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History of European Union - Kazakhstan Relations (1991-2001)

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History of European Union - Kazakhstan Relations (1991-2001)

Historia de las Relaciones Unión Europea - Kazajstán (1991-2001)

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Summary: I. Introduction.—II. Literature Review and Methodology.—
III. Results and Discussion.—IV. Conclusion.

Abstract: Diplomatic, economic and other relations between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the European Union have been officially established since 1993. Such interaction between Kazakhstan and the European Union has been effective for both sides. The aim of this research is to consider the economic, political, diplomatic and cultural relations between the European Union and Kazakhstan, as well as to propose recommendations for countries that are just beginning relations

with the Union. The creation of a single dense economic and currency space on the European continent, the expansion of the Union, a strategy to advance the world economy, the formation of a common defense and security system, integration and components of global processes have become the main requirements of this union. Political, trade, economic and investment cooperation between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the EU is carried out within the framework of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement signed on 23 January 1995 in Brussels and entered into force on 1 July 1999. On the basis of the agreement, it was possible to establish appropriate discussions on trade, investment, general economic relations, as well as cooperation in energy, transport, environment and finance. For the European Union, Kazakhstan has established partnerships in Central Asia as a key and effective partner. Thus, it became clear that Kazakhstan is a Eurasian state connecting Europe and Asia and a “Golden Bridge” in terms of geopolitical location.

Keywords: European Union, Kazakhstan, integration, trade, economics, foreign affairs.

Resumen: *Las relaciones diplomáticas, económicas y de otro tipo entre la República de Kazajstán y la Unión Europea se establecieron oficialmente desde 1993. Dicha interacción entre Kazajstán y la Unión Europea ha sido eficaz para ambas partes. El objetivo de esta investigación es considerar las relaciones económicas, políticas, diplomáticas y culturales entre la Unión Europea y Kazajstán, así como proponer recomendaciones para los países que recién inician relaciones con la Unión. La creación de un único espacio económico y monetario denso en el continente europeo, la expansión de la Unión, una estrategia para hacer avanzar la economía mundial, la formación de un sistema común de defensa y seguridad, la integración y los componentes de los procesos globales se han convertido en los principales requisitos de esta unión. La cooperación política, comercial, económica y de inversión entre la República de Kazajstán y la UE se lleva a cabo en el marco del Acuerdo de Asociación y Cooperación firmado el 23 de enero de 1995 en Bruselas y que entró en vigor el 1 de julio de 1999. Sobre la base del acuerdo, fue posible establecer discusiones apropiadas sobre comercio, inversión, relaciones económicas generales, así como cooperación en energía, transporte, medio ambiente y finanzas. Para la Unión Europea, Kazajstán ha establecido alianzas en Asia Central como socio clave y eficaz. Por lo tanto, quedó claro que Kazajstán es un estado euroasiático que conecta Europa y Asia y un «Puente Dorado» en términos de ubicación geopolítica.*

Palabras clave: *Unión Europea, Kazajstán, integración, comercio, economía, relaciones exteriores.*

I. Introduction

From the first days of independence, the Republic of Kazakhstan has paid special attention to bilateral and multilateral relations with the European Union and its member states in economic and other areas. The reasons were obvious. In particular, they got acquainted with the structures of the European Union in the justification of the country's economy in accordance with world market relations, the work of its member states in conducting the economy, exchange of experiences, and internships for Kazakhstani specialists. The goal of the European Union was to attract financial assistance from its member states and to invest in domestic enterprises. At the same time, to achieve the implementation of joint work between Kazakhstan's enterprises and enterprises in the European Union, the implementation of the provision of domestic enterprises with quality new machinery and equipment, the initiation of cooperation with the countries of the European Union in the field of health, education, and science, the establishment of broad-based economic cooperation of Kazakhstan with individual EU member states, as well as the implementation of other joint plans, have become urgent actions.

