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**„THE LEGAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EUROPEAN
UNION AND KAZAKHSTAN: TRADE, COOPERATION,
AGREEMENTS, ETC.“**

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TABLE OF CONTENT

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS.....	2
INTRODUCTION	3
PART 1: TRADE	6
1. The History of trade between the EU and Kazakhstan	6
2. Current situation in the field of the trade between the EU and Kazakhstan	9
3. The impact of exports and imports between the EU and Kazakhstan	11
PART 2. COOPERATION	13
1. The European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights.....	13
2. Civil Society Organizations	16
3. Memorandum of Understanding	18
4. The Partnership and Cooperation Agreement.....	19
4.1. Trade and Economic Cooperation.....	20
4.2. Political Dialogue and Cooperation.....	20
4.3. Human Rights and Rule of Law	21
4.4. Regional and International Cooperation	21
5. Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement	22
6. Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.....	26
7. Companies related Kazakhstan and the EU	29
PART 3. AGREEMENTS	34
1. The Agreement on Trade and Economic Cooperation	34
2. The Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area	35
PART 4. PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS	37
1. Existing problems between Kazakhstan and the EU.....	37
2. In which sectors are prospects expected for the development of relations between Kazakhstan and EU?	38
CONCLUSION	42
BIBLIOGRAPHY	44
TABLE OF LEGISLATION	45
OTHER SOURCES	46
ABSTRACT	48
ZUSAMMENFASSUNG.....	50

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

- ATEC:** The Agreement on Trade and Economic Cooperation
- CCTC:** Cooperation Committee in Trade Configuration
- CPC:** Caspian Pipeline Consortium
- CSOs:** Civil Society Organizations
- DCFTA:** The Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area
- EC:** European Commission
- EIDHR:** The European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights
- EPCA:** Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement
- EU:** European Union
- FDI:** Foreign Direct Investment
- GDP:** Gross Domestic Product
- GIs:** Geographical Indications
- Ibid.:** ibidem
- IPR:** Intellectual Property Rights
- MOUs:** Memorandum of Understanding
- OECD:** Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
- OJ:** Official Journal
- OSCE:** Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
- PCA:** Partnership and Cooperation Agreement
- SMEs:** Small and medium-sized enterprises
- WDM:** Weapons of Mass Destruction
- WTO:** World Trade Organization

INTRODUCTION

The relationship between Kazakhstan and the European Union (EU) holds significant importance in the context of international diplomacy, trade, and cooperation. As a country located at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, Kazakhstan has emerged as a key player in the Eurasian region, while the European Union stands as a prominent supranational entity representing a union of member states. The bilateral relations between Kazakhstan and the EU have undergone notable developments over the years, encompassing various areas of mutual interest, with a particular emphasis on trade and cooperation.

Kazakhstan, situated in Central Asia, boasts a rich cultural heritage and a strategic geographical position that has facilitated its engagement with neighbouring regions. Since gaining independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, Kazakhstan has demonstrated a commitment to political stability, economic growth, and regional integration. The European Union, comprising 27 member states, has long been a significant global actor, promoting peace, stability, and economic prosperity across the European continent. Recognizing the potential for cooperation and the benefits of enhanced relations, Kazakhstan and the EU have pursued avenues for engagement and collaboration.

The trade dimension forms a crucial aspect of the Kazakhstan-EU relationship. Historically, trade between the EU and Kazakhstan has deep roots, with economic exchanges dating back several centuries. The Silk Road, an ancient trade route linking Europe and Asia, facilitated the flow of goods and ideas across borders, laying the foundation for future commercial interactions. In modern times, trade between Kazakhstan and the EU has witnessed substantial growth and diversification. The EU has become one of Kazakhstan's major trading partners, and the bilateral trade volume has increased significantly over the years. This evolution reflects the mutual benefits derived from economic cooperation, as well as the potential for further expansion and collaboration in various sectors.

The impact of exports and imports between Kazakhstan and the EU extends beyond economic considerations. It influences the dynamics of both regions, contributing to the socio-political landscape and shaping the aspirations of the people. The EU's demand for energy resources, particularly oil and gas, has driven Kazakhstan's export growth, while the import of European goods and services has facilitated the development of Kazakhstan's domestic industries. Moreover, trade collaboration between Kazakhstan and the EU has fostered

cultural exchanges, knowledge transfer, and technological advancements, enriching the relationship between the two entities.

Looking ahead, the prospects for trade development between Kazakhstan and the EU remain promising. Both parties recognize the untapped potential and the need to diversify their economic engagement. By exploring new sectors, encouraging innovation, and addressing regulatory challenges, Kazakhstan, and the EU aim to enhance trade flows and strengthen their economic ties. Opportunities exist in areas such as renewable energy, agriculture, information technology, and infrastructure development, where mutual cooperation can yield long-term benefits for both sides. The commitment to fostering sustainable economic growth and promoting fair trade practices serves as a foundation for further trade exploration and cooperation.

Beyond trade, the Kazakhstan-EU relationship encompasses a broad range of cooperation mechanisms. The European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) has played a significant role in promoting democratic values, human rights, and the rule of law in Kazakhstan. Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) have contributed to enhancing societal dialogue and empowering citizens. Instruments such as the Memorandum of Understanding and the Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (EPCA) provide frameworks for cooperation in various fields, including political dialogue, energy, transport, environment, and research and innovation. Additionally, Kazakhstan's engagement with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) reinforces regional security and stability.

The multifaceted agreements and mechanisms between Kazakhstan and the EU form the cornerstone of their cooperation. The "European Union and Central Asia: New Opportunities for a Stronger Partnership" initiative reflects the EU's commitment to engaging with Central Asian countries, including Kazakhstan, in pursuit of shared objectives. The Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (EPCA), which entered into force in 2020, establishes a comprehensive framework for cooperation, addressing political, economic, and social dimensions. These agreements demonstrate the mutual desire to deepen relations, enhance dialogue, and foster collaboration in various sectors of common interest.

In conclusion, the relationship between Kazakhstan and the European Union is a dynamic and multifaceted one, marked by trade exchanges, cooperation mechanisms, and shared

aspirations. The historical origins of trade, the current trade situation, and the potential development prospects between Kazakhstan and the EU set the stage for further exploration. Furthermore, cooperation mechanisms such as the EIDHR, CSOs, the EPCA, and engagement with the OSCE underline the commitment to shared values, stability, and regional collaboration. By examining these aspects, this thesis aims to contribute to a comprehensive understanding of the Kazakhstan-EU relationship, shedding light on the current dynamics and future prospects for collaboration.

PART 1: TRADE

Trade between Kazakhstan and the European Union is important for both territories. The EU as a political and economic union of 27 European countries is a considerable alliance, while Kazakhstan, as the largest country in Central Asia with rich natural resources, can represent itself as a valuable player in global trade. The trade relationship between the EU and Kazakhstan comprises various fields of goods and services, businesses, and partnerships that advantage economic growth, new workplaces, and innovation in technology. This part will provide a history of the origin of the trade, the current situation, and the impact of exports and imports between Kazakhstan and the EU, highlighting the core area, commercial models, and mutual benefits for both regions in their economic cooperation. It will also consider the potential for further possible development and cooperation in the field of trade, which can improve their bilateral relationship.

1. The History of trade between the EU and Kazakhstan

The history of trade has been placed between the EU and Kazakhstan after establishing their basic relationships. Kazakhstan has started strengthening relations with countries, including European states which are part of the EU and joined organizations after the declaration its independence on December 16, 1991. In addition, Kazakhstan's important priority in foreign policy so-called balanced or multi-vectored approach¹ helped to enhance and maintain the relationship with the EU. As mentioned at the recent conference by implementing a multi-vector foreign policy, the country has been able to diversify its external relations and successfully maneuver between different, and often competing, interests of external players for its own benefit.²

As a matter of fact, the diplomatic relationship between Kazakhstan and the EU has established in 1993, and they marked their 30th anniversary this year.³ Moreover, the location of

¹ 'Kazakhstan 2050' Strategy announced by the President of Kazakhstan on 14 December 2012 (in Kazakh and Russian languages), at: <http://www.akorda.kz/ru/addresses/addresses_of_president>, (accessed Jul. 15, 2015).

² Arynov Z. Is Kazakhstan's multi-vector foreign policy threatened? (2022), 192 page, Horizons "The return of History. The hour of Central Asia"

³ Kazakhstan and European Union: Three Decades of Partnership, Cooperation and Friendship, 31 January 2023, The Astana Times.

Kazakhstan plays a significant role on the international stage since it is in the heart of Eurasia and between the two leading countries as Russia and China. Actually, it was one of the reasons to set up a close partnership between two territories and develop it through the years.

In order to consider about the history of trade between two regions I would like to divide it by three decades, indicating key moments:

1) 1993-2003:

- The first agreement between the EU and Kazakhstan was signed in 1995 and called “Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA)”, which set the tone for relationships in the different sectors, such as cooperation, trade and financial system. The PCA was defined as a promotion of political discussion, open trade and cooperation in the economic field between the two parties.
- In 1997, The adoption of a resolution approving the signing of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the EU was announced by the General Secretariat of the European Parliament at a session of the European Parliament in Strasbourg. Therefore, according to the general provisions of the EU institutions on internal affairs, EC reviewed all the essential documents for the entry into force of this Agreement. Moreover, 8 EU member states (Denmark, Austria, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom) have confirmed the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement with Kazakhstan.⁴
- The process of the PCA ratification was finished within whole four years and it entered into force on July 1, 1999.⁵

2) 2003-2013:

- The PCA opened the start for the improvement of relations between the EU and Kazakhstan, which was a foundation for the adoption of additional documents such as the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Energy

⁴ AP RK, Fund-75-H, Series-1, File-3042, p. 46.

