

# Country Policy Communique

## News from Central Asia and the Eastern Neighbourhood

May 2021

**GCRF COMPASS:** Comprehensive Capacity-Building in the Eastern Neighbourhood and Central Asia: research integration, impact governance & sustainable communities (ES/P010849/1)



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# Azerbaijan

## **Azerbaijan is going to spend \$1.5bn on restoration of liberated lands in 2021**

06.05.2021

Source: [AzerNews](#)

Azerbaijan will spend \$1.5 billion in 2021 to restore its territories recently liberated from the Armenian occupation, Economy Minister Mikayil Jabbarov has said.

Addressing an online event of the Central Asian Regional Economic Cooperation- CAREC at 20: Reimagining Regional Cooperation Through Digital Transformation, Jabbarov emphasized that the restoration will be carried out both through state spending and by attracting investments.

“We will create attractive conditions for the investors. This year we plan to spend \$1.5 billion for the restoration of the region.” Furthermore, the minister noted that it is planned to develop agriculture, tourism, and the mining industry in the region. Jabbarov underlined that Azerbaijan, being an important transport hub in the region, is constantly improving cross-border and transit procedures, logistics, as well as digitalizing the logistics system and trade processes.

Speaking about the reconstruction of the Nakhchivan transport corridor and restoration of the railway from Azerbaijan through Armenia and Nakhchivan to Turkey, the minister said it will have a positive impact on the region’s economy. “Restoration of communication with Nakhchivan will benefit all regional countries, including Armenia,” he said.

Currently, the work is underway and will restore Azerbaijan’s liberated territories in four stages. The initial stage includes the solution of the issues of governance and security, infrastructure, while the subsequent stages include the solution of the issues of social services activities, reconstruction, and development of the economy.

## **Aliyev says Yerevan's reaction to border situation could lead to tensions**

18.05.2021

Source: [TASS News Agency](#)

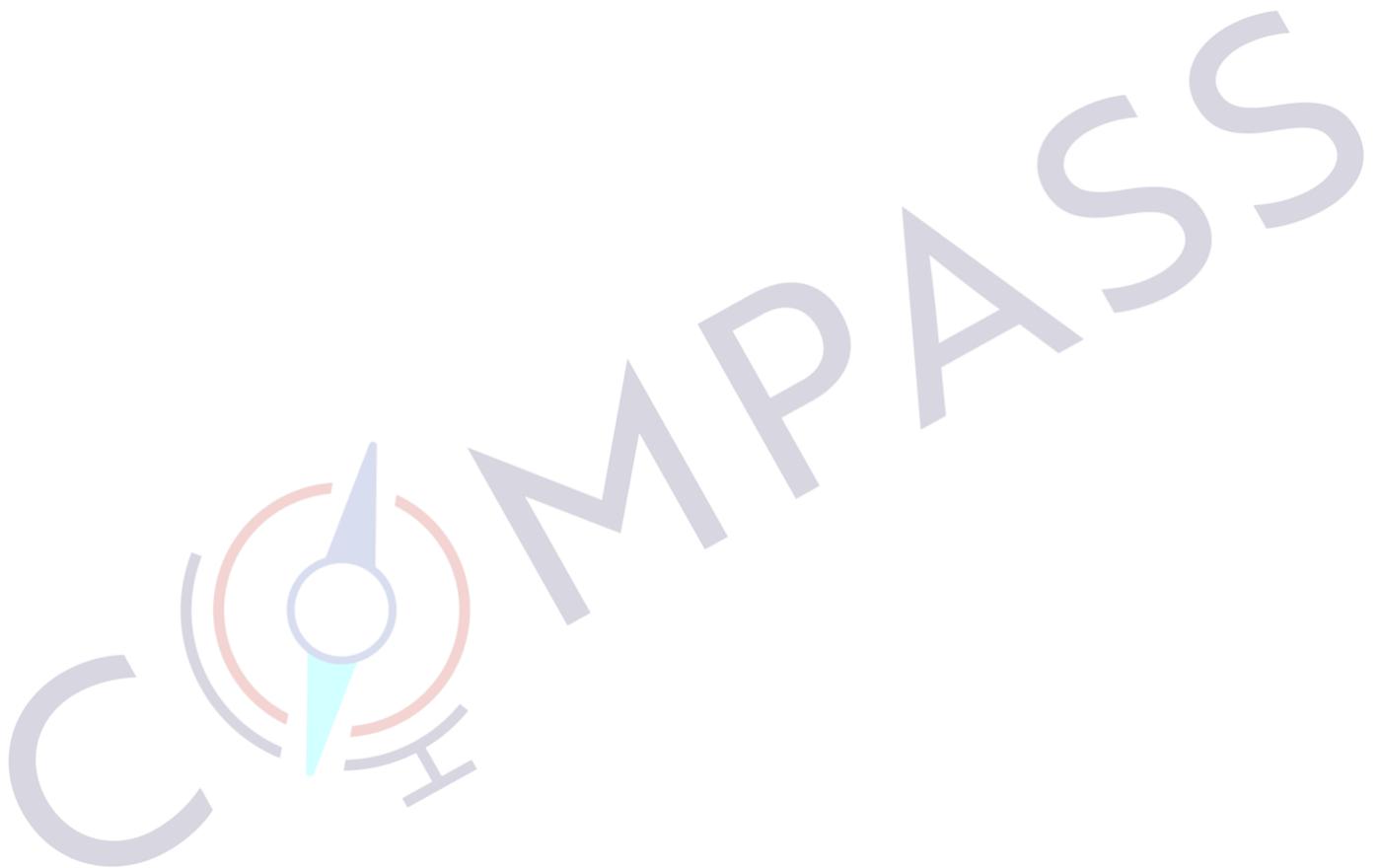
The Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev believes that Armenia's reaction to the situation on the border between the two countries could lead to increased tension in the region. He said this in a telephone conversation with US Presidential National Security Aide Jake Sullivan, the press service of the Azerbaijani head of state said on Tuesday.

