

Press release

Working visit of Deputy Foreign Minister Rapol Zhoshybayev to Austria on

On November 24-25, the Kazakh delegation for EXPO 2017, headed by the EXPO Commissioner, Kazakhstan's First Deputy Foreign Minister Rapol Zhoshybayev, conducted a working visit to Austria.

During the visit, the delegation held productive meetings with the leadership of the Austrian Federal Ministry for European Integration and International Affairs, the Federal Ministry of Science, Research and the Economy, the Federal Economic Chamber, as well as Austrian Travel Agents, Tour Operators Associations and representatives of leading Austrian companies in the construction, tourism, logistics and renewable energy sources fields.

Within the framework of the Vienna Economic Forum, held in Austria's historic capital, the delegation also met with Bernadette Gierlinger, Deputy Minister of Science, Research and Economics, co-chairperson of the Kazakh-Austrian intergovernmental commission.

Subjects under discussion included the state and future of bilateral trade and economic cooperation, including the participation of Austrian companies in EXPO-2017.

Mr. Zhoshybayev held briefings on preparations for the exhibition and presented the original letter of invitation on behalf of Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev, addressed to Austrian President Heinz Fischer. Given that Austria is one of the world leaders in the development of alternative and renewable energy sources, Mr. Zhoshybayev expressed hope it would actively participate in EXPO-2017.

Ms. Gierlinger stated that 75% of Austrian energy consumption was generated by renewable energy sources and confirmed Austrian interest in participating in the Astana exhibition. It was agreed to consider inviting Austrian companies to help with the organization of EXPO 2017 in the framework of the forthcoming session of the Kazakh-Austrian IPC in 2015.

Also discussed during the meeting with Secretary General of the Federal Ministry of European Integration and International Affairs Michael Linhart, was

visa facilitation, an increase in the frequency of flights and trade and economic and legal cooperation.

Mr. Zhoshybayev drew attention to the international initiatives of Kazakhstan, preparations for EXPO 2017 and new economic policy of Kazakhstan "Nurly Jol". The Commissioner stressed that participation of Austrian companies and technologies in these national projects would take bilateral cooperation to a new level.

At the end of the meeting, Mr. Linhart stated that Kazakhstan was a key partner of Austria in the region and emphasized that Austria would provide maximum assistance with the implementation of Kazakhstan's international initiatives.

At the meeting with the Vice President of the Federal Economic Chamber of Austria Richard Shentsev and management body of the «Waagner Biro», the Commissioner discussed involving leading Austrian companies in various fields in the preparations for EXPO-2017 in Astana.

On November 25, Mr. Zhoshybayev delivered a welcome speech at an economic forum «Kazakhstan», organized by the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber in cooperation with Kazakhstan's Embassy in Vienna. The Forum was attended by 50 Austrian companies in the fields of tourism, production of green technology and construction.

Within the forum, the Commissioner held separate meetings with leaders of the Austrian Travel Agents and Tour Operators Association «EUDS Sengstschiem Development Co» and signed an agreement to enhance cooperation in tourism and cultural exchange.