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## **KAZAKH-RUSSIAN BORDER COOPERATION**

#### Abstract

The issue of interaction between the border territories of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation is of great importance for the prospects of trade and economic cooperation and humanitarian development. In the contemporary practice of such cooperation, considerable experience has been accumulated that contributes to further integration between the two states. The regions of Kazakhstan and Russia independently conclude agreements and contracts for the supply of goods and services that contribute to the improvement of interstate relations. Kazakhstan and Russia play an important role in the global political arena; special attention should be given to integration processes in the near and far abroad. Kazakhstan and Russia, as centuries-old partners, play an important role in the formation of a single economic Eurasian space (through participation in the activities of institutions such as the Eurasian Economic Union and the Customs Union). Under the influence of these processes, the need for optimization of cross-border Kazakh-Russian cooperation is growing.

The territory of the Russian Federation for our republic is the main transit space, the main consumer of Kazakhstani domestic products and the main partner in economic processes. Kazakhstan for the Russian Federation acts as one of the most important raw material partners, it is in the Republic of Kazakhstan that the key military-space objects are located.

**Keywords:** Republic of Kazakhstan, Russian Federation, cross-border cooperation, trade and economic cooperation, forums, interregional cooperation, border areas, international economy.

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# ҚАЗАҚСТАН-РЕСЕЙ ШЕКАРАЛАС ЫНТЫМАКТАСТЫК

#### Аңдатпа

Қазақстан Республикасы мен Ресей Федерациясының шекаралас аудандары арасындағы өзара iс-қимыл мәселесi сауда-экономикалық ынтымақтастық пен гуманитарлық даму перспективалары үшiн үлкен маңызға ие. Осындай ынтымақтастықтың заманауи тәжiрибесiнде екi мемлекет арасындағы одан әрi интеграциялануға ықпал ететiн айтарлықтай тәжiрибе жинақталды.Қазақстан мен Ресей өңiрлерi мемлекетаралық қатынастарды жақсартуға ықпал ететiн тауарлар мен қызметтердi жеткiзуге дербес келiсiмдер мен келiсiм-шарттар жасасады. Қазақстан мен Ресей әлемдiк саяси аренада маңызды рөл атқарады, таяу және алыс шетелдердегi интеграциялық процестерге ерекше мән беру керек. Қазақстан мен Ресей ғасырлар бойы серiктес бола отырып, бiртұтас экономикалық еуразиялық кеңiстiктi қалыптастыруда маңызды рөл атқарады (Еуразиялық экономикалық одақ және Кедендiк одақ сияқты институттардың қызметiне қатысу арқылы). Осы процестердің әсерінен трансшекаралық қазақстан-ресей ынтымақтастығын оңтайландыру қажеттілігі артып келеді.

Ресей Федерациясының аумағы біздің республикамыз үшін негізгі транзиттік кеңістік, қазақстандық отандық өнімнің негізгі тұтынушысы және экономикалық процестердегі басты серіктес болып табылады.

Ресей Федерациясы үшін Қазақстан шикізат саласындағы маңызды серіктестердің бірі ретінде әрекет етеді, дәл осы Қазақстан Республикасында әскери әскери ғарыш объектілері орналасқан.

**Түйінді сөздер**: Қазақстан Республикасы, Ресей Федерациясы, трансшекаралық ынтымақтастық, сауда-экономикалық ынтымақтастық, форумдар, аймақаралық ынтымақтастық, шекара аудандары, Халықаралық экономика.

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## КАЗАХСТАНСКО-РОССИЙСКОЕ ПРИГРАНИЧНОЕ ОТРУДНИЧЕСТВО

#### Аннотация

Вопрос взаимодействия приграничных территорий Республики Казахстан и Российской Федерации имеет большое значение для перспектив торгово-экономического сотрудничества и гуманитарного развития. В современной практике такого сотрудничества накоплен немалый опыт, способствующий дальнейшей интеграции между двумя государствами. Регионы Казахстана и России самостоятельно заключают соглашения и контракты на поставку товаров и услуг, которые способствуют улучшению межгосударственных отношений. Казахстан и Россия играют важную роль на мировой политической арене, особое значение следует придать интеграционным процессам в ближнем и дальнем зарубежье. Казахстан и Россия, будучи многовековыми партнерами, играют важную роль в формировании единого экономического евразийского пространства (посредством участия в деятельности таких институтов, как Евразийский экономический союз и Таможенный союз). Под влиянием данных процессов возрастает необходимость оптимизации приграничного казахстанско-российского сотрудничества.