"President Ilham Aliyev noted that Armenia's inadequate response to border tensions and its attempts to internationalise the issue could lead to increased tension in the region, and stressed the importance of resolving all disputes peacefully and through the negotiation process," the statement said.

Aliyev agreed with Sullivan's views on the need to start negotiations on the delimitation of Azerbaijan and Armenia's international borders and "stressed the importance of

conducting this process in accordance with the tripartite statement of November 9, 2020," the statement said.

In his conversation with Aliyev, Sullivan stressed the need for constructive discussions between the parties on the issue of international border demarcation. "Jake Sullivan expressed the US commitment to achieving peace in the region," the statement said.



# Belarus

## **Belarus' Security Council given supreme authority in case of president's death**

09.05.2021

Source: [Belarusian Telegraph Agency](#)

Belarus President Aleksandr Lukashenko has signed Ordinance No.2 “On protecting the sovereignty and the constitutional order” of 9 May 2021.

In line with the document if the head of state dies as a result of an assassination, an act of terrorism, external aggression, or other violent acts all the government agencies and their civil servants will have to abide by decisions of the Security Council, which sessions are presided over by the prime minister.

A state of emergency or martial law will be declared in Belarus immediately then and the Security Council will have to define a list of measures to enforce these states. The Security Council's decisions will be binding for everyone and will be subject to unconditional execution. The organization of elections will be the key matter. Assisted by oblast governors, the Security Council will decide on the organization of the elections.

The ordinance came into force as of the moment it was signed.

## **Lukashenko receives credentials of foreign ambassadors**

13.05.2021

Source: [Belarusian Telegraph Agency](#)

Belarus President Aleksandr Lukashenko received credentials of six ambassadors during the ceremony at the Palace of Independence on 13 May, BelTA informs.

The head of state received credentials of ambassadors of Iraq, Nicaragua, Russia, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, and Sierra Leone.

Aleksandr Lukashenko traditionally spoke about the prospects of cooperation with these states.

## **New law on national security**

17.05.2021

Source: [Belarusian Telegraph Agency](#)

Belarus President Aleksandr Lukashenko has signed the law “On the amendment of laws on ensuring national security in the Republic of Belarus”. Previously the document was passed by the House of Representatives, approved by the Council of the Republic, and registered in the National Register of Legal Acts which testifies to the fact that it had been signed by the head of state.

The document introduces amendments to the laws regulating the operation of law enforcement bodies and paramilitary organizations. It specifies that the operation of bodies of internal affairs is public to the degree which does not contradict the norms of the criminal

procedure legislation, the legislation regulating the administrative process, and the legislation on investigative activities.

The document also specifies regulations for the personal inspection of individuals, their possessions and vehicles. For example, it is now possible to conduct such inspections during arrest. The new law specifies conditions and the of application of force, special items, weapons, military and special equipment. It is envisaged that workers of law enforcement bodies are not responsible for the damage if such measures are taken within the framework of the legislation regulating the operation of law enforcement bodies. Besides, workers of law enforcement bodies can use military and other equipment to prevent civil unrest. Workers of law enforcement bodies can prevent individuals from recording investigative actions, measures taken to ensure civil order, personal and public security, and from recording the environment, including persons in discharge of their functions.

Major provisions of the law will enter into force in a month after its official publication.

### **Belarus president took part in EAEU online summit**

21.05.2021

Source: [Belarusian Telegraph Agency](#)

Belarus President Aleksandr Lukashenko took part in a meeting of the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council held as a video conference on 21 May.

Attending the event were the presidents of the member states of the Eurasian Economic Union (Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia), Honorary Chairman of the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council, First President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev, and the presidents of Cuba and Uzbekistan, the observer states at the EAEU.

