



MONTHLY REPORT ON UZBEKISTAN

AUGUST 2021

**Europe-Uzbekistan Association for Economic
Cooperation (EUROUZ)**

09-09-2021
Brussels, Belgium

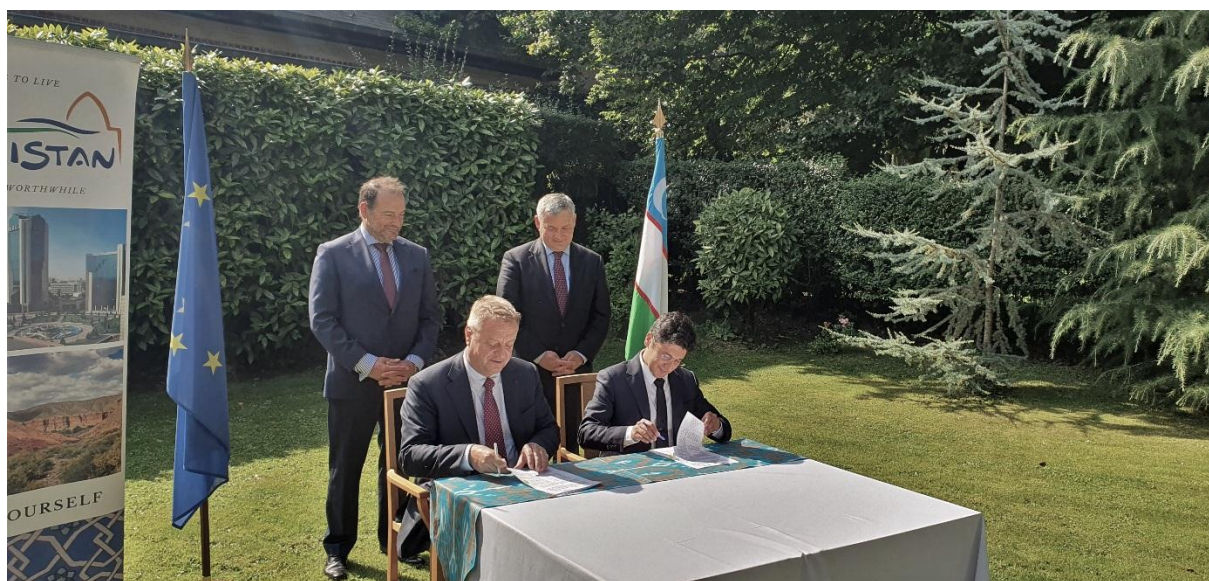
TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	EUROUZ NEWS	3
2.	SPECIAL UPDATE – COVID-19	3
3.	SPECIAL UPDATE - AFGHANISTAN	5
4.	NOTABLE STATEMENTS	6
5.	ECONOMIC OVERVIEW	7
5.1	LOCAL LEVEL	7
5.2	REGIONAL, BILATERAL & MULTILATERAL COOPERATION	8
6.	MARKET DEVELOPMENT BY SECTORS	9
6.1	BANKING SECTOR	9
6.2	INDUSTRY AND CONSTRUCTION	9
6.3	AUTOMOBILE AND TRANSPORTATION SECTOR	10
6.4	HEALTHCARE	11
6.5	AGRICULTURE AND FOOD	12
6.6	INVESTMENT AND FINANCE	12
6.7	IT SECTOR	13
6.8	ENERGY SECTOR	13
6.9	BUSINESS	14
6.10	TOURISM	15
6.11	TRADE	16
7.	EDUCATION	18
8.	REGULATORY CHANGES	18
9.	SENIOR OFFICIALS CHANGES/APPOINTMENTS	19
10.	USEFUL PUBLICATIONS AND LINKS	20

1. EUROUZ NEWS

Association of European Businesses (AEB) & Europe-Uzbekistan Association for Economic Cooperation (EUROUZ) signed the Memorandum of Cooperation

On September 6th the two largest representative offices of European investors in Russia and Uzbekistan met at the Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in Belgium to sign the Memorandum of Cooperation. The document shall play an essential role in improving the investment climate in Uzbekistan, which can then breed brand new opportunities for both European and Uzbek businesses. The event was attended by many high-ranking European and Uzbek officials, as well as private sector representatives.



Download the [press release here](#) and see the on-demand [recording of the event here](#).

Please follow the EUROUZ [website](#) & [newsletter](#) to keep track of future important events.

2. SPECIAL UPDATE – COVID-19

A batch of American humanitarian aid arrives in Uzbekistan

The Global Jewish Assistance and Relief Network and the World Congress of Bukharian Jews have provided USD 330,000 worth of respirator masks.

<https://tashkenttimes.uz/national/7346-uzbekistan-receives-delivery-of-humanitarian-aid-from-the-usa>

Germany to supply COVID-19 vaccines to Uzbekistan

Germany promised to provide Uzbekistan 355,200 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine through the COVAX program.

