Jeenbekov said, “Today, many commercial organizations from Turkey, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan operate in Kyrgyzstan. We would like to improve our business experience with our partners from Azerbaijan and Hungary. The total trade volume of the member states is around 1.5 trillion USD. Therefore, the member states of the Council should use their economic power. In this context, Kyrgyzstan successfully takes the necessary steps in the fields of enlarging the commercial freight transport corridor, energy, light industry and agriculture. We are also expanding bilateral relations in the fields of logistics, freight transport, tourism and innovation technologies. We are



ready to cooperate with the business people we will agree from the member states of the Turkic Council in these areas.

The 7th Turkic Council was held on 15.10.19 in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan. The Council of Turkic Speaking Countries among Turkic republics was established with the Nakhchivan Agreement signed in Nakhchievan city of Azerbaijan 10 years ago. On 14.09.2019, Uzbekistan became a member of the Turkic Council.

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## JEENBEKOV AND ERDOGAN MET IN BAKU



President of the Kyrgyz Republic Sooronbay Jeenbekov, at the 7th Summit of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking Countries in Baku, Azerbaijan, had a meeting

with President of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

According to Kabar.kg news site, issues of cooperation were discussed between Kyrgyzstan and Turkey during the meeting between leaders of the two countries. In the negotiations, Jeenbekov stressed that Turkey is Kyrgyzstan’s brother and friendly country. Leader of Kyrgyzstan also pointed out that the relations between the countries increased after President Erdoğan’s official visit to Kyrgyzstan in September 2018.

President Erdogan congratulated his counterpart President Jeenbekov on the success of Kyrgyzstan’s presidency of the Turkic Council. Sides stated that they are ready to strengthen the joint efforts in line with previous agreements on cooperation in priority areas on the common agenda and increase bilateral trade volume between the two countries to 1 billion US dollars.

## THE EUROPEAN UNION INVESTED 150 MILLION DOLLARS IN KAZAKHSTAN

On 01.09.19, the Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Askar Mamin held a meeting with the diplomatic representatives of the member states of the European Union in order to discuss the next steps in developing cooperation on investment.

According to information from Zakon.kz, the parties discussed the results of the resolutions adopted at the first meeting held three months ago. In the first meeting, issues such as investment, agriculture and animal husbandry, energy, cargo transportation, customs, environmental protection, opening of domestic goods to the European Union markets were discussed along with the current commercial-economic issues.

The total cost of investments from European Union countries is more than half of the investments in Kazakhstan. From 2005 to the first half of 2019, the European Union invested 150 billion USD in the Kazakh economy. Moreover, the European Union is seen as the largest trading partner of



Kazakhstan. Based on July 2019, the total trade volume of the two sides reached 20 billion USD.

Prime Minister Askar Mamin said that Kazakhstan is a center of attraction for investors and boosting business activities is one of the main areas and objectives of the government.

## UK INCREASES INVESTMENTS IN KAZAKHSTAN



The UK began to invest more in Kazakhstan: gross inflow of direct investments increased by 17% per year, Kazpravda.kz reports with reference to Finprom.kz .

Great Britain is one of the main strategic partners of Kazakhstan. According to the results of the first half of the

year, the gross inflow of direct investments from the UK to the Republic of Kazakhstan increased by 17.2% and amounted to \$ 336.5 million (a year earlier - \$ 287 million). In general, in 2018 the gross inflow of direct investments reached \$ 593.1 million, an increase of 11.1% compared to 2017 (\$ 533.8 million). So, over the past 10 years, the influx of direct investment from the UK to Kazakhstan amounted to \$ 8.8 billion.

For 12 months of 2018, trade between Kazakhstan and the United Kingdom amounted to \$ 1.3 billion, a slight decrease of 1.9% per year. The main share in the turnover is the export of Kazakhstani goods and services - 63%, or \$ 793.9 million, while imports from the UK reached \$ 466.8 million, or 37%.

As of the end of September of this year, 644 legal entities, branches and representative offices with British participation were registered in Kazakhstan, of which 395 were active. 345 small, 20 medium and 30 large companies with British capital are operating in Kazakhstan.

Also, investors from the UK significantly funded financial and insurance activities (\$ 2.4 billion) and mining and quarrying (\$ 1.8 billion).

