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. The content of this policy communique is taken from respective government news and other official channels and reports.

This publication has been supported by the GCRF COMPASS project (ES/P010849/1, 2017-21). It is an ambitious UK government capacity-building funding initiative, aiming to connect UK research with regional global scholarship, to address the challenges of growth and sustainability in the developing countries. Notably, the COMPASS project led by the University of Kent, together with the University of Cambridge as its partner, seeks to establish 'the hubs of excellence' at the top-level HEIs in Belarus, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, to enable them to become the centres of knowledge sharing and transfer for research integration, impact governance, and sustainable communities.

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COMPASS

The logo for 'COMPASS' is a stylized graphic. It features a central compass rose with a blue needle pointing upwards and a red needle pointing downwards. The compass is set within a circular frame composed of two concentric red lines. To the left of the compass, the letter 'C' is partially visible, and to the right, the letter 'H' is partially visible, both in a light blue color. The word 'COMPASS' is written in a large, light blue, sans-serif font, slanted upwards from left to right, and is partially obscured by the logo graphic.

Azerbaijan

January 2021

A trilateral meeting among the Presidents of Russia and Azerbaijan and the PM of Armenia

11.01.2021

Source: [Azeri-Press Agency](#)

A trilateral meeting was held among Russian President Vladimir Putin, Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev and Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan. Meeting was at invitation of V. Putin “to discuss the implementation of the Tripartite Statement on Nagorno-Karabakh signed on November 9 last year, the next steps to eliminate the existing problems and restore peace in the region”.

Trilateral meeting of Pakistani, Turkish and Azerbaijani Foreign Ministers held

13.01.2021

Source: [Azeri-Press Agency](#); [Azeri-Press Agency](#)

The second trilateral meeting of Pakistani, Turkish, and Azerbaijani Foreign Ministers has been held in Islamabad, Pakistan. It was noted that during the Tripartite Meeting, the sides expressed satisfaction with the current development of bilateral relations based on strategic partnership, mutual respect, and trust. The parties reaffirmed mutual respect for the principles of independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and inviolability of internationally recognized borders.

The Islamabad Declaration of the Second Tripartite Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of Turkey was adopted.

Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization’s (ICESCO) regional center to be established in Azerbaijan

13–14.01.2021

Source: [Azeri-Press Agency](#); [Azeri-Press Agency](#);

On 13 January 2021 President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev he received delegation led by ICESCO Director General Salim bin Mohammed AlMalik. The issue related to the regional center of ICESCO in Azerbaijan was discussed during the meeting.

On 14 January at a press-conference at ADA University Azerbaijani Minister of Culture Anar Karimov said ICESCO regional center will be established in Azerbaijan in 2021 with a goal to promote ICESCO in a large region. ICESCO Director General Salim bin Mohammed AlMalik said opening of a regional office in Baku is appropriate for the

current situation, but after the restoration of Shusha and the return to normal life there, the proposal to move the ICESCO regional office to Shusha may be realized.

Establishing Nakhchivan corridor will add new artery to Middle Corridor

15.01.2021

Source: [Trend News Agency](#)

Establishing the Nakhchivan corridor in parallel to BTK Azerbaijan will add a new artery to the Middle Corridor, the mainland corridor that connects Asia with Europe and will strengthen its position as a regional transportation hub in the region, Orkhan Baghirov, a leading advisor at the Center of Analysis of International Relations (AIR Center) in Baku, Azerbaijan wrote in an article to Euractive.

Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan sign MoU on joint development of “Dostlug” field in the Caspian Sea

21.01.2021

Source: [Azeri-Press Agency](#); [Trend News Agency](#)

On January 21, a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Government of Turkmenistan on joint exploration and development of hydrocarbon resources of the “Dostlug” field in the Caspian Sea in the capital city of Turkmenistan Ashgabat city. The Memorandum was signed by Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov and Turkmenistan Foreign Minister Rashid Meredov at the signing ceremony, which joined by Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev and Turkmenistan President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov through videoconferencing.

Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev noted that Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan have asserted themselves in the international arena as countries that can justifiably talk about an independent foreign and domestic policy. He also expressed opinion that the agreement will have a very positive effect on the development of regional cooperation.

President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov has stressed that the signing of the Memorandum marks a fundamentally new stage in the energy cooperation between Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan in the Caspian Sea.

Secretary General of the Council of Europe welcomed the peace achieved between Azerbaijan and Armenia

25.01.2021

Source: [Azeri-Press Agency](#)

“We welcome the peace achieved between Azerbaijan and Armenia” the Secretary General of the Council of Europe Marija Pejčinović Burić said at the winter session of PACE. “We

have always talked about the importance of the peace. These negotiations, meetings are about giving the post-conflict support to both countries within the framework of mandate of the Council of Europe” Marija Pejčinović Burić said.

Russia, Azerbaijan and Armenia agreed on a number of issues at a meeting of the tripartite working group in Moscow

30.01.2021

Source: [Azeri-Press Agency](#)

A trilateral meeting of the Deputy Prime Ministers of Azerbaijan, Russia, and Armenia was held in Moscow to discuss the construction of transport communications in the South Caucasus.

The parties agreed to establish expert subgroups, as well as on issues related to the provision of transport, including security, border, customs, sanitary, veterinary, phytosanitary and other types of control, related to rail, road and combined transport.

February 2021

UN releases USD 2 million to support emergency humanitarian response in conflict-affected areas of Azerbaijan

02.02.2021

Source: [Azeri-Press Agency](#)

The United Nations has released USD 2 million from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to support the UN’s ongoing humanitarian response to temporarily displaced people in the conflict-affected areas of Azerbaijan.

UK Ambassador: We support Azerbaijan President’s vision on cooperating of Caucasus countries

04.02.2021

Source: [Azeri-Press Agency](#); [Azeri-Press Agency](#)

“Azerbaijan has recovered much territory. I see the impact on people here and completely understand the emotions,” Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland James Sharp said in an interview.

The Ambassador has also addressed number of other aspects of Azerbaijan-UK cooperation in different areas as well (environment, energy sector, investments etc).

Minister for European Neighbourhood and the Americas at the UK FCDO Wendy Morton visits Azerbaijan

08–09.02.2021

Source: [Azeri-Press Agency](#); [Azeri-Press Agency](#)

Wendy Morton, Minister for European Neighbourhood and the Americas at the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, visited Baku on 8-9 February 2021. The visit sought to strengthen the relationship between the UK and Azerbaijan around areas of cooperation in green energy and tackling climate change, as well as advancing the rights of women and countering gender-based violence.

During her working visit to Azerbaijan on a strategic dialogue (bilateral political consultations) between the two states Minister of State for European Neighborhood and the Americas Wendy Morton was received by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev. The State Minister also met with the Speaker of the Milli Majlis (Parliament), Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov, the Ministers of Education, Energy and Ecology of the Republic of Azerbaijan, as well as the Chairman of the Board of the Administration of the State Historical-Architectural Reserve “Icherisheher” and the Director of the Heydar Aliyev Center.

Turkish-Azerbaijani military exercises 'Winter-2021' in Kars

13.02.2021

Source: [Trend News Agency](#)

Turkish-Azerbaijani joint military exercises ‘Winter – 2021’ in Kars (Turkey) held from 1 February wrapped up on 13 February, Turkey’s National Defense Ministry informed. Twitted, Trend reports on Feb.13. The final stage of exercises was observed by the Head of Azerbaijani Defense Ministry, Colonel-General Zakir Hasanov.

Southern Gas Corridor - strategic success of Azerbaijan

14.02.2021

Source: [Trend News Agency](#)

The Southern Gas Corridor is an energy security and energy diversification project. Energy security today is an issue of national security for all countries. Energy diversification is also important for consumer and producer countries. Thus, I think that we have achieved an unprecedented format of cooperation. These views, voiced by President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev during a speech at the 7th videoconference meeting of ministers within the Southern Gas Corridor Advisory Council, reaffirmed the importance of this project both for the region and the entire European continent.

OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs hold meetings with Azerbaijani, Armenian FMs

16.02.2021

Source: [Trend News Agency](#)

The Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group (Igor Popov of the Russian Federation, Stephane Visconti of France, and Andrew Schofer of the United States of America). The Co-Chairs spoke separately by video conference with Armenian Foreign Minister Ara Aivazian and Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov on 16 February.

Azerbaijani FM meets with heads of diplomatic missions of EU countries to Azerbaijan

19.02.2021

Source: [Trend News Agency](#)

Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov met with the heads of diplomatic missions of the European Union (EU) member states to Azerbaijan. Minister talked about the current situation in the region, in particular about issues related to the implementation of the trilateral statements signed by the leaders of Azerbaijan, Armenia and Russia of November 10, 2020 and January 11, 2021. A new security format in the region, as well as new opportunities for cooperation were discussed.

Ankara hosts trilateral meeting of Azerbaijani, Turkish and Turkmen FMs

23.02.2021

Source: [Trend News Agency](#)

Ankara hosted a trilateral meeting of the foreign ministers of Azerbaijan, Turkey and Turkmenistan on February 23. After the meeting, a joint press conference was held with the participation of Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu and Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of Turkmenistan, Minister of Foreign Affairs Rashid Meredov.

Council of Europe Congress to monitor implementation of European Charter of Local Self-Government by Azerbaijan

23.02.2021

Source: [Trend News Agency](#)

A delegation from the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe will carry out the monitoring of Azerbaijan's compliance with the European Charter of Local Self-Government from 23 to 25 February 2021. Two co-rapporteurs on local and regional democracy in Azerbaijan, Bernd Vöhringer, Germany (L, EPP/CCE) and Stewart Dickson, United Kingdom (R, ILDG) will focus on the developments since the last monitoring in 2012.

Azerbaijani FM, European commissioner for Neighborhood and Enlargement discuss situation in region

24.02.2021

Source: [Trend News Agency](#)

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan Jeyhun Bayramov had a telephone conversation with the European Commissioner for Neighborhood and Enlargement Oliver Varhelyi. The sides discussed the current situation in the region, as well as potential support mechanisms of the European Union to the people affected by the conflict.

Azerbaijani FM, Israeli ambassador discuss prospects for development of bilateral cooperation

25.02.2021

Source: [Trend News Agency](#)

Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov received Israeli Ambassador to Azerbaijan George Deek. The views on the current situation in the region, as well as the implementation of the trilateral statements of November 10, 2020 and January 11, 2021 [on ceasefire and cessation of all hostilities in the Nagorno-Karabakh region] were exchanged during the meeting. Prospects for the development of bilateral cooperation between Azerbaijan and Israel, as well as other issues of mutual interest, were discussed.

OSCE ready to deploy mediation missions for sustained peace in Azerbaijani liberated territories

25.02.2021

Source: [Trend News Agency](#)

OSCE remains ready to deploy mediation missions to provide for sustained peace in liberated territories of Azerbaijan, President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Peter Lord Bowness said during the 20th Winter Meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

March 2021

Pakistan-Azerbaijan-Turkey space cooperation

01.03.2021

Source: [Azerbaijan State News Agency](#)

Pakistan, Turkey and Azerbaijan recently entered into a new phase of a strategic partnership with the visits of Turkey's Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu and Azerbaijan's Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov to Islamabad last month. Turkey expressed its comprehensive plans to cooperate with Pakistan and Azerbaijan in the field of space technology.

Azerbaijan and Pakistan discuss areas of military cooperation

03.03.2021

Source: [Azerbaijan State News Agency](#)

Azerbaijan's Minister of Defense, Colonel General Zakir Hasanov has met with a delegation led by General Nadeem Raza, the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. During the discussions of the main areas of military cooperation, an exchange of views was held on conducting joint military exercises with the involvement of various types of troops, including Special Forces of Azerbaijan Army and Pakistani Armed Forces, organization of reciprocal visits of servicemen to exchange experience, as well as several other issues.

Azerbaijan and EU discuss prospects for cooperation

12.03.2021

Source: [Azerbaijan State News Agency](#); [Azerbaijan State News Agency](#)

EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus Toivo Klaar has visited Azerbaijan. During the meeting with Foreign Minister Bayramov he emphasized the importance of joint efforts to win peace in the region. He stressed the readiness of the EU to support the process of achieving peace, security and progress in the region. EU delegation led by Toivo Klaar has also met with Azerbaijan's Minister of Defense, Colonel General Zakir Hasanov.

President Aliyev: After Nagorno-Karabakh conflict have been resolved, there are new opportunities for regional development, regional cooperation, connectivity

12.03.2021

Source: [Azerbaijan State News Agency](#)

President Ilham Aliyev received in a video format new President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) Odile Renaud-Basso and other members of the Bank's senior management. "Of course, we count on a cooperation with EBRD on these issues. I already have declared the liberated territories as a green energy zone. We plan to use mostly renewable energy sources, sources of water, sun and wind. We already have good experience in working with big international energy companies, by the way, EBRD is part of the financing to these investment projects" President Aliyev said during the meeting.

OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Swedish Minister for Foreign Affairs Ann Linde visits Baku

15.03.2021

Source: [Azerbaijan State News Agency](#); [OSCE Official website](#)

OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Swedish Minister for Foreign Affairs Ann Linde, paid a working visit to Azerbaijan on 15 March for meetings with high-level officials. During her

visit, Linde met with President Ilham Aliyev, Deputy Prime Minister Shahin Mustafayev, Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov, and other interlocutors, including representatives from civil society, and expressed the OSCE's interest in exploring further areas for increased OSCE engagement in and with Azerbaijan. "Sweden attaches special importance to relations with Azerbaijan. The development of mutual relations will contribute to the success in many areas," Ann Linde told a press conference held following the meeting with Azerbaijan's Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov.

Talks during the visit were focused on OSCE co-operation, regional perspectives and OSCE's support to Azerbaijan in the implementation of its commitments within all three dimensions of security, as well as issues related to the peace process and ongoing settlement discussions.



Belarus

January 2021

National Action Plan on Gender Equality 2021-2025 was approved in Belarus

06.01.2021

Source: [The National Legal Internet Portal of the Republic of Belarus](#)

Decision No. 793 of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus of 30 December 2020 approved a policy document for the next five years, which aims to introduce a gender factor into the implementation of public policy as an indispensable condition for the equal development of the human capital of women and men.

Meetings with heads of Austrian, U.S. diplomatic missions was held in Belarusian MFA

14.01.2021

Source: [Belarusian Telegraph Agency](#)

Belarusian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Sergei Aleinik met with Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Austria to Belarus Aloisia Worgetter on 14 January, the press service of the Belarusian Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced.

Sergei Aleinik and Aloisia Worgetter discussed the state and prospects of advancement of Belarus-Austria cooperation in various spheres. They reaffirmed the interest of the sides in continuing the constructive dialogue.

The same day Sergei Aleinik met with Charge d'Affaires of the USA in Belarus Jeffrey Giauque. The conversation touched upon the current state of Belarus-USA relations.

Union State MPs are discussing a new cooperation programme for 2021

14.01.2021

Source: [Belarusian Telegraph Agency](#)

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Union State of Belarus and Russia will hold web-based parliamentary hearings on 19-20 January.

The MPs are set to outline the topics for the first model laws of the Union State. "We are going to discuss the methodology of drawing up and adopting model legislation by the Parliamentary Assembly, to define priority areas of model legislative regulation, to devise a model legislative plan for 2021 and for the medium term," the press service noted. The Union State MPs will sum up results of the parliament hearings on model lawmaking in the Union State of Belarus and Russia. Representatives of the Standing Committee of the Union State of Belarus and Russia will brief the MPs on progress in work on the draft concept on approximating the legislation of the Union State member states. Proposals on improving the effectiveness of work in the parliamentary dimension will be discussed.

Matters of present interest with regard to efforts to ensure equal rights of citizens of the Union State of Belarus and Russia will be discussed. Results of last year's work will be summed up.

New amendments to the criminal legislation of Belarus approved

18.01.2021

Source: [The National Legal Internet Portal of the Republic of Belarus](#)

The Law of the Republic of Belarus of 6 January 2021 approved amendments to the Criminal and Criminal Procedure Codes, the National Legal Internet Portal of the Republic of Belarus informs.

The amendments are aimed at improving the legal regulation of relations arising in connection with bringing the crime perpetrators to criminal responsibility. Thus, a number of amendments are made to the Criminal Code related to the legal regulation of the grounds for, conditions of criminal liability, as well as the application of punishment and other measures of criminal liability. The Law was officially published in Russian on the National Legal Internet Portal of the Republic of Belarus on 13 January 2021.

Belarusian-Russian army exercise Zapad 2021 scheduled for 10-16 September

18.01.2021

Source: [Belarusian Telegraph Agency](#)

The Belarusian-Russian strategic army exercise Zapad 2021 [West 2021] will take place on 10-16 September, BelTA learned from Belarusian Defense Minister Viktor Khrenin.

The official said: “The concept of the exercise is based on a possible variant of the escalation of the military and political situation with regard to a simulated state. The exercise is supposed to take place over the course of seven days from 10 September through 16 September. Upon the proposal of our Russian colleagues the exercise will take place in the territory of the two countries, which will allow practicing the application of the Belarusian-Russian regional army group and the organization of army operations.”

Belarus defense minister: West keeps seeking a solution to 'Belarusian bulge'

18.01.2021

Source: [Belarusian Telegraph Agency](#)

Western countries keep seeking a solution to the 'Belarusian bulge', Belarus Defense Minister Viktor Khrenin said as he delivered a report to Belarus President Aleksandr Lukashenko on 18 January.

Lukashenko talks to Putin over phone

20.01.2021

Source: [Belarusian Telegraph Agency](#)

Belarus President Aleksandr Lukashenko talked to President of Russia Vladimir Putin over the phone in the evening on 20 January, the press service of the Belarusian leader told BelTA.

Aleksandr Lukashenko and Vladimir Putin discussed prospects of stepping diversified cooperation within the framework of the Union State of Belarus and Russia in detail as well as interaction as part of the Eurasian Economic Union and other integration bodies. A number of personnel matters were discussed as well.

Belarusian government approves program on mass information and book publishing until 2025

20.01.2021

Source: [Belarusian Telegraph Agency](#)

The Belarusian government has approved the state program "Mass Information and Book Publishing" until 2025. The Council of Ministers issued relevant Resolution No. 21 on 18 January 2021, BelTA learned from the National Legal Internet portal.

The program is aligned with the priorities of Belarus' social and economic development for 2021-2025 and the state policy in mass media and publishing. Its goal is to increase the influence of the media on the formation of positive public opinion, to preserve and strengthen the moral values of society, to promote the traditions of patriotism and humanism, and to beef up cultural and scientific potential.

Belarus' government approves program on healthcare, demographic security for 2021-2025

21.01.2021

Source: [Belarusian Telegraph Agency](#)

The Belarusian government has approved the state program "Mass Information and Book Publishing" until 2025. The Council of Ministers issued relevant Resolution No. 21 on 18 January 2021, BelTA learned from the National Legal Internet portal.

The program is comprehensive, inter-departmental. It will contribute to the achievement of the national security targets in health and demographic security and the Sustainable Development Goals at the national level.

The priorities until 2025 include strengthening reproductive healthcare, promoting healthy lifestyles and health saving, improving support for families with children, improving their living conditions, strengthening the institution of the family. Emphasis will be made on outpatient and polyclinic service and healthcare in the regions, etc.

The document has six sub-programs: Family and Childhood, Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases, Prevention and Overcoming Alcohol Abuse, Mental Health, Countering the Spread of Tuberculosis, Prevention of HIV Spread, Ensuring the Functioning of the Health System.

Introduction of biometric passports approved

25.01.2021

Source: [Belarusian Telegraph Agency](#)

Belarus President Aleksandr Lukashenko has generally approved the introduction of biometric passports, but urged to analyze and finalize certain aspects. It was made known after the meeting hosted by the head of state on 25 January, BelTA has learned.

The date when the issue of such documents will begin has not been determined yet. It will be specified in a draft decree which will be submitted to the president after the analysis of all nuances.

According to the interior minister, primary attention was drawn to the convenience of getting and using biometric documents for the population. Ivan Kubrakov explained that even after the launch of the issue of new documents old passports of citizens will be valid for the entire period of validity. Moreover, it was also proposed to slightly amend the system to make it possible for people use one and the same document domestically and for foreign travel.

New Code of Administrative Offenses and Procedural and Executive Code of Administrative Offenses

25.01.2021

Source: [The National Legal Internet Portal of the Republic of Belarus](#)

The new Code of Administrative Offenses and Procedural and Executive Code of Administrative Offenses were officially published, the National Legal Internet Portal of the Republic of Belarus informs.

The main feature of the new codes is the priority of preventive measures over punishment. According to the Law of the Republic of Belarus of 6 January 2021 No. 93-Z, the new codes shall come into force from 1 March 2021.

According to Law No. 93-3 from 1 March 2021 cases of administrative offenses that, according to the new Code of Administrative Offenses are not administrative offenses, as well as cases of administrative offenses for which the time limits for imposing administrative sanctions have expired must be terminated. Also unexecuted (in whole or in part) decisions on the imposition of administrative sanctions for the commission of acts that are not administrative offenses in accordance with the new Code of Administrative Offenses are not subject to execution.

The Law No. 93-Z was officially published in Russian on the National Legal Internet Portal of the Republic of Belarus on 22 January 2021.

Leaders of Belarus, China discuss political cooperation, trade, vaccine in phone conversation

26.01.2021

Source: [Belarusian Telegraph Agency](#)

Belarus President Aleksandr Lukashenko had a telephone conversation with President of the People's Republic of China Xi Jinping. The heads of state exchanged congratulations on the occasion of the anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Belarus and China, and discussed in detail various areas of cooperation.

Aleksandr Lukashenko and Xi Jinping lauded the high level of Belarusian-Chinese political relations. Given the high level of cooperation, the parties are prepared to further increase the level of cooperation and are working on the text of a relevant declaration.

Aleksandr Lukashenko thanked the president of the People's Republic of China for supporting Belarus in the international arena. In this context the Chinese leader noted that only the people can decide on and determine the future of their country. In general, the strategic partners Belarus and China will jointly confront external threats. Belarus will also continue to support China on all key issues.

Much of the conversation focused on the situation with the COVID-19 pandemic. Belarus and China will continue to be as open and prepared to cooperate on this front as possible. The People's Republic of China also confirmed its readiness to supply the COVID-19 vaccine to Belarus in the necessary amounts.

During the conversation, Aleksandr Lukashenko and Xi Jinping also considered cooperation with Chinese financial institutions in the implementation of several large-scale infrastructure and investment projects.

The presidents focused on ways to boost the development and tap into the potential of the Great Stone industrial park, which is the key element of Belarus' participation in the Belt and Road initiative. Aleksandr Lukashenko assured Xi Jinping that Belarus will remain an active participant in the initiative.

The parties also suggested declaring the Year of Regions of Belarus and China in 2021-2023 to give an impetus to interregional cooperation.

Aleksandr Lukashenko and Xi Jinping agreed to meet in person to discuss the current agenda as soon as the pandemic subsides.

Belarus president made new appointments of top officials

26.01.2021

Source: [Belarusian Telegraph Agency](#)

Belarus President Aleksandr Lukashenko made new appointments on 26 January.

Major appointments include:

Aleksandr Volfovich (former Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Belarus) – State Secretary of the Security Council (position was vacant from 29 October 2020 when Valery Vakulchik was transferred to the post of Assistant to the President of the Republic of Belarus as Inspector for the Brest Region);

Vasily Gerasimov – Chairman of the State Control Committee (the post was vacant from 3 September 2020 when Ivan Tertel was transferred to the post of Chairman of State Security Committee; Gerasimov was acting Chairman for that period);

Yuri Shuleiko – Chairman of the Brest Oblast Executive Committee.

Russia partially lifts travel restrictions for the citizens of Belarus

27.01.2021

Source: [Belarusian Telegraph Agency](#)

Citizens of Belarus and Armenia will be allowed to enter Russia through certain air checkpoints as from 1 February if they present a negative COVID-19 test with the help of the COVID-19 Free Travel mobile application. The appropriate resolution was adopted by the Russian government and published on Russia's official internet legal portal on 27 January, BelTA has learned.

The resolution will be in effect till 1 March 2021. The document lays down a list of 20 air checkpoints in Russia, through which foreign citizens will be allowed to enter Russia under the new terms. They include Domodedovo Airport, Sheremetyevo Airport, Vnukovo Airport, and Zhukovsky Airport in Moscow as well as airports of Saint Petersburg, Kaliningrad, Sochi, Vladivostok, Novosibirsk, Kazan, and several other cities.

The Consulate General of the Republic of Belarus officially opened in Chongqing

28.01.2021

Source: [Belarusian Telegraph Agency](#)

The opening of the consular institution was timed to coincide with the 29th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Belarus and the People's Republic of China. The parties expressed hope that the opening of the consulate general will help boost trade, economic, investment, and humanitarian cooperation between Belarus and Chongqing, and the entire consular district. Also, both sides decided to adopt a joint roadmap for cooperation.

February 2021

New ways of establishing relations between Belarus and Turkey

03.02.2021

Source: [Belarusian Telegraph Agency](#)

Ambassador of Belarus to Turkey Viktor Rybak met with Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism Mehmet Nuri Ersoy in Ankara on 3 February. The parties hailed the high level of political relations between Belarus and Turkey and stressed the importance of expanding cooperation in culture and tourism. “Speaking about intercultural interactions, the parties looked into organizing days of Belarusian and Turkish culture in 2022 to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations,” the embassy noted.