The agenda included about 15 issues. The heads of state of the Eurasian Economic Union were briefed on the work done to agree on approaches to pricing and tariff setting in the EAEU common gas market, and the issue related to setting the tariff for gas transportation from third countries.

High on the agenda was also cooperation between the EAEU member states in the production of medicines and pharmaceutical substances for medical use.

### **Lukashenko orders to land Ryanair jet in Minsk after bomb alert**

23.05.2021

Source: [Belarusian Telegraph Agency](#)

Belarus President Aleksandr Lukashenko had personally given the order to land the Ryanair passenger jet following a bomb threat, BelTA learned from the Telegram channel Pul Pervogo.

The Belarusian leader also ordered to scramble a MiG-29 fighter jet to escort the passenger plane. The fighter jet is now on stanby waiting for all the necessary security checks to be completed to escort the plane to the Lithuanian border.

The headline of the Telegram channel post reads as: “Belarus protects Europe. The Ryanair plane en route to Vilnius from Athens lands in Minsk”.

“Although the screenshot of the flight path shows that the plane was almost over the border, they still turned to Minsk and asked to receive the plane. The Belarusian president was immediately briefed on the situation. Aleksandr Lukashenko gave an command to u-turn the plane and land it in Minsk. In such a situation, the most important thing is the safety and lives of people!” Pul Pervogo said.

Pul Pervogo also noted that the plane was nearer to Vilnius but they turned for help to Minsk. "Turns out the dictator came in handy! Whatever the political situation, Belarus is definitely not one of those counties who refuses help a difficult situation (unlike the neighbors from the West). Especially when people's lives are at stake," the Telegram channel said.

As BelTA reported, a Ryanair plane urgently landed at Minsk National Airport. "The plane landed after a bomb alert. The pilots requested a landing at Minsk National Airport. The plane landed safely. At the moment bomb squads are working on site, luggage of passengers are being searched. It is difficult to say when the plane resumes its flight because checks, which are to be done in such cases, still continue," the press service of the airport said.

The event in question caused policy-level consequences widely discussed in Belarus and abroad.

### **Lukashenko, Aliyev talk over phone**

24.05.2021

Source: [Belarusian Telegraph Agency](#)

Belarus President Aleksandr Lukashenko and Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev had a conversation over the phone on 22 May, BelTA has learned.

The heads of state discussed the situation in both countries and exchanged views on topical issues.

Aleksandr Lukashenko thanked his counterpart for his support and deliveries of hydrocarbons to Belarus. The heads of state hailed the growth in trade between the two countries and the great potential for the development of bilateral relations.

The president of Azerbaijan spoke in detail about the situation on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border and Azerbaijan's position on the well-known incident that took place some time ago.

### **Belarus expelled the Latvian ambassador**

24.05.2021

Source: [Belarusian Telegraph Agency](#)

"The ambassador was asked to leave Belarus within 24 hours. All diplomatic and administrative and technical staff of the embassy were also asked to leave Belarus - within 48 hours. One administrative and technical staff member should be left here to take care of the building," the minister of foreign affairs Vladimir Makei said.

### **New mass media law**

24.05.2021

Source: [President of the Republic of Belarus \(Official Portal\)](#)

President of Belarus Aliaksandr Lukashenka signed a law that corrects the legislation on mass media.

It expands the list of information that is prohibited for dissemination in the media and on Internet resources. In particular, a ban is introduced on posting the results of public opinion polls related to the socio-political situation.

### **Alexander Lukashenko signed the law concerning mass meeting**

24.05.2021

Source: [President of the Republic of Belarus \(Official Portal\)](#)

President of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko signed a law amending the legislation on mass events. The notification procedure for organizing mass events is eliminated. It is prohibited to collect, receive and use monetary funds and other property, to perform work, and to render services in order to reimburse expenses arising from prosecution for violation of the procedure for holding mass events.

### **CIS heads of government meet in Minsk**

28.05.2021

Source: [Belarusian Telegraph Agency](#)

The CIS Council of Heads of Government held a meeting in Minsk on 28 May.

Summit participants met with Aleksandr Lukashenko who noted that all the member states of the Commonwealth of Independent States should get involved in addressing common regional issues and spoke on different aspects of integration in post-Soviet space.

### **Lukashenko met with MPs, members of Constitutional Commission, representatives of government bodies**

26.05.2021

Source: [President of the Republic of Belarus \(Official Portal\)](#)

The meeting of Belarus President Aleksandr Lukashenko with Belarusian MPs, members of the Constitutional Commission and representatives of the government bodies took place in the Oval Hall of the House of the Government on 26 May.

The president said that he considers it his duty to explain the country's stance on all the processes which are going on around the country and to outline development prospects in view of the current situation to the Belarusian people and the international community.