<https://www.uzdaily.uz/en/post/67277>

Uzbekistan allows employers to suspend unvaccinated staff

Employees who refuse to get vaccinated risk being laid off by their employers. People with health issues that do not allow vaccination are an exception to this rule. Exceptions are people with existing health issues.

<https://www.khaleejtimes.com/coronavirus-pandemic/covid-19-uzbekistan-allows-employers-to-suspend-unvaccinated-staff>

Almost 100% of military personnel are vaccinated

Over 90% of military personnel have received 2 out of 3 doses of the vaccine against Covid-19. The Ministry of Defense used the ZF-UZ VAC 2001, Sputnik V, and Moderna vaccines

<https://kun.uz/en/56089429>

France sends a shipment of AstraZeneca vaccine to Uzbekistan

276,480 doses were donated to Uzbekistan as part of the COVAX program.

<https://newslineuz.com/article/1007115/>

Sputnik V production in Uzbekistan to help republic tackle coronavirus

The joint production of the Sputnik V vaccine in Uzbekistan has started in August. As part of the program, over 200,000 doses of the Sputnik V vaccine were sent to Uzbekistan.

<https://tass.com/world/1332511>

Uzbekistan approves registration of locally produced Chinese, Russian COVID-19 vaccines

Jurabek Laboratories, a local pharmaceutical company, will produce the ZF-UZ-VAC2001 and the Sputnik V vaccines in Uzbekistan.

http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2021-08/22/c_1310141837.htm

Switzerland sends medical masks to Uzbekistan

The Swiss Airlines' aircraft, which arrived in Uzbekistan to transport evacuees from Afghanistan, brought 1.1 million protective masks for Uzbek medical institutions.

<https://uzreport.news/society/switzerland-sends-over-1-mn-medical-masks-to-uzbekistan>

Germany donates 10,000 doses of Casirivimab/Imdevimab to Uzbekistan

The brand REGEN-COV is owned by Regeneron Pharmaceuticals and their product is an artificial "antibody cocktail" designed to produce resistance against Covid-19.

<https://kun.uz/en/27311761>

3. SPECIAL UPDATE - AFGHANISTAN

Uzbekistan detains 84 Afghan servicemen who crossed border

84 Afghan servicemen were detained while crossing the Uzbek border. The Afghan servicemen were seeking medical help, which the Uzbek side provided. Similarly, the Afghan troops on the Termez-Khairaton bridge were given humanitarian aid.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/uzbekistan-says-it-detains-84-afghan-servicemen-who-crossed-border-2021-08-15/>

Uzbekistan Declining Afghan Visa Requests, Warns Illegal Crossings 'Harshly Suppressed'

An Afghan combat plane, while illegally crossing the border, was taken down by Uzbekistan's air defense system. Also, 46 Afghan aircrafts were forced to land after entering Uzbekistan. 22 military planes and 24 helicopters, carrying 585 Afghan soldiers, were forced to land after flying into Uzbek territory.

158 Afghan military men crossed the border on foot. To manage the refugee inflow, Uzbekistan has stopped giving visas to all Afghan citizens.

<https://www.newsweek.com/uzbekistan-declining-afghan-visa-requests-warns-illegal-crossings-harshly-suppressed-1620578>

Taliban seizes Afghan borders with Tajikistan, Uzbekistan

Russia pointed out that during the Moscow meeting the Taliban promised to not attack Afghanistan's neighboring countries. The joint border military drills went on as planned.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/8/11/taliban-take-control-of-northern-afghan-borders-russia-says>

Uzbekistan offers to act as a hub for Afghanistan aid

The ongoing warfare in Afghanistan has created a high risk of a severe food shortage during the upcoming winter. Worldwide humanitarian aid is planned to be sent via an Uzbek logistics facility near the Afghan border. The facility can hold 300 trucks and send cargo by rail.

<https://eurasianet.org/uzbekistan-offers-to-act-as-hub-for-afghanistan-aid>

Turkmen, Uzbek, Russian Officials hold talks with Taliban amid deteriorating Afghan security

Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and Russia met the Taliban in Qatar. Issues related to bilateral relations, border issues, economic projects, and security were discussed.

<https://www.rferl.org/a/afghanistan-taliban-turkmenistan-talks/31406472.html>

Uzbek leader maintains daily contact with Taliban

The President is maintaining close contact with the Taliban to ensure no conflict takes place between Uzbekistan and Afghanistan.

<https://www.euronews.com/2021/08/28/us-afghanistan-conflict-uzbekistan>

Chief of General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces arrives in Uzbekistan

The visit involved observing the course of the Russian-Uzbek exercises near the Afghanistan border and discussing issues related to the region's security.