Территория Российской Федерации для нашей республики – это основное транзитное пространство, основной потребитель казахстанской отечественной продукции и главный партнер в экономических процессах. Казахстан для РФ выступает в роли одного из важнейших сырьевых партнеров, именно в Республике Казахстан располагаются ключевые военно-космические объекты.

**Ключевые слова:** Республика Казахстан, Российская Федерация, трансграничное сотрудничество, торгово-экономическое сотрудничество, форумы, межрегиональное сотрудничество, пограничные районы, международная экономика.

**Introduction**. Kazakhstan and Russia have formed a regulatory framework for cross-border contacts in various fields. Two countries are integrated into the international economy, also in the CIS's territory. Constructive work on free movement of goods and services, labor and capital was carried. Russia and Kazakhstan have developed a concept for the development of border areas, taking into account the economic potential.

**The statement of the scientific problem**: consists in the study and understanding of the Cross-Border Cooperation Forums of Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation. Currently, the Kazakh-Russian cross-border partnership is carried out through the implementation of interregional cooperation programs. The cross-border interaction is significantly influenced by the annual inter-regional Forums. At the Forums, issues of regional contacts are considered by heads of state, heads of border regions, state institutions and business structures. The events act as catalysts for diplomatic and trade-economic cross-border interaction.

### Analysis of scientific literature.

The study identified the following groups of sources:

1. Normative legal documents. This group of sources includes official documents and materials of state authorities, bilateral treaties and agreements between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation.

2. Official statements by the heads of state, government representatives, deputies, which address aspects of the Kazakh-Russian cross-border interaction.

3. Information posted in the media and the Internet, which are devoted to the main areas of interaction between the studied countries.

The purpose of this article is to identify the importance of cross-border forums for the economic development of both states.

**Research methods**: historical, analytical and comparative methods are used in the article. They allow exploring the main aspects of cross-border cooperation, comparing quantitative indicators of mutual trade and the level of socio-economic development of the regions. At the same time, scientific literature was used, which reflected the views of experts.

**Research results**. One of the goals of the Kazakhstan-Russian Forums is to create and maintain economic, political and humanitarian contacts between the two countries. The foundations of cooperation have been formed, conferences, meetings are held that contribute to improving contacts for this purpose.

At the same time, a number of developmental features of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation are taken into account. The economies of countries develop according to different scenarios and have different levels of development, but this factor does not interfere with successful cooperation between countries.

From 1995 to the present time, cross-border cooperation between the regions of Kazakhstan and Russia has been developing on the basis of specific interstate Agreements and Programs concluded in 1995, 1999 and 2010. These documents received practical implementation in the framework of three cross-border cooperation programs concluded in 1999-2007; 2008-2011 and 2012-2017.

A wide range of problems of socio-economic interaction of regions on a global and local scale was considered by such authors as A. G. Granberg, A. S. Makarychev, V. E. Rybalkin, A. Libman, B. Kheifets, Yu. A. Shcherbanin, E G. Animitsa, S. A. Nikolaev, etc. The last one analyzed the agenda and decisions of the I-VII Forums of interregional cooperation between Russia and Kazakhstan for the first time. We should note Sultanov B.K., Muzaparova G., Dzhangabaeva K, etc. among Kazakh researchers.

The issue of interaction of neighboring states has a great importance for the prospects of their trade and economic cooperation as well as socio-cultural development. It is even more important for Kazakhstan and Russian as their border is unique in terms of geography. It is actually the longest in the world (more than 7000 km). 7 out of 14 regions of Kazakhstan and 12 regions of Russia adjoin it. Another meaningful factor for better understanding of cross-border cooperation's bilateral processes is historical factor. Over the centuries, two countries' territories were developing within the framework of a single state - firstly the Russian Empire, then the USSR. This determined not only the synergy of cultural archetypes, but also the complementarity of trade and economic profiles of border areas. At the same time, ethnic and demographic factor should also be taken into account, since about 30 million people live in the border regions of Kazakhstan and Russia. Mixed ethnicity of the population is represented in these territories. In addition, Russian language is used as a tool of interethnic communication. Accordingly, Russian-Kazakh border is potentially a key regulator of Eurasian trade and other flows [1].

