

Organizers: Casa Asia and Kazakh Invest
Dates: June 16, 2026
Venue: **Astana International Financial Centre**

Programme

The First Spain–Kazakhstan Forum is conceived as a strategic platform to strengthen bilateral relations at a pivotal moment in the international landscape. In a geopolitical context shaped by shifting alliances, the diversification of trade routes, and the growing relevance of Central Asia, Kazakhstan is emerging as a key partner for Europe. For Spain, this forum represents an opportunity to expand its presence in a region of high potential, fostering political dialogue and economic cooperation within a framework of stability and mutual interest.

Economic exchange stands at the core of the forum’s agenda. Both countries offer complementary economies with significant opportunities for collaboration in sectors such as water, recycling and green economy. The forum aims to promote bilateral trade, encourage mutual investment, and facilitate business partnerships that contribute to sustainable growth. Enhanced logistics connectivity and the development of new trade corridors between Europe and Asia further underscore the importance of this economic engagement.

From a geopolitical perspective, Spain and Kazakhstan share a commitment to strengthening cooperation within multilateral frameworks and promoting regional stability. Kazakhstan, as a key actor in Central Asia and a bridge between East and West, plays a strategic role in Eurasian connectivity initiatives. Spain, as a member of the European Union, contributes its international outlook and experience in global markets, supporting a balanced and forward-looking partnership.

In addition, the forum highlights sports tourism as an innovative area of collaboration. This rapidly growing sector combines tourism development with the organization of international sporting events. Spain, with its well-established tourism industry and proven expertise in hosting major sports competitions, and Kazakhstan, with its vast natural landscapes and increasing investment in sports infrastructure, can create strong synergies. Together, they can promote emerging destinations, foster cultural exchange, and generate positive economic impact.

Programme

June 16th:

VENUE: Astana International Financial Centre

9.15 - 9:45 h Accreditation of participants

9.45— 10:10h **Welcome remarks:**

- o Ms. Assel Suankulova, Managing Director of Kazakh Invest

- o Mr. José Pintor Aguilar, Director General of Casa Asia

Opening speeches

- o Mr. Arman Isetov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Kazakhstan
- o Mr. Diego Martínez Belío, Secretary of State for Foreign and Global Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation, Spain

10.10 – 10.15 Family photo

10.15 – 11: 30h **Session 1: “The EU Strategy on Central Asia: the role of Kazakhstan and Spain”**

- Assessment of the European Union’s evolving approach to Central Asia, including the implementation of the 2019 Strategy and the 2023 Joint Roadmap.
- Examination of the strategic importance of Kazakhstan as a key regional partner, particularly in areas such as energy, connectivity, and regional stability.
- Analysis of Spain’s role within the EU framework, including its diplomatic, economic, and institutional contributions to strengthening EU–Central Asia relations.
- Discussion of opportunities for enhanced cooperation.
 - o Moderator: Mr. Rubén Ruiz-Ramas, Director of the MA in Political Sciences (UNED) and Board Member of the European Association of Central Asian Studies (ESCAS)
 - Mr. Manarbek Kabaziyev, Deputy Chairman of the Board of the Foreign Policy Research Institute under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan
 - Ms. Ana Ballesteros, Senior Researcher Fellow, Elcano Royal Institute and professor Complutense University of Madrid
 - Mr. Miras Zhiyenbayev, Advisor to the Chairman of the Management Board on International Relations and Initiatives, Maksut Narikbayev University
 - Mr. Jesús Gil Fuensanta, Vice-Director / Head of International Relations, LASEI-UAM (School of Economic Intelligence and International Relations, Autonomous University of Madrid)

11.30 - 12:45h ✓ Q&A
Session 2: “Strengthening business cooperation between Spain and Kazakhstan”

- Showcase of opportunities of bilateral cooperation in sectors like supply chain and logistics engineering and construction.
- Examination of how companies can entry in these sectors, built local partnerships, and scale operations.
- Key factors and lessons for effective Spain-Kazakhstan cooperation in sustainability.
 - o Moderator: Ms. Anel Turasheva, Country Officer for European Region at Kazakh Invest
 - Ms. Makka Shyngaziyeva, Managing Director at Kazakhstan Center for Modernization and Development of Housing and Water Utilities (under the Ministry of Industry and Construction of Republic of Kazakhstan)
 - Mr. Pau Abelló, Senior Managing Director of Institutional Relations, Roca Group.
 - Mr. Yerzhan Nauruzbayev, Director for business development at G-Trans Service (Logistic company)
 - Mr. Jaume Mas, Director. Logistics & Operations. IDOM
 - ✓ Q&A

14.15-15.30h **Session 3 “Tourism and sport: Best practices and current challenges in Kazakhstan and Spain”**

- Exchange of successful models in tourism and sport development between Kazakhstan and Spain, including destination branding, education, infrastructure development, and international event hosting.
- Analysis of how both countries leverage tourism and sport to drive economic growth, regional development, and global visibility.
- Discussion of shared challenges such as seasonality, sustainable tourism management, talent development in sport, and improving international competitiveness.
- Football as a showcase of best practices in sport and tourism development combining sporting excellence with tourism attraction and international visibility, including their approach to youth development and academy structures.
 - o Moderator: Ms. Anel Turasheva, Country Officer for European Region at Kazakh Invest

- Representative of Kazakhstan Football Federation
- Mr. Javier González Beaumont, Project Manager of Kazakhstan Academy, Atlético de Madrid
- Ms. Shyryn Musina, Managing Director of Kazakh Tourism
- Mr. Ignacio de las Cuevas, Director General and Partner - Mas Boronat Wine Resort and former Manager of the Centre of Excellence in Tourism Innovation at Eurecat - Technology Centre of Catalonia and Lecturer, United Nations & Lucerne University of Applied Science and Arts

✓ Q&A

15.30- -15.45 h **Closing remarks:**

- Mr. José Pintor Aguilar, Director General of Casa Asia
- Mr. Ardak Zebeshev, Chairman of the Investment Committee of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan