Rethinking the global order
At a time of unprecedented geopolitical tensions, Kazakhstan offered a platform to renew and rebuild a common culture of multilateralism, a global system that works for everyone, and prosperity for the many, rather than for the few.

EURACTIV looked at messages voiced at the Astana International Forum (AIF) on 8 and 9 June 2023, and spoke to relevant stakeholders, in an effort to bring closer to the Brussels audience visions which undoubtedly can find synergies with the EU’s own ambitions towards international cooperation, development and progress.
Sanctions and trade wars take centre stage at Astana forum

Barroso: I am proud I launched the enhanced partnership with Kazakhstan

Western pundits offer advice on Kazak geopolitics

Kazakhstan and the world’s big powers: A return to the ‘Great Game’?

Food security – a new driver of cooperation between Kazakhstan and EU
Sanctions and trade wars take centre stage at Astana forum

By EURACTIV reports from Astana and Georgi Gotev | EURACTIV.com

Languages: Français | Deutsch

The Western policy of sanctions against Russia is not without criticism, particularly in central Asia, according to high-level speakers at the inaugural Astana International Forum (AIF), which opened on Thursday (8 June) in the Kazakh capital.

As diplomats explained, the AIF is an upgrade of the Astana Economic Forum, held yearly since 2008. The name change reflects the broader range of topics discussed at the new forum, such as climate, food and energy security, and its ambition to bring attendees from around the world.

More importantly, the AIF is held in the context of the ongoing Russian aggression against Ukraine, while Kazakhstan, which has strong ties with Moscow, maintains a policy of neutrality.

In his address at the plenary session, Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev described the current era as “a period of unprecedented geopolitical tensions” characterised by the “process of destroying the very foundation of the world order that has been built since the founding of the United Nations.”

He said the global system must work for all, bringing peace and prosperity to the many, not to the few.

In Tokayev’s words, these confrontations include sanctions and trade wars, targeted debt policies, reduced access or exclusion from financing, and investment screening.

“Together, these factors are
gradually undermining the foundation upon which rests the global peace and prosperity of recent decades: free trade, global investment, innovation, and fair competition”, Tokayev said.

This, in his word, turns into “existential threats”.

“All this comes at precisely the moment when we urgently need to be focusing on the existential threat of climate change”, Tokayev said.

‘Fragmentation’

IMF chief Kristalina Georgieva, who was one of the high-level speakers alongside leaders of UN agencies and heads of state from the region, focused on the “fragmentation” of world trade, which she said was responsible for the world economy’s grim outlook.

She warned against turning to political alliances rather than economic logic, adding that what worried her the most was that “we collectively are acting allowing the forces of fragmentation to damage the prospects for economic recovery”.

Georgieva has previously warned against “fragmentation” due to a combination of the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine, the push of leading economies to reduce dependency on China and shortcomings with globalisation that had led to a potentially dangerous splintering.

“If we allow trade into separate blocks, the cost to the world will be as high as 7% of global GDP, which is equivalent to wiping off the economies of Germany and Japan”, she said.

Georgieva complimented Kazakhstan, saying that the country demonstrated the “power of transformation”, which achieved “breathtaking” results since it gained its independence more than 30 years ago.

She said she had earlier in the morning notified Tokayev that IMF had upgraded growth projections for Kazakhstan by half a percentage point, reaching 5% this year. In contrast, global growth was slowing down to just 2.8%.

Thierry de Montbrial, executive chairman of the French Institute of International Relations, also focused on the consequences of the Western policy of sanctions in the long term.

“We are weaponising trade without realising that this will have long-term consequences”, he said, adding that the West had “lost the ability to think strategically”.

The two EU weapons

He said the EU had “only two weapons”: sanctions against its detractors and promises for enlargement for its closest allies. But he said both were equally inadequate, given the risk that if fulfilled, the enlargement promise could lead the EU “to its collapse”.

Among the speakers on the first day of the conference, only former EU Commission chief José Manuel Barroso dared to defend the EU sanctions as an adequate reaction of the Western community.

In Astana, EURACTIV spoke to EU diplomats who positively assessed Kazakhstan’s efforts not to be used as a territory for circumventing Western sanctions imposed on Russia, despite the close relationship with its neighbour.

