

UDC 327.7

IRSTI 11.25.67

<https://doi.org/10.48371/ISMO.2024.58.4.016>

## **MAPPING THE PRIORITIES: COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF EU AND US ECONOMIC ENGAGEMENT IN CENTRAL ASIA**

\*Aikumbayeva L.A.<sup>1</sup>, Kakenova Z.A.<sup>2</sup>

\*<sup>1,2</sup> L.N. Gumilyov Eurasian National University, Astana, Kazakhstan

**Abstract.** Central Asia has increasingly become a focal point for both the European Union (EU) and the United States (US), each pursuing distinct yet overlapping objectives. This article presents a comparative analysis of the EU's and the US's economic engagement in Central Asia, with a particular focus on trade relations, foreign investments, and energy security. By examining key development projects such as the Trans-Caspian Corridor, the study evaluates the effectiveness, scope, and sustainability of their economic interactions in the region. The analysis highlights both convergences and divergences in their strategies, revealing how these engagements shape regional stability, economic growth, and political reforms. While both the EU and the US share the overarching goal of fostering stability and development in Central Asia, their priorities and methods differ. The EU's approach, grounded in liberal internationalism, emphasizes soft power tools, including economic cooperation, infrastructure development, and democracy promotion through institutional support. On the other hand, the US follows a more realist approach, focusing on geopolitical competition, securing energy routes, and enhancing military cooperation, particularly through frameworks like the C5+1 platform. This comparative study sheds light on the broader geopolitical implications of Western involvement in Central Asia and its long-term impact on the region's evolving political and economic landscape.

**Key words:** European Union, United States, Central Asia, economic cooperation, trade relations, foreign investments, energy security, strategic interests

### **Introduction**

Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan), positioned at the crossroads of the Asian and European continents, serves as a critical bridge between global centers and markets. In recent years, escalating geopolitical tensions, particularly the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, have further intensified the region's strategic importance. The dialogue between global actors, such as the European Union and the United States, now encompasses nearly all key areas of cooperation, although the full potential of these interactions has yet to be realized.

The problem statement of this research revolves around the impact and scope of EU and US economic engagements in Central Asia, including trade, investments, and development projects.

The purpose of this paper is to conduct a comparative analysis of the geopolitical dynamics surrounding the economic engagement of the EU and the US in Central Asia. By examining and contrasting their strategies, interests, and influence in the economic sectors of Central Asia, this study will explore key areas that foster economic cooperation and development.

The research objects of this study are Central Asia, the European Union, and the United States, with an emphasis on understanding how their policies impact economic development. Methodologically, the study will analyze policy documents,

historical developments, and statistical data to provide a comprehensive understanding of these dynamics.

The article aims to contribute to a broader understanding of international relations and regional dynamics in Central Asia, offering insights for policymakers and scholars interested in the geopolitical and economic transformations shaping the region.

Central Asia has historically been a crossroads for trade, cultural exchange, and civilizational interaction on a global scale. However, during the nearly seventy years of the Soviet Union's existence, the region was largely isolated from global political and economic processes. As part of the USSR, the Central Asian states were unable to independently establish political, trade, or economic relations with the outside world. The collapse of the Soviet Union opened Central Asia to the international community, making it a new point of interest for global and regional powers. Once again, the region is emerging as a bridge between East and West, facilitating the redistribution of key strategic resources.

Since the early 1990s, the relationship between the EU and Central Asia has evolved significantly. Initially characterized by weak institutional ties, both the EU and Central Asian states have grown into more established international actors in the post-Cold War context. The EU, through the development of a common foreign and security policy and institutions like the European External Action Service, has deepened its engagement with the region. Central Asian states, newly independent after the collapse of the Soviet Union, increasingly view the