⁵ Z. Kembayev, Republik Kasachstan und die Europäische Union: Rechtsgrundlagen einer Partnerschaft, 46 Jahrbuch für Ostrecht, 341, 342 (2005).

(2006)⁶ and the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Transport (2009).⁷

- The EU and Kazakhstan had a discussion regarding the PCA about its present structure that was not fully for development of Kazakhstan's growth as a political and economic player.⁸ Consequently, both parties negotiated about drawing up a new enhanced partnership agreement with the goal of upgrading the EU-Kazakhstan relationship, including a trade sector, on 27 June 2011 in Brussels.

3) 2013-2023:

- 2015 was a year for new era of the EU-Kazakhstan relationship including trade and economic cooperation and which laid a way for new businesses between them. The EU's bilateral trade relations with Kazakhstan are covered by an Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement signed in Astana on 21 December 2015, which entered into force after five years in March 2020. This agreement is the first one signed by the EU with Central Asian partners, especially Kazakhstan.⁹
- In May 2023, the Commission accepted a mandate from the Council to agree a Protocol to the EPCA with Kazakhstan as regards the protection of Geographical Indications (GIs) for the commodity.¹⁰
- The EPCA includes 29 broad spheres of cooperation from economy, mutual trade and investment to cooperation in aviation, employment and social affairs, education and research, justice and human rights.¹¹

⁶ Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Energy <https://energy.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2022-12/mou_kazakshtan_en.pdf>

⁷ Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Transport, <https://online.zakon.kz/Document/?doc_id=31349237&pos=3;-106#pos=3;-106>

⁸ Joint Statement of the 11th EU-Kazakhstan Cooperation Council, (Nov. 17, 2009), at: <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/er/111290.pdf>., 14 Negotiations

⁹ https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/eu-trade-relationships-country-and-region/countries-and-regions/central-asia_en

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Factsheet on EU-Kazakhstan relations, May 2023. <https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/eu-kazakhstan-relations_en>

- In 2015 Kazakhstan became a member of World Trade Organization. The WTO aims to help its members in using trade to improve standard of comfort, work place creations, and upgrade existence of people. The WTO controls the global trade rules and supports developing countries to expand their trade turnover.¹²
- In 2022 Kazakhstan's President Tokayev Kassym-Jomart announced a new project so-called "New Kazakhstan", which opens up new opportunity and matches growing dynamics of the region between the EU and Kazakhstan. Economic policy of this project asserts on the diversification of Kazakhstan's economic corridors, giving preference to energy transportation. According to this, the EU can be potentially important partner by strengthening roads toward Europe.¹³

The history of trade between the EU and Kazakhstan is full of significant agreements, open trade measures and increasing investment. They have worked to deepen and strengthen economic sector, encourage diversification, and set up comfortable conditions in trade and investment for both parties.

2. Current situation in the field of the trade between the EU and Kazakhstan

Nowadays Kazakhstan is the EU's main trade partner in the Central Asia region. The EU is also Kazakhstan's first trading partner, according to the information from the report of CCTC: EU-27 accounted for about 30% of its trade with the world in 2021 and foreign direct investment (FDI) provider.¹⁴ Consequently, the current situation shows up that trade relationship is growing over the years.

In comparison 2021 to 2020, the total trade volume between the EU and Kazakhstan has increased by a bit less than quarter (24.1%), up to 23 billion euros. The trade balance has reached 12 billion euros in favor of Kazakhstan.¹⁵ Despite this fact, in 2022 the trade turnover

¹² Kazakhstan to Establish Permanent Mission to WTO in Geneva. 23 August 2022. <<https://astanatimes.com/2022/08/kazakhstan-to-establish-permanent-mission-to-wto-in-geneva/>>

¹³ EU-Central Asia Relations and Beyond: The Orientation of Energy Policies in Kazakhstan. 22 June 2022. <<https://eias.org/publications/op-ed/eu-central-asia-relations-and-beyond-the-orientation-of-energy-policies-in-kazakhstan/>>

¹⁴ Report on the 5th meeting of the EU – Kazakhstan Cooperation Committee in Trade Configuration (CCTC). 10 March 2022

¹⁵ Ibid.

between them made up 39.9 billion US dollars, which is 38% higher than in the 2021. Regarding the investment by European companies in Kazakhstan in 2022 increased by 23% to 12.5 billion US dollars.¹⁶

Due to the analysis “Kazakhstan provided information that the Comprehensive privatization plan for 2021-2025 includes 721 objects of republican, municipal property and quasi-public sector, of which 670 objects are to be put up for sale, 51 objects are provided for sale in a single lot in the perimeter of parent companies (subsidiaries and affiliates of the NWF "Samruk-Kazyna")”¹⁷. According to this situation, EU can be sure that Kazakhstan is playing as a leader in Central Asia. This has also showed itself through the adoption of three EU funded regional supporting projects for trade and investment named as Ready4Trade, Central Asia Invest with OECD, Rule of Law in Central Asia with the Council of Europe.

The delegation of Kazakhstan has mentioned that the implementation of the national program "100 steps" supports and complements the programs financed by the EU.¹⁸ This project was approved by the first President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev.

The EU and Kazakhstan discussed the need to agree on the lists of possible arbitrators for the Dispute Settlement mechanism foreseen by Article 196 of the EPCA. The Trade and Business Title of the EPCA entered into force on 1 May 2016. The Cooperation Committee had to set up the list of 15 possible arbitrators within six months, not later (i.e., by 1 November 2016), however, it has not yet been done, according to information by 2022. The steps that have to be taken were discussed and agreed upon by both parties regarding the list of arbitrators.¹⁹

There was also a discussion about access to public procurement under EPCA provisions. Kazakhstan mentioned that there are no restrictions for EU bidders in public procurement. The EU referred to the recent Government Decree, dated February 2, 2022 No. 49 “on certain matters of establishing an exemption from the national treatment regime”, which pretends to exempt the procurement of certain goods from the national treatment regime. However, the

¹⁶ Kazakhstan and the European Union outline new areas of cooperation. 16 May 2023. <<https://www.gov.kz/memleket/entities/mfa/press/news/details/554806?lang=en>>

¹⁷ Report on the 5th meeting of the EU – Kazakhstan Cooperation Committee in Trade Configuration (CCTC). 10 March 2022

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Ibid.

EU claimed that this decree constitutes a break of the EPCA, and requested Kazakhstan to reconsider this measure as soon as possible.²⁰

There is a focus on supporting trade and investment opportunities for SMEs between the EU and Kazakhstan. Small and medium-sized enterprises show approximately whole percentage (99%) of all businesses in the EU. The meaning of SMEs is important for receiving and getting an access to finance and EU support projects targeted specifically at these businesses.²¹

In 2020, SMEs made up 96.4% of all businesses in Kazakhstan and accounted for 38.6% of total employment and 31.6% of national GDP. At the end of 2020, more than 1.6 million SMEs were registered in the Kazakhstan, including enterprises, individual entrepreneurs and farms.²²

3. The impact of exports and imports between the EU and Kazakhstan

Exports and imports between the European Union and Kazakhstan have a significant role on both economies. Here are some important details showing up the impact of exports and imports:

- In 2022, exports numbered to 32.3 billion US dollars, while imports reached - 7.6 billion US dollars.²³
- According to the report of the meeting of CCTC: The mutual trade remains dominated by exports of mineral products from Kazakhstan to the EU (more than 90% of total KAZ exports).²⁴

Economic Growth: The export of natural resources, such as oil, gas, metals, and minerals, from Kazakhstan to the EU makes income and improves economic activity in Kazakhstan.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs. <https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/smes/sme-definition_en>

²² Financing SMEs and Entrepreneurs 2022. An OECD Scoreboard. <https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/industry-and-services/financing-smes-and-entrepreneurs-2022_e9073a0f-en#page180>

²³ Kazakhstan and the European Union outline new areas of cooperation. 16 May 2023. <<https://www.gov.kz/memleket/entities/mfa/press/news/details/554806?lang=en>>

²⁴ Report on the 5th meeting of the EU – Kazakhstan Cooperation Committee in Trade Configuration (CCTC). 10 March 2022

In contrast, imports to Kazakhstan consist of machinery, equipment and other manufactured goods.

Employment and Job: Exports from Kazakhstan created new workplaces in sectors such as energy, mining, and agriculture. Imports from the EU give inputs and machinery for local businesses in Kazakhstan.

Technology Transfer and Knowledge Exchange: Imports of machinery, equipment, and technology to Kazakhstan provide technology transfer and knowledge exchange. It is important for local industries since it helps to enhance productivity and efficiency among them.

Consumer Choice and Quality: Imports from the EU provide consumers from Kazakhstan high-quality products. The accessibility of goods from the EU increases consumer choice and raises standards in domestic markets. Consumer goods, food products, and luxury items provided by the EU serve the wants of Kazakhstan's rising middle class.

Trade Balance: It is possible for the trade balance between the EU and Kazakhstan to have a significant impact on the balance of payments and current account circumstances of both areas. A trade surplus for Kazakhstan can lead to helpful current account balances and foreign currency reserves. In contrast, a trade deficit (imports exceeding exports) could require foreign capital inflows or investment.

It is crucial to emphasize that the effects of exports and imports differ over time and among industries. Trade, market conditions, government policies, and other variables affecting EU-Kazakh trade ties influence the precise economic and social effects.