Reportedly a visit of the International Special Envoy for the Implementation of EU Sanctions David O’Sullivan to Astana on 24-25 April, which had included officials from the US, had been met with a lot of “interest” from the Kazakh side, both at the official and business level.

According to sources, the EU explained the need to stop exporting “battlefield goods” via Kazakhstan and provided Astana with a list of these goods.

Reportedly, Astana was aware of the risk that Western governments would simply ask their respective companies not to export to Kazakhstan if such exports persisted.

EU diplomats had also reportedly scrutinised participants of the Astana forum, as initially, there had been concerns that Russians appearing on Western sanctions lists could attend. In fact, no high-profile Russians participated in the conference.

One diplomat said that Kazakhstan was simply very good at taking international space freed by Russia, and this conference was already replacing the once-famous St. Petersburg Economic Forum.
Speaking to EURACTIV in Astana, former European Commission president José Manuel Barroso talked about Russia, EU sanctions and their impact on Kazakhstan, but also about some important decisions he took when he was in charge of the EU, a time he described as the “geopolitical adolescence” of Europe.

Speaking on the first day of the Astana International Forum, you were the only one who dared to defend the EU sanctions as an adequate reaction of the Western community in the context of the Russian aggression against Ukraine, while some other speakers, including the hosts from Kazakhstan, were against. Can you elaborate?

I fully understand the concerns of countries like, for instance, Kazakhstan. In politics, we always need to think counterfactually. We cannot say, “This is not good”; we need to say what would be the alternative.

I remember in 2014 when the first sanctions were adopted in the context of the annexation of Crimea, we discussed in the European Council what we could do. In principle, when there is an aggression of one country to another in Europe, there are three options.

One is to go to war. Another one is to do nothing or make a diplomatic
communiqué saying it’s very regrettable. And there is a middle-of-the-road option to adopt sanctions to put a cost on the aggressor.

Personally, I think sanctions have very limited effect. If they were effective, North Korea would not have nuclear weapons, and Iran would have stopped their nuclear program. But at the end of the day, this was the reaction of the countries of the European Union, showing our common condemnation at a cost to the aggressor.

In the case of Kazakhstan, it’s important to mention that 40% of the trade of this country is with Europe, so the EU is by far the most important trade and investment partner. And the countries of the European Union are also feeling the pain of sanctions because there have been countersanctions and because of our very heavy dependence on Russian gas.

It’s also European households, it’s not only third countries like Kazakhstan who are indirectly suffering from sanctions. So, in a nutshell, I argue that the EU sanctions are legitimate.

But even IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva warned against “fragmentation” of the world economic order as a result of building political alliances against economic logic...

I think she was expressing concerns about the economic fragmentation, not necessarily about the sanctions. Yes, that’s a problem. I personally believe that there is a real risk of de-coupling globally, and that’s what Kristalina Georgieva highlighted, and I fully agree with her.

But again, I understand the Kazakhstan position. I am proud that I launched the negotiations for an enhanced cooperation agreement now in force. And I think what the Kazakhs are doing makes a lot of sense.

They are very close to Russia and China for obvious reasons, but they want to develop more relations with Europe, they don’t want to be closed in the region. I think that makes sense, and what they need to do is invest in connectivity in the five Central Asian countries and have corridors between Europe, reaching Asia. And while in Kazakhstan, there is some discomfort with the impact of sanctions on their own country; at the same time, I think they understand EU’s priorities and concerns, and they very much want to develop relations with the EU.

I no longer represent the EU, but I remain a very committed European, and I am giving you my honest personal opinion: the EU had no alternative but to adopt sanctions.

As Commission president, in 2014, you made a powerful statement that resulted in stopping the South Stream project, intended to bring Russian gas to Europe via Bulgaria.

I think it was the right decision at that time. I was concerned with the heavy dependence of Bulgaria on Russian gas. At that time, I also went to Azerbaijan, and with President (Ilham) Aliyev, we launched the project of the Southern gas corridor, including the Trans-Adriatic pipeline. And I think we made the right decisions. In terms of risk management, at that time, it was already clear that diversification is a way of protecting us and to de-risk. Hopefully not to de-couple completely but not to be overly dependent on one country for our European interest.

But we were a little bit naïve at that time, we Europeans?

