

G-global: Notes to Italian “dominance” in Kazakh development

Posted By [Zaure G. Aytasheva](#), January 15, 2015

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Had we been more innovative these days, we could have proposed an organisation bringing together musical nations of the world. This United Musical Nations Organisation, or UMNO would have been composed of those nations which are renowned for their love to different kinds of music, and could have definitely include the Italians and the Kazakhs as well. What are the privileges of UMNO or any sophisticated bodies of the sort? Certainly, adherence to the harmony and agreements in any relations as directions, attempt of improvising, if there would be no other means providing a quick progress, appealing rather to a good nature and utter intuition than prudence or a cool-head calculation, swift creation of the ensemble or orchestra apart from the ability to play or sing separately, respect to the composer, the conductor and the soloists, and etc.

Diplomatic and parliamentary relations

The Republic of Kazakhstan established diplomatic relations with Italian Republic on 12 July 1992. In October 1992 The Embassy of Italian Republic in Kazakhstan has been founded. Four years later, namely in 1996 The Embassy of the Republic Kazakhstan has been set up in Italy. Since June 2012 the envoy to Italian Republic is Mr. A. Elemessov.

Five presidential visits to Italy in 1994, 1998, 2003, 2009 and 2014 have led to the establishment of mutual relations. In 2009 The Agreement on Strategic Partnership between the Republic of Kazakhstan and Italian Republic has been signed to become the basis of future bilateral collaboration.

In 1997 Italian President O.L. Scalfaro visited Kazakhstan. In 1998-2010 Prime Ministers R. Prodi and S. Berlusconi arrived to Kazakhstan to attend OSCE Summit developing mutual ties. On June 12, 2014 Prime Minister M. Renzi has been to the Republic of Kazakhstan with working visit. Parliaments of both countries had created interparliamentary groups strengthened by parliamentary visits to Italy in 2007, 2009 and 2010. On the other hand, the role of ascending Italian-Kazakh relations was repeatedly emphasized in proceedings, reports and interviews given by a number of leading politicians of Kazakhstan including N. Nazarbaev, O. Suleimenov, E. Idrissov, K. Masimov, K. Tokaev, M. Tazhin, and some others.

Concerning **trading links**, according to National Agency for Statistics, bilateral turnover in 2012 has reached almost 16.5 billion dollars (composed of nearly 15.5 billion dollars of export and 1.0 billion of import goods). In the first half of 2014 general turnover has achieved 9.74 billion dollars consisted of 9.27 billion dollars (export) and 475 million dollars (import). Italy occupies the third place among trading parties of Kazakhstan. Its unit weight in common turnover of the Republic of Kazakhstan is approximately 16% (after China and Russia). At the same time Italy is our priority partner in Europe with 20% of its unit weight among other European allies. Economic and trade relations are being developed through a special intergovernmental working group (IWG) co-chaired by Mr. T. Zhaksylykov from the Kazakh side. Next IWG session is planned for being held in Rome in January, 2015. Since 2007 there is also Italy-

Kazakhstan Business Council making a substantial input to these activities.

Cultural and humanitarian cooperation

Concerts, culture and cinema weeks, exhibitions, and photo sessions between our countries are known to be quite regular.

In 2013 there has been education treaty concluded between the University of Bologna and the University of International Business, Almaty. In the same year Kazakh National Academy of Fine Arts named after T. Zhurgenev and Silvio D'Amico National Drama Academy, as well as Medical University, Astana and La Sapienza University, Rome, have settled to promote students exchange and academic mobility.

Prospects of European integration and particularly focused on the Italian foreign policy are being considered by the research group of al-Farabi Kazakh National University, and specifically proceedings written by professors Zh. Ibrashev, K. Baisakova, I. Burnashova, I. Chernykh, M. Gubaidullina, F. Kukeeva, K. Makasheva, G. Movkebaeva, and others.

Recently al-Farabi Kazakh National University has held a Fall Italian week at the Department of World Economics and International Relations, the Faculty of International Relations. This department together with the Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics, Faculty of Biology and Biotechnology, and Department of Geoinformatics and Cartography, Faculty of Geography and Use of Natural Resources, is going to create the first university gramophone record library of Italian and Kazakh folk, orchestra and opera musics. Higher musical educational establishments of Astana, Almaty and regional cities of Kazakhstan are supposed to be invited to this specific library work in the future. It is believed that we might need a special bilateral as regular inter-state project to develop this as other gramophone record libraries domestically and internationally.

Italy is one of oldest European countries which experienced flights and falls, state's dissolution and re-integration processes. It is a unique gate for Kazakhstan to Europe, Mediterranean countries, and Africa. Likely, Kazakhstan is obviously effective gate or "hub" to Central Asia, and wider. In a way our countries are "orchestra members" of world musical club, or maybe with time more formal body that we have termed above as "United Musical Nations Organisation", or UMNO. It looks like Austria, USA and many other countries will join this still unregistered but definitely needed international ensemble, or institution.

Dombyra, Kazakh national instrument (see the picture enclosed) may be UMNO's logo?!

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Reported by Z.G. Aytasheva and A.I. Zhussupova, G-global panelist



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