From the beginning of December 1991, due to the collapse of the Soviet Union, the European Union began to provide financial and other assistance to the republics that were in deep political, economic and other crises. According to the EU's work program, "One of the main directions of the European Commission is to promote the economic and humanitarian development of the former Soviet Union. Various programs and projects within the Commission, including primarily TACIS (Technical Assistance to CIS Countries) and TEMPUS (Education and Science Assistance Program)". For example, on the basis of the requirements of these programs in Kazakhstan "Under these projects, the implementation of which began in 1993-1995, more than 700 specialists in various fields of economics, entrepreneurs, bank employees were trained and exchanged experience abroad, in leading European universities". More than 50 employees of ministries and departments involved in the TACIS program have undergone accelerated language training in European countries. Every year since 1992, 200 to 300 European experts have unilaterally contributed to the development of Kazakhstan through their knowledge and experience in the implementation of reforms in the country in various important areas of education and practical economy¹.

¹ Archive of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Fund-5-H, Series-1, File-5977, pp. 44, 56.

The aim of this research is to consider the economic, political, diplomatic and cultural relations between the European Union and Kazakhstan, as well as to propose recommendations for countries that are just beginning relations with the Union.

II. Literature Review and Methodology

The main method of this study is historiography. The research used some data from the Archives of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan (AP RK), North Kazakhstan Regional State Archive (NKRSA), Turkestan Regional State Archive (TRSA) and the Archive of Foreign Policy of the Russian Federation (AFP RF) for the first time. Methodological issues of the historical study of Kazakh-European relations should be in forefront. To do this, it is important to consider the documents of the time of bilateral negotiations, to analyze them in terms of historical research and to study the relationship of states on theoretical and methodological principles, citing the works of experts and scholars on interstate relations. Current study covers the first 10 years of this interaction, since the relations between Kazakhstan and the EU in these initial years were fundamental for Kazakhstan to become a full member of the international community. Currently, many countries are planning to join this organization, so Kazakhstan's first experience will be useful for them.

It is obvious that the Kazakh-European relations, that we are studying, are the relations of states at the international level. Relations between the countries of the world are multi-vector. For example, it consists of special areas such as economic, political and cultural ties. The most important issue is the historical study and research of interstate relations. That is, looking at the relationship between countries, we see the ongoing processes of world-class relations as well. From these processes we can study the development, prospects and co-development of states with the rest of the world.

“On the Pursuit of an Effective Model” Central Asian leaders know how to use a variety of sources to rebuild their economies. They visit the capitals of neighboring and European countries, and even almost every day receive a large number of authoritative foreign delegations and carry out a large-scale diplomatic mission”². Thus, political scientist M. Brill Olcott³ noted the successful start of relations between Kazakhstan and the

² Martha Brill Olcott, *Central Asia: Stepping into Independence* (Express K, 1992). Retrieved from: <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/kazakhstan/1992-06-01/central-asias-catapult-independence>.

³ *Ibidem*.

European Union. Kazakhstani political scientist M.A. Mekebayeva wrote “The Republic of Kazakhstan is now integrated into the global political and economic space. In addition, the image of Kazakhstan is well-established in foreign policy, recognized by the world community for its successful initiatives and determined the political and economic development of Kazakhstan in strengthening its independence”⁴.

Well-known statesman and public figure of Kazakhstan, economist-scientist, A.A. Bashmakov expressed his opinion that “In the context of globalization, possible scenarios of political and economic development will develop in cooperation, the dynamics of world capital markets, imports and investments and possible changes in the world currency system will depend on the regulation of geopolitical and international institutions”⁵. That is, the ongoing relations between Kazakhstan and the European Union show the emergence of such a new world situation.

N. A. Nazarbayev’s personality played a great role in the history of Kazakhstan and the European Union. This president is responsible for global changes in the politics of Kazakhstan, protection and food supply. The regular and effective dialogue at the highest level, the consistent work of Nursultan Nazarbayev with leading political figures and leaders of the business world of Europe made it possible to create a solid foundation for the accelerated development of bilateral cooperation, providing broad political support for Kazakhstani reforms and a favorable climate for attracting European investments and technologies to our country⁶.

