

## KAZAKHSTAN AND SPAIN: TENDENCIES AND PERSPECTIVES OF BILATERAL COOPERATION

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Kazakh – Spanish relations have been established recently – since acquisition the independence of our state. Diplomatic relations between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Kingdom of Spain were established on the 11<sup>th</sup> of February, 1992. In January 1999 the Kazakh Embassy was opened in Madrid, after five months the Embassy of Spain was opened in Astana.

Since June 2008, The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Kazakhstan to the Kingdom of Spain is Yergali Bulegenov. The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Spain to Kazakhstan is Alberto Anton Cortes (since October 2008).

The Kingdom of Spain is one of the main political and economic partner of Kazakhstan in Europe in recent years. Relations between both countries have been cordial and mutually beneficial.

Spain recognizes leading role of Kazakhstan in the Central Asia and considers our country as the most important partner in the region. The significant contribution to development of bilateral relations with Spain is brought by high intensity of contacts, especially at the high levels. The important impulse has given to bilateral interaction by official visits of Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev in 1994 and in 2000. Official relations between the President of Kazakhstan N.Nazarbayev and the King of Spain Juan Carlos I, promoting further rapprochement between two states, have burgeoned into sincere friendship. In 2004 Kazakh President was among the honored guests on the wedding of the Crown Prince of Spain Felipe [1, p.19].

The King of Spain Juan Carlos I de Borbon and his spouse – the Queen Sophia officially visited Astana on May 2007. Kazakh leader and the King unveiled the Monument —Friendship of Nations [2].

From 26 July - 2 August 2008 the following members of the royal family called on President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev with official visits. Within the framework of visit the head of state negotiated with the King and Spanish entrepreneurs, and took part in opening ceremony of the Day of Kazakhstan in the framework of The World Exhibition —Expo 2008 in Saragossa.

The Heads of foreign offices meet frequently. In 2009 three meetings between the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan Kanat Saudabayev and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Spain Miguel Angel Moratinos took place – in 64<sup>th</sup> session of The UNO GA, 17<sup>th</sup> OSCE conference of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, meeting of OSCE —Troikal. In 2006 Spanish delegation led by M.A.Moratinos took part in the event on the occasion of the Presidential inauguration of Kazakhstan N.A.Nazarbayev.

In recent years the economic cooperation between Kazakhstan and Spain is flourishing. At the average the volume of Kazakhstan's export to Spain makes 600 million dollars. The structure of

the Kazakhstan's export is characterized by raw materials (hydrocarbons, ferrous and nonferrous metal) while the basic component of Spain export to our country are the final goods (citrus plants, alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks, vinegar, tobacco, medicaments, insecticides and herbicides, industrial equipments and so forth).

In Kazakhstan there are 27 operating enterprises with participation of the Spanish capital, which basically operate in the spheres of trade, car repair, and sphere of personal and social services. At the same time, in the market of Kazakhstan there are such large Spanish companies, as the oil company —Repsol YPF, manufacturer of railway vehicles —Patentes Talgo S.A., global company of technology and innovation —Indral, manufacturers of explosives —Maksam, and —Union Espanola de Explosivos, the largest renewable energy operator in the world —Iberdrola S.A., the leading European equipment manufacturer of a full range of solid waste processing & recycling equipment —Imabe Iberica S.A., —Teltronic, which manufactures radio communications equipments and systems.

In the year 2006 The National Oil Company —KazMunayGas, Spanish oil company —Repsol YPF and Russian oil company —Lukoil concluded agreement on development of —Zhambayl oilfield.

In accordance with the agreement signed with The Public Cooperation —KazakhMys, —Maksam company maintains to manufacture explosives. In 2003 factory producing explosives in Nurkazgan field, in Karaganda oblast, was constructed.

—KazakhstanTemirZholy collaborates with —Patentes Talgo S.A. company. Since 2002 —Talgo trains have been plied between Astana – Almaty and Almaty – Shymkent [3].

In 2007 the first modern Garbage Processing Complex in Central Asia was launched in Almaty. The Garbage Processing Complex uses the technology and equipment of —Imabe Iberica S.A.

Kazakhstan and Spain signed a number of agreements on mutual cooperation in economy, education and tourism. The documents were signed on July 2, 2009 by the General Director on trade and investments of the Minister of Industry of Spain, Antonio Sanches Bustamante, and the representatives of the Cabinet of Ministers of Kazakhstan.

The Minister of Finance of Kazakhstan, Bolat Zhamishev, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Spain signed the Convention between the governments of Kazakhstan and Spain about the avoidance of double taxation and prevention of evasion from taxation concerning income and the capital taxes. The document facilitates economic ties between the two nations.

The Memorandum of understanding and interaction was signed between the Kazyna Sustainable Development Fund and the Confederación Española de Organizaciones Empresariales (Confederation of Employers and Industries of Spain).

