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Dialogue at new stage of cooperation

Towards Turkmen leader's official visit to the French Republic

Today, President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov has arrived in the French Republic on an official visit at the invitation of the French partners.

The visit, the programme of which includes a series of the important meetings and talks at the French Government and the Senate as well, is another clear evidence of the active intergovernmental dialogue intensified noticeably in recent years, the high dynamics of which illustrates the mutual interest and readiness to develop traditional partnership on a long-term, mutually advantageous basis.

This position of the two friendly countries that aim to converge and establish closer collaboration in all key fields, determines to a larger extent the success of the coming bilateral talks in Paris that will certainly initiate a new stage in the modern history of Turkmen-French relations.

It is noteworthy that Turkmenistan and France are endeavouring to enhance relationships in the context of considerable intensification of the dialogue between Turkmenistan and the European countries, building the bridges of friendship and cooperation with which is a priority of the foreign policy strategy of the Turkmen state. Thus, the coming meetings can be regarded as an important step to expand cooperation in the bilateral and multilateral formats, particularly in the framework of the international institutions and organisations including the EU, OSCE, UN and its agencies.

The practice of long-term cooperation since Turkmenistan and France established the diplomatic relations in the spring of 1992 spotlights the goodwill of the two states demonstrating the mutual willingness to bring traditional cooperation to a qualitatively new level meeting the profound potential of partnership in the interests of the Turkmen and French peoples.

The mutual intention to fill the intergovernmental dialogue with a new content is reflected in the documents to be signed during the visit that will significantly extend the legal framework of bilateral cooperation and give powerful incentives to further develop and strengthen the ties of friendship and cooperation between Turkmenistan and France, create the conditions conducive to implementing the bilateral agreements.

The talks in Paris aimed at specifying the common approaches to further building the dialogue through using fully the positive experience of collaboration and the existing profound economic potential open up the vast opportunities for effective collaboration between Turkmenistan and France in the broad spectrum of fields. Cooperation in the trade and economic and humanitarian spheres where the practice in successful fruitful partnership has been developed over the past years is already identified among the priorities.

Turkmenistan and France have high hopes for Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov's visit that will make the interstate dialogue more constructive and fruitful. This is the major goal of the Turkmen-French business forum, which will be attended by the French businessmen who express keen interest in expanding on the very promising, rapidly developing market of Turkmenistan.

<http://www.turkmenistan.gov.tm/en/?idr=4&id=100201a>

To participants of the Investment Forum in Abu Dhabi

President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov addressed the welcoming statement to participants of the Investment Forum and the Commodity Exhibition of Turkmenistan, which had opened in Abu Dhabi today.

The President wished the successful work to participants of the forum and exhibition which will give new incentives to foster cooperation between the business communities of different countries.

Noting that Turkmenistan attracted much attention of foreign investors, the President emphasizes that "the effective use of Turkmenistan's profound investment potential as well as foreign loans for developing the national economy in compliance with the law on further modernization of the national economy is kept under control of the state. The investments put in the economy are used for developing the most important sectors in the interests of citizens, who are the highest value of the state and society."

"In the period of transition to market economy the state will play the decisive role for many years," the welcoming statement said. "Regulating the investment activity we are seeking, for the first part, to attract investment not in the form of money but in that of latest technologies. Our goal is to ensure that investments contribute to sustainable development of the particular sector as well as national economy as a whole.

"All our efforts are aimed at bringing Turkmenistan's economic development up to the world level, gain equality in international relationships, deepen bilateral relations with other states, ensure more effective investment management and encourage foreign investments.

The adoption of the Law of Turkmenistan "On Foreign Investments" setting forth the legal foundation for attracting foreign investments in the national economy and regulating the activity of the enterprises with foreign capital participation promote attracting and using efficiently investments builds the regulatory framework in this field meeting modern requirements. The Law clearly defines customs facilities as well as other benefits guaranteed by Turkmenistan to foreign investors.