## KAZAKHSTAN INCREASED OIL AND NATURAL GAS PRODUCTION

According to the information provided by the Ministry of Energy of Kazakhstan after the renewal of 3 refineries in 2018 crude oil processing capacity of these refineries reportedly increased.

According to the Kp.kz site, the renewed three refineries have a total production capacity of 12.7 million tons of petroleum products. Compared to the same period last year, this indicator has increased by 5%, of which 15% is gasoline and 10% is motor oil. The fuel production used in the aviation sector has doubled.

Deputy Minister of Energy of Kazakhstan Mahambet Dosmuhammetov said, "We have a surplus of gasoline stock in the domestic market. Therefore, we have started to sell gasoline to the countries outside the Eurasian Economic Community (EURASEC) region since July last year in order to support domestic production and this sale has reached 36 thousand tons."

According to the findings of Kazakhstan Deputy Minister of Energy Mahambet Dosmuhammetov, oil and gas production in the country has increased noticeably and today the amount of crude oil obtained from the oil wells reaches 67 million tons. 40.6 million tons of this amount was obtained from the following three major refineries: 10.1 million tons from the Kashagan Refinery, 22 million tons from the Tengiz Refinery and 8.5 million tons from the Karachaganak Refinery.



Natural gas production reached 41.8 billion cubic meters and the production plan was 102.3%. The amount of gas exported is 24.6 billion cubic meters and the production plan has been realized as 105%.

50% of Kazakhstan's people use natural gas. In other words, 9 million citizens in Kazakhstan have the opportunity to use natural gas. Since last year, 73 projects have been implemented to provide natural gas services in Kazakhstan.

## 700 MILLION DOLLAR PROJECT BETWEEN KAZAKHSTAN AND GERMANY



A business forum was held between Kazakhstan and Germany in Berlin, Germany.

According to the information dated 07.10.19 from Zakon.kz, Deputy Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Roman Sklyar chaired the officials from Kazakhstan.

Within the framework of the business forum, more than 200 company officials from two countries exchanged ideas. In the course of the Forum, investment projects, trade and economy were discussed. In addition, the total cost of the project between the companies of Germany and Kazakhstan was estimated to be 700 million USD.

In 2018, the total trade volume between the two countries reached a record level of 5.1 billion euros. This represents 85% of Germany's foreign trade volume with all Central Asian countries. In the last 14 years, Germany has invested 5 billion USD in Kazakhstan's economy.

## PROCESSED PRODUCT EXPORT IN KAZAKHSTAN WILL INCREASE BY 1.5 TIMES

Kazakhstan's volume of processed product export will increase by 1.5 times by 2022.

According to the Kazpravda.kz news site, Deputy Prime Minister for Trade and Integration of the Republic of Kazakhstan Kayrat Torebayev gave information at a press conference in the central communications service.

Torebayev gave information about the support provided by Kazakhstan to the export of processed products to neighboring countries. According to Torebayev's statement, the state support provided by the Kazakhstan Government will have a major impact on the increase in exports.

In the message of the President of Kazakhstan dated 2 September 2019, it was announced that the Ministry of Trade and Integration has been assigned a major duty. It was stated that this task was to facilitate the access of export products to neighboring countries such as Russia, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and China, as stated by Torebayev. In the message given, it was announced that all legal conditions for efficient cooperation with neighboring countries on export were prepared.

Deputy Prime Minister for Trade and Integration Torebayev said that in recent years there has been a noticeable increase in export volume. According to data provided



by Torebayev last year, 19% of Kazakhstan's exports to Russia (18.5 billion dollars, 13.1% increase), 12.3% China (11.7 billion dollars, 11%) , 4% increase), 2.9% Uzbekistan (2.8 billion dollars, 40% increase), 1% Kyrgyzstan (900.5 million dollars, 17.7% increase), 0.1% and Turkmenistan (98.1 million dollars, 1.5% decline).

According to the data of the Deputy Prime Minister in charge of Trade and Integration, which draws attention to the studies carried out by the state, Kazakhstan processed exports of processed products will increase by 1.5 times by 2022 and by 2 times by 2025.

## HELICOPTER EXPORT FROM KAZAKHSTAN



Airbus brand helicopters which were assembled for the first time in Kazakhstan were exported. The turn-key ceremony for the first part of domestic assembly helicopters was held in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan's capital on 28.10.19 with the participation of buyers from Tajikistan.