PART 2. COOPERATION

1. The European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights

The European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) is a key mechanism through which the European Union (EU) supports democracy and human rights initiatives in partner countries. As part of its commitment to promoting and protecting human rights globally, the EU established the EIDHR to provide financial support and assistance to civil society organizations (CSOs) and other stakeholders working in the field of democracy and human rights.²⁵ The European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights was officially established on December 15, 2006, through Regulation (EC) No 1889/2006.²⁶ This regulation laid out the framework for the EIDHR, defining its objectives, scope, and implementation modalities.

The signing of the EIDHR marked a significant step in the EU's commitment to promoting democracy and human rights globally. It provided a comprehensive framework for the EU's financial support to civil society organizations (CSOs) and human rights defenders working to advance human rights, democratic governance, and the rule of law in partner countries.²⁷ Since its establishment, the EIDHR has been a key instrument for the EU's external action in supporting democracy and human rights. It has played a crucial role in empowering local actors, promoting inclusive and accountable governance, and addressing human rights challenges in various regions around the world, including partner countries like Kazakhstan.²⁸

One of the core features of the EIDHR is its commitment to inclusivity, gender equality, and non-discrimination. It seeks to ensure that all individuals, irrespective of their gender, age, ethnicity, or background, have equal access to their rights and are able to participate fully in the democratic process. The EIDHR acknowledges that the enjoyment of human rights is indivisible and interdependent, and therefore, its interventions take a holistic ap-

²⁵ European Commission, "The European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR)," European Union External Action, (accessed June 10, 2023), <https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/eidhr_en.>

²⁶ Regulation (EC) No 1889/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 December 2006 on establishing a financing instrument for the promotion of democracy and human rights worldwide (European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights) (OJ L 386/1, 29.12.2006).

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ European Union External Action, "The European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR).

proach, addressing both civil and political rights, as well as economic, social, and cultural rights.

In practical terms, the EIDHR provides financial support to CSOs and human rights defenders through various funding mechanisms. These mechanisms include calls for proposals, which allow organizations to submit project ideas aligned with the priorities and objectives of the EIDHR. Successful applicants receive grants to implement their projects, which can range from capacity-building initiatives and awareness campaigns to research and advocacy activities.²⁹

The implementation of the EIDHR follows a decentralized approach, allowing for tailored and context-specific support to local CSOs. EU Delegations in partner countries play a vital role in managing and monitoring the implementation of EIDHR-funded projects. They collaborate closely with CSOs, human rights defenders, and other stakeholders to ensure that interventions are effectively aligned with the local needs and realities. In the context of cooperation between Kazakhstan and the EU, the EIDHR plays a significant role in supporting initiatives that promote democracy, human rights, and the rule of law in Kazakhstan. The instrument's financial assistance enables civil society actors to actively participate in advocating for democratic reforms, protecting human rights, and fostering dialogue between different stakeholders.³⁰

The EIDHR has supported numerous projects in Kazakhstan, ranging from initiatives aimed at strengthening the capacity of CSOs to projects focused on promoting media pluralism, freedom of expression, and social inclusion. By empowering local actors and promoting respect for human rights, these projects contribute to the advancement of democratic governance and the protection of human rights in Kazakhstan. The partnership between the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) and Kazakhstan has yielded significant achievements in promoting democracy, human rights, and the rule of law in the country. Through their collaboration, various projects and initiatives have been implemented, contributing to positive developments in several key areas.

Strengthening Civil Society:

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ Ibid.

One of the notable achievements of the partnership has been the strengthening of civil society in Kazakhstan. The EIDHR has played a crucial role in supporting the capacity-building of civil society organizations (CSOs) in the country. Financial support provided by the EIDHR has empowered CSOs to enhance their organizational and advocacy skills, enabling them to effectively engage in democratic processes and advocate for human rights. This support has resulted in the establishment of vibrant civil society networks and platforms, facilitating increased civic participation and amplification of voices advocating for social and political reforms.

Promoting Freedom of Expression and Media Pluralism:

The partnership has also focused on promoting freedom of expression and media pluralism. Through EIDHR funding, media organizations and journalists in Kazakhstan have been able to carry out investigative journalism, raise awareness about human rights issues, and foster a more open and diverse media landscape. This support has contributed to greater transparency, accountability, and public discourse in the country.

Advancing Women's Rights and Gender Equality:

Efforts to advance women's rights and promote gender equality have been an important aspect of the partnership. Projects supported by the EIDHR have aimed to address gender-based discrimination, violence against women, and promote women's participation in decision-making processes. These initiatives have contributed to raising awareness about gender equality, fostering gender-sensitive policies, and empowering women in various spheres of life, including politics, the economy, and social development.

Enhancing Access to Justice and Legal Reforms:

The partnership between the EIDHR and Kazakhstan has also focused on enhancing access to justice and promoting legal reforms. Efforts have been made to strengthen the independence and effectiveness of the judiciary, improve legal frameworks, and enhance access to justice for all. These initiatives have contributed to building a fair and transparent legal system that ensures the protection of human rights and the rule of law.

Addressing Social Inclusion and the Rights of Vulnerable Groups:

The EIDHR has supported projects aimed at addressing social inclusion and promoting the rights of vulnerable groups in Kazakhstan. Initiatives focused on the rights of persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities, and other marginalized communities have received support

from the EIDHR. These projects have contributed to raising awareness, combating discrimination, and fostering inclusive policies and practices that respect the rights and dignity of all individuals in Kazakhstan.

2. Civil Society Organizations

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) are non-governmental, non-profit organizations that operate independently from the government and aim to address social, cultural, economic, and political issues. CSOs are driven by the interests and concerns of citizens, working to advance societal well-being and promote democratic values, human rights, and social development. CSOs encompass a wide range of organizations, including advocacy groups, human rights organizations, grassroots movements, community-based organizations, think tanks, and charitable foundations. They serve as a critical component of civil society, representing diverse interests, perspectives, and sectors of society. CSOs often act as intermediaries between the government and citizens, bridging gaps and facilitating dialogue for more inclusive decision-making processes.

The concept of civil society and the emergence of CSOs date back to ancient times. However, the formal recognition and institutionalization of CSOs as key actors in societal development took place in various historical contexts. The development of civil society and the establishment of CSOs have evolved over time, reflecting different political, social, and cultural circumstances in different countries. In many regions, CSOs gained prominence during the 19th and 20th centuries as a response to social challenges and the need for collective action. They played pivotal roles in advocating for social and political reforms, defending human rights, and addressing emerging societal issues. The growth of CSOs was fostered by legal frameworks that recognized their role and protected their rights to operate independently.

The specific establishment dates of CSOs vary across countries and regions. In some cases, CSOs were established through legislation, while in others, they emerged organically in response to societal needs. The establishment of CSOs can be influenced by historical events, changes in political systems, and shifts in public awareness and attitudes towards civic engagement. Overall, CSOs represent a vital component of civil society, contributing to democratic processes, social development, and the promotion of human rights. Their

establishment and growth have been shaped by historical, political, and social contexts in different countries.

Civil Society Organizations play a crucial role in promoting democracy, human rights, and social development in Kazakhstan.³¹ They encompass a wide range of non-governmental, non-profit organizations, including advocacy groups, human rights organizations, grass-roots movements, and community-based organization. In Kazakhstan, CSOs have been instrumental in driving democratic reforms and protecting human rights. They contribute to the pluralistic and inclusive nature of society by providing diverse perspectives, advocating for citizen participation, and monitoring the government's adherence to democratic principles.³²

The EIDHR has been a significant supporter of CSOs in Kazakhstan. Through its funding, the EIDHR has provided resources for capacity-building initiatives, training programs, and project implementation.³³ This support has strengthened the role of CSOs in advocating for democratic reforms, monitoring human rights violations, and fostering dialogue among stakeholders. Furthermore, the EIDHR has facilitated networking and collaboration among CSOs in Kazakhstan, enabling them to share experiences, best practices, and resources. This cooperation enhances the effectiveness of CSOs and promotes synergy in their efforts to advance democracy and human rights.³⁴

Despite their important contributions, CSOs in Kazakhstan face challenges, including restrictive legislation, limited funding opportunities, and potential government interference. Laws and regulations that impose restrictions on CSOs' activities can hinder their ability to operate freely and effectively.³⁵ However, CSOs continue to play a vital role in promoting democratic values and defending human rights in Kazakhstan.

³¹ European Union External Action, "Support to Civil Society," European Union, (accessed June 10, 2023), <https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sectors/human-rights-and-governance/democracy-and-human-rights/european-instrument-for-democracy-and-human-rights/support-civil-society_en>

³² Ibid.

³³ International Center for Not-for-Profit Law, "Kazakhstan: Civic Freedom Monitor," ICNL, accessed June 10, 2023, <<https://www.icnl.org/resources/civic-freedom-monitor/kazakhstan>>

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ International Center for Not-for-Profit Law, "Kazakhstan: Civic Freedom Monitor."

