

REALIZATION OF BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND AND THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

Introductory comments

Political relations between the Republic of Poland (RP) and the Republic of Kazakhstan (RK) can be officially dated back to 27 December 1991, when Poland recognized independence of Kazakhstan declared on 16 December 1991. RP was one of the first countries, which accepted a new country on the geopolitical world map. Diplomatic relations between international subjects were established on 6 April 1992.¹ RP, as the first one, opened its diplomatic mission in Kazakhstan. It took place on 20 April 1994. The embassy functioned in the capital of the country – Almaty, and the first Polish ambassador was a professor Marek Gawęcki, who took office on 10 January 1995.

A Kazakh diplomatic mission in Poland was opened some time later – in 1999. On 4 October 2000 the embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan was formed in Warsaw, and in 2003 the Honor Consulate in Wrocław with a consul Ryszard Nawrat.² In November a new RP ambassador in Kazakhstan Zdzisław Nowicki presented the president of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev with letters of credence. It should be emphasized that from 1996 to 2000 the embassy in Hungary was performing its consular duties also towards Poland. And an ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Warsaw was K. Žigalov, and after him since 2003 this function has been performed by Tuleutaj Skakowicz Suleimenov. He also presented letters of credence to the then Polish president Aleksander Kwaśniewski on 15 September 2003.

Political sphere

Realization of political relations between the Republic of Poland (RP) and the Republic of Kazakhstan (RK) takes place with the use of political subjects. These are embassies and consulates of both countries and their employees. Players are also private and natural persons or non-governmental organizations responsible for the shape of bilateral relations. We can also mention the country's representative organs such as president, government or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Political & economic relations should be dated back to 27 December 1991, the moment when the Republic of Poland recognized independence of the Republic of Kazakhstan. In April 1994, as I have

¹ Source: Political Department of the Polish Embassy in Almaty.

² Source: Political Department of the Kazakh Embassy in Warsaw.

mentioned before, there was opened the Polish diplomatic mission in Kazakhstan, and 6 years later the RK embassy was formed in Poland.³

Realization of political relations has taken place through mutual visits and diplomatic meetings in order to improve two-way relations and sign new agreements determining mutual relations. Since 1991 a constant strategy element of Polish foreign policy has been the forming of political & economic relations with new countries formed after the collapse of the Soviet Union. Since the political transformation in 1989 the Polish Republic has headed towards improvement of its international position through determining priorities in contacts with Asian countries. Kazakhstan & Poland looked for new political partners, which was connected with exchanging experiences concerning the building of new civic societies.⁴ Since 1993 there has been a group for contact affairs with the RP Sejm. Besides, cooperation between the National Security Office and the RK Security Council has existed. At the beginning of economic-system transformations, it was extremely important for new countries to strengthen their international positions. It was possible due to country's actions in various regions and maintaining positive diplomatic relations with new foreign partners. The position of the Republic of Kazakhstan, from the beginning of becoming independent, has had a great significance for energetic & military stabilization in the region. Poland has cared about keeping close relations with the steppe country, taking into account its own energetic safety and strengthening position in the Asian continent. Both countries are members of the anti-terrorist coalition. In August 2003 Kazakhstan sent to Iraq a battalion of 27 soldiers in order to support the stabilization mission. This troop performed actions in the Polish stabilization zone and under Polish command.⁵

Since 2002 Poland has supported Kazakhstan's actions leading to tighten cooperation with NATO as part of the programme 'Partnership for Peace'. From 1992 both countries have managed to create a legal-treaty basis concerning development of friendly relations and bilateral cooperation. In the same year the Polish diplomacy took on a new strategy of conducting foreign policy. It must be focused on the country security and relations based on good neighborhood. Kazakhstan is the most important partner of Poland in Asia.

One of the main determinants linking two countries is about 48.000 diaspora of Poles in Kazakhstan.⁶ It is the main political dilemma between two international subjects.

³ Source: Political Department of the Polish Embassy in Almaty, *The chronicle of crucial events*.

⁴ *Comment of the Polish Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz for magazine "Foreign Markets" 27 April 2002, see: [http://www.msz.gov.pl/podstrona,18,1236.html].*

⁵ Source: Political Department of the Polish Embassy in Almaty, *The Chronicle of crucial events*.