In case of cross-border development, Kazakhstan pay a lot of attention to the program called "Strategy for the Industrial and Innovative Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2003-2015". The strategy notes that the main task in the development of border areas is the arrangement of border areas as the most important zones of international economic cooperation. For this purpose, the strategy provided the concept of border areas' development and an action plan or the development of economic potential and providing infrastructure for the most important border settlements. In general, as part of the development of relations between neighboring states, border territories have historically played a significant role, which was noted by the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan N.A. Nazarbayev at the Forum of the border regions of Kazakhstan and Russia, held on the 3 October, 2006 in Uralsk. In the border regions, vital issues including foreign policy, economic, cultural and many others, and relations between neighbors and between states took place.

In 2008, during the next forum of border regions, which was held in Aktobe (Kazakhstan), the parties decided to change its status from cross-border to inter-regional. The first Forum Summit in a new status was held in Orenburg (Russia) on the 11 September, 2009. Participants approved a joint action plan of Kazakhstan and Russia for 2009-2010. Subsequently, inter-regional cooperation forums of the two countries were held in Ust-Kamenogorsk (Kazakhstan), Astrakhan (Russia) and Pavlodar (Kazakhstan). The jubilee (tenth) forum of interregional cooperation was held in 2013 in Yekaterinburg.

Regions are increasingly becoming subjects of international activity in the context of globalization of the world economy. However, this process is not free from contradictions. The current state and prospects for the development of regional cooperation between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Kazakhstan, which are part of the EAEU, are very significative.

On the 18 September, 2012 in Pavlodar, within the framework of the IX Forum of Interregional Cooperation of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation, with the participation of the Presidents of the two countries, was a meeting of the Russian-Kazakhstan Business Council on Cross-Border Cooperation "New aspects of the work of chambers of commerce and industry to address urgent issues of trade and economic and scientific and technical cooperation within the framework of the Common Economic Space".

According to the Statistics Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the situation in the mutual trade's sphere looks as follows. In November 2012 mutual trade of the Republic of Kazakhstan with the countries of the CU amounted to 22,147.4 million dollars (which is 4.8% more than in January-November 2011). Mineral products (39.1% of the total export to the CU countries), metals and products from them (30.5%), and products of the chemical industry (14.7%) predominate in Kazakhstan's export structure. Mineral products (26.7% of the total volume of imports from the CU countries), machinery and equipment (26.3%), metals and products from them (13.5%), and products of the chemical industry are exported to a greater degree from Russia and Belarus. 11.6%).

An important milestone in the development of cross-border cooperation between Russia and Kazakhstan was the forum held in November 2013 in Yekaterinburg. While opening it, Vladimir Putin noted that today 76 out of 83 subjects of the Russian Federation have economic ties with all 14 Kazakhstan's regions, as well as with the cities of Astana and Almaty. Over 200 interregional agreements on cooperation in various fields have been signed. In turn, N. Nazarbayev emphasized that one of the most important areas for the development of inter-regional and cross-border cooperation is industrial cooperation, which has just become a key topic of this forum.

Economic cooperation between the regions of Russia and Kazakhstan is carried out on the basis of cross-border economic schemes for the supply of Ekibastuz coal from Kazakhstan to power plants in the Urals and Siberia with electricity sent in the opposite direction; mineral raw materials at mining enterprises of the Southern Urals; oil and gas condensate to the processing enterprises of Samara, Orenburg region and Bashkiria under the reciprocal receipts of oil products and gas. Sverdlovsk, Orenburg, and Chelyabinsk regions, whose turnover annually is about 1 billion US dollars, has reached the largest volume of mutual deliveries with Kazakhstan recently. The trade turnover between Russia and Kazakhstan for 8 months of 2014 amounted to \$ 14 billion [2].

On the 16 September, the XII forum, where development of the agro-industrial complex of Kazakhstan and Russia (which have unique export potential), was held in Sochi in 2015. Negative economic trends are putting pressure on the development of our countries. At the same time, this situation makes it possible to reveal the internal reserves of growth, including agriculture.

In this regard, it is necessary to expand production cooperation between farmers and processors of the products of the two countries. Kazakhstan is now working on the development of this market, as we have enormous potential in the field of livestock. Also there are significant resources to increase the supply of fruits and vegetables to the Russian market in the south of our country, what replace imports from Turkey, Poland and China.

In addition, the development of new standards and requirements of technical regulations regarding a clear definition of the composition of products and the introduction of innovations in agriculture is an important priority. At the same time, it is necessary to create cross-border joint ventures, build a production chain, and ensure a high-quality transport and logistics infrastructure [3].

