

STATUS AND PROSPECTS OF TRADE AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN KYRGYZSTAN AND TURKMENISTAN

Dr. Zalina Adobasheva

Abstract: The development of economic cooperation remains one of the tasks of Kyrgyzstan's foreign policy. The establishment of good-neighborly, stable relations with a neighboring country is one of the important factors in ensuring the national security of the two countries. Both countries are interested in developing dynamic and stable relations and cooperation in trade, economic spheres.

The purpose of the article is to study the current state and prospects for the development of trade and economic cooperation between Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan. In order to achieve the set goal, such methods of analytical and statistical research as data analysis on the topic under study, statistical data characterizing the economy and trade of both countries, as well as descriptive method were used.

As a result of the study, the following conclusions were made. Relations between the two states can be assessed as stable and promising, with significant potential in various areas of interaction. Kyrgyzstan is interested in developing dynamic and stable relations with Turkmenistan and cooperation in trade, economic, cultural and humanitarian spheres.

As a result of the study, some recommendations were proposed to strengthen trade and economic relations between Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan. These recommendations are described in detail in the article below.

Keywords: Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, trade turnover, import-export, economy.

INTRODUCTION


Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan are located in the Central Asian

region, which also includes the following states: Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. The role of this region in the modern world economy is explained by a number of factors. For the world economy, Central Asia is interesting primarily as a source of raw materials. Oil, gas, coal and metals are currently the overwhelming majority of exported goods. Central Asian states have powerful mining, fuel and energy, metallurgical and chemical industries, concentrated mainly in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan.

The article considers trade and economic relations between Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan. A reliable foundation for the formation, development and strengthening of relations between the republics of Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan is the geographical proximity of the two countries, deep historical roots, common language, traditions and culture. Therefore, the development of cooperation with Turkmenistan remains one of the objectives of Kyrgyzstan's foreign policy. The establishment of stable good-neighbor relations with the neighboring country is one of the important factors in ensuring the national security of the two countries.

Status and Prospects of Trade and Economic Cooperation between Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan

There are many known factors that determine the development of relations between Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan. Both countries are located in the same geographical region. Both countries share a common history, cultural and linguistic affinity, and similar mentality. Both countries have similar views on ensuring regional security and stability, deepening economic cooperation.



The current foreign policy concept of Kyrgyzstan indicates that the national interests of the Kyrgyz Republic are related to the expansion of regional and interstate cooperation in Central Asia, which would contribute to the growth of trade and economic relations. Diplomatic relations between the Kyrgyz Republic and Turkmenistan were established on 9 October 1992. The Embassy of the Kyrgyz Republic in Ashgabat was opened in 1994 (Permanent Mission since 1992). Turkmenistan, which has the largest oil and gas reserves and good economic potential, is of great interest to the Kyrgyz side, which requires the development of relations and intensification of cooperation and dialogue with Ashgabat. (Namatbekova, 2017). Since the independence of both countries and until recently, cooperation between Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan was more of a declarative nature. The official visit of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic A. Atambaev to Turkmenistan in November 2014 and the state visit of the President of Turkmenistan G. Berdimuhamedov to Kyrgyzstan in August 2015 gave an impetus to the relations between the two countries. A high level of Kyrgyz-Turkmen interaction was achieved during the state visit of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic S. Jeenbekov to Turkmenistan in August 2018, where the Declaration on Strategic Partnership, Strengthening Friendship and Trust between Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan was signed. The format of bilateral relations has acquired a strategic nature of cooperation (Kabar, 2021). In 2021, there was activity and intensity in Kyrgyz-Turkmen relations. It was obvious that the Turkmen side was interested in expanding political, economic and humanitarian cooperation with Kyrgyzstan. A vivid confirmation of this was the meetings of the heads of the two states, where the parties reaffirmed the importance of developing and strengthening the Kyrgyz-Turkmen dialogue and advocated further deepening of trusting and constructive contacts at all levels, for the development of brotherly relations between Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan.

