

# Country Policy Communique

## News from Central Asia and the Eastern Neighbourhood

July-August-September 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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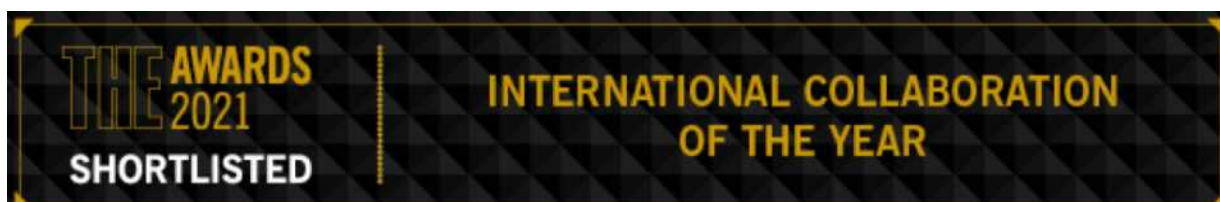
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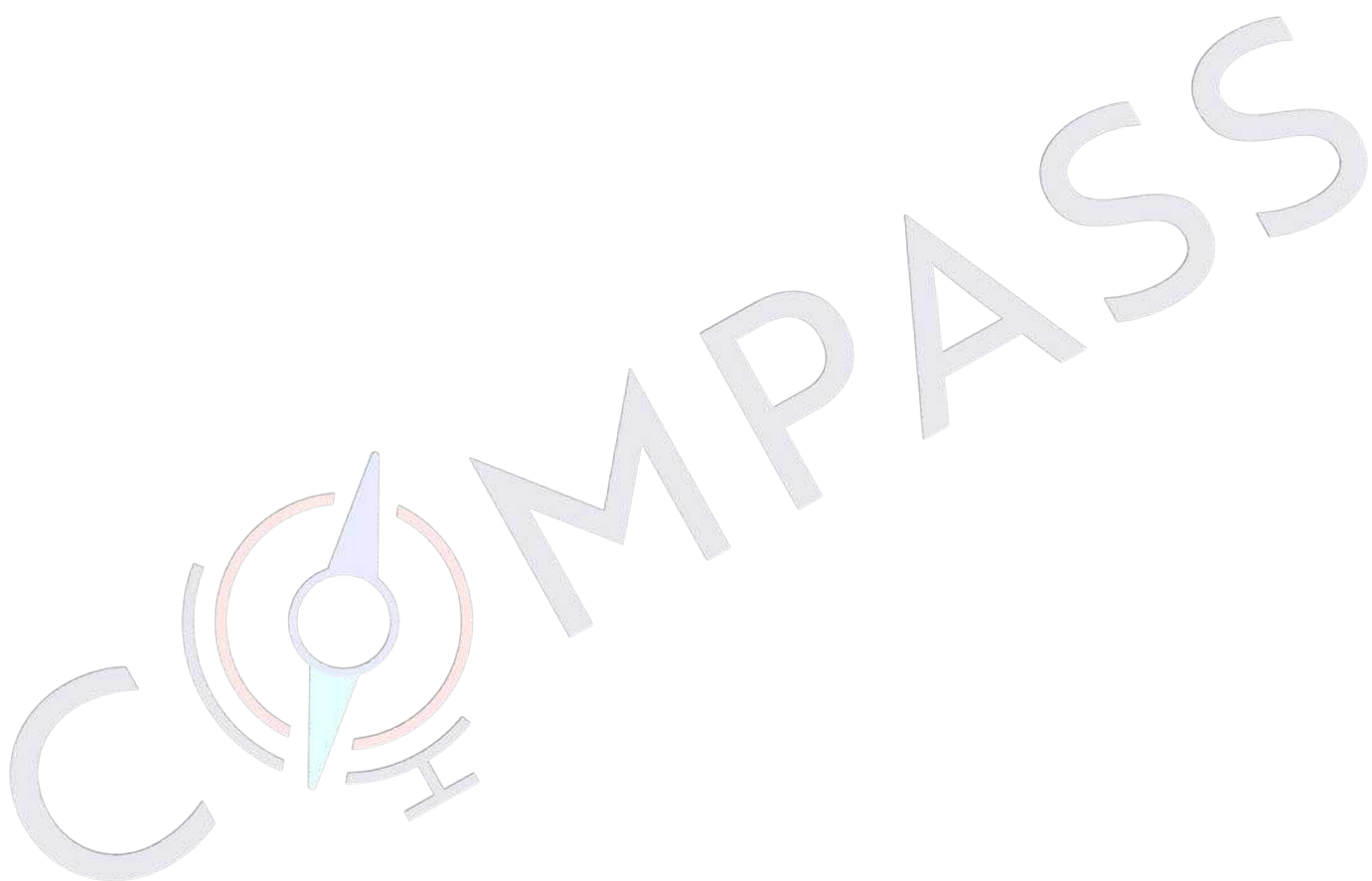
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# Azerbaijan

## July 2021

### **Azerbaijan hands over Armenian soldiers in Swap for land mine maps**

03.07.2021

Source: [Radio Free Europe / Radio Liberty](#)

Azerbaijan handed over 15 captured Armenian soldiers in exchange for land mine maps, the two countries' foreign ministries said on July 3.

Azerbaijan and ethnic Armenian forces fought a six-week war that ended with a Moscow-brokered cease-fire in November which saw Baku regain control over parts of the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region and seven adjacent districts.

In a statement, Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry said Russia mediated a deal for Armenia to provide maps detailing the location of around 92,000 anti-tank and anti-personnel mines in the recaptured Fizuli and Zangilan regions. "As a humane step, the Azerbaijani side has extradited to Armenia 15 people of Armenian origin," it said.

"As a goodwill gesture, the Armenian side provided Azerbaijan with maps of minefields in the Fizuli and Zangilan regions," the Armenian government said.

Nagorno-Karabakh and surrounding districts are among the most heavily mined areas of the former Soviet Union. Since the November cease-fire, seven Azerbaijani troops and 18 civilians have died and more than 100 have been wounded by land mines in the area.

Azerbaijan's government hopes obtaining mine maps will help save lives and accelerate construction so that people displaced from villages and towns during a bloody conflict in the early 1990s can return to their lands.

In June, Azerbaijan and Armenia struck a similar deal that traded 15 prisoners for mine maps of the Agdam district.

### **BP: Azerbaijan produced 25.8bcm natural gas in 2020**

13.07.2021

Source: Azernews

Azerbaijan's natural gas production amounted to 25.8 billion cubic meters in 2020, which is a growth by 6 percent compared to 2019, BP said in its annual statistical review of the world's energy report.

The country's proven natural gas reserves amounted to 2.5 trillion cubic meters at the end of 2020, BP said.

According to the report, by the end of 2020, proven global gas reserves amounted to 188.1 trillion cubic meters, and Azerbaijan's share in it was 1.3 percent.



The natural gas consumption in the country amounted to 11.9 billion cubic meters in 2020 while total exports of natural gas from Azerbaijan by pipelines were reported at 13.6 billion cubic meters, according to the report.

Furthermore, BP reported Azerbaijan's proved oil reserves to stay unchanged from the end of 2019 as well, and amount to 7 billion barrels at the end of 2020. The country's proven oil reserves amounted to 1.2 billion barrels at the end of 2000.

By the end of 2020, proven world's oil reserves hit 244.4 billion barrels, with Azerbaijan accounting for 0.4 percent.

Meanwhile, Azerbaijan's crude oil and condensate production amounted to 702,000 barrels per day. Oil consumption in the country amounted to 92,000 barrels per day in 2020.

It should be noted that the countries with the largest oil reserves in the world remain Venezuela with 303.8 billion barrels, Saudi Arabia with 297.5 billion barrels and Canada with 168.1 billion barrels.

### **Azerbaijan, Turkey, Pakistan sign Baku Declaration**

27.07.2021

Source: [Azernews](#)

The parliaments of Azerbaijan, Turkey and Pakistan have signed the Baku Declaration on cooperation. The document was signed following the trilateral meeting held by speakers of the three countries' parliaments on July 27.

The Chairman of the Turkish Parliament Mustafa Shentop said that the Baku Declaration signed between Azerbaijan, Turkey and Pakistan, will contribute to ensure the regional security. Addressing the trilateral meeting with his Azerbaijani and Pakistani counterparts in Baku, Shentop said that "the Baku Declaration, which will be signed following the meeting, will contribute to ensuring security in the region. This document will play an important role in terms of institutionalizing trilateral relations." "I think that holding of meetings in this format will contribute to the further development of relations among three fraternal countries," he added. The Chairman stressed the importance of friendship, and brotherhood among Turkey, Pakistan and Azerbaijan, by stating that the first meeting of the speakers of the parliaments of Azerbaijan, Pakistan and Turkey will be held in Baku on the initiative of Islamabad. In his words, the international platform and mechanism would strengthen relations among three countries in the future. Shentop reminded that during the second Karabakh war, both Turkey and Pakistan politically and morally supported Azerbaijan.

Addressing the meeting, Speaker of the Azerbaijani Parliament Sahiba Gafarova said that a trilateral platform of cooperation between the three countries' parliaments is being created. Gafarova said that meetings will be held in this format, and the transformation of this format into an even more fruitful platform over time will strengthen ties between the three countries.

In turn, Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan Asad Qaiser highly appreciated the establishment of a trilateral format of cooperation between the parliaments of Azerbaijan, Pakistan and Turkey. "We must expand our cooperation in the cultural, economic, educational, and other fields," the speaker said. Qaiser stated that within this platform, regular meetings will be held to discuss key issues. Furthermore, the speaker expressed Pakistan's satisfaction with Azerbaijan's victory during the 44-day Karabakh war. "This victory became possible thanks to the efforts of President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev, the unity of the Azerbaijani people," the chairman added.

Earlier President Ilham Aliyev received the delegations headed by Speaker of Pakistan's National Assembly, Asad Qaiser and by Chairman of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey Mustafa Sentop.

## August 2021

### **Azerbaijani firefighters prevent spread of fires in Turkey's Marmaris region**

02.08.2021

Source: [Azernews](#)

Azerbaijani firefighters have prevented the spread of fires in some parts of Turkey's Marmaris region. The Azerbaijan Ministry of Emergency Situations continues to carry out work in this direction.

The Ministry of Emergency Situations has sent the groups of firefighters to Turkey in accordance with the instructions of the President Ilham Aliyev to extinguish forest fires and prevent their further spread.

The first group consisted of 100 firefighters who arrived in Turkey's Mugla province. Another team of firefighters and rescuers was sent to the fraternal country on July 31 night.

The second group includes 220 firefighters and rescuers, 53 firefighting and special rescue equipment, 1 helicopter, 1 ambulance.

Meanwhile, the Azerbaijan Ministry of Emergency Situations has sent a delegation of senior officials.

The delegation headed by Deputy Minister of Emergency Situations Lieutenant General Etibar Mirzayev left for Turkey on the morning of August 2.

### **Baku urges Russia peacekeepers to end Armenian troops' deployment in Azerbaijan**

11.08.2021

Source: Azernews

Baku has urged Russian peacekeepers, which have been temporarily stationed on Azerbaijani territories under the November 10, 2020, trilateral peace deal, to put an end to the Armenian troops' deployment on the formerly Armenian-occupied Azerbaijani territories currently under their control.

In an official statement published on its website on August 11, the Azerbaijani Defence Ministry said: "In accordance with the provisions of the tripartite statement, the Russian

Federation's peacekeeping forces must put an end to the deployment of the Armenian armed forces on the Azerbaijani territories where they are temporarily stationed". The ministry underlined that under the trilateral deal signed by the Azerbaijani, Russian and Armenian leaders in 2020, the remnants of the Armenian armed forces have not been fully removed from the Azerbaijani territories. The statement stressed that Armenia has recently been flagrantly violating the trilateral deal by moving its armed forces to Azerbaijan, where Russian peacekeepers are temporarily stationed, and setting up new Armenian posts near Mukhtarkand and Shushakand, as well as in the eastern part of Kalbajar and Lachin regions.

The presence of any Armenian serviceman on Azerbaijan's internationally-recognized territories is believed to be in violation of the November 10 peace deal signed by Baku, Moscow and Yerevan that ended the 44-day war between Armenia and Azerbaijan in 2020.

About 2,000 Russian peacekeepers have been deployed for five years in Karabakh under the Moscow-brokered trilateral cease-fire deal. The signed agreement obliged Armenia to withdraw all its troops from the Azerbaijani lands that it had occupied since the early 1990s.

The deal also stipulated the return of Azerbaijan's Kalbajar, Aghdam and Lachin regions. Before the signing of the peace deal, Azerbaijan liberated 300 villages, settlements, city centres, and historic Shusha city that had been under Armenian occupation for about 30 years.

### **Aliyev criticizes Russia's arms supplies to Armenia**

16.08.2021

Source: [Caucasus Watch](#)

In an interview with the Turkish television channel CNN Türk, Azerbaijani leader Ilham Aliyev was critical of Russia's alleged plan to intensively supply Armenia with weapons. Aliyev openly warned Russia against supplying arms to Armenia, recalling that many Russian weapons are already on display in the "trophy park" in downtown Baku. These words came several days after the meeting between Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu and his counterpart from Armenia Arshak Karapetyan.

"We expect Russia to implement all the provisions of the trilateral declaration [of November 9, 2020]. Because this trilateral declaration was signed by the leaders of Azerbaijan, Russia and Armenia and most of it has already been implemented. But there are some issues that are still open.... Russia, as a neighbour of Azerbaijan and a close ally of Armenia, certainly plays a special role in this region. This is only natural. We hope that Russia will continue to spare no effort to ensure security in the region and take measures to ensure lasting peace. At the same time, we assume that Russia will not arm Armenia. We have brought this issue to the attention of Russian officials. We are concerned about it. The war is over. The people of Armenia have come to terms with this situation. The Armenian government has also resigned itself to its own defeat, as the recent parliamentary elections in Armenia showed.