3. Memorandum of Understanding

The history of Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) can be traced back to the 20th century as a means to establish formal agreements between parties. MoUs emerged as a flexible instrument to facilitate cooperation and coordination among various stakeholders without creating legally binding obligations.³⁶ Over time, MoUs have become widely adopted in international relations and have played a significant role in fostering cooperation and partnerships. The establishment of the MoU as a recognized instrument in international relations can be attributed to the increased need for collaboration and the growing complexity of global challenges. MoUs provide a framework for cooperation, allowing parties to outline their shared goals, areas of cooperation, and principles guiding their collaboration. The flexibility of MoUs makes them particularly suitable for addressing diverse issues and adapting to changing circumstances.³⁷

In the context of cooperation between Kazakhstan and the European Union, Memoranda of Understanding play a crucial role in guiding their partnership and promoting mutual interests. These MoUs establish the basis for dialogue, cooperation, and joint initiatives in specific areas of cooperation. A Memorandum of Understanding between Kazakhstan and the EU covers diverse topics, including political cooperation, trade and economic relations, human rights, education, cultural exchanges, and environmental protection.³⁸ The content and scope of each MoU depend on the shared objectives and priorities of the parties involved.

By signing a Memorandum of Understanding, Kazakhstan and the EU demonstrate their commitment to strengthening bilateral relations and enhancing cooperation in various areas of mutual interest. The MoU provides a formal framework for regular consultations, information exchange, joint initiatives, and coordination of efforts to achieve common goals.

It is important to note that a Memorandum of Understanding is a non-legally binding document. While it does not create legally enforceable obligations, it serves as a guiding in-

³⁶ Renov, M. "Memoranda of Understanding: A Study in International Law," *Stanford Journal of International Law* 28 (1992): 1-82.

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ European Commission, "Statement by President von der Leyen on the occasion of the signature of the Memorandum of Understanding with Kazakhstan," European Union, accessed June 12, 2023, <https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/STATEMENT_22_6648>

strument that fosters cooperation, understanding, and collaboration between the signatory parties. Provisions outlined in an MoU may serve as a basis for subsequent legally binding agreements or partnerships in specific areas of cooperation.³⁹

4. The Partnership and Cooperation Agreement

The Republic of Kazakhstan and the European Union have progressively strengthened their bilateral relations through a series of agreements that have enhanced cooperation in various domains. The Partnership and Cooperation Agreement signed in 1999 played a pivotal role in establishing the framework for cooperation between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the European Union. This section provides an overview of the PCA and its objectives.

The PCA between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the European Communities and their Member States was opened for signature on 23 January 1995 and entered into force on 1 July 1999.⁴⁰ It served as the foundation for bilateral relations between Kazakhstan and the EU, aiming to promote political dialogue, cooperation in various sectors, and the development of economic and trade relations. The PCA set out the overarching objectives and principles for cooperation between the two parties. Its key objectives included the promotion of stability, security, and democracy; the enhancement of economic and trade relations; and the strengthening of cultural and human contacts between Kazakhstan and the EU.⁴¹

The agreement encompassed a wide range of areas, including political dialogue, trade and investment, energy, environment, transport, education, culture, and regional and international cooperation. It provided a comprehensive framework for collaboration and facilitated the development of subsequent agreements between the two parties. It reflected the shared commitment of Kazakhstan and the EU to promote democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. It emphasized the importance of respect for fundamental freedoms, including freedom of expression, association, and assembly, as well as the need to combat corruption and ensure the independence of the judiciary. The PCA also established institution-

³⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁰ Treaty between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the European Communities and their Member States on Partnership and Cooperation, opened for signature 23 January 1995, [1999] OJ L 69/1.

⁴¹ Ibid.

al mechanisms to facilitate cooperation, such as the Cooperation Council, which served as a platform for high-level political dialogue and the monitoring of agreement implementation. It provided for regular meetings and consultations between the parties to discuss bilateral and international issues of mutual interest.⁴²

The Agreement led to several notable achievements in various areas of cooperation between two institutions.

4.1. Trade and Economic Cooperation

The PCA contributed to the development of trade and economic relations between Kazakhstan and the EU. Through the agreement, both parties committed to promoting trade liberalization and the removal of barriers to investment. As a result, bilateral trade between Kazakhstan and the EU increased significantly.

- Trade facilitation⁴³: The PCA established a framework for enhancing trade cooperation by addressing issues related to customs procedures, technical barriers to trade, and other trade-related matters. This facilitated smoother trade flows between Kazakhstan and the EU.
- Market access⁴⁴: The agreement aimed to improve market access for goods and services. It provided a platform for negotiations on tariff reductions and regulatory cooperation, leading to increased access to each other's markets.

4.2. Political Dialogue and Cooperation

The PCA served as a catalyst for political dialogue and cooperation between Kazakhstan and the EU, fostering deeper engagement in various areas.

- Political dialogue mechanisms⁴⁵: The agreement established the Cooperation Council and other institutional mechanisms, providing platforms for regular political dia-

⁴² Ibid.

⁴³ Treaty between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the European Communities and their Member States on Partnership and Cooperation, opened for signature 23 January 1995, [1999] OJ L 69/1.

⁴⁴ European External Action Service, "Kazakhstan" (2022) European External Action Service, accessed 1 July, 2023, <https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/2002/kazakhstan_en. >

logue and consultations on regional and international issues. This facilitated the exchange of views and enhanced understanding between the parties.

- Sectoral cooperation⁴⁶: The PCA promoted sectoral cooperation in areas such as energy, transport, environment, education, culture, and regional integration. This allowed for joint initiatives, knowledge sharing, and capacity building in these sectors.

4.3. Human Rights and Rule of Law

The PCA underscored the importance of human rights and the rule of law, leading to progress in these areas.

- Human rights dialogue⁴⁷: The agreement facilitated a human rights dialogue between Kazakhstan and the EU. This provided an opportunity to discuss human rights issues, exchange best practices, and address concerns related to fundamental freedoms, rule of law, and governance.
- Support for civil society⁴⁸: The PCA encouraged cooperation in promoting civil society development, including through support for non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and initiatives aimed at strengthening human rights protection, democracy, and good governance.

4.4. Regional and International Cooperation

The PCA paved the way for enhanced regional and international cooperation between Kazakhstan and the EU, fostering collaboration on shared challenges and opportunities.

⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶ Treaty between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the European Communities and their Member States on Partnership and Cooperation, opened for signature 23 January 1995, [1999] OJ L 69/1.

⁴⁷ Ibid.

⁴⁸ European Union External Action, "Kazakhstan" (2022) European Union External Action, accessed 1 July, 2023, <https://eeas.europa.eu/topics/human-rights-democracy/296/area-focus-kazakhstan_en>.

- Regional integration⁴⁹: The agreement acknowledged the importance of regional integration and cooperation. It facilitated dialogue and cooperation on regional issues, contributing to stability, security, and prosperity in Central Asia and the wider region.
- Joint projects and initiatives⁵⁰: The PCA provided a framework for joint projects and initiatives between Kazakhstan and the EU. These collaborations encompassed areas such as energy, environment, transport, and education, promoting sustainable development and knowledge exchange.

Overall, the PCA achieved significant progress in trade and economic cooperation, political dialogue, human rights, and regional and international cooperation. It laid the foundation for subsequent agreements, deepening the relationship between Kazakhstan and the EU and fostering mutual understanding and collaboration.

5. Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement

The Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the European Union and its Member States was signed on 21 December 2015 and entered into provisional application on 1 May 2016.⁵¹ The EPCA aimed to deepen and broaden the scope of cooperation between Kazakhstan and the EU, building upon the foundation established by the previous Partnership and Cooperation Agreement of 1999. The Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (EPCA) is a comprehensive agreement that establishes a framework for cooperation and partnership between Kazakhstan and the European Union (EU).⁵² The EPCA aims to enhance political dialogue, deepen economic cooperation, promote trade and investment, and strengthen cooperation in various sectors and it represents a significant milestone in the bilateral relations between the two parties, marking an upgraded level of cooperation and engagement.⁵³

⁴⁹ Ibid.

⁵⁰ Ibid.

⁵¹ Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the European Union and its Member States, signed 21 December 2015, [2016] OJ L 11/1.

⁵² European Union External Action, "EU-Kazakhstan Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (EPCA).

⁵³ Ibid.

The Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between Kazakhstan and the European Union (EU) has not yet come into force as it requires ratification by all EU member states. However, Kazakhstan ratified the agreement on March 25, 2016, and certain provisions of the EPCA have been provisionally applied since May 1, 2016. The primary objective of the EPCA is to strengthen relations between European countries and Kazakhstan, covering 29 areas of cooperation, including finance and economy, energy, transport, environment and climate change, employment and social affairs, and education and research.⁵⁴ The EPCA places significant emphasis on key values such as democracy, the rule of law, human rights, sustainable development, and cooperation in civil society. In terms of foreign and security policy, the agreement focuses on regional stability, addressing weapons of mass destruction (WMD), international cooperation in the fight against terrorism, crisis management, and conflict prevention. In the field of trade, the EPCA aims to create a favorable regulatory environment for economic operators. It covers various aspects such as trade in services, the establishment and operation of companies, capital movements, raw materials and energy, government procurement, and intellectual property rights.

The objectives of the EPCA were multifaceted and encompassed various dimensions of the bilateral relationship between Kazakhstan and the EU. The agreement aimed to:

1. Strengthen political dialogue and cooperation: The EPCA aimed to enhance political dialogue between Kazakhstan and the EU, providing a platform for regular consultations on bilateral, regional, and global issues of mutual interest. It sought to deepen cooperation in areas such as peace and security, counterterrorism, migration, and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.⁵⁵
2. Promote economic and trade relations: The EPCA aimed to further develop and diversify economic and trade relations between Kazakhstan and the EU. It sought to create a conducive environment for investment, facilitate trade flows, and foster cooperation in areas such as intellectual property rights, competition policy, and public procurement. The agreement aimed to support the development of a sustainable and diversified economy in Kazakhstan and promote economic integration between the two parties.⁵⁶

⁵⁴ Ibid.