Some researchers^{7,8} refer to the concept of pragmatism when considering the history of Kazakhstan’s relations with the EU. The pragmatic interests of Kazakhstan and the European Union have profoundly influenced the relationship between them, preventing the establishment of successful

⁴ Mariam Mekebaeva, “Tasks of forming a foreign policy image at the present stage”, in *OSCE and democratization processes in the context of regional security: proceedings of an international conference* (Almaty: KISI under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, 2009): 83.

⁵ Adil Bashmakov, “Possible scenarios and political and economic development. The role of Kazakhstan”, in *Kazakhstan and the global challenges of our time: materials of a scientific and practical conference* (Almaty: KISI under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, 2010): 10.

⁶ Gani Karasayev, Seytkali Duysen, Amanqeldy Kashkimbaev, Zhabai Kaliev and Kanat Yensenov, “President of republic of Kazakhstan N. A. Nazarbayev’s regional, global endeavors in International Policy (1991-1999): On the example of historical research Aspect”, *Astra Salvensis* 6 (2018): 239.

⁷ Neil Winn and Stefan Gänzle, “Recalibrating EU Foreign Policy Vis-à-vis Central Asia: Towards Principled Pragmatism and Resilience”, *Geopolitics* (2022). <https://doi.org/10.1080/14650045.2022.2042260>

⁸ Luca Anceschi, “The Tyranny of Pragmatism: EU-Kazakhstani Relations”, *Europe – Asia Studies* 66 (2014): 3.

cooperation in the human dimension. The tension between the regime's search for international legitimacy and its efforts to insulate itself from EU pressures for political liberalization is felt. However, young people are positive about the policy of close interaction with the EU, despite their lack of awareness on this issue. Although Kazakhstani youth are aware of the EU's main "attributes" at the basic level, they have little knowledge that goes beyond stereotypical, yet positive, images of it. However, this is still a positive trend and shows that these relationships have a future⁹.

III. Results and Discussion

Kazakhstan's official relations with the European Union date back to 1992. In particular: "The Protocol on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the European Community was signed in 1992. Exactly this year, the Memorandum of Understanding between Kazakhstan and the EU; 50 million to the Republic of Kazakhstan A financial agreement on lending in the amount of ECU was signed. 25 mln. ECU was used to purchase medicines and medical equipment¹⁰." At the end of 1992 in Almaty UES: TACIS (Program of technical assistance for small and medium business has been in force since 1992) and TEMPUS (Program of technical assistance to the EU in the field of education and research in the Republic of Kazakhstan in 1994) office was opened¹¹. Thus, since the first days of independence, since 1992, the Republic of Kazakhstan has established various areas of cooperation with the European Union, and in accordance with the requirements of the agreements reached, concrete work has begun. Since then, Kazakhstan's agreements with the European Union and its member states have reached a new level. For example, the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) between the European Union and the Republic of Kazakhstan was agreed on 20 May 1994.

The Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between Kazakhstan and the EU was signed on January 25, 1995 in Brussels at a meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the EU member states. On behalf of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Agreement was signed by the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan N.A. Nazarbayev¹². In December 1995, the

⁹ Zhanibek Arynov, "Hardly visible, highly admired? Youth perceptions of the EU in Kazakhstan", *Journal of Eurasian Studies* 13(2022): 42.

¹⁰ AP RK, Fund-5-H, Series-6, File-721, p. 5.

¹¹ AP RK, Fund-75-H, Series-1, File-922, p. 54.

¹² AP RK, Fund -75-H, Series-1, File-2357, pp. 231,233.

President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev by his decree, Nazarbayev ratified the Agreement with the European Energy Charter. At the same time, it was approved by the Parliament of Kazakhstan in April this year, in March by the European Parliament and now by 8 countries out of 15 member states. The Interim Agreement, signed in December 1995, entered into force on April 1, 1997¹³.