Thus, the population has already signalled its preference for a defeated party. Such a thing has never happened in history, that a defeated party is supported by the people..."

"The area in Khankandi (Stepanakert), which is under the control of the Russian peacekeeping mission, is now a safe area. At the same time, the situation on our border with Armenia is sometimes worrying, but on the whole it is stable. So, of course, we want Russia to take into account our concerns on this issue. Because no matter how many weapons are delivered, the balance of power will not change. Over the past 30 years, Russia has provided Armenia with billions of dollars worth of weapons for free - some of which are now on display in our trophy park..." Aliyev said.

Azerbaijani-Russian relations have been marked by growing tensions in recent weeks. Russia's Defence Ministry, for example, said on Aug. 12 that Azerbaijan had violated the ceasefire in Nagorno-Karabakh by using combat drones to attack Armenian positions. For its part, Azerbaijan insists that all Armenian military units must be withdrawn from the part of Nagorno-Karabakh where Russia's peacekeepers are stationed, which has not yet happened. In doing so, Baku refers to the 4th point of the November 9 Trilateral Declaration, which states that Armenian troops must be withdrawn from the region simultaneously with the deployment of the Russian peacekeeping contingent.

### **Yerevan accuses Azerbaijan of blocking major road connecting Two Parts of Armenian Region**

26.08.2021

Source: [Radio Free Europe](#) / [Radio Liberty](#)

Armenia's National Security Service (NSS) says that dozens of Azerbaijani soldiers have blocked a road between two parts of Armenia's southern region of Syunik after an alleged stabbing incident.

The NSS said that the Karmrakar-Shurnukh section of the Goris-Kapan highway was closed at about 11 p.m. on August 25, with vehicles in the area being removed.

It added that negotiations with the Azerbaijani side on the reopening of the road, which were reportedly conducted by Russian border guards deployed in the area as part of a peace accord, continued on August 26.

Azerbaijan did not immediately comment on the accusation, but earlier in the day its Defence Ministry claimed that two Armenian soldiers attempted to stab an Azerbaijani border guard in the area.

Armenia's Defence Ministry denied there was any incident, calling the statement a "sheer lie" and "more Azerbaijani disinformation."

A 21-kilometer stretch of the road linking two Armenian towns, Goris and Kapan, was built in the Soviet times partly through the territory of Azerbaijan due to peculiarities of the local terrain.



It created no problems during Soviet times when borders between Soviet republics were administrative.

After the disintegration of the Soviet Union and a 1992-1994 war in the breakaway region of Nagorno-Karabakh, the territory came under the full control of ethnic Armenians who declared their independence from Baku in the former autonomous region and expanded into some territories outside of Nagorno-Karabakh proper.

Azerbaijani forces regained control of the territory as a result of last year's war with Armenia.

Under a Russian-brokered peace accord signed between Yerevan and Baku to end the conflict, the 21-kilometer section of the road will continue to be used by Armenians under the supervision of Russian border guards until Armenia can build an alternative road.

Azerbaijani forces regained control of the territory as a result of last year's war with Armenia that ended with a Russian-brokered cease-fire agreement signed between Yerevan and Baku to end the conflict.

Eventually, an arrangement was made between Armenia and Russia that the 21-kilometer section of the road will continue to be used by Armenians under the control of Russian border-guards until Armenia can build another alternative road for all types of transportation that will connect two parts of the Syunik region, which is also vital for Armenia's connection with Iran.

## September 2021

### Turkey, Azerbaijan, Pakistan launches joint military drills in Baku

12.09.2021

Source: [Daily Sabah](#)

Turkish, Azerbaijani and Pakistani militaries launched their first-ever joint exercises "Three Brothers – 2021" in Baku on Sunday.

Speaking at the ceremony, Lt. Gen. Hikmat Mirzayev, Azerbaijan's special forces commander, said he was pleased to see the representatives of Turkish and Pakistani special forces in his country. "Azerbaijan, Turkey and Pakistan have entered the history of humanity as close friends and brothers. At the heart of these relations are the close ties between our peoples. Evidence of this can be seen in the solidarity and support of Turkey and Pakistan to Azerbaijan from the first day of the 44-day counteroffensive operations launched by Azerbaijan against the Armenian armed forces on Sept. 27, 2020," Azerbaijan's Defence Ministry quoted him as saying.

He was referring to the Nagorno-Karabakh war, which began last September and ended six weeks later following a Russia-brokered truce in November.

"Today, cooperation between our countries in all areas is at the highest level. Important measures are being taken to further strengthen and develop our relations to ensure the region's and peoples' security," Mirzayev said.



He hoped that the exercises, which will be held until Sept. 20, will provide an extensive exchange of experience and views between servicemen of the three countries and will "greatly contribute" to further improvement of the professional training.

The heads of Turkish and Pakistani delegations, Lt. Col. Kursat Konuk and Lt. Col. Aamir Shahzad, said the existing bond of friendship between the nations and armies "would stand the test of time" in a rapidly changing global environment.

Turkey and Azerbaijan held joint live-fire drills in Baku earlier this year.

### **Azerbaijan levies duties on vehicles going through Armenia's Goris-Kapan road**

13.09.2021

Source: [OC Media](#)

Armenian authorities have complained about Azerbaijani border guards searching and charging transport duties on Iranian cars passing through sections of Armenia's Goris-Kapan road that are controlled by Azerbaijan. Azerbaijani authorities have said that the checks and fees are part of established protocol.

The Goris-Kapan road is the primary traffic artery in southern Armenia. The Soviet-era road skirts and occasionally crosses the internationally recognised border between Armenia and Azerbaijan. Since the end of the Second Nagorno-Karabakh War, a roughly 20-kilometre section of the road has been under Azerbaijani control.

According to Civilnet, an independent media outlet based in Yerevan, Iranian drivers were told that they had to pay \$130 to be allowed to drive through the road. Additionally, Azerbaijani troops reportedly erected banners on both sides of the road that read: 'You are entering the territory of Azerbaijan'.

Azerbaijan's State Customs Committee stated on Monday that the Iranian cars passing through the Goris-Kapan highway are subject to a 'state duty for the issuance of a permit regulating international road transport in the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan'.

Armenia's National Security Service has since announced that they are currently in discussion with Russian border officials, who are stationed on that same stretch of road, to address the issue.

In recent months, Azerbaijani authorities have expressed consternation with Iranian cargo vehicles entering the sections of Nagorno-Karabakh overseen by Russian peacekeepers. In August, Azerbaijan sent an official 'diplomatic note' to Iran over the issue.

### **Armenia, Azerbaijan mark one-year anniversary of war**

27.09.2021

Source: [Eurasianet](#)

A year after the outbreak of war between Azerbaijan and Armenia, the two countries commemorated those who were killed in the fighting.

On September 27, 2020, Azerbaijan launched an offensive aimed at retaking the territories it had lost in the first war with Armenia in the 1990s. In the 44 days of fighting that followed, an estimated 7,000 soldiers and civilians were killed and tens of thousands wounded. Azerbaijan managed to take back most of its lost territory, forcing thousands of ethnic Armenians to flee their homes. Meanwhile, the hundreds of thousands of Azerbaijanis who were themselves forced to flee in the first war have not yet been able to return to their former homes, though the Azerbaijani government has been quickly reconstructing some infrastructure in its retaken territories.

On the evening of September 26, thousands marched to Yerevan's Yerablur military cemetery, carrying torches in commemoration of those who were killed. Another torchlight march was held the same evening in Stepanakert, the de facto capital of Nagorno-Karabakh.

The Yerevan march was led by former president Robert Kocharyan and members of other opposition parties. "Today is a memorial march. With this march, we show that we do not accept defeat, we will stand up and continue the work of our heroes," said Ishkhan Saghatelyan, the deputy speaker of parliament for the Kocharyan-led Armenia Alliance.

In a sign of the deep political grievances that continue to divide the country, even events like independence day celebrations or memorials to fallen soldiers cannot unite Armenians: Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan paid a separate visit to Yerablur the following morning.

In both Armenia and Karabakh, a minute of silence was observed at 11 a.m.

Pashinyan also telephoned the de facto leader of Nagorno-Karabakh, Arayik Harutyunyan; Pashinyan's office said the two men discussed ongoing efforts to "ensure the return of Armenian prisoners of war held in Azerbaijan to the homeland, the solution of security issues, as well as the ensuring normal life in Artsakh [an alternate Armenian name for Karabakh], the improvement of infrastructure and the construction of housing."

On the morning of the anniversary, the Investigative Committee of Armenia announced an updated official number of deaths during the war: 3,781, including both soldiers and civilians. As of now, the whereabouts of 231 service members and 22 civilians are unknown.

In Azerbaijan, a series of events marking the date took place that mixed the commemorative with the triumphal. President Ilham Aliyev decreed that the anniversary would be marked annually as Memorial Day, devoted to the soldiers killed during the war. Azerbaijan has said that 2,907 of its soldiers were killed.

Aliyev said that the foundation for a new war memorial and Museum of Victory would be laid that day.

Aliyev and his wife, First Vice President Mehriban Aliyeva, attended a march of 3,000 soldiers in Baku to the site of the war memorial and museum.

Azerbaijan also observed a minute of silence, at 12 o'clock.

In Shusha, the historic Karabakh city that was the single biggest prize of the war, a small military parade was held.

## **President: Azerbaijan ready for dialogue with Armenia**

28.09.2021

Source: [Azernews](#)

President Ilham Aliyev has said that Azerbaijan is ready for a dialogue with Armenia to go towards peace.

He made the remarks in an interview with the French France 24 TV channel on September 28.

"Azerbaijan never, even during the war, during the occupation, never objected any kind of high-level contacts. On the contrary, we think that these communications may answer many questions which both sides may have, and also to be a starting point for the new development of the region," he said.

The president said that his meeting with Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan is possible if the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs come up with a relevant initiative.

Aliyev noted the conflict between the two countries is resolved and there should be no return to the past. "There should be no signs of revanchism in Armenia. We need to talk about the future, we need to talk about peace, and how to make our region more stable and safe," he underlined.

"The meeting of the foreign ministers of both countries [in New York on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly's 76th session] is a good indicator of these endeavors. I hope that it will not be the only meeting, but it will be the beginning of a new process, the process of normalization of relations between Azerbaijan and Armenia and the process which will give and can give a new dimension to broad cooperation in the region of Southern Caucasus," Aliyev stated.

The president ruled out any territorial claims by Azerbaijan to Armenia.

Aliyev stated that like every other nation, Azerbaijan's young generation should know national and ancient history, and which territories they were living on and how to go back.

Aliyev noted that during the war France was not behaving like an honest broker, as it took Armenia's side, openly accusing Azerbaijan, demonstrating a one-sided approach in its statements and actions. "If France was not a co-chair of the Minsk Group, of course, any kind of relations between any kind of countries is up to them. And we know about the historical ties between France and Armenia, we know about the very active Armenian community in France, which to a certain degree may influence decision-makers," the president added. Aliyev also expressed the hope that as an honest broker, as a co-chair of the Minsk group France will be committed to this responsibility.

Speaking about prisoners of war, the president underlined that all those taken as prisoners during the 44-day war in 2020 have been returned to Armenia. He noted that those who are currently held in Azerbaijan, according to all international conventions cannot be considered as prisoners of war, as they have been detained after the war stopped. Aliyev underlined that many of them had already been returned to Armenia as a sign of goodwill.

## **Azerbaijan-Iran relations strained over truck driver arrests**

28.09.2021

Source: [Eurasianet](#)

Azerbaijan's relations with Iran have been in flux since the end of last year's war with Armenia. The most recent rocky period started when Azerbaijan began charging fees to Iranian trucks on a road through southern Armenia that passes through slices of Azerbaijani territory in some places.

At first, Iran remained silent even after Azerbaijani police and customs confirmed the practice. Armenian media reported that some of the trucks targeted had been "transporting cement to Yerevan and Stepanakert," the de facto capital of Nagorno-Karabakh. The territory is internationally recognized as Azerbaijani but had been controlled by Armenian forces since the first war between the two sides in the 1990s.

The drivers had been detained because they "entered Azerbaijan illegally from Armenia and relevant measures will be taken," spokesperson of the Ministry of Interior Affairs of Azerbaijan Ehsan Zahidov confirmed the following day. Azerbaijan has long held that entry into Karabakh via Armenia amounts to an illegal border crossing.

Iran's foreign ministry responded by demanding the release of the drivers and to meet with Azerbaijani officials to resolve the issue.

A series of meetings have taken place since then but the fate of the drivers is still unknown.

Tension has been exacerbated by naval military exercises conducted jointly by Turkey and Azerbaijan in the Caspian Sea. Iran's foreign ministry said that the drills violated an international convention banning foreign military forces from the sea. (Azerbaijani analysts retorted that Iran is the only Caspian littoral country not to have ratified the convention.) Iran then held its own military drills close to its border with Azerbaijan.

Meanwhile, in Iran a variety of officials have been heaping abuse on Azerbaijan. In Baku, however, analysts say the government appears to be motivated by long-running irritation at Iranian trucks supplying Nagorno-Karabakh.

Following Azerbaijan's gaining control of some stretches of the road, which connects the key southern Armenian cities of Goris and Kapan and which is Armenia's only highway to Iran, Baku has been able to act on those Iranian deliveries.

