INFORMAL SUMMIT OF THE TURKIC COUNCIL WAS HELD

On March 31, an unofficial online summit of the Cooperation Council of Turkic-speaking States was held on the initiative of the First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan – Elbasy Nursultan Nazarbayev.

The meeting of the leaders of the fraternal countries was attended by the First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan – Elbasy Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev, President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, President of the Kyrgyz Republic Sadyr Zhaparov, President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, President of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan, President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, Prime Minister of Hungary Viktor Orban, Secretary General of the Cooperation Council of Turkic-speaking States Baghdad Amreyev and President of the International Turkic Academy Darkhan Kydyrali.

During the meeting, issues of cooperation and further development of trade, economic, cultural and humanitarian spheres in the fraternal states were discussed. The meeting was opened and moderated by the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev.

“Our goal is to turn the Turkic world into one of the most important economic, cultural and humanitarian regions of the XXI century. We call for the modernization of the Turkic civilization to begin by introducing the world to the heritage of Ahmet Yasawi and holy Turkistan. Therefore, today’s summit is held under the motto ‘Turkistan – a spiritual capital of the Turkic world,’ the President of Kazakhstan stressed.

Speaking about the relevance of humanitarian and academic cooperation in the modern world, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev noted that the city of Turkistan, the foundation of which was laid in the Middle Ages, from the point of view of archeology and science in general, has not yet been fully studied.

– It is very important that TURKSOY and the Turkic Academy pay special attention to conducting archaeological research in the Turkistan region. In addition, it will be good if we build a common architectural object in Turkistan symbolizing the friendship and unity of the Turkic people,- Tokayev stated.
Honorary Chairman of the Cooperation Council of Turkic-speaking States, First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan-Elbasy Nursultan Nazarbayev noted the need to develop a document on the future of the Turkic Council and adopt it at the upcoming summit in Turkey.

«My first suggestion is that we should continue further development and adopt a document on the future of the Turkic Council. At the summit in Baku, I proposed to raise the level of the Cooperation Council of the Turkic-speaking States to the level of the Organization,» Nursultan Nazarbayev said.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan invited the heads of the Turkic Council member states to visit the Antalya Diplomatic Forum and the upcoming 8th Summit of the Turkic Council.

«The diplomatic forum in Antalya will be held in June. The Forum works as a platform for the exchange of views in various fields. We hope that the next summit of the Turkic Council will be held on November 12, 2021 in Istanbul,» the Turkish President said.

Also, speaking about the signed protocols on mandatory contributions to the budget of the Turkic Academy and the Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation, Recep Tayyip Erdogan said: «It would be right for the protocols to enter into force as soon as possible in respect of these two organizations, which have been working for some time with voluntarily transferred contributions.»

Speaking at the Council, Kyrgyz President Sadyr Zhaparov noted: «The ancient city of Turkistan is well-known to the countries of the world and the city is inscribed in the history of the Turkic-speaking countries in golden letters. We can say that this city is a symbol of the unity of the Turkic-speaking world, as well as the foundation of the Turkic civilization.»

Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev proposed to create a Development Bank of the Turkic Council countries.

During the summit, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev summed up the results of today’s historic meeting and proposed to adopt the «Turkistan Declaration».

«In order to improve the status and strengthen the institutional structure of the Council, it takes time to turn it into a full-fledged organization. I propose to introduce and approve this proposal in the Turkistan Declaration which will be adopted at the end of the summit,» the Kazakh President said during the event. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev concluding the work of the event proposed to adopt the Turkistan Declaration. This proposal was unanimously supported by the parties and the Turkistan Declaration was adopted as a result of the informal summit of the Cooperation Council of the Turkic-speaking States.
On March 29, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev met with Prime Minister of Hungary Viktor Orban who arrived in Tashkent on an official visit.

Today, the official welcoming ceremony of the distinguished guest took place at the Kuksaroy Residence. Shavkat Mirziyoyev and Viktor Orban went up to the podium. The national anthems of Uzbekistan and Hungary were played.

The ceremony was attended by members of the official delegations of the two countries. President Shavkat Mirziyoyev welcomed the distinguished guest to the Uzbek land, noting that this visit will begin a new stage in relations between Uzbekistan and Hungary.

Viktor Orban sincerely thanked the Head of the Uzbek State for the warm welcome and confirmed Hungary’s interest in expanding multifaceted cooperation with Uzbekistan.

