

**Remarks  
of H.E. Mr. Shakhrat Nuryshev,  
First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan  
at the 24th ECO COM meeting**

*Antalya, November 9, 2019*

**Dear Chairman!**  
**Your Excellencies!**  
**Ladies and Gentlemen!**

First of all, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Tajikistan for the fruitful work during their chairmanship at the Organization for Economic Cooperation (ECO), as well as to congratulate the Turkish side on the assumption of the ECO chairmanship.

I also extend our sincere gratitude to the host – Republic of Turkey for the generous hospitality and organization of all of our meetings at the highest level.

**Dear colleagues!**

Kazakhstan attaches a great importance to its membership in ECO. A prerequisite for that is the huge potential of our region for multilateral cooperation.

In this context, it is very important to increase the efficiency of cooperation within the ECO framework, which directly depends on the practical content, the actual filling of the agenda and the availability of promising projects.

In this regard, Kazakhstan supports the ongoing work to reform the Organization. But from our point of view the reform process should not be applied only for personnel and budgetary matters.

It is necessary to focus on implementation of real economy projects which will benefit our people and our countries. The practice of inclusion in the ECO calendar events that do not gain a sufficient quorum and do not generate any cost effective results has to be strictly avoided.

Cost optimization of ECO Secretariat's activities should be also the top priority.

### **Dear colleagues!**

As you all well know, for the last 5 years we have been facing a dispute on issues of scale of assessment, allocation of posts and unpaid contribution which have remained unresolved up until today.

Fortunately, we have managed to find an acceptable for all of us formula on its resolution. It clearly demonstrates our common adherence to the ECO spirit and respect of each member-country's interest.

From now on, Kazakhstan's annual contribution to the budget of the ECO secretariat will comprise **18 percent** or more than **757 thousands** of dollars. It should be noted that we have already made a transfer of almost **665 thousands** of dollars. The rest of our contribution will be duly transferred in a few days.

Kazakhstan's representation has also increased. Starting from today Kazakhstan will have a permanent post of **Deputy Secretary General and Head of Section, four project officers for energy, investment, transport and agriculture**. It will definitely let us to intensify our participation in ECO activities.

All of that has let us to reach an agreement on so called

Kazakhstan's debt which **no longer exists**.

On behalf of Kazakhstan's delegation, I sincerely thank our Esteemed Secretary General H.E. Hadi Soleimanpour and all member-states, in particular the Republic of Turkey, for their tremendous effort and contribution to the resolution of that longstanding dispute.

Separately, I would like to thank all of our heads for Senior Officials Meeting chaired by H.E. Mr. Faruk Kaymakci for making this happen.

I extend my sincere congratulations to our brotherly Republic of Turkey with the start of their chairmanship from such a positive point.

We are ready to support the Turkish chairmanship with our active participation in ECO activities.

Taking this opportunity, I congratulate all of us with very fruitful and resultative 24<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ECO Council of Foreign Ministers and wish us further great achievements in our joint work on ECO path.

**Thank you for attention!**