The war also resulted in Azerbaijan regaining territory very close to the Lachin corridor, the road that connects Armenia to Nagorno-Karabakh. That has allowed Azerbaijan to surveil the road for what it sees as illegal border crossings. President Aliyev, in a September 27 interview with Turkish media, said that in the period between August 11 and September 11 Baku had counted 60 Iranian trucks using the road. Some of them, he said, appeared to be trying to hide their identity by using Armenian license plates.

He also said Iranian officials had repeatedly refused to act. "The first time [the Azerbaijani side issued] a verbal warning, the second, an official note, and the third, posts - customs,

border, police. In this way we have begun to control the road through Azerbaijani territory," Aliyev said. As a result, he said, the number of Iranian trucks passing through Lachin has "dropped to zero."

As for the most recent tensions between the two countries, political analyst Eldar Mamedov suggests they will not fundamentally change the relationship.





# Belarus

## July 2021

### **Secretary of Russia's Security Council Nikolai Patrushev visiting Minsk**

29.06.2021

Source: Belarusian Telegraph Agency ([Report 1](#), [Report 2](#))

Secretary of the Russia's Security Council Nikolai Patrushev was in Minsk on an official visit.

The agenda of the visit included meeting with Belarus President Aleksandr Lukashenko.

During the meeting Lukashenko and Patrushev discussed not only cooperation in security but also in the defense sector and military industry. Nikolai Patrushev noted that he is happy to be in Minsk and to see positive changes. "Every time I come to Belarus I am happy to see what is going on here," he said.

Bilateral consultations of Belarus and Russia Security Councils were hosted the same day by Secretary of the Russian Security Council Nikolai Patrushev and State Secretary of the Belarusian Security Council Aleksandr Volfovich and brought together representatives of ministries and agencies of the two countries. The consultations focused on the hybrid influences on Russia and Belarus, response to the attempts to interfere with the internal affairs of sovereign states. There was an exchange of views on pressing issues of international security, including the Open Skies Treaty, the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, and biological security. The parties outlined the plans regarding further cooperation between the Security Councils, defense ministries, special services and law enforcement agencies of Russia and Belarus.

### **Foreigners encouraged to get vaccine shots in Belarus**

01.07.2021

Source: [Belarusian Telegraph Agency](#)

Citizens of 73 countries allowed to come without visas and stay in Belarus for up to five days in order to get COVID-19 vaccine shots (during 15 July 2021 to 31 December 2022). The established procedure for the vaccination of foreigners (including collection and processing of applications in an information system, the actual vaccination, and the issuance of vaccination certificates) will be applied to all the foreign citizens, including those, who can enter Belarus due to other reasons.

### **Belarusian government discusses counteraction to Western sanctions**

06.07.2021

Source: [Belarusian Telegraph Agency](#)

Belarus President Aleksandr Lukashenko called to work out measures to mitigate sanctions' negative impact on Belarus, he also compared restrictive measures to blackmailing. "There should not be any economic slowdown or downturn. This is out of the question. A war is going on," Aleksandr Lukashenko said.

Next round of sanctions was introduced on June 22, 2021.

According to Aleksandr Lukashenko, “we don’t want the Belarusian people to be hurt. It is the key thing for us. It is the government’s job to come up with effective measures to compensate for the losses and preserve jobs.” Possible counter-measures are to include import substitution, domestic demand stimulation, restriction in regard to certain foreign companies (at example of Skoda, Nivea, and so on), suspension of transit from certain countries via Belarus.

“The government and the National Bank should take a close look at the Western companies doing business in Belarus. Those, who show a responsible attitude and understand us, are free to cooperate with us. But if someone fails to understand us and has started a fight against the Belarusian state, you know how they should be dealt with,” Aleksandr Lukashenko said.

### **New head of Belarus President Property Management Directorate appointed**

08.07.2021

Source: [Belarusian Telegraph Agency](#)

Belarus President Aleksandr Lukashenko has appointed Valery Ivanov Head of the Belarus President Property Management Directorate. Valery Ivanov has been in charge of the Belarusian National Union of Consumer Societies (Belkoopsoyuz).

Aleksandr Lukashenko said: “I’ve decided to put you in charge of the president property directorate. It is one of the top 11 government jobs. In addition to running the president property directorate you will have to take care of matters as a top government official. It means there are no matters in Belarus that you should not be concerned with. They are all yours regardless of wherever you go and whatever you do.”

BelTA reported earlier that on 15 June Aleksandr Lukashenko signed the decree to relieve Viktor Sheiman of his post as the head of the Belarus President Property Management Directorate.

### **Lukashenko and Putin held talks in St. Petersburg**

13.07.2021

Source: Belarusian Telegraph Agency ([Report 1](#), [Report 2](#))

Belarus President Aleksandr Lukashenko and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin held talks in the Konstantinovsky Palace in St. Petersburg on 13 July. The heads of state discussed cooperation prospects in various fields and the international agenda.

Vladimir Putin noted that in 2020, the trade between the countries increased by 17%. In April - May of this year, the trade was on the rise too. It surged by more than 37%. "This is a good indicator," the Russian head of state emphasized, stressing that “Belarus is a reliable, stable partner”. In St. Petersburg the presidents are set to decide how to move forward, the Russian head of state said.

Aleksandr Lukashenko noted the need to pay close attention to the security of Belarus and Russia, stressed the importance of economic cooperation. He addressed in details internal situation in Belarus and mentioned that the Belarusian government had started a vigorous campaign to crack down on various not-for-profit organizations, non-governmental organizations, and so-called Western mass media.

### **Belarus legislation on protection of sovereignty and constitutional system amended**

15.07.2021

Source: [Belarusian Telegraph Agency](#)

Belarus President Aleksandr Lukashenko has signed the law on amending the laws on protecting the sovereignty and the constitutional system.

The law amends the law on the state of emergency. In line with the Constitution and this law in addition to natural calamities and catastrophes the reasons for declaring the state of emergency include riots accompanied by violence or the threat of violence from a group of individuals and organizations, which endangers lives and health of people, the territorial integrity and the existence of the state. There was no clear definition of rioting in the past. It led to the controversial understanding of reasons for declaring a state of emergency particularly if riots do not look like mass-scale ones. For these reasons the law describes riots as attempts to forcibly change the constitutional system, capture or assume authority, as an armed insurrection, mass riots, interethnic and interreligious conflicts, which are accompanied by violent actions that pose an immediate threat to the lives and safety of citizens.

The new law also clarifies the list of possible extraordinary measures and temporary restrictions, which can be introduced when the state of emergency is declared. This norm was worked out taking into account the experience of response to riots in 2020. Thus, the possible extraordinary measures and temporary restrictions now include the suspension of publication and distribution of mass media products (including foreign ones), the introduction of a special procedure for reporter accreditation, the restriction on access to Internet resources and online media. The authority of the commandant of the territory where the state of emergency is introduced is clarified and expanded by the law.

The list of law enforcement, security, and defense bodies, which are employed to enforce the state of emergency, has been expanded to include paramilitary organizations. It will allow most effectively and completely legally deploy forces and assets of the Emergencies Ministry, the Investigative Committee, the State Forensic Examination Committee, and the Financial Investigations Department. The tasks such bodies may be assigned now include prevention and suppression of riots, protection of public order and public security.

Apart from that, the Belarusian army can now be used to accomplish tasks as part of the state response system in accordance with the law on the Armed Forces of the Republic of Belarus. Taking into account the accumulated practical experience the law specifies the army's tasks as part of this system: fight against terrorism, protection of public security, suppression of mass riots, protection of guarded persons, secure facilities and installations.

Apart from that, provisions of Belarus president ordinance No. 2 of 9 May 2021 on protecting the sovereignty and the constitutional system have been implemented into the law on the state of emergency and the law on the state of martial law.

### **Governmental Meeting to discuss Belarus' current foreign policy priorities**

20.07.2021

Source: [Belarusian Telegraph Agency](#)

Meeting that gathered Prime-minister, Head of Presidential Administration, members of the government, MFA chief officers and heads of Belarusian diplomatic missions abroad was led by Belarus President Aleksandr Lukashenko. Economic aspect of foreign policy was a focal point of the discussion. Personnel policy in MFA system was also discussed in details. As A. Lukashenko stated, "We need skilled diplomats, true specialists and patriots who will not be afraid to voice complaints and defend the honor of their country. You are soldiers without weapons".

### **Belarus President makes new appointments**

29.07.2021

Source: [Belarusian Telegraph Agency](#)

Aleksandr Lukashenko appointed Vladimir Kalach as Aide to the President - Inspector for Minsk Oblast, Aleksandr Vasiliev as head of the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Aleksandr Shastailo as Head of the Department of Internal Affairs of the Gomel Oblast Executive Committee.

New rectors of several universities, directors of state-controlled enterprises were approved as well.

## **August 2021**

### **Legislation on citizenship updated in Belarus**

05.08.2021

Source: [Belarusian Telegraph Agency](#)

Belarus President Aleksandr Lukashenko signed Decree No. 302 to amend legislation on citizenship. The decree introduces a new institution – the restoration of citizenship, expands foreigners and children for obtaining citizenship under a simplified procedure.

The document specifies the procedure of submitting materials to the president on the loss of Belarusian citizenship by naturalized persons due to the participation in extremist activities or inflicting serious damage to the interests of Belarus. The decree also regulates the process of terminating proceedings concerning the application for citizenship in cases envisaged in the law.

### **"Big Conversation with the President"**

09.08.2021

Source: [Belarusian Telegraph Agency](#)

Belarusian President Aleksandr Lukashenko held 8-hours long “Big Conversation with the President” - a meeting with the public, experts and media community in the format of a big press conference in Minsk on 9 August.

The questions traditionally focused on the domestic political situation in Belarus. Apart from politics the development of education, the improvement of the healthcare system, and economic processes were mentioned. Since the Big Conversation with the President was held exactly one year after the latest presidential election, a lot of the questions focused on last year’s events. Relations with the West, counteraction of sanctions, and the situation at the borders with the European Union were discussed.

Full video coverage of “Big Conversation” with translation into English is [availed by BelTA on YouTube](#).

### **Belarus takes part in CSTO extraordinary summit on Afghanistan**

23.08.2021

Source: [Belarusian Telegraph Agency](#)

Belarus President Aleksandr Lukashenko, State Secretary of the Security Council Aleksandr Volfovich, Minister of Foreign Affairs Vladimir Makei and Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces - First Deputy Defence Minister Viktor Gulevich took part in an extraordinary session of the Collective Security Council of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) on the situation in Afghanistan. The event was summoned at the initiative of Russia and was held in the format of a video conference. Leaders of the CSTO member states were joined by Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev.

The CSTO has been carefully monitoring the development of the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border. The main goal of the organization in the current circumstances is to ensure the security of the CSTO member states. The priority in the organization’s activities continues to be given to political and diplomatic means.

### **Telephone conversation with Russian President Vladimir Putin**

24.08.2021

Source: [Belarusian Telegraph Agency](#)

Aleksandr Lukashenko and Vladimir Putin had a telephone conversation in the evening of 23 August.

The two heads of state discussed the Union State programs; the work on them is nearing completion. Lukashenko and Putin also touched upon the upcoming Belarus-Russia strategic army exercise Zapad 2021. The presidents discussed in detail the situation on Belarus’ borders with NATO. They also talked about cooperation in personnel training for the military and special services, as well as interaction in mass media.

Presidents also scheduled high-level contacts for the near future.



## September 2021

### **Lukashenko meets with head of National Security Committee of Kazakhstan**

08.09.2021

Source: [Belarusian Telegraph Agency](#)

Aleksandr Lukashenko met with Chairman of Kazakhstan's National Security Committee Karim Massimov to discuss the prospects for the development of cooperation between the special services of the two countries.

Speaking about the cooperation of the special services of Belarus and Kazakhstan, Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that they have established productive cooperation. "The agreements that you will reach with your Belarusian counterpart [KGB head] will be executed faithfully. We will work together where it is necessary and beneficial for us and Kazakhstan," the head of state said. "It would be great if our special services establish an additional channel of communication through which we will discuss and make decisions on sensitive issues."

Belarus and Kazakhstan have traditionally friendly and close relations in all avenues. Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that at the CSTO summit in Dushanbe he intends to meet with Kazakhstan President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev and discuss the development of cooperation between the countries.

"I think we have a lot to discuss, as we are friendly countries. We have common goals and objectives. We must help each other," Karim Massimov said.

### **Bill to suspend Belarus-EU readmission agreement in parliament soon**

08.09.2021

Source: [Belarusian Telegraph Agency](#)

Aleksandr Lukashenko has decided in favor of bringing a bill on suspending the agreement between the Republic of Belarus and the European Union on the readmission of individuals, who stay without permission, into the House of Representatives of the National Assembly. The document was prepared by the government in response to unfriendly actions of the European Union and its member states towards Belarus, the press service of the Belarus President told.

The agreement stipulates the procedure for transferring, accepting, and returning the individuals, who violate terms of entry, stay, and residence. Belarus' corresponding obligations will be put on hold soon.

### **Lukashenko-Putin talks held in Moscow**

10.09.2021

Source: [Belarusian Telegraph Agency](#)

Belarusian President Aleksandr Lukashenko and Russian President Vladimir Putin held talks in the Kremlin on 9 September.

Lukashenko and Putin have reconciled all the 28 Union State programs. These programs will be discussed by the governments and later will be forwarded for consideration of the Supreme State Council of the Union State of Belarus and Russia, which session is supposed to take place by the end of the year.

There are 28 of Union State programs in total. These documents include the agreements on economic integration, which embraces common approaches to macroeconomic policies, monetary aspects, industrial and agrarian policies, customs administration, tax legislation, consumer protection, competition and trade. The programs also deal with the energy industry, including the development of the common markets, nuclear energy. There is also a program devoted to common approaches in the work in the transport market. The Union State programs suggest unifying social and labor laws, ensuring equality of rights of citizens of Belarus and Russia, tourism sector.