<https://tashkenttimes.uz/national/7331-chief-of-general-staff-of-russian-armed-forces-lands-in-uzbekistan>

Lufthansa Airlifts Refugees from Uzbekistan, Qatar

To help the German government with the Afghan refugees, Lufthansa undertook a special flight to Tashkent, Uzbekistan, and Doha, Qatar. The Afghan refugees were taken to Frankfurt, Germany.

<https://airlinegeeks.com/2021/08/18/lufthansa-plans-airlift-services-from-uzbekistan-qatar/>

Swiss organized a charter flight to Uzbekistan to assist Afghanistan evacuation efforts

The evacuated people were picked up on August 21st and transported to Europe.

<https://nationalpost.com/pmnl/news-pmn/swiss-charter-flight-to-uzbekistan-to-assist-afghanistan-evacuation-efforts>

Germany secures Uzbekistan's help with evacuations

Uzbekistan is ready to assist Germany in evacuating Afghan refugees, while maintain the role of a transit zone.

<https://www.dw.com/en/afghanistan-germany-secures-uzbekistans-help-with-evacuations/a-59027345>

Refugee evacuation operations end at the domestic terminal of the Tashkent International Airport

From August 19th to August 31st Terminal 3 of the Tashkent airport was closed and used for the evacuation of EU and Afghan citizens. Now the terminal has resumed its routine operations.

<https://uzreport.news/economy/tashkent-3-airport-resumes-operation>

4. NOTABLE STATEMENTS

Uzbekistan to boost cooperation with Russia in protecting children's rights

Uzbekistan and Russian plan to work together in protecting children's rights, uniting families separated by the pandemic, and bringing back children stuck in dangerous zones.

<https://tass.com/world/1322649>

UNODC and the Corporate Sector Unite Efforts to Fight Corruption in Uzbekistan

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and local car manufacturer "UzAutosanoat" initiated a series of joint trainings on the prevention of corruption and fraud. In addition, UNDOC is supporting Uzbekistan's latest anti-corruption program for 2021-2022.

<https://www.unodc.org/centralasia/en/news/unodc-and-the-corporate-sector-unite-efforts-to-fight-corruption-in-uzbekistan.html>

5. ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

5.1 LOCAL LEVEL

Uzbekistan's gold and foreign exchange reserves up by USD 1 billion

The nation's gold and foreign exchange reserves grew from USD 34.1 billion to USD 35.1 billion. The increase was caused by the resumption of gold prices on world markets.

<https://tashkenttimes.uz/finances/7353-uzbekistan-s-gross-gold-and-forex-reserves-increase-by-nearly-us-1-billion>

Development of the economy of Uzbekistan in the first half of 2021

The GDP for the first 6 months of 2021 grew by 6.2%, and inflation slowed down despite the rising prices for consumer goods. Investments from non-centralized sources increased by 14.39%, while government loans and financing decreased by more than 36%.

<http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20210830000298>

Inflation rate in August amounts to 0.5% in Uzbekistan

In August, prices for goods and services in the consumer market rose by an average of 0.5%. From the beginning of 2021, the growth rate of prices in the consumer sector was 4.8%, and the average monthly growth rate was 0.6%.

<https://kun.uz/en/34123699>

Statistics Committee announces per capita income in Uzbekistan

In January-June 2021, the total per capita income in Uzbekistan was around 6.7 million soums (USD 626). The real growth rate was stated to be 8.7%, while the nominal was 20.8%.

<https://kun.uz/en/74658391>

5.2 REGIONAL, BILATERAL & MULTILATERAL COOPERATION

Uzbekistan hosted the 46th annual IDB Board of Governors meeting in 2021

The event was held from the 3rd to the 4th of September in Tashkent city. It has attracted more than 2,000 participants to discuss economic, financial, and development issues of current interest to IsDB Group member countries and their partners.

<https://kun.uz/en/news/2021/08/13/tashkent-to-host-isdb-group-board-of-governors-meeting>

Uzbekistan, USA sign intergovernmental documents

The documents focus on fighting against corruption, drug trafficking, and organized crime.

<https://tashkenttimes.uz/national/7321-uzbekistan-and-the-united-states-sign-intergovernmental-treaties>

Central Asian leaders adopt a joint statement

During the third Central Asian Summit of Heads of State held in Turkmenistan, all presidents expressed readiness to continue active cooperation in the implementation of the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia and supporting Afghanistan in achieving peace.

<https://kun.uz/en/20593776>

South Korea will donate special fire and rescue vehicles to Uzbekistan

The 9 units will arrive in January 2022. The two sides will continue working together in ensuring fire safety in the country.