### **Aleksander Lukashenko visited Russia, met with Putin**

28.05.2021

Source: [President of the Republic of Belarus \(Official Portal\)](#)

Aleksandr Lukashenko and Russian President Vladimir Putin met in on 28 May.

Belarusian President Aleksandr Lukashenko arrived in Sochi in the afternoon on 28 May after the meeting with the CIS heads of government in Minsk in the morning of May 28.

Aleksandr Lukashenko stated that Belarus' GDP growth rate is virtually on par with Russia's.

He reminded that last year many countries had to evacuate their citizens from other countries amid the restrictions caused by the pandemic. "Probably nobody saved their own people more than Russia did by bringing them home from resorts. You even helped us bring about 200 Belarusians from India. We helped bring home some Russians, [the Belarusian air carrier] Belavia helped with it. Everything was closed back then. One airport in Minsk kept working and we were bringing our people home. They [a number of other countries, including in the European Union and the USA] shut down everything,"

Continuing the line of thought, Aleksandr Lukashenko drew attention to the response of the same countries to the incident with the Ryanair aircraft, which landed in Minsk due to the tip about a bomb. "This case has nothing to do with Belavia," he stressed.

Vladimir Putin recalled how Western countries forced an aircraft of the Bolivian President to land. "The President was escorted off the aircraft and nobody complained," he remarked.

Aleksandr Lukashenko agreed and noted that other aircraft of various countries had been forced to land and nobody had whined about them. "It is understandable what these Western 'friends' want from us. There is nothing to talk about... But there were no heights Bolsheviks couldn't beat. We will beat them, too," the Belarus President stressed.

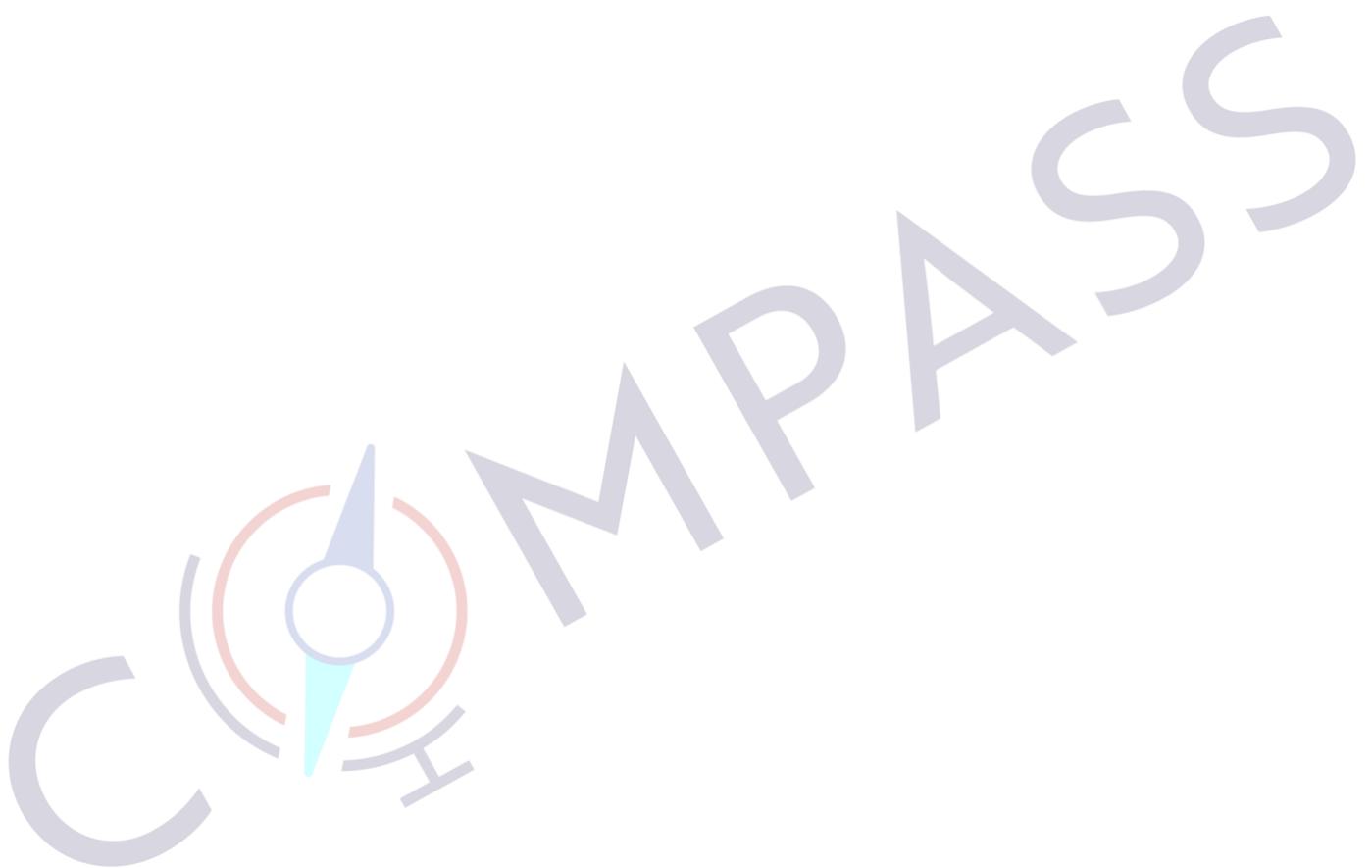
Vladimir Putin said that Belarus-Russia trade is on the rise. It is important to reinforce positive trends in cooperation between the two countries.