The Union State programs also provide for a solution to the issue of energy supplies to Belarus. As for the near future, according to Vladimir Putin, mutually acceptable approaches to the gas issue have been developed following lengthy discussions. “The price Belarus will pay for Russian natural gas in 2022 will remain at this year’s level. A document will be signed by 1 December 2023 on creating the common natural gas market within the framework of the Union State of Belarus and Russia,” said the Russian president. Now Belarus pays \$128.5 per 1,000 cubic meters of Russian gas. The countries are also expected to sign an agreement on the unification of oil and oil products markets, and an agreement on a unified electricity market.

According to Putin’s statement, these programs are designed to unify the legislation of Belarus and Russia in various branches of economy. They are designed to level the playing field for Belarusian and Russian commercial entities, build common financial and energy markets, build transport space, work out and realize a common industrial and agricultural policy.

Russian President also stated that matters concerning deeper political integration of Belarus and Russia within the framework of the Union State of Belarus and Russia were not discussed during the meeting. “We believe we should primarily focus on economy,” he added. Vladimir Putin is convinced that additional regulation may be naturally required later on, including possibly at the level of formation of a union parliament. “I cannot rule out the possibility that a union parliament may be established but we have to grow up for that to happen. We didn’t discuss it and such items were not on the agenda”.

Belarus President Aleksandr Lukashenko said he fully supports his Russian colleague in matters concerning deeper political integration in the Union State of Belarus and Russia.

Migration situation on the borders of Belarus was also tackled. Vladimir Putin stated that some Western colleagues of him and European leaders had invited him to work together to resolve problems with migrants at the Belarusian border and had wanted him to somehow influence the situation. “The answer is simple: it does not concern us. It is not our border,” he noted. He stressed that the migration crisis had emerged at the Belarusian border with other sovereign countries, this is why these countries should find solutions to problems on

their own. “If they want to truly resolve the problem, they should contact Belarusian authorities at any level and resolve the problem together with the neighboring country,” the Russian leader said.

After the meeting of the two presidents, it became known that Russia was lifting all COVID-19 restrictions on passenger flights with Belarus.

### **Lukashenko and Putin talk over phone**

14.09.2021

Source: [Belarusian Telegraph Agency](#)

Aleksandr Lukashenko and Vladimir Putin held a telephone conversation on 14 September. The two leaders discussed the results of the joint army exercise Zapad 2021, the agenda of the forthcoming CSTO and SCO summits in Dushanbe, and the situation in Afghanistan. The Russian president also informed the Belarusian leader about his plans to take part in the upcoming international events online.

### **Belarusian-Russian strategic army exercise Zapad 2021**

15.09.2021

Source: Belarusian Telegraph Agency ([Report 1](#), [Report 2](#), [Report 3](#))

Active phase of Belarusian-Russian strategic army exercise Zapad 2021 held in Belarus.

Representatives of the Armed Forces of Kazakhstan, as well as the territorial forces of Belarus, along with the Belarusian and Russian soldiers took an active part in the exercise at the Obuz-Lesnovsky training area near Baranavichi.

Foreign military observers representing Lithuania and the OSCE Conflict Prevention Center participated in observing the Belarusian-Russian strategic army exercise Zapad 2021 on 15-17 September, as BelTA reported.

Russian army units started leaving Belarus in order to move to their permanent bases in Russia as of September 16th.

### **Lukashenko visits Dushanbe**

15.09.2021–17.09.2021

Source: Belarusian Telegraph Agency ([Report 1](#), [Report 2](#), [Report 3](#), [Report 4](#), [Report 5](#))

On September 15 Belarusian President Aleksandr Lukashenko has met with Tajikistan President Emomali Rahmon during his working trip to Dushanbe.

The meeting of the two heads of state took place shortly after Aleksandr Lukashenko's arrival in Dushanbe. The two leaders discussed bilateral cooperation, the military and political situation in the region and the forthcoming summits of the CSTO and the SCO in the capital of Tajikistan.

Aleksandr Lukashenko also held a meeting with Tajikistan Prime Minister Kokhir Rasulzoda.

On 16 September Aleksandr Lukashenko took part in the session of the Collective Security Council of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) in Dushanbe.

The agenda of the talks features only one topic, but the heads of state need to discuss a wide range of issues related to international and regional security and to take stock of the CSTO activities in the inter-session period. One of the most important issues will be the situation in Afghanistan. “The toughening competition between the West and China is contributing to the demolition of the system of international relations. To increase its influence in Asia, the European Union has put forward the initiative “A Globally Connected Europe”, a rival to China’s Belt and Road Initiative,” Lukashenko said, later adding that “The worsening situation at the western borders of the CSTO is a dangerous trend”

The Belarusian leader urged to maintain positive dynamics in expanding cooperation between the CSTO and international organizations.

According to the President, migration issues require more attention. The head of state believes that the CSTO should take unified approaches to responding to risks and challenges in this area. He emphasized special importance of mutual support of allies in the international arena, including the UN and the OSCE. Aleksandr Lukashenko also stated that the consequences of COVID-19 underscore the necessity to develop cooperation within the CSTO in biological security.

On September 16 Lukashenko also held number of bilateral talks.

As he met with Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan in Dushanbe on 16 September, he stated that Belarus is extremely interested in developing cooperation with Pakistan. The parties agreed to intensify work on the preparation for a meeting of the intergovernmental commission. Belarusian Minister of Foreign Affairs Vladimir Makei is expected to visit Pakistan in 2021.

After meeting with Iran President Ebrahim Raisi, Aleksandr Lukashenko made the statement that Iran and Belarus have always found ways towards success regardless of the international situation. During the meeting Aleksandr Lukashenko and Ebrahim Raisi paid close attention to foreign sanctions. During the meeting it was noted that the level of bilateral relations clearly does not match the potential. The ministers of foreign affairs will soon update the roadmap that will guide Belarus-Iran cooperation.

On 17 September Lukashenko took part in the Heads of State Council of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. Key points addressed by Belarusian President included following: accelerate integration of global development strategies; intensify cooperation in healthcare; respond to present-day challenges; create a legal system to combat cyber threats; develop a common transport space; promote renewable energy and nuclear power; use national currencies in international trade more often; help rebuild Afghanistan.

**Government program to guide Belarus’ innovative development in 2021-2025 adopted**  
15.09.2021

Source: [Belarusian Telegraph Agency](#)



Belarus President Aleksandr Lukashenko signed decree No.348 on 15 September to approve the government program on innovative development of Belarus in 2021-2025.

In the course of implementing the new government program organizations of all types of ownership will carry out innovative projects to create new enterprises that match priority directions of scientific, R&D, and innovative activities in 2021-2025. It will allow successfully developing the proprietary scientific and technological potential, promoting Belarusian technologies onto the world market, and using cutting-edge foreign technologies.

The list of the program's projects meant to create new manufacturing enterprises has to be compiled by the Council of Ministers and will be expanded every year. These projects will be recognized as investment projects. They will receive state support in the form of tax and customs stimuli.

As a result of the program's implementation by 2025 there are plans to create about 100 highly remunerative export-oriented enterprises, increase the share of innovating organizations in the processing industry up to 30.5%, and increase the volume of export of science-intensive and high-tech products up to \$18.3 billion.

### **Lukashenko appoints new ambassadors to Tajikistan, Brazil, South Korea**

20.09.2021

Source: [Belarusian Telegraph Agency](#)

Belarusian President Aleksandr Lukashenko has appointed new ambassadors of Belarus to Tajikistan (Viktor Denisenko; previously worked at MFA), Brazil (Sergei Lukashevich; previously served at Belarusian Embassy in Spain) and the Republic of Korea (Andrei Chernetsky).

"You understand that we cannot make a mistake in appointing ambassadors," Aleksandr Lukashenko told Minister of Foreign Affairs Vladimir Makei. The foreign minister, in turn, assured that all these people are absolutely reliable and competent.

### **New Belarusian Constitution. Referendum to be held before February 2022**

28.09.2021

Source: Belarusian Telegraph Agency ([Report 1](#), [Report 2](#))

Extended session of the Constitutional Commission took place on 28 September. Belarusian President Aleksandr Lukashenko headed the discussions.

Lukashenko pointed to the comprehensive nature of the proposed amendments as they cover almost all sections of the Constitution. According to him, the amendments are aimed at bringing the country's fundamental law up to date. Most important proposals of the Constitutional Commission deal with the political system and are aimed at making it more balanced by redistributing powers of the president, parliament and government, introducing the constitutional status of the Belarusian People's Congress and the Central



Election Commission. It was also proposed to expand guarantees of judicial protection of citizens' rights.

Summing up the discussion, Aleksandr Lukashenko announced his Administration will prepare a presidential executive order to create a group in charge of a task to finalize and improve the draft of the Constitution. After the improvement of the current document and its public discussion, lawyers will finalize the document and submit it to the president. Later the document will be put to a referendum.

Proposals to working group are to be submitted within a week in view of the need to finalize the Constitution within a month. Afterwards there should be another meeting to discuss the project and submit it for public consideration.

According to Aleksandr Lukashenko, a referendum on a new version of the Belarusian Constitution will be held no later than February 2022. "It is very important to ensure that all the work on the constitutional construction serves as a basis for consolidation of the Belarusian society and lays a solid legal foundation for the country's development in the future" he said.

### **Lukashenko appoints new ambassadors to Tajikistan, Brazil, South Korea**

30.09.2021

Source: [Belarusian Telegraph Agency](#)

President Aleksandr Lukashenko has received credentials of ambassadors from nine countries – Azerbaijan, Armenia, India, Indonesia, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mongolia, Tunisia and South Africa.

Following the tradition, Aleksandr Lukashenko briefly described the relations with each of the countries represented by the ambassadors.

# Tajikistan

## July 2021

### **Meeting of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan with the Minister of National Defense of the Republic of Turkey**

01.07.2021

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

The President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon received the Minister of National Defense of the Republic of Turkey Hulsui Akar. At the meeting, parties discussed the expansion and strengthening of ties between countries in various fields based on mutual interest and cooperation of the defense structures of both countries.

Due to the worsening of security situation and the revitalization of extremist and terrorist groups in various regions of the world, was emphasized the need of uniting the efforts of the international community in the fight against them. The parties also exchanged views on the current situation in Afghanistan. It was also noted, that the search for a peaceful solution to the Afghan problem meets the interests of the countries of the region.

### **President of Tajikistan meets with heads of CSTO Parliamentary Assembly delegations**

01.07.2021

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

At the meeting with the heads of delegations participating in the CSTO parliamentary assembly, Emomali Rahmon discussed issues of ensuring the effectiveness of cooperation in all relevant areas of military-political activity, including the field of defense and security. The President of the country stressed: "We pay special attention to the consistent implementation of the approved action plan, priority areas of cooperation, as well as initiatives and proposals of the previous meeting of the collective security council of the organization." During the meeting the difficult political situation in Afghanistan was also discussed and was emphasized that in this context, Tajikistan will continue to support the efforts of Afghan officials, as well as the international community to launch the peace process and achieve national accord in Afghanistan.

### **Tajikistan MFA meets with the US Secretary of State**

02.07.2021

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

On July 1, in Washington, D.C. the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan, Sirojiddin Mukhriddin, met with the Secretary of State of the United States of America, Anthony Blinken. The parties discussed bilateral relations between Tajikistan and the United States in the political, energy and humanitarian spheres, as well as in the field of security, health care, tourism, cooperation within the framework of USAID program, and joint measures

to prevent the spread of the new coronavirus infection. Also, the interlocutors exchanged views on regional and international cooperation.

### **Telephone conversation between the President of the Republic of Tajikistan and the President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan**

05.07.2021

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

During a telephone conversation, the heads of states discussed the escalation of the military-political situation in Afghanistan. In this context, special attention was paid to the aggravation of the situation in the northern regions of Afghanistan bordering on Tajikistan. Emomali Rahmon informed the President of Afghanistan about the new facts of the forced crossing of the state border line by the military personnel of the neighbouring country. At the same time, the unchanging position of Tajikistan to the problem of Afghanistan was emphasized: non-interference in its internal affairs and full support of the efforts of the official authorities to establish peace, stability and security in the country .

Tajikistan, as a close neighbour of Afghanistan, has been and remains an interested party in establishing stability in this country and supports efforts to advance the inter-Afghan peace talks, the President of Tajikistan noted.

### **Participation of in the online meeting of Central Asian countries Ministers of Foreign Affairs**

07.07.2021

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

On July 7, at the initiative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the UN Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy in Central Asia was held an online meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Central Asian countries and Afghanistan. The meeting was attended by a delegation from Tajikistan led by Minister of Foreign Affairs Sirojiddin Mukhriddin.

During the meeting, the parties exchanged views on the Afghan peace process, cooperation between the countries of Central Asia and Afghanistan in the fight against security challenges, as well as the need to jointly ensure the sustainable development of the region and eliminate the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. In his speech, the Minister of Foreign Affairs gave detailed information on the results of the 9th ministerial conference "Heart of Asia - Istanbul Process", held in Dushanbe on March 30, 2021, and emphasized the important role of Tajikistan in the development of cooperation between the countries of Central Asia and Afghanistan in the economic spheres, trade, energy and security.

### **Meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the SCO Member States**

14.07.2021

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

On July 13-14, under the chairmanship of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan, a meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the SCO member states was held in Dushanbe.