Viktor Rybak and Mehmet Nuri Ersoy also discussed the status of the joint project to hold the international music festival “East-West” in Alanya, Turkey. The parties exchanged opinions on inbound tourism in Belarus and outlined steps to advance effective and mutually beneficial cooperation in this field.

Belarus Ambassador Viktor Rybak handed over diplomas and letters of appreciation to the winners and runners-up of the 7th edition of the international children's art contest from Turkey. The contest was organized by the National Art Center for Children and Youth of Belarus.

Passenger transport links between Belarus and Russia are gradually being restored

08.02.2021

Source: [Belarusian Telegraph Agency](#)

Aeroflot – Russian Airlines will increase the number of Moscow-Minsk flights from three to five a week as from 9 February. According to the booking system of Aeroflot, the flights will be performed not only on Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays, but also on Tuesdays and Fridays, BelTA has learned.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, in late March 2020, Russia grounded regular air service with all countries, including Belarus. Since late August, Russia has been gradually resuming international flights. Air service with Belarus resumed on 21 September 2020, when the national air carriers Aeroflot and Belavia got the green light to perform one flight a week each. On 14 October 2020, the Russian government allowed to increase the number of flights between Moscow and Minsk to three a week on a mutual basis, and on 8 February – to five a week on a mutual basis. The air carriers are also cleared to operate one flight a week from Minsk to Saint Petersburg and from Minsk to Rostov-on-Don on a mutual basis from 8 February.

In addition, Belarus and Russia are resuming railway service on 8 February.

To be granted entry to Russia, passengers from Belarus are required to present a negative COVID-19 PCR test, performed no later than 72 hours before the trip.

6th Belarusian People's Congress in Minsk

11–12.02.2021

Source: [Belarusian Telegraph Agency](#); [The National Legal Internet Portal of the Republic of Belarus](#)

The event was attended by 2,700 people, including 2,400 delegates. The forum organized by Belarusian authorities has brought together representatives of different segments of society: workers, rural workers, social and cultural workers and the media, military personnel, entrepreneurs, students, and pensioners. Among the delegates are also heads of government bodies, enterprises and organizations, MPs, deputies of local councils, representatives of political parties and public associations.

Belarus President Aleksandr Lukashenko took part in the Congress for two days and delivered his major report during the first day of the forum. The opening of the congress, the president's speech and speeches of the delegates were broadcasted live on Belarusian TV channels and the First National Channel of Belarusian Radio.

The delegates took stock of the progress in the implementation of Belarus' social and economic development program for 2016-2020 and discussed the main provisions of the country's draft social and economic development program for 2021-2025. According to BelTA reports, the main goal for the five-year period is to ensure social stability in society and increase the welfare of citizens through the qualitative growth of the economy, social capital, comfortable conditions for life, work and self-fulfillment. The key tasks announced are to reduce the dependence of economic growth on hydrocarbon raw materials, to increase export potential through high-tech goods, and to launch a new investment cycle.

Belarusian People's Congress adopted resolution in which priorities for the upcoming five-year period were outlined as well as major tasks and key areas of action. As officially reported, in preparation of the Congress a total of 1,200 dialogue platforms were set up to bring together representatives of public organizations and political parties, business communities, student and working youth. Community liaison offices were set up across all regions of the country and all in all, more than 17,000 proposals concerning the country's development were submitted to the organizing committee.

Lukashenko approves Belarus President approves draft agreement on shipping Belarusian oil products via Russian sea ports

16.02.2021

Source: [Belarusian Telegraph Agency](#)

Belarus President Aleksandr Lukashenko has approved as the basis for negotiations a draft Belarusian-Russian intergovernmental agreement on organizing cooperation in the area of transportation and transshipment of oil products from Belarus, which are supposed to be exported to third countries via Russian sea ports. The Transport and Communications

Ministry has been authorized to conduct negotiations on the draft agreement and sign the document if the sides come to terms within limits of the approved draft.

BelTA reported earlier that the signing of the agreement had been rescheduled from 15 February to a later date due to the need to complete intrastate procedures. Apart from that, contracts with Russian operators of terminals in the sea ports and with the railway operator are not yet ready. These contracts are supposed to be signed together with the agreement.

The draft agreement provides for transshipping over 9.8 million tonnes of freight by Belarusian companies in Russian ports on the Baltic Sea in 2021-2023. Cargoes such as furnace oil, gasoline, and lubricants will be transshipped. As per the agreement contracts will be signed in line with the take-or-pay principle. If the shipper wants to ship less than the specified volume, the sea terminal will be paid for the specified volume anyway. The agreement will be valid till the end of 2023 and can be extended automatically.

Belarus, UNICEF discuss cooperation on country program for 2021-2025

17.02.2021

Source: [Belarusian Telegraph Agency](#)

Belarus' Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Sergei Aleinik met with United Nations Children's Fund Representative in Belarus Tanja Radocaj on 16 February, BelTA has learned.

The parties discussed practical cooperation between Belarus and UNICEF in the implementation of the UNICEF's country program for Belarus for 2021-2025 and its action plan. The country program was approved by the UNICEF Executive Board in New York in September 2020. Program activities aim to protect children from violence, create a safe and healthy environment for them, including in cyberspace, and develop a restorative justice system for minors. The total budget of the country program is nearly \$15 million.

The parties also discussed cooperation of Belarus with UNICEF in overcoming the coronavirus pandemic.

Rapota steps down as Belarus-Russia Union State state secretary after term expires

18.02.2021

Source: [Belarusian Telegraph Agency](#)

I am planning to step down as State Secretary of the Belarus-Russia Union State once my tenure is expires, Grigory Rapota told the media after a meeting with the Belarusian president on 18 February, BelTA has learned.

The State Secretary of the Union State is in charge of the Standing Committee. The state secretary is appointed and dismissed by the Supreme State Council on the proposal of the chairperson of the Council of Ministers. Grigory Rapota has been working as State Secretary of the Belarus-Russia Union State since 2011.

Flydubai and Belavia start flights between Dubai and Minsk

22.02.2021

Source: [Belarusian Telegraph Agency](#)

Flydubai has launched flights to Minsk, BelTA learned from the press service of Minsk National Airport. The air carrier will operate three flights a week between Dubai International Airport (DXB) and Minsk National Airport (MSQ). The Belarusian air carrier Belavia has also launched regular flights to Dubai.

The visa-free regime between Belarus and the UAE has been in force since 16 January 2021. Citizens of Belarus can enter, travel and transit through the UAE, as well as stay there without visas for 90 days from the date of entry.

Meeting with Russia President Vladimir Putin

22.02.2021

Source: [Belarusian Telegraph Agency](#)

Belarusian President Aleksandr Lukashenko met with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Sochi on 22 February. The meeting lasted more than six hours. BelTA described meeting as 'Serious talks in an informal setting'.

According to Aleksandr Lukashenko, there is no need to make things up because the two parties have done a lot, work has been done at the governmental level. The President added that the two countries had outlined about 30 areas for cooperation development, roadmaps. During an earlier meeting in Sochi, the heads of state agreed that the governments of the two countries would work on and update them. "Indeed, the governments have done a lot. The governments of both Russia and Belarus. They have updated the format. Ambassador Semashko has reported to me today that there may be six or seven roadmaps (they have a new name now, they have been rebranded) which our governments are working on. The rest is ready for signing. So we have an action plan," said the Belarusian leader.

Aleksandr Lukashenko also thanked the Russian leader for the support Russia had provided to the Belarusian economy. "I would like to say it was not in vain. The money has not been thrown away," he stressed. He also explained that the full commissioning of the Belarusian nuclear power plant would let the country save about 5 billion cubic meters of natural gas. The need for this raw material in general will not decrease, given the plans to build a new nitrogen plant in Grodno.

Belarusian president also touched upon the topic of coronavirus control and vaccine production and praised the achievements of Russian scientists in this area. According to Vladimir Putin, Russia has shared a technology to manufacture a coronavirus vaccine with Belarus.

Meeting has not led to signing any agreement or joint statement.

Telephone conversation with Russia President Vladimir Putin

23.02.2021

Source: [Belarusian Telegraph Agency](#)

A phone conversation between Belarus President Aleksandr Lukashenko and President of Russia Vladimir Putin took place on 23 February in continuation of the negotiations that had been held the day before.

According to the source, the key topics Aleksandr Lukashenko and Vladimir Putin have discussed included the operation of the tax system, manufacturing cooperation in defense industry, the reinforcement of the joint defense systems, and the work of mass media in modern conditions (information counteraction). Equalizing living standards for people and commercial entities in the Union State of Belarus and Russia is the key goal of the ongoing large work, the press service said.

Meeting with State Secretary of Security Council Aleksandr Volfovich

25.02.2021

Source: [Belarusian Telegraph Agency](#)

It is essential to streamline the operation of the Security Council of Belarus, President Aleksandr Lukashenko said as he met with State Secretary of the Security Council Aleksandr Volfovich on 25 February, BelTA informs.

According to the president, in this process it is important to use the best practices of similar organizations in close countries, for example, Russia and Kazakhstan.

March 2021

Viktor Lukashenko relieved of post of Aide to President for National Security

01.03.2021

Source: [Belarusian Telegraph Agency](#)

Viktor Lukashenko has been relieved of the post as the Aide to the President for National Security as he was elected for another post. Belarus President Aleksandr Lukashenko signed the appropriate decree on 26 February, BelTA learned from the press service of the Belarusian president.

Belarus, Armenia to mutually ease up traveler registration requirements

01.03.2021

Source: [Belarusian Telegraph Agency](#)

A draft protocol on expanding the Belarusian-Armenian intergovernmental agreement on visa-free travels of citizens has been approved by Aleksandr Lukashenko. In line with the

document citizens of one of the countries, who temporarily stay in the other country, will no longer have to seek residence registration within 30 days of their arrival's date. They will still have to get registered after 30 days have passed.

Belarus-Russia military cooperation discussed by top Belarusian officials

02.03.2021

Source: [Belarusian Telegraph Agency](#)

Belarus President Aleksandr Lukashenko unveiled the details of the recent talks with Russia President Vladimir Putin and responded to speculations at the meeting to discuss Belarus-Russia cooperation in the military sector on 2 March, BelTA informs.

Among other things he informed about the opportunity to use the remainder of Russian loan for building Belarusian nuclear power plant for military purposes, eg. to purchase aircraft and more advanced equipment.

Belarus to set up export agency in 2021

09.03.2021

Source: [Belarusian Telegraph Agency](#)

Belarus will establish an export agency in 2021, Belarusian Deputy Economy Minister Yuri Chebotar said at a ministerial meeting, BelTA has learned.

“This will be a full-fledged one-stop-shop facility providing financial and non-financial support for exporters. The agency will be launched this year. We will provide the necessary methodological support,” Yuri Chebotar noted.

The recent Decree No.39 is aimed at making the mechanism of promoting Belarusian exports more attractive and accessible. For example, the decree abolished the minimum amount of export loans and expanded the list of banks and insurance organizations that can work with exporters. “We want these instruments to work smoothly. We will be monitoring the situation for the next several months to see whether the banks added to the list have got involved in this work,” Yuri Chebotar said.

Belarus president made new appointments of top officials

11.03.2021

Source: [Belarusian Telegraph Agency](#)

Belarus President Aleksandr Lukashenko made new appointments on 11 March.

Major appointments were in law-enforcement, military and security sector and include:

Dmitry Gora - Chairman of the Investigative Committee;

Vadim Sinyavsky - Emergencies Minister;

Viktor Gulevich - Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces - First Deputy Defense Minister;

Andrei Zhuk - Deputy Defense Minister;

Igor Demidenko - Commander of the Troops of the Western Operational Command of the Armed Forces;

Aleksandr Naumenko - Commander of the Troops of the Northwest Operational Command of the Armed Forces;

Aleksandr Valiyev - First Deputy Chairman of the State Customs Committee;

Andrei Bolshakov - Deputy Chairman of the State Customs Committee;

Eduard Danilovich - Deputy Chairman of the State Customs Committee.

Lukashenko approves Security Council composition

15.03.2021

Source: [Belarusian Telegraph Agency](#)

Belarus President Aleksandr Lukashenko signed decree No.106 on 15 March to approve the composition of the Security Council.

According to the document, the president of Belarus is the chairman of the Security Council.

Eight civil servants are permanent members of the Security Council: the prime minister, the heads of the lower chamber and the upper chamber of the Belarusian parliament, the head of the Belarus President Administration, the state secretary of the Security Council, the interior minister, the defense minister, and the head of the State Security Committee.

According to the decree, the Security Council also includes heads of the Supreme Court, the State Control Committee, the Board of the National Bank of the Republic of Belarus, the Investigative Committee, the State Authority for Military Industry of the Republic of Belarus, the State Border Committee of Belarus, the prosecutor general, the ministers of foreign affairs, finance, and emergencies, and the chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces – first deputy defense minister.

