

Kazakhstan's Economic Transformation: Opportunities and Challenges in the Central Asian Economic Union

by Ernesto Ferlenghi – President of Confindustria Kazakhstan

Dear Members,

Welcome back after the summer break! I hope you've had a chance to recharge your batteries and come back ready to give new impetus to your activities.

After a period of global challenges and uncertainties, faced with resilience and a spirit of adaptation, we are now faced with new opportunities and growth prospects.

Our industrial system has proven to be resilient and innovative, even in difficult times.

And now, with the start of this new season, I am confident that we will be ready to seize the opportunities that arise, with renewed enthusiasm.



Over the past year, we have witnessed an intensification of Confindustria's activities at the international level, with the aim of creating new synergies and collaboration opportunities for Italian companies.

In particular, the Kazakhstan office of Confindustria has played a key role in expanding our network in a region of growing strategic importance, Central Asia.

Kazakhstan, with its geographical location and natural wealth, represents a key gateway to an expanding market with multiple opportunities for investment and growth.

The activities of the Kazakhstan office were not limited to promoting Italian business in the energy resources sector, but laid the foundations for a multi-sectoral collaboration ranging from infrastructure to agribusiness to the pharmaceutical and renewable energy sectors.

This diversification is one of the keys to ensuring a solid and lasting presence of our companies in a rapidly changing region.

One of the main objectives for the near future is the expansion of Confindustria towards the entire Central Asian area, strengthening the presence not only in Kazakhstan, but also in Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. This region, which is often underestimated, offers enormous potential for our companies, thanks to markets that are still little explored but growing rapidly and to the numerous infrastructure development initiatives that local governments are promoting and trying to implement.

Confindustria is working to create new delegations and representative offices in the main countries of Central Asia, with the aim of fostering dialogue and cooperation between Italian companies and local partners. The opportunities in these emerging markets are manifold: from the energy sector to manufacturing, from agriculture to technology, up to construction and infrastructure. Italy has the necessary know-how and innovation to become a strategic partner in these development projects.

The Confindustria office in Kazakhstan is an example of how a strategic vision and constant work can lead to concrete results. In recent years, we have seen a significant increase in trade between Italy and Kazakhstan, and many of our companies have launched important projects in key sectors such as energy, mechanics and agribusiness.

This success would not have been possible without the active collaboration of our companies on the ground and the support of Italian and Kazakh institutions. The economic delegations, networking events and trade missions organised in recent years have allowed us to consolidate bilateral relations, opening the way to new investment and cooperation opportunities. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have contributed to these successes, demonstrating that teamwork is key to achieving ambitious goals.

Looking forward to next year, I am confident that, thanks to your commitment and our ability to work as a system, we will continue to expand the Italian presence in Central Asia, creating new opportunities for growth and development for our companies. The work of the Confindustria office in Kazakhstan and the desired future expansions throughout Central Asia are a demonstration of our commitment to look to the future with ambition and determination.

In renewing my wish for a successful post-summer recovery, I invite you to continue to work together with the same enthusiasm and innovative spirit that has always characterised our business system.

Together, we can face global challenges and build a future of growth and prosperity for our country and our businesses.