The economic cooperation between Kazakhstan and Russia throughout the entire period of post-Soviet development of the two countries is stable and comprehensive. The main area of cooperation is foreign trade, in which Russia is an unreplaceable leader for Kazakhstan in terms of the source of imports, the high volume of which also determines the overall leadership in terms of bilateral trade. At the end of 2016, Russia was the largest trading partner of Kazakhstan by a wide margin surpassing the largest economy in the world - China, and the leading European partner - Italy, and the United States. Thus, the Russian market provides Kazakhstan enterprises with the opportunity to sell processed products that have undergone more redistribution and have a higher level of added value, which creates opportunities for the development of the manufacturing industry and the modernization of the economy. In addition to trade, an important area of international economic cooperation is investment, which is often associated primarily with such types of investments as direct. Long-term trends in the dynamics of mutual direct investment are ambiguous, reflecting the situation in those industries that are their main recipients. Particularly, strong decline in Russian direct investments in 2015-16 was due to a decrease in the income of commodity enterprises due to falling prices in commodity markets, which was reflected in the direct investments statistics due to the fact that these statistics take into account the share of foreign investors in retained earnings of enterprises, where these investments are available. At the same time, it can be noted that Kazakh direct investments in Russia have grown significantly in recent years, and their annual inflow in 2016 has quadrupled compared to 2014. In general, the long-term trends of investments.

The greater stability of the indicators of foreign trade between Kazakhstan and Russia compared with the average indicators is explained by differences in the structure of Kazakhstan's exports to Russia and the rest of the world. If fuel and energy products account for almost 70% of exports to other states, and metals are another 16% (that is, about 85% of exports are represented by raw materials or products of its primary processing), then the structure of exports in Russia is much more diversified and contains a larger number of non-commodity product groups [4, p. 45].

The trade turnover between Kazakhstan and Russia in January - December 2017 amounted to \$ 15,988.1 million (20.59% of the total foreign trade turnover of the Republic of Kazakhstan). In that year, exports to the Russian Federation in January-December 2017 amounted to \$ 4,515.2 million (compared with January-December 2016, an increase of 31.1%), imports - \$ 11,472.9 million (by 23.5 % more). The volume of Russian investments accumulated since 1991 exceeded \$ 10 billion Kazakhstan's investments in Russia - \$ 3 billion. 93 joint investment projects, which worth more than \$20 billion, are being implemented in various sectors of the economy. In particular, in the energy and transport sectors, mining and metallurgy complex, engineering, shipbuilding, chemical industry, agriculture, etc.

In the changing world situation, the economic and geopolitical importance of cooperation with Russia is growing for Kazakhstan, since for many decades we have a common history, economy, and culture. Objectively, for Kazakhstan, which does not have access to the world's oceans and, consequently, to international trade routes, the most optimal option is to create integration alliances with countries with such opportunities. Because they have 80% of the global industrial potential is concentrated in coastal zones, including with Russia. Thanks to the EAEU and Russia, Kazakhstan will be able to use its transit potential with uniform transport tariffs in a single customs space. It is the developed transport infrastructure that will have a positive impact on the expansion of industrial production within the country, which means an increase in the material well-being of the population [5, p 57].

President of the Russian Federation V.V. Putin pointed out development of two states' relations at the XV Forum of Interregional Cooperation between Russia and Kazakhstan in November 2018. These successes were largely achieved thanks to the initiative and constructive work of Kazakhstan and Russia's regions. In his opinion, cross-regional interaction becomes more diverse and intense every year. Currently, regional exchanges has about 70% of bilateral trade. Orenburg, Sverdlovsk and Chelyabinsk regions of the Russian Federation are particularly active in this case. The annual trade volume of each of them with Kazakh partners is on average 1 billion dollars. Legal framework of cross-border inter-regional cooperation is being improved, more than 200 trade agreements are currently in force. It is important to mention that 63% of all settlements between Kazakhstan and Russian economic operators are made in national currencies. In the coming years, it is planning to reach 70–75% [6].

These forums were held on pre-agreed issues. Representatives of two countries, which includes the heads of states, greater representation of regional and municipal authorities, business circles and public organizations took part in the forum. Results of such forums were signed trade contracts, joint ventures, memorandums and protocols on development of the economic cooperation. Alongside the development of trade, most bilateral documents also referred to the strengthening of socio-cultural ties.