<https://www.azernews.az/region/182246.html>

Kyrgyzstan ratifies the Agreement on the Establishment of Uzbek-Kyrgyz Development Fund

The corresponding law was signed on March 11th, 2021. The Fund's charter capital is USD 50 million, which is financed by Uzbekistan with the subsequent increase of the charter capital to USD 200 million. The fund is intended to support Kyrgyzstan's economic development.

<https://www.uzdaily.uz/en/post/67464>

Russia expects to bring trade turnover with Uzbekistan to USD 10 billion

For comparison, trade turnover between Uzbekistan and Russia was USD 5.9 billion in 2020.

<https://vestnikkavkaza.net/news/Lavrov-Russia-expects-to-bring-trade-turnover-with-Uzbekistan-to-10-blm.html>

High-profile Bangladesh team in Uzbekistan to woo trade

The visiting team has explored business opportunities in Uzbekistan, specifically in the pharmaceutical, information and communication technology, home appliances, construction, and textile sectors.

<https://www.theindependentbd.com/post/267528>

6. MARKET DEVELOPMENT BY SECTORS

6.1 BANKING SECTOR

ITFC signs USD 15 million deals with Uzbekistan banks

The funding is aimed at helping the country's financial institutions transform along international lines.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/1921276/business-economy>

IsDB signs USD 265,000 deal to help Uzbekistan launch Islamic financial solutions

For the establishment of a legal framework for Islamic banking and finance in Uzbekistan, IsDB is willing to provide financial and expert resources.

<https://kun.uz/en/00385792>

6.2 INDUSTRY AND CONSTRUCTION

Loan provided for Uzbekistan road project

A 30-year loan of USD 165.5 million with a 5-year grace period is being given by the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. The funds will be used to upgrade and maintain a road linking Guzar, Bukhara, Nukus, and Beyneu.

<https://www.worldhighways.com/wh8/news/loan-provided-uzbekistan-road-project>

Enter Engineering to build a mosque in Uzbekistan

The mosque will be located at the Al-Bukhari memorial complex near Samarkand. The building will have an administrative building, an underground gallery, and premises for ritual ablutions.

<https://www.globalconstructionreview.com/news/enter-engineering-build-huge-mosque-uzbekistan/>

Uzbekistan posts a 23% cement production increase during the 1st half of 2021

Portland cement production increased to 5.8Mt. 42.3% of the cement production was attributed to the Tashkent region.

<https://www.cemnet.com/News/story/171264/uzbekistan-posts-23-production-increase-in-1h21.html>

Cement producers granted new benefits

The decree “On measures to support the building materials industry” allows cement producers to receive several tax benefits.

<https://kun.uz/en/97322975>

6.3 AUTOMOBILE AND TRANSPORTATION SECTOR

The first freight train departs from China's Wuhan to Tashkent

On July 28th the train with 50 fully loaded wagons departed Wuhan and arrived in Tashkent in 12 days. The total payload was 600 tons and included various consumer goods. This transport route will increase the trade of industrial goods between China and Uzbekistan.

<https://www.tellerreport.com/business/2021-07-29-the-first-train-from-wuhan-to-tashkent-central-asia--uzbekistan.S1xZhe6kyF.html>

Saudi Arabia launches new regular flights to Tashkent

The Riyadh-Tashkent-Riyadh route will be completed by Saudi Arabia’s Flynas Airlines - a large low-cost carrier. The new flights will help boost pilgrimage tourism.

<https://www.flynas.com/en/media-center/news-updates/direct-flight-to-tashkent>

Uzbekistan’s Qanot Sharq Gets an AOC

Upon receiving the Air Operator Certificate, Qanot Sharq became Uzbekistan's 1st private airline. This event has abolished the monopoly in Uzbekistan’s aviation industry.

<https://www.aviationnepal.com/uzbekistans-qanot-sharq-gets-aoc-air-operator-certificate/>

Statistics Committee provides data on the number of vehicles owned by the population

As of January 1st, 2021, the population owns 2.8 million cars, which is 14.5% more than last year. 93.6% are passenger vehicles.

<https://kun.uz/en/40652645>

Uzbekistan Airways resumes regular flights between Tashkent and London

From August 17th on every Tuesday and Friday, there will flights to London.

<https://www.uzairways.com/en/press-center/news/flights-route-tashkent-london-have-been-resumed>

Uzbekistan Railways earned a profit in the 1st half of 2021

Uzbekistan Railways JSC received a net profit of 230 billion soums (USD 21.5 million).

<https://kun.uz/en/94554525>

Data on the number of passengers transported by Uzbekistan Airways during the 1st half of 2021

During that period 1.07 million people flew via Uzbekistan Airways. Compared to last year's numbers, that is a 70.9% increase.

<https://kun.uz/en/40869684>

Uzbekistan Airways' New Budget Airline

"Uzbekistan Express" - the new lower-cost subsidiary of Uzbekistan Airways did its first flights to Moscow Domodedovo on August 30th. Equipped with two Airbus A320s, it is expected to do domestic flights and trips to Russian cities.