The bilateral agreements to increase the volume of loans are concluded in compliance with the priority that we attach to building bilateral relations between Turkmenistan and the dozens of countries of the world on a basis of equality, mutual benefit and respect in the investment sector as well."

The Turkmen leader expressed belief that the Investment Forum of Turkmenistan in Abu Dhabi would provide foreign investors with the vast opportunities to finance the large-scale projects in our country, to discuss the ways of mutually advantageous and fruitful cooperation.

In conclusion the President wished every success in the work to the participants who had come from different regions of the world in the capital of the United Arab Emirates of Abu Dhabi city, the representatives of the international organisations, journalists, the heads of the authoritative and the envoys from Turkmenistan.

http://www.turkmenistan.gov.tm/_en/?idr=1&id=100201a

TURKMEN GAS REACHES BEIJING

Turkmenistan-China gas pipeline: new landmark in the history of large-scale regional cooperation

For the past months the publications about age-old cooperation between the friendly Turkmen and Chinese peoples hit the headlines of the electronic and print media in the People's Republic of China. The publications and messages spread in the Internet network during these days focus on the news about supply of Turkmen natural gas to the capital of China - Beijing.

Referring to the China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) the Chinese news agency Xinhua reported that the transfer of natural gas from the Zinobian compressor station towards Beijing and neighbouring districts had started in the third decade of January. This event marked by completing the construction of the western section of the West-East pipeline connected to the Turkmenistan-China gas pipeline which transported gas from the Samandepe field through Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan.

The most popular newspaper in the country Renmin Ribao noted in its turn that the specialists forecast that natural gas supplies would allow bettering the situation in Beijing which was on the verge of gas shortage for the dramatic increase in 'blue fuel' consumption during the severe cold winter. Thus, the amount of gas supplied to the domestic market increased to about 1 billion cubic metres in the winter.

The Oil and Capital online edition, which has the high prestige in the media world, reported that Turkmen gas had been supplied to Urumqi (the administrative centre of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region), which became the first consumer of Turkmen 'blue fuel' in China. After putting the western section of the second West-East pipeline into operation on December 31, 2009, the gas shortage was eliminated completely.

According to the Petroleum Information Agency, which refers to the China's largest company - CNPC, which was the first of Turkmenistan's foreign partner to receive the operator's and contractor's license for the development of the deposits on the Bagtyyarlyk contract territory, currently about 6.6 million cubic metres of gas is supplied each day to the Khorgos station due to stable gas extraction in the Turkmen deposits.

http://www.turkmenistan.gov.tm/_en/?idr=5&id=100131a

Meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers

President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov chaired a meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers to review the results of the Turkmen leader's visit to the Republic of Belarus, the agenda of the coming visit to the French Republic and other priority issues of the national policy.

Chief of the State Protocol of the President's Office B. Myatiev reported on the programme of the coming visit to the French Republic and the preparation of the official bilateral documents to be signed during the visit

Vice Premier, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan R. Meredov reported on the results of the trip to London where he had participated in the International Conference on Afghanistan on the instructions of the Turkmen leader. It was noted that the large international forum co-organized by the UN, the Government of Afghanistan and the United Kingdom had brought together the foreign ministers from about 70 countries of the world and the heads of the authoritative international organisations, which actively contributed to addressing the problems in Afghanistan.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs informed that the forum representatives including UN Secretary-General Ministry Ban Ki-moon, President of Afghanistan Hamid Karzai and British Prime Minister Gordon Brown had welcomed and fully supported the initiatives put forward by the President of Turkmenistan at the 64th session of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2009.

