

Kazakhstan's cooperation with the USA. Historical aspect

Kazakhstan favors expanding constructive interaction with the USA, taking into account this country's leading role in the world. Of particular significance in establishing constructive relations with the USA was the Kazakh leadership's decision to voluntarily give up the status of nuclear power.

This fact largely predetermined the future nature of bilateral relations. The former US president, Bill Clinton said that the world had been saved from another threat of nuclear terrorism and nuclear proliferation and praised President Nursultan Nazarbayev for this.

This policy resulted in the memorandum, signed in Budapest on 5 December 1994, on the provision of security guarantees by the United Kingdom, Russia and the USA which aims to ensure the long-term security of the country.

The energy sector plays a special part in the development of economic cooperation. One of the first foreign companies that started operations in Kazakhstan was Chevron, which commenced the development of the Tengiz oil field in 1993. Chevron and Mobil were involved in the construction of the Caspian Pipeline Consortium (CPC) pipeline, which was completed in 2001. Kazakhstan joined the trans-Caucasian Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC) oil pipeline in June 2006.

The USA is one of the largest investors in the Kazakh economy. Direct US investment totals about \$15bn. Kazakh-US trade stood at \$2,046m in 2007 (2.5% of Kazakhstan's total foreign trade).

There are 374 Kazakh-US joint ventures and 91 representatives of US companies registered in Kazakhstan.

Great hopes are pinned on the Kazakh-US initiative of public-private partnership adopted in February 2008, which will support not only US energy projects in Kazakhstan but will also attract US investment and innovations in the non-extractive sector of the Kazakh economy.

Kazakhstan attaches particular significance to developing cooperation with the influential military and political organization NATO, consistently speaking for the realization of the existing potential in aspects such as defence policy, scientific research, the development of defence technologies, political and defence measures aimed at the prevention of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

The current relations between Kazakhstan and NATO are characterized by positive, consistent development and are mutually beneficial in nature, including the Partnership for Peace programme, drafted to build new relations in the security sphere between NATO and its partner.