

**Dear Participants, Dear Colleagues,
Good afternoon!**

First of all, on behalf of the Ministry of Trade and Integration of the Republic of Kazakhstan, allow me to express our deep appreciation to the Turkish side for the warm hospitality and the high level of organization of the **5th Meeting of Trade Ministers of the Economic Cooperation Organization**.

In recent years, trade relations between Kazakhstan and the ECO Member States have been developing **positively** and hold significant potential for further deepening mutually beneficial cooperation.

Despite the current unstable geopolitical situation, we remain committed to the peaceful resolution of conflicts and value the readiness to continue strengthening trade and economic cooperation with the ECO countries.

The agenda of our meeting today reflects the key challenges and opportunities of global trade. In this regard, allow me to outline Kazakhstan's position on the main areas of cooperation.

1. Kazakhstan's mutual trade with ECO Member States maintains a steady upward trajectory and demonstrates strong potential for further growth. In the first nine months of 2025, trade turnover between Kazakhstan and ECO countries amounted to **\$11.2 billion** (January–September 2024 – \$10.2 billion), reflecting an increase of **10.5%** compared to the same period last year.

Exports grew by 17.9%, reaching **\$8.3 billion**, while imports amounted to **\$2.9 billion**.

For reference: *In 2024, trade turnover between Kazakhstan and ECO countries totaled \$14.1 billion, which is 8.3% lower than in the previous year (\$15.3 billion). In 2024, Kazakhstan's exports to ECO countries amounted to \$9.9 billion, while imports stood at \$4.2 billion.*

The main drivers of **export** growth were supplies of copper and copper cathodes, wheat, sunflower oil, and barley, which indicates the gradual diversification of Kazakhstan's exports toward products with higher added value.

The main **imported** goods from ECO countries to Kazakhstan include automobile bodies, ores and concentrates of precious metals, and pharmaceutical products.

We are making consistent efforts to diversify trade flows and increase the volume of mutual trade.

Kazakhstan remains the largest recipient of **foreign direct investment (FDI)** in the Central Asian region. Since 1991, the total volume of FDI has exceeded **\$474 billion**, making our country the regional **investment hub**.

For reference: *In 2024, the inflow of foreign direct investment reached \$15.7 billion, of which approximately \$166 million came from ECO Member States.*

As a result, the volume of foreign investment in the country has been steadily increasing over the past five years, particularly in priority sectors such as energy, infrastructure, the agro-industrial complex, and information technology.

2. In the context of global risks, ensuring sustainable and efficient logistics routes becomes a priority. We support initiatives

aimed at creating **joint logistics centers and digital cargo-monitoring systems**.

A key project for Kazakhstan in the context of expanding regional transit connectivity and strengthening transport and logistics links between Central and South Asia could be the construction of a new railway line along the **Turgundi–Herat–Kandahar–Spin Boldak** route. This line, which would pass through the territory of Afghanistan, is expected to become an important component of a future transnational transport corridor, providing the shortest route for cargo transportation toward the south.

In addition, Kazakhstan is actively engaged in the international climate agenda and is promoting the concept of green transport corridors, including the **Trans-Caspian International Transport Route (TITR/TMTM)**. This route is becoming a key artery connecting China, Kazakhstan, the Caspian Sea, the Caucasus, and Europe.

3. In addition to digitalization and the optimization of logistics, it is important to integrate sustainable development into **trade facilitation** and the overall trade process. Trade facilitation is also directly linked to the “green trade” agenda. We are actively strengthening regional cooperation and developing climate-resilient supply chains to support sustainable economic growth.

In conclusion, I would like to express my appreciation to the Economic Cooperation Organization and the host country — the Republic of Türkiye — for organizing this important meeting. I am confident that the discussions and the initiatives presented today

will make a significant contribution to further simplifying trade procedures and advancing regional trade.

I encourage us to use this platform to strengthen trade and economic partnerships among ECO Member States, actively implement digital solutions, and jointly promote a more integrated and prosperous regional economy.

Thank you for your attention!