Evaluating highly Turkmenistan's profound contribution to stabilizing the situation and social and economic development of neighbouring Afghanistan, the participants of the International Conference had emphasized that having initially defining overall assistance to the Afghan people including the most vulnerable groups of the population - women and children as a priority task, for all these years Turkmenistan had been baking its initiatives by the concrete actions. It was the effectiveness of such targeted assistance that aroused keen interest among the participants of the London Conference in the Turkmen leader's new initiative to draft the long-term programme on Afghanistan's revival under the auspices of the United Nations.

Showing satisfaction with this information President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov emphasized that the major goal of Turkmenistan's foreign policy remained overall assistance to global efforts to maintain and strengthen global security, prevent and neutralize the threat of conflicts, create the conditions conducive to sustainable development of the countries and peoples, foster wide and constructive international cooperation.

Underscoring the importance attached by Turkmenistan to the national revival of Afghanistan, establishment of lasting peace and stability in the Afghani land the Turkmen leader stated

that our country would continue to provide overall support and assistance to its southern neighbour in renovation of the economy and construction of social and humanitarian facilities. Turkmenistan stood steadfast to the traditions of friendship and good neighbourliness bequeathed to the Turkmen people by their glorious ancestors, and that would always be so, the President said.

"We want to see Afghanistan a peaceful and prosperous country, a good neighbour and partner for all countries of the region," Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov said expressing belief that the fruitful dialogue established over these years with the UN, which had the profound peacemaking potential, would be maintained successfully. The Turkmen leader also suggested that collaboration on the development of the political and diplomatic models to normalize the situation in Afghanistan and the initiation of the nationwide dialogue between all constructive and responsible forces in Afghanistan could become the most effective for the use of the potential of the UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia established in Ashgabat as a permanent body contributing to enhancing and developing the constructive political dialogue in the region.

<http://www.turkmenistan.gov.tm/en/?idr=1&id=100130a>

President of Turkmenistan receives Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the French Republic

President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov received Mr. Pierre Lebovics, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the French Republic in Turkmenistan. Expressing gratitude for the opportunity of a personal meeting the diplomat said that France that was looking forward to the Turkmen leader's visit that as it hoped would foster effective cooperation established between two countries in recent years. Thanking for the kind words Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov addressed the best wishes to the Government and people of France and expressed belief that the coming bilateral talks in Paris would give powerful impetus to intergovernmental relations enhanced with every passing year in the political, economic and cultural spheres.

During the meeting, which turned into a constructive exchange of views on further development of Turkmen-French cooperation successfully built on the bilateral and multilateral basis, particularly in the framework of the Turkmenistan-EU dialogue, the President of Turkmenistan and the French diplomat underscored with satisfaction the existing mutual interest in enhancing fruitful partnership in several key fields.

<http://www.turkmenistan.gov.tm/en/?idr=1&id=100129a>

Towards international construction industry exhibition of Turkey

President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov addressed the welcoming statement to participants of the International Exhibition of construction and building materials industries of the Republic of Turkey.

Congratulating on opening the exhibition that will become a landmark in relationships between the two brotherly countries, the Turkmen leader noted that the policy of permanent neutrality of Turkmenistan has opened up the vast opportunities for the development in all sectors of the national economy, construction of facilities and buildings meeting the increasing requirements of the modern world, production of high-quality products that are in high demand on international markets.

<http://www.turkmenistan.gov.tm/en/?idr=1&id=100127b>

Visit of particular importance in history of intergovernmental relations between Turkmenistan and the Republic of Belarus

Talks between President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov and President Aleksander Lukashenko

On January 25, President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov left Ashgabat for an official visit to the Republic of Belarus. The high-ranking officials of the Mejlis and cabinet ministers bade farewell to the Turkmen leader at the Ashgabat International Airport.