According to information from the news site Ca-news.org, helicopter manufacturer Eurocopter Kazakhstan Engineering LLP company established in partnership with Kazakhstan-France-Germany and the Tajikistan airline company Somon Air officials participated in the turn-key ceremony of domestic assembly helicopters.

The Airbus H125 helicopter model purchased by Somon Air has a capacity of 5 crew members. Somon Air plans to use these helicopters for the first time in tourism and business negotiations. Suhrob Curayev, vice president of the board of directors of Salmon Air said, "This helicopter is a milestone for independent Tajikistan. I am convinced that this helicopter will serve both tourism and airline development. In the future we want to cooperate with Eurocopter Kazakhstan Engineering in the long term." Chairman of the Board of Directors of Eurocopter Kazakhstan Engineering Kuanis Bishimov said, "We would like to export 5 or 10 helicopters per year, not limited to these exports, by continuing our negotiations with the authorities in Tajikistan. We also have agreements with Kyrgyzstan. The Kyrgyzstan side is interested in our helicopters with a capacity of 10 crew members. In addition, after-sales maintenance and repair service of the helicopters exported to our services are continuing to provide services." Kazakhstan-based Eurocopter Kazakhstan Engineering is the only company in the CIS and throughout Central Asia to provide installation and maintenance of Airbus EC145, H125 and H130 helicopters, as well as providing technical and pilot training in Russian and English.

## TURKMENISTAN ECONOMY ACHIEVED GROWTH BY 6.3%



At the last meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Government of Turkmenistan, chaired by the President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhammedov, explained

that in the January-September period of 2019, the GDP increased by 6.3 percent.

According to Kabar.kg news site, Gocmurat Muradov, Vice President of Finance, gave information about the economic indicators in the first nine months of 2019 at the Council of Ministers meeting. He stated that the growth in Gross Domestic Product increased by 6.3% in the same period compared to the same period of 2018.

Retail trade turnover volume increased by 19.1% compared to the same period in 2018, Turkmenistan State News Agency reported. 2.8% growth was also observed in foreign trade.

President Berdimuhammedov, who made an assessment at the meeting, said that large amounts of investments were made in socio-economic areas within the scope of Turkmenistan Development Program. He also added that 30 billion Turkmen manats (about 8.6 billion USD) had been invested this year and national and international projects had been implemented.

## MELON EXPORT FROM TURKMENISTAN TO EUROPE

Turkmenistan started exporting melons to Europe. The third party of Turkmenistan melons with a total weight of 55 tons is preparing for shipment to Austria.

Mischere Kawas, Director of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Turkmenistan, answered questions about the export of melons from Turkmenistan to Europe in the interview news from the Turkmenportal website.

Ms. Kawas said, "We started exporting melon from Turkmenistan to Austria with Ter Onum Company from Turkmenistan. The melon of Turkmenistan had a well-deserved reputation before in the Soviet Union, and now this fruit has reached European markets. After the melons, which we started to export on 11.09.2019, were sold out in the European market very quickly, we realized the shipment of second party melons in the beginning of October. Now we have started preparations for the delivery of third party melons. We have full confidence that our melons will be famous in the European market."

Ms. Kawas reported that they helped the melon growers in Turkmenistan to export their melons to foreign countries.

The project aims to improve regional trade, increase the competitiveness of Turkmenistan companies and provide



new business opportunities.

As it is known, the US Agency of International Development in Turkmenistan aims to increase the export potential of five countries in Central Asia through CTJ, which aims to provide trade and business opportunities. It also aims to assist these states with innovative initiatives in the fields of freight transport-logistics and tourism.

## TURKMENISTAN OIL AND NATURAL GAS BUSINESS FORUM HELD

The 24th International Turkmenistan Oil-Natural Gas Business Forum and Fair 2019 (OGT 2019) was held on 22 October in partnership with Turkmenneft and Turkmen Forum in Ashgabat, the capital of Turkmenistan. At the same time, many exhibitions and conferences were organized within the framework of the business forum at the exhibition center of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Turkmenistan. According to the information received from the Turkmenportal.com news site, the business forum, especially the authorized state delegates, representatives of the world's leading fuel and energy companies, scientists, oil and natural gas experts, authorized representatives of international organizations and local and foreign press members attended. At the OGT 2019 fair, leading manufacturers and suppliers of the world oil and natural gas market had the opportunity to demonstrate their success. The opening ceremony of the Oil-Natural Gas Business Forum and Fair 2019 was attended by the President of Turkmenistan, members of the Government and deputies, representatives of public institutions, representatives of companies accredited in Turkmenistan, oil and natural gas experts and foreign guests. President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, in his opening speech said, "Our country, which has enormous underground resources, is taking great steps especially in the construction of oil and gas facilities within the scope of Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India Natural Gas Pipeline Project. Currently, the construction of the natural