During the meeting, the heads of the foreign affairs agencies exchanged views on the results of the SCO's activities over 20 years and discussed tasks for the further development of interaction within the organization. It was stated that over two decades the SCO has established itself as an authoritative interstate organization of a new type and an influential participant in the system of international relations.

During the meeting, the Ministers noted that sustainable development in the SCO space is impossible without ensuring an adequate level of security. A Ministerial Council decision was signed to submit to the Dushanbe summit an updated program of cooperation between the SCO member states in the fight against terrorism, separatism and extremism for 2022-2024. The SCO Ministerial Council also paid special attention to the situation in Afghanistan. Profound concern was stated at the prospect of a deterioration of the situation in that country as a result of the withdrawal of the coalition forces.

### **International Conference “Central and South Asia: Regional interconnectedness, challenges and opportunities ”**

17.07.2021

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

On July 16, in Tashkent, the delegation of the Republic of Tajikistan headed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs took part in the international conference “Central and South Asia: Regional Interconnectedness. Challenges and Opportunities”. The conference, organized on the initiative of Shavkat Mirziyoyev, was attended by the President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, foreign ministers of Central Asian countries, delegations from 44 countries and 30 international organizations.

In his speech at the plenary session of the conference, S. Mukhriddin noted that the dialogue between Central and South Asia, which are integral parts of the family of Asian states, is of particular value against the backdrop of rapid changes in the world and persisting tensions in global politics and economics. The head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan stressed that an active process of expanding trade, economic, cultural and humanitarian ties has been going on in Central over the past five years, a characteristic feature of which has become economic dynamism. In this context, S. Mukhriddin confirmed Tajikistan's interest in attracting business circles of South Asian countries to actively invest in the country's economy, especially in the textile and processing industries.

### **Rahmon and Putin talk over the phone**

22.07.2021

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

During the conversation, the parties exchanged views on a range of topical issues of Tajik-Russian strategic partnership. Particular attention was paid to agreeing on the schedule of meetings and contacts at the highest level, both on a bilateral and multilateral level of cooperation. In this context, the parties discussed the progress of preparations for the upcoming official visit to Tajikistan of Vladimir Putin.

During the telephone conversation, an exchange of views took place on topical issues on the international agenda. In particular, the Afghan problem was discussed. Emomali Rahmon and Vladimir Putin spoke with alarm about the critical development of the situation in that country. Agreements were reached on further close coordination in this direction.

## **August 2021**

### **Attorney General of Tajikistan visits the Republic of Austria**

04.08.2021

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

On August 2-3, Yusuf Rahmon, the Attorney General of Tajikistan, held a number of meetings within the framework of his working trip to the Republic of Austria: with the Executive Director of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime; Director of the OSCE Conflict Prevention Center; representatives of law enforcement agencies in Austria.

During the meetings, the sides discussed issues of joint fight against drug trafficking, terrorism, extremism, transnational organized crime, human trafficking, prevention of corruption and economic crimes. Particularly, strengthening the criminal justice system, as well as interaction of the parties in the implementation of the strategy to counter extremism and terrorism in the Republic of Tajikistan for the period of 2021-2025.

In the frame of meeting the parties exchanged views on the situation in the Islamic Republics of Afghanistan, its impact on the security situation in Central Asia and beyond, ways to regulate the participation of civil society at OSCE events, and assistance to the organization in strengthening the capacity of prosecutors and other issues providing mutual interest.

### **High-level meetings and negotiations between Tajikistan and Turkmenistan**

04.08.2021

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

The President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon arrived on a state visit to the capital of Turkmenistan - the city of Ashgabat on the evening of August,3. Within the framework of the meeting between the President of Tajikistan and Turkmenistan with participation of two sides delegations, were held high-level meetings and were discussed issues of developing bilateral relations and expanding multifaceted cooperation.

For the development of political, trade and economic cooperation, it was considered necessary to implement measures to implement the Intergovernmental Program for Trade and



Economic Cooperation for 2023, as well as to organize a roadmap to expand trade for the next two years.

It was noted at the meeting that the use of a wide range of opportunities in industry, in transport, in the organization of rail and air communications, an increase in international freight traffic by road and rail through the territory of Turkmenistan, the use of the international seaport "Turkmenbashi" as a logistics center for transit goods in Tajikistan will be in interests of both countries.

### **Participation in the Consultative Meeting of the Heads of State of Central Asia**

06.08.2021

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

A consultative meeting of the heads of state of Central Asia was held in the city of Turkmenbashi of the Republic of Turkmenistan. The meeting was attended by the heads of all Central Asian republics.

The heads of states stressed the importance of the Consultative Meeting and discussed a wide range of topical issues of regional cooperation, including the prospect of cooperation in the political, trade, economic, cultural and humanitarian spheres, as well as regional issues. Also, the foreign ministries were instructed to complete work in the near future to agree on a draft roadmap for the development of regional cooperation for 2022-2024.

During his speech, the President of the Republic of Tajikistan expressed his readiness for close cooperation in the field of trade, industrial production, digital economy, modern innovations, technologies and tourism. He also added the insurance of food, transport, and energy security.

It was emphasized that in modern conditions, the cooperation of the Central Asian countries in the fight against terrorism, extremism, cybercrime requires urgent measures. As a result of the Consultative meeting, a number of documents were signed.

Also, at the Consultative Meeting, President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov in the presence of all heads of state of Central Asia awarded Emomali Rahmon with the first highest award - "Medal of Honor of the CA Heads of States" for outstanding efforts in the development of friendship, good-neighbourhood, mutual understanding and cooperation between the states of Central Asia, for strengthening peace and security in the region, promoting common interests and initiatives of the region in the international arena.

### **Telephone conversation of Tajik and Russian Presidents**

19.08.2021

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

On August 18, a telephone conversation was held between the Presidents of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon and the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin.

During the conversation, the heads of the two states discussed the preparations for the upcoming CSTO and SCO summits, as well as topical issues of the regional and

international agenda. In this context, special attention was paid to the development of the situation in Afghanistan. Noting that the escalation of tension in this country could have a negative impact on the general state of regional security, the parties spoke in favor of further coordination of efforts on a bilateral and multilateral basis to strengthen the protection of the Tajik-Afghan border and comprehensive assistance to a peaceful settlement of the Afghan problem.

### **A special session of the Collective Security Council**

23.08.2021

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

A special online session of the Collective Security Council was held under the representation of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan on August 23.

The members of the Collective Security Council held a thorough exchange of views on the situation in Afghanistan and its impact on the security of the CSTO member states. During the session, the participants noted the deterioration of the situation in Afghanistan. They stressed the importance of the responsible restoration of state power in Afghanistan through inclusive peaceful dialogue, taking into account the interests of all social, political, ethnic and religious groups in the country.

During the session, it was noted that the political regime in Afghanistan should be based on the free expression of the will of the entire Afghan people. Strictly considering, guaranteeing and protecting the socio-political interests of all sectors of society is vital to the sustainability of any government in Afghanistan. An agreement was also reached to speed up the work on the adoption of the target interstate program proposed by Tajikistan within the framework of the CSTO to strengthen sections of the Tajik-Afghan border.

### **President of Tajikistan Rahmon meets with the MFA of Pakistan**

25.08.2021

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

On August 25, at the Palace of the Nation, the President of the Republic of Tajikistan received the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Mahdum Shah Mahmoud Kureishi.

The subject of discussion was a wide range of issues of development and expansion of bilateral cooperation in various fields of mutual interest. During the meeting, special attention was paid to topical international and regional issues, especially the current situation in Afghanistan. It was noted that today one of the main threats to regional security is the situation in Afghanistan.

It was emphasized that the difficult and dangerous situation in this country in recent days is a problem not only for the Afghan people, but also one of the most acute regional and global problems. The President of Tajikistan noted that the Taliban are reneging on their previous promises to form an interim transitional government with the broad participation of other political forces in the country and are preparing to create an Islamic emirate.

The Tajik side stressed that in order to urgently solve the political security problems of the neighboring country, it is necessary to create an inclusive government with the participation of all national minorities, especially the Tajiks of Afghanistan, who make up more than 46% of the population of this country.

“Tajikistan will never recognize any other government formed in this country through oppression and persecution, without taking into account the position of the entire Afghan people, especially all of its national minorities,” said Emomali Rahmon.

### **Meeting of the President of Tajikistan with the Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs of Germany**

31.08.2021

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

On August 30, the President of the Republic of Tajikistan received the Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs of Germany, Heiko Maas.

During the meeting, the parties discussed issues of bilateral cooperation between Tajikistan and the Federal Republic of Germany, as well as topical issues of the regional and international agenda. The talks focused on the difficult and alarming situation in Afghanistan.

The President of the Republic of Tajikistan noted that one of the factors in stabilizing the situation in Afghanistan is the formation of an inclusive government with the participation of representatives of all ethnic groups. Stressing the important role of the United Nations, the head of state noted that under the auspices of this organization and with the active participation of the international community, the necessary measures should be taken to form an inclusive government in Afghanistan.

The focus was on the issues of assistance from the Federal Republic of Germany and the international community in strengthening and protecting the Tajik-Afghan border. The Federal Foreign Minister said he would help stabilize the situation through negotiations and the formation of an open government.

## **September 2021**

### **Participation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs in the virtual meeting on the situation in Afghanistan**

08.09.2021

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

Belarusian Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan Sirojiddin Muhridin took part in a virtual meeting dedicated to the situation in Afghanistan. This meeting was initiated by the United States and Germany, in which took part the foreign ministers of 20 countries, as well as the leaders of the EU, NATO and the UN. During the meeting, special attention was paid to the issues of refugees, the fight against terrorism, the provision of humanitarian assistance to the people of Afghanistan and the cooperation of countries to prevent a

humanitarian catastrophe in this country. Afghanistan has become a breeding ground for chaos and what Tajikistan should do, when it has the most vulnerable and longest border with this country in this case.

Sirojiddin Muhriddin also raised the issue of ongoing hostilities in Panjshir. He added that the Taliban used aircraft to attack Panjshir with the help of third countries, killing large numbers of Tajiks. The Minister stressed that Tajikistan will support only an inclusive government with the participation of all ethnic groups, in which the Tajiks of Afghanistan will take their rightful place.

### **Meeting of Foreign Ministers of Afghanistan's neighbouring countries**

08.09.2021

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

On September 8, at the suggestion of Pakistan, took place the first meeting of the foreign ministers of Afghanistan's neighboring countries-Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, Iran and China in a virtual format.

The ministers stressed the need to promote this format to discuss the current situation in Afghanistan as a new mechanism for cooperation between neighboring countries. The parties noted that the international community, in cooperation with the countries of the region, should play an important role in establishing peace and stability in Afghanistan and provide it with the necessary economic, social and humanitarian assistance.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan noted that the government of Afghanistan should be formed through a referendum with the participation of all ethnic groups and national minorities.

### **Joint meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, CMO and CSSC of CSTO**

15.09.2021

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

On September 15, Dushanbe hosted a joint meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers, the Council of Defence Ministers and the Committee of Secretaries of Security Councils of the member states of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, Foreign Ministers Statement on Collective Efforts to Resolve Crisis Situations in the Middle East and North Africa; and Joint Statement by Foreign Ministers Reaffirming Commitment to the Principles of the UN Charter and Strengthening Cooperation to Ensure Their Faithful Compliance.

As a result of the Joint meeting, about 20 decisions were made aimed at expanding the interaction of the CSTO member states on biological security issues and improving the system of joint training of military personnel for the armed forces. The decision of the Collective Security Council "On the Special Representative of the CSTO Secretary General on Peacekeeping Issues" was also adopted as a basis.



## **The course and the results of Dushanbe SCO Summit**

17.09.2021

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

On September 17, Dushanbe hosted a summit of the heads of state members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, dedicated to the 20th anniversary of the organization.

The summit participants highlighted the special issues of security in the region, the fight against terrorism, extremism, and also discussed the current crisis situation in Afghanistan. In this regard, the SCO countries adopted a joint declaration in which a special attention was paid to Afghanistan. According to the declaration, the SCO is in favor of building a new Afghan government that includes representatives of all ethnic, religious and political groups in Afghan society.

The member states believe that one of the most important factors in maintaining and strengthening security and stability in the SCO space is the earliest possible settlement of the situation in Afghanistan.

## **Meeting of the member states of CSTO and SCO organizations**

17.09.2021

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

In the beginning, the President of Tajikistan made a speech and drew the attention of the heads of state and the world community to the tragic events in Afghanistan. Also, the presidents of all CSTO and SCO member states spoke at the meeting on the problem of Afghanistan. Russian President Vladimir Putin, Chinese President Xi Jinping, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi took part in the meeting and spoke online.

The President of Tajikistan stressed that he adheres to his position on Afghanistan and calls for the creation of an inclusive government in this country. The imposition of any political system on Kabul without taking into account the opinion of the people can lead to unpredictable consequences, Emomali Rahmon said at the summit.

After the completion of the high-level summits following the meeting of the Council of Heads of States of the SCO and CSTO member states on Afghanistan, the President of Tajikistan held a press conference for a wide range of media representatives.

## **High level meetings and negotiations between Tajikistan and Pakistan**

17.09.2021

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

The President of the Republic of Tajikistan received Imran Khan, who arrived in Tajikistan to participate in the SCO summit. The parties discussed the development and expansion of cooperation between Tajikistan and Pakistan, and then continued large-scale negotiations between the official delegations of the two countries.

During the meeting, special attention was paid to the development and expansion of cooperation between Tajikistan and Pakistan in promising areas - trade and economic, light



industry, agriculture, science and technology, culture, as well as in the humanitarian and pharmaceutical spheres. It was proposed to create joint working groups on oil and gas, energy and infrastructure for the development and expansion of cooperation in the energy and oil and gas spheres.