According to the Minister of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan T. Suleimen, the EAEU states have begun to invest more actively in Kazakhstan. Kazakhstan's trade turnover tends to increase as all EAEU countries. In 2018, it amounted to \$ 17.1 billion, which is 6.2% more than in the previous year. It also included export, which increased by 10% (\$ 5.3 billion), and import, which increased by 4.6 % (11.8 billion dollars) [7].

The trade turnover of Northern Kazakhstan and the Chelyabinsk region increased by 20%, the export of flour from the Kostanai region to the Chelyabinsk region increased by 22%, dairy products by 7%, and

vegetable oil by 8 times at the end of 2018. Currently, there are 130 Russian-Kazakh joint ventures in the Chelyabinsk Region. At the regional government level, a roadmap for the development of new economic areas to enhance regional trade cooperation has been improved.

"EAEU Today and look to the Future" international expert platform worked in Orenburg in 2018. During a series of events about trade development issues, attention was paid to the fact that the region's foreign trade turnover with Kazakhstan increased by 21,5% in 2018, which is significantly higher than the overall growth in foreign trade of this region (14.3%). Ural experts emphasize that the volume of bilateral trade will significantly increase after the infrastructure of the China - Western Europe transport corridor in the framework of New Silk Road [8].

Sverdlovsk region has also been a leader in trade cooperation with the border regions of Kazakhstan for many years. At the end of 2018, Uralmash signed a contract with Kazakhstan coal miners for the export supply of modern electromechanical mining excavators. At the same time, the machine builders of Yekaterinburg signed a contract to create an enterprise for the production of elevator equipment in Kostanay.

The accumulated volume of direct investments from 2005 to the first quarter of 2019 (according to the National Bank of Kazakhstan) amounted to 3,9 billion dollars – from Kazakhstan to Russia and 13,5 billion dollars – from Russia to Kazakhstan. There are 9 915 enterprises with Russian capital in Kazakhstan (according to 01.07.2019), which is more than a third (37,8%) of the total number of enterprises with foreign capital in Kazakhstan. In period between January – June 2019, the volume of mutual trade amounted to 8,8 billion dollars, including Kazakhstan's exports to Russia – 2,6 billion dollars, Russian imports to Kazakhstan – 6,2 billion dollars.

Therefore, the priority directions for the further development of trade cooperation between Northern Kazakhstan and the border regions of Russia is an integration mechanism improvement of states within the framework of the Eurasian Economic Union, which will allow:

• to strengthen the economic foundations of bilateral trade partnerships by creating appropriate mutually beneficial conditions for the activities of the main economic agents of national economies - producers and consumers;

• to develop and constantly improve the regulatory-law framework, which is necessary to create the main incentives, systems and mechanisms that could motivate the long-term and stable interest of integrating states in the continuous increase of mutual trade in the border regions of Kazakhstan and Russia;

• to gradually increase partner countries' investments in economically sustainable projects;

• to involve partners in joint innovative projects for the development of modern communications and usage of the natural resource potential of the EEC member states.

• to improve the quality of products for the capital, labor resources, scientific and educational technologies exchange of the two states;

• ensure the active institutionalization of integration processes, as this will contribute to improving the quality and speed of development of trade relations in the border regions of Kazakhstan and Russia.

The constraining factor in the development of relations between Kazakhstan and Russia is the dual nature of cross-border cooperation: on the one hand, it is an integral part of domestic policy related to the development of regions, and on the other, it is one of the components of the foreign policy of countries with its goals, objectives and principles. It can be turned from a problem into a potential resource for the development of bilateral relations. To this end, Russia and Kazakhstan should be guided by a unified approach to achieving one of the main goals of cross-border cooperation: reducing the economic and social imbalances that exist today along their border. The development of cross-border cooperation between Russia and Kazakhstan should, ultimately, be focused on the creation of a macroeconomic region, including adjacent areas of the two states.

**Conclusion.** In general, interregional and cross-border cooperation between Russia and Kazakhstan has become an important component in the interstate relations of the two countries. The parties plan to significantly enhance its potential in the future. The agreement between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Kazakhstan on good neighborliness and alliance in the 21st century provides for the expansion of cooperation in the trade, economic, investment, scientific fields in order to bring to a whole new level of industrial and scientific and technical cooperation, direct contacts between business entities, and interaction at the regional level.

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