⁶ *National census in the Republic of Kazakhstan, 1999, source: Statistic Agency of RK.*

The Polish minority in Kazakhstan takes an active part in all fields of life in RK.⁷ From 2010 RK will be chairing the OSCE proceedings. Poland supported Kazakhstan's aspirations to leadership assumption. On 30 November 2007 in Madrid during sessions of the OSCE Ministerial Council, the organization leadership from 2010 was entrusted to Kazakhstan.⁸ Very significant for taking over the leadership was the RK's blackmail concerning reduction of Kazakhstan cooperation with the West and at the same time strengthening cooperation with the Russian Federation and the Chinese People's Republic. Kazakhstan drew on the experiences of Polish transformation, which contributed to introduction of amendments to the Constitution⁹ and carrying out parliamentary elections, which resulted in the fact that at the moment the Kazakh parliament is single-party. It is necessary to point out that Kazakhstan will become the first post-soviet country, which performs this activity. It is possible that this country will be an exponent of other CIS members, excluding Russia. Poland's help in exchange of experiences has contributed to building of the eastern dimension of the European policy. The success of OSCE leadership should have a result in increasing security in the East and bigger obeying rights and rules of democracy. The support of the European countries, including Poland, has a great significance for development and improvement in building new democratic order in Kazakhstan.

Political relations of two international subjects are developing positively. Despite a huge geographical distance between the countries – about 5.000 km, both nations are similar in their history, significant for geopolitical location.¹⁰ It is necessary to take into account the several thousand Polish Diaspora in Kazakhstan mentioned and historical experiences resulting from the Soviet occupation.

Cultural cooperation is one of the factors which bring two countries closer in mutual cooperation, excluding political & economic barriers.¹¹ Polish culture in Kazakhstan is not only to reach Diaspora and people connected with Poland but the whole Kazakh society. In the Republic of Kazakhstan there are Polish exhibitions: 'In a far steppe. Poles in Kazakhstan', 'Polish Muslims' or surveys of Polish films. Kazakh culture is also promoted in RP by surveys of Kazakh films or for instance an exhibition of Kazakh artist Temir Begimbed.¹²

⁷ See: [<http://www.senat.gov.pl/k6/agenda/goscie/2006/060516.htm>].

⁸ *Week in the East*, The Eastern Studies Centre, *Analytical Bulletin*, Russia Caucas Central Asia, 32 (5.12.2007).

⁹ РК от 21.05.07 г. № 254-III, *КОНСТИТУЦИЯ РЕСПУБЛИКИ КАЗАХСТАН* (принята на республиканском референдуме 30 августа 1995 года); (с изменениями и дополнениями по состоянию на 21.05.2007 г.).

¹⁰ *Poland & Kazakhstan have not wasted time in vain*, *New Generation*, 24.05.2002.

¹¹ Archive of the RP President's foreign interviews, *Kazachstanskaja Prawda*, 29 October 1999, see: [www.president.pl].

¹² *Ibidem*.

An interesting aspect shaping Polish-Kazakh culture is the sphere of higher education of both countries. Education reforms conducted since the early years of independence of RK are adapted to European education requirements. Kazakh universities willingly conduct scientific exchange and follow Polish experiences.¹³ In Kazakhstan there are 47 public universities. Apart from them, there are many foreign institutions – Kazakh-British or Kazakh-American University. Polish Bureau for Academic Recognition and International Exchange¹⁴ enables students and employees to attend research trips to the Republic of Kazakhstan. Thus, exchange of experiences and standards introduces a new order in cultural relations.

In 2008 Polish Wroclaw universities, as part of campaign 'Now Wroclaw' were searching for students from CIS countries, including Kazakhstan. The Polish side has been looking for young and educated youth who after graduation can deal with creating bilateral relations. For Kazakhs a very popular model of studies in Poland is the model: 'study and work', combining education and work at the same time. The Polish side pays out also scholarships for foreign students.

