Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan issued a special circular in which he recalled that 2021 was included to the memorable anniversaries by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in connection with the 700th anniversary of the death of Yunus Emre whose legacy is one of the cornerstones of the Turkic language and civilization.

"Yunus succeeded in becoming a poet much older than his age uniting people around common values, contributing to world humanism with his principle of looking at seventy-two peoples with one eye as well as with his philosophy based on universal values," R.T. Erdogan said.

The celebratory year will aim to present the legacy of Yunus Emre as a common value for all mankind. In addition, a large-scale campaign under the slogan Turkish as a world language will be held at home and abroad. One of the main goals of this campaign is to once again emphasize the importance of the Turkish language, to ensure its conscious and correct use as the original language of civilization.

In addition, R.T. Erdogan announced that the Festive events can be held under the auspices of the President of the Republic of Turkey. They will be implemented by the relevant state institutions and organizations under the coordination of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism.
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE TURKIC COUNCIL VISITS UZBEKISTAN

On February 8-10, the Secretary General of the Turkic Council Bagdad Amreyev paid a visit to Uzbekistan. During his stay in Tashkent, B. Amreev held a number of meetings with members of the Uzbek Government and relevant authorities.

During the meeting with the Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Uzbekistan Jamshid Khodjayev, the parties discussed possible ways to expand multilateral cooperation in the agricultural sector, exchange of experience and results of scientific developments, specialists and scientists of agricultural research centers of the participating and observer countries.

At the meeting with the Uzbek Minister of Culture Ozodbek Nazarbekov the parties stressed the need to strengthen the existing cooperation in the field of culture between the organizations of Turkic cooperation.

During the meeting with the Minister of Innovative Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan Ibrohim Abdurakhmonov, the parties discussed the current activities within the framework of the Turkic Council and exchanged views on further strengthening cooperation in the development of innovative ecosystems.

During the meeting with the First Deputy Minister for the Development of Information Technologies and Communications of the Republic of Uzbekistan Oleg Pecos, the sides exchanged views on the Organization’s ongoing efforts to ensure closer cooperation between the members of the Turkic Council in the field of cybersecurity, digitalization, new digital technologies and satellite services.

Director of the Agency for Youth Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan Alisher Sadullayev stressed the attention that his country attaches to relations within the Organization, and expressed his readiness to participate in youth and sports events organized by the Turkic Council.
THE EU AND AZERBAIJAN EXPAND THE “SOUTHERN GAS CORRIDOR”

On February 12, the Minister of Energy of the Republic of Azerbaijan Parviz Shahbazov, the European Commissioner for Energy Kadri Simson and the European Commissioner for Neighborhood and Enlargement Oliver Varhelyi issued a joint statement on the Southern Gas Corridor.

The seventh ministerial meeting of the Southern Gas Corridor Advisory Council held in Baku on February 11, 2021 via videoconference celebrates the strategic energy partnership between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the European Union and welcomes the completion of the Southern Gas Corridor project and the start of gas supplies from Azerbaijan to the European Union. This historic achievement was based on close collaboration between governments, international organizations, financial credit institutions, enterprise and transport system operators, contracting companies, communities and local authorities throughout the 3,500 km value chain.

We emphasize the fundamental role of the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan in its long-term commitment to the implementation of the Southern Gas Corridor to ensure diversified and stable gas supplies to Europe and to benefit the parties from a broader economic partnership.

We support the efforts of all interested partners to explore the possibility of expanding the Southern Gas Corridor to new energy markets based on technical, regulatory and commercial opportunities, including the Western Balkans, as they transition to a carbon-free energy system, the statement said.
On February 5, Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic Ulukbek Maripov held working meetings with prime ministers of several states on the sidelines of the regular meeting of the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council in Almaty (Kazakhstan).

In particular, the head of the Kyrgyz government held a meeting with the Prime Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan Askar Mamin. During the meeting, the heads of government of the two neighboring Turkic countries discussed issues of further Kyrgyz-Kazakh cooperation in trade, economic, investment, transport, water and energy spheres. Following the meeting, the parties agreed to hold the IX meeting of the Kyrgyz-Kazakh Intergovernmental Council in the territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan in 2021.

In addition, the head of the Government of Kyrgyzstan met with the Prime Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan Abdulla Aripov with whom he discussed a wide range of issues related to bilateral cooperation in trade, economic, investment, agricultural, cultural, humanitarian, water, energy and transport spheres.
KAZAKHSTAN AND UZBEKISTAN PLAN TO BUILD A HIGH-SPEED HIGHWAY

On February 2, Kazakh Minister of Industry and Infrastructure Development Beibut Atamkulov met with Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Uzbekistan to Kazakhstan Saidikram Niyazkhodzhayev. The parties discussed the prospects for deepening bilateral cooperation. The participants paid special attention to infrastructure projects.

Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan are working on the creation of a high-speed railway passenger link Turkestan-Shymkent-Tashkent, which will increase the tourist potential of both countries. In addition, the plans include the construction of a new Maktaaral – Darbaza line with access to the territory of Uzbekistan, which will relieve the current Saryagash crossing point.

In addition, the Minister and the Ambassador discussed air traffic issues. Despite the coronavirus pandemic, flights between the countries are carried out regularly. In the future, their number is planned to increase as well as open new destinations from the Uzbek cities such as Urgench, Samarkand, Nukus to Kazakhstan’s Turkestan, Aktau and Taraz.

In addition to infrastructure solutions, the participants of the meeting paid attention to a number of industrial projects. At the end of the meeting, the parties thanked each other for their assistance in the implementation of new projects and also expressed hope for further fruitful development of relations.
On February 12, President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov approved the Foreign Trade Strategy of Turkmenistan for 2021-2030.

The corresponding Decree of the Turkmen head of state signed «in order to successfully achieve the goals identified in the «Program of development of foreign economic activity of Turkmenistan for years 2020-2025», the increase in production and export capacity of our economy, increasing the competitiveness of domestic products in world markets, further improve the business environment and investment environment in the economy of Turkmenistan, optimal payments and trade balance of the national economy».

The document instructs ministries and industry departments to ensure the implementation of the measures outlined in this Strategy.