Analyzing the accession of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the world economic organizations at various levels during the first five years of independence during his visit to Indonesia in June 1995, the President said: “Kazakhstan has also signed a business and cooperation agreement with the European Union”¹⁴ —he noted the level of relations with the world fundamental economic community. Since the second half of the 1990s, the volume of relations between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the European Union has further increased and deepened. For example, official data covering the same period state: “The European Union and the Republic of Kazakhstan held the second meeting of the Joint Committee on 22 May 1997 in Almaty”.

The Kazakh side reported on the progress of state economic reforms and the economic situation in the country. The European Union drew attention to the possibility of Kazakhstan to sign agreements on increasing the production of certain steel products, controlled nuclear alloys and the implementation of nuclear safety. Kazakhstan is an important trade and investment partner with the European Union. More than 200 companies from the European Union operate in Kazakhstan; most of them invest in the energy sector. Kazakhstan is the main recipient of technical assistance from the European Union's TACIS program (received \$ 130 million in 1991). The European Union and Kazakhstan have agreed that TACIS technical assistance over the next four years will focus on institutional reforms, agriculture and energy. In addition, Kazakhstan attaches great importance to TACIS regional projects in the fields of energy, transport (Europe-Caucasus-Central Asia, TRACECA) and environment (Aral Sea). In addition, there are several projects to assist small and medium-sized businesses¹⁵.

On 13 March 1997, the General Secretariat of the European Parliament announced the adoption of a resolution approving the signing of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the EU at a session of the European Parliament in Strasbourg. In this way, in accordance with the general provisions of the EU

¹³ AP RK, Fund-75-H, Series-1, File-3095, p. 56.

¹⁴ AP RK, Fund-5-H, Series-1, File-5035, p. 5-6.

¹⁵ AP RK, Fund-75-H, Series-1, File-3095, pp. 55-56

institutions on internal affairs, all the necessary documents for the entry into force of this Agreement were examined by the EC. In addition, to date, 8 EU members (Denmark, Austria, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom) have ratified the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement with Kazakhstan¹⁶. The official report proves that the relations between Kazakhstan and the European Union have further strengthened since the second half of the 1990s. The stability of the internal economic and interethnic relations of multinational Kazakhstan at that time further facilitated the large inflow of foreign investment into the Republic. N. A. Nazarbayev wrote that “a favorable situation has been created”. This has led to an increase in foreign investment in Kazakhstan's economy. In the 2000s, business structures from about forty countries of the world invested in our country. The main investors were companies from the Netherlands, Great Britain, France, Italy and Switzerland¹⁷.

From the first days of independence, the Republic of Kazakhstan has established bilateral economic relations with a number of individual countries of the European Union. The French Republic recognized the independence of the Republic of Kazakhstan in January 1992. Diplomatic relations were established on January 25, 1992 during the visit of French Foreign Minister Rolland Dumas to Almaty. An important stage in the development of bilateral cooperation was announced by President Nursultan Nazarbayev. It was Nazarbayev's official visit to the country in September 1992 and the signing of the Agreement on Friendship, Mutual Understanding and Cooperation between the two countries, which provided for economic, political and defense cooperation.

On February 18, 1994, the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev paid a working visit to France, during which an agreement was reached with President F. Mitterrand. The issues of implementation of previous agreements and further strengthening of bilateral cooperation in various areas were discussed at the meeting. In 1996, the foreign trade turnover with France amounted to 4021.8 thousand US dollars. In the first half of 1997, the foreign trade turnover reached 27.656.1 thousand US dollars¹⁸. In addition to the publications, the country's major production partners have established direct contacts with many industries and financial sectors of Kazakhstan, and concrete work has started. According to the actual data of this content: the composition of a well-known event in trade and economic relations with France includes the

¹⁶ AP RK, Fund-75-H, Series-1, File-3042, p. 46.