During the meeting, prospects for developing cooperation in the political, trade and economic, investment, financial and technical, cultural and humanitarian spheres were discussed.

The sides confirmed their readiness to bring the Uzbek-Hungarian relations, based on mutual trust and a wide range of common interests, to the level of strategic partnership. The leaders agreed to strengthen long-term cooperation, engage in new mutually beneficial areas, and maintain ties between the business circles and regions of the two countries.
AKKUYU NUCLEAR POWER PLANT 4TH REACTOR
CONSTRUCTION WILL BEGIN IN 2022

Three years have passed since the foundation of the first power unit of the Akkuyu NPP in Turkey was laid. Over the past period, the foundation was laid for two more power units. The groundbreaking ceremony of the last, fourth, power unit is scheduled for 2022.

The Akkuyu nuclear power plant is one of Turkey’s largest investments and will consist of four reactors with a capacity of 1,200 megawatts each. The construction of the first power unit is planned to be completed in 2023. The remaining three blocks will be put into operation in turn with a difference of one year. Thus, the nuclear power plant will reach full capacity in 2026.

Once the power plant reaches full production capacity, it will generate about 35 billion kWh of electricity per year which will meet 10 percent of Turkey’s domestic electricity demand.

An intergovernmental agreement between Turkey and Russia on cooperation in the construction and operation of a nuclear power plant at the Akkuyu site in the Turkish province of Mersin was signed in 2010.

The project of the first Turkish nuclear power plant includes four power units with VVER-1200 reactors with a total capacity of 4,800 megawatts. The NPP is planned to be built and put into operation by 2023. The construction cost is estimated at more than $20 billion.

After the construction is completed, the Akkuyu NPP will generate about 35 billion kWh per year.

Akkuyu NPP will significantly reduce Turkey’s dependence on energy imports.
On April 2, Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic Ulukbek Maripov met with Prime Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan Askar Mamin as part of the IX meeting of the Kyrgyz-Kazakh Intergovernmental Council.

The sides discussed the prospects for bilateral cooperation between the two countries in a number of areas, including the implementation of joint investment projects and agreements reached during the official visit of the head of the Kyrgyz state to Kazakhstan.

It is worth noting that on this day, the Ak-Zhol checkpoint on the Kyrgyz-Kazakh border was opened after major reconstruction.

It is noted that the reconstruction of the checkpoint began in March last year. 305 million soms were allocated from the republican budget for this purpose. 225 million rubles were allocated for construction and installation works, and 80 million rubles for technical equipment.
AZERBAIJAN AND TURKEY TO CREATE JOINT INVESTMENT FUND

Extensive work is underway between Azerbaijan and Turkey to establish a joint mutual investment fund.

This was stated on April 2 by Azerbaijani Economy Minister Mikayil Jabbarov during the discussion of Azerbaijani-Turkish economic relations.

According to M. Jabbarov, during the work of the Azerbaijani-Turkish intergovernmental commission on economic cooperation, an agreement was reached on the establishment of a joint investment fund.

“Currently, the Azerbaijan Investment Company OJSC, established by the President of Azerbaijan, and the National Welfare Fund of Turkey are negotiating the creation of an investment fund,” M. Jabbarov said.

It was said that the volume of Azerbaijan’s investments in fraternal Turkey reaches $19 billion and Turkey’s investments in the Azerbaijani economy is $13 billion. According to the Minister, Turkey is the leader in investments in the non-oil sector of the Azerbaijani economy.

“At the moment, there are about 4.2 thousand companies with Turkish capital operating in Azerbaijan, and the work of Turkish companies on 300 existing projects is estimated at $16.3 billion,” M. Jabbarov concluded.
TURKMENISTAN AND KAZAKHSTAN TO OPEN TRADING HOUSES

Currently, the issue of opening trading houses of Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan for the promotion of products and the conclusion of contracts between entrepreneurs of the two countries is being worked out. It is mainly about expanding cooperation between the two countries in the fuel and energy, transport and transit, and industrial sectors.

This will be an incentive to increase trade turnover and build up business ties between the business circles of the two states. Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan are important players in the energy market.

«For many years, the transit of Turkmen gas through the territory of Kazakhstan to the People’s Republic of China via the Turkmenistan–Uzbekistan–Kazakhstan-China gas pipeline has been successfully carried out,» the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan said.

It should be noted that Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan are strategic partners. Ashgabat and Nur-Sultan regularly discuss issues of partnership in the gas sector and in the development of cross-border mineral deposits.
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