Strengthening cooperation in the field of transport, the creation of railways and highways to the seaports of Pakistan - Karachi and Gwadar, the establishment of cargo flights (cargo) between the two countries were considered as an important factor for increasing trade between the two countries.

### **Speech by the President of the Republic of Tajikistan at the 76th session of the UN General Assembly**

24.09.2021

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

President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon took part at the 76th session of the UN General Assembly. In his video message, the President of Tajikistan noted the issues on the agenda, and also shared his views on topical world and regional problems.

Emomali Rahmon made a proposal to nominate the Republic of Tajikistan as a non-permanent member to the Security Council for the period of 2028-2029. According to the President speech, Tajikistan intends to contribute to the implementation of the goals and objectives of the UN Security Council, "to share the rich experience of Tajikistan in restoring stability through negotiations". He also said that Tajikistan will increase the number of its peacekeepers at UN mandates in conflict zones.

The President of Tajikistan also noted that the position of Tajikistan regarding the neighboring republic of Afghanistan remains unchanged. Emomali Rahmon noted that the Tajiks of Afghanistan composes 46 percent of its population, along with other ethnic groups in this country, have the right to occupy a worthy place in government. Accordingly, he stressed that the coming to power of the radical group of Taliban movement complicated the already difficult geopolitical process in the country.

# Uzbekistan

## July 2021

### **Tashkent hosts EU – Central Asia High-Level Dialogue**

01.07.2021

Source: [Uzbekistan National News Agency](#)

On 1 July 2021, Tashkent hosted the regular meeting of the European Union – Central Asia High-level Dialogue on Political and Security Issues at the level of deputy foreign ministers, Uzbekistan MFA reports. The European delegation was led by Deputy-Secretary General of the European External Action Service Enique Mora. Afghanistan delegation also attended the meeting.

The results of the implementation of previously reached agreements within the framework of interregional cooperation, as well as the schedule and agenda of upcoming events at various levels in the EU – Central Asia format were discussed at the event. Issues of interaction in the border management, countering drug trafficking and organized crime, as well as regional environmental problems were considered. Participants exchanged views on cooperation in foreign policy and security in the context of the coronavirus pandemic.

The annual meetings of the High-Level Dialogue between the EU and Central Asia have been held since 2013.

### **Abdulaziz Kamilov meets with the U.S. Secretary of Defence**

01.07.2021

Source: [Uzbekistan National News Agency](#)

On 1 July 2021, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan Abdulaziz Kamilov met with the U.S. Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin in Washington, Uzbekistan MFA reports. The parties discussed the current aspects of cooperation, including interaction on the defense line, ensuring regional security, combating common challenges and threats. It was noted that thanks to regular dialogue at various levels and directions in recent years, Uzbekistan-American relations have demonstrated positive dynamics of development, being enriched with practical content.

U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin welcomed Uzbekistan's long-standing support for international efforts to stabilize Afghanistan and its readiness to assist in the economic recovery of this country and its integration into the Central Asian region.

### **EU supports Uzbekistan's efforts to strengthen regional connectivity**

05.07.2021

Source: [Uzbekistan National News Agency](#)

The Head of Uzbekistan Mission to the EU, Ambassador Dilyor Khakimov, has met with the Ambassador at Large for Connectivity in the European External Action Service Romana Vlahutin.

The parties exchanged views on the current state and prospects of cooperation between Uzbekistan and the European Union. The sides touched upon the course of the negotiation processes currently being carried out between Uzbekistan and the EU, including within the framework of the recently obtained by the Uzbek side of the status of a beneficiary country of the GSP+ system, the development of an Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement and Uzbekistan's WTO accession.

The European diplomat welcomed the positive transformations taking place in the country. Satisfaction was expressed with the consistent development of cooperation in the political, trade, economic, cultural and humanitarian spheres. The friendly nature of the ties, which have acquired positive dynamics in recent years, was noted. Ambassador Romana Vlahutin highly appreciated the constructive regional policy of Uzbekistan in Central Asia, thanks to which a new political atmosphere has been established in the region. Support was expressed for the efforts of the Uzbek side to strengthen regional connectivity. Ambassador Romana Vlahutin expressed interest in participating in the forthcoming International Conference "Central and South Asia: Regional Connectivity. Challenges and Opportunities".

### **Abdulaziz Kamilov meets with the President of the 75th session of the UN General Assembly**

06.07.2021

Source: [Uzbekistan National News Agency](#)

On 6 July 2021, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan Abdulaziz Kamilov met with the President of the 75th session of the UN General Assembly Volkan Bozkir, who arrived in Tashkent on an official visit, Uzbekistan MFA reports.

The sides exchanged views on the state and prospects for further development of cooperation between Uzbekistan and the UN and its specialized structures, including in the issues of comprehensive support for young people, ensuring gender equality, creating favorable conditions for people with disabilities, combating the consequences of the coronavirus pandemic and implementing the Sustainable Development Goals.

The UN General Assembly President highly appreciated the large-scale transformations carried out in Uzbekistan in the state and public construction, economic liberalization, improvement of the business environment and investment climate, protection of citizens' rights and freedoms.

The parties noted with satisfaction the unanimous adoption of the UN General Assembly Resolution "On declaring the Aral Sea region a zone of environmental innovations and technologies", forwarded by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev. In this context, the need for intensifying joint efforts to mitigate the consequences of the drying up of the Aral Sea was

stated. The commitment of the UN to assist in the practical implementation of the goals outlined in the document was confirmed.

The main attention was paid to the participation of UN representatives in the upcoming High-level International Conference “Central and South Asia: Regional Connectivity. Challenges and Opportunities”.

### **Uzbekistan’s FM attends SCO – Afghanistan Contact Group Meeting**

14.07.2021

Source: [Uzbekistan National News Agency](#)

On 14 July 2021, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan Abdulaziz Kamilov attended SCO – Afghanistan Contact Group Meeting in Dushanbe, Uzbekistan MFA reports.

Foreign Ministers of Afghanistan and the SCO Member States, the Organization's Secretariat, the Executive Committee of the SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure discussed aspects of joint actions of the parties in the Afghan direction, measures to support the promotion of the comprehensive peace process, the return of Afghanistan to the path of stable development and economic revival.

Uzbekistan’s FM informed about the position of the country on the main issues related to the Afghan problem.

It was noted that Uzbekistan remains committed to the fundamental principle that the political process in Afghanistan should be carried out only by the Afghans themselves and under the leadership of Afghanistan people.

Following the event, a Joint Statement was adopted by the Foreign Ministers of the SCO Member States.

### **Tashkent hosts a meeting of Central Asia and the United States delegations in “C5+1” format**

15.07.2021

Source: [Dunyo Information Agency](#)

A meeting of the dialogue format “C5+1” has taken place within the framework of the International High-Level Conference “Central and South Asia: Regional Connectivity. Challenges and Opportunities”. The delegations of the Central Asian countries were led by the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan Mukhtar Tileuberdi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan Sirojiddin Muhriddin, Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan Rashid Meredov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan Abdulaziz Kamilov and the First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kyrgyzstan Nuran Niyazaliev. The American side was represented by the U.S. Homeland Security Advisor Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall. The parties discussed the current aspects of cooperation within the “C5+1” format and exchanged views on international politics and regional security.

## **Tashkent hosts the Sixth Meeting of Uzbekistan – Pakistan Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation**

15.07.2021

Source: [Dunyo Information Agency](#)

Tashkent hosted the 6th meeting of Uzbekistan – Pakistan Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation under the chairmanship of Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Investments and Foreign Trade of Uzbekistan Sardor Umurzakov and Advisor to the Prime Minister of Pakistan Abdul Razak Dawood, reports “Dunyo” IA correspondent.

According to the Ministry of Investments and Foreign Trade of Uzbekistan, heads of relevant ministries and agencies of the two countries also took part in the meeting.

The participants discussed the current agenda of trade, economic, investment, transport, logistics, scientific, technological, cultural and humanitarian cooperation between the two countries, the existing prospects for its expansion, as well as new areas of bilateral interaction.

The sides also considered the organizational, technical and substantive parts of the official visit to Uzbekistan of the Prime Minister of Pakistan.

The parties emphasized the huge untapped potential in investment cooperation and bilateral trade. The heads of relevant ministries and agencies of the two countries were instructed to take the necessary measures to increase the number of joint projects and increase trade in the coming years.

An agreement was reached on the development of new joint projects in such areas as agriculture, light and chemical industries, pharmaceuticals and other promising industries.

The parties noted the importance of developing cooperation in the tourism sector between Uzbekistan and Pakistan, including through pilgrimage tourism. In this context, the parties welcomed the signing of the Agreement of Understanding between the Ministry of Sports and Tourism of Uzbekistan and the Ministry of Inter Provincial Coordination of Pakistan.

Following the meeting, a final protocol was signed. It includes key agreements reached during the event and specific measures to deepen multifaceted cooperation between the two countries.

## **President of Uzbekistan met with the President of Afghanistan**

15.07.2021

Source: [Dunyo Information Agency](#)

"President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev met with the President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Ashraf Ghani, who arrived in Uzbekistan to attend the International Conference “Central and South Asia: Regional Connectivity. Challenges and Opportunities”, reports “Dunyo” IA correspondent.



According to the press service of the head of our state, prospects for interaction on ensuring regional security and sustainable development were considered.

The Leaders of the two countries once again stated the impossibility of a military solution to the Afghan conflict and called for an early resumption of inclusive inter-Afghan negotiations.

President Shavkat Mirziyoyev confirmed Uzbekistan's readiness to actively assist in achieving sustainable peace in Afghanistan.

The parties noted with satisfaction the ongoing development of bilateral trade and economic cooperation. Despite the pandemic, in the first five months of this year, the trade turnover between the two countries increased by 50 percent. 160 enterprises with the participation of Afghan capital were newly created in Uzbekistan.

The importance of further promoting joint transport and energy infrastructure projects aimed at both strengthening the connectivity between the regions of Central and South Asia and enhancing the transit potential of Afghanistan, in particular, the implementation of projects for the construction of Termez – Mazar-i-Sharif – Kabul – Peshawar railway and construction of a new power line Surkhan – Puli-Khumri was noted.

The parties emphasized their firm commitment to further development of bilateral and regional cooperation, ensuring the practical implementation of the agreements reached".

### **President of Uzbekistan receives the Minister of External Affairs of India**

16.07.2021

Source: [The Government portal of the Republic of Uzbekistan](#)

The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev received the Minister of External Affairs of the Republic of India Subrahmanyam Jaishankar during the Tashkent International Conference. The President of Uzbekistan noted with satisfaction the progressive development of Uzbekistan – Indian strategic partnership and multifaceted cooperation following the agreements reached during the regular contacts at the highest level. The efforts of Uzbekistan to promote connectivity between Central and South Asia, as well as regional projects aimed at achieving peace in Afghanistan and the economic recovery of this country were highly appreciated. The importance of promoting bilateral projects in investment, innovation, trade, business, logistics, information technology, healthcare and other priority areas, with the active involvement of the regions of the two countries, was emphasized.

### **Joint Statement of the C5+1 on the International Conference “Central and South Asia: Regional Connectivity. Challenges and Opportunities”**

16.07.2021

Source: [Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan](#)

Statement was adopted by the Governments of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, the Republic of Uzbekistan, and the

United States of America, on the occasion of the International Conference, “Central and South Asia: Regional Connectivity. Challenges and Opportunities,” held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan July 15-16, 2021.

The C5+1 countries affirm their commitment to enhancing engagement through our regional diplomatic platform and seeking opportunities to strengthen connectivity between the Central and South Asian regions via trade, transport, and energy links. The C5+1 recognizes that increased connectivity supports its shared goal of a prosperous and secure Central Asia. Visionary ideas for Central Asia’s economic growth and closer ties to the economies of South Asia also reinforce the C5+1’s commitment to strengthening the region’s security and stability, including through Afghan peace negotiations.

The C5+1 endeavors to build upon the collaborative progress it has made on connectivity, including to modernize infrastructure and transit potential in Central Asia, promote increased regional cooperation in support of transboundary business-to-business connections and people-to-people exchanges etc.

### **Uzbekistan, UK representatives discuss prospects for the development of cooperation in various spheres**

23.07.2021

Source: [Uzbekistan National News Agency](#)

Ambassador of Uzbekistan Said Rustamov has met with the Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Uzbekistan (APPG), MP Andrew Bridgen in the British Parliament. The parties discussed the state and prospects for the development of cooperation between Uzbekistan and the United Kingdom in various areas, primarily in inter-parliamentary dialogue.

MP Andrew Bridgen welcomed Uzbekistan's commitment to the course of implementing large-scale reforms, confirmed his interest in contributing to further expansion of multifaceted cooperation, including with the active involvement of APPG.

An agreement was reached on joint development of events in the UK, including within the framework of the celebration of the 30th anniversary of Uzbekistan’s state independence.

### **Climate cooperation in Central Asia discussed**

27.07.2021

Source: [Uzbekistan National News Agency](#)

On July 27, the 4th meeting of representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and parliamentarians of the Central Asian countries took place in Dushanbe.

Uzbekistan delegation, consisting of representatives of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, took part in the meeting.

Participants of the event discussed issues of adaptation to the consequences of climate change and strengthening of intersectoral management of this phenomenon, and forming a legislative basis for cooperation in this area.

The participants were informed about the measures taken by Uzbekistan to ensure the sustainability of all sectors of the economy against global climate change.

International partners highly appreciated the initiative of the President of Uzbekistan on climate change and stimulation of green development put forward at the International Conference “Central and South Asia: Regional Connectivity: Challenges and Opportunities” on 15-16 July in Tashkent.

Following the meeting, an agreement was reached to maintain a regular dialogue within this format.

