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PRESIDENT TOKAYEV CALLS ON ITALIAN BUSINESSES TO INVEST IN KAZAKHSTAN

- 22.01.2024

The Times of Central Asia (19 January 2024)

The President of Kazakhstan, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev on January 18th paid an official visit to Italy, holding talks with Prime Minister, Giorgia Meloni. During the discussion, Tokayev stated that Kazakhstan and Italy maintain a wide-ranging political dialogue and have established close economic cooperation, as well as fruitful cultural and humanitarian ties, his press service reported. We are proud to be Italy's main partner in Central Asia. Our economic cooperation is developing dynamically and has enormous potential for further growth, Tokayev said.

Italy is among the largest investors in Kazakhstan's economy, with trade turnover between the two countries amounting to approximately \$15 billion, whilst direct foreign investment from Italy has reached \$7.3 billion. More than 300 Italian companies currently operate in Kazakhstan, including such large investors as ENI, SDF Group, PetroValves, Maire Tecnimont, IVECO, and Tenaris.

Meloni confirmed Italy's commitment to developing contacts with Kazakhstan, stating that We consider your visit an excellent opportunity to further strengthen Kazakh-Italian relations.

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