gas pipeline continues rapidly. I believe that this national project will contribute to the realization of sustainable development, strengthening of security and stability in the region, and increasing economic cooperation." During the two days of the exhibition, foreign company experts in the fields of oil and gas related machinery, chemicals, metallurgy and energy would find a unique opportunity to promote their products and establish business contacts. Within the framework of the business forum, the world's leading oil and gas company representatives made presentations and shared their experiences with the participants on topics such as "Overview of Turkmenistan oil and gas market" "Latest natural gas-chemistry projects". The annual business forum contributes to the development and strengthening of the partnership with Turkmenistan in the oil and natural gas industry.

## IS TURKMENISTAN NATURAL GAS OPENING TO THE EUROPEAN MARKET?



The World Bank stated that it is ready to discuss natural gas supply with Turkmenistan to Europe. According to Centralasia.news, World Bank Chief Oil and Gas Chief Specialist Alexander Hurdeman made statements at the 24th International Turkmenistan Oil-Natural Gas Business Forum and Fair 2019 (OGT-2019) talks, which started in Ashgabat on 22nd of October.

In the OGT-2019 talks, Hurdeman pointed out that Turkmenistan ranks fourth in the world in terms of natural gas reserves and that most of the production is exported to China. Hurdeman also mentioned that Turkmenistan has resumed its natural gas exports to Russia, but this remains at a very low level.

Hurdeman emphasized that the export of Turkmenistan gas to Europe has been examined many times, but no exports have been realized so far and following the signing of the contract on the legal status of the Caspian, he said that the supply of Turkmenistan gas to Europe was close with the completion of the South Gas Corridor project in 2020.

In March and May 2019, representatives of the World Bank visited Turkmenistan and discussed the issues of cooperation with Turkmenistan officials in the field of digital economy as well as improving the banking system in order to reach international financial standards.

## COOPERATION AGREEMENTS FROM TURKMENISTAN

The delegation headed by Gurbanguly Berdimuhammedov, President of Turkmenistan, attended the signing ceremony of the agreements made between Turkmenistan, Japan, Turkey and Thailand-based companies as part of the official visit to Japan on 23.10.19.

According to the Ca-news.org news site, a urea and ammonia production facility will be established in Turkmenistan within the framework of the agreement between Turkmenistan's state Turkmenhimiya Group of Companies, Japanese automotive company Mitsubishi and Turkey-based GAP Building Investment and Foreign Trade Inc. According to the agreement between Turkmengaz state company of Turkmenistan and Japan's Kawasaki Limited Company and Sojitz Company, the second plant of the factory established to produce liquid fuel from natural gas will be established.

Furthermore, an agreement was reached to establish a concentrated phosphorus fertilizer production facility at Turkmenabat Chemical Plant between the Turkmenhimiya Group of Companies, the state-owned company of Turkmenistan, Sojitz Corporation of Japan, Thailand's TTCL Limited Company and Turkey-based Renaissance-Commerce Industrial Plants Construction Industry Joint Stock Company.

Turkmenistan Agriculture and Water Resources Committee



and Japan-based Itochu Company signed an agreement on the purchase of excavation equipment.

The Turkmenawtoulaglary Agency of the Ministry of Industry and Communications of Turkmenistan and Japan's Sumitomo Company reached an agreement on the purchase of vehicles. A cooperation agreement was also signed between Turkmenistan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Japan Ministry of Economy and Industry.

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## INDIVIDUAL MONEY TRANSFERS FROM RUSSIA TO TAJIKISTAN REACHED 649 MILLION US DOLLARS



Individual money transfers from Russia to Tajikistan, in total, reached 649 million US dollars.

In the news of the Tajikta.tj website, in the second quarter

of this year alone, the total volume of individual money transfers from Russia to Tajikistan was 649 million USD.