## August 2021

### **President of Uzbekistan addresses the Consultative Meeting of Central Asian Leaders**

06.08.2021

Source: [Uzbekistan National News Agency](#)

On August 6, the Third Consultative Meeting of Central Asian Leaders took place.

The event was held in Turkmenistan’s Avaza National Tourist Zone.

The summit chaired by the President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov was attended by the other four Presidents of CA countries, as well as the UN Secretary-General’s Special Representative for Central Asia, Head of the UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia Natalia Gherman.

During the meeting, the President of Uzbekistan expressed his vision on the current issues and put forward several proposals (incl. the adoption of the Agreement on the General Directions of Regional Trade and Economic Cooperation; intensification of the activities of the Electric Power Coordination Council of Central Asia, expanding its mandate and powers, as well as the level of representation of countries; introducing a regional food security monitoring system; launching a unified information system for the recognition of test results and vaccination certificates; development a regional program “Green Agenda” for Central Asia”; holding a Central Asian Youth Forum in Uzbekistan next year; starting the practical implementation of the joint program “One tour – the whole region”; holding a Regional Parliamentary Forum in Tashkent).

### **Shavkat Mirziyoyev meets with the President of Kyrgyzstan**

06.08.2021

Source: [Uzbekistan National News Agency](#)

President Shavkat Mirziyoyev held talks with the President of the Kyrgyz Republic Sadyr Zhaparov within the framework of the Consultative Meeting of Central Asian Leaders.

It was noted with satisfaction that since the beginning of the year, the trade turnover between the two countries has grown by almost 10 percent and exceeded \$425 million. The practical implementation of joint projects in priority areas of the economy, including industry, agriculture, textile, machine-building and other sectors, has started. Active cultural-humanitarian exchanges and interregional contacts are supported.

Issues of interaction in the energy sector, in particular, the joint construction of the Kambarata-1 Hydroelectric Station, were also considered.

The President of Uzbekistan emphasized the strategic importance of the Uzbekistan – Kyrgyzstan – China railway project, noting the need for accelerating negotiations on its construction.

### **Empowering women in Central Asia**

07.08.2021

Source: [Uzbekistan National News Agency](#)

The issues of strengthening cooperation and the exchange of best practices in the implementation of progressive gender policy in the CA region were discussed at the Forum of Women Leaders' Dialogue of Central Asia, held during the Regular Consultative Meeting of Central Asian Leaders.

From the Uzbek side the event was attended by the Chairperson of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan Tanzila Narbayeva.

The Declaration of the Forum of Women Leaders' Dialogue of Central Asia was adopted at the event, which confirms the commitment of the Dialogue to the agenda "Women, Peace and Security", the Agenda for Sustainable Development for the period up to 2030, the Decade of Action to Achieve Global Goals, and also notes the position of the Dialogue, which advocates the development of effective ways to fully realize the scientific-technical, creative, intellectual and entrepreneurial potential of women in Central Asian states, further continuation of efforts to expand the opportunities of women and girls in the business.

### **The post of assistant to the MPs is introduced in Uzbekistan**

10.08.2021

Source: [uzdaily](#)

On August 10, during a regular meeting of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis, the people's deputies considered in the second reading a draft law aimed at strengthening close ties with voters in the constituencies of deputies, timely identification of existing problems on the ground.

The bill stipulates the introduction of appropriate changes and additions to the laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On political parties" and "On the status of a deputy of the Legislative Chamber and a member of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan."

In particular, the bill introduces the position of deputy assistant. Also, the requirements, responsibilities, employment and remuneration of the assistant to the deputy are determined.

As noted, this new institution will increase the efficiency of the deputies' work. At the meeting, the bill was adopted by the deputies in the second reading.

### **President signs a resolution on a new system of state support for orphans and children left without parental care**

11.08.2021

Source: [uzdaily.uz](http://uzdaily.uz)

A Presidential resolution "On measures to introduce a new system of state support for orphans and children left without parental care" was adopted.

According to the Resolution, from 15 August 2021:

- orphans and children left without parental care, without fixed housing, registered as needing housing, in the year they reach the age of 18, are allocated 1-room apartments, in case of marriage between adult orphans - 2-room apartments;
- apartments for orphans and children left without parental care are purchased by khokimiyats in the primary real estate market in multi-apartment residential buildings built in cities and districts;
- if there are no apartments on the primary real estate market in the respective districts (cities) that meet the criteria provided for by this Resolution, apartments are purchased on the secondary real estate market;
- the provision of housing for orphans and children left without parental care is carried out on the basis of the "online queue" system;
- housing is allocated to orphans and children left without parental care on the basis of ownership, but without the right to sell, donate, pledge, lease or register at the place of permanent residence in this housing of other citizens, with the exception of himself and his members families (spouse or spouse, children), until they reach the age of 30 years.

### **Institute of Children's Ombudsman established in Uzbekistan**

12.08.2021

Source: [uzdaily.uz](http://uzdaily.uz)

A Presidential Decree "On measures to further improve the system for ensuring the rights of the child" was adopted.

According to the decree, Institution of the Oliy Majlis Commissioner for the Rights of the Child (Children's Ombudsman) was established.

The position of the Deputy Commissioner for Human Rights of the Oliy Majlis (Ombudsman) - Commissioner for Children's Rights was abolished.



Children's Ombudsman independently exercises its powers and is accountable to the chambers of the Oliy Majlis. Children's Ombudsman elected by the Legislative Chamber and the Senate for a term of five years. A candidate for the position of a children's Ombudsman is submitted by the President for consideration by the chambers of the Oliy Majlis.

From September 1 2021, the following will be created:

- Departments for the protection of children within the Secretariat of the Cabinet of Ministers for Education and Health;
- Secretariat for the protection of children under the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, khokimiyats of regions and the city of Tashkent;
- Departments for the protection of children in district (city) khokimiyats.

### **President of Uzbekistan approves the initiative to create the Vatandoshlar Public Fund**

12.08.2021

Source: [uzdaily.uz](https://uzdaily.uz)

President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev signed a resolution "On the establishment of the Vatandoshlar Public Fund.

Vatandoshlar (Compatriots) Public Fund aims at further consolidating compatriots living abroad around their historical homeland, foster a sense of pride for the country in their hearts and minds, preserve national identity, support public associations created by compatriots, effectively direct the potential compatriots working in various fields for the development of the country.

According to the Resolution, the Fund's activities are carried out in the following main areas:

- establishment and development of cooperation with compatriots living abroad, and the public associations created by them;
- assistance in the protection of the rights and freedoms of compatriots living abroad, based on the generally recognized legal codes and norms of international law, laws of the countries of residence of compatriots and international treaties of the Republic of Uzbekistan;
- material and social support for compatriots who find themselves in a difficult life situation abroad, in the prescribed manner, providing them with information and legal assistance.

### **Presidents of Uzbekistan and Russia hold a phone call**

15.08.2021

Source: [Uzbekistan National News Agency](https://uzbekistan-national-news-agency.uz)

On August 15, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev had a telephone conversation with the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin. Issues of further development of strategic partnership and alliance, as well as the expansion of multifaceted cooperation, were discussed during the conversation. The Leaders exchanged views on the

current situation in Afghanistan. An agreement was reached to continue close contacts and interaction between the relevant agencies of the two countries on the issues of ensuring regional security and stability".

### **Kyrgyzstan ratifies the Agreement on the Establishment of Uzbek-Kyrgyz Development Fund**

18.08.2021

Source: [uzdaily.uz](https://uzdaily.uz)

President of the Kyrgyz Republic Sadyr Zhaparov signed the law "On the ratification of the Agreement between the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the establishment of the Uzbek-Kyrgyz Development Fund, signed on March 11, 2021, in the city of Tashkent".

According to Kabar National News Agency, the law aims at conducting domestic procedures for the ratification of the intergovernmental agreement on the establishment of the Uzbek-Kyrgyz Development Fund.

The Fund will finance self-sustaining projects in priority sectors of the Kyrgyz economy by providing loans, participating in capital and using other financial instruments in relations with business entities registered and operating in Kyrgyzstan.

The Fund is an international organization with a charter capital of \$50 million, which is contributed by Uzbekistan with the subsequent increase of the charter capital to \$200 million.

### **Issues of avoiding forced labor in the current cotton-picking season discussed**

18.08.2021

Source: [uzdaily.uz](https://uzdaily.uz)

"On 18 August 2021, a regular meeting of the National Commission on Combating Human Trafficking and Forced Labor was held.

The meeting focused on the issues of providing assistance to victims of trafficking in persons, their rehabilitation, as well as protecting the interests of our citizens abroad. It was emphasized that comprehensive assistance is being provided to women victims of trafficking in persons, who returned after a long stay abroad and deported women.

The event also discussed the implementation of the recommendations of the annual report of the US Department of State in practice, an agreement was reached on the development of an appropriate "Roadmap" in this direction.

At the meeting, attention was also paid to issues awaiting their decision on combating human trafficking and forced labor. It was criticized that there are still cases of forced employment by the heads of individual local executive bodies, lower-level structures of ministries and departments.

During the meeting, participants also discussed issues of preventing forced labor in the current cotton picking season, the correct formalization of labor relations, and the creation of decent working and rest conditions for pickers.

An appropriate decision of the National Commission was made on the issues discussed under the agenda, and the tasks ahead were identified.

### **President holds a dialogue with entrepreneurs**

20.08.2021

Source: [Uzbekistan National News Agency](#)

On August 20, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev held an open dialogue with entrepreneurs of the country.

The event was attended by about ten thousand entrepreneurs.

Before the open dialogue, a collection of appeals on the problems concerning entrepreneurs was announced. More than 15 thousand appeals were received on various issues.

In his speech, the President outlined 7 important areas for their solution. The first direction concerns business financing, the second one – improving the tax system and reducing the tax burden on business, the third one is aimed at improving the procedure for providing land, the fourth one – developing infrastructure, the fifth one – supporting exporting enterprises, the sixth one – the transport and logistics sector, the seventh one – simplifying business procedures.

The Head of the state outlined the current tasks in each area and put forward new initiatives.

The President suggested holding such open dialogues traditionally and establishing August 20 as the Entrepreneur's Day in the country. Participants widely supported these proposals.

### **Foreign Ministry: Uzbekistan evacuated 1,982 citizens of foreign countries**

20.08.2021

Source: [uzdaily.uz](#)

Due to the continuing difficult situation in neighboring Afghanistan, in response to requests from foreign partners, as well as in the spirit of adherence to the principles of international humanitarian law, the Republic of Uzbekistan is closely cooperating with a number of foreign states on citizens from Afghanistan.

Currently, joint efforts are being made with such states as Germany, Russia, USA, Switzerland, Austria, Denmark, Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, Kazakhstan with the provision of services for the use of airport infrastructure, permits for flying through the airspace, takeoff and landing, provision of the necessary technical and logistic assistance.

Coordinated work was ensured together with foreign partners on the orderly evacuation from Afghanistan and transit through the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan of both citizens of foreign states and citizens of Afghanistan sent to previously agreed countries.

Over the past few days, 1982 citizens of foreign countries have been evacuated through the territory of Uzbekistan. During a short-term stay on the territory of Uzbekistan, evacuees are provided with all the necessary assistance in compliance with strict quarantine measures, after which they are all sent to the countries of destination without delay.

### **President of Uzbekistan takes part in the CSTO Summit**

23.08.2021

Source: [Uzbekistan National News Agency](#)

On August 23, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev took part as a guest in an extraordinary session of the Collective Security Treaty Organization on the situation in Afghanistan, via videoconference.

During the session, a thorough exchange of views took place on the emerging situation in neighboring Afghanistan, as well as measures that are taken to respond to challenges and threats to stability in the region.

The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan informed the meeting participants about the ongoing activities to promote regional security, including reliable security and protection of the State Border with Afghanistan.

The Leader of Uzbekistan noted with satisfaction the established fruitful interaction and prompt exchange of information with the involved structures of the states of the region in the Afghan direction.

Following the summit, an agreement was reached to continue joint consultations and regular exchange of information on the situation in the region.

### **Uzbekistan, Tajikistan Leaders discuss the situation in the region**

23.08.2021

Source: [The Government portal of the Republic of Uzbekistan](#)

On August 23, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev had a telephone conversation with the President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon.

The leaders of the two states considered the current agenda of Uzbekistan – Tajikistan strategic partnership and multifaceted cooperation.

The main attention was paid to the issues of regional interaction in the context of the development of the situation in neighboring Afghanistan.

The Presidents of Uzbekistan and Tajikistan emphasized the importance of continuing active interdepartmental contacts on the practical aspects of ensuring regional security and stability.

## **The Code on Voluntary Commitments of States during Pandemics developed by Uzbekistan has been distributed as an official document of the 75th session of the UN General Assembly**

23.08.2021

Source: [Dunyo Information Agency](#)

During his speech at the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly, in September 2020, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev proposed to develop under the United Nations auspices an International Code on Voluntary Commitments of States during Pandemics.

According to the Permanent Mission of Uzbekistan to the UN, our country has prepared the text of the International Code on Voluntary Commitments of States during Pandemics, which is published as an official document of the 75th session of the UN General Assembly. It has been translated into the six official languages of the United Nations - Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish, and is widely distributed among all Member States and specialized agencies and agencies of the United Nations.

The Code, published by the UN, emphasizes the importance of cooperation in global responses to pandemics should be based on the principles of unity, solidarity, openness, mutual assistance and the protection of human rights.

The publication of the text of the Code as an official document of the 75th session of the UN General Assembly is undoubtedly an important contribution of Uzbekistan to the international efforts in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic and in elaborating a global compact.

