
ITALY RAISES THE BAR IN CENTRAL ASIA: WHAT TO EXPECT FROM GIORGIA MELONI'S VISIT

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In recent years, Italy has emerged as one of the European countries most keen to maintain close relations with the countries of Central Asia. In mid-April, confirmation arrived that Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni would be travelling to the region this spring. The purpose of the trip is to visit Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan and attend a summit in Astana with the presidents of the five countries.

Melonis visit is scheduled for the end of May, although the exact dates are not yet known.

Italy was the first European country to involve the Central Asia region in a 1+5 summit. The first meeting was held in Rome in December 2019, and involved the then Italian Foreign Minister, Luigi Di Maio, and all Central Asian Foreign Ministers. This meeting took place a few months after Italy, the first and only EU country to take this step, signed a memorandum of understanding with China on the Belt & Road Initiative (in 2023, Rome decided to withdraw from the project).

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