¹⁷ Nursultan Nazarbayev, *The Era of Independence* (Astana: Fund of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, 2017).

¹⁸ AP RK, Fund-75-H, Series-1, File-3120, p. 111.

following: “Renault”, “Koch”, “Euroconter”, “Schneider”, “Sofrelia” and others. A group of French businessmen, including leaders of large companies, visited Kazakhstan in 1996. During the visit, preliminary agreements were reached with Renault on the establishment of a joint venture, the construction of a gas pipeline from Aktobe to Karachaganak, the construction of a gas pipeline from Akmola airport, Almaty underground, Karachaganak field. There are already twenty Kazakh-French companies and banks in Kazakhstan, including the well-known “Elf Aquitaine”, “Total”, “Mulikens”¹⁹.

The level of economic relations with this country for the same period was determined by the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan N.A. Nazarbayev. Nazarbayev stated, “We consider France as one of the most important investors. The total amount of French investment in the economy of Kazakhstan between 1994 and 1999 exceeded 115 million dollars²⁰.” The statement of the President of Kazakhstan determines the importance of relations between the two countries, which continues at that time and today: “Six meetings with the French leader Jacques Chirac, which took place in five years (from 1995 to 1999) at different times, helped Kazakhstan and France to reach agreement on many issues¹³.” Relations with Germany, the next leading member of the European Union, have also been effective. As for the relations between the two countries at that time, immediately after the independence of our country, the relations between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Federal Republic of Germany reached a new level.

September 22-23, 1992 President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev visited Germany. During the agreement between the two leaders, many issues of mutual interest were discussed. A number of documents defining the relations between the two countries have been signed in the near future. These are: “Joint Statement on Basic Relations”, “Agreement between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Federal Republic of Germany on increasing relations in a wide range of economic, industrial, scientific and technical spheres”, “Agreement between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Federal Republic of Germany on support and joint protection of capital” and “General Agreement between the Republic of Kazakhstan and Siemens AG.”

According to the Program of the implementation of the German credit system, that cost 105062 mln. 45 investment projects worth USD 17 billion were selected²¹. N.A. Nazarbayev said “Our relations with Germany, about

¹⁹ Archive of Foreign Policy of the Russian Federation (AFP RF), Fund-897, Series-4, File-13, p. 60.

²⁰ AP RK, Fund-5-H, Series-6, File-1766, p. 4.

²¹ AP RK, Fund-75-H, Series-1, File-104, pp. 67.68.

the first stage of relations between the two countries, are developing successfully. In April 1995, the Federal President of Germany Roman Herzog paid an official visit to Kazakhstan. Regular meetings with the leaders of this country have laid a solid foundation for the development of mutually beneficial relations in various fields. In 1994-1995 alone, 170 Kazakh-German joint ventures were opened. Representative offices of 57 large German companies operate in the country”²². The next “Trade and economic relations between Kazakhstan and Germany are developing more actively. There are more than 70 German companies in the country. At the end of 1996, agreements were reached at the governmental level on German investment in joint ventures. The trade turnover between Kazakhstan and Germany last year amounted to 350 mln.²³, — the definition reflects the level of development of Kazakh-German economic relations in comparison with previous years. At the beginning of independence, the foundation of economic cooperation between Kazakhstan and the next member state of the European Union— the United Kingdom was laid. In particular, “A well-known event in the relations between Kazakhstan and Britain was the exhibition “Investment Opportunities in Kazakhstan” in London in 1996.

In 1995, “Ispad International” acquired 100% of the assets (\$ 200 million) of the Carmet Metallurgical Plant in Temirtau, a leading exporter of metal products in the Republic of Kazakhstan. The trade turnover between the two countries last year amounted to 307 mln. US dollars²⁴. The British Ambassador in Kazakhstan Noel Jones also spoke about the state of relations between the two countries in the first half of the 90s of twentieth century. “The UK is providing scholarships to study in the UK, not only for students but also for government officials and diplomats, with the help of RK in agriculture, finance and accounting. The main direction here is to assist the transition of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the open market, as well as to bring the economy in line with the requirements of the MVV and IBRD”²⁵.