## **Tree protection to strengthen, Environmental Police to be organized**

24.08.2021

Source: [Uzbekistan National News Agency](#)

"On August 24, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev chaired a videoconference on improving the environmental situation, effectively organizing tree protection and expanding green space.

Important tasks to improve the environmental situation and expand green space were identified. The task has been set to plant 55 million seedlings in the fall of this year along highways, along the perimeter of fields and in all settlements, and in the spring of next year – 70 million seedlings of mulberry, paulownia, maple, oak, walnut, narrow-leaved oak, poplar and other fruit and ornamental trees.

The main attention was paid to the creation of green areas and public parks in cities.

Therefore, the responsible persons have been instructed to carry out a complete inventory of trees in all recreation parks and to increase the number of public parks. It was noted that 70 percent of recreation parks should be green areas, in which it is prohibited to build any buildings and structures.

The Head of the state ordered to strengthen measures to protect trees. In particular, the Tree Felling Moratorium will be extended until 2024, and the responsibility for violating it will



be significantly increased. It is strictly forbidden to cut trees in green areas and public parks.

An Environmental Police will be established in Tashkent and regional centers. It will be entrusted with the tasks of combating offenses in the ecology, including unauthorized felling of trees, disposal of waste in the wrong place, poaching and others.

### **President of Uzbekistan receives the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan**

25.08.2021

Source: [Uzbekistan National News Agency](#)

On August 25, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev received the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Mahmood Qureshi.

The President noted with satisfaction the dynamic development of Uzbekistan – Pakistan multifaceted cooperation. The high-level talks held in Tashkent city in July this year marked the beginning of a new stage of cooperation based on the principles of strategic partnership.

Issues of practical implementation of the agreements reached at the highest level were considered at the meeting.

The main attention was paid to the development of the situation in Afghanistan. The importance of continuing close interdepartmental contacts and exchanges on aspects of ensuring regional security was emphasized.

The commitment to further joint promotion of Termez – Mazar-i-Sharif – Kabul – Peshawar railway construction project was also confirmed.

### **Uzbekistan, Poland Presidents discuss current issues of cooperation**

25.08.2021

Source: [Uzbekistan National News Agency](#)

On August 25, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev had a telephone conversation with the President of the Republic of Poland Andrzej Duda.

The Leaders considered the current issues on the bilateral agenda, including the development of political dialogue, expansion of trade, economic and investment cooperation, promotion of cultural and humanitarian exchange programs, as well as the continuation of fruitful interaction within the framework of international organizations.

The heads of state also exchanged views on the current situation in the region in the context of the situation in Afghanistan.

The President of Poland expressed his sincere gratitude for all possible assistance in the implementation of humanitarian operations to evacuate citizens from Afghanistan to Poland in transit through the territory of Uzbekistan.

An agreement was reached to continue close cooperation to facilitate a peaceful settlement of the Afghan problem.

## **Solar photovoltaic plant commissioned in Uzbekistan**

27.08.2021

Source: [Uzbekistan National News Agency](#)

On the eve of the 30th anniversary of Uzbekistan's independence, the country's first solar photovoltaic plant has been commissioned in Karmana district of Navoi region.

The construction of the complex began last year. Investments for \$110 million were allocated and 300 thousand solar panels were installed. The plant's capacity is 100 megawatts.

The project, called "Nur Navoi Solar", is implemented by Masdar company of the United Arab Emirates. The President emphasized the cooperation with this country that is developing every year. In the energy sector alone, six projects with a capacity of 1.7 thousand megawatts worth about \$1.5 billion are being implemented jointly with the UAE. The importance of this plant is that it will provide sustainable energy for the growing needs of the population and industry at an affordable price of 2.67 US cents per kilowatt-hour. Another important aspect is that new directions of line production and modern technologies appear thanks to such projects in Uzbekistan.

## **September 2021**

### **Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the neighbouring countries of Afghanistan**

08.09.2021

Source: [Uzbekistan National News Agency](#)

On September 8, 2021, the Ministerial Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the neighboring countries with Afghanistan was held via videoconference, Uzbekistan MFA reports.

The meeting, chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan Shah Mahmood Qureshi, was attended by the Foreign Minister of China Wang Yi, Iran – Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, Tajikistan – Sirojiddin Muhriddin, Uzbekistan – Abdulaziz Kamilov and the Deputy Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan – Vepa Hadjiev.

The participants, expressing support for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Afghanistan, as well as commitment to ensuring peace, security, national reconciliation, the principles of non-interference and sustainable development of Afghanistan, stressed that the future of the country should be determined by its people. It was noted that a stable, peaceful and prosperous Afghanistan meets the interests of the entire multinational Afghan people and the world community. The importance of sustainable international interaction with Afghanistan, in particular, support for its humanitarian needs in the field of development, was noted. The need for joint work to solve common problems and the desire to further strengthen cooperation and good-neighborly relations between neighboring states in the name of promoting peace, security, stability, regional connectivity and economic integration was emphasized.

### **Meeting with the Ambassador of Hungary**

10.09.2021

Source: [Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan](#)

On September 10, 2021, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan Abdulaziz Kamilov received the newly appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Hungary Gyula Kovacs.

Accepting copies of credentials, the Minister congratulated the Ambassador on the beginning of his activities in Uzbekistan and wished him success in his high and responsible post.

During the conversation, it was noted that in recent years there has been an intensification of bilateral cooperation. Mutual readiness was expressed to continue regular dialogue and practical interaction, including political consultations between the foreign ministries of the two countries, expanding trade, economic and investment ties.

The issues of regional and international agenda were also discussed. The Hungarian side expressed gratitude to Uzbekistan for its assistance in organizing the evacuation of Hungarian and other foreign citizens from Afghanistan.

### **Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan meets Ambassador of Latvia**

10.09.2021

Source: [Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan](#)

On September 10, 2021, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan Abdulaziz Kamilov received the newly appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Latvia Reinis Troksha.

Accepting copies of his credentials, the Minister congratulated the Ambassador on his appointment to a responsible post and expressed hope for his active work to further strengthen the multifaceted Uzbek-Latvian cooperation.

During the conversation, the implementation of the previously reached agreements and the schedule of upcoming official meetings at various levels were discussed. Mutual interest was expressed in enhancing political-diplomatic, trade-economic and cultural-humanitarian ties. An exchange of views took place on the interaction of the parties in the framework of international organizations and on certain regional issues.

### **MIFT: Representatives of Uzbekistan attend the Meeting of the Ministers of Economy of the Turkic Council Member States**

13.09.2021

Source: [Dunyo Information Agency](#)

Baku (Azerbaijan) hosted several events within the framework of the 10th meeting of the ministers of the economy (trade) of the member states and observers of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States (Turkic Council), reports "Dunyo" IA correspondent.

According to Uzbekistan MIFT, the meeting of the ministers was chaired by the Secretary-General of the Turkic Council Baghdad Amreyev and the Minister of Economy of Azerbaijan Mikayil Jabbarov.

The meeting was also attended by ministers from Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Hungary and Turkey. The delegation of Uzbekistan was represented by the First Deputy Minister of Investments and Foreign Trade Aziz Voitov.

Over the past three years, the trade turnover between the member countries of the Council, despite the coronavirus pandemic, has doubled and reached \$6.7 billion in 2020 and amounted to \$4.7 billion in the first half of this year.

The participants emphasized the significant untapped potential for the development of trade relations and bringing the trade turnover of Uzbekistan with the partner countries in the Turkic Council to \$10 billion in the coming years.

The parties discussed mechanisms for increasing the transport and transit potential of the region and providing access through Central Asia to the main world markets, including China, India, Pakistan and other Asian countries, as well as through Azerbaijan and Turkey to European countries.

Following the meeting, a Memorandum was signed on the exchange of information and experience between various economic zones of the Turkic Council member states, which is aimed at the accelerated development of free economic and special zones in the member states of the Council.

### **Meeting with the head of the Polish National Security Bureau**

14.09.2021

Source: [Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan](#)

On September 14, 2021, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan Abdulaziz Kamilov met with the head of the National Security Bureau of Poland Pavel Solokh.

The parties exchanged views on the state and prospects of further development of Uzbek-Polish relations. Special attention was paid to the current situation in Afghanistan.

The Polish side expressed gratitude to Uzbekistan for its assistance in organizing the evacuation of Polish and other foreign citizens from Afghanistan.

### **President of Uzbekistan receives Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of Turkmenistan**

14.09.2021

Source: [The Government portal of the Republic of Uzbekistan](#)

On September 14, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev received Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of Turkmenistan Esenmyrat Orazgeldiyev,

who arrived in Uzbekistan within the framework of meetings of bilateral intergovernmental commissions.

Practical aspects of further enhancing multifaceted cooperation were considered. It was noted with satisfaction that regular contacts at the highest level contribute to strengthening friendship, good-neighborliness and strategic partnership between the two fraternal countries, filling them with concrete content.

Esenmyrat Orazgeldiyev sincerely thanked the Leader of Uzbekistan for the warm welcome and conveyed greetings and best wishes of the President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov.

He also informed about the main results of the meetings of the joint intergovernmental commissions on cooperation and water management issues held in Tashkent. The President of Uzbekistan noted the importance of thorough preparation for the upcoming summit in Uzbekistan, first of all, the formation of a rich agenda, as well as the promotion of economic cooperation projects and cultural-humanitarian exchange programs.

### **Uzbekistan, Tajikistan Presidents discuss current issues of cooperation**

16.09.2021

Source: [Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan](#)

After arriving in Dushanbe, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev met with the President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon.

Current issues of further development of Uzbekistan – Tajikistan multifaceted relations, as well as regional cooperation were considered.

The importance of continuing active contacts and exchanges for the practical implementation of cooperation projects in economic sectors and the program of cultural-humanitarian interaction in accordance with the agreements at the highest level was emphasized. Views were also exchanged on the current situation in Afghanistan.

### **The heads of Uzbekistan and Pakistan speak for the fullest use of the cooperation potential**

16.09.2021

Source: [Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan](#)

On September 16, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev held talks with the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Imran Khan, in the city of Dushanbe.

The issues of practical implementation of agreements on the development of Uzbekistan – Pakistan multifaceted cooperation, reached during the summit of the leaders of the two countries in the city of Tashkent in July this year, were considered.

The importance of further joint work to create favorable conditions for the expansion of fruitful business exchanges was emphasized. This is primarily about the early adoption of an



agreement on preferential trade, the implementation of the provisions of the agreement on transit and trade relations, the implementation of investment projects in various sectors of the economy in accordance with the adopted roadmap.

At the meeting, views were exchanged on the situation in the region in the context of the current situation in Afghanistan. An agreement was reached to continue close cooperation on the issues of ensuring regional security.

### **SCO chairmanship passes to Uzbekistan**

17.09.2021

Source: [Uzbekistan National News Agency](#)

On September 17, Tajikistan's city of Dushanbe hosted an anniversary meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev in his speech emphasized the growing role of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in modern international relations.

The President of Uzbekistan also drew attention to the urgent tasks on the SCO agenda and made specific proposals for their solution:

- specific principles for the development of a dialogue with the new authorities of Afghanistan were proposed, including the achievement of broad political representation of all layers of Afghan society in public administration, as well as the observance of fundamental human rights and freedoms, including women and national minorities;
- to regularly hold high-level meetings in the SCO – Afghanistan format, with the involvement of observer states and dialogue partners. Readiness was expressed to organize the first such meeting in Tashkent;
- to prepare and adopt a Comprehensive Program for the implementation of the Treaty on long-term good-neighborliness, friendship and cooperation of the SCO member states for 2023-2027 to further build up the multifaceted partnership between the SCO member states;
- to develop a Joint Action Plan for the Development of Intraregional Trade, which provides for measures to eliminate trade barriers, approximate technical regulations, digitalize customs procedures, as well as implement other measures to facilitate mutual access to markets;
- to adopt the SCO Strategy for the Development of Transport Connectivity which will make it possible to fully use the transit potential of our countries and increase the efficiency of the East-West and North-South corridors system;
- to launch a mechanism of regular ministerial meetings and expert consultations in food security issues;
- to establish an expert SCO Forum in information security to adequately respond to modern threats and challenges in cyberspace;

- to develop an intergovernmental agreement on cooperation between SCO member countries in tourism.

Following the meeting, the Dushanbe Declaration on the Twentieth Anniversary of the SCO was adopted. 30 documents were signed aimed at further enhancing multifaceted cooperation within the organization.

### **President of Uzbekistan put forward important initiatives at the 76th session of the UN General Assembly**

21.09.2021

Source: [Uzbekistan National News Agency](#)

On September 21, the General Debate began at the headquarters of the United Nations in New York, within the framework of the 76th session of the UN General Assembly. The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev delivered a video message.

In his speech President Shavkat Mirziyoyev emphasized the growing role and importance of the United Nations and its specialized agencies in the new conditions.

The President of Uzbekistan dwelt on large-scale and rapid democratic reforms that are underway in the country in recent years. Following initiatives were proposed by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev during his speech:

- to hold an International Conference in Tashkent dedicated to studying the problems of global economic recovery, the implementation of the best practices in poverty reduction in the post-pandemic period;
- to hold in 2022 a High-Level International Forum in cooperation with the United Nations on green energy in the Aral Sea Region in the city of Nukus;
- to hold the Sixth High-Level Assembly under the auspices of the United Nations in 2023 in Uzbekistan for in-depth discussions of the priorities of global environmental policy, etc.

Following his speech, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev confirmed the readiness of Uzbekistan to develop a mutually beneficial, long-term and multifaceted partnership with all countries of the world and global organizations. It was emphasized that Uzbekistan will continue to strengthen cooperation aimed at sustainable growth, safe and a prosperous future.