"...We have something to discuss without these events. I mean Russia remained Belarus' key trade and economic partner in Q1 2021. We saw a considerable increase in trade – 18.4%. It is a good trend. It is important to preserve it and keep the governments working actively," the Russian leader continued.

Vladimir Putin noted that today Prime Minister of Russia Mikhail Mishustin is in Belarus to participate in a session of the CIS Heads of Government Council, he had contacts with his counterparts over there.

He remarked that the first unit of the Belarusian nuclear power plant will be commissioned in June. "It is also another good example of our cooperation. There are good positive trends in other areas. All of it will surely be in the center of our attention," he stated.

The Russian President noted that work on matters concerning the development of the Union State of Belarus and Russia continued as well. “We do it bearing in mind the need to secure interests of both Belarus and Russia. We are moving in this direction. I am convinced the work already produces concrete results for our citizens. We just have to take persistent steps, without hurrying it, without rushing ahead. We should act stage by stage while securing our interests. Each side determines what its interests are,” he stressed.



# Tajikistan

## **Joint statement of the Government delegations of Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan on the delimitation and demarcation of State borders**

01.05.2021

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

After the border conflict that happened on May 28-29 this year, a meeting of the government delegations of both countries on the delimitation and demarcation of the state border was held in the city of Batken of the Kyrgyz Republic.

During the meeting, the parties agreed to immediately begin the return of military equipment to the places of their permanent deployment. A thorough exchange of views was held on the issue of delimitation and demarcation of the Tajik-Kyrgyz state border. The heads of delegations ordered the topographic working groups to start describing the state border of remaining sections in the near future.

## **The SCO CNC regular meeting under the chairmanship of Tajikistan**

03.05.2021

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

Starting from April 27 to 30, the SCO Council of National Coordinators regular meeting was held on the basis of the executive committee of the SCO regional anti-terrorist structure (RATS) located in Tashkent, under the chairmanship of the Republic of Tajikistan.

During the meeting, the sides exchanged views on the preparations for Council of Foreign Ministers meeting to be held on July 13-14 in Dushanbe, within the framework of which the Tajik side proposed to hold a SCO-Afghanistan contact group at the level of foreign ministers. The parties also discussed the preparations for the main event – the physical meeting of the Council of Heads of the SCO member States, which will also be held in Dushanbe on September 16-17, 2021.

It is worth noting that the participants of the meeting unanimously welcomed the UN General Assembly resolution put forward by Tajikistan: "UN Cooperation with the SCO", assessing the results of the event of the SCO and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime under the co-chairmanship of the Tajik and Russian sides.

## **Meeting of the President of Tajikistan with the United States Special Representative for Reconciliation in Afghanistan**

04.05.2021

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

On May 4, President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon met with the United States Special Representative for Reconciliation in Afghanistan Zalmay Khalilzad, who arrived in Dushanbe on a working visit.

During the meeting, the sides discussed various aspects of the current situation in neighboring Afghanistan, especially the process of restoring peace and stability in this country, as well as topical regional and global issues. "Tajikistan supports the aspirations of the Government of Afghanistan to establish security, peace and stability in the country," the President of Tajikistan said during the conversation and stressed that he supports the inter-Afghan negotiations that are taking place to reach this goal.

Regarding the current security situation in the region, the parties noted the importance of joint cooperation against modern threats and challenges. In this regard, it was stressed that Tajikistan will use its capabilities and existing potential, and will continue to make efforts in resolving the problems of Afghanistan and contribute to its socio-economic reforms.

### **Meeting of the President of Tajikistan with the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin**

08.05.2021

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

On May 8, President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon met with President of Russian Federation Vladimir Putin in Moscow.

During the meeting, the parties discussed a range of actual issues of cooperation and strategic partnership between the two countries, as well as different issues regarding regional and international situation.

During the meeting, issues of labour migration, air traffic were discussed, with an emphasis on the importance of increasing flights between the two countries, as well as issues of developing cooperation in the field of health, especially in the fight against the consequences of the new coronavirus, and appropriate attention was paid to the process of implementing joint military-technical cooperation programs.

