**JOINT STATEMENT**

**by** **the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Murat Nurtleu, and the Vice President of the Council of Ministers and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Italian Republic, Antonio Tajani**

(*September 5, 2023, Astana*)

We, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Vice President of the Council of Ministers and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Italian Republic,

* Considering the common will of Kazakhstan and Italy to favor the de-carbonization processes, also through the use of renewable energies and green hydrogen;
* Given the growing importance of critical materials, strategic raw materials, rare earths and the development of the hydrogen-related value chain for the purposes of the dual green and digital transition, in which Kazakhstan and Italy are engaged;
* Considering the great availability of critical materials, strategic raw materials and rare earths with which Kazakhstan is endowed, as well as the importance, recognized by both countries, of encouraging the development of new technologies and further forms of cooperation in this sector which has become a priority for the ecological transition;
* Taking into account the Memorandum of Understanding between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the European Union on a strategic partnership on sustainable raw materials, batteries and renewable hydrogen value chain, signed in Sharm El-Sheikh on 7 November 2022, aimed at integrating strategic value chains in the aforementioned sectors, as well as aligning their environmental, social and governance standards and, in this way, stimulating the attraction of private capital and new investments;
* Taking into account a growing importance of people-to-people contacts, especially through expanding educational, tourist, cultural and humanitarian cooperation.

Declare:

* Our mutual interest in establishing forms of efficient, effective and timely mutual cooperationand, in this context, exploring forms of collaboration in the sectors covered by this Joint Statement, through the exchange of experiences and knowledge in the field of research, innovation (including, manufacturing industry and water management) and training of new skills;
* Our common will to promote, within the framework of the partnership between the EU and Kazakhstan, economic and industrial collaboration initiatives, to facilitate direct investments and joint ventures between companies of our countries, as well as joint research projects and technological exchange, also through annual business forums between Kazakh and Italian companies, events, seminars and workshop organized with the involvement of governmental agencies and the support of associations and entrepreneurial representative bodies;
* Our common intention to facilitate the implementation of industrial pilot projects in the aforementioned sectors, within the framework of existing Agreements and making use of existing platforms, such as the Green Hydrogen Alliance, which also includes Italian companies, established on the initiative of the Kazakh government in 2022 to support and facilitate the exchange of technological knowledge in this key-sector to the ecological transition.
* Our common intention to improve business, cultural, human exchanges and ties, including by increasing efforts to facilitate visa regime within the Schengen zone for citizens of Kazakhstan.
* Our mutual interest to promote consultation and cooperation in the area of culture, education, and science drawing on each other’s areas of expertise.

Signed in Astana on5 September 2023.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Hon. Murat Nurtleu****Deputy Prime Minister and** **Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan** | **Hon. Antonio Tajani****Vice President of the Council of Ministers and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Italian Republic** |