It was announced that the total volume of individual money transfers from Russia to Tajikistan in the first six months of 2019 was almost equal to the total export volume of Tajikistan in the first eight months of the same year.

According to statistics, Tajikistan's total export volume in the first 8 months of 2019 is around 700.2 USD. Aluminum, precious metal and cotton fiber are the trade goods sold abroad.

Revenues from processed aluminum and cotton are twice as high as those from untreated aluminum and cotton fibers. It is reported that the total volume of individual money transfers from Russia to Tajikistan in the first 6 months of 2019 is 5 times (25.4 million USD) of the total export volume from Tajikistan to Russia in the first 8 months of 2019.

In the first 8 months of 2019, the total import volume from Russia to Tajikistan was 629.2 million USD.

## **TAJIKISTAN AVESTA STATISTICAL AGENCY HAS ANNOUNCED IMPORT AND EXPORT DATA**



Tajikistan's main export partners are Turkey, Switzerland, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan are seen in the described data.

According to the website of Ca-news.org, Turkey accounted for 21.5% and Switzerland accounted for 17.8% of overall

exports. The main products exported to these countries are metallurgy products, primary aluminum, cotton fiber and precious metals.

Overall, the volume of exports to Turkey in January and August 2019 is 150.2 million US dollars, the total volume of 95.7 million US dollars of imported goods from Tajikistan to Turkey during this period. The total trade volume with Turkey is about 246 million US dollars.

Russia ranks first in foreign trade with Tajikistan. Based on the January and August period of this year, the total trade volume of the two countries is 654.6 million USD.

Tajikistan imports 29.6% of its total imports from Russia, 21.7% from Kazakhstan and 17.5% from the People's Republic of China.

Primary aluminum, cotton, precious metals and dried fruit are the main products exported from Tajikistan to foreign countries. The total export volume of Tajikistan in the January-August period of 2019 is 700.2 million US dollars and the total import volume is over 2.1 billion US dollars.

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## **619 MILLION DOLLAR ENERGY PROJECT IN TAJIKISTAN**

A total of nine energy projects are being carried out in Tajikistan at a cost of 6 billion somoni, or 619 million USD. According to the information dated 25.10.19 from Tajikistan's tajikta.tj website, in a press release distributed by the Ministry of Energy and Industry of Tajikistan were said, "The projects generally provide renovation of existing energy facilities. Among these, modernization of large and medium-sized hydroelectric power plants, ie high-voltage power lines and all substations will be renewed; especially Nurek, Kayrakkum and Sarband hydroelectric stations will be modernized."

Credit and grant funds of international financial institutions will be used for the implementation of the project.



## UZBEKISTAN CEASES EXPORT OF RAW COTTONSAMARKAND

Since 2020, Uzbekistan plans to export high value-added products such as textiles abroad by processing raw cotton in its domestic market.

According to Fergana.agency news site, Uzbekistan Investment and Foreign Trade Minister Sardor Umurzakov said in an interview that they are planning to export textile products to be produced in Uzbekistan, not only to CIS countries, but also to all countries of the world, including the USA and China. Umurzakov also said that according to estimates of the export volume of textile products to be produced in Uzbekistan this year, 2 billion US dollars, until 2025 to 8 billion dollars.

According to data from the French Institute of International Relations, in 2018, China made 786 investments and Japan only 17 investments. According to statistics, Minister Umurzakov said that Uzbekistan attracts the attention of foreign investors, especially in innovative high-tech sectors. He added that the investments would contribute to the economic development of Uzbekistan among the 20 most developed countries.

In recent years, Uzbekistan has gradually reduced the supply of cotton fibers, which is one of the main export items compared to previous years. It has been reported that since 2017, 1 million 200 thousand tons of fibers



have been produced, which will be processed mainly in Uzbekistan.

According to the State Statistics Committee of Uzbekistan, cotton fiber exports in 2010 was as 1.5 billion USD. In 2015, this figure decreased to 736 million dollars, last year it was only 222 million dollars.

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## CHARTER FLIGHTS FROM ISTANBUL TO BUKHARA AND SAMARKAND



Charter flights start from Istanbul to Bukhara and Samarkand cities of Uzbekistan by Turkey-based airline by AtlasGlobal.