Look, I know that criticism. But I think it’s a little bit unfair to judge the decisions of the past with the glasses of the present. At that time, we were trying to engage positively with Russia. Was it wrong? I think not.

There was a time when you were Commission president, visa liberalisation was on the EU agenda with Russia...

Exactly, and we had the Partnership for Modernisation when Medvedev was president.

Would we have a different relationship with Russia if Vladimir Putin followed another path?

Look, I believe Russia is part of the European civilisation. I wouldn’t make a confusion between the huge strategic mistake of Putin and what Russia represents as a civilisation. I have a deep feeling for the young Ukrainians that are dying, but also for the young Russians that are dying because of the criminal mistake of their president.

So we were not wrong in trying to engage positively with Russia. This was, at that time, what could be done. Our European naiveté is that we think others are going to change. That’s not true. Most developments, from Turkey to Iraq, depend more on internal causes than on external conditions. That’s important to be remembered and more modest in the future.

The conditions weren’t already ripe for what I call the coming of age of the EU. The EU was then in its geopolitical adolescence. Now it’s growing because of the external conditions.
Western pundits offer advice on Kazakh geopolitics

By Georgi Gotev | EURACTIV.com

On the fringes of the Astana International Forum (AIF), former high-level diplomats positively assessed Kazakhstan’s cooperation potential with the EU, advising the union against being overtaken by China, a much more assertive geopolitical player.

Two sources, Stefano Stefanini, ex-Italian representative to NATO, and Jean de Ruyt, former Belgian ambassador to the UN and the EU, told EURACTIV that the inaugural forum was well-timed to emphasise the importance of Kazakhstan on the EU agenda.

“Kazakhstan is pursuing the best foreign policy, given the circumstances”, says Stefanini, who has a long career in bilateral and multilateral diplomacy, including posts in Moscow and Washington.

Reminding that Kazakhstan is a vast but landlocked country, rich in natural resources, with a small population and two overly powerful neighbours, Russia and China, he said that its leadership was aware of its interest in engaging with the West as a need to counterbalance geography.

At the same time, he said, this relationship was a balancing act with Kazakhstan’s relations with Moscow and Beijing.

“Strategic neutrality is not easy, but Kazakhstan is doing it, and we need to help this country maintain this balance”, he said.

In Central Asia, Kazakhstan was “the more equal among equals”, said Stefanini, comparing the country with Uzbekistan, with a larger population, or with all the remaining three other Central Asian states, all former
Soviet republics, namely Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan. Indeed, Kazakhstan’s economy is now almost one-third bigger than the economies of other Central Asian countries combined.

The former Italian diplomat shared insight that Italy, which will take over the rotating G7 presidency in 2024, was considering bringing Kazakhstan as a third country to the summit, as recently, the current G7 president Japan invited the leaders of Ukraine, India, Brazil, and Indonesia.

The EU needs 30 rare earth materials, such as beryllium, tantalum, and niobium, of which Kazakh companies currently produce 16, with the potential of soon producing them all.

Asked about a possible clash between the EU and China, which also needs critical raw materials, Stefanini said the EU should be aware that its competitor in this field, China, was using “business methods” the EU would never use, alluding to undue pressure or corruption.

“The EU doesn’t do these things, but China does”, he said.

But he stressed that if Kazakhstan surrendered to Chinese interests, the country would lose its strategic independence.

But Stefanini said the EU was obviously slow and less ambitious in making offers, mentioning a recent meeting in Almaty where the EU put €9 million for financing projects on the table.

“The day after, China, at a similar meeting in Beijing, put up $22 billion, not million”, he said.

Asked if the EU was naïve, he said it was more a matter of constraints, while other geopolitical payers were free of such.

“The US can do it, Russia can do it, China can do it, the EU can’t”, he said.

But he added: “Germany can do it”.

Incidentally, German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier is expected to visit Kazakhstan in the coming days, including the Caspian Sea port city of Aktau, seen as the gateway of the Central corridor- crucial in the context of Western sanctions making traffic via Russia or Iran impossible or at least very problematic due to the sanctions on these countries.

“That will be fundamental”, the Italian diplomat said.