Tekebayev noted the importance of launching an alternative multimodal route “Kyrgyz Republic – Republic of Uzbekistan – Turkmenistan (port of Turkmenbashi) – Russian Federation (port of Astrakhan). In turn, Kosachev said that on this route they were ready to consider preferential tariffs for port services for transit cargo (Perov, 2022). The land part of the new route would run from Kyrgyzstan through Uzbekistan to the Turkmenbashi International Seaport in Turkmenistan. Then the cargo was proposed to be transported by sea to the Russian port of Astrakhan, according to a press release from the Ministry

The breakthrough in Kyrgyz-Turkmen relations should be attributed to the official visit of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic Sadyr Zhaparov to Turkmenistan on June 27-28, 2021, during which topical issues of bilateral cooperation were discussed in concrete and substantive terms. The two heads of state stressed the positive dynamics of the development of bilateral relations in the political, trade, economic, cultural and humanitarian spheres. Following the negotiations, the parties signed 15 joint documents. Agreements were reached on the creation of a joint Kyrgyz-Turkmen development fund with an authorized capital of \$ 100 million, the supply of electricity and natural gas from Turkmenistan to Kyrgyzstan, the implementation of projects for the construction of a resort and recreation facility “Turkmenistan” in Issyk-Kul region and a trading house “Turkmenistan” in Bishkek, as well as mutual days of culture. These agreements begun to bring practical results. Thus, for the first time in the modern history of bilateral cooperation, Turkmenistan began to supply electricity to Kyrgyzstan through the territory of Uzbekistan from the beginning of August (Kabar, 2021). Under the agreement, Turkmenistan exported 19.2 million kilowatt-hours of electricity until August 9, 2021. Deliveries were carried out through Uzbekistan (Sputnik, 2021a). Also, during the visit of the President of Kyrgyzstan Sadyr Zhaparov to Turkmenistan, an agreement was reached on the import of natural gas to Kyrgyzstan (Sputnik, 2021b). At the meeting with the President of Kyrgyzstan, the leader of Turkmenistan raised topical issues of cooperation. He attached special importance to the meeting with Kyrgyz President Zhaparov, noting that they would have to assess bilateral cooperation in many spheres and discuss prospects for further interaction. During the talks, the sides discussed topical issues of cooperation in fuel and energy, transport, cultural and humanitarian and other spheres. It was proposed to hold joint exhibitions on a regular basis, develop contact with the business community of the two countries. The Turkmen leader said that the conceptual basis of Turkmen-Kyrgyz relations was conditioned by the understanding in views on the priority prospects of bilateral interaction and regional international development. The President of Turkmenistan noted the need for rational use of water resources in the Central Asian region and stressed that in this context it is important to continue moving forward, implementing jointly adopted decisions (Sputnik, 2021c). On the first day of the visit, Sadyr Zhaparov attended the opening of the Kyrgyz-Turkmen forum and spoke to businessmen. President of the Kyrgyz Republic Sadyr Zhaparov visited the exhibition of export goods of Turkmenistan and participated in

the opening ceremony of the Kyrgyz-Turkmen economic forum. The events were held at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Turkmenistan. Zhaparov stressed Kyrgyzstan's commitment to maintaining continuity in the development of strategic partnership with Turkmenistan, noting the good-neighborly nature of the countries' bilateral relations. He said that it was important to give a new impetus, focusing on expanding trade and economic cooperation.

According to the President, Kyrgyzstan paid close attention to the issues of increasing investor confidence and creating a favorable investment climate in the country. The Head of State also stressed the legislative framework regarding investment activities and protection of the rights of foreign investors. Zhaparov added that a number of draft laws aimed at simplifying the procedures for implementing investment projects in the country were being worked out. Zhaparov also listed the investment advantages of Kyrgyzstan: VSP+ status, which allows duty-free import of more than 6 thousand items of goods to the EU and the USA; membership in the EAEU, which gives access to the multimillion-dollar market on privileged terms.

The President said that Kyrgyzstan was particularly interested in attracting enterprises operating in the petrochemical, gas, and electric power industries. He particularly noted one of the leading sectors of Turkmenistan's economy — the textile industry. In addition, Zhaparov focused on the development of the tourism potential of the two countries, as well as on cooperation in the processing industry, agriculture and infrastructure. The Head of State called on the Turkmen business community to consider Kyrgyzstan as a reliable business partner. The forum was attended by the heads of large Turkmen enterprises producing export products (Sputnik, 2021d).

In November of the same year, the next working visit of the President of Kyrgyzstan to Turkmenistan took place, during which it was planned to take part in the summit of the Economic Cooperation Organization (Sputnik, 2021e). Also, during the visit, the heads of state discussed the current directions of Kyrgyz-Turkmen relations, as well as the implementation of agreements reached at the highest level. They also expressed their intention to continue cooperation, including through the Economic Cooperation Organization. Zhaparov thanked his colleague for the warm welcome and invitation, noting that this was a good opportunity to discuss the current interaction (Sputnik, 2021f). The President of Kyrgyzstan noted that the Kyrgyz side attaches great importance to deepening cooperation with Turkmenistan in trade, economic, energy and other spheres. The heads of state expressed mutual readiness to further strengthen and deepen bilateral cooperation, the press service of the Head of the Kyrgyz Republic reported (Economist, 2021).