<https://simpleflying.com/uzbekistan-low-cost-airline/>

Data on the number of passengers and cargo transported by rail during the 1st half of 2021

During that period 4 million passengers were transported, which is a 4.7% decrease in passenger traffic compared to last year. Freight movement amounted to 35.2 million tons, which is 103.5% higher than in 2020.

<https://kun.uz/en/60456440>

New departure lounge opened at Tashkent International Airport

In addition to its essential services, like passport and border control, it offers non-aeronautical services, like free Wi-Fi and cafes. The 2nd stage of the reconstruction will commence in October 2021.

<https://uzairways.online/en/news/3-sentyabrya-2021-g-v-mezhdunarodnom-aeroportu-tashkent-im-i-karimova-otkrylsya-novyy-zal-vyleta-s-dopolnitelnoy-ploshchadyu-dlya-passazhirov-mezhdunarodnykh-napravleniy>

6.4 HEALTHCARE

Uzbekistan to synthesize substances of drugs against coronavirus

The drug VV116 ("Remindevir") against the COVID-19 virus, developed by the Shanghai Institute of Matter, is undergoing clinical trials. Upon their completion, the drug will be manufactured in the Navoi Free Economic Zone.

<http://www.uzdaily.uz/en/post/67624>

6.5 AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

Uzbekistan and the UAE establish a partnership in the field of agriculture

The Ministry of Food and Water Security of the UAE and the Ministry of Agriculture of Uzbekistan have agreed to create projects and programs in the field of agriculture and food.

<https://kun.uz/en/41127099>

Uzbekistan and the UAE initiate a program to cultivate cherries and berries in Uzbekistan

An Uzbek-Emirati investment company and E20 Investments Ltd will be involved in the investment project.

<https://en.trend.az/business/economy/3474428.html>

6.6 INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

The countries with the largest foreign capital in Uzbek enterprises

State Statistics Committee revealed that 13.5 thousand enterprises have foreign capital in them. That is 1,772 more than last year. Russia, Turkey, and China are the largest investors.

<https://kun.uz/en/76957106>

IsDB, Saudi Arabia, and Uzbekistan launch a round of new funding commitments to support Uzbekistan economy

Uzbekistan's first dedicated impact investment fund called the Economic Empowerment Fund for Uzbekistan (EEFU) was established with an initial capital of USD 100 million. The size of the fund is expected to increase to USD 500 million.

In addition, as part of IsDB's post-pandemic economic recovery initiative, Uzbekistan received USD 200 million for the development of its rural areas.

To date, IsDB has invested USD 2.4 billion into 101 projects aimed at supporting Uzbekistan's development.

<https://www.intellinews.com/isdb-tashkent-launch-uzbekistan-s-first-dedicated-impact-investment-fund-with-initial-capital-of-100mn-219718/>

EIB to provide USD 100 million to Uzbek entrepreneurs

The European Investment Bank's loan intends to support entrepreneurs affected by the global pandemic and is given for a period of 15 years with a 5-year grace period in the form of revolving loans.

<http://tashkenttimes.uz/finances/7480-european-investment-bank-approves-us-100-million-credit-line-to-uzbek-banks>

6.7 IT SECTOR

Single Portal of Interactive State Services can help citizens track their parcels

Items sent via the Uzbekistan Post (O'zbekiston Pochtasi) can be tracked in terms of their location and status.

<https://kun.uz/en/02691768>

Uzbekistan to launch IsDB's E-Disbursement Platform

The platform helps control payments for project operations between the IsDB and its member countries, as well as, apply for project financing electronically and interact directly with project members. Indonesia and Senegal are among their first users.

<https://ifinfintech.com/isdb-unveils-new-digital-platform/>

The number of mobile phone users in Uzbekistan

Based on the Statistics Committee their number has exceeded 27 million. And at the current moment, there are 72 subscribers for every 100 people in Uzbekistan.

<https://kun.uz/en/99267460>

6.8 ENERGY SECTOR

EBRD to provide a EUR 81.6 million loan to Uzbekistan for the development of its electric power industry

The loan will be provided for a period of 7 years, including a grace period of 30 months, at a rate of 1% per annum plus a 6-month Euribor rate and a commission of 0.5%.

<http://tashkenttimes.uz/finances/>

Central Asian countries to develop a single energy ring

Until now, joint energy projects in Zarafshan River, Kamar-Ata, and Rogun have been established and millions of kW of energy are being supplied between CA countries.

<https://www.uzdaily.uz/en/post/67232>

Uzbekistan set to increase solar targets after low prices in recent tenders

The country's 2030 renewables deployment targets have been increased: from 5 to 7 GW for solar, and 3 to 5 for wind.

