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THE HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE OF KAZAKHSTAN'S COOPERATION WITH THE EUROPEAN UNION

***Annotation.** The thirty-year history of Kazakhstan's independence is distinguished not only by socio-economic development, but also by foreign policy. For Kazakhstan, which has chosen its path of development as an independent state, foreign policy has become an important component of state policy. Since the formation of the state strategy of its development path, foreign policy has acquired a multi-vector character. Cooperation with the European Union, as the most important integration Union of the world, occupies a special place in Kazakhstan's multi-vector foreign policy. The article analyzes the necessity, the history of the formation and ways of implementing cooperation between Kazakhstan and the European Union. The significance of Kazakhstan for the European Union will also be differentiated. The place of this cooperation in modern global development is determined.*

***Keywords:** history, state, foreign policy, president, integration, multi-vector, international relations, TACIS, strategy, concept.*

Introduction

The Republic of Kazakhstan celebrates the thirtieth anniversary of the proclamation of its State sovereignty. One of the most important elements of State sovereignty is the foreign policy of the State. Foreign policy is the face of the state. The foreign policy doctrine and the foreign policy course of the country are determined by the head of state. "Foreign policy is the policy of the President," N.A. Nazarbayev said [1].

The above fully applies to the Republic of Kazakhstan and its foreign policy. The First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan defined the vectors and priorities of the country's foreign policy. And one of such vectors of the foreign policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan is the European direction.

Already in the first conceptual document "Strategy of formation and development of Kazakhstan as a sovereign state", N.A. Nazarbayev noted that "the policy of joining the world community should be built taking into account the proper assessment of the partnership opportunities of the three main centers of the market system - the United States, Japan and Western Europe, bearing in mind that they were the driving force behind the intensification of world economic relations. Interaction with them will also open the way to international financial institutions" [2, p.49].

When it comes to the European direction of Kazakhstan's foreign policy, it means its policy at two levels, namely: at the level of relations of the Republic of Kazakhstan with the European Union (EU) and at the level of its relations with European states on a bilateral basis. The European Union, having established various ties with many countries and regions of the globe, is laying a solid foundation for the process of global integration and globalization. Because Europe is, first of



all, a capacious market, a market for consumption, mainly of energy raw materials; Europe is an exceptionally high level of technology and technology; Europe is the export of capital and investment in the economy of many countries; Europe is a high standard of living, education and health care [3].

The Republic of Kazakhstan is attractive to Europe and the European Union due to its geopolitical position as a transport corridor connecting Europe with Asia, its natural resources, especially hydrocarbon raw materials, and recently the mining industry.

Materials and methods of research

The development of comprehensive relations with the member states of the European Union plays a key role for Kazakhstan. The Republic of Kazakhstan considers these relations as a long-term priority related to the promotion of its national interests in the international arena.

After the collapse of the USSR, the European Union declared its firm determination to maintain ties with Kazakhstan and developed a program to assist Kazakhstan in building a democratic society and a market economy.

Diplomatic relations between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the European Union were established in 1992. By the end of 1994, all the prerequisites and conditions - economic, political and diplomatic - had developed for full-fledged cooperation between Kazakhstan and the European Union. This need was felt by both sides. In January 1994, Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the Kingdom of Belgium A.M. Kirbasov presented credentials to the President of the European Council as the Head of the Representative Office of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the EU.

In November 1994, a Representative Office of the European Commission (EC) was opened in Almaty. Mr. R. Kremer became the first head of the EC Representative Office in Kazakhstan. The European Energy Charter (EEC), signed on December 16-17, 1994, was the first international document concluded by the Republic of Kazakhstan after gaining independence [4].

An important result of the bilateral efforts was the signing on January 25, 1995 in Brussels by President N. Nazarbayev and Chairman of the EU Council L. The Juppe Agreement on Partnership and Cooperation between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the European Union, on the one hand, and the European Communities and their member States, on the other hand, entered into force on July 1, 1999. This most important document establishes the legal foundations of multilateral political, economic, cultural and humanitarian cooperation with the world's largest economic integration association. For Kazakhstan, its signing was one of the major achievements of the search for new reliable economic partners policy carried out at that historical stage [5].

In 1997, the basic agreement on the European Energy Charter, signed three years earlier, came into force. This document is of fundamental importance for Kazakhstan, primarily because it guarantees non-discrimination in the energy market and promotes integration into the world economic community in compliance with national trade and economic interests.

The EU is a major consumer of Kazakhstan's energy resources, primarily oil and gas. In general, these interests are reduced to ensuring that the EU participates in the implementation of investment projects related to the extraction of energy resources, the creation of a network of oil and gas pipelines. The provision of technical assistance is one of the important areas of economic cooperation with the EU. The project of providing technical assistance to newly independent States developed by the European Union is the TACIS program. It covers all the main sectors of the economy and social spheres of the republic and gives Kazakhstan access to the experience and knowledge accumulated by European countries. The TACIS program cooperates with the Government of Kazakhstan and with almost all important sectors of the national economy of the country, these are, first of all, ministries and departments, associations, large banks, including the National Bank of the Republic of Kazakhstan, academies, universities.