During the exchange of views on the international and regional situation, the parties paid special attention to the current situation in Afghanistan. The head of the Tajik state assessed the escalation of situation in this neighbouring country, especially after the US statement regarding the withdrawal of troops from its territory, which is causing great alarm and concern. In this context, the President of Tajikistan stressed the importance of strengthening the Tajik-Afghan border security, as it also borders with the southern part of the CIS and the CSTO, expressing hope for the implementation of earlier decisions on this issue.

### **Meeting of the CSTO Council of Foreign Ministers in Dushanbe**

19.05.2021

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

A meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Collective Security Treaty Organization was held in Dushanbe under the chairmanship of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan S. Muhridin.

During the meeting, which was held in a narrow and expanded format, the parties considered the state and prospects for the development of the international and regional situation and its impact on the security of the CSTO member states.

In the light of the upcoming withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan, special attention was paid to the situation in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan during the discussion. The parties noted that the Afghan issue directly affects the situation of collective security in the Central Asian region, and therefore agreed on the importance of strengthening the southern borders of the CSTO. In this context, it was noted that it is necessary to coordinate and adopt the CSTO target interstate draft program as soon as possible for strengthening the Tajik-Afghan border land, which is being prepared by the Tajik side together with the CSTO member states.

The meeting also raised the issue of the incident on the Tajik-Kyrgyz border. The Ministers agreed that such issues should be resolved exclusively through negotiations and the search for mutual solutions, based on the principles of friendship and good-neighborliness.

### **Official visit of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan to Tajikistan**

19.05.2021

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

On May 19, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Kassym-Zhormat Tokayev paid an official visit to Tajikistan. After the official welcoming ceremony of the high-ranking guest, the heads of the state began discussing the development and expansion of relations and strategic partnership between Tajikistan and Kazakhstan and continued the meeting in the framework of extensive negotiations between the official delegations of two countries.

During the meeting, the sides exchanged views on the development of relations between the two countries in political, trade and economic, scientific and technical, cultural and humanitarian spheres, cooperation in the field of security and other important and mutually beneficial areas.

The development of trade and economic cooperation was called a priority, and it was emphasized that Kazakhstan occupies the second place in the total foreign trade turnover of Tajikistan. The trade turnover amounted \$ 1 billion last year.

Also, during the meeting, a number of documents were signed on the expansion and development of cooperation between Kazakhstan and Tajikistan. Tajikistan expressed interest in cooperation with Kazakhstan on the digitalization of the economy, innovation and import of modern technologies, the creation of enterprises for the processing of agricultural products, the organization of joint wholesale trade centers of goods and products in Tajikistan and the targeted and effective use of free economic zones of the country.

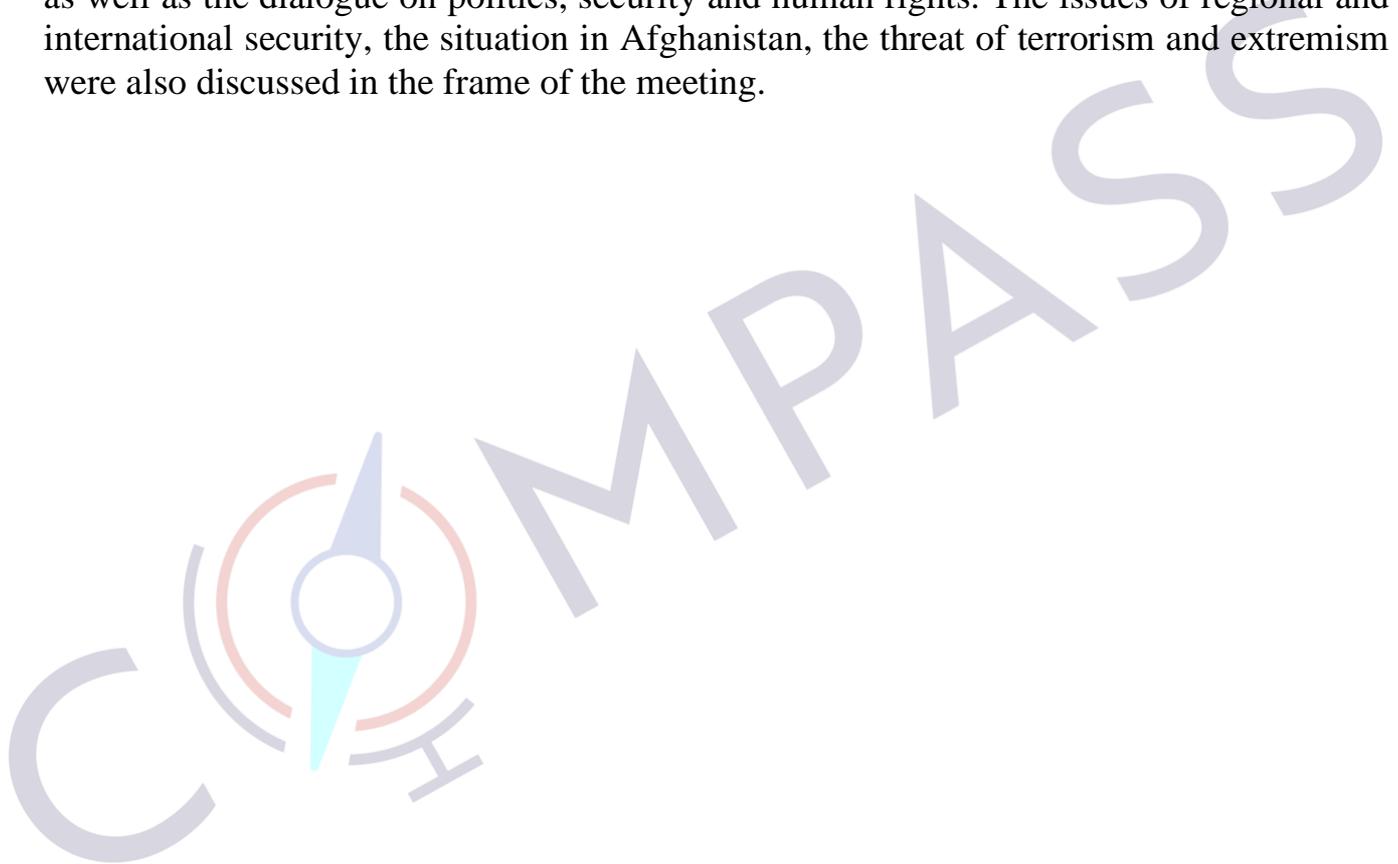
## Meeting of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan with the EU Special Representative for Central Asia