Commission set up to amend Belarus' Constitution

16.03.2021

Source: [Belarusian Telegraph Agency](#)

Belarus President Aleksandr Lukashenko has signed presidential decree No.105 to establish a constitutional commission. The document has been passed in order to implement provisions of the resolution of the 6th Belarusian People's Congress.

The Constitutional Commission has been tasked with working out proposals on amending Belarus' Constitution and ensuring their nationwide discussion. If necessary, the commission will be able to involve executives and specialists of government agencies and other organizations in its work.

By 1 August 2021 the Constitutional Commission will have to forward proposals on amending the Constitution to the Belarus president for their consequent submission for a nationwide referendum.

The Constitutional Commission comprises 36 people. Those are representatives of government agencies, law scholars, representatives of public associations, various branches of the economy and the social sphere. Chairman of the Constitutional Court Piotr Miklashevich will oversee the Constitutional Commission's work. Chairman of the House of Representatives of the National Assembly Vladimir Andreichenko and Chairwoman of the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly Natalya Kochanova will be his deputies.

Plans to set up digital watchdog in Belarus

16.03.2021

Source: [Belarusian Telegraph Agency](#)

Belarus has plans to create a tech regulator, First Deputy Prime Minister Nikolai Snopkov told reporters following the meeting hosted by Belarus President Aleksandr Lukashenko, BelTA has learned.

According to Nikolai Snopkov, it is difficult and time-consuming to determine a single state regulator in the digital sphere. However, the government is not going to establish a new tech regulator by simply changing the name of an existing government agency. It is necessary, in his opinion, “to change the purpose and essence, since it is not enough just to set up a new single regulator”. “It is very important to create a vertical of competences in each ministry, in each field of expertise, in other words, to put together a team of people who would understand what needs to be done to digitalize industries and sectors and how to use digitalization to increase productivity,” he said.

This matter will be revisited this summer. A possibility for the IT sector and the HTP resident companies to extend their reach into other areas will also be discussed. This is expected to give a boost to labor productivity and economic growth.

Lukashenko discusses amendments to laws on national security, public order

18.03.2021

Source: [Belarusian Telegraph Agency](#)

Changes in legislation in the field of national security and public order were on the agenda of the meeting hosted by Belarus President Aleksandr Lukashenko on 18 March, BelTA has learned.

Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that following previous discussions the conclusion was made that “a comprehensive overhaul of the legislation is needed, including criminal, labor and other laws”. “It shouldn't be just about tightening the screws. Some crimes should entail a harsher punishment, while other offenses should be punished more leniently,” he emphasized.

Lukashenko reiterated that the legislation should not only be able to promptly respond to any violations, but it should also prevent possible threats.

After an earlier meeting, the parliament, the Belarus President Administration, the State Secretariat of the Security Council and other government agencies drafted about a dozen bills within a short period of time. Aleksandr Lukashenko noted, these documents should be scrutinized by the parliament and put into effect in the near future.

As Aleksandr Lukashenko said, “according to our intelligence services, they won't let us live in peace. This means that we need to be prepared for any manifestations of destructive activity: from calls for illegal strikes to manipulating people's minds through Internet technologies. We should have adequate tools to respond to each such move”.

Belarus State Investment Program for 2021 approved

19.03.2021

Source: [Belarusian Telegraph Agency](#)

State Investment Program for 2021 has been approved by the decree of Aleksandr Lukashenko.

Taking into account the investment capacity of the central budget, the program provides for channeling financial resources into the facilities that will be commissioned in 2021, and facilities which construction is nearing completion. In 2021, Br664.2 million is to be allocated to finance 102 facilities featured in the program, including Br399.5 million of state capital investments, and Br105 million from the national development fund. In accordance with the 2021 program, there are plans to start financing the construction (renovation) of 28 facilities and to commission 48 facilities.

Belavia resumes flights to Baku

26.03.2021

Source: [Belarusian Telegraph Agency](#)

The Belarusian national air carrier Belavia is resuming air travel to Baku on 20 March, BelTA learned from the website of the airline.

Flights will be operated three times a week. The airline resumed flights from Baku to Minsk on 4 December. As from 20 March, flights will be available to both destinations.

Lukashenko meets with Mezentsev

26.03.2021

Source: [Belarusian Telegraph Agency](#)

Belarusian President Aleksandr Lukashenko met with outgoing Russian Ambassador Dmitry Mezentsev, who has recently been appointed the State Secretary of the Union State of Belarus and Russia.

Yevgeny Lukyanov appointed as ambassador of Russia to Belarus

26.03.2021

Source: [Belarusian Telegraph Agency](#)

Russian President Vladimir Putin has appointed Yevgeny Lukyanov as ambassador to Belarus. The respective decree was published on Russia's Official Portal of Legal Information. Yevgeny Lukyanov will replace Dmitry Mezentsev in this capacity, TASS reports.

“Appoint Yevgeny Lukyanov Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to the Republic of Belarus,” the document reads. Vladimir Putin's another decree relieved Yevgeny Lukyanov of his post as ambassador to Latvia.

Belarus approves new five-year transport development program

29.03.2021

Source: [Belarusian Telegraph Agency](#)

By Resolution No.165 of 23 March 2021, the Council of Ministers has approved the state program on the transportation industry for 2021-2025. The document was officially published at the National Legal Internet Portal, BelTA has learned.

The program has been developed in accordance with Belarus' social and economic development priorities, which include a developed business environment, sustainable infrastructure and accelerated development of services and is aimed at the formation of an efficient transport complex and a developed transport infrastructure, increased safety and accessibility. The goal of the program is to ensure sustainable mobility and meet the needs of the economy in competitive and efficient transport services.

The state program includes five subprograms: Railway Transport, Automobile, Urban Electric Transport and Metro, Inland Water and Maritime Transport, Civil Aviation and Ensuring the Functioning of the Transport System.

The resolution envisages over Br7.55 billion to finance the implementation of the program, including over Br1.67 billion in 2021, over Br1.56 billion in 2022, over Br1.4 billion in 2023, over Br1.4 billion in 2024 and over Br1.45 billion in 2025. According to the document, the sources of funding are the national budget, including the national civil aviation fund, and local budgets, off-budget centralized investment fund of the Transport and Communications ministry, the funds of the state program performers, credit resources and other sources not prohibited by law.

Lukashenko discusses redistribution of powers between government agencies

30.03.2021

Source: [Belarusian Telegraph Agency](#)

Belarus President Aleksandr Lukashenko convened a meeting to discuss redistribution of powers between government bodies on 30 March, BelTA reports.

Last year the president gave an instruction to study the possibility of redistributing powers between various branches of government and strengthening their accountability. The Council of Ministers, local authorities and parliamentarians prepared a package of proposals to expand the scope of authority of the government and other state bodies.

Belarus to impose reciprocal sanctions

30.03.2021

Source: [Belarusian Telegraph Agency](#)

Belarus President Aleksandr Lukashenko signed decree No.128 on applying special measures on 30 March. The document has been passed for the sake of ensuring security and protecting national interests of the Republic of Belarus.

The decree provides for prohibiting the import of certain categories of merchandise and the import of services provided by natural persons and legal persons of the countries that have resorted to special measures (sanctions) against Belarusian corporations or individuals. The Council of Ministers will have to determine the specific list of goods and services and, if necessary, foreign corporations and individuals the decree applies to.



Tajikistan

January 2021

Meeting of the Ambassador with the Governor of Al-Qassim Province of Saudi Arabia

05.01.2021

Source: [Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan](#)

On 4 January 2021, the Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Akram Karimi within the framework of his working visit to the Al-Qassim Province of the Kingdom met with the Governor of this province Prince Faisal bin Mishal Al Saud.

The issues of bilateral cooperation and ways of their strengthening in the spheres of economy, trade, investment and agricultural processing were discussed at the meeting. The parties considered it expedient to use the opportunities of the two countries for the establishment of cooperation in the field of tourism. During this working visit, the Ambassador also met with the Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Al-Qassim Province Muhammad Al-Hanaya and the Chairman of the Committee of Economic Development and Investment Dr. Yosuf Al-Oraini.

Briefing with Tajikistan's Ambassador to China on 2021 SCO chairmanship priorities

14.01.2021

Source: [Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan](#)

On 12 January 2021, a briefing with Saidzoda Zohir Ozod, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Tajikistan to the People's Republic of China, was held at the Secretariat of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation to discuss priorities of Tajikistan's SCO chairmanship in 2021.

Ambassador of Tajikistan to China detailed priorities of Tajikistan for the period of chairmanship in the SCO in 2021. Ambassador Saidzoda has noted that that Tajikistan's chairmanship will be based on the principles of "Shanghai spirit" and will be held under the motto "20 years of the SCO: cooperation for stability and prosperity". According to Ambassador, efforts will be directed at the consistent implementation of international treaties adopted within the SCO, as well as decisions, program documents and agreements adopted in the final documents of the meetings of the Council of the SCO Member States and the Councils of Heads of Government of the SCO in order to further develop the organization and strengthen SCO potential. He also stressed the importance of building up trade and economic cooperation in the SCO space, of creating a specialized financial institution for the organization, developing the digital economy and e-commerce in member states.

Meeting with the Secretary General of the Economic Cooperation Organization

21.01.2021

Source: [Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan](#)

On 20 January 2021, the Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan to the Islamic Republic of Iran Nizomiddin Zohidi met with the Secretary General of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Dr. Hadi Suleimanpour. During the meeting, the parties discussed the issues of strengthening cooperation between Tajikistan and the ECO in 2021 and holding joint events on the occasion of the announcement of Dushanbe as the tourism capital of the ECO region.

Participation of the Tajikistan Minister of Foreign Affairs at the 17th Ministerial Meeting of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue

21.01.2021

Source: [Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan](#)

On 21 January 2021, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan Sirojiddin Muhridin attended the 17th Ministerial Meeting of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD), which was held virtually under the theme "New Normal and Safe and Healthy Tourism".

At the meeting, the heads of delegations exchanged views on priority areas of cooperation in the framework of the Dialogue. Taking into account the COVID-19 pandemic, the heads of delegations paid special attention to strengthening multilateral cooperation in the economic, health and tourism spheres within the framework of the ACD. The session resulted in adoption of the final document - the Ankara Declaration of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Dialogue member states was adopted.

The President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon delivered his annual Address on the main directions of domestic and foreign policy of Tajikistan to the Supreme Assembly

26.01.2021

Source: [Official Site of the President of Tajikistan](#)

President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon delivered his annual Address to the Parliament. One of the differences of this year's Address was its date – for the first time the Address was moved from the end of December to January.

At the beginning of his speech, the President noted that 2020 was one of the most difficult years for the inhabitants of the planet, including Tajikistan. The message of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon began with the topic of coronavirus infection and damage it brought to the economy.

Based on it, the President stressed that additional 1.6 billion of Tajik Somoni were additionally directed from the public budget for the procurement of medicines and medical equipment, construction of temporary hospitals and support of healthcare workers.

Emomali Rahmon said one of the major achievements of recent years is improvement of connectivity of the country with other economies of the region. Over the recent years 53 public investment projects amounting 20.3 billion of Tajik Somoni were implemented in transport sector what allowed to put into operation over 2200 km of roads. As President noted, “the activities implemented in this area made it possible for Tajikistan to improve its position by 20 points in the global road quality ranking of the annual international survey within the Global Competitiveness Report over the past two years”.

In his Address, the President of Tajikistan drew attention to the threats that continue to torment the country. In his opinion, there are two of them – internal (corruption) and external (terrorism). The President instructed the defense and law enforcement agencies of the country to intensify the fight against these challenges.

The First SCO Council of National Coordinators Meeting Chaired by Tajikistan

29.01.2021

Source: [Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan](#)

The first Shanghai Cooperation Organization’s Council of National Coordinators Meeting chaired by Tajikistan took place from 26-29 January 2021 in Dushanbe. The participating delegations had a comprehensive discussion on the preparations for the SCO Heads of State Council (HSC) Meeting to take place on 16-17 September 2021, exchanged in opinions on the draft Agenda and the list of documents to be presented for signature at the HSC. The parties reviewed the SCO Main Events Plan for 2021 and approved the SCO Foreign Ministries Cooperation Programme for this year.

The meeting participants had a thorough exchange in opinion on the new rotation cycle of the SCO heads of permanent bodies starting from 1 January 2022 and other issues of the organization’s agenda.

February 2021

Meeting of the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs with the newly appointed Representative of the World Health Organization to Tajikistan

01.02.2021

Source: [Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan](#)

On 1 February 2021, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan Mr. Muzaffar Huseynzoda received the newly appointed Representative of the World Health Organization (WHO) to the Republic of Tajikistan Dr. Victor Olsavszky. During the meeting the sides exchanged views on cooperation between Tajikistan and the WHO, including the prevention and control of the spread of coronavirus disease (Covid-19).

