

# Kazakhstan - EU July Briefing

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**KAZAKHSTAN-EU  
GATEWAY**



## July Highlights

- Embassy of Kazakhstan hosts **Shanyrak Dialogue in Brussels**, keeps transport connectivity high on the agenda (7 July, [Embassy of Kazakhstan to the EU](#))
- Annual **EU–Central Asia security dialogue** reviews regional risks and resilience (17 July, [EEAS](#))
- Kazakhstan and **EBRD** prepare **QaJET energy–transition investment platform** for COP31 (17 July, [The Astana Times](#))
- French **Alstom** supports Kazakhstan’s Trans–Caspian Transport Corridor ambitions (7 July, [The Astana Times](#))
- Kazakhstan expands **Aktau–Kuryk port capacity** and develops shipbuilding and aviation hubs (23 July, [Government of Kazakhstan](#))
- Kazakhstan sends first mineral–fertiliser **shipment to the UK** through the Trans–Caspian Transport Corridor (28 July 2026, [AzerNews](#))
- Kazakhstan and **Korea** expand **rare earth** research capacity (7 July, [Satbayev University](#))
- European Commission and EBRD join **uranium–legacy** remediation discussions in Aktau (17 July, [National Nuclear Center](#))
- Kazakhstan presents its **AI ecosystem** and governance priorities in Geneva (7–8 July, [Government of Kazakhstan](#))
- Kazakhstan promotes investment in **AI and digital infrastructure**, concerns raised about privacy (10 July 2026, [Euronews](#))
- **Austrian** and **Greek** companies consider local dairy manufacturing (16 July 2026, [Baiterek](#) and [Kazakh Invest](#))
- **OECD** highlights competition, transparency and regulatory stability as **investment priorities** for Kazakhstan (27 July 2026, [Trend](#))
- **Education, mobility and research cooperation** strengthen the societal dimension of EU–Kazakhstan relations (July, [Erasmus+ Kazakhstan National Office](#))
- Euronews launches **Kazakh–language broadcasting** (7 July 2026, [Euronews](#))



## Policy and diplomacy

### **Embassy of Kazakhstan hosts Shanyrak Dialogue in Brussels, keeps transport connectivity high on the agenda** (7 July, [Embassy of Kazakhstan to the EU](#))

After an eventful June, with President Tokayev visiting Brussels and a number of agreements signed, the Embassy of Kazakhstan to the EU once again reasserted the partnership between the two parties. The latest Shanyrak Dialogue was hosted by the Embassy in Brussels on 7 July, bringing together EU institutions, diplomats, business representatives, experts and academics. The discussion followed the developments in Kazakhstan–EU cooperation, highlighting the priority areas of energy, critical raw materials, digitalisation, education and humanitarian ties. The event also referred to more than 30 commercial agreements worth over \$12 billion.

#### **Relevance:**

The momentum created in June is kept up through follow-ups such as this. In addition to spreading news on recent developments, the Shanyrak Dialogue acts as a platform for discussion and cooperation among different stakeholders.

### **Annual EU–Central Asia security dialogue reviews regional risks and resilience** (17 July, [EEAS](#))

The EU and the five Central Asian countries held the 13th meeting of their annual High-Level Political and Security Dialogue in Brussels on 16 July. Discussions covered Russia's war against Ukraine, the Middle East, Afghanistan, border management, counter-terrorism, drug trafficking and cybersecurity, alongside secure transport corridors, energy security and digital transformation. Kazakhstan was represented by Deputy Foreign Minister Arman Issetov.

#### **Relevance:**

As an established annual dialogue, the meeting represents continuity rather than a new development in EU–Kazakhstan relations. It nevertheless provides Kazakhstan with a regular channel for coordinating with the EU and its Central Asian neighbours on security issues that increasingly affect economic cooperation, including cyber threats, border management and the security of transport routes. Kazakhstan's participation at deputy-minister level also supports



its role in implementing the wider EU–Central Asia agenda, including commitments made at the first EU–Central Asia Summit.

**Kazakhstan and EBRD prepare QaJET energy–transition investment platform for COP31** (17 July, [The Astana Times](#))

Kazakhstan and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development reviewed preparations for the QaJET national investment platform for a just energy transition. First Deputy Foreign Minister Yerzhan Ashikbayev and an EBRD delegation discussed using the platform to mobilise international climate finance, alongside cooperation on green investment, infrastructure, digitalisation and private–sector development. QaJET is being developed with Kazakhstan’s energy and environment ministries and was intended for an official launch at COP31.

**Relevance:**

EBRD support could help Kazakhstan turn its climate commitments into investable renewable–energy and decarbonisation projects. Although QaJET is not an EU initiative, it complements the EU–Kazakhstan agenda on climate action, sustainable finance and the green transition, while potentially creating opportunities for European investors and technology providers. Its impact will depend on whether the platform attracts substantial financing and supports credible regulatory and energy–sector reforms.