21.05.2021

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

On 21 May, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan, Sirodjiddin Muhridin, received the EU Special Representative for Central Asia, Peter Burian.

The sides exchanged views on cooperation within the framework of the European Union - Central Asia format, the new EU strategy for the region and the EU program in Tajikistan. The interlocutors stressed the importance of developing relations between the EU and Tajikistan within the framework of the Cooperation Council, the Cooperation Committee, as well as the dialogue on politics, security and human rights. The issues of regional and international security, the situation in Afghanistan, the threat of terrorism and extremism were also discussed in the frame of the meeting.



# Uzbekistan

## Uzbekistan and France establish cooperation in the field of alternative energy sources

10.05.2021

Source: [Dunyo Information Agency](#)

The Ministry of Energy of Uzbekistan and Assystem Engineering and Operation Services of France have signed a Memorandum of Understanding, reports “Dunyo” IA correspondent.

The document has been signed by Deputy Minister of Energy Sherzod Khodjayev and CEO of Assystem Engineering and Operation Services Stéphane Aubarbier.

The document is signed to study the prospects for the implementation of joint projects and expansion of strategic partnership in Uzbekistan. Several priority areas of cooperation are established, including in project management, engineering design and consulting on renewable energy sources, including solar, wind and hydrogen. It is also planned to support the development of energy conservation systems.

The interaction is aimed at promoting the energy sector of Uzbekistan in new areas of energy use and the transition to decarbonization.

## At the Second China – Central Asia Ministerial Meeting a number of joint decisions were adopted

12.05.2021

Source: [Dunyo Information Agency](#)

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan Abdulaziz Kamilov attended the Second China – Central Asia Ministerial Meeting in Xi'an, reports “Dunyo” IA correspondent.

According to the Uzbekistan MFA, the event was also attended by the Foreign Ministers of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.

The parties discussed current issues of strengthening mutual trust, further promoting mutually beneficial cooperation, implementing joint projects, promoting transport connectivity and ensuring uninterrupted trade, deepening relations to ensure regional security and counter modern challenges and threats.

It was noted that the active dialogue between the Central Asian countries and China contributes to the further promotion of mutually beneficial cooperation, ensuring sustainable socio-economic development, allows developing measures to counter modern challenges and threats, and overcoming the negative consequences of the coronavirus pandemic.

The demand for the widespread introduction of information technologies in the transport-communications, trade, investment, energy, customs, tourism and education was emphasized.

Special attention was paid to improving the infrastructure and conditions of multimodal transport, creating more favorable conditions for the integration of Central Asia into the system of global transport corridors.

Uzbekistan's FM urged partners to support the initiative of the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev to create a Regional Center for the Development of Transport and Communication Connectivity under the auspices of the United Nations.

The Ministers discussed mechanisms for promoting the establishment of lasting peace in Afghanistan and expressed their common interest in the early stabilization of the situation in the country and the restoration of its socio-economic infrastructure.

The Ministers exchanged views on the progress of the peace negotiation process on the Afghan issue, expressed their common interest in the early stabilization of the situation in Afghanistan, and the promotion of the socio-economic development of this country.