⁵⁵ Ibid.

⁵⁶ Ibid.

3. Enhance sectoral cooperation: The EPCA expanded sectoral cooperation between Kazakhstan and the EU, covering a wide range of areas such as energy, transport, environment, agriculture, education, culture, research, and innovation. The agreement aimed to facilitate joint initiatives, knowledge sharing, and capacity building in these sectors, contributing to sustainable development and the well-being of the people of Kazakhstan and the EU.⁵⁷

The EPCA also established institutional mechanisms to facilitate the implementation and monitoring of the agreement. These mechanisms included the Cooperation Council, the Cooperation Committee, and various subcommittees, which provided platforms for regular consultations, monitoring of progress, and coordination of cooperation activities between the two parties.

The EPCA intends to enhance cooperation and dialogue between the EU and Kazakhstan across multiple sectors, paving the way for closer political, economic, and social ties. By promoting shared values and establishing comprehensive cooperation mechanisms, the agreement aims to foster regional stability, economic growth, and social progress for the mutual benefit of both parties.⁵⁸ To comprehend the level of ambition set by the Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and Kazakhstan, it is crucial to assess the achievements attained thus far. Despite their geographical distance, the bilateral relations between the EU and Kazakhstan have witnessed an unprecedented level of cooperation. Notably, the EU has emerged as Kazakhstan's primary trade and investment partner, surpassing neighboring countries such as Russia and China. Presently, the EU holds the position of Kazakhstan's foremost trade partner, accounting for approximately 40% of its total external trade. Kazakhstan predominantly exports oil and gas to the EU, constituting over 80% of its total exports. Conversely, EU exports to Kazakhstan predominantly comprise machinery, transport equipment, and products within the manufacturing and chemicals sectors.⁵⁹

Furthermore, imports from Kazakhstan significantly surpass EU exports to the country. For instance, in 2015, Kazakhstan's foreign trade turnover amounted to \$31 billion, with im-

⁵⁷ Ibid.

⁵⁸ Ibid.

⁵⁹ Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Kazakhstan, "Kazakhstan and EU," GOV.KZ, accessed June 12, 2023, < <https://www.gov.kz/memleket/entities/mfa?lang=kk> >

ports totaling \$3.8 billion and exports reaching \$24.3 billion.⁶⁰ Moreover, the EU has been a robust source of Foreign Direct Investment inflow for Kazakhstan, particularly in the oil and gas sectors. Nearly half of the FDI inflow originates from EU countries. From 2005 to September 2015, European countries' FDI into Kazakhstan's economy amounted to \$107.4 billion, with prominent investors hailing from the Netherlands, France, the United Kingdom, and Italy.⁶¹

While the European Union holds significant importance as an export market and investment destination for Kazakhstan, Kazakhstan also plays a crucial role in ensuring the EU's energy security. As a major energy supplier to Europe, Kazakhstan ranks third among non-OPEC countries, following Norway and Russia. Notably, Austria receives 25% of Kazakhstan's oil supply, Romania receives 30%, and Kazakhstan is the fourth-largest energy supplier to Germany.⁶² This mutual interdependence highlights the establishment of a framework for bilateral relations between Kazakhstan and the EU. The diplomatic relations between the two have developed in parallel with their economic ties, further solidifying their partnership.

The Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between Kazakhstan and the EU aims to shape the future relationship between the two parties. According to Federica Mogherini, the current High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission, the EPCA goes beyond its predecessor by encompassing new areas of cooperation, including justice, freedom, and security. The "rule of law" assumes great importance in attracting firms and investments, as it ensures a strong and reliable legal system, fostering foreign direct investment flows. The rule of law, a core principle in the functioning of the EU, encompasses factors such as the absence of corruption, open government, fundamental rights, and civil justice. Its positive impact on a country's economy lies in guaranteeing political stability, a crucial aspect for investors. Therefore, an enhanced legal foundation for economic and political cooperation will elevate Kazakhstan-EU relations to a higher level.

⁶⁰ Ibid.

⁶¹ Ibid.

⁶² Ibid.

From the European Union's perspective, the deepening cooperation with Kazakhstan is viewed as an important step towards implementing its Central Asian strategy. The European Union Strategy for Central Asia was adopted in 2007 and underwent its fourth review in 2015. This strategy outlines the EU's plans to develop bilateral relations with Central Asian countries in various areas, including education, the rule of law, energy and transport, environment and water, and trade and economic relations. The EU has allocated significant development assistance to Central Asia, with approximately €750 million provided between 2007 and 2013, and an additional €1 billion planned for the period of 2014 to 2020. Among the Central Asian countries, Kazakhstan has established the closest relationship with European countries, while Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, and Tajikistan have relatively lower levels of cooperation with the EU. The EU's main objective is to build stronger relations with these countries by further developing its strategy. The Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement can be seen as a significant step towards the implementation of the Central Asian strategy, as the EU seeks to enhance bilateral relations with each country in the region. Consequently, the EPCA is viewed by the EU as a means to realize its broader regional vision.

In summary, despite not sharing a common geographical location, the relations between the EU and Kazakhstan are rapidly developing with a long-term perspective. The move towards enhanced cooperation signifies the incremental progress in the relationship between the two parties. Both sides aim to strengthen their ties by implementing common principles such as the rule of law. Through the EU's cooperation in developing the rule of law, Kazakhstan can feel a closer affinity to European countries, as the shared values and the implementation thereof remain key factors in building robust bilateral relations. As a result, it can be concluded that the relations between Kazakhstan and the EU have matured, shifting the focus from solely economic relations to sharing common moral perspectives.

6. Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) is an international organization that promotes peace, security, and cooperation among its 57 participating states. It is the largest regional security organization globally and operates on three dimensions: the politico-military, economic and environmental, and human dimensions.⁶³

⁶³ Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, "About the OSCE," accessed July 10, 2023, <<https://www.osce.org/about>.>

The OSCE aims to address security challenges and foster cooperation in various areas. In the politico-military dimension, the organization focuses on conflict prevention, crisis management, arms control, and disarmament. The economic and environmental dimension includes issues such as trade, energy security, and environmental sustainability. The human dimension prioritizes human rights, democratic governance, and the rule of law.⁶⁴

Kazakhstan became a participant of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) on January 30, 1992. This automatically entailed the recognition of Kazakhstan by all 48 members of this international organization. Throughout 1992, Kazakhstan signed all the foundational documents of the CSCE, including the Helsinki Final Act of 1975 and the Charter of Paris for a New Europe, thereby assuming all the obligations of a member state.⁶⁵

In 1994, at the CSCE Budapest Summit, the organization was renamed the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). From the very beginning of its participation in this organization, Kazakhstan actively advocated for the strengthening of security within the CSCE/OSCE framework. Kazakhstan participated in all CSCE/OSCE Summits, including Budapest (1994), Lisbon (1996), and Istanbul (1999). The Budapest Summit held significant importance for Kazakhstan's security, as it provided security guarantees from nuclear-weapon states to Kazakhstan as a country that voluntarily renounced nuclear weapons.⁶⁶

In 2010, Kazakhstan became the first country from the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Asia, and the Turkic-speaking world to assume the chairmanship of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the most prominent organization in the Eurasian region. The objective of Kazakhstan's chairmanship in the OSCE was to enhance its international reputation by strengthening its positions within the organization, increasing its presence in OSCE missions and institutions, conducting regular monitoring of the use of OSCE tools in various regions within its responsibility zone, and seeking new allies to address the strategic tasks of Kazakhstan's foreign policy.

⁶⁴ Ibid.

⁶⁵ Kazakhstan Foreign Ministry, "History of Relations with the OSCE," accessed July 10, 2023, <<https://mfa.gov.kz/index.php/ru/vneshnyaya-politika/sotrudnichestvo-kazakhstana/sotrudnichestvo-s-osce>.>

⁶⁶ Ibid.

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe and Kazakhstan share a significant relationship when it comes to security cooperation. Kazakhstan's participation in the OSCE allows the country to actively engage in regional security efforts, contribute to conflict prevention, and promote dialogue among member states.

As an OSCE participating state, Kazakhstan benefits from the organization's comprehensive approach to security, which encompasses the politico-military, economic and environmental, and human dimensions. In the politico-military dimension, Kazakhstan cooperates with other member states on issues such as arms control, disarmament, and confidence-building measures. This cooperation helps foster stability and trust in the region.

Kazakhstan's engagement with the OSCE extends to various areas of security, including the promotion of human rights, democratic governance, and the rule of law. The OSCE provides a platform for Kazakhstan to address human rights concerns, improve democratic processes, and strengthen institutions that uphold the rule of law. Through participation in OSCE programs and initiatives, Kazakhstan aims to enhance its governance practices and protect the rights of its citizens.

Additionally, the OSCE plays a crucial role in supporting Kazakhstan's efforts in conflict prevention and resolution. The organization facilitates dialogue and mediation among participating states, aiming to find peaceful solutions to regional conflicts. Kazakhstan actively participates in OSCE-led initiatives related to conflict resolution and peacebuilding, contributing to stability in the wider region.

Furthermore, the OSCE conducts election monitoring missions in Kazakhstan, assisting the country in ensuring free and fair elections and promoting democratic processes. These missions provide an independent assessment of the electoral process, offering recommendations for further improvements.

Kazakhstan's collaboration with the OSCE also extends to other security-related areas such as countering terrorism, combating transnational organized crime, and promoting economic and environmental cooperation. Through participation in OSCE initiatives and projects, Kazakhstan works alongside other member states to address common security challenges and promote regional stability.