The Polish-Kazakh cultural cooperation is regulated by the Agreement between the Polish government and the government of the Republic of Kazakhstan about cultural and scientific cooperation.¹⁵ The agreement provides a possibility of forming Polish-Kazakh organizations and foundations helping to realize goals of the signed agreement. The possibility of scientific cooperation between institutions of both countries has been included in legal form. The contract is valid for five years, after expiry date it is usually prolonged for another five years. The law also provides a possibility of getting help from the Polish or Kazakh side, connected with conducting scientific research, studies and subsidizing activities of social-cultural organizations in the Republic of Poland or Kazakhstan.

Economic sphere

You cannot keep good political relations without having the background of developed economic contacts. The development of economic relations between both countries can be dated from the first session of the Polish-Kazakh Mixed Committee for Economic and Trade Cooperation.¹⁶ At that time Poland obliged to develop import of

¹³ See: [http://www.biuletyn.agh.edu.pl/archiwum_bip/_2004/_126/11_02_126.html].

¹⁴ See: [<http://www.buwiwm.edu.pl/wym/intro.htm>].

¹⁵ See: Dz.U. 1999 no 99 pos. 1155, *Agreement between governments of the RP and RK about cultural & scientific cooperation*, written in Warsaw on 27 November 1997.

¹⁶ See: [http://www.exporter.pl/kraje/k_azja/kazachstan_2006_5.html].

energy carriers, natural and agricultural resources from Kazakhstan.¹⁷ RK declared for opening its own market on Polish economic subjects, particularly in industry, agriculture, transport and building. The Polish-Kazakh Mixed Committee for Economic & Trade Cooperation assessed current forms of cooperation between the countries as positive. The main successes of cooperation were:

- legal-treaty basis;
- cooperation between bank sectors;
- cooperation of Ministries of Transport in the field of international Road transport
- Poland's support in Kazakhstan's striving for entering WTO – holding talks on tariff matters concerning goods and services.

RP supports Kazakhstan's aspirations to entering World Trade Organization (WTO). The fact of the RK membership in WTO will contribute to liberalization of Kazakhstan economy and formation of norms and rules typical for world trade. Since 2003 we have been able to observe increase in import & export of RK & RP. Kazakhstan has had 7th place among CIS countries in turnover with Poland. Share in Polish import & export in 2004 was: about 1,6% in import and 2,0% in export. Similar data has Kazakh export from RP, which was in 2003 – 1,1%, and import- 2,6%.

From the below table you can assume that in 2003 trade turnover between RP and RK increased by 40% compared with the previous year and were 220 million USD. Trade balance was negative: 26 million USD. First quarter of 2004 was more beneficial for both countries – 22 million USD. Main goods imported by Poland were oil and natural gas. In the same year, export from Poland was 29 million USD.

Since 2003 RP has been exporting new items such as: animal food, electric wires, cables, containers, transport containers and building constructions.

*Foreign trade of Poland and Kazakhstan in years 2002-2004 (in millions USD).*¹⁸

*January-May

	2000		2001		2002		2003		2004*	
	value	dyn.	value	dyn.	value	dyn.	value	dyn.	value	dyn.
Turnover	141,1	151,6	165,7	117,4	156,9	94,7	220,4	140,4	168,6	197,6
Export	62,2	122,4	62,5	100,0	61,8	99,0	97,2	157,3	43,7	141,9
Import	78,9	186,8	103,2	130,8	95,0	92,0	123,2	133,9	124,9	255,5
Balance	-16,7	-	-40,7	-	-33,1	-	-26,0	-	-81,2	-

¹⁷ UNIDO, ITPO, Polish Agency of Enterprise Development, *Kazakhstan – Guide for Entrepreneurs, 5th edition with supplement*, Warsaw, 2005.

¹⁸ Source: Economic-trade Department of the Polish Embassy in Kazakhstan.

Since 2007 bilateral trade turnover between RP and RK was over 800 million USD. It is necessary to point out that it is the biggest indicator of economic turnover of Kazakhstan with countries from Central-Eastern Europe. The Republic of Kazakhstan has 4th place (after Russia, Belarus and Ukraine) among Poland's trade partners as far as the CIS countries are concerned. The main reason of this fact is crude oil and natural gas resources, which are located in this country's territory in the number of 35 billion barrels.¹⁹ Kazakhstan is in the first ten countries rich in crude oil and has the second place in crude oil reserves among countries, which do not belong to OPEC (Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries). Trade structure of mutual supplies is stable. To a small extent, only percentage share of particular trade positions is subject to some fluctuations but it is common in the world trade. Poland ranks fifth (after Federal Republic of Germany, France, UK, Switzerland) among trade partners of the Republic of Kazakhstan.²⁰ The steppe country is open to forming common Kazakh-Polish companies, shopping malls, consulting & information offices. In the Republic there are many corporations with foreign capital from 125 countries.