Jean de Ruyt, Former Belgian ambassador to the UN and the EU, said that EU member states could be more reactive than EU institutions, considering their own negative experiences. Belgium had such with experience with the Democratic Republic of Congo, a former Belgian colony where China got hold of the cobalt mining, much needed for car batteries.

He said that a Belgian delegation had recently visited Kazakhstan and that they had shared their concerns back home.

“The Belgians certainly don’t want to be screwed up by the Chinese in Kazakhstan as they were in Congo”, he said.

De Ruyt argued it was in the EU’s interest to move forward via member states instead of waiting for Brussels’ institutional decision-making. He expressed his hope that Kazakhstan realised the advantages of dealing with a player that could bring know-how and added value instead of depleting the country’s wealth.

“But I think the Kazakhs realise the risk with China, and this wants they would like to see our investors coming here because they know we will not monopolise their resources”, he said.

Asked what he would advise Commission President Ursula von der Leyen if he had the chance, or his compatriot Charles Michel, the Council president, he said that “clearly the EU should be more than pro-active” vis-à-vis Kazakhstan.

De Ruyt warned against errors in communication or disinformation, which could lead to EU distancing to the benefit of China, or others, based on possibly fabricated accusations of Western sanctions breaches.

“Kazakhstan has become geopolitically very important and follows an international policy subtle enough to attract our attention. Our duty is to help them follow this path, we should not turn them against Russia or China”, he said.
The process of Kazakhstan distancing from Russia is accompanied by big efforts by China for further rapprochement with the Central Asian country, which should signal to the EU and the US that they should bring the country westward, writes Harun Karčić.

Kazakhstan President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev recently rejected his Belarusian counterpart’s proposal to join the Russia-Belarus “Union State,” calling the offer a “joke.” The proposal came after Russia decided to deploy tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus for the first time since the fall of the Soviet Union back in 1991.

The proposal came only a few weeks after China’s President Xi Jinping hosted his first-ever summit with the leaders of Central Asian nations in the

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Kazakhstan President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev recently rejected his

Languages: Français
central Chinese city of Xian. According to international observers, the event represents the potential for Chinese influence to further expand into what used to be formerly Russia's sphere of influence. China's President paid particular attention to his Kazakh counterpart and showered him with respect.

There is a reason why both Belarus and Russia, on the one hand, and China, on the other, want Kazakhstan on their side.

Kazakhstan shares a 7,591km border with Russia and a 1,782 km border with China. Economic interweaving between the two is considerable. The country’s President is not the only Central Asian leader deftly walking a tightrope relationship with Vladimir Putin. Almost all Central Asian heads of state pay lip service to Russia while refraining from endorsing its brutal invasion of Ukraine. One major trait of Tokayev's foreign policy is caution towards Moscow. There is no flag-waving or provocation of the old colonial power, and every decision taken seems to have a twin objective: to limit Russia’s influence without annoying.

This is now accompanied by a decolonisation of Astana's diplomatic dependence on a Russo-centric orientation and actively moving to consolidate links with other world powers. This multi-vector approach extended over the years with an emphasis on multilateralism, has also allowed the landlocked country to play a significant role in global diplomacy. It is worth recalling that Astana hosted numerous high-level peace negotiations, including the 'Astana Process' Syrian peace talks, bringing together warring factions and asserting its position as a neutral broker. Several months into the war in Ukraine, President Tokayev visited Turkey for the first time since his inauguration, and in addition to boosting their relationship to a strategic partnership level, both sides agreed to produce Turkish drones in Kazakhstan and to exchange military intelligence. This is the first time a country that is part of the CSTO has decided to exchange sensitive intelligence with a NATO member.

On the economic front, the country did make significant progress in many domains since the dissolution of the USSR, not to mention being ranked 25th in the World Bank’s Ease of Doing Business Index – well ahead of other states in its neighbourhood. It is gradually evolving from a Soviet-command-style economy to a more Western-style market economy to attract investors, develop new industries and gain new trade partners. Kazakhstan's good fortune is to be found beneath its soil. Although a major crude oil and gas exporter, its biggest potential lies in mineral reserves – including uranium, iron ore, chromium, manganese and gold.

All this hasn't gone unnoticed in Beijing.

China is a significant player in Central Asia’s and specifically Kazakhstan’s economy, primarily through its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), of which Kazakhstan has been called the “buckle”. Thus far, Astana has managed its ties with Beijing and avoided the debt trap that has ensnared countries such as Sri Lanka.