Since the early 2000s, some regions and districts of Kazakhstan have established direct relations with the regions and districts of the European Union. This has been the case since the early 2000s. For example, the East Kazakhstan regional municipal state institution “Tourist Information Center” from May to June 3 agreed to meet with representatives of travel agencies from Germany and France. The guests invited by the Department

²² Nursultan Nazarbayev, *At the turn of the century* (Almaty: Oner, 1996).

²³ AFP RF, Fund-897, Series-4, File-13, p. 59.

²⁴ AFP RF, Fund-897, Series-4, File-13, p. 60.

²⁵ AFP RF, Fund-897, Series-1, File-5, p. 11.

of Tourism and External Relations of the East Kazakhstan region: Nobel Laureates Kurt Wutrich and Svyatoslav Timashev, as well as foreign scientists Klaus Thiessen, Alexei Kavokin, Giuseppe Eramo shared their achievements in science. Within the framework of the trade-economic, scientific-technical, cultural-humanitarian agreement between the Akimat of the East Kazakhstan region and the Administration of the Plzensk region, a delegation of the Czech Republic headed by the Governor of the Plzensk region Vatslav Schleis visited on September 16-19, 2014. During the meeting, it was planned to visit JSC “Asia Auto”, dairy complex “Bobrovka”, construction and energy facilities.

According to the bilateral agreement, LTD “Tech building innovation” and the Czech company “Friedlantskiestroyirny Rasl i syn” signed an agreement on the implementation of equipment for the production of thermal, sound and fire insulation boards with a capacity of 8950000 euros and a capacity of 30.000 tons per year. The total cost of the project is 22 million euros. On October 22-23, 2014, a delegation of the Federal Territory of Saxony met with Manfred Liebl, Chairman of the Saxony Economy in Russia, Vice President of the Expert Advisory Center for Mechanical Engineering. Within the framework of the meeting, a forum was held with the participation of entrepreneurs from the Federal Territory of Saxony and leaders of large enterprises of the East Kazakhstan region, including “Innovative production technologies that modernize entrepreneurship for metallurgical enterprises.” The main purpose of the forum was to develop business relations with enterprises of the East Kazakhstan region, to attract investment in the East Kazakhstan region²⁶. During this period, the relations of entrepreneurs of the North Kazakhstan region with the provinces of the Republic of Poland, established at the beginning of the XXI century, are of great importance. At the invitation of the Polish side, on May 27-31, 2001, a delegation from the North Kazakhstan region visited the Polish Voivodeship of Dolnosilez and on May 31 visited the Volikopolskoe Voivodeship.

During the visit, the delegation visited the agricultural machinery manufacturer “PILMET” and the pharmaceutical company “NASSO-LEK”, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, more than 20 Western companies and partnerships visited the Valbzhihsk special economic zone. The delegation visited the enterprise “NEUREKA”, which manufactures and maintains milk coolers. As a result, LLP “SK-Leasing” (Petropavlovsk) with the pharmaceutical company “NASSO-LEK” (Poland) in the North

²⁶ Materials of the departments of tourism and external relations of the East Kazakhstan region (2014). Retrieved from: <https://www.gov.kz/memleket/entities/akimvko?lang=en>.

Kazakhstan region received 3 units of the company “Ffisomilk 4” with a capacity of 1.5 liters and “Ffisomilk3” with a total cost of 45 thousand dollars. An agreement was signed on the sale of 2-liter milk coolers²⁷. At the same time, the interaction of enterprises of the South Kazakhstan region with the countries of the European Union has gained momentum. According to the official report of the region, more than 60% of imported products, including Poland and Italy, are engaged in joint ventures and foreign companies are located in Shymkent. These supply of machinery and spare parts, plastics, rubber products, as well as caoutchouc. Most enterprises, established with the participation of Dutch partners, are engaged in the sale of food, chemical products, construction materials, machinery and equipment. The largest of them are the joint ventures “Coca Cola Almaty Botlers” and “Irma-2”.