## **Transport, logistics and connectivity**

**French Alstom supports Kazakhstan’s Trans–Caspian Transport Corridor ambitions** (7 July, [The Astana Times](#))

French rail company Alstom described Kazakhstan’s early investment in the Middle Corridor as increasingly relevant amid disruptions to traditional maritime and northern rail routes. Alstom has invested more than €200 million in Kazakhstan over 15 years, produced more than 200 electric locomotives, and signed a 2025 contract for 205 KZ6 electric locomotives designed for container transport. Testing and certification are expected in 2028, with commercial operations planned for 2029.



**Relevance:**

In the end of June 2026, the European Investment Bank signed a €150 million framework loan to support road rehabilitation along the Trans-Caspian Transport Corridor, covering around 1,370 kilometres of roads in central and southern Kazakhstan. For the EU, this is a milestone in establishing secure transportation links between Europe and Asia. Kazakhstan aims for an increasingly important role as a reliable and secure partner in logistics.

**Kazakhstan expands Aktau–Kuryk port capacity and develops shipbuilding and aviation hubs** (23 July, [Government of Kazakhstan](#))

Container transit through Kazakhstan's Caspian ports increased 3.8-fold between 2022 and 2025. Aktau's container hub is expected to expand from 140,000 to 240,000 TEU, supported by six new container vessels and modernised railway connections. Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan also agreed to prepare a plan for increasing cargo flows towards the Caucasus, Türkiye and Europe. A [second Government article](#) outlines plans for a new shipyard, a multimodal hub at Aktau Airport and a large terminal at Kuryk Port.

**Relevance:**

The projects could strengthen the Trans-Caspian route between Kazakhstan and the EU while creating opportunities for European companies in port equipment, shipbuilding, railway systems, maintenance and logistics digitalisation. Their value for EU–Kazakhstan relations will depend on whether additional capacity leads to reliable delivery times, coordinated documentation and competitive tariffs along the full corridor.

**Kazakhstan sends first mineral–fertiliser shipment to the UK through the Trans-Caspian Transport Corridor** (28 July 2026, [AzerNews](#))

Kazakhstan Temir Zholy organised the first multimodal shipment of mineral fertilisers from Ekibastuz to the United Kingdom. The cargo is travelling by rail and sea through Kazakhstan, the Caspian Sea, Azerbaijan and Georgia, before continuing from Poti or Batumi to Felixstowe. The shipment could help Kazakh producers enter the UK market and reduce dependence on routes through Russia.





**Relevance:**

This is a practical example of the Trans-Caspian Transport Corridor being used for trade with Europe. Its importance will depend on whether similar shipments become regular and commercially competitive.

## Critical Raw Materials

**Kazakhstan and Korea expand rare earth research capacity** (7 July, [Satbayev University](#))

Kazakhstan and South Korea are establishing a Kazakh-Korean Centre for Rare and Rare Earth Metals at the Institute of Metallurgy and Ore Beneficiation in Almaty. The centre, developed by Satbayev University and Korean institutes, will focus on rare and rare earth metals processing, clean production technologies, pilot testing and specialist training.

**Relevance:**

Satbayev University highlights Kazakhstan's capacity to supply 21 of 34 critical raw materials on the EU's list – a point also discussed by President Tokayev during his Brussels visit in June. Now that Kazakhstan and the EU have committed to advancing the Strategic Partnership on Sustainable Raw Materials, Batteries and Renewable Hydrogen value chains, reliability on the processing side is needed. This collaboration with South Korea aims to enable knowledge exchange and strengthen Kazakhstan's technical capacity.

**European Commission and EBRD join uranium-legacy remediation discussions** (17 July, [National Nuclear Center](#))

Kazakhstan hosted the annual technical meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency's Coordination Group for Uranium Legacy Sites in Aktau from 13 to 17 July. The meeting brought together representatives from the IAEA, the European Commission, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and Central Asian countries. Discussions focused on the safe remediation and long-term monitoring of former uranium sites. Participants also visited the Koshkar-Ata



tailings facility, the Chemical-Hydrometallurgical Plant and the BN-350 reactor, which is being decommissioned.

**Relevance:**

The participation of the European Commission and the EBRD reflects the importance of environmental and nuclear safety in EU–Kazakhstan relations. The EU has supported international efforts to address uranium-mining legacies in Central Asia, including technical studies, environmental assessments and remediation initiatives.

## Digitalisation, AI and innovation

**Kazakhstan presents its AI ecosystem and governance priorities in Geneva** (7–8 July, [Government of Kazakhstan](#))

Kazakhstan opened a national pavilion at the ITU’s AI for Good Global Summit, presenting Astana Hub, its GovTech system, national supercomputing infrastructure and plans for a Data Center Valley with capacity of up to one gigawatt. In a [second government article](#), Kazakhstan called for international cooperation on AI governance, including common approaches to data protection, security, transparency, accountability and interoperability.