Negotiations of working groups on the demarcation of the Tajik-Uzbek state border

01.02.2021

Source: [Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan](#)

On 26–30 January 2021, negotiations of working groups of governmental delegations of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan on the demarcation of the Tajik-Uzbek state border were held in Dushanbe. During the negotiations, a schedule of meetings for 2021 was agreed, providing for monthly meetings of the parties.

During the meeting, an agreement was reached on the dates and locations for joint field work, as well as other issues of demarcation of the Tajik-Uzbek state border line were considered. Following the talks, a corresponding protocol was signed.

17th meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission on Economic Cooperation between Tajikistan and Russia

09.02.2021

Source: [Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan](#)

On 8–9 February 2021, the 17th meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission on Economic Cooperation between the Republic of Tajikistan and the Russian Federation was held in Moscow.

The delegations of the parties were headed by the co-chairs of the Commission – Prime Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan Kohir Rasulzoda and Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation Alexey Overchuk. The delegations constructively discussed a set of issues of interaction between the countries in the political, trade, economic, investment, cultural, humanitarian and other fields.

The parties agreed to take the necessary measures to expand Tajik-Russian economic ties and industrial cooperation, to focus on developing new approaches. The delegations of the parties agreed to increase the volume of cargo transportation. Considering the improvement of the sanitary and epidemiological situation in Tajikistan, the Russian side was invited to consider the soonest resumption of air traffic between the countries. During the meeting, the issues of migration cooperation were discussed in detail. The delegation of Tajikistan raised the issue of the legal status of family members of labor migrants and students from Tajikistan, which remains uncertain. The Tajik side appealed to the Russian side to consider the issue of legalizing the status of Tajik citizens who are barred from entering the territory of Russia for minor administrative offenses.

Meeting with the Head of the EU Delegation to Tajikistan

12.02.2021

Source: [Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan](#)

On 12 February 2021, the Minister of Foreign Affairs Sirojiddin Muhriddin received Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Tajikistan, Marilyn Josefson. The

sides discussed current issues and prospects for development of bilateral cooperation between Tajikistan and the European Union as well as other issues of mutual interest.

Meeting of the Minister of Foreign Affairs with the CSTO Secretary General

17.02.2021

Source: [Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan](#)

On 17 February 2021 Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan received the Secretary General of the Collective Security Treaty Organization Stanislav Zas, who was on a working visit to Tajikistan.

During the meeting, an exchange of views on the maintenance of peace and stability in the area of responsibility of the Organization, timely response to modern challenges and threats, as well as building up interaction between the member states of the Organization and the political-diplomatic, military, military-technical and military-economic spheres took place. The interlocutors exchanged views on further coordination of foreign policy positions, convergence of the approaches of the member states on regional and international issues, discussed the preparations for the upcoming off-season meeting of the CSTO Council of Foreign Ministers, scheduled for this spring in Tajikistan.

President of Tajikistan met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan Abdulaziz Kamilov

18.02.2021

Source: [Official Site of the President of Tajikistan](#)

On 18 February 2021, President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon received the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan Abdulaziz Kamilov who was in Dushanbe on a working visit. The two sides discussed the state and prospects of the overall Tajik-Uzbek relations and ways of further expanding them.

The importance of maintaining regular high-level contacts, which play a key role in the consistent promotion of multifaceted cooperation between Tajikistan and Uzbekistan was noted. Minister Kamilov conveyed the message of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev to President Rahmon to pay a working visit to Tashkent to participate in the international conference “Central and South Asia: Regional Interconnectedness. Challenges and opportunities”.

President of Tajikistan met with the Secretary General of the Collective Security Treaty Organization Stanislav Zas

18.02.2021

Source: [Official Site of the President of Tajikistan](#)

On 18 February 2021, President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon received the Secretary General of the Collective Security Treaty Organization Stanislav Zas who was in Dushanbe on a working visit.

During the meeting, President Rahmon shared the priorities of the presidency of the Republic of Tajikistan in the CSTO and approved an agreed Action Plan for the next period.

The importance of strengthening cooperation within the CSTO for effectively combating the spread of destructive radical ideas in its area of responsibility, as well as the fight against cybercrime and other criminal acts with use of ICT was stressed.

Within discussion of regional and international agenda, special attention was paid to increasingly complicated situation in Afghanistan, as well as the growing threat of global terrorism, extremism, radicalism and transnational organized crime, including drug trafficking.

Meeting of the Tajikistan-EU Cooperation Council

19.02.2021

Source: [Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan](#)

On 19 February 2021, the Cooperation Council between the Republic of Tajikistan and the European Union held its ninth meeting. The agenda of the meeting covered key aspects of partnership and cooperation between the Republic of Tajikistan and the EU, political and economic as well as international and regional issues. The sides discussed the current state and prospects for strengthening cooperation between the Republic of Tajikistan and the European Union in the political, trade-economic, water and energy, security, fight against terrorism and extremism, human rights fields in details and exchanged views on international and regional issues.

March 2021

Meeting of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan with the Chairman of the House of People (Wulusi Jirga) of the National Assembly of Afghanistan

01.03.2021

Source: [Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan](#)

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan Sirojiddin Muhridin met with the Chairman of the House of People (Wulusi Jirga) of the National Assembly of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Mir Rahmon Rahmoni. The meeting discussed the situation in the region and Afghanistan, the process of inter-Afghan negotiations, relations between Tajikistan and Afghanistan in various fields, in particular, strengthening and expanding inter-parliamentary cooperation, legislation and exchange of experience.

The Majlisi Oli of the Republic of Tajikistan, together with the parliaments of foreign countries through friendship groups, solves legislative issues that are important for our peoples and countries. For this purpose, a Friendship Group was established between the Majlisi Namoyandagon Majlisi Oli of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Wulusi Jirga of the National Assembly of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

The parties noted that the joint fight against terrorism, extremism and drug trafficking is an important area of cooperation between the two countries. Tajikistan expressed support to the efforts of the Afghan government in ensuring security, peace and stability in the country and welcomed the process of inter-Afghan peace talks in Doha.

Telephone conversation of the President of Tajikistan with the Chairman of the People's Republic of China

02.03.2021

Source: [Official Site of the President of Tajikistan](#)

On 1 March 2021, the President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon held a phone conversation with Chairman of the People's Republic of China Xi Jinping.

During the conversation, the parties discussed current areas of bilateral cooperation within the framework of Tajik-Chinese relations of comprehensive strategic partnership. In this context, the issues of expanding trade and economic interaction, including in the areas of the digital economy, e-commerce and transport, in the field of agriculture, as well as further joint steps in this direction and in order to reduce the severity of the impact of the global financial crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic were discussed.

In the context of multilateral relations, attention was focused on the current chairmanship of Tajikistan in the SCO and the anniversary summit of the Organization, which is scheduled to be held in Dushanbe this year. The Heads of States spoke in favor of the further development of Tajik-Chinese cultural and humanitarian ties, and expressed the readiness to strengthen cooperation in the field of security.

Meeting of the President of Tajikistan with the Chairman of the Board of the Eurasian Development Bank

05.03.2021

Source: [Official Site of the President of Tajikistan](#)

The President of the Republic of Tajikistan received Nikolay Podguzov, Chairman of the Board of the Eurasian Development Bank. During the meeting, the parties discussed issues of expanding cooperation between Tajikistan and the Eurasian Development Bank. "Tajikistan is interested in developing fruitful cooperation with the Eurasian Development Bank, including in attracting investments in priority sectors of the economy," President Emomali Rahmon said.

The parties emphasized the initiative of the Russian Federation to implement a project on the construction of 5 schools in Tajikistan, which is being implemented through the Eurasian Fund for Stabilization and Development (the fund is managed by the Eurasian Development Bank).

Also, there was an exchange of views on the possibilities of cooperation and attracting investments for the development of industry, including the extraction and processing of

minerals. In the field of energy, necessity of the bank's participation in the implementation of projects for the construction of small and large hydroelectric power plants and the construction of power transmission lines was noted.

Meeting of governmental delegations of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic on delimitation and demarcation of the state border

17.03.2021

Source: [Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan](#)

On 16-17 March 2021 a regular meeting of governmental delegations of Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan on delimitation and demarcation of the of the Tajik-Kyrgyz border was held in the city of Guliston, Sughd region of the Republic of Tajikistan. The delegations were led by Chairman of the State Committee for National Security of the Republic of Tajikistan Saimumin Yatimov and Chairman of the State Committee for National Security of the Kyrgyz Republic Kamchybek Tashiev.

The parties exchanged views on the issue of delimitation and demarcation of the Tajik-Kyrgyz state border as well as proposals on regulation and early resolution of border issues between Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan.

Trilateral meeting of Tajikistan, USA and Afghanistan

17.03.2021

Source: [Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan](#)

On 17 March 2021, a virtual trilateral meeting was held between the Republic of Tajikistan, the United States and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan at the ministerial level. The meeting was attended by the Foreign Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan Sirojiddin Muhridin, the Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Muhammad Hanif Atmar and the US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs David Hale.

Participants expressed their readiness for partnership and cooperation to promote lasting peace, security and economic development. Issues of cooperation between the three countries in the fields of politics, security, economy, energy, and human resources development were discussed. It was emphasized that the issues of jointly combating terrorism, extremism, illicit drug trafficking and strengthening the border are important areas of cooperation between the parties.

High-level talks between Tajikistan and Afghanistan

29.03.2021

Source: [Official Site of the President of Tajikistan](#)

An official meeting between Tajikistan and Afghanistan took place in Dushanbe with the presidents of both countries participating. After the official meeting ceremony, the parties began to discuss the development and expansion of friendly relations, good-neighborliness and cooperation between Afghanistan and Tajikistan.

The Head of Tajik state Emomali Rahmon stressed that cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan is one of the priority areas in the system of international relations of Tajikistan.

It was noted that the broad opportunities in the construction of hydroelectric power plants, hydraulic structures, the implementation of joint programs in these areas, the implementation of the CASA-1000 project serve as examples of the joint efforts of Tajikistan and Afghanistan to unite energy networks in the countries of the region.

In difficult times, especially with the activation of terrorist and extremist groups, it was decided to expand practical cooperation between the two countries in the field of security. The Tajik side proposed to create a joint commission on security and cross-border cooperation.

The Ninth Ministerial Conference "Heart of Asia - Istanbul Process" in Dushanbe

30.03.2021

Source: [Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan](#)

On 30 March 2021, the 9th Ministerial Conference “Heart of Asia - Istanbul Process” was held in Dushanbe with the participation of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon and the President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Muhammad Ashraf Ghani.

The meeting was attended by the foreign ministers of the Member States of the Process while the heads of delegations of donor countries and regional and international organizations participated via videoconference. Participants of the Conference emphasized that the friendly relations, cooperation and partnership among the countries of the region would lead to the solution of urgent regional issues and fulfill the joint cooperation of the countries with Afghanistan. The parties noted that the joint fight against terrorism, extremism and illicit drug trafficking is an important area of cooperation.

The member countries of the Process, donor countries, regional and international organizations have supported the efforts of the Government of Afghanistan to ensure security and stability in the country. In this regard, they called on the Government of Afghanistan and the Taliban movement to lay a solid foundation for restoration of peace and stability in the country.

The countries of the region asserted the key role of Afghanistan in ensuring security throughout the Central Asian region and supported the constructive initiatives of the international community in maintaining peace and stability in Afghanistan and its economic and social recovery.

In conclusion, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of “Heart of Asia - Istanbul Process” adopted the Dushanbe Declaration.

Uzbekistan

January 2021

World Bank predicts Uzbekistan's economic recovery in 2021 by 4.3 percent

06.01.2021

Source: [Uzbekistan National News Agency](#)

According to the World Bank, in Central Asia, growth is expected to recover to 3 percent in 2021, supported by a modest rise in commodity prices and foreign direct investment as the subregion deepens its integration with China's Belt and Road Initiative. This forecast was made in the World Bank Group Flagship Report "Global Economic Prospects". World Bank experts estimate GDP growth in Uzbekistan last year at 0.6 percent, as well as give an optimistic forecast for 2022, predicting an increase of 4.5 percent.

Launch of the Central Asia Investment Partnership

08.01.2021

Source: [Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan](#)

Joint Statement of the United States of America, the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Republic of Kazakhstan was released announcing the launch of the Central Asia Investment Partnership. The participants welcomed other countries to join this initiative to promote regional economic partnership and prosperity.

Through the initiative, the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC), the Ministry of Investments and Foreign Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan and Astana International Financial Centre, acting in the interests of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan, will make all possible efforts to raise at least \$1 billion over five years to support projects that advance private-sector led growth and increase economic connectivity within Central Asia and the broader region.

President of Uzbekistan holds a phone call with President-elect of Kyrgyzstan

12.01.2021

Source: [The Government portal of the Republic of Uzbekistan](#)

On 11 January 2021, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev had a telephone conversation with President-elect of the Kyrgyz Republic Sadyr Zhaparov. The President of Uzbekistan sincerely congratulated Sadyr Zhaparov on his convincing victory in the presidential elections, as well as on the successful holding of a referendum on introducing amendments to the Constitution of Kyrgyzstan.

