**Factsheet on French President Emmanuel Macron’s visit to Kazakhstan**

**Overview**

French President Emmanuel Macron arrived in Kazakhstan on November 1 for his first official visit to the country, during which he met with Kazakhstan’s President, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, at the Akorda.

Macron’s visit significantly bolstered political, economic, and cultural-humanitarian ties between the two nations. It also highlighted the strategic relationship between Astana and Paris, which marked its 15th anniversary this year, stemming from the Treaty on Strategic Partnership signed on June 11, 2008.

During their discussions, the leaders and their delegations delved into development prospects in areas like trade, economics, investment, industry, transport logistics, energy, and humanitarian efforts. Several pivotal intergovernmental agreements in energy, education, healthcare, and international development were also signed.

**Joint statement and agreements**

Following their talks, Presidents Kassym-Jomart Tokayev of Kazakhstan and Emmanuel Macron of France adopted a joint statement.

Official delegates from both sides signed the following documents:

1. Agreement between the governments of Kazakhstan and France to establish and oversee a group from the French Development Agency in Kazakhstan.
2. Agreement to establish international French schools in Kazakhstan and implement French teaching in the nation's secondary educational institutions.
3. Joint declaration of intent between Kazakhstan and France concerning cooperation on strategic minerals.
4. Cooperation, licensing, and supply agreement between Kazakhstan’s QazBioPharm and France’s Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health France to initiate the production of vaccines against foot-and-mouth disease in Kazakhstan.
5. Agreement on a joint venture to construct wind power stations with a combined capacity of 1.2GW, inclusive of an energy storage system.
6. Investment agreement to execute the project centered on the manufacturing, service maintenance of railway locomotives, rolling stock, and associated parts in Kazakhstan.

**Talks in a narrow format**

Kassym-Jomart Tokayev conducted discussions at the Akorda with French President Emmanuel Macron.

* The two leaders deliberated on the current status and future potential of the Kazakh-French strategic partnership. Emphasis was placed on enhancing the political dialogue and intensifying collaboration in sectors such as trade, economics, investment, energy, transport, logistics, culture, and humanitarian affairs.
* Additionally, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev and Emmanuel Macron exchanged perspectives on pressing matters of international and regional significance.
* Kassym-Jomart Tokayev and Emmanuel Macron addressed the pressing issues of transitioning to a green economy and tackling climate change. President Tokayev presented several specific proposals to Macron, tailored to align with the mutual interests of both nations. Moreover, he affirmed Kazakhstan's eagerness to collaborate within the framework of the French-led One Planet Summit initiative.
* The leaders from both nations discussed pressing issues on the regional and global front, emphasizing the need to resolve conflicts through peaceful, diplomatic means.

**Talks in an expanded format**

Kassym-Jomart Tokayev and Emmanuel Macron engaged in discussions in an expanded format, accompanied by the official delegations from both nations.

* Throughout the dialogue, the leaders pinpointed priority sectors for deeper collaboration, encompassing areas like green energy, logistics, transit, agriculture, healthcare, digitalization, and education.
* President Tokayev emphasized the importance of nurturing cultural connections, highlighting the need to elevate the presence of French culture and language within Kazakhstan.
* President Macron reiterated France’s dedication to continually bolster bilateral relationships across various domains of shared interest.
* President Emmanuel Macron invited President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev to join the Paris Peace Forum as a guest of honor in 2024. President Tokayev accepted the invitation.

**Kazakh-French relations**

* **Diplomatic Ties**: Diplomatic relations between Kazakhstan and France were formally established on 25 January 1992.
* **Economic Partnership**: Kazakhstan stands as France’s primary economic partner in Central Asia, while France ranks among Kazakhstan’s principal trade and investment partners in Europe. Over the past decade, the annual bilateral trade and economic volume oscillated between $2.5 billion and $6.5 billion. Notably, Kazakhstan's exports constituted 80-90% of this aggregate figure.
* **Trade Growth**: In the previous year, the mutual trade surged by 30%, culminating at $4 billion. Moreover, the bilateral trade volume in the first eight months of the current year witnessed a 21% augmentation from the previous year, totaling $2.7 billion.
* **French Investments**: France has channelled approximately $18.7 billion into Kazakhstan's economy. Collaborative ventures span sectors like energy, construction, aerospace, pharmaceuticals, mining, chemicals, and mechanical engineering.
* **Business Presence**: About 170 firms, having French capital stakes, operate successfully within Kazakhstan. This includes esteemed conglomerates like Total, Orano, Alstom, Danone, Vicat, and Saint Gobain, all of which spearhead high-tech initiatives.
* **Presidential Visit**: During the visit of President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev to France on November 29-30, 2022, the nations inked 25 economic accords, cumulatively valued at $3 billion.
* **Uranium Production**: Globally recognized as a premier uranium producer and exporter, Kazakhstan is a vital uranium partner for France. The mining enterprise KATCO, a collaborative venture between the French company Orano and Kazatomprom, is industriously mining uranium resources in the Moinkum and Tortkuduk areas of southern Kazakhstan.