To avoid any sensitive overdependence on China, Kazakhstan’s diplomacy has been multilateral, reaching out in new directions, including the EU. Valdis Dombrovskis, the European Commission Executive Vice-President for Economy, highlighted the fast-paced development of Kazakhstan-EU relations at the recent European Union–Central Asia Economic Forum. EU member states are already by far the most significant source of Foreign Direct Investment in the region, accounting for more than 40% of FDI, which is more than China and Russia. The EU-Central Asia summit’s main focus was facilitating a green and digital transition, improving the business environment, and enhancing trade and connectivity.

Geography alone dictates that Kazakhstan cannot realistically cut all ties with Russia, as most of its exports have to pass through Russian territory. However, as we have seen previously with two EU programs—Interstate Oil and Gas Transportation to Europe (INOGATE) and Transport Corridor Europe-Caucasus-Asia (TRACECA)—with the proper international assistance, Kazakhstan and other Central Asian states can lead a qualitative expansion of their critical infrastructure which Europe so crucially needs today. It is also worth mentioning recent developments with Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey reaching an agreement “to create a joint venture within the framework of the Trans-Caspian International Transport Route (TITR).”

On the political level, having spoken to several Kazakh businessmen and political analysts recently, I am under the impression that President Tokayev’s rather bold moves against Russia recently have taken many by surprise since it was Russian forces sent by Putin that essentially saved him from being toppled in January 2022 – in what Tokayev himself described as an attempted coup. However, Kazakhstan understands that Moscow's primary motivation during the unrest was fear for its security should things get irrevocably out of control and have a spillover effect.

The region is far from being a bastion of blossoming democracy; however, according to a 2022 State Department report, “President
Tokayev has committed to gradually institute much-needed political and economic reforms, providing an opportunity for the US to support the country and its people as they address political, economic, and social challenges.

Since the 1990s, Russia and China have recognised each other’s predominant role in Central Asia. Russia has remained the primary security actor, while China has been developing its regional economic influence. However, in the face of the growing Sino-Russian competition and the shifting balance between the two countries, their mutual understanding is beginning to crack.

But despite the strategic significance of Central Asia and the Caspian Basin, Western countries need to pay more attention to the region. This is due to a combination of factors, including the absence of a shared strategic framework for helping stabilise and develop Asia’s heartland. However, following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and increased Chinese interests in the region, this is the moment Kazakhstan and other Central Asian countries can use to re-direct themselves diplomatically and economically westward.

From the perspective of Washington and Brussels and their new global commitment to Eurasian stability, now is the moment to enhance the region’s stability and prosperity. The US and EU must utilise this momentum to get more closely involved, enhance Kazakhstan’s democratic evolution, strengthen Central Asian security, and fortify American and European interests.
With a natural agricultural potential, sound investment climate and unprecedented state measures, Kazakhstan can become a reliable partner of the European Union in enhancing regional and global food security, writes Yerbol Karashukeyev.

Yerbol Karashukeyev is the minister of agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The European Union has always been at the forefront of world’s agriculture and food industry thanks to a combination of the rich traditions of its member-states in this field and ground-breaking and innovative agroindustry, making it an exemplary industry worldwide.

However, changes in global agricultural markets and the changing geopolitical situation have shown the weaknesses of food systems. These changes require new approaches to
implementing agricultural policies and the involvement of new partners.

With a natural agricultural potential, sound investment climate and unprecedented state measures, Kazakhstan can become a reliable partner of the European Union in enhancing regional and global food security. The scale of agricultural land and weather conditions enable our country to become one of the world’s top agricultural exporters.

Taking into account its potential, the development of the agricultural sector has been set among priority objectives for the Kazakh government.

The main principles of Kazakhstan’s agricultural policy are reflected in the 2030 Concept of Agribusiness Development and the National Agribusiness Development Project for 2021–2025.

In addition, the government is constantly monitoring regional developments and continues adjusting our economic and agricultural policies to ensure that our citizens can purchase food products at reasonable prices.

The measures towards increasing domestic production, enhancing competitiveness and food security have proven efficient in tackling these issues.