The main objectives of the TACIS program in the Republic of Kazakhstan are: to provide expert services and transfer practical experience in order to train local personnel and develop the



"know-how" necessary for economic reforms; to promote the creation of conditions favorable for private investment and private sector development.

From 1991 to 1998, Kazakhstan received about 90 million rubles under the TACIS program.ecu [6, p.88], which is more than half of all technical assistance provided by the West. According to the European Commission, only during 1991-1998, the amount of financing of Kazakhstan under the TACIS program reached 200 million euros. Moreover, about 53 million euros were spent on energy projects, the reorganization of state-owned enterprises and the development of the private sector – 32.24 million euros, the reform of the public administration system, the social sphere, including education – 17.12 million euros. development of the agricultural sector and the communications sector – 16.92 million euros and 2.8 million euros, respectively, consultations on management and support of small projects – 3.03 million euros [7].

In total, from 1991 to 2007, the European Union allocated 121 million euros to the Republic of Kazakhstan under the TACIS program, with 96 million euros allocated in the period from 1991 to 2000. The main part of the TACIS budget is used according to the Action Program. More than 50% of TACIS funds for Kazakhstan are used for the transition to a market economy [8].

TACIS has created all the conditions for the development of the investment climate, economic growth and political stability, as well as for the development of trade, necessary for the economic reorganization and modernization of Kazakhstan.

Despite the activities of a number of European programs, the actual economic interest of the EU became noticeable only by the end of the 90s. This resulted in a significant intensification of trade relations, strengthening of the project and investment presence of European companies mainly in the oil and gas industry of Kazakhstan. Of particular importance was the Concept of the Foreign Policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan adopted in 2000 and the program "Path to Europe" for 2009-2011 on September 4, 2008. "The main goal of the adopted program was to bring our country to the level of strategic partnership with leading European countries, which will be expressed in a significant increase in trade turnover with European countries, the development of joint plans for the development of transport networks, bringing technical regulations and standards in line with the requirements of EU countries, improving Kazakh legislation taking into account European standards, etc. To achieve this goal, several tasks were envisaged. The first of them concerns the development and deepening of cooperation between Kazakhstan and European countries in such areas as technology, energy, transport, technical regulation and metrology, small and medium-sized businesses. In particular, special attention is paid to the expansion of cooperation in the field of quality of life, which provides for the convergence of Kazakhstan's living conditions with European standards. Systematic work was also planned to improve the state of the environment, protect water resources, prevent climate change, preserve biodiversity, and improve the quality of medical services provided to the population. In addition, it was envisaged to develop cooperation in the field of education, social support, employment and labor migration. The second task was aimed at improving Kazakhstan's institutional and legal framework using positive European experience. "The main emphasis is placed on the further development of the Kazakh model of government, the introduction of effective management systems of the civil service and human resources, the liberalization of the political life of the country. The third task was to prepare for Kazakhstan's chairmanship in the OSCE in 2010.

The implementation of the program allowed Kazakhstan to achieve significant promotion of key interests on the European continent, to reach the level of strategic partnership with the leading EU countries (Germany, France, Italy and Spain) in the political, trade and economic fields.

The state program has fulfilled an important task of forming a favorable international background around the country, which is necessary to ensure the OSCE chairmanship and to hold a summit in Astana in December 2010, which, according to W. Kemp, "became a triumph of common sense." The summit itself helped to cement Kazakhstan's rapidly and steadily growing relations with the EU."



The "Path to Europe" helped the European side to clarify promising areas of concrete cooperation. This, in particular, was confirmed by the head of the EU Delegation to Kazakhstan, N. Justen, speaking at the international conference on "Kazakhstan – Europe: results and new horizons of Cooperation" held on November 24, 2011, which was dedicated to the completion of the State Program "The Way to Europe".

Systematization of priorities of interaction with the EU countries further led Kazakhstan to a conceptual vision of the new agreement and, ultimately, contributed to the fact that the country achieved the consent of the European side to start negotiations on the preparation of an Agreement on expanded partnership and cooperation.

The beginning of the 2nd stage of the history of relations between Kazakhstan and the EU can be considered December 21, 2015, when the Agreement on Expanded Partnership and Cooperation between the Republic of Kazakhstan on the one hand and the European Union and its member states on the other hand was signed in the capital of our country.