As can be seen, both countries were doing their best to maintain a comprehensive partnership with each other, making official working visits. Thus, according to the press service of the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic Toraga of the Jogorku Kenesh, Talant Mamytov arrived on an official visit to Turkmenistan in May 2022, during which he met with President of Turkmenistan Serdar Berdimuhamedov. They discussed cooperation in the field of energy and agriculture, as well as the interaction of the parliaments of the two countries. Mamytov congratulated Berdimukhamedov on his election to the post of president and wished him success in his work. Berdimukhamedov, in turn, noted that Turkmenistan intended to develop a comprehensive partnership with the Kyrgyz Republic. The delegation of the Residential Complex headed by Talant Mamytov took part in the first Interparliamentary Forum of the countries of Central Asia and Russia in Ashgabat (Sputnik, 2022).

Strategic cooperation and partnership between the two countries was also observed at the ministerial level. Thus, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic, on March 18, 2021, at the initiative of the Turkmen side, a meeting of the foreign ministers of the two states, Ruslan Kazakbayev and Rashid Meredov, took place in the video-conference mode. The foreign ministers discussed topical issues of Kyrgyz-Turkmen cooperation in the political, trade and economic, transport and logistics, energy, cultural and humanitarian fields and outlined prospects for further bilateral cooperation. They agreed on the importance of further increasing trade and economic cooperation, the implementation of joint projects in the construction industry and other areas (Akchabar, 2021). As an example of the intensity of interaction at the level of ministries, the visit of the Minister of Transport and Communications of the Kyrgyz Republic Tilek Tekebayev to Turkmenistan can also be attributed. Thus, according to the press service of the ministry, the Minister of Transport and Communications of the Kyrgyz Republic Tilek Tekebayev arrived on a working visit to Turkmenistan on December 1-3, 2022. During the visit, the Head of the Ministry of Transport of the Kyrgyz Republic held bilateral meetings with representatives of the state transport structures of Turkmenistan, during which issues of cooperation in cargo transportation by road were discussed. Tilek Tekebayev met with the chairman of the agency "Turkmenizderyayollary" Annadurdy Kosayev. During the meeting, the parties discussed topical issues of bilateral cooperation in the field of transport and outlined their intentions to strengthen work to increase the number of road freight transport, including through the creation of new logistics supply chains of goods and transport corridors (Kyrtag, 2022).

of Transport and Communications of Kyrgyzstan. The Kyrgyz Minister noted that the Russian side was ready to provide ferries for this transport corridor (Business, 2022a). There was also an opportunity to use bulk carriers for cargo in “pallets” and “big bags” and for this there were access roads and places for unloading from vehicles and further loading on bulk carriers (Turkmenportal, 2022).

Comprehensive cooperation between the two countries was also manifested at the diplomatic level. Thus, according to the CIS Internet portal, on May 19, 2023, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kyrgyz Republic to Turkmenistan Azizbek Madmarov met with the Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Turkmenistan Dovletgeldy Rejepov. During the meeting, issues of developing bilateral trade and economic relations, increasing the export opportunities of the countries, as well as active cooperation between the Chambers of Commerce and Industry of the Kyrgyz Republic and Turkmenistan were discussed. Ambassador A. Madmarov, noting the growth of trade turnover between the two countries, outlined the need to intensify the activities of the Intergovernmental Kyrgyz-Turkmen Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technical and Humanitarian Cooperation, as well as holding its next meeting (E-cis, 2023). In turn, D. Rejepov confirmed his interest in intensifying joint work and expressed readiness to expand cooperation in this direction. The parties, confirming their intention to promote cooperation in the trade and economic sphere, expressed their readiness to maintain regular contacts (Caviral, 2023). The intensification of cooperation was also observed among the business circles of Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan. The business circles of both countries intended to intensify cooperation. Thus, in June 2023, negotiations between entrepreneurs of the two countries were held in Ashgabat at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, following which 36 memorandums of cooperation in various areas of joint activity were signed. Representatives of 57 companies engaged in the textile industry, construction materials production, food industry, information technology, petrochemistry, transport and logistics discussed prospects for the development of economic relations, increasing the export opportunities of states and enhancing cooperation between the Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan (Osmonalieva, 2023).