A few hours later the President's plane landed in the Belarusian capital in the Minsk-2 National Airport decorated with the national flags of the two friendly countries. Prime Minister of the Republic of Belarus Sergei Sidorskiy, Minister of Foreign Affairs Sergei Martynov and other officials greeted President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov at the airport. It should be noted that among those welcoming the Turkmen leader at the airport were the Turkmen young people, who studied at the higher educational establishments in Belarus. Greeting the Turkmen students the President talked to them about their studies and life. The students expressed heartfelt gratitude to the leader of the Turkmen state for providing active support for the younger generation of Turkmenistan, an opportunity to receive education and training in compliance with international standards at the foreign higher schools as well.

http://www.turkmenistan.gov.tm/_en/?idr=1&id=100126a

President of Turkmenistan receives credential letters from Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the French Republic

President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov received the newly appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the French Republic in Turkmenistan Mr. Pierre Lebovics, who presented the credential letters to the leader of the Turkmen state.

Thanking for the opportunity of a personal meeting the diplomat conveyed the heartfelt greetings and best wishes of French President Nicolas Sarkozy to the Turkmen leader noting that France attached particular importance to the Turkmen leader's visit, which, undoubtedly, would add a new chapter to the history of the intergovernmental dialogue.

http://www.turkmenistan.gov.tm/_en/?idr=1&id=100123b

Reliable power supply for Avaza

A gas-turbine power plant will become a major power supply facility in the rapidly growing Avaza national tourism zone. The station will supply electric power to dozens of comfortable hotels and cottages, numerous entertainment centres and parks, large sporting complexes and hundreds of other facilities located in the seaside pearl on the Turkmen coast of the Caspian Sea.

The assemblage of a step down autonomous gas-distributing station is under completion in the eastern part of the Avaza national tourism zone where the foreign company is building a combined cycle power plant. The station will supply natural gas that is used as fuel for producing electric power to the gas-turbine units of the power station.

The specialists of the Turkmengaz State Concern are engaged in building the 65-kilometre gas outlet for the Avaza power station. Gas will be transported via the pipeline under high pressure from the existing compressor stations of the gas main.

The main machine assembly and construction works have been completed at the step down autonomous gas-distributing station. Gas pipelines and other supply lines are being built from the power-generating units to the gas-distributing station.

In accordance with the international tender the Turkmenenergo Corporation and Turkmenenergogurlusyik Concern of the Ministry of Energy and Industry of Turkmenistan signed the additional contracts with the foreign companies for supplies of materials and machinery for construction of other power supply facilities in Avaza.

Electric power produced by the gas turbine power plant will be supplied via the high-voltage lines to three substations located nearby the tourism zone. There will be 12 transformer substations which will ensure reliable and uninterrupted power supply to all facilities in Avaza. The high-voltage lines will connect the network under construction with the Turkmenbashi thermal power station that will guarantee stable operation of the power supply network of the maritime region.

The step down autonomous gas-distributing station will be connected to the gas turbine units of the power plant simultaneously with putting the first power generating unit into operation by Flag Day this February.

http://www.turkmenistan.gov.tm/_en/?idr=6&id=100131a

Business centre of Turkmen entrepreneurs to spring up in capital city

In two years the high-rise Business Centre of the Union of Manufacturers and Entrepreneurs of Turkmenistan will appear in Ashgabat. Construction of the Centre with the 2.2-hectare area that will spring up along one of the main city highways will be financed by the Union of Manufacturers and Entrepreneurs of Turkmenistan and carried out by the domestic private companies.

The implementation of this large-scale project became possible through the state support as well as the measures aimed at encouraging business initiatives as an integral aspect of the strategy for Turkmenistan's social and economic development. Intensification of the activity in the private sector of the national economy, enhancement of its investment potential and efficiency in construction industry as well testify to the success of this strategy initiated by President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov. The list of the projects completed by the domestic construction companies, which have proved their competence, includes sports facilities, shopping centres, apartment buildings. Henceforth, the business centre, which will become a symbol of the rise of entrepreneurial activity in the country in the epoch of new Revival and fundamental reforms, will replenish this list.

http://www.turkmenistan.gov.tm/_en/?idr=6&id=100130a

Picture of the Week

