KAZAKH PRESIDENT RECEIVES HUNGARIAN MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Kazakhstan President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev receives Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó on April 6.

During the meeting, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev stressed the high dynamics of the Kazakh-Hungarian strategic partnership, based on a trust-based political dialogue, progressive trade, economic and investment cooperation, and mutual support amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Kazakhstan President conveyed gratitude to Prime Minister of Hungary Viktor Orban for his active participation in the Informal Turkic Council Summit recently held in a virtual format with the motto “Turkestan – the Spiritual Capital of the Turkic World”.

“I believe that the negotiations will be very much positive in terms of giving an addition impetus development of relations between both Kazakhstan and Hungary. Hungary is the first country in your part of the world where Kazakhstan has put its first embassy as earliest as 30 years ago. We have a special relationship. Hungary is very popular in Kazakhstan, within the people, and are very sympathetic. Taking this opportunity, I would to mention that we appreciate very positive input of your Prime Minister Viktor Orban for his work within the Turkic Council,” the Head of State noted.

In turn, Péter Szijjártó expressed his appreciation to Kassym-Jomart Tokayev for the opportunity to meet and conveyed greetings from the leadership of his country, reaffirming Budapest’s readiness to further deepening comprehensive cooperation with Kazakhstan, including using the potential of the Turkic Council. Hungarian diplomat also noted the important role of Turkestan as a spiritual capital.

“You know that, you yourself, Mr. President and First President Nursultan Nazarbayev enjoy a very good and very high reputation in Hungary. We really feel that Kazakhstan and the people of Kazakhstan are friends of the Hungarians, even more than that brothers. We would like to underline the fact that we joined the Turkic Council was to a big part thanks to the strategic relationships we have built with Kazakhstan,” Péter Szijjártó stressed.

President Tokayev and Minister Szijjártó discussed a number of practical issues of bilateral relations with an emphasis on the implementation of the agreements reached during Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban’s official visit to Kazakhstan in April 2019.
KYRGYZ PRESIDENT RECEIVES HUNGARIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

President of Kyrgyzstan Sadyr Zhaparov received on Thursday Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade if Hungary Péter Szijjártó on April 8.

An exchange of views on topical issues of bilateral cooperation between Kyrgyzstan and Hungary and measures to further increase it took place.

President Zhaparov praised relations with Hungary, which is a strategic partner of Kyrgyzstan in the European Union.

In order to further develop this partnership, the Kyrgyz leader proposed the establishment of the Kyrgyz-Hungarian Strategic Council to effectively address important issues of bilateral cooperation.

He conveyed his greetings to Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban and invited him to pay a state visit to Kyrgyzstan.

Sadyr Zhaparov called for the establishment of a Business Council between Kyrgyzstan and Hungary with a view to strengthen cooperation between the business community.

In addition, the president noted the significant potential for cultural and humanitarian cooperation between the countries, due to their common Turkic roots, and thanked Peter Szijjártó for his personal contribution to the development of bilateral cooperation.

The Hungarian minister expressed the intention of the Hungarian side to give serious content to the strategic relations between the two countries.

He noted that the Hungarian-Kyrgyz Development Fund will provide a good opportunity for Hungarian companies to participate in the economic development of Kyrgyzstan.

Peter Szijjártó underlined that the Hungarian leadership attaches great importance to the participation of the country in the activities of the Cooperation Council of Turkic-Speaking States (CCTS).

He confirmed that Hungary is a reliable friend of Kyrgyzstan in Europe, stressing that 11 years ago his country began to expand its foreign policy to the East and Central Asia is considered the main region within this strategy.

The foreign minister of Hungary expressed satisfaction with the intention of the Kyrgyz side to open an embassy in Hungary and reported on the expansion of the Hungarian Embassy in Bishkek, which will soon begin issuing visas to a number of European countries.
MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND SPORTS ESTABLISHED IN UZBEKISTAN

The Ministry of Tourism and Sports has been established in Uzbekistan. President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev signed a decree on the creation of a new department.

The Ministry of Tourism and Sports is created on the basis of the Ministry of Physical Culture and Sports and the State Committee for Tourism Development.

The post of Deputy Prime Minister - Chairman of the State Committee for Tourism was transformed into the post of the Deputy Prime Minister - Minister of Tourism and Sports.

«Many sports facilities are not used, the efficiency is below 50%. They should work around the clock,» the head of the Uzbek state told Aziz Abdulkhakimov.

The Ministry of Sports of the Republic of Uzbekistan was established in February 2018 on the basis of the State Committee for Physical Culture and Sports. It was formed a year earlier together with the Ministry of Culture to replace the abolished Ministry of Culture and Sports.