The below table presents common trade turnovers of Poland and Kazakhstan in years 2001-2007²¹ (in thousands USD).

Trade turnovers Poland – Kazakhstan	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Turnover amount	223 520,5	392 624,0	314 630,6	358 319,9	524 500,0	507 900,0	653 943,3
Export	59 338,8	72 246,2	113 552,0	169 750,8	176 500,0	204 500,0	396 988,9
Import	164 181,7	320 377,8	201 078,6	188 569,1	348 000,0	303 400,0	256 954,5
Trade turnover balance	-104 842,9	-248 131,6	-87 526,6	-18 818,3	-171 500,0	-98 900,0	+140 034,4

Main goods exported by Poland are machines and devices – 16 087 USD, furniture, building boards, paper and medicines. Kazakhstan mainly provides RP with crude oil and gas – 182 436 USD, chemical materials and coal.²² As we can see, profit balance is not proportional. Leading branches of Kazakh economy, in which Polish companies & specialists are recruited, are: logistics, building, power industry, pharmacy, cosmetics and industries: food, metals producing, chemical, shipyard, machine-building, textile, and tourist.

¹⁹ Materials available thanks to Spółka Poszukiwania Nafty i Gazu Kraków Sp. z o.o., *Kazakhstan as the 2nd Kuwait*, Cracow, 2008.

²⁰ Source: Materials from training seminar: *Poland – Kazakhstan. Trade & investment possibilities for Polish companies in Kazakh market*, Ożarów, 2004.

²¹ Source: Statistical Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

²² Economic-trade Department of the Polish Embassy in Kazakhstan.

Since the beginning of establishing bilateral relations Poland & Kazakhstan have headed for creating convenient conditions of economic and trade cooperation. Most of diplomatic visits of both countries' representatives have aimed at revival of economic contacts. Joining the European Union by Poland did not have a negative effect on bilateral relations but even improved cooperation with the eastern partner. The strategic location of Poland in Europe can be used by Kazakhstan for development of economic relations with the EU countries and the rest of continent. Relations of the Republic of Kazakhstan with EU are regulated by the Agreement about cooperation & partnership.²³ European Union granted Kazakhstan status of the country with market economy. Due to signing the agreement, Kazakhstan received from EU non-repayable 110 million Euro for realization of two projects. One of them is the TRACEA project (Transport. Corridor Europe – Caucasus – Asia).²⁴ Its goal is to build transport infrastructure and stimulation of suitable legal solutions intensifying economic cooperation and trade exchange on the old Silk Route (East-West axis). It should be conducive to development, opening and stabilization of regions stricken by conflicts. This undertaking brings notable benefits to participating countries and still has a big development potential.²⁵ The second project is called INOGATE (Interstate Oil and Gas Transport to Europe). Its main goal is to support a restructuring process of the output & transport system of gas and crude oil. It is executed by activation of financial means. This project takes also into account environment protection.²⁶

Closing remarks

Kazakhstan is interested in cooperation with Poland in all economic fields. These days, in the time of financial crisis, Polish exporters are forced to search for new ready markets. One Polish company, which continuously improves bilateral economic relations is the Cracovian Company of Searching for Oil & Gas. It organizes numerous conferences encouraging to invest in Kazakhstan. With its marketing actions PNIG Cracow is going to develop cooperation with Kazakhstan also for other Polish companies.

At present the Polish side has provided its partner with next offers of cooperation in new fields such as: light industry, rolling stock, power industry, aircraft, extractive and

²³ See: Dz. U. L 196 28.7.1999, *Agreement on partnership & cooperation between European Commonwealth & their Members and the Republic of Kazakhstan*, written in Brussels on 23 January 1995.