According to Uzbekistan News Agency's uztag.info website, in a press release distributed by the State Committee for Tourism Development of Uzbekistan was reported, "Turkish airline company AtlasGlobal was conducted 8-month study on the opening of this new flight and eventually was given permission to work in Uzbekistan to the airline."

Atlasglobal plans to launch a new air route with the first flight of journalists, travel agency managers and employees, spiritual opinion leaders, religious figures and scientists to meet and give information.

Starting from 31.10.19, Atlasglobal begins its first charter flights on Istanbul-Bukhara, Istanbul-Samarkand routes.

## OIL SHALE PRODUCTION FROM THE USA AND CHINA IN UZBEKISTAN

Oil shale production will be made in Uzbekistan in partnership with American and Chinese companies. Preparations are under way for the launch of a joint project between the US Epsilon Development Company in Uzbekistan and the Chinese Petroleum Technology and Development Corporation (CPTDC), according to information from the news website Ca-news.org dated 14.10.19. The main objective of the project is the production of oil shale, a kerosene-rich sedimentary rock from the Navoiy region of Uzbekistan.

A meeting was held on 11.09.19 in Tashkent between the representatives of Epsilon Development Company, China Petroleum Technology and Development Corporation (CPTDC) and Bekzod Ismailov, Chairman of the Geological and Mineral Resources Committee of Uzbekistan. Discussions were held on the establishment of an oil shale processing complex in the Sangruntau mineral deposits.

At the meeting, it was decided that the three sides should form a joint workers' group to work on the project on the road map of oil shale processing and to put the project into operation. According to the information provided by the Epsilon Development Company, Uzbekistan will be able to obtain 1 million tons of petroleum products each year.

In March 2019, a consortium was established between



Epsilon Development Company and Epsilon Asia Limited (Hong Kong) to operate oil and gas wells in the Bukhara, Khiva and Fergana regions. The project leader, Epsilon Development Company, announced that the consortium would invest 5.2 billion USD in Uzbekistan for the project, which will be operational between 2019 and 2023. It is known that there are 47 billion tons of oil shale reserves in Uzbekistan.

## UZBEKISTAN AND TURKEY WILL IMPROVE MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION



Uzbekistan and Turkey on cooperation, multimodal transportation will be carried out from China via Kyrgyzstan. According to the Eurasian Development Bank, which the Tazabek.kg news site cites, between Ministry of Foreign Trade and Investment of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Republic of Turkey State Railways cooperation agreement was signed in the field of transportation. At the meeting between Central Asian Trans company executives of Uzbekistan and TCDD, it was focused on the development of multimodal transport through Turkey-Georgia-Azerbaijan-Turkmenistan-Uzbekistan-Kyrgyzstan-China route. During the meeting held between the parties, the importance of the facilities in the development of the international transportation system was highlighted, and underlined that this sector has a great importance in the development of the economies of the states.

## UZBEKISTAN'S TRADE VOLUME WITH NEIGHBOR STATES GREW

Since the beginning of 2016, when the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev took office, the country has managed to get out of the years of economic isolation. According to the news website Ca-news.org, the management team headed by President Mirziyoyev carried out some activities such as regulating the tax system, free movement of capital, abolishing the restrictions imposed by the state on commercial activities. At the same time, Uzbekistan has succeeded in conducting relations with neighboring countries in a positive manner during this period.

Since Uzbekistan is the only state that has borders with all countries in Central Asia and has a developed production center in its region, it is very much possible to have active relations with neighboring states. Uzbekistan, whose production area is developing, allows workers to be brought from neighboring Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan and contributes to the strengthening of the integration process.

The latest statistical information shows that there have been major developments in Uzbekistan's foreign trade volume. For example, from 2017 to 2018, the total volume of imported products from Kazakhstan reached 569 million USD (53% growth compared to the previous period). In the same years, the trade volume with Kyrgyzstan from 242 million dollars to 462 million dollars, the trade volume with



Turkmenistan from 159 million dollars to 274 million dollars, the trade volume with Tajikistan is remarkable and this ratio is from 124 million dollars to 287 million dollars (previous 131% growth in the same period).

Uzbekistan's foreign trade volume continues to grow, according to the information provided by the International Monetary Fund, in the last 5 months of 2019 Uzbekistan's trade volume with other Central Asian countries reached 1.7 billion USD. These indicators have grown by 27.6% compared to the same period last year.

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