<https://www.pv-tech.org/uzbekistan-set-to-increase-solar-targets-after-low-prices-in-recent-tenders/>

Siemens Energy to service the gas turbine of the Shurtan Gas Chemical Complex

Shurtan Gas Chemical Complex LLC and the Swedish Siemens Energy AB signed a 15-year service agreement.

<https://www.uzdaily.uz/en/post/67335>

Uzbekistan wants to tender another 900 MW of PVs

The two new solar tenders for a series of PV plants spread across the Kashkadarya and Fergana, Bukhara, Khorezm, and Namangan regions will collectively generate 900 MW of energy.

To date, a Request for Qualification (RFQ) for 3 PVs in the Namangan, Bukhara and Khorezm regions has been announced. Their total capacity is 500 MW. Winning companies will develop solar PV plants in Uzbekistan on BOOT basis.

<https://www.pv-magazine.com/2021/08/20/uzbekistan-wants-to-tender-another-900-mw-of-pv/>

<https://minenergy.uz/en/news/view/1439>

Uzbekistan inaugurates its "Nur Navoi" solar plant

Located in the Navoi region, the plant is Uzbekistan's first utility-scale solar project and is expected to save 160,000 tons of CO2 emissions annually.

<https://www.neweurope.eu/article/uzbekistan-inaugurates-first-utility-scale-100mw-solar-power-plant/>

New gas condensate field discovered

Forecasts predict reserves of 2.8 bcm of gas and 54,000 tons of condensate, states EPSILON. Three prospecting wells will be drilled on this structure.

<https://kun.uz/en/48905594>

Bid opening of Envelope I for 100 MW wind power project has been initiated

The concerns a wind-based power project located in the Qorao'zak District of the Karakalpakstan Region. MASDAR, ACWA Power, and Volitalia's Commercial, Legal, and Technical Submissions shall be viewed prior to opening Envelop II - the Financial Proposals.

<https://minenergy.uz/en/news/view/1445>

6.9 BUSINESS

Number of enterprises and slaughterhouses in Tashkent to be relocated

Based on the investigation held near the "Salar" sewerage system and canal, multiple enterprises processing leather, textiles, the slaughter of poultry and cattle were relocated to "Special industrial zones" in Almalyk and Akhangaran.

<https://kun.uz/en/59070844>

Association of Florists established in Uzbekistan

USD 1.8 million will be allocated for the establishment of the association. The funds will partially cover transportation costs for importing raw materials.

<https://uzreport.news/economy/uzbekistan-to-channel-187mn-towards-flower-industry>

State share in Coca-Cola Uzbekistan to be privatized for USD 252.2 million

The Agency for State Assets Management agreed to sell shares to the Coca-Cola İçecek A.Ş. group of companies.

https://davaktiv.uz/en/news/coca-cola-ichimligi-uzbekiston-sotish-bjicha-kelishuvga-erishdi?fbclid=IwAR1Rk12nz9KyONosF4qd7_Ora1YpqKNJOprhICARkCOZ16kUdk_JkaYyhyl

LinkedIn starts paying VAT in Uzbekistan

From now on the company will pay a VAT at a rate of 15% to Uzbekistan.

<https://tashkenttimes.uz/business/7345-linked-in-to-pay-vat-in-uzbekistan>

A place for radar installation was sold for a record price in Tashkent

The radar spot, located at the intersection of Kh. Alimjan and A. Kadiri streets in Tashkent, was sold for USD 326.7 thousand. The auction was carried out on an online platform called E-AUKSION.

<https://kun.uz/en/98357197>

Uzbekistan sets out an ambitious road map to becoming a key start-up hub

SMEs employ around 78% of the nation's workforce and contribute 57% of Uzbekistan's GDP. These new enterprises are supported by Tashkent's IT park, tax breaks, and around 2,000 pro-business laws, decrees, and resolutions implemented within the last 5 years.

<https://www.euronews.com/2021/09/01/uzbekistan-sets-out-an-ambitious-road-map-to-becoming-a-key-start-up-hub>

6.10 TOURISM

Silk Road Samarkand will open in 2022

Silk Road Samarkand is a multifunctional tourist complex, which plans to combine cultural, gastro, medical, and business tourism facilities. It will be located in the city of Samarkand.

<https://www.traveldailynews.com/post/2022-uzbekistan-will-see-the-grand-opening-of-silk-road-samarkand-a-unique-tourist-complex>

Number of foreign nationals visiting Uzbekistan in the 1st half of 2021

Nearly 650,000 foreigners have visited the country, the majority being from Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan.

<https://stat.uz/en/press-center/news-of-committee/11273-o-zbekistonga-qaysi-davlatlardan-chet-el-fuqarolari-tashrif-buyurgan-3>

6.11 TRADE

Uzbekistan launches national strategy for the development of electronic commerce

The Ready4Trade project, led by UNCTAD / WTO Center for International Trade and funded by the EU, aims to trade inside and outside of CA via improving transparency and cross-border e-commerce procedures.