The Kazakhstan-European Agreement on Expanded Partnership and Cooperation entered into force on March 1, 2020. This is an important document that will create a better business environment in such areas as trade in services, the creation and operation of companies, the movement of capital, raw materials and energy, and the protection of intellectual property rights. Unfortunately, due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Agreement is only partially implemented so far. Despite this, in 2020, the EU and Kazakhstan held all planned discussions in the format of videoconferences. There are already positive results. Thus, a "High-level Business platform" has been created between the European Union and Kazakhstan in the field of trade and investment. This is the first significant result of the Kazakh-European agreement.

Research results

The Partnership and Cooperation Agreement signed between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the European Union should be of a non-standard nature. Namely, it should have specifics reflecting the features of a Central Asian country lying between Europe and Asia, a region rich in natural resources, in particular, energy raw materials, a capacious consumption market and, consequently, profitable for capital investment. Cooperation with the European Union provides for interaction with other important international organizations, such as the OSCE, NATO, the European Parliament, the Council of Europe, membership and cooperation with which is very beneficial and prestigious for our Republic. Currently, Kazakhstan has a European initiative in the field of democracy and human rights protection. In the future, it is necessary to further develop democratic provisions between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the European Union in accordance with the PCA. Whatever processes are taking place in the world, Europe has been, is and will be one of the centers of world development. Therefore, the Republic of Kazakhstan should intensify its partnership relations with Europe, take all the positive from the process of European integration.

The main goal of establishing partnership relations between Kazakhstan and the EU is the development of political and economic cooperation with the countries of Western Europe, the establishment of an equal partnership with the European Community and the integration of Kazakhstan into the European Economic Community.

Conclusion

The very emergence of the concept of "The Way to Europe" in a country located in the center of the Eurasian geopolitical space, not only opened Kazakhstan to Europe in a new way, but also contributed to the erosion of common stereotypes in the European consciousness. It was no longer Kazakhstan discovering Europe, but Europe discovering a new Kazakhstan.

As a result, the development and subsequent implementation of the State Program, which is one of the most important political documents aimed at modernizing the economy of the country and the whole society, brought Kazakhstan to a qualitatively new level of domestic political and economic development. "The path to Europe has become an important attempt to apply the centuries-old positive experience of the whole continent-Europe - for the development of a young



sovereign country. The entry into force of the Agreement on Expanded Partnership and Cooperation will fix a new reality of relations between Kazakhstan and the European Union.

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Журасова А.Ш., Аянова А.А.

ҚАЗАҚСТАННЫҢ ЕВРООДАҚПЕН ЫНТЫМАҚТАСТЫҒЫНЫҢ ТАРИХЫ МЕН МАҢЫЗЫ

Аңдатпа. Қазақстанның тәуелсіздік алуының отызжылдық тарихы экономикалық-әлеуметтік дамумен қатар сыртқы саясаттың да келелі істерімен ерекшеленеді. Тәуелсіз мемлекет ретінде өз даму жолын таңдаған Қазақстан үшін сыртқы саясат мемлекет саясатының маңызды құрамдас бөлігі болып табылды. Мемлекет өз даму жолының стратегиясын қалыптастырған сәттен сыртқы саясат көпвекторлы сипатқа ие болды. Қазақстанның көпвекторлы сыртқы саясатында әлемнің маңызды интеграциялық одағы ретіндегі Европалық Одақпен ынтымақтастығы ерекше орын алды. Осыған орай мақалада Қазақстанның Европалық Одақпен ынтымақтастығының қажеттілігі мен қалыптасу және жүзеге асу жолдарының тарихы талданады. Сонымен қатар европалық Одақ үшін Қазақстанның маңыздылығы сараланады. Бұл ынтымақтастықтың қазіргі жаһандық дамудағы орны айқындалады.

Кілт сөздер: тарих, мемлекет, сыртқы саясат, президент, интеграция, көпвекторлық, бағдарлама, халықаралық байланыс, стратегия, концепция.

**Журасова А.Ш., Аянова А.А.****ИСТОРИЯ И ЗНАЧЕНИЕ СОТРУДНИЧЕСТВА КАЗАХСТАНА С
ЕВРОСОЮЗОМ**

Аннотация. Тридцатилетняя история обретения Казахстаном независимости отличается не только экономико-социальным развитием, но и внешней политикой. Для Казахстана, выбравшего свой путь развития как независимого государства, внешняя политика стала важной составляющей государственной политики. С момента формирования государством стратегии своего пути развития внешняя политика приобрела многовекторный характер. Особое место в многовекторной внешней политике Казахстана занимает сотрудничество с Европейским Союзом как важнейшим интеграционным Союзом мира. В этой связи в статье анализируется необходимость и история становления и пути реализации сотрудничества Казахстана с Европейским Союзом. Также будет дифференцирована значимость Казахстана для Европейского Союза. Определяется место этого сотрудничества в современном глобальном развитии.

Ключевые слова: история, государство, внешняя политика, президент, интеграция, многовекторность, программа, международные связи, стратегия, концепция.