At present, a schedule of joint events has been developed in the districts of the region, and seminars have been held in Tulkubas district together with the TACIS Foundation. On July 16 of this year in Sairam district a training seminar with the participation of lending to Kazakhstani communities is planned, the Fund for Support of Farmers and Entrepreneurs of South Kazakhstan and the Association of Women Entrepreneurs. In addition, it is planned to publish an information bulletin on the activities of all international funds and organizations operating in the region. In addition, works on programs and projects of international funds and banks are implementing. Kazakhstan is implementing a small business program with the support of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. During the implementation of the program, more than 2.433 loans worth \$13.7 million were issued in the region and spent on agriculture, trade and construction.

According to experts of the World Tourism Organization, one of the main activities of the Department of Tourism Development is the implementation of an active image policy, which will contribute to an increase in inbound tourism by an average of 25% per year. In this regard, the Web-site on the Internet posted information about the tourist potential of the region, tourist facilities of the region in the electronic version of encyclopedias and libraries of world tourism. The guidebook “World Travel and Tourism”, published in England, includes promotional information materials on the tourist attractiveness of the region and the importance of the activities described^{28, 29}. At the same time, trade relations

²⁷ State Archive of the North Kazakhstan Region (SANKR), Fund-669, Series-1, File -818, pp. 32-33.

²⁸ The State Archive of Turkestan Region (SATR), Fund-897, Series-1, File-499, p. 89.92.94

²⁹ APRK, Fund-5-H, Series-6, File-1764, p. 2.

have significantly strengthened during this period^{30,31}. In 2011, the European Union accounted for 50 percent of Kazakhstan's foreign trade turnover and one-third of all investments in our country. European countries with a high level of technology have become key partners of Kazakhstan in the Accelerated Industrial and Innovative Development Progra.

IV. Conclusions

The first President of Kazakhstan - Nursultan Nazarbayev from the first days of independence of the state determined the European vector as a strategic direction of the country's foreign policy. The undeniable importance of the interaction of the young state with Brussels and the states of Europe was considered by Elbasy through the prism of the need to solve the most important triune task - strengthening the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Kazakhstan, ensuring a solid trajectory of economic growth and improving democratic processes in the republic. The high level of political relations between Kazakhstan and the EU has created favorable conditions for realizing the potential in the economic sphere as well.

We believe that the research on the interaction of the Republic of Kazakhstan with the European Union, i.e. the importance of its initial results, is necessary not only for both parties, but also for the first services of the countries that have just begun relations with the Union. Therefore, we believe that the experience of the first stage of Kazakhstan's cooperation with the Union can be useful for countries that have joined the world market late and are experiencing difficulties in economic modernization. The authors have developed the following recommendations:

- ensuring, as far as possible, the publication of scientific articles in foreign journals that reveal the content of the multifaceted relations of the Republic of Kazakhstan with the European Union in the first years of independence;
- paying attention to the translation and publication of monographs of scholars on this topic in English, Russian and other languages;

³⁰ Marcel Martinkovic, "The idea of Slavic solidarity in the interpretations of the representatives of the 'New School'", *Filozofia*, 60(2005): 804.

³¹ Karlis Ketners, "Possibility for personal wealth taxation system in Latvia", *Economic Science for Rural Development: 1. Production and Cooperation in Agriculture 2. Bioeconomy 3. Finance and Taxes* 37(2015): 211.

- cooperating with the European Union in economic and other areas, holding international scientific conferences to analyze its mutual effectiveness and make recommendations, ensuring the organization of round tables;

The implementation of such work will fully reveal the course of the Republic of Kazakhstan's activities with the European Union in the first years of independence. At the same time, the role and place of our state in the transition to world market relations will be determined. This can be considered as a positive factor in the further expansion of its activities with the European Economic Community.

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