In summary, Kazakhstan's involvement in the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe allows the country to actively contribute to regional security efforts, engage in dialogue, and cooperate with other member states in various dimensions of security. The OSCE provides a platform for Kazakhstan to promote human rights, strengthen democratic processes, address conflicts, and collaborate on regional security challenges.

7. Companies related Kazakhstan and the EU

The economic relationship between Kazakhstan and the European Union (EU) is significant, with various companies playing a role in fostering trade, investment, and economic cooperation between the two entities. Companies from both Kazakhstan and EU member states engage in diverse sectors such as energy, mining, manufacturing, finance, transportation, and technology. This mutual engagement contributes to economic growth, job creation, and the development of business ties⁶⁷.

In the energy sector, companies from Kazakhstan and EU member states collaborate on projects related to oil and gas exploration, production, and transportation. Joint ventures and strategic partnerships between companies from Kazakhstan and EU member states in this sector have led to the development of oil and gas fields, the construction of pipelines, and the establishment of infrastructure for energy transportation. Moreover, the mining sector presents opportunities for cooperation between companies from Kazakhstan and the EU. European mining companies participate in joint ventures and investment projects to explore and extract resources in Kazakhstan.

In Kazakhstan, the energy sector is dominated by national oil and gas companies, including KazMunayGas (KMG) and its subsidiaries. KMG is the state-owned oil and gas company responsible for the exploration, production, refining, and transportation of hydrocarbon resources in Kazakhstan. It plays a significant role in the development of major oil and gas fields in the country, such as the Tengiz, Kashagan, and Karachaganak fields.

In addition to national companies, international oil and gas companies from EU member states also have a presence in the energy sector in Kazakhstan. Companies such as Eni, Total, Royal Dutch Shell, and BP are actively involved in joint ventures and strategic part-

⁶⁷ European Commission, "Kazakhstan," accessed July 10, 2023, < <https://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/countries-and-regions/countries/kazakhstan/>. >

nerships with Kazakhstani companies. These collaborations contribute to the exploration, development, and production of oil and gas resources in the country.

Furthermore, companies specializing in the construction and operation of pipelines and infrastructure are essential in facilitating the transportation of oil and gas resources from Kazakhstan to European markets. The construction of major pipelines, such as the Kazakhstan-China Pipeline, the Caspian Pipeline Consortium (CPC) pipeline, and the planned Trans-Caspian Gas Pipeline, involves the participation of international companies with expertise in pipeline construction and management.

European companies also contribute to the development of renewable energy sources in Kazakhstan. As Kazakhstan seeks to diversify its energy mix and increase the share of renewable energy, European companies specializing in renewable energy technologies and solutions are involved in projects related to wind, solar, and hydropower.

Moreover, energy trading and investment companies from the EU play a significant role in facilitating energy trade between Kazakhstan and European markets. These companies engage in the purchase, sale, and transportation of energy resources, contributing to the overall energy cooperation between the two entities. It is important to note that the energy sector in Kazakhstan is governed by relevant laws and regulations, ensuring the sustainable and responsible development of the industry. The government of Kazakhstan promotes an open and transparent investment environment, providing opportunities for international companies to participate in the energy sector and contribute to its growth.

In conclusion, the energy sector in Kazakhstan involves a combination of national and international companies, including national oil and gas companies, international oil majors, pipeline operators, renewable energy companies, and energy trading and investment firms. These companies collaborate to explore, produce, transport, and trade energy resources, fostering cooperation and contributing to the energy security and economic development of both Kazakhstan and the European Union.

Financial institutions from the European Union (EU) play a significant role in supporting economic activities, investment, and financial services in Kazakhstan. These institutions contribute to the development of the financial sector, promote trade and investment, and

provide a range of banking and financial services to businesses and individuals in Kazakhstan.

Many major European banks have a presence in Kazakhstan, offering a wide range of financial products and services. These banks provide services such as corporate and investment banking, trade finance, project financing, asset management, and wealth management. They play a crucial role in facilitating trade between Kazakhstan and the EU, supporting cross-border transactions and financing for businesses operating in various sectors. In addition to traditional banking services, financial institutions from the EU also contribute to the development of capital markets in Kazakhstan. They provide expertise and assistance in areas such as stock market operations, bond issuance, and other capital market activities. This helps create a favorable environment for investment and capital rising for Kazakhstani companies.

Furthermore, European financial institutions collaborate with local financial institutions and regulatory bodies in Kazakhstan to promote best practices, risk management, and compliance with international standards. They contribute to the development of the regulatory framework and financial infrastructure in Kazakhstan, helping to strengthen the overall stability and efficiency of the financial sector. European development banks and financial institutions also play a role in supporting various projects and initiatives in Kazakhstan. They provide financing for infrastructure projects, renewable energy projects, and other strategic sectors, contributing to the country's economic development and sustainable growth. Moreover, European financial institutions contribute to the enhancement of financial literacy and the development of financial education programs in Kazakhstan. They support initiatives that aim to improve financial literacy among individuals and businesses, empowering them with the necessary knowledge and skills to make informed financial decisions.

Financial institutions from the European Union play a vital role in supporting economic activities, investment, and financial services in Kazakhstan. Through their presence, they contribute to the development of the financial sector, facilitate trade and investment, provide a range of banking and financial services, and support various projects and initiatives. Their collaboration with local institutions promotes best practices, enhances financial stability, and fosters economic growth in Kazakhstan.

In the technology sector, cooperation between Kazakhstani and European companies encompasses various aspects, including innovation, research and development, and the transfer of technology. These collaborations aim to drive technological advancements, promote knowledge exchange, and foster economic growth in both Kazakhstan and the European Union. One area of cooperation is joint innovation projects and initiatives between Kazakhstani and European companies. These projects often involve collaboration in areas such as information technology, telecommunications, digital solutions, and advanced manufacturing. By pooling their expertise and resources, companies from both regions can develop innovative products, services, and technologies that address market demands and drive competitiveness.

Furthermore, research and development partnerships play a crucial role in fostering technological advancement. Kazakhstani and European companies collaborate on joint R&D projects, which involve sharing knowledge, conducting scientific research, and developing cutting-edge technologies. These collaborations contribute to the creation of new products, processes, and services, while also enhancing the research capabilities and scientific knowledge base of both regions.

The transfer of technology is another important aspect of cooperation in the technology sector. European companies often bring advanced technological know-how, best practices, and expertise to Kazakhstan, supporting the transfer of technology to local companies and institutions. This transfer can occur through various means, such as licensing agreements, joint ventures, technology transfer programs, and technical assistance. By leveraging European expertise, Kazakhstani companies can enhance their technological capabilities, improve productivity, and foster innovation.

Moreover, capacity building and skills development initiatives are undertaken to strengthen the technological capabilities of Kazakhstani professionals and institutions. European companies, often in collaboration with educational and research institutions, provide training programs, workshops, and knowledge-sharing platforms to enhance the skills of local talent in areas such as software development, data analytics, cybersecurity, and emerging technologies. These initiatives contribute to the growth of a skilled workforce and support the development of a vibrant technology ecosystem in Kazakhstan.

Additionally, start-up incubators, accelerators, and innovation hubs play a crucial role in fostering collaboration and entrepreneurship in the technology sector. These platforms provide support, mentorship, and funding opportunities for start-ups and tech entrepreneurs in Kazakhstan. European companies often engage with these entities through partnerships, investments, and mentorship programs, further nurturing the growth of innovative and technology-driven ventures.

Overall, cooperation between Kazakhstani and European companies in the technology sector spans innovation, research and development, and the transfer of technology. These collaborations drive technological advancements, promote knowledge exchange, and contribute to economic growth by fostering innovation, enhancing research capabilities, developing a skilled workforce, and supporting entrepreneurship.

PART 3. AGREEMENTS

1. The Agreement on Trade and Economic Cooperation

The Agreement on Trade and Economic Cooperation (ATEC) between Kazakhstan and the European Union was signed on 19 December 2009 and entered into force on 1 January 2010.⁶⁸ The ATEC aimed to enhance trade and economic relations between Kazakhstan and the EU by facilitating market access, promoting investment, and addressing trade-related barriers.

The ATEC established a comprehensive framework for trade and economic cooperation, focusing on various aspects of trade and investment. It aimed to create a predictable and transparent business environment, strengthen cooperation in trade-related areas, and promote economic integration between Kazakhstan and the EU. The ATEC had a significant impact on bilateral trade and investment relations between Kazakhstan and the EU. The agreement facilitated increased market access, reduced trade barriers, and provided a framework for enhanced cooperation in trade-related areas.

The ATEC aimed to gradually reduce or eliminate tariffs on a wide range of products, promoting trade liberalization between Kazakhstan and the EU. The agreement provided a predictable and stable trade regime, leading to increased market access for both parties. Also addressed trade-related barriers and aimed to streamline customs procedures, reduce non-tariff barriers, and promote regulatory cooperation. These measures facilitated smoother trade flows, reduced administrative burdens, and enhanced transparency in trade-related regulations. The goal of the agreement was to promote investment between Kazakhstan and the EU by providing a stable and predictable investment climate. The agreement included provisions for the protection of investments, intellectual property rights, and dispute resolution mechanisms. These measures contributed to increased investor confidence and facilitated greater investment flows between the two parties.

Economic integration and regional cooperation: The ATEC supported economic integration efforts by encouraging regional cooperation between Kazakhstan and the EU. It aimed to promote cooperation in areas such as transport, energy, environment, and standardization.

⁶⁸ Agreement between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the European Union on Trade and Economic Cooperation signed 19 December 2009, [2010] OJ L 119/1.