The decree of the President of Uzbekistan then noted that the unification of the spheres of culture and sports in one ministry was ineffective.
The third meeting of ministers and high-level officials of the Cooperation Council of Turkic-Speaking States (Turkic Council), who are responsible for information and media, in Baku has ended. Representatives of Turkey, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Hungary took part in the discussions.

At the opening of the meeting, the Secretary General of the Turkic Council, Bagdad Amreyev, made a speech. The Secretary General noted that the Turkic-speaking countries stand in solidarity with Azerbaijan which has liberated its lands from occupation. Amreyev congratulated Azerbaijan on its victory in the 44-day war.

Assistant to the President of Azerbaijan Hikmet Hajiyev also addressed the participants of the meeting. He noted the importance of interaction between the media bodies of the Turkic-speaking countries in promoting the realities of the Turkic world. «In the field of media, the necessary legal parameters have been defined, documents have been adopted, which creates opportunities for expanding our cooperation in practice. The creation of information support between the Turkic-speaking countries is one of the important conditions,» Hikmet Hajiyev said.

Chairman of Communication Department of Presidential Administration of the Republic of Turkey Fahrettin Altun, Minister of Culture, Information, Sports, and Youth Policy of Republic of Kyrgyzstan Kairat Imanaliyev, Director of the Agency for Information and Mass Communications under the Administration of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Asadjon Khodjaev, Vice-minister of information and social development of the Republic of Kazakhstan Askhat Oralov, Hungary’s State Secretary for Foreign Relations and Security Policy of the Trade Ministry Peter Sztaray, Secretary-General of the Turkic Council Baghdad Amreyev have attended the meeting.

The meeting discussed an action plan to strengthen cooperation in the field of mass media and information between the member states of the Turkic Council.
Director of Communications Fahrettin Altun meets with Minister of Information and Social Development of Kazakhstan Aida Balaeva in Ankara on April 6.

During the meeting held at the Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye Directorate of Communications, public diplomacy efforts, cooperation between the two countries in the fields of culture, communication and media, as well as Türkiye and Kazakhstan relations, were discussed.

Celebrating the 30th anniversary of Kazakhstan’s independence during his speech at the meeting, Fahrettin Altun expressed that they saw the spirit of solidarity among Turkic world countries in Turkish-Kazakh relations, he mentioned that they would enrich bilateral relations by developing cooperation in the fields of media and communication.

“We will have critical collaborations in the fields of media, film and TV series, as well as public diplomacy,” said Altun and stated that they would form a joint working group and take concrete steps as soon as possible.

Altun noted that the Joint Media Platform, established between Türkiye and Azerbaijan, could be transformed into a platform that would include all Turkic countries.

Director of Communications Altun also conveyed his greetings and respect to President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev and Elbasy Nursultan Nazarbayev, the first President of Kazakhstan and the Honorary President of the Turkic Council.

Minister of Information and Social Development of Kazakhstan Aida Balaeva stated that she believed the talks would accelerate the relations between the two countries and attached great importance to media cooperation.

Balaeva stated that the development of relations between Türkiye and Kazakhstan was for the mutual interest of the two countries and collaborative efforts could yield fruitful results.

Balaeva thanked Director of Communications Fahrettin Altun for the hospitality extended to her and her delegation during their visit and presented him with the medal of «Pioneer in the Field of Information», Kazakhstan’s highest honour in the media field.
FOREIGN MINISTERS OF TURKMENISTAN AND IRAN MEET

On April 8, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif arrived in the capital of Turkmenistan, Ashgabat, on an official visit.

He was received by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan Rasit Meredow. The parties discussed the main issues of further interstate cooperation.

Expressing a positive view of the political, economic and cultural relations between Iran and Turkmenistan, Zarif called for closer cooperation between the two neighbors on various issues, such as environmental fields—including the Caspian Sea, the transportation industry and transit routes, and innovative technologies.

During the talks, the sides noted the similarity of the positions of Ashgabat and Tehran on the situation in Afghanistan. The agenda of the meeting also included preparations for the 6th Caspian Summit. Special attention was paid to the relations of the countries within the framework of the UN, ECO and OIC.

R. Meredow invited the Iranian side to take part in the International Conference on Peace and Confidence, which will be held in Ashgabat on December 12 this year. At the end of the negotiations, the ministers signed a program of cooperation between the diplomatic departments for 2021-2022.

Within the framework of the inter-ministerial consultations with the participation of representatives of the Iranian and Turkmen delegations, an agreement was reached on holding a meeting of the intergovernmental Turkmen-Iranian commission on economic partnership in the near future. The emphasis was placed on the prospects of cooperation in the energy and transport-transit spheres.

The parties also agreed to hold joint exhibitions and forums to strengthen business ties, cultural events in honor of the celebration of the 300th anniversary of the birth of the Turkmen poet Makhtumkuli Fragi.
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