

## INVITATION

### Online Seminar

#### **“The potential of EU-Kazakhstan cooperation in a changing geopolitical context – what lies ahead?”**

**Tuesday,  
24 January 2023**

**10.00 am  
to 11.30 am**  
(Brussels,  
CET / UTC+1)

**3.00 pm  
to 4.30 pm**  
(Astana,  
ALMT / UTC+6)

**Online Seminar  
(Zoom)**

The year 2022 featured important political developments in the Republic of Kazakhstan. In early January, rising fuel prices and popular discontent sparked protests which led to the deployment of forces of the Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO). Confrontations were violent, costing at least 238 lives and injuring 4300 people. In June, a constitutional referendum took place, granting Parliament more powers and extending the presidential term to seven years. On 20 November 2022, snap presidential elections saw President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev being re-elected for a second term, while parliamentary elections are to be held in the first half of 2023. Furthermore, in the context of the war in Ukraine, Kazakhstan has sought a careful balance between greater autonomy and maintaining its traditionally strong ties with Moscow.

The European Union, being Kazakhstan’s first trade partner and foreign investor, has been following developments very closely. Both parties cooperate within the framework of an Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement since 2020 and increasingly through several projects under the EU Global Gateway Initiative. Brussels is also ready to intensify relations with the wider region of Central Asia. Since October 2022, multiple high-ranking EU representatives have visited Central Asia, including Astana.

In this context, we cordially invite you to join us to discuss questions such as:

- What is President Tokayev’s political agenda for the coming years?
- In which areas can the Republic of Kazakhstan and the EU cooperate more closely for mutually enhanced strategic autonomy?
- What opportunities do EU Global Gateway initiatives offer to Kazakhstan and the wider region of Central Asia, and what challenges remain?
- In view of developments in Kazakhstan and the wider region, what are the prospects for relations between the EU and Central Asia?

**Conference languages: English and Russian (with simultaneous interpretation)**

Please [register here](#) by Monday, 23 January 2023.

**Before the event, you will receive a personalised access link by email.**

## Programme

10.00 am (Brussels)  
3.00 pm (Astana)

Welcome remarks

**Dr Thomas LEEB**

*Director, Brussels Office of the Hanns Seidel Foundation*

**H.E. Amb. Margulan Bakytuly BAIMUKHAN**

*Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the Kingdom of Belgium, Head of Mission of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)*

10.15 am (Brussels)  
3.15 pm (Astana)

Interventions by and moderated discussion with

**Fulvio MARTUSCIELLO, MEP (tbc)**

*Member of the European Parliament and its Committee on Foreign Affairs  
Chair of the Delegation to the EU-Kazakhstan, EU-Kyrgyzstan, EU-Uzbekistan and EU-Tajikistan Parliamentary Cooperation Committees and for relations with Turkmenistan and Mongolia*

**Dietmar KRISSLER**

*Head of Division – Central Asia  
European External Action Service*

**Dr Zhanibek ARYNOV**

*PhD in International Relations, University of St Andrews; Assistant Professor, Graduate School of Public Policy, Nazarbayev University, Kazakhstan*

**Dr Nurseit NIYAZBEKOV**

*PhD in Politics, University of Oxford; Assistant Professor, Department of International Relations, KIMEP University Almaty, Kazakhstan*

**Lin GOETHALS**

*Director, European Institute for Asian Studies (EIAS), Brussels*

**Moderator: Dietrich JOHN**

*Programme Manager, Brussels Office of the Hanns Seidel Foundation*

11.20 (Brussels)  
4.20 pm (Astana)

Concluding remarks

**Dr Max-Georg MEIER**

*Head of Projects in Central Asia, Hanns Seidel Foundation*