According to the 2022 Global Food Security Index, Kazakhstan ranked 32nd out of 113 countries, for the first time taking the leading position in the wider region (among the countries of the former Soviet Union). Kazakhstan also came 2nd out of 32 landlocked countries about the high inflow of foreign direct investment.

Despite challenges arising from volatility in global agricultural markets, food production grew by 3.9% in 2022, reaching $6.5 billion. The production growth helped us boost the capital investment in agriculture by 6.7% ($1.9 billion) last year and by 15.7% ($311 billion) in food production. This trend has continued in 2023: in the first four months, the agriculture sector received more than $600 million of capital investments, which is 30.8% higher than in 2022.

Our mid-term goal is to create a favourable investment climate in agriculture that would attract more than 900 projects by 2026 worth 2.8 trillion tenge (around $6.2 billion). To do so, we have in place a preferential tax policy for agricultural industry; the government’s support to the agroindustry will amount to $1 billion this year.

Training of farmers is another important area of agricultural development. We have launched large-scale training programs on farming technologies for 100,000 people.

In livestock production, our farmers frequently choose to work with European producers of genetics and breeds. The size of pasture lands enables us to grow environmentally friendly forage and to obtain high-quality meat.

The investment project financing in agriculture launched in all the regions of Kazakhstan is expected to release over 100 billion tenge of investments (around $222 million). These funds will be used to build over 65 dairy farms.

One of our key goals is to develop the export potential of the Kazakh agricultural industry. In 2022, Kazakhstan’s agricultural export reached $5.6 billion – 46% higher than in 2021. Specifically, the grain export grew by 34.7% ($1.9 billion), the export of oil crops by 66% ($603 million), and processed agricultural produce grew by 64%, reaching $2.3 billion.

Kazakhstan now exports 531 types of food products to 67 countries worldwide. Among our main consumers are the members of the Eurasian Economic Union, countries of Central Asia, Afghanistan, Türkiye, Latvia, Italy, Belgium, Iran, and China. With an annual production of 20 million tons of grain, we meet the grain and flour demand of the whole Central Asia and Afghanistan and have the potential to increase wheat supplies to Europe and China.

In the coming years, the untapped capacity will allow us to double the export of agricultural products and scale up their processing. In parallel, our companies and farmers are working on increasing organic food production. A draft law, “On production and distribution of organic products,” currently considered by the Parliament of Kazakhstan, outlines regulatory harmonisation with international organics rules and standards.

Last March, the European Commission positively assessed the veterinary control measures in Kazakhstan that allowed new exports from our country of fishery products into the EU market. We are now applying for an export certificate for organic honey products. Our talks with the EU member-states show strong interest in importing meat and dairy products from Kazakhstan. To respond to the growing demand, we are prioritising improving quality compliance of our agricultural products with the EU.
standards. Certain harmonisation of phytosanitary and veterinary regulations will help our companies to register as a supplier to the European single market.

On the other hand, Kazakhstan’s demand for high-quality European seed grain, technologies and innovations is growing. Production of certain European products or innovations in Kazakhstan is a promising investment field for the European agroindustry. I can assure the EU investors will find fertile ground for their investment in Kazakhstan in livestock breeding, crop farming, advanced grain processing, and baby food production. Food corporations and agroindustry considering relocation in the region should choose Kazakhstan – a country that provides the EU producers with an attractive investment climate.

Earlier in June, I discussed this prospect with my colleague, EU Commissioner for Agriculture Janusz Wojciechowski who paid a visit to Kazakhstan on 8-9 June. During the meeting with President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, his speech at the Astana International Forum on the issue of global food security, as well as our constructive discussions, the Commissioner confirmed the potential to strengthen our cooperation as two major food producers and exporters.

“The EU intends to lead the path to sustainable food security; but it is a path we cannot take alone”, he said.

I agree with his statement that by sharing our perspectives on these challenges, we can build a strong cooperation for food security and sustainability.

We believe that global food security can be better addressed with the participation of new so-called middle power partners in agriculture, transportation, and energy sectors. Kazakh companies and farmers are ready to respond to the growing international demand and enhance their production. The European Union, which is at the forefront of global food security, can demonstrate support to its reliable international partners by facilitating the exchange of innovation, encouraging investment cooperation, and creating new joint supply chains that will widen the network of food suppliers.