
KAZAKHSTAN-EU RELATIONS: FROM ESTABLISHING THE PARTNERSHIP TO DRIVING IT FORWARD

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Kazakhstans first President, Nursultan Nazarbayev, is given credit for being instrumental in helping to establish Kazakh-EU relations. He helped lay the foundations for the landmark EU-Kazakhstan Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (EPCA), which entered into force on 1 March 2020.

The EU is Kazakhstans main trade and investment partner, representing over one third of Kazakhstans external trade and over a half of total foreign direct investment in Kazakhstan. Kazakhstans exports to the EU are almost entirely in the oil and gas sectors, alongside other minerals, chemicals and food products. From the EU, Kazakhstan imports machinery and transport equipment and pharmaceuticals, alongside chemical products, plastics, medical devices and furniture.

Kazakh-EU relations have significantly strengthened in the last two decades and go beyond trade and investment ties or political dialogue. The EU and Kazakhstan succeeded in establishing other successful cooperation in areas such as energy, transport, environment, research and security.

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