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## KAZAKHSTAN, OECD ENHANCE COOPERATION IN TRADE, TRANSPORT CONNECTIVITY

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Astana Times (2 February 2024)

Dana Omirgazy

Kazakh Minister of Trade and Integration Arman Shakkaliyev took part in the business meeting on Feb. 1, where Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) experts presented new reports on Trade Facilitation in Central Asia and on Realizing the Potential of the Middle Corridor, reported the ministry's press service.

In its report, the OECD focused on the development of trade relations among Central Asian countries and Kazakhstan's export ecosystem. According to the OECD, countries in the region have achieved positive results in simplifying and optimizing trade procedures and automating customs operations.

Opening the event, William Tompson, Head of the OECD Eurasia Division, noted that addressing the challenges caused by geopolitical events requires the countries of the region to integrate both at the regional and international levels, upgrade existing infrastructure, and remove barriers to trade. In that regard, trade facilitation plays a pivotal role in achieving these goals by reducing trade costs and fostering integration.

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