<https://www.azernews.az/region/181853.html>

Uzbekistan's cotton exports will witness an upward swing

Compared to last year, cotton production rose from a monthly average of USD 3.69 million to USD 16.88 million. As a result, Pakistan's textile industry is becoming a key trading partner.

<https://www.fibre2fashion.com/news/textile-news/here-s-why-uzbekistan-s-cotton-exports-will-witness-an-upward-swing-275888-newsdetails.htm>

Unrealized trade potential between Central Asian countries estimated at USD 1.1 billion

Food, chemical, and light industry products are the largest potential trade areas. In addition, Uzbekistan's unrealized export potential is more than USD 600 million.

<https://review.uz/en/post/cooperation-between-the-countries-of-central-asia-as-a-factor-in-ensuring-their-development>

Uzbekistan increases imports of leather goods from Turkey

Compared to the 1st half of 2020, leather imports grew by 87.1% in the 1st half of 2021, exceeding USD 4.82 million. In July 2021 alone imports amounted to USD145.4 million.

<https://www.azernews.az/region/182263.html>

Uzbekistan expects trade restart with Afghanistan

There is confidence that trade will not only continue but also grow. Officials state that during Ashraf Ghani's Presidency corruption was at a high, which explains why international trade with Afghanistan was costly and inefficient.

<https://tass.com/economy/1327159>

Uzbekistan increases export of passenger cars

During the 1st half of 2021 USD 194 million worth of cars were exported, which is USD 123 million higher compared to last year. The largest imported was Kazakhstan.

<http://en.kabar.kg/news/uzbekistan-increases-export-of-passenger-cars/>

Uzbekistan exported USD480 million worth of fruits and vegetables in the 1st half of 2021

841.8 thousand tons of agricultural products, primarily fruits, and berries, were exported. Russia and Kazakhstan were the largest importers.

<https://newslineuz.com/article/1008425/>

Uzbekistan introduces zero rates of customs duties and taxes for the import of trucks

The tax benefit will last until January 1st, 2025. The vehicles cannot be older than 7 years, be intended for cargo only, and meet other special criteria.

<https://kun.uz/en/47407671>

Uzbekistan increases cement imports

During the 1st half of 2021, Uzbekistan imported 1.7 million tons of cement for USD 85 million, which is 674 thousand tons more compared to last year. The largest exporter was Kazakhstan and its customer - Tashkent.

<https://newslineuz.com/article/1008751/>

Uzbekistan increases electric car imports

In January-July 2021, Uzbekistan imported 432 electric vehicles, which is 364 more than last year. China was the largest exporter.

<https://en.trend.az/casia/uzbekistan/3473137.html#:~:text=In%20January%20%2D%20July%202021%2C%20432,same%20period%20of%20last%20year.>

Uzbekistan increased gasoline imports during the 1st half of 2021

274.6 million liters of gasoline worth USD 96.6 million were imported. Russia, Turkmenistan, and Kazakhstan were the largest exporters and Tashkent city was the biggest consumer.

<https://kun.uz/en/68490956>

Afghanistan receives first commercial cargo from Uzbekistan after a change of government

The cargo came in two trains. In addition, the Taliban promised to resolve issues around banking, customs, and security, all of which have a direct impact on trade.

https://akipress.com/news:662084:First_commercial_cargo_arrives_in_Afghanistan_from_Uzbekistan_after_change_of_power/

7. EDUCATION

USA to provide USD 10 million worth of textbooks to Uzbekistan

The textbooks will be tested in 200 schools across the country and distributed among more than 6.5 million students. Additionally, USAID has made effort to pass on educational standards to Uzbek teachers.

<https://uz.usembassy.gov/development-objective-grant-agreement/>

Alpha DX to make a PPP in Digital Learning & Education with Uzbekistan

The joint venture will cost USD 50 million and focus on the development of AUU. In 2022 AUU will have 2 campuses in Uzbekistan - in Tashkent and Andijan.

<https://aithority.com/technology/education-and-research/alpha-dx-advancing-on-its-first-public-private-partnership-in-digital-learning-education-with-uzbekistan/>

8. REGULATORY CHANGES

Political parties receive permission to participate in the presidential election

Now political parties can apply to the CEC with an application for registration of a presidential candidate.

<https://newslineuz.com/article/1007117/>

Uzbekistan makes changes to its laws concerning intellectual property rights

The country has extended copyright to 70 years, shall offer statutory liquidated damages for copyright infringement, and has introduced a fast-track route for trademark registration.

<https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/uzbekistan-extends-copyright-to-70-2430962/>

Uzbekistan abolishes temporary procedure for the stay of foreign citizens in the country

Foreign citizens whose stay in Uzbekistan has expired must extend their stay or leave the country by September 10. The temporary mild regime introduced due to the pandemic was repealed.