²⁴ *Armed conflicts in the post-soviet area. Present State. Regulation Perspectives. Consequences*, Works of Eastern Studies Centre, Issue 9, Warsaw, 2003.

²⁵ M. Kamiński, "New Silk Route", Eastern Studies Centre, *A week in the East*, No 43/1997.

²⁶ European Commission, Directory General: Energy and Transport, *Towards an EU-Russia Energy Partnership*, Warsaw, 21 March 2002, zobacz: [www.europa.eu.int/comm/energy_transport/russia/partnership (24.06.2002)].

pharmaceutical industries, telecommunications, food processing. The Kazakh side is interested in starting cooperation in the new field of investment on the basis of common companies producing machines for heavy, light and power industries.²⁷

A perfect example of realization of economic relations is a Polish company acting in the Republic of Kazakhstan – Petroinvest.²⁸ More than half of the Polish company shares are possessed by investors from Kazakhstan – exactly 40% of Petroinvest shares, by Polish only 29%. It is a good example of company realizing bilateral relations between RP and RK. In Kazakhstan there are about 100 Polish companies.²⁹ 28 are actively working and three are with the Polish Community share.³⁰ The main activity fields are: building, power industry, food industry, telecommunications, pharmacy and companies dealing with output of crude oil and gas. The Kazakh capital comes in Poland as well but the number of companies is scanty.

The Ministries of Economy from both countries deal with promotion actions and export support. The goal of these actions is to create a positive image of economies, cooperation development and export increase. These functions are exercised by subsidies and financial supports.³¹ Due to these activities, the Polish entrepreneurs' interest still increases in starting direct actions in the Republic of Kazakhstan. Poland is also an attractive place for the Kazakh capital, especially because of its leadership position in the Central-Eastern Europe.³²

ADRIAN BERSKI

University of Maria Curie-Skłodowska, Lublin, Poland

STABILIREA RELAȚIILOR BILATERALE ÎNTRE REPUBLICA POLONĂ
ȘI REPUBLICA KAZAKHSTAN

Rezumat

Consecință ale unor vizite reciproce și întâlniri cu caracter diplomatic, relațiile bilaterale dintre Polonia și Republica Kazahstan s-au stabilit în perioada imediat următoare dispariției megastucturii politice și ideologice reprezentată de URSS. Începând cu anul 1991, contacte purtate

²⁷ See: [http://www.exporter.pl/kraje/k_azja/kazachstan_2006_5.html].

²⁸ Archives of Gazeta Wyborcza, Gazeta Wyborcza no 18, issue waw from 22.01.2008.

²⁹ Source: Statistic Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

³⁰ Materials made available by Spółka Poszukiwania Nafty i Gazu Kraków Sp. z o.o.

³¹ Data from the Departament of Bilateral International Cooperation of the Ministry of Economy RP.

³² Economic forum Poland – Kazakhstan, see: [<http://www.mgip.gov.pl/Wiadomosci/Wspolpraca+z+zagranica/Forum+gospodarcze+Polska-Kazachstan.htm>].

în parametrii oficiali, debutând de la nivelul misiunilor diplomatice, evoluând ulterior spre treapta consulatelor și a ambasadelor, au oferit șansa purtării unui dialog nemijlocit între cele două țări. Studiul de față pune în lumină interesul ambelor părți de a activa în interiorul unor cadre girate prin acord de tip diplomatic, având în vedere, pe de-o parte, miza energetică și militară reprezentată încă din momentul afirmării independenței de către Kazakhstan, iar pe de altă parte, de posibilitatea deschiderii spre spații consolidate economic și social, oferită de Polonia. Tonul și natura dialogului dintre cele două state sunt reflectate statistic la nivelul evoluției schimbului economic, dar nu se pierd din vedere nici consecințele de ordin social (migrația forței de muncă) sau cultural (parteneriatele academice sau cooperarea științifică). Reprezentând pentru Polonia un punct vital de sprijin pe continental asiatic, Republica Kazakhstan a profitat la rândul-i de pe urma oportunităților de dezvoltare și afirmare pe scena relațiilor internaționale, oferite de Polonia.

Cuvinte cheie: Republica Polonă, Republica Kazakhstan, relații bilaterale.