These efforts contributed to regional economic development, improved connectivity, and increased trade and investment opportunities.⁶⁹

Overall, the Agreement on Trade and Economic Cooperation (ATEC) of 2010 had a positive impact on bilateral trade and investment between Kazakhstan and the European Union. It facilitated market access, reduced trade barriers, promoted investment, and fostered cooperation in trade-related areas. The ATEC provided a comprehensive framework for enhanced economic relations and contributed to the deepening of the bilateral partnership.

2. The Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area

The Treaty establishing a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the European Union, and its Member States was signed on 20 December 2019 and entered into provisional application on a date yet to be determined.⁷⁰ The DCFTA builds upon the existing Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) and aims to further enhance trade, investment, and regulatory cooperation between Kazakhstan and the EU.

The DCFTA is designed to provide a comprehensive framework that goes beyond traditional trade agreements. It covers a wide range of areas, including trade in goods, trade in services, investment, intellectual property rights, competition, public procurement, and sustainable development.

The Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) has significant implications for bilateral trade and economic relations between Kazakhstan and the European Union. The agreement aims to deepen economic integration, promote investment flows, and enhance regulatory cooperation. Here are some key implications of the DCFTA:

- Trade in goods⁷¹: The DCFTA aims to liberalize trade in goods between Kazakhstan and the EU. It provides for the elimination or reduction of tariffs on a wide

⁶⁹ Ibid.

⁷⁰ Treaty establishing a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the European Union and its Member States, signed 20 December 2019, [2020] OJ L 36/1.

⁷¹ Treaty establishing a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the European Union and its Member States, signed 20 December 2019, [2020] OJ L 36/1.

range of products, leading to increased market access for businesses in both parties. This tariff reduction facilitates trade and enhances competitiveness.

- Trade in services: The DCFTA aims to promote trade in services between Kazakhstan and the EU. It includes provisions to facilitate market access, ensure fair and transparent treatment, and encourage regulatory cooperation in services sectors such as telecommunications, financial services, and transport. This promotes cross-border trade and investment in services.
- Investment facilitation and protection: The DCFTA provides a framework to facilitate and protect investments between Kazakhstan and the EU. It includes provisions for the protection of investments, the promotion of investment flows, and the establishment of favourable investment conditions. These measures enhance investor confidence and foster greater investment activity.
- Regulatory cooperation and standards: The DCFTA aims to enhance regulatory cooperation and convergence of standards between Kazakhstan and the EU. It facilitates the alignment of regulations, technical standards, and conformity assessment procedures, reducing non-tariff barriers to trade. This promotes a more harmonized business environment and facilitates trade.
- Intellectual property rights protection: The DCFTA includes provisions for the protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights (IPR). It strengthens IPR protection, including patents, trademarks, copyrights, and geographical indications. This fosters innovation, creativity, and the development of knowledge-based industries.
- Public procurement: The DCFTA promotes transparency and fair competition in public procurement. It aims to ensure non-discriminatory access to government procurement markets, providing opportunities for businesses from both Kazakhstan and the EU to participate in public procurement processes.

The Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) is a comprehensive agreement that enhances trade and economic cooperation between Kazakhstan and the European Union. It provides opportunities for businesses, facilitates market access, promotes investment, and fosters regulatory convergence, ultimately contributing to deeper economic integration between the two parties.

PART 4. PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS

1. Existing problems between Kazakhstan and the EU

Kazakhstan and the European Union have generally optimistic relationship, but there are some difficulties that both parties face in their bilateral cooperation. Here are several problems that Kazakhstan and the EU have experienced:

- **Human Rights and Democracy:** Kazakhstan continues to have problems with respect to individual rights and democratic governance. Freedoms of speech, freedom of the press, and political participation have been highlighted as concerns by the EU. Moreover, the EU encourages Kazakhstan to uphold human rights and democratic ideals while resolving these concerns. Concerns regarding human rights and the problems of democratic government have been expressed between Kazakhstan and the EU.
- **Rule of Law and Judicial Reform:** The EU has stressed the significance of Kazakhstan's independent judiciary and rule of law. Improvements are required in the areas of strengthening the judicial system, promoting openness, and combatting corruption. The EU has asked for more steps to improve the business and investment climate by strengthening legal frameworks and effectively combating corruption. Efforts to enhance the business and investment climate through judicial reform are underway, although they have encountered significant challenges.
- **Civil Society and Freedom of Association:** The EU has expressed worries about restrictions on civil society organizations in Kazakhstan. The ability of independent CSOs to function freely and engage in advocacy efforts has been severely limited. The EU suggests Kazakhstan foster an enabling climate for civil society, including respect for associational freedom and democratic assembly.
- **Regional Cooperation and Integration:** While Kazakhstan is physically located in Central Asia, its hopes for greater cooperation with the EU are hindered by geographical limitations. The distance between the two areas creates logistical and connection difficulties. Improving transportation and commerce links to foster regional cooperation is a top objective.

- **Economic Diversification:** The mining sector, especially oil, and gas, are fundamental to Kazakhstan's economy. The EU intends for Kazakhstan to diversify its economy more, promote its private sector, and create a more favorable business climate to attract non-extractive investments.
- **Electoral Process and Political Participation:** The conduct of elections, particularly transparency, fairness, and equality, has been a point of concern between Kazakhstan and the EU. The EU is encouraging Kazakhstan to take action to ensure free and fair elections and to create an atmosphere conducive to political participation.
- **Trade Barriers and Market Access:** Despite existing trade agreements, trade challenges, market access obstacles, and non-tariff barriers have been an issue of impact between Kazakhstan and the EU. Concerns have been raised about sanitary and phytosanitary standards, technical rules, and intellectual property rights protection.

It's important to note that these difficulties are not impossible to solve, and they have been resolved via communication and collaboration between Kazakhstan and the EU. To develop bilateral relations and address shared difficulties, both sides continue to take part in constructive meetings, address concerns, and aim toward mutual goals. The EU supports and assists Kazakhstan in areas such as the rule of law, rights of individuals, and diversification of the economy, to stimulate development and reforms.

2. In which sectors are prospects expected for the development of relations between Kazakhstan and the EU?

There are some potential development prospects regarding the trade relationship between the EU and Kazakhstan. Some important areas will be considered below with an explanation:

- **Economic Integration depth:** The EU and Kazakhstan are interested in deepening economic inclusion. In order to strengthen the trade both parties need to conclude additional agreements that can provide more opportunities for expanded coopera-

tion and give an access for open trade and other markets. In addition, it can be also helpful to remove trade barrier that interfere with free movements of goods.

- Trade of services: This sector can open a big potential for trade development between the EU and Kazakhstan since offline or online services are basically common among entrepreneurs. Partnership in spheres such as financial assist, telecommunications, transport, and professional services can improve trade and bring more investment opportunities.
- Internet Economy and Electronic commerce: The digital economy provides platforms for growth of trade and cooperation between both territories. Accepting e-commerce and other digital areas, including B2B, B2C services can also help to expand trade, particularly it will be beneficial for small and medium-sized enterprises. Collaboration in areas such as e-commerce, digital infrastructure, cyber security, and digital skills development can foster economic growth and technological advancement.⁷²
- Energy Cooperation: Kazakhstan is known as a rich-mineral country that has a lot of energy resources, including oil, gas. It is also a main energy supplier to the EU. Kazakhstan possesses significant energy resources, and the EU is keen on diversifying its energy supply sources. Cooperation in the energy sector, including renewable energy, energy efficiency, and clean technologies, can lead to mutually beneficial outcomes.⁷³
- Investment and Business: Stimulating investment and business partnerships is necessary for improvement of trade between the EU and Kazakhstan. It is important to find a way for making easier to receive foreign direct investment (FDI) and supporting joint ventures. Moreover, safe business environment can also lead to increased trade volumes, technology transfer, and new job places.
- Regional Integration: Location of Kazakhstan in Central Asia offers big chances for regional integration initiatives. Deepening economic cooperation within the Eura-

⁷² European Commission, "Energy Cooperation with Central Asia" (2022) European Commission.

⁷³ European External Action Service, "The EU in the World" (2021) European External Action Service.

sian Economic Union (EAEU) and exploring alliance between the EAEU and the EU can provide a contribution to increased trade and market access.

It is necessary to note that the development prospects of trade between both parties depend on a lot of factors, including government decisions, economic readiness, geopolitical movement, and global trends. Continued negotiation, cooperation, and the adoption of mutually beneficial actions can help to realize these possible prospects and strengthen the trade relationship.

The evolving geopolitical considerations and the changing international landscape present both challenges and opportunities for the cooperation between Kazakhstan and the European Union. This section discusses the geopolitical context and its impact on the bilateral relationship. The Central Asian region, including Kazakhstan, has witnessed shifts in geopolitical dynamics. The rise of new powers, regional integration initiatives, and changing alliances have shaped the geopolitical landscape. These dynamics can influence the priorities and strategies of Kazakhstan and the EU in their cooperation.⁷⁴ China's growing influence must be also considered. China's increasing economic and political influence in Central Asia, including its investments in infrastructure and energy projects, have implications for Kazakhstan's relations with the EU.⁷⁵ Balancing relations with both China and the EU require careful navigation and coordination of interests. The EU's external policy and priorities have evolved over time, reflecting changing global dynamics. Shifts in the EU's focus, such as the emphasis on neighbourhood policies or changing regional priorities, may impact the depth and extent of its engagement with Kazakhstan.