Shavkat Mirziyoyev expressed confidence that the results of the most important political events will lay a solid foundation for ensuring stability, improving people's wellbeing and sustainable development of the country. In turn, Sadyr Zhaparov expressed gratitude to the President and multinational people of Uzbekistan for the assistance to fraternal Kyrgyzstan

in overcoming the consequences of modern challenges and combating the spread of the coronavirus pandemic. Current issues of bilateral agenda and regional cooperation were discussed during the conversation.

Additional Protocol on the Electronic Consignment Note enters into force for Uzbekistan

13.01.2021

Source: [Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan](#)

On 14 January 2021, the Additional Protocol to the Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (CMR) concerning the Electronic Consignment Note, signed in Geneva on 20 February 2008 will enter into force for the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Since 1995, Uzbekistan has been a party to the Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (CMR). The Additional Protocol to the Convention was adopted to simplify the optional procedure for the preparation of the consignment note using the methods used for electronic registration and data processing. Uzbekistan joined the Protocol under the Resolution of the President of Uzbekistan of 25 September 2020. 29 states are parties to the Additional Protocol, including Belarus, Bulgaria, the United Kingdom, Iran, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, Russia, Romania, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine, Finland, France, Czech Republic, Switzerland, Estonia and others.

Plans for international events in human rights discussed in Tashkent

16.01.2021

Source: [Uzbekistan National News Agency](#)

On 15 January 2021, at the meeting of the Scientific Coordination Council at the National Centre for Human Rights, the scientific and academic community of the country discussed the most important international events in human rights planned for this year, as well as preparations for them.

Director of the National Centre for Human Rights, Academician Akmal Saidov, Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the UN Office and other international organizations in Geneva Uligbek Lapasov, Permanent Delegation of Uzbekistan to UNESCO Umid Shadiev noted that the President of the country put forward major international initiatives, including in human rights at the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The National Action Plan and a roadmap were adopted by a joint resolution of the chambers of the Oliy Majlis to implement the provisions of the the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training. This year, at the initiative of the President, it is planned to hold the Global Forum “Human Rights Education”. It was emphasized that the forum would become a good platform for the exchange of new ideas and best practices in human rights education, which has been developed in Uzbekistan today.

Uzbek MFA Abdulaziz Kamilov receives the Ambassador of Germany

19.01.2021

Source: [Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan](#)

On 19 January 2021, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan Abdulaziz Kamilov received Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Republic of Germany Gunther Overfield. The current state and prospects for further development of Uzbekistan – Germany relations in political, trade-economic, investment, financial-technical, cultural-humanitarian, and other spheres were discussed during the conversation. Views were exchanged on the schedule and agenda of the upcoming contacts at various levels. Special attention was paid to the activation of inter-parliamentary relations, including by organizing visits of representatives of the Oliy Majlis to Germany and Bundestag to Uzbekistan.

Meeting with World Bank Regional Director for Central Asia

19.01.2021

Source: [The Government portal of the Republic of Uzbekistan](#)

On 18 January 2021, the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Jamshid Kuchkarov held a working meeting at the Ministry of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction with the World Bank Regional Director for Central Asia Lilia Burunchuk, who was in Tashkent on an official visit. The meeting was also attended by the Minister of Finance - Timur Ishmetov, First Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction - Ilkhom Norkulov, Deputy Minister of Finance - Akhadbek Khaidarov, Deputy Chairman of the Central Bank - Begzod Khamroev.

Representatives of the World Bank were informed about the progress of the implementation of key socio-economic reforms, as well as the tasks for 2021 to ensure macroeconomic stability, economic growth and well-being of the country's citizens, set by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the government in his recent Address to the Oliy Majlis. The government's priorities in the field of economic development of the country this year were announced, including the implementation of the next stage of reforms aimed at creating conditions for the growth of the private sector and attracting private investment in various sectors.

The sides considered the implementation of projects implemented by the government of the country with the financial assistance of the World Bank, including projects in the development of socially significant infrastructure in rural areas, modernization of the social protection system, improving the efficiency of the real estate registration system and cadastre, etc. Following the meeting, the parties expressed their readiness to continue further fruitful cooperation with a view to further implementation of market reforms in Uzbekistan.

Senate Chairperson meets with International Ambassador for Human Rights

22.01.2021

Source: [Uzbekistan National News Agency](#)

Chairperson of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis Tanzila Narbayeva has met with the International Ambassador for Human Rights, Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations, and other International Organizations in Geneva, Rita French. The meeting was also attended by the British Ambassador to Uzbekistan Timothy Torlot.

The parties discussed the priorities in the implementation of legislation in human rights, potential areas of cooperation between the parliaments of the two countries.

Ambassador Rita French welcomed the approval of the National Strategy of Uzbekistan on Human Rights. The work on combating corruption, ensuring gender equality, eliminating forced and child labor, and updating legislation was also positively noted. Congratulating Uzbekistan on its election to the UN Human Rights Council, Rita French expressed the readiness of the British side to cooperate in implementing the goals and objectives of the HRC.

President of Uzbekistan receives delegation of Saudi Arabia

25.01.2021

Source: [Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan](#)

On 25 January 2021, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev received a delegation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia headed by Minister of Investment Khalid al-Falih. The meeting discussed topical issues of further strengthening of the Uzbek-Saudi multifaceted relations. The Head of our state noted with satisfaction the dynamic development of bilateral cooperation in recent years.

Minister of Investment Khalid al-Falih conveyed greetings and best wishes from King Salman al-Saud of Saudi Arabia and Crown Prince Mohammed Al-Saud. He expressed his sincere gratitude for the support of investment projects of Saudi companies and the favorable conditions created for their productive activities in our country. The day before, a joint business forum was successfully held in Bukhara, a decision was made to establish a Business Council, and agreements were signed on the implementation of major cooperation projects. Yesterday, a project was launched to build a new modern thermal power plant with a capacity of 1,200 megawatts in the Syrdarya region with the participation of the ACWA Power Corporation. In addition, together with this company, wind power plants will be built in the Bukhara and Navoi regions with a total capacity of 1000 megawatts. In general, the number of joint ventures and projects in Uzbekistan with the participation of Saudi investments has increased significantly over the past few years.

During the negotiations, specific projects of practical cooperation were discussed. Agreement was reached on the preparation and implementation of new projects in the energy, oil and gas, chemical and chemical industries, the industrial sector, agriculture, healthcare and pharmaceuticals, as well as in other ways, including through the implementation of a public-private partnership. Special attention is paid to the development of financial support

tools for joint programs and projects, including the creation of investment companies and microfinance organizations in Uzbekistan. It was agreed that a road map will be adopted and implemented to develop and promote these initiatives, the intergovernmental commission will resume its activities, and working groups on priority projects will be formed.

Uzbek-French inter-ministerial political consultations

27.01.2021

Source: [Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan](#)

On 27 January 2021, the 12th round of political consultations between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the French Republic was held in the format of a videoconference. The delegations of the parties were headed by Deputy Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan Sherzod Asadov and Director of the Continental Europe Department of the French Foreign Ministry Frederic Mondoloni. During the talks, the sides discussed the current state and prospects for the development of cooperation between Uzbekistan and France, the possibilities of intensifying political dialogue and inter-parliamentary ties, strengthening trade, economic, investment, financial and technical cooperation, and intensifying cultural and humanitarian exchanges. Proposals for improving the legal framework of bilateral relations, establishing and strengthening ties between leading cultural, educational and medical institutions were considered.

The sides also exchanged views on international and regional issues affecting the interests of the parties.

Uzbek-Russian cooperation in the pharmaceutical sector

27.01.2021

Source: [Ministry of investment and foreign trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan](#)

Within the framework of the visit of a delegation of Russian pharmaceutical companies, on 27 January 2021, an extended meeting of representatives of the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation and the leadership of Russian pharmaceutical companies with the heads of relevant ministries and departments of Uzbekistan took place. At the meeting, a wide range of practical aspects of cooperation was discussed, in particular, the rules and procedures for the purchase and use of medicines, medical equipment and other medical products in medical institutions of Uzbekistan.

The visit is to explore promising areas for the development of intra-industry cooperation, get acquainted with the plans for the development of the pharmaceutical industry in Uzbekistan, analyze and evaluate the production, technological and economic capabilities of Uzbek pharmaceutical companies, on the basis of which potential partners for the implementation of investment projects will be identified from among Russian pharmaceutical manufacturers.

Currently, cooperation between the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation is

characterized by active development in a wide range of areas, including joint projects in the fields of industry, mechanical engineering, metallurgy, as well as initiatives to promote interregional cooperation. All these areas are being worked out within the framework of the “Project Office”, established by respective ministries of both countries.

Summit of the Presidents of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Republic of Korea

28.01.2021

Source: [Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan](#)

On 28 January 2021, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev met with the President of the Republic of Korea Moon Jae-in via videoconference. The agreement to hold this summit was reached during the last contacts of the two leaders in October last year. The agenda of the talks included topical issues of developing and strengthening the Uzbek-Korean ties of centuries-old friendship and special strategic partnership.

In difficult conditions, major investment and trade projects were implemented, and new cooperation facilities were launched. Among them is a unique modern children's multidisciplinary medical center in the region, created in Tashkent with the support and participation of South Korean partners.

The President of Uzbekistan highly appreciated the significant contribution of the Korean side to the international efforts to combat the new coronavirus infection and expressed deep gratitude for the great practical support provided to our country in the prevention, effective treatment and rehabilitation of people who have suffered from this dangerous disease.

February 2021

IICA hosted a meeting with the representatives of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation

04.02.2021

Source: [The Government portal of the Republic of Uzbekistan](#)

Mr. Ronnie Heine, an Authorized Representative of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation on Central Asia, visited the International Institute for Central Asia. Mr. Anvar Nasirov, IICA's Director informed the guest in detail about the main tasks and activities of the International Institute for Central Asia, established on the initiative of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The forthcoming International Conference “Central and South Asia: Regional Interconnectedness. Challenges and Opportunities” to be held in May 2021 was discussed.

Mr. Ronnie Heine highly appreciated the reforms and transformations in the country carried out under the leadership of the President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, as well as the ongoing open and constructive foreign policy, especially in the Central Asian region.

The participants expressed their readiness to establish partnerships between the Foundation and IICA, to hold joint events in order to develop new approaches and initiatives that meet the common interests of all countries in the region.

First Deputy Chairman of the Senate meets with the Special Representative of the French Foreign Ministry

04.02.2021

Source: [Dunyo Information Agency](#)

On 2 February 2021, the First Deputy Chairman of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis, Sodik Safoyev, has met with the French Foreign Ministry's Special Representative for Economic Diplomacy in Central Asia, Pascal Loro, via videoconference.

At the meeting, views were exchanged on the state and prospects for the development of cooperation between Uzbekistan and France, opportunities for enhancing political dialogue and inter-parliamentary ties, strengthening trade, economic, investment and financial cooperation. The parties discussed the activities of the inter-parliamentary friendship group "France – Central Asia", economic development, interaction at the international level.

The progress and prospects of the implementation of 17 projects in Uzbekistan in energy, agricultural modernization, infrastructure improvement and others, worth 3.5 billion euros, were discussed in detail.

Online meeting with World Bank Managing Director of Development Policy and Partnership

05.02.2021

Source: [The Government portal of the Republic of Uzbekistan](#)

On 4 February 2021, Mari Pangestu, World Bank Managing Director of Development Policy and Partnership held an online meeting with Jamshid Kuchkarov, Deputy Prime Minister for Financial and Economic Issues and Poverty Reduction, Timur Ishmetov, Minister of Finance, Jamshid Khodjaev, Minister of Agriculture, and Eldor Tulyakov, Executive Director of the Development Strategy Center.

The parties discussed the role of World Bank's knowledge, research and advisory products and services in implementing and developing transformative reforms in the country. The Bank's financial and technical assistance in various socio-economic spheres was comprehensively analyzed.

Uzbekistan, India: New Areas of Cooperation

05.02.2021

https://www.uza.uz/en/posts/uzbekistan-india-new-areas-of-cooperation_239313

Ambassador of Uzbekistan to India Dilshod Akhatov has met with the Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports of India, Kiren Rijiju. Issues of cooperation in the youth

direction, organization of joint events, startups, and Uzbekistan – India Youth Festival, were considered. The parties agreed to develop and sign a Memorandum of Cooperation between the Youth Affairs Agency of Uzbekistan and the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports of India.

Further plans for the development of cooperation with the UN in-country offices

05.02.2021

Source: [Dunyo Information Agency](#)

On 4 February 2021, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan Sherzod Asadov has met with the heads of the representative offices of the UN structural organizations in Uzbekistan – the World Health Organization, the UN Development Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, the UN Population Fund, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and the United Nations Children’s Fund, led by Resident Coordinator, Ambassador Helena Fraser.