The Memorandum seeks to render support to Kazakh and Spanish companies with a view of developing economic cooperation between the two countries. One of the covered areas is financing of projects targeted at diversification of the Kazakh economy, introduction of advanced technology, and establishment of processing industries.

The 4th sitting of the Kazakh-Spanish Intergovernmental Commission for Cooperation in the sphere of economy and industry and the 2nd Meeting of the Kazakh-Spanish Mixed Commission on Cooperation in Education & Culture took place on March 11, 2009. An agreement on strategic partnership between the two nations as well as a number of important bilateral agreements in the field of industry, railroad sector, agriculture, infrastructure and financial sector had been signed. Two sides expressed interest in the development of non-primary sectors of economy, improvement of investment climate and tourism promotion.

The Spanish delegation visiting Kazakhstan included the Minister of Foreign Affairs Miguel Angel Moratinos, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Spain to Kazakhstan Alberto Antón Cortés; director of CASA ASIA Jesus Sans; Director General on the Countries of Europe and Northern America Non-Members of EU in Spain's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (SMFA) Philippe Fernandez de la Peña; the Director General on International Economic Relations and Energy Affairs (SMFA) Rafael Conde de Saro; Director on Cultural Relations of Spanish International

Cooperation Agency Antonio Nicolau Marti; Director General on Trade and Investment of the Ministry of Industry, Tourism and Trade Antonio Sanchez Bustamante; Advisor on Economic and Trade Affairs of the Embassy of Spain to Kazakhstan Diego Moleres Olivier.

Moratinos was awarded with the —Dostyk| by the President Nursultan Nazarbayev – the highest honor the Central Asian republic can bestow on individuals for fruitful activity in the field of —international and civil consensus in society, for merits and deeds in promoting peace, friendship and cooperation between peoples|.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Spain and the acting Minister of Tourism and Sports of Kazakhstan, Kairbek Uskenbaev, signed the memorandum of mutual understanding in the field of tourism between the Ministry of Industry, Tourism and Commerce of the Kingdom of Spain and the Ministry of Tourism and Sports of Kazakhstan.

According to the Ministry of Education and Science, this program provides an annual exchange of teachers and experts, three-monthly grants by Spain for Kazakhstan citizens to study the Spanish language, business trips for the Kazakhstan scientists to Spain for the term from 3 till 12 months, and also carrying out of lectures of the Spanish scientists in the leading Kazakhstan high schools.

In 2008 the lecture room of The Cervantes Institute in the L.N.Gumilyov Eurasian National University was opened.

In current year L.N.Gumilyov Eurasian National University and La Laguna University have reached verbal agreement on sending several students to LLU.

Since 2010 the exam DELE (Diplomas of Spanish as a Foreign Language or Diplomas de Español como Lengua Extranjera) have been taken place in two cities – Almaty and Astana.

On May 5, 2007 The Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Kazakhstan and global company of technology and innovation —Indral| made a contract on buying the radio – electronic neutralization system —Cicada – R|.

The prospects of cooperation in the field of military was discussed at Kazakh – Spain talks on November 15, 2008, as the Minister of Defense of Kazakhstan Adilbek Dzhaksybekov paid an official visit to Madrid. A joint enterprise between the companies —Indral| and —Kazakhstan Engineering| was offered to be set up. Also the Minister Dzhaksybekov offered to the Minister of Defense of the Kingdom of Spain Carme Chakón Pikeras to create a joint enterprise which will manufacture military products.

The company —Indral| proposed a project on development of integrated system of maritime protection on Caspian Sea, which is directed to protect the border from external threats, to ensure security of marine traffic, to protect oil and gas producing platforms.

The concern «EADS/CASA», especially «Airbus militari» showed the aircrafts C – 295 and A – 400, which is an average military transport plane with wide spectrum of abilities. Mrs. Pikeras was invited to the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Exhibition of armory and defense materials, which will take place in 2012 in Kazakhstan.

#### **Further cooperation between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Kingdom of Spain.**

A meeting with a representative of Spanish company Eolium from Planificaciones Mundiales Group was held on November 27, 2009. The company is specialized in the field of wind power plants installations. Spain is the world's fourth biggest producer of wind power, after the United States, Germany and China with an installed capacity of 19,959 megawatts (MW) at the end of 2010, a rise of 1,609 MW for the year [4].

Spanish companies rank in the world's top 10 among both wind-farm operators and turbine manufacturers. Wind power farms were installed in 15 autonomous regions: Castile and León , Castile-La Mancha , Galicia , Andalusia, Aragon, Valencian Community, Navarre , Catalonia , La Rioja . Asturias , Basque Country , Murcia , Canary Islands , Cantabria , Balearic Islands.