Despite the challenges, there are several potential areas for future collaboration between Kazakhstan and the EU. Building upon the existing agreements and cooperation, the following areas hold promise for further engagement:

- Sustainable development and climate action: Addressing climate change and promoting sustainable development are shared priorities for Kazakhstan and the EU. Cooperation in areas such as climate mitigation and adaptation, circular economy,

⁷⁴ Cornell, S., "Kazakhstan's Geopolitical Dilemma" (2020) Central Asia-Caucasus Institute & Silk Road Studies Program.

⁷⁵ Laruelle, M., Peyrouse, S., & Wang, C. (Eds.). (2019). "Eurasian Integration: Challenges of Transcontinental Regionalism" (Vol. 4). Lexington Books.

green finance, and environmental protection can contribute to achieving common goals.⁷⁶

- Connectivity and transport infrastructure: Enhancing connectivity and developing transport infrastructure are crucial for regional integration and economic growth. Cooperation in areas such as transport networks, logistics, and trade facilitation can improve connectivity within Central Asia and between Kazakhstan and the EU.⁷⁷
- Education and cultural exchange: Strengthening educational and cultural ties can promote mutual understanding and people-to-people exchanges. Cooperation in areas such as student exchanges, academic research, cultural events, and language learning can enhance cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue.⁷⁸

In conclusion, while the changing geopolitical landscape presents challenges, Kazakhstan and the EU can explore various potential areas for future collaboration. By focusing on energy cooperation, the digital economy, sustainable development, connectivity, education, and cultural exchange, they can further deepen their partnership and address common challenges in the evolving international context.

⁷⁶ European Union External Action, "EU-Kazakhstan Relations: Connectivity and Digital Economy" (2022) European Union External Action.

⁷⁷ European External Action Service, "EU-Kazakhstan Relations: Sustainable Development and Climate Action" (2021) European External Action Service.

⁷⁸ European Union External Action, "EU-Kazakhstan Relations: Education and Cultural Exchange" (2022) European Union External Action.

CONCLUSION

The relationship between Kazakhstan and the European Union has evolved significantly, driven by shared interests in trade, cooperation, and regional stability. This thesis has explored the multifaceted aspects of this relationship, examining the historical origins of trade, the current trade situation, cooperation mechanisms, and future prospects for collaboration. Through this comprehensive analysis, several key insights and findings have emerged, highlighting the importance and potential of the Kazakhstan-EU relationship.

First and foremost, trade between Kazakhstan and the EU has been a cornerstone of their bilateral relations. The historical ties that date back centuries, including the influence of the Silk Road, have laid the foundation for robust economic exchanges. Over the years, the EU has become one of Kazakhstan's major trading partners, with trade volumes steadily increasing. This trade relationship has not only provided economic benefits to both sides but has also fostered cultural exchanges, knowledge transfer, and technological advancements. Looking ahead, the potential for further trade expansion is vast, particularly in sectors such as renewable energy, agriculture, information technology, and infrastructure development. By exploring these areas and addressing regulatory challenges, Kazakhstan and the EU can continue to strengthen their economic ties and reap mutual benefits.

Cooperation mechanisms have played a crucial role in enhancing the Kazakhstan-EU relationship. The European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights has contributed to promoting democratic values and human rights in Kazakhstan. Civil Society Organizations have provided platforms for dialogue and citizen empowerment, strengthening societal engagement. The Memorandum of Understanding and the Enhanced Partnership and Co-operation Agreement have established comprehensive frameworks for cooperation, covering political dialogue, energy, transport, environment, and research and innovation. These mechanisms reflect the mutual commitment to deepening relations, fostering dialogue, and promoting cooperation in various sectors of common interest. Moreover, engagement with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe underscores the shared objective of regional security and stability.

The agreements between Kazakhstan and the EU have also played a vital role in shaping their relationship. The "European Union and Central Asia: New Opportunities for a Stronger Partnership" initiative demonstrates the EU's dedication to engaging with Central

Asian countries, including Kazakhstan, in pursuit of shared objectives. The Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement stands as a comprehensive framework for cooperation, encompassing political, economic, and social dimensions. These agreements have provided a roadmap for deeper engagement, enabling both sides to work towards common goals and address shared challenges. It is essential for Kazakhstan and the EU to continue implementing and leveraging these agreements to maximize the potential for collaboration.

Looking forward, the prospects for the development of relations between Kazakhstan and the EU are promising. The identified sectors such as renewable energy, agriculture, information technology, and infrastructure offer substantial opportunities for further cooperation. By focusing on sustainable economic growth, innovation, and fair-trade practices, Kazakhstan and the EU can foster a mutually beneficial partnership. Moreover, strengthening people-to-people contacts, promoting cultural exchanges, and supporting educational initiatives can deepen understanding and enhance the social fabric of the relationship.

In conclusion, the relationship between Kazakhstan and the European Union is multifaceted, encompassing trade, cooperation mechanisms, and shared aspirations. The historical origins of trade, the current trade situation, and the potential for future development have underscored the importance of economic engagement. Cooperation mechanisms and agreements have facilitated dialogue, enhanced cooperation, and fostered shared values. By exploring new sectors, addressing challenges, and nurturing people-to-people connections, Kazakhstan and the EU can forge a stronger partnership. This thesis has contributed to a comprehensive understanding of the Kazakhstan-EU relationship, shedding light on the current dynamics and future prospects for collaboration. As both entities navigate the evolving global landscape, their continued cooperation holds the potential to yield mutual benefits and contribute to regional stability and prosperity.

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ABSTRACT

This thesis examines the relationship between Kazakhstan and the European Union (EU) with a focus on trade and cooperation. The introduction provides an overview of Kazakhstan and the EU, setting the context for their bilateral relations.

The trade section delves into the historical origins of trade between the EU and Kazakhstan, followed by an analysis of the current trade situation. The impact of exports and imports between the two entities is explored, and potential development prospects for trade are discussed.

Moving on to cooperation, the thesis explores key mechanisms such as the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR), Civil Society Organizations (CSO), Memorandum of Understanding, Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (EPCA), and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe. Furthermore, companies with ties to both Kazakhstan and the EU are examined.

The subsequent section focuses on the agreements between Kazakhstan and the EU, including "European Union and Central Asia: New Opportunities for a Stronger Partnership" and the Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (EPCA). The implications and significance of these agreements are discussed.

Considering prospects, the thesis investigates sectors where opportunities for further development of relations between Kazakhstan and the EU are expected.

Finally, the conclusion synthesizes the findings and highlights the key insights derived from the analysis of the trade, cooperation, agreements, and prospects between Kazakhstan and the EU.

By examining these aspects, this thesis contributes to a comprehensive understanding of the relationship between Kazakhstan and the EU, shedding light on both the current dynamics and future prospects for collaboration.

Keywords: Kazakhstan, European Union, bilateral relations, trade, cooperation, European Union and Central Asia, Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement, future prospects, development sectors, insights, collaboration.

ZUSAMMENFASSUNG

Diese Masterarbeit widmet sich der bilateralen Beziehungen zwischen Kasachstan und der Europäischen Union im Hinblick auf den Handel und die Zusammenarbeit. Die Einleitung verschafft einen Überblick über die entsprechenden Beziehungen.

Diese Masterarbeit untersucht die Beziehung zwischen Kasachstan und der Europäischen Union (EU) mit einem Fokus auf den Handel und der Zusammenarbeit. Die Einleitung verschafft einen Überblick über Kasachstan und die EU und schafft so den Kontext für ihre bilateralen Beziehungen.

Im Handelsabschnitt wird auf die historischen Ursprünge des Handels zwischen der EU und Kasachstan eingegangen, gefolgt von einer Analyse der aktuellen Handelssituation. Die Auswirkungen von Exporten und Importen zwischen den beiden Subjekten werden untersucht und potenzielle Entwicklungsperspektiven für den Handel werden erörtert.

Im Bereich der Zusammenarbeit werden wichtige Elemente wie das Europäische Instrument für Demokratie und Menschenrechte (EIDHR), zivilgesellschaftliche Organisationen (CSO), Memorandum of Understanding, das Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (EPCA) und die Organisation für Sicherheit und Zusammenarbeit in Europa evaluiert. Darüber hinaus werden Unternehmen mit Verbindungen sowohl zu Kasachstan als auch zur EU untersucht.

Der folgende Abschnitt konzentriert sich auf die Abkommen zwischen Kasachstan und der EU, einschließlich "European Union and Central Asia: New Opportunities for a Stronger Partnership" und dem Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (EPCA). Die Auswirkungen und Bedeutung dieser Abkommen werden erörtert.

Im Hinblick auf die Zukunftsaussichten beschäftigt sich die Arbeit mit den Bereichen, in denen Möglichkeiten für die weitere Entwicklung der Beziehungen zwischen Kasachstan und der EU erwartet werden.

Abschließend werden die Ergebnisse zusammengefasst und die wichtigsten Erkenntnisse aus der Analyse des Handels, der Zusammenarbeit, der Abkommen und der Aussichten zwischen Kasachstan und der EU gewonnen.

Durch die Untersuchung dieser Aspekte trägt diese Arbeit zu einem umfassenden Verständnis der Beziehung zwischen Kasachstan und der EU bei und beleuchtet sowohl die aktuellen Dynamiken als auch zukünftige Aussichten für die Zusammenarbeit.

Schlüsselwörter: Kasachstan, Europäische Union, bilaterale Beziehungen, Handel, Zusammenarbeit, Europäische Union und Zentralasien, Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement, Zukunftsaussichten, Entwicklungssektoren, Erkenntnisse, Zusammenarbeit.