As can be seen from the above, Turkmen-Kyrgyz relations were dynamically developing on a wide spectrum. Fruitful cooperation aimed at the benefit of the two friendly peoples was actively gaining momentum in the trade and economic sphere, in the field of education, culture and sports. Regular contacts at the level of the Foreign Ministries of the two states contributed to building up the potential of political and diplomatic cooperation. At the site of the Turkmen-Kyrgyz economic forum, held during the visit of President Sadyr Zhaparov to Turkmenistan, representatives of the business circles of the two countries signed about 20 contracts for the supply of various products and products of

domestic production to Kyrgyzstan. The agreements reached at the highest interstate level contribute to the comprehensive expansion of relations between Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan in the field of transport, transport infrastructure, agriculture, energy, implementation of investment projects, etc. The intensification of bilateral ties in all areas of mutual interest, including the start of the implementation of signed promising contracts, once again confirmed the long-term and strategic nature of cooperation between Turkmenistan and the Kyrgyz Republic. (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan, 2021)

Today, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan are also trying to actively develop mutually beneficial projects. We are talking about increasing trade turnover, cooperation in the field of transport, fuel and energy complex. For example, according to the information and analytical Internet portal “MIR 24”, entrepreneurs of Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan have agreed to increase mutual trade turnover. Representatives of companies from Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan held a meeting in Ashgabat. Its main theme was the increase in exports. Representatives of 40 Turkmen companies and 17 Kyrgyz companies met at the round table. Among them were representatives of the construction, food and textile industries, as well as IT specialists. Following the results of the business event, businessmen signed almost 40 mutual memoranda. The participants discussed the prospects for joint cooperation and shared their experience. They also noted the growth of trade turnover between the countries. For example, in 2022, the trade turnover between Tajikistan and Turkmenistan exceeded \$ 50 million (Mir24, 2023).

In 2020, the trade turnover of the two countries amounted to \$ 11.7 million. However, compared to 2019, the pace of mutual trade increased. In 2020, the Kyrgyz Republic exported \$4.6 million worth of goods to Turkmenistan, and imported almost \$7.2 million. So, below are the data on exports and imports for 2020.

Export to Turkmenistan — 4 million 565 thousand dollars:

- light bulbs (electric and gas—discharge) - 9.4 million pieces (1 million 270.4 thousand dollars);
- chocolate and other products with cocoa — 215.6 tons (891.4 thousand dollars);
- potatoes — 3 180.7 tons (696.5 thousand dollars);
- bed, table, toilet and kitchen linen — 55 tons (530 thousand dollars);
- barite, viterit (minerals) — 2 thousand tons (460 thousand dollars);
- some food products — 32 tons (338.2 thousand dollars);
- bread, flour confectionery, cakes, cookies — 27.6 tons (107.2 thousand dollars);
- some types of nuts — 103.9 tons (98.9 thousand dollars);
- dried legumes — 86 tons (70,4 thousand dollars);
- onion (onion, shallot, leek), garlic — 268.5 tons (63.9 thousand dollars);
- apples, pears and quinces — 61.6 tons (21.5 thousand dollars);

- mineral water and soda — 19.6 thousand liters (10.8 thousand dollars).

Imports from Turkmenistan — 7 million 161 thousand dollars:

- tomatoes — 3.5 thousand tons (3 million 781.4 thousand dollars);
- bed, table, toilet and kitchen linen — 1.04 thousand tons (1 million 164.1 thousand dollars);
- sinks, washbasins, bathtubs, bidets, toilets, cisterns, urinals and similar ceramic products — 42.7 thousand pieces (524 thousand dollars);
- plastic pipes, tubes, hoses and their fittings — 310 tons (259.2 thousand dollars);
- plastic plates, sheets, film and strips or tapes — 207.5 tons (235.3 thousand dollars);
- cotton wool made of textile materials and products made of it — 410.6 tons (192.3 thousand dollars);
- packing bags and packages — 126.5 tons (175.1 thousand dollars);
- bread, flour confectionery, cakes and biscuits — 231.4 tons (165.6 thousand dollars);
- plastic products for the transportation or packaging of goods, plastic stoppers, covers, caps and other similar items — 99.7 tons (123.9 thousand dollars);
- plastic dining and kitchen utensils, cutlery and kitchen utensils, other household items and hygiene or toilet items — 70.6 tons (94.4 thousand dollars);
- special purpose motor vehicles (emergency trucks, cranes, fire trucks, concrete mixers, road cleaning vehicles and others) — two pieces (58 thousand dollars);
- corn flakes, “air” rice, “air” wheat and other similar products — 41.9 tons (55.2 thousand dollars);
- thermally polished glass with a polished or polished surface — 11.4 thousand square kilometers (45.8 thousand dollars);
- cotton fiber waste (including spinning waste and plucked raw materials) — 108 tons (44.4 thousand dollars);
- sugar confectionery products that do not contain cocoa — 19.1 tons (37.2 thousand dollars);
- chocolate and other products containing cocoa — 23.9 tons (36.8 thousand dollars);
- raw skins without hairline (for example, bird skins, goat skins) — 48.9 tons (32.3 thousand dollars);
- intestines, bladders and stomachs of animals — 41.5 tons (27.8 thousand dollars);
- cucumbers and gherkins — 23 tons (23 thousand dollars);
- some types of furniture and its parts — 17.9 tons (18.4 thousand dollars);
- mineral water and soda — 19.4 thousand liters (12.5 thousand dollars);
- bulldozers, graders, planners, scrapers, mechanical shovels, excavators, road rollers and others — one piece (10.1 thousand

dollars) (Razetdinova, 2021).

As mentioned above, Kyrgyzstan attaches great importance to deepening cooperation with Turkmenistan in the field of transport. Thus, on July 21, 2022, President of Turkmenistan Serdar Berdimuhamedov, during his speech at the summit of Central Asian countries in Cholpon-Ata in Kyrgyzstan, stated the importance of further development of transport cooperation between the countries of the region. According to the official media of Turkmenistan President Berdimuhamedov said: “I believe that the efforts of our countries can and should be aimed at achieving the main goal – the creation of a powerful and modern infrastructure that would ensure the unification of the transport systems of Central Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and the Asia-Pacific region,”. He added that Turkmenistan was ready to work together on the development of the Central Asia–Caspian–Black Sea and Central Asia–Persian Gulf transport routes (Business, 2022b).

So, as can be seen, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan pay special attention to cooperation in the transport sector. Both countries are trying to actively develop and implement mutually beneficial projects in this area. Thus, according to the official media of Turkmenistan, it is noted that Turkmenistan has offered Kyrgyz partners to consider the possibility of using the capacities of the Turkmenbashi International Seaport for the transportation of goods in the East–West–East direction. The proposal was discussed on December 2, 2021 during the fifth online meeting of the Intergovernmental Turkmen–Kyrgyz Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technical and Humanitarian Cooperation. According to the official media of Turkmenistan, the Commission was attended by heads and representatives of leading ministries, industry departments and business circles of the two friendly countries. According to the report, proposals were made to work together on a transport corridor designed to connect the two countries with access to the Caspian Sea. Also, during the negotiations, the parties discussed and outlined concrete steps designed to promote the diversification of partnership in the trade and economic sphere, increasing the volume of mutual trade turnover. Emphasizing the importance of developing these promising areas, the Commission members noted that the key aspect of the work was and remains the promotion of direct ties between the business circles of the two countries, the expansion and deepening of industrial cooperation, the creation of joint ventures (Business, 2021).

Among the projects in the field of transport is the project of creating a new railway corridor. The issue of its creation was discussed at a video meeting of the heads of railway departments and diplomatic missions of Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Iran. This was reported by “Turkmenistan: The Golden Age.” The meeting was organized

on the initiative of the Kyrgyz Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs. The new railway corridor is designed to provide container transportation to Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan through the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas and back. According to experts, the transportation of container cargo from China, India and Southeast Asian countries through the port of Bandar Abbas will reduce the delivery time from 45 to 21 days. The source emphasizes that Turkmenistan has extensive experience in the creation and development of large transport and logistics projects. Thus, in 2014, the Kazakhstan–Turkmenistan–Iran international railway was opened, on the basis of which a new route was created: China – Kazakhstan – Turkmenistan – Iran. Its total length is about 10 thousand kilometers. This road is the first logistics solution in high-speed cargo delivery from the coast of Eastern China to the Persian Gulf markets (Turkmenportal, 2021a). As an example of the implementation of plans in the fuel and energy sector, the opening of a gas turbine power plant with a capacity of 432 MW can be attributed. Thus, according to the information program “Vatan” of Turkmen television, on September 3, 2021, a gas turbine power plant with a capacity of 432 MW was put into operation in the Chardjevsky etrap of the Lebap Velayat, which would increase the volume of electricity supplies to Central Asian countries, including Afghanistan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan. The project was implemented by the State Corporation “Turkmenenergo” of the Ministry of Energy of Turkmenistan together with foreign partners – Sumitomo Corporation and Mitsubishi Power Ltd (Japan), Rönesans Holding (Turkey). The power plant is equipped with gas turbine units of the well-known Japanese company Mitsubishi Power Ltd, whose technologies are used for the first time in the history of the electric power industry of our country. Three gas turbine generators with a capacity of 144 MW each are installed here (Turkmenportal, 2021b).