**Table 1**

**Installed windpower capacity (MW)  
Spain total (MW)**

In 2005 [5]	In 2008 [6]	In 2009 [7]	In 2010 [8]
9000	16 740	19140	20680

In the meantime the economic development of the country is marked by enormous energy consumption. Kazakhstan is the third largest emitter of energy related greenhouse gases emissions per GDP (6.11 kg CO<sub>2</sub>/USD). As a party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Kazakhstan is to ratify Kyoto Protocol and accept the commitment to reduce greenhouse gases emissions. Introduction of the renewable energy sources is one way to reduce fossil – fuel consumption and may add to mitigation of bad environmental impacts.

Kazakhstan has significant resources of renewable energy in the form of hydro energy, solar energy and wind energy. The potential of hydro energy is valued to be 170 million kWh per year and wind energy 1820 million kWh per year. It means that Kazakhstan is rich in wind resources .

About 50 % of Kazakhstan’s territory has average wind speeds about 4 – 5 m/sec at a height of 30m. Most windy sites are located in Caspian sea area in Atyray and Mangistay oblasts, in center of Kazakhstan in Akmola, Karaganda oblasts, and also in Zhungar Gates and in Shelek corridor.

**Table 2**

**Speed of wind m/sec (in average) [9]**

Oblasts	Jan.	Feb.	March	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Atyray	4.6	4.9	4.9	5.1	4.4	4.3	3.9	3.7	3.9	4.0	4.3	4.3
Mangistay	4.5	5.0	5.0	5.2	4.3	4.3	4.0	3.9	4.2	4.5	4.9	4.9
Akmola	4.4	4.2	4.0	4.1	3.9	3.4	3.2	3.1	3.5	4.1	4.2	4.0
Karaganda	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.5	3.3	3.1	3.2	3.6	3.7	3.5
Arkalyk	4.1	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.2	4.0	3.8	3.5	3.7	4.2	4.4	4.7

**Table 3**

Region	Indices [10, p.3]			
	10 meter		50 meter	
	m/sec	Wt/m <sup>2</sup>	m/sec	Wt/m <sup>2</sup>
Zhungar gates	7.66	543	9.79	1016
Shelek corridor	5.84	237	7.77	510

There is a possibility to install thousands of wind farms in Kazakhstan, especially in central and east parts.

In order to fully understand the role of wind it is necessary to consider a number of issues. Wind energy does not replace coal or gas – fired power generation. Wind energy can only form a part of any energy system. Incorporation of wind energy to a system will reduce the overall dependence on fossil fuels.

**Ecological aspects of wind energy development:**

Wind farms do not consume organic fuel and do not emit to the atmosphere harmful products. The installation of 500 MW wind farm with yearly production of 1.5 million MW/h of energy will prevent yearly emissions to the atmosphere of:

- 1.5 million tons of greenhouse gases;
- 12000 tons of sulfur oxide;
- 7800 tons nitrogen oxide;
- 12600 tons of fly ash [11, p.10].

### **Social aspects of wind energy development:**

- creation of conditions for social and economical development in energy deficient regions and remote rural regions by the improvement of access to energy;
- contribution to the development of local industry and the creation of new jobs. Kazakhstan should enhance ties with Spain in this sphere.

Nowadays Spain is the leading country of the world in the sphere of sport. Such types of sport as football, basketball and cycling have been fully developed.

Football has been dominated in Spain since the 1940s and is regarded as the most popular sport in Spain. The Spanish National Team is considered to be one of the world's best team. In recent years Spain has gained remarkable accomplishment in football. Having won 2008 UEFA European Football Championship and 2010 FIFA World Cup, Spain are the current reigning World and European champions. FC Barcelona, Real Madrid CF, Atletico de Madrid, Sevilla CF, Villarreal, Deportivo La Coruña and Valencia CF are notable football teams not only in Spain, but even in the Europe.

Basketball is a popular sport in Spain. The Spanish ACB is one of the major European basketball league. Spanish teams such as Real Madrid Baloncesto, FC Barcelona Bàsquet or Joventut Badalona have won international championships such as the Euroleague or the ULEB Cup.

A number of Spanish players such as Jorge Garbajosa, José Calderón, Rudy Fernández , Sergio Rodriguez, Juan Carlos Navarro and Pau Gasol, are currently playing in the NBA league.

The Spanish national basketball team has achieved a high ranked position in the international tournament by winning a gold medal at the 2006 FIBA World Championship, and winning a silver medal at the Eurobasket 2007.

We, the people of Kazakhstan, can proud of the accomplishments of our sportsmen on the world arena in boxing, Greco-Roman wrestling, weight-lifting, ice hockey, bandy. To my mind, the cooperation between Kazakhstan and Spain in the above – mentioned will be beneficial and the relations will be improved.

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