The parties discussed the state and prospects of Uzbekistan’s interaction with the UN and its institutions. Further plans have been outlined to enhance and deepen cooperation. An agreement was reached to closely interact on the implementation of the new Cooperation Framework Programme between Uzbekistan and the UN. The Uzbek side emphasized the support for all initiatives of the UN Secretary-General António Guterres, in particular, on reforming the system of the organization’s resident coordinators.

Meeting with the Secretary General of the Turkic Council

08.02.2021

Source: [Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan](#)

On 8 February 2021, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan Abdulaziz Kamilov met with the Secretary General of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States (Turkic Council) Baghdad Amreyev. The current state and prospects for further development of cooperation between Uzbekistan and the Turkic Council in mutual interest were discussed.

It was noted that Uzbekistan's accession to the Turkic Council became a historic event in strengthening the unity of the Turkic world and contributed to the disclosure of previously untapped opportunities for mutually beneficial partnership.

Views were exchanged on the schedule of the upcoming meetings at the highest levels within the framework of the Organization, including regular meetings of Ministers of Tourism and Ministers of Youth Affairs and Sports, and Forum of Young Entrepreneurs of Turkic Speaking States planned to be held in Uzbekistan.

Uzbekistan rose to 67th position in the World Bank's Statistical Capacity Index

08.02.2021

Source: [The Government portal of the Republic of Uzbekistan](#)

In the World Bank's "Statistical Capacity Index", which assesses the level of development of national statistical systems of countries, with 67.8 points, Uzbekistan took 67th place out of 154 countries. This index reflects the statistical potential of the country, its achievements and the results of ongoing reforms in the development of the National Statistical System.

For the first time, the Republic of Uzbekistan was assessed by this index in 2016 and took the overall 133rd position with 48.9 points.

Within the framework of the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics for 2020-2025, it is planned to gradually improve the indicators of Uzbekistan in the "Statistical Capacity Index" of the World Bank through the implementation of certain measures. It is planned that by 2025 Uzbekistan will enter the top 10 of the rating, gaining 94 points.

Elections in Uzbekistan to be held in October

09.02.2021

Source: [Uzbekistan National News Agency](#)

On 8 February 2021, the President of Uzbekistan signed the law "On introducing amendments and addenda to certain legislative acts of the Republic of Uzbekistan in connection with the improvement of the electoral legislation".

Amendments and additions are introduced to article 117 of the Constitution of the country. In the new version of the article, the elections of the President of Uzbekistan, to the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis and Jokargy Kenes of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, the representative bodies of state authority will be held on the first Sunday of the third decade of October. The amendment is also reflected in the Constitutional Law "On the results of the referendum and the basic principles of the organization of the state authority".

Based on the recommendations of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the following amendments were also introduced to the Electoral Code.

The functions of election commissions for organizing meetings of candidates with voters have been excluded, the use of state resources during the pre-election campaign is prohibited, the period for appealing decisions of election commissions is reduced from ten to five days.

The new law also introduces a procedure for including citizens of Uzbekistan living abroad in the voter list, regardless of whether they are registered in the consular diplomatic missions, as well as creates a legal basis for the voting of voters who are abroad when using portable ballot boxes at the place of residence or work.

Presidents of Uzbekistan and Afghanistan talk over the phone

10.02.2021

Source: [Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan](#)

On 10 February 2021, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev had a telephone conversation with the President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Ashraf Ghani. Current issues on the bilateral agenda and regional cooperation were discussed.

On behalf of the fraternal people of Afghanistan, President Ashraf Ghani expressed his sincere gratitude to the President of Uzbekistan for his full support in ensuring peace and stability in Afghanistan and the economic reconstruction of this country.

The leaders noted with deep satisfaction the successful results of the first meeting of the trilateral working group on the promotion of the Trans-Afghan Transport Corridor project, which was attended by high representatives of Uzbekistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan, as well as leading international financial institutions. The Presidents agreed to join forces and accelerate the implementation of the project for the construction of a new Surkhan – Puli-Khumri transmission line. To this end, a bilateral mechanism will be established to coordinate the implementation of the planned work, with holding videoconferences every month.

The possibilities of enhancing Uzbekistan – Afghanistan multifaceted cooperation, including in the oil and gas industry, education and training of qualified Afghan personnel in technical specialties, were also considered. The Presidents instructed to form a joint government group to continuously monitor and effectively promote the implementation of the roadmap and priority investment projects.

The Deputy Prime Minister of Uzbekistan, Prime Minister of Hungary discussed a range of issues of bilateral relations

17.02.2021

Source: [The Government portal of the Republic of Uzbekistan](#)

On 16 February 2021, Prime Minister of Hungary Viktor Orbán received the Deputy Prime Minister of Uzbekistan Sardor Umurzakov, in Budapest.

The parties discussed the prospects of cooperation in investment, trade-economic and cultural-humanitarian spheres, as well as the possibility of increasing cooperation between the business circles of the two countries. They welcomed the opening of Uzbekistan – Hungary Trade House in Budapest, designed to further enhance trade cooperation, establish direct ties between manufacturers of the two countries and promote Uzbekistan and Hungary products to promising markets.

The Uzbek side expressed its gratitude to the government of Hungary for its readiness to support Uzbekistan in joining the World Trade Organization and obtaining the status of a beneficiary of the Generalized System of Preferences “GSP+”.

Following the meeting, an agreement was reached to introduce the practice of regular bilateral negotiations at the level of co-chairs of Intergovernmental Commissions to discuss the implementation of the reached agreements and to resolve issues of investment and trade-economic cooperation of mutual interest.

Abdulaziz Kamilov meets with the President of Turkmenistan

19.02.2021

Source: [Uzbekistan National News Agency](#)

On 17 February 2021, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan Abdulaziz Kamilov was received by the President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, in Ashgabat, Uzbekistan MFA reports.

The Minister conveyed the message of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev to the President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov. The parties exchanged views on the practical implementation of the agreements reached during the high-level visits.

Abdulaziz Kamilov meets with the President of Tajikistan

19.02.2021

Source: [Uzbekistan National News Agency](#)

On 18 February 2021, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan Abdulaziz Kamilov was received by the President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon, in Dushanbe, Uzbekistan MFA reports.

The Minister conveyed the message of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev to the President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon. Current issues of development of Uzbekistan – Tajikistan friendship, good-neighborliness and strategic partnership, as well as practical aspects of the implementation of the agreements reached during the visits at the highest level, were discussed at the meeting.

Mirziyoyev outlines human rights and freedoms a priority

22.02.2021

Source: [UZREPORT Information Agency](#)

President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev gave a speech at the 46th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council, on Monday. Mirziyoyev spoke in detail about the priorities of deepening democratic transformations in the country and major directions of work within the framework of the Human Rights Council.

The event hosted the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, the High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet, the heads of states, governments, foreign ministers and high representatives from about 150 countries of the world.

Shavkat Mirziyoyev emphasized the priority of ensuring fundamental human rights and freedoms in Uzbekistan. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development shall be

implemented in Uzbekistan in accordance with the UN principle to ensure the rights and legal interests of every person. The President touched upon the issues of gender policy and stressed that the country intends to radically increase the role of women in the republic. “This year Uzbekistan is planning to hold a Women Leaders’ Dialogue of Central Asian states and a Regional Women’s Business Forum in Uzbekistan”, Mirziyoyev said.

He also noted the special priority to be given to ensure the rights of people with special needs. A new Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities has recently come into force in the country, in the near future the Parliament of Uzbekistan is set to ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

President informed the participants about Uzbekistan’s successful accomplishment of profound work in terms of the eradication of forced and child labor jointly with the International Labor Organization and the World Bank.

Uzbekistan attended the meeting for the first time as a member of the United Nations Human Rights Council.

Abdulaziz Kamilov meets with the President of Afghanistan

23.02.2021

Source: [Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan](#)

On 23 February 2021, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan Abdulaziz Kamilov was received by the President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Ashraf Ghani, in Kabul.

The Minister conveyed the message of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev to the President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Ashraf Ghani. The state and prospects of multifaceted cooperation were discussed at the meeting. The importance of inter-Afghan political negotiations for the establishment of long-term peace and security in the country was noted.

OSCE Secretary General reaffirms commitment to further deepen and enhance collaboration

23.02.2021

Source: [The Government portal of the Republic of Uzbekistan](#)

Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the OSCE, Ambassador Abat Fayzullayev has met with the OSCE Secretary General Helga Schmid. The parties discussed a wide range of cooperation issues, including the prospects for the implementation of joint projects. The Secretary General highly appreciated the efforts of Uzbekistan to enhance cooperation with the OSCE and emphasized the interest in further strengthening the dialogue. It was noted that a breakthrough has been achieved in relations in recent years, and cooperation between Uzbekistan and the OSCE is actively moving forward in several areas of mutual interest.

The interlocutors reaffirmed their commitment to further deepen and enhance collaboration on youth issues and promoting gender equality, taking into account the priorities of the Swedish Chair of the OSCE.

Uzbekistan, Qatar MFA delegations discuss collaboration issues

23.02.2021

Source: [Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan](#)

Qatar hosted the second round of political consultations between the ministries of foreign affairs of the two countries, in Doha. The delegations were led by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan Furkat Sidikov and State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Qatar Soltan bin Saad Al-Muraikhi.

During the consultations, the state and prospects for the development of cooperation, as well as certain issues of an international and regional nature, were discussed in detail.

The proposals on strengthening the inter-parliamentary dialogue, building up the trade, economic and investment ties were considered. Particular attention was paid to the development of interaction in the cultural, humanitarian and tourism fields. The head of Uzbekistan delegation invited the Qatari side to the International High-Level Conference “Central and South Asia: Regional Connectivity. Challenges and Opportunities” to be held this year in Tashkent.

Abdulaziz Kamilov meets with Indian Minister of External Affairs

25.02.2021

Source: [Uzbekistan National News Agency](#)

On 25 February 2021, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan Abdulaziz Kamilov has met with the Minister of External Affairs of the Republic of India Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, in Delhi, Uzbekistan MFA reports. The state and prospects for the development of multifaceted cooperation, as well as current issues of interaction within the framework of international and regional organizations, were discussed at the meeting.

Special attention was paid to the further development of trade-economic cooperation. The foreign ministers exchanged views on cooperation within the framework of the UN, SCO and other multilateral structures, ensuring regional security and stability. The important role of India – Central Asia Ministerial Dialogue with the participation of Afghanistan in the intensification and improvement of interregional cooperation mechanisms and establishment of lasting peace in Afghanistan was noted. The Indian side was invited to the high-level International Conference “Central and South Asia: Regional Connectivity. Challenges and Opportunities” to be held this year in Tashkent.

Uzbekistan, Sweden confirm their interest in developing collaboration

26.02.2021

Source: [Uzbekistan National News Agency](#)

The second round of Uzbekistan – Sweden Inter-MFA Political Consultations has taken place via videoconference. Uzbekistan delegation was headed by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Sherzod Asadov, the Swedish – by Head of Department for Eastern Europe and Central Asia of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs Andreas von Beckerath.

The parties discussed the development of relations in the political, trade and economic, investment, tourism, environmental, cultural, humanitarian and other spheres. Mutual interest was expressed in further strengthening inter-parliamentary ties, sharing best practices in lawmaking and organizing visits by parliamentary delegations of the two countries.

During the talks, measures were analyzed in detail to increase trade, diversify the structure of bilateral trade, implement joint investment projects, intensify direct contacts between businesspeople of the two countries, including by creating an Uzbekistan – Swedish Business Council. The main attention was paid to the issues of enhancing cultural and humanitarian ties, in particular, the establishment of cooperation between education institutions of Uzbekistan and Sweden.

The parties exchanged views on the current aspects of interaction within the UN, OSCE, WTO and other multilateral structures, as well as in Uzbekistan – European Union format.

March 2021

Tehran hosts Uzbekistan – Iran Political Consultations

08.03.2021

Source: [Uzbekistan National News Agency](#)

Tehran hosted the sixth round of political consultations between the ministries of foreign affairs of Uzbekistan and Iran. The delegations were led by Deputy Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan Furkat Sidikov and Deputy Foreign Minister of Iran Seyyed Abbas Araghchi.

The parties discussed the current state and prospects of cooperation in various formats, exchanged views on certain international and regional issues. It was emphasized that Uzbekistan and Iran have significant potential for further development of cooperation. Proposals on the schedule and agenda of upcoming joint events at various levels and in formats were considered, in particular, the 14th meeting of Uzbekistan – Iran Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation.

Mutual interest was expressed in deepening trade, economic, investment, transport and communication ties. The parties noted the emerging positive trends in the development of interstate relations, including within the framework of the UN, SCO, and the Economic Cooperation Organization. The head of Uzbekistan delegation conveyed to the Iranian side the official invitation to the upcoming High-Level International Conference “Central and South Asia: Regional Connectivity. Challenges and Opportunities” to be held in Tashkent.