As can be seen from the above, relations are currently developing in the interests of both countries. There are also plans to create a Kyrgyz-Turkmen development fund with an authorized capital of 100 million. Thus, according to a report on the official website of Radio Azattyk, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan intend to create an investment fund with a capital of \$ 100 million. The creation of the Kyrgyz-Turkmen Development Fund with an authorized capital of \$ 100 million was discussed by Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Turkmenistan to the Kyrgyz Republic Shadurdy Meredov and President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) of Kyrgyzstan Marat Sharshkeev. According to the press service of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the diplomat recalled that the agreement on the establishment of this investment association was previously reached between the heads of the two states. According to him, the issue of joint construction

of a residential building and a shopping complex in Bishkek was being considered, and later it was planned to create joint ventures and establish a Trading house of Turkmenistan in the capital of the Kyrgyz Republic (Azattyk, 2023).

Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan also intend to conclude an agreement in the field of customs affairs. The issue of concluding an interstate agreement in the field of customs affairs between the two countries was discussed during the meeting of the Chairman of the State Customs Service of Turkmenistan Maksat Khudaikulyev with the Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan to Turkmenistan Azizbek Madmarov. This was reported by the official website of the Customs Department of Turkmenistan. The document was intended to lay the legal basis for improving the partnership between the customs authorities of the two countries. The issues of proper use of the transit potential of the two countries to increase mutual trade turnover were also discussed on the agenda (Orient, 2023).

During the meeting, the Ambassador was informed about the state program aimed at the development of the customs authorities of Turkmenistan for 2022-2028, which involved a full-scale modernization of the customs system and was aimed at promoting the development of international trade, creating favorable conditions for the development of Turkmenistan’s export potential, ensuring the provision of digital customs services, as well as the development of international cooperation (Newscentralasia, 2023).

CONCLUSION

In general, the relations between the two states can be assessed as stable and promising, having significant potential in various areas of interaction. Kyrgyzstan is interested in developing dynamic and stable relations with Turkmenistan and cooperation in trade, economic, cultural and humanitarian spheres. Kyrgyzstan attaches great importance to the expansion and qualitative development of trade and economic ties, considering Turkmenistan as a very significant economic partner. The parameters of bilateral economic cooperation and its prospects are extensive. On the part of Turkmenistan, there is an interest in the supply of certain types of Kyrgyz goods, primarily agricultural products and food products. Cooperation with Turkmenistan in the fields of trade, energy, transport, agriculture, light and chemical industries, education and tourism is of practical interest for Kyrgyzstan. There are significant reserves in the supply of gas, petroleum products and other products from Turkmenistan to Kyrgyzstan. The transit potential of Turkmenistan is also of great interest. As mentioned above, there are agreements with the Turkmen side on the construction of a resort and recreation facility “Turkmenistan” and a trading house “Turkmenistan”, which can be attributed to direct Turkmen investments (Kabar, 2021).

As a result of the study, the following recommendations are proposed to strengthen trade and economic relations between

Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan:

- Despite the growth of trade turnover in recent years, the parties need to conduct a thorough analysis of the affairs in the trade and economic field.

- To try to identify existing obstacles to the development of further joint actions to identify areas where existing opportunities could be used to the full and, in general, for full-fledged interaction.

- Consideration not only of the implementation of joint agreements and the development of new areas of cooperation, but also work on specific projects and proposals to increase mutual trade turnover.

- Creation of mutual economic projects.

So, the development of the bilateral trade and economic sphere is one of the priorities for the Kyrgyz Republic and Turkmenistan. Increasing export opportunities and expanding the product range contribute to strengthening the economic potential of both countries.

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