<https://kun.uz/en/59041190>

Fines, fees, and duties to increase in Uzbekistan

The base calculating amount (BCA) has increased from 245,000 to 270,000 soums (USD 22.9 - USD 25.2). This directly impacts taxes, fees, fines, state duties, the cost of a patent, license, and other payments.

[http://www.uzdaily.com/en/post/67454#:~:text=Tashkent%2C%20Uzbekistan%20\(UzDaily.com,an%20average%20of%2010%20percent](http://www.uzdaily.com/en/post/67454#:~:text=Tashkent%2C%20Uzbekistan%20(UzDaily.com,an%20average%20of%2010%20percent)

President signs law on precious metals and precious stones

The use of soil for mining purposes can be done only via a permit issued by the State Committee for Geology and Mineral Resources. After the rights to use end, the land must be brought back to a serviceable condition. Additionally, licenses and notifications are needed to refine and produce jewelry.

<https://www.uzdaily.uz/en/post/67575>

President signs a decree on measures to support public catering and tourism

The decree “On additional measures to support the spheres of public catering and tourism” took effect from September 1st and offers a variety of tax benefits for businesses.

<https://tashkenttimes.uz/economy/7435-shavkat-mirziyoyev-signs-decree-to-support-restaurants-and-promote-tourism>

9. SENIOR OFFICIALS CHANGES/APPOINTMENTS

- **Consul General of Uzbekistan in Aktau (Kazakhstan)**
Appointed - Atabek Tursynbekov
Previously served as the First secretary of the Uzbek Embassy in Tajikistan
- **Chairman of the management board of Uztransgaz JSC**
Appointed - Bekhzot Narmatov
Previously served as Deputy Minister of Energy
- **Director-General of Uzauto Motors & UzAuto Motors Powertrain JSC**
Appointed - Bo I. Andersson
Previously served as CEO of Yazaki Europe, Africa, North & South America
- **Khokim of Bustan district**
Appointed - Sanobar Nosirova
Previously served as Head of “Elrizki non” LLC

- **Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan to Georgia**
Appointed - Bakhrom Ashrafkhanov
- **Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan to Lithuania**
Appointed - Kadambay Sultanov
- **Almazar district khokim**
Appointed - Azizkhon Umarkhonov
Previously served as Head of the main department of the patrol service and protection of public order at the Ministry of Internal Affairs

10. USEFUL PUBLICATIONS AND LINKS

Uzbekistan's efforts to combat human trafficking

<https://www.eureporter.co/world/uzbekistan/2021/08/08/uzbekistans-efforts-to-combat-human-trafficking/>

Uzbekistan after the storm

<https://www.intellinews.com/uzbekistan-after-the-storm-216864/>

Central Asian leaders meet in Turkmenistan: Keeping momentum alive for regional co-operation

<https://www.eureporter.co/world/uzbekistan/2021/08/12/central-asian-leaders-meet-in-turkmenistan-keeping-momentum-alive-for-regional-cooperation/>

3rd Meeting of Central Asian Leaders: A Small Step Toward the Formation of a Regional Order?

<https://thediplomat.com/2021/08/3rd-meeting-of-central-asian-leaders-a-small-step-toward-the-formation-of-a-regional-order/>

Uzbekistan considers corruption as a serious threat to development

<https://www.eureporter.co/world/uzbekistan/2021/08/10/uzbekistan-considers-corruption-as-serious-threat-for-development/>

Future of China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway remains uncertain

<https://emerging-europe.com/news/future-of-china-kyrgyzstan-uzbekistan-railway-remains-uncertain/>

Uzbekistan plans 10 major projects to boost energy security

<https://www.neweurope.eu/article/uzbekistan-plans-10-major-projects-to-boost-energy-security/>

Uzbekistan takes systemic measures to mitigate effects of climate change

<https://www.eureporter.co/world/uzbekistan/2021/08/16/uzbekistan-takes-systemic-measures-to-mitigate-effects-of-climate-change/>

Uzbekistan and Tajikistan Hedge on Afghan Refugees

<https://thediplomat.com/2021/08/uzbekistan-and-tajikistan-hedge-on-afghan-refugees/>

Civil society reforms in Uzbekistan

<http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20210830000362>



EUROUZ or Europe-Uzbekistan Association for Economic Cooperation is a new platform of cooperation between Europe & Uzbekistan, which has been created to assist the European business community in establishing and strengthening business, investment, and trade cooperation ties with Uzbekistan.

All organizations of any legal form registered within the EU Customs Union and European Free Trade Association countries or those who registered in Uzbekistan are all eligible to become members of EUROUZ. A special mechanism for cooperation is also established with international organizations.

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