President of Uzbekistan receives a delegation of Turkey

09.03.2021

Source: [Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan](#)

On 9 March 2021, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev received a delegation of the Republic of Turkey led by the Minister of Foreign Affairs Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu.

The current issues of the development of multifaceted relations were discussed at the meeting. Special attention was paid to the practical implementation of the agreements of the first meeting of the Strategic Cooperation Council at the level of heads of state, held in Ankara in February last year, as well as the preparation of the next summit in Uzbekistan.

The importance of building up cooperation in the trade-economic sphere, in particular the preparation and implementation of new investment projects in Uzbekistan with the participation of leading Turkish companies, was emphasized.

A mutual interest in developing an active interregional dialogue, promoting joint educational, cultural and humanitarian programs was noted. Views were exchanged on the issues of international politics and regional partnership, including within the framework of the ECO and the Turkic Council.

Uzbekistan enhances cooperation with ICCROM

09.03.2021

Source: [Uzbekistan National News Agency](#)

The Permanent Mission of Uzbekistan to UNESCO has held a virtual meeting with the Director-General of the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM) Webber Ndoro. It was emphasized that the accession of the country to ICCROM will provide an opportunity for full participation in global and regional processes in the preservation and promotion of monuments.

ICCROM Director-General highly appreciated the initiative of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev to organize the International Cultural Forum “Central Asia at the Crossroads of World Civilizations” in 2021 in Khiva. He expressed full readiness to provide technical and advisory assistance in the development and solution of all substantive and organizational aspects of the event at a high level.

Mr. Webber Ndoro welcomed and fully supported the initiative of Uzbekistan leadership to create an International Consultative Mechanism for the Preservation and Restoration of World Heritage Sites in Uzbekistan with the involvement of prominent international experts, including ICCROM.

Uzbekistan's Foreign Minister meets with the Prime Minister of Pakistan

10.03.2021

Source: [Uzbekistan National News Agency](#)

On 10 March 2021, Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdulaziz Kamilov met with the Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan, in Islamabad.

The parties discussed key aspects of the bilateral agenda, promising areas for further development of cooperation in the political, trade-economic, investment, transport-communication, cultural-humanitarian and other spheres.

The main attention was paid to the regional issues, primarily ensuring peace and stability in Afghanistan. In this context, views were exchanged on cooperation in the implementation of infrastructure projects to help restore the Afghan economy, the most important of which is the Mazar-i-Sharif – Kabul – Peshawar railway connection. This will allow access to the Pakistani seaports of Karachi and Gwadar to increase the trade turnover both between Uzbekistan and Pakistan, and Central and South Asia.

President of the Kyrgyz Republic arrives in Tashkent

11.03.2021

Source: [The Government portal of the Republic of Uzbekistan](#)

At the invitation of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, on 11 March, the President of the Kyrgyz Republic Sadyr Zhaparov arrived in Uzbekistan on a state visit. The agenda of the leaders' meeting includes the current aspects of continuing a constructive political dialogue, enhancing multifaceted interaction in trade, industry, transport, energy, agriculture and water management, enhancing inter-parliamentary and interregional contacts. Tashkent hosts Uzbekistan –Kyrgyzstan Business Forum and the first meeting of the Business Council as part of President Sadyr Zhaparov's visit to Uzbekistan.

Presidents of Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan discuss bilateral and regional agenda

15.03.2021

Source: [The Government portal of the Republic of Uzbekistan](#)

On 15 March 2021, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev held a telephone conversation with the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev.

Issues of further enhancing multifaceted cooperation, strengthening friendship, good-neighborliness and strategic partnership between the two countries were discussed at the meeting.

The main attention was paid to building up cooperation in the economic sphere to overcome the negative consequences of the pandemic as soon as possible. The sides discussed issues of increasing the trade turnover, promoting joint industrial cooperation projects within the

framework of the adopted roadmap, as well as developing effective transport communications and logistics infrastructure in the border areas.

The President of Uzbekistan receives the LUKOIL chief

16.03.2021

Source: [The Government portal of the Republic of Uzbekistan](#)

On 16 March 2021, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev received the President of the Russian oil company LUKOIL, Vagit Alekperov.

Vagit Alekperov reported in detail to the President of Uzbekistan on the implementation of priority investment and socially significant projects in the country with the participation of Russia's leading oil and gas company. LUKOIL is one of the largest investors in Uzbekistan's economy (investments of about \$10 billion).

The main attention at the meeting was paid to the issues of overcoming the consequences of the pandemic and the implementation of joint projects. An agreement was reached on the establishment of an interdepartmental working group and the adoption of a roadmap to improve the efficiency of projects and enhance strategic cooperation with LUKOIL.

The President of Uzbekistan received the Ambassador of Russia

18.03.2021

Source: [Dunyo Information Agency](#)

On 17 March 2021, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev received the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation Vladimir Tyurdenev in connection with the completion of his diplomatic mission in the country.

President Shavkat Mirziyoyev emphasized the personal contribution of Ambassador Vladimir Tyurdenev, who has been heading the Russian diplomatic mission in Uzbekistan for more than 11 years, in strengthening friendship, strategic partnership and alliance, enhancing multifaceted cooperation between the countries.

Following the meeting, the President of Uzbekistan awarded the Ambassador of Russia with the Certificate of Honor of the Republic of Uzbekistan for his great contribution to the deepening of interstate relations and the development of comprehensive ties, an active role in strengthening friendship and mutual understanding between the peoples of the two countries.

Meeting with the State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of Slovakia

19.03.2021

Source: [Uzbekistan National News Agency](#)

First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan Farhod Arziyev has met with the State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak

Republic Ingrid Brocková. The state and prospects of cooperation in the political, trade-economic, investment, cultural-humanitarian spheres, as well as within international and regional structures were discussed at the meeting. The sides exchanged views on further promotion of economic diplomacy and activation of the Interdepartmental Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation. The importance of strengthening the inter-parliamentary dialogue, enhancing cooperation between the Chambers of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the National Council of the Slovak Republic, including through the organization of mutual visits and exchange of experience in legislative activities, was emphasized. Special attention was paid to the development of cooperation in science, education and innovation.

President of Uzbekistan meets with international consultants

23.03.2021

Source: [The Government portal of the Republic of Uzbekistan](#)

On 23 March 2021, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev received international consultants – Alfred Gusenbauer, Aleksander Kwaśniewski and Štefan Füle.

The main task of the group of international consultants is to assist in the development and enhancement of multifaceted cooperation of Uzbekistan with the EU countries, study and implementation of advanced foreign experience in promoting the reform program, improving the investment climate and business environment, attracting direct investment and advanced technologies in the economy of Uzbekistan, forming effective mechanisms and instruments of partnership with the European business community.

An open and constructive exchange of views took place on the current issues of reforming and institutional development of Uzbekistan.

The recommendations of consultants on the preparation of a long-term strategy of economic reforms and further improvement of the system of public administration in the country, expansion of mutually beneficial relations of Uzbekistan with foreign partners were considered. The main attention was paid to increasing transparency and improving the investment climate, the widespread introduction of market mechanisms and the formation of a competitive environment, the development of the banking and financial sector and the capital market in the country.

Tashkent and Dushanbe will cooperate in the field of tourism

24.03.2021

Source: [The Government portal of the Republic of Uzbekistan](#)

Director of the Department for Tourism Development of the city of Tashkent Sanzhar Tadzhiev met with representatives of the tourism sector of Tajikistan in Dushanbe.

The meeting was attended by the head of the Committee for Tourism Development under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan F. Izatuloev and representatives of a number of

travel companies. During the talks, the parties exchanged views on the development of tourism relations between the capitals and the implementation of a number of joint projects in this area. In particular, taking into account the reduction of the risks associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, proposals were made to open a green corridor for citizens of Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, to simplify border crossing for buses plying between the two countries.

Talks with UN Under-Secretary General L. Renmin

24.03.2021

Source: [The Government portal of the Republic of Uzbekistan](#)

On March 23, 2021, the First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan Farhod Arziev held a videoconference with the UN Deputy Secretary General - Head of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs Liu Zhenmin.

The UN Deputy Secretary General was informed about the changes taking place in Uzbekistan, the implementation of state programs, the main priorities of socio-economic development outlined in the President's Address. Liu Zhenmin congratulated the Uzbek side on the successful presentation of the first Voluntary National Report on Sustainable Development Goals.

It was noted that this is an indicator of the republic's commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. They also discussed measures taken to integrate Uzbekistan into the world economy, improve the well-being of the country's population, as well as mitigate the consequences of the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic. Following the meeting, an agreement was reached with the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs on the further expansion of cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

Tashkent hosts a Joint Meeting on Delimitation and Demarcation of Uzbekistan – Kyrgyzstan State Border

25.03.2021

Source: [Uzbekistan National News Agency](#)

On 24–25 March 2021, Tashkent hosted a joint meeting of the government delegations of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Kyrgyz Republic on the delimitation and demarcation of Uzbekistan – Kyrgyzstan state border. The delegations were led by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan Abdulla Aripov and Chairman of the State Committee for National Security of the Kyrgyz Republic Kamchybek Tashiev.

It was emphasized that the current meeting is held under the agreements of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev and the President of the Kyrgyz Republic Sadyr Zhaparov following the summit held on March 11-12 this year in Tashkent.

A protocol on a joint meeting of government delegations on the delimitation and demarcation of Uzbekistan – Kyrgyzstan state border was signed following the negotiations.

Uzbekistan – China inter-MFA political consultations

30.03.2021

Source: [Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan](#)

On 30 March 2021, the 17th round of political consultations between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the People's Republic of China took place via videoconference. Uzbekistan delegation was led by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Furkat Sidikov and China's delegation – by Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Le Yucheng.

The parties discussed the state and prospects of deepening the relations of comprehensive strategic partnership between the two countries, current aspects of cooperation within the framework of regional and international organizations, as well as other issues of mutual interest. Special attention was paid to the issues of trade-economic and investment cooperation, further increasing the volume and nomenclature of mutual trade, and implementing projects in priority areas for the parties. In this context, the importance of jointly implemented transport-communication and infrastructure projects was noted. The prospects of cooperation in the agricultural sector, strengthening rural infrastructure, and the introduction of integrated approaches in education and healthcare were emphasized.

The schedule and organizational aspects of the upcoming joint events at various levels were considered. The Chinese side was invited to the High-Level International Conference “Central and South Asia: Regional Connectivity. Challenges and Opportunities” to be held this year in Tashkent.

On the same day, the delegations of the two countries took part in the 7th Meeting of the Subcommittee on Security Cooperation of Uzbekistan – China Intergovernmental Cooperation Committee.

President of Uzbekistan attended the Informal Summit of the Turkic Council

30.03.2021

Source: [Dunyo Information Agency](#)

On 31 March 2021, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev attended the Informal Summit of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States (Turkic Council), via videoconference.

The member states of the Council, established on 3 October 2009, are Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkey. Besides, Hungary participates in the work of the Turkic Council as an observer state. The Republic of Uzbekistan became a full member in 2019 and for the first time in this status took part in the Baku Summit of the organization, on 15 October of the same year.

Strategic partnership between Uzbekistan and Hungary

31.03.2021

Source: [Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan](#)

At the invitation of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, the Prime Minister of Hungary Viktor Orbán arrived in Uzbekistan on an official visit on March 29, 2021.

On March 30, the official welcoming ceremony of the distinguished guest took place at Kuksaroy Residence. The ceremony was attended by members of the official delegations of the two countries, representatives of the diplomatic corps. The High-Level Uzbekistan – Hungary talks have begun with a narrow-format meeting. Prospects for the development of cooperation in the political, trade, economic, investment, financial, technical, cultural and humanitarian spheres were discussed at the meeting. The parties confirmed their readiness to bring Uzbekistan – Hungary relations based on mutual trust and a wide range of common interests to the level of strategic partnership. The leaders agreed to strengthen long-term cooperation, use new mutually beneficial areas, and maintain ties between businesspeople and regions of the two countries.

Negotiations later continued with participation of official delegations of the two countries. President Shavkat Mirziyoyev noted the importance of increasing trade turnover, eliminating the imbalance in bilateral trade, and implementing mutual supplies of demanded products. The need for effectively using the opportunities of Uzbekistan – Hungary Trade House to be created in Budapest, was emphasized. Industrial cooperation is another priority of cooperation. Agreements were reached on the implementation of new projects in Uzbekistan in the food industry, pharmaceuticals, agricultural processing, chemistry and mechanical engineering using the best practices of Hungary. The Hungarian side expressed its readiness to exchange best practices and technologies in agriculture, fruit storage and processing, fish farming and seed production.

Special attention was paid to the development of cultural-humanitarian cooperation.