Following the event, a Memorandum on the creation of the format of meetings of foreign ministers "China – Central Asia", and Joint Statements on Afghanistan, on cooperation in the fight against COVID-19, and further deepening the interregional cooperation was adopted.

### **Germany to finance new projects in Uzbekistan**

14.05.2021

Source: [Uzbekistan National News Agency](#)

Virtual talks have been held on financial and technical cooperation between Uzbekistan and Germany. The event was organized by the Ministry of Investments and Foreign Trade of Uzbekistan and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany.

The event was attended by the Deputy Minister of Investments and Foreign Trade Sh. Vafayev, heads of relevant ministries and agencies of Uzbekistan, as well as the leadership of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Federal Foreign Office and other relevant agencies of Germany. The key issue on the agenda of the talks was the coordination of promising areas for further financial and technical cooperation, as well as comprehensive support provided by Germany for the implementation of socio-economic projects in Uzbekistan. It was announced that Uzbekistan is the only partner country in the Central Asian region following the new Strategy 2030 of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany.

It was noted that the German side decided to appoint a special representative of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development at Germany's Embassy in Tashkent to successfully implement this strategy, as well as facilitate the implementation of joint projects.

The German side supported the proposals of the Uzbek side on the direction of new funding for the implementation of projects in vocational education, lending to small and medium-

sized businesses, creating new jobs, improving plant quarantine services, the healthcare system and other areas.

The issue on the allocation by the German Government for 2021 of targeted financing for Uzbekistan of 61 million euros, including 23.5 million euros in the form of concessional loans and 37.5 million euros in the form of grants and technical assistance was agreed upon for the implementation of 8 projects in Uzbekistan in the above areas.

Following the meeting, an agreement was reached to hold the next intergovernmental talks on financial and technical cooperation between Uzbekistan and Germany in 2022.

### **Uzbekistan's President proposes a new agenda for partnership with the World Bank**

18.05.2021

Source: [Uzbekistan National News Agency](#)

On May 18, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev received a World Bank delegation led by Vice President Anna Bjerde. Current issues of further enhancing the strategic partnership between Uzbekistan and the World Bank Group, increasing the level of practical interaction to ensure sustainable development in Uzbekistan and the region were discussed. During this visit, agreements were signed on the implementation of projects to improve the water supply system and support the national innovation policy worth about \$300 million. At the meeting, the new agenda proposed by the President of Uzbekistan for further enhancing multifaceted cooperation with the World Bank was fully supported.

It includes the following specific areas of partnership: support for reforms aimed at reducing poverty in the country, primarily through the development of entrepreneurship in rural areas, promotion of business initiatives of women and youth; increasing the efficiency of transformations in higher education and healthcare to achieve tangible results and improve the quality of services; implementation of the program of accelerated industrialization of the regions of the country and continuation of the project for the development of mid-sized cities; transition to an innovative development model, the introduction of a green economy; continuation of reforms in land relations; fighting corruption and increasing the potential of state development institutions; joint promotion of large regional infrastructure projects.

### **UN General Assembly approves the Resolution proposed by the President of Uzbekistan**

18.05.2021

Source: [Dunyo Information Agency](#)

On May 18, a regular plenary meeting of the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly took place, reports "Dunyo" IA correspondent.

The consideration of the draft resolution proposed by Uzbekistan on declaring the Aral Sea region as a zone of environmental innovations and technologies was included as the first issue on the agenda of the event.

The initiative to develop and adopt the resolution was put forward by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev during the 75th session of the UN General Assembly in September 2020.

The UN member states approved the document unanimously.

It was co-authored by about 60 states from various regions of the world, including Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Turkey, Japan, Pakistan, Iran, India, Egypt, Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Jordan, Oman, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Hungary, Romania, Algeria, Paraguay and others.

### **President Shavkat Mirziyoyev takes part in Supreme Eurasian Economic Council Meeting**

21.05.2021

Source: [Uzbekistan National News Agency](#)

On May 21, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev took part in the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council meeting, via video conference.

The agenda of the event included the current issues of practical cooperation in various sectors of the economy, as well as improving the EAEU activities.

In his speech, the President of Uzbekistan dwelt on the most important tasks, the solution of which requires coordinated approaches. The following have been highlighted:

- significant potential for further building up trade relations, including by removing barriers and converging non-tariff trade regulation measures;
- the importance of deepening industrial collaboration between leading enterprises and regions of the countries, promoting projects in the real sector of the economy and ensuring food security with the involvement of the Eurasian Development Bank;
- solving the current issues in the transport and transit sphere and enhancing mutual preferences to increase the volume of cargo transportation.

Taking into account the stabilization of the epidemiological situation and the ongoing measures for vaccinating the population, it was proposed to resume regular air and rail links between the region's countries.

The possibility of connecting Uzbekistan to the EAEU digital platforms on tax and customs administration, industry, labour migration and tourism is being considered. Opportunities for cooperation in several other priority areas are being studied.