**Relevance:**

Digital connectivity is an increasingly important part of EU–Kazakhstan relations under the Global Gateway strategy. Kazakhstan’s expanding AI and GovTech ecosystem could create opportunities for cooperation in digital infrastructure, research, cybersecurity and public-sector technology. For closer engagement with the EU, attention will also be needed on trusted data governance, interoperability, energy efficiency and the environmental footprint of large data centres.

**Kazakhstan promotes investment in AI and digital infrastructure, concerns raised about privacy** (10 July 2026, [Euronews](#))

Kazakhstan is positioning itself as a regional centre for artificial intelligence and digital infrastructure. Its plans include a large data-centre campus, an AI cluster,



new cloud infrastructure and a fibre-optic cable under the Caspian Sea. The government hopes these projects will attract international technology companies and support the development of digital public services and businesses.

[The Times of Central Asia](#) raised privacy concerns about Kazakhstan's use of facial-recognition robot dogs at public events, especially the risk for false information matches and data storage. The Eurasian Digital Foundation has called for stricter limits on mass surveillance, more transparency and clearer rules for handling biometric data.

**Relevance:**

Kazakhstan's AI plans could create opportunities for European technology companies and investors. However, future cooperation should also include clear rules on biometric data, transparency and independent supervision.

## Trade and investment

**Austrian and Greek companies consider local dairy manufacturing** (16 July 2026, [Baiterek](#) and [Kazakh Invest](#))

Austria's Berglandmilch and Greece's Desserta Hellas examined options for producing dairy products in Kazakhstan. Models under consideration include a wholly owned plant, a joint venture or a phased transition from distribution to manufacturing. Discussions covered milk collection, cold-chain logistics, cheese and yoghurt production, technology transfer and European quality standards. The investors met government agencies, financing institutions, business associations and possible local partners.

**Relevance:**

This proposal identifies products, operational requirements and possible investment structures. It could also create demand for processing equipment, refrigeration, packaging, testing, certification and agricultural services.

**OECD highlights competition, transparency and regulatory stability as investment priorities for Kazakhstan** (27 July 2026, [Trend](#))





The OECD described Kazakhstan as an important partner in Central Asia. It identified connectivity, critical raw materials, green growth, digitalisation and public-sector reform as key areas for further cooperation.

Kazakhstan and the OECD are discussing a new Action Plan for 2027–2030. The OECD welcomed recent reforms but said that stronger competition, clearer regulation, greater transparency and better governance would help attract more private investment.

**Relevance:**

The OECD's recommendations are important for European investors and financial institutions. The new Action Plan should be monitored for concrete reforms on competition, state-owned companies, procurement and anti-corruption.

## People-to-people connections

### **Education, mobility and research cooperation strengthen the societal dimension of EU–Kazakhstan relations** (July, [Erasmus+ Kazakhstan National Office](#))

A key area of cooperation remains participation in European educational programmes, particularly Erasmus+ and Horizon Europe. These initiatives provide opportunities for Kazakh educational institutions to form stronger links with European partners. Early July saw the opening of an International Center for Inclusive Education at Kazakh National Agrarian Research University (KazNARU) under the Erasmus+ EduFusion project. The centre will support staff training, accessible digital and physical infrastructure, and cooperation with partner institutions in Europe and other regions. On 15 July, the National Academy of Sciences of Kazakhstan hosted a Horizon Europe seminar on funding opportunities, partner search, consortium-building and proposal preparation.

This was followed by a [pre-departure orientation session for Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters students on 20 July 2026](#), organised by the National Erasmus+ Office and the EU Delegation to Kazakhstan. The session provided practical guidance on



studying in Europe, travel preparations, academic expectations and available support.

### **Relevance**

People-to-people cooperation provides the long-term foundation of the EU–Kazakhstan relationship. Political agreements and economic projects can change depending on international circumstances, but educational and professional networks create lasting connections. For Kazakhstan, closer engagement with European academic and research systems supports the human capital, domestic development and innovation. Kazakhstan’s educational institutions additionally benefit from internationalisation. For the EU, these exchanges strengthen its presence and influence in Central Asia through cooperation based on knowledge, mobility and institutional partnerships.

## **Other developments**

### **Euronews launches Kazakh-language broadcasting** (7 July 2026, [Euronews](#))

European news network Euronews launched a Kazakh-language service in Astana, presenting it as an expansion of European-perspective journalism and international coverage in Kazakhstan.

#### **Relevance:**

Although not a conventional investment project, the launch expands the European media presence in Kazakhstan and creates an additional channel for explaining EU policy, European markets and international developments to Kazakh audiences. Its longer-term relevance will depend on editorial independence, audience reach, the distinction between journalism and sponsored national content, and whether it generates exchanges involving European and Kazakh media professionals.