

25 YEARS OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN EU AND KAZAKHSTAN



On 2 February 2018, EU and Kazakhstan celebrated the 25th anniversary of diplomatic relations, an anchoring point for their close and mutually beneficial cooperation. What are the main achievements of these 25 years?

01

The EU is and remains Kazakhstan's principal and largest trading partner. In 2017, trade with EU countries amounted to \$30 billion. This accounted for 49.8% of the total trade turnover of Kazakhstan.

02

The European Union is also the largest investor in the Republic of Kazakhstan. Total foreign direct investment from the European Union reached \$10.8 billion in 2016, and is growing fast.

03

In total, Kazakhstan's economy received a total of \$263.58 billion in foreign direct investment from 2005 to 2016, of which \$119.9 billion, or 45.5%, came from the European Union.

04

More than 6,000 economic entities funded with European capital have been registered in Kazakhstan, including joint ventures and representative offices of companies and financial institutions.

05

Kazakhstan was called the best reformer for the fourth time in the last 12 years, and was ranked 36th in the World Bank's 2017 Doing Business ranking, ahead of OECD countries such as Belgium (42nd), Italy (50th), Greece (61st).

06

Throughout the years, Kazakhstan has proved to be a reliable and responsible energy partner of the EU, and has since become one of the five largest energy suppliers to Europe.

07

The EU and Kazakhstan signed the 150-page Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (EPCA) in Astana on 21 December 2015. It is considered unique of its kind. Its ratification is progressing fast and provisionally enforced since May 1, 2016.

08

EPCA sets the legal framework for cooperation in new areas such as countering the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, combating terrorism, civil service cooperation, climate change, healthcare, public finance management, and taxation, among others.

09

In EPCA, cooperation in human rights and freedoms, democratization and the rule of law, sustainable development, and strengthening the role of civil society, are given the important place they deserve.

10

Kazakhstan has exempted unilaterally EU citizens from visa requirements for up to 30 days, and expects the EU to take reciprocal steps in the visa facilitation between Kazakhstan and the European Union.

11

EU member states have actively participated in EXPO2017 in Astana, sharing their experience in exploiting new energy sources, as well highlighting a number of innovative technological capabilities.

12

EU and Kazakhstan jointly support the EU Strategy on Central Asia, with emphasis on human capital development, education, environment protection, rational use of water resources, efficient transport and logistics infrastructures in the region, and combating challenges and threats.