



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



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**11th Cooperation Council
EU -Kazakhstan
17 November 2009
Joint statement**

The Cooperation Council between the European Union and the Republic of Kazakhstan met for the eleventh time on 17 November 2009. The meeting was chaired on the EU side by Swedish State Secretary for Foreign Affairs Frank Belfrage and, on the Kazakh side, by Deputy Prime Minister Yerbol Orynbayev.

The year 2009 marks the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the EU-Kazakhstan Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA). The Cooperation Council noted that this agreement has represented a solid basis for the development of EU-Kazakhstan relations, which in the past ten years have grown in depth and intensity.

P R E S S

On the whole, the implementation of the PCA in the past decade has been successful. The EU and Kazakhstan have established an effective bilateral political dialogue, including a regular Human Rights Dialogue. The sides note with satisfaction the substantial increase of bilateral trade and of EU companies' investments in Kazakhstan, to the point that the EU has become Kazakhstan's biggest trading partner and foreign investor. The scope of cooperation in several areas, including the domains of Justice, Freedom and Security, Transport and Energy has been considerably enlarged. The "road map for enhancing energy security" mentioned in the Memorandum of Understanding on co-operation in the field of energy continues to offer a solid framework for the cooperation between the two sides in this field of vital importance. Moreover, Kazakhstan is making an essential contribution to the implementation of the EU Strategy for a New Partnership with Central Asia established in 2007.

The EU and Kazakhstan recognise that, in the past decade, new challenges have emerged that can only be successfully tackled through concerted joint efforts. The fight against terrorism, international crime and trafficking, addressing religious radicalism, the mitigation of climate change as well as the establishment of trans-national transport corridors represent issues of common concern, on which the EU and Kazakhstan are determined to step up their bilateral cooperation. Moreover, the EU and Kazakhstan agree that a stronger convergence of Kazakhstan toward the EU standards and regulatory system would be beneficial for further increasing trade flows and investments.

The two sides share the view that the PCA in its present form does not reflect to the full extent the mature partnership which has developed in the past years, nor Kazakhstan's growing relevance as a political and economic actor. The EU and Kazakhstan consider therefore that the time has come to proceed to a review of the 1999 PCA, with the aim of upgrading the relationship between Kazakhstan and the EU, through an early updating of the present provisions or the elaboration of a new agreement.

This process should provide an occasion for deepening the cooperation in areas such as enhanced cooperation in the energy field, in order to promote the diversification of supplies and export routes towards the EU. It could also enable the parties to develop their cooperation on economic issues and investments.

At the same time, the Cooperation Council congratulated Kazakhstan for taking over the OSCE chairmanship in January 2010, noting Kazakhstan's commitment to fulfilling its important responsibility of defending and promoting the OSCE values and principles in all three dimensions. The Cooperation Council noted the efforts of Kazakhstan for advancing the process of political reforms and welcomed Kazakhstan's intention to continue and further strengthen efforts to that end. The EU and Kazakhstan underlined that closer and stronger bilateral ties must go hand in hand with adherence to the common values of democracy, rule of law and respect for human rights. In this context, the Cooperation Council also underlined the importance of an effective and successful OSCE chairmanship and the commitment of the sides to work together towards that end.