



Astana Highlights October 2023

Key Points

- Grain terminal in port of Kuryk to start shipping in September
- KazMunayGas plans to ship at least 890,000 tons of oil to Germany in 2023
- Turkmenistan signals major change in energy-export stance
- Kazakhstan pursues legally sound cooperation mechanisms with Russian companies
- Dutch Supreme Court confirms lifting of Stati attachment of KMG Kashagan shares
- Cargo carriage via Trans-Caspian Route grows by 86%
- Kazakhstan is ready to cooperate with the EU on the investigation of plywood imports

UPCOMING EVENTS

AgroWorld Kazakhstan, Almaty, November 1 – 3, 2023

The Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Central Asia and the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO) invite Dutch agricultural companies to participate in the Netherlands Pavilion at AgroWorld Kazakhstan 2023. For more information and registration: [Join the Netherlands Pavilion at AgroWorld Kazakhstan \(phaff.com\)](https://phaff.com). Questions and registration: our partner Phaff Export Marketing (ah@phaff.com) in the Netherlands.

AGRICULTURE

Grain terminal in port of Kuryk to start shipping in September

The grain terminal in Kazakhstan's port of Kuryk is set to ship its first grain in September. This terminal, developed in partnership with the United Arab Emirates' (UAE) AD Ports Group, will play a key role in the Trans-Caspian international transport route connecting China, Kazakhstan, the Caspian Sea, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkey, and Europe. The exact destination for the first grain shipment has not been disclosed. [AgenzialCE](#)

ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES

KazMunayGas plans to ship at least 890,000 tons of oil to Germany in 2023

A KazMunayGas delegation visited an oil refinery in Schwedt, Germany, and discussed an increase of the oil supply to Germany via the Druzhba pipeline. The Chairman of KazMunayGas, Magzum Mirzagaliyev, noted that plans aim to ship at least 890,000 tons of oil to Germany in 2023. [Interfax](#)

Kazakhstan seeks to significantly increase geologically explored land area

Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev has directed the government to increase the geologically explored land area from 1.5 million to 2.2 million square kilometers by 2026. Experts view this as a crucial step for the domestic economy, highlighting the significance of geological exploration. They assert that this sector, which is considered the backbone of Kazakhstan's economy, requires special attention. In the past 5-6 years, investment in geological exploration has significantly declined, dropping from 4-5 billion euros annually between 2005 and 2014 to a current level of 200-300 million euros. [JibekJoly](#)

Turkmenistan signals major change in energy-export stance

Turkmenistan has signaled a significant shift in its energy export strategy by expressing readiness to develop a Trans-Caspian pipeline, potentially increasing natural gas deliveries to the European Union. This move is expected to have little impact on Turkmenistan's commitments to China but could reduce Russia's share of gas exports. This change has been positively received by regional observers, as it represents a significant reversal in Turkmenistan's stance. However, financing the pipeline's construction remains a challenge, with potential investors, including Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC), being considered. [EurasiaNet](#)

Kazakhstan Becomes Leader in Uranium Production in 2022

In 2022, Kazakhstan led global uranium production, contributing 42% of the total, with Kazatomprom National Atomic Company responsible for 22%. Kazatomprom is the world's largest uranium producer, operating 26 deposits across 14 uranium mining enterprises. [AstanaTimes](#)

KazTransOil boosted oil transportation to Baku port 12-fold in January-August

KazTransOil significantly increased Kazakh oil exports to the Baku seaport by 1,100% in the first eight months of 2023. The rise in hydrocarbon exports from Aktau to Baku contributed to this, reaching 838,000 tons compared to 69,000 tons in the same period last year. Overall, Kazakhstan shipped 2.164 million tons of oil from Aktau during this period. [AgenziaICE](#)

MACRO-ECONOMICS & FINANCE

President Berdimuhamedov met with the heads of the EU and WTO

During his working visit to New York, Turkmenistan's President Serdar Berdimuhamedov held meetings with several key figures. He discussed successful cooperation with the President of the European Council Charles Michel, talked about bilateral cooperation with WTO Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, and met with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. These meetings signify Turkmenistan's engagement with various international partners, including the European Union, WTO, and the UN. [Hronika](#)

Italy wants to be key partner for Kazakhstan

Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani visited Kazakhstan to strengthen the countries' cooperation. He emphasized Italy's desire to deepen political, economic, and cultural ties with Kazakhstan. They share common views on global challenges like climate change and sustainable development. Italy is a significant investor in Kazakhstan, contributing to regional stability and development. Tajani highlighted future areas of cooperation, including de-carbonization, food security, infrastructure development, and technological transformation. [EUReporter](#)

Kazakhstan pursues legally sound cooperation mechanisms with Russian companies

Kazakhstan is adhering to EU and US recommendations when organizing joint production with Russia, ensuring compliance with international laws and avoiding potential harm. Russian companies under sanctions are not being cooperated with, and Kazakhstan is committed to open dialogue with Western partners while closely monitoring the situation. [AgenziaICE](#)

Dutch Supreme Court confirms lifting of Stati attachment of KMG Kashagan shares

The Ministry of Justice of Kazakhstan and Samruk Kazyna JSC have won their case before the Dutch Supreme Court related to KMG Kashagan B.V. shares against Anatolie Stati,

Gabriel Stati, Ascom S.A., and Terra Raf Trans Trading Ltd. The Supreme Court rejected the Stati Parties' appeal and confirmed that the shares enjoy immunity from execution under customary international law. This decision follows a series of legal victories where various courts have found evidence of fraud in the Statists' actions, including in Belgium, Luxembourg, and the United Kingdom. [Kaztag.kz](#)

35 foreign companies relocated to Kazakhstan

Kazakhstan has attracted 35 major foreign companies and a record 26.6 billion euros in foreign direct investments in 2022. Among the companies that moved were Honeywell, TikTok, Indriver, Fortescue, Alstom, etc. These were mainly branches of corporations from Germany, Switzerland, Japan and the USA. The country is implementing the 2026 Investment Policy Concept, offering tax exemptions, grants, and investment commitment agreements to encourage investments. Overall, fixed capital investments increased by 35% to 30 billion euro between 2019 and 2022. [Inform.kz](#), [Zakonkz](#)

Uzbekistan's foreign trade expands with new partners, including EU

In the first seven months of 2023, Uzbekistan's foreign trade dynamics have shifted. China has reclaimed its position as the leading trading partner. Trade with China grew by 30.5%, while trade with Russia only saw an 8.4% increase. Uzbekistan has diversified its trade relations, expanding ties with EU countries and experiencing growth in trade with various nations, including France, Afghanistan, Brazil, Tajikistan, Lithuania, the UAE, Belarus, the USA, Iran, Italy, and Latvia. Russia's share in Uzbekistan's foreign trade turnover has decreased from 17.1% to 15.1%. [Gazeta.uz](#)

TRANSPORT & COMMUNICATIONS

Port of Kuryk should become a full-fledged logistics cluster

The President of Kazakhstan envisions the port of Kuryk as a fully developed logistics cluster, similar to the port of Aktau. He emphasized the significance of the North-South international corridor, aiming to double railway capacity, with priority given to modernizing the Kazakh section of the Bolashak-Chelyabinsk railway line. [Interfax](#)

Cargo carriage via Trans-Caspian Route grows by 86%

In the past seven months, cargo traffic via the Trans-Caspian International Transport Route through Kazakhstan increased by 86%, totaling 1.7 million tons, with Kazakhstan's exports reaching 1.2 million tons. This route, known as the Middle Corridor, connects China to Europe through Central Asia, the South Caucasus, and Turkey. [Inform.kz](#)

Germany's Hansa Consortium planning to build a cargo air hub at Khorgos

The management of Kazakhstan's Khorgos - East Gate special economic zone (SEZ) has signed a memorandum of cooperation with Germany's Hansa Consortium to construct an air cargo hub within the SEZ. The initiative came from leaders of The Hansa Consortium and Skymax Technologies Group of Companies LLP in Kazakhstan. [Interfax](#)

SUSTAINABILITY

EBRD Provides Funds for Building New Wind Power Plant in Zhambyl Region

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) is supporting Kazakhstan's carbon neutrality goal by providing financial backing for the 100-megawatt Shokpar wind power plant in the Zhambyl Region. EBRD is granting a loan of up to 37 million euro to China Power International Holding (CPIH) and Visor International for this renewable energy project, connecting it to the national grid. Once operational, the

Shokpar wind power plant is expected to reduce annual CO2 emissions by nearly 212,000 tons. Kazakhstan has a long-standing partnership with EBRD, with over 304 projects and investments exceeding 10.1 billion euro. [AstanaTimes](#)

Central Asia-US C5+1 Summit Leaders Pledge to Strengthen Environmental Cooperation and Climate Goals

The C5+1 partners have reaffirmed their commitment to enhance environmental cooperation and support science-based, climate-sustainable actions. These actions include submitting ambitious NDCs (Nationally Determined Contributions) by COP26, focusing on reducing emissions (carbon and methane), promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency, improving water resource management, disaster risk reduction, ecosystem conservation, and addressing the ecological and socioeconomic challenges of the Aral Sea Basin. [Stategov](#)

79 million euro planned to be spent to combat the shallowing of the Caspian Sea

To address the shallowing of the Caspian Sea, the Ministry of Industry and Infrastructure Development plans to conduct urgent dredging at the seaports of Aktau and Kuryk, with an estimated cost of approximately 79 million euro. The project is scheduled for implementation from 2023 to 2025. [Azattyq.org](#)

Euronews prepared a report on the restoration of the Aral Sea region

Euronews highlighted efforts to restore the Aral Sea. The largest donors are Uzbekistan's government and the European Union, aiming to unite efforts for the Aral Sea's restoration. Additionally, a 1.5 million euro USAID project will build three weather stations in the Muynak region as part of this initiative. [Uznews](#), [Euronews](#)

SANCTIONS

Kyrgyz Foreign Minister: Kyrgyzstan not going to violate anti-Russian sanctions

Kyrgyz Foreign Minister Kulubaev assures compliance with anti-Russian sanctions, emphasizing adherence to agreements with Western partners. He mentions regular communication with the US and consultations with the EU. [Kaktus](#)

Kazakhstan is ready to cooperate with the EU on the investigation of plywood imports

The Ministry of Trade and Integration of Kazakhstan has expressed readiness to cooperate with the European Commission's investigation into plywood imports possibly of Russian origin to the EU. The Ministry also encourages Kazakhstani producers exporting to the EU to collaborate with the European Commission. The investigation stems from increased imports of birch plywood from Kazakhstan and Turkey, potentially with Russian origins, leading to a new inquiry despite existing anti-dumping measures imposed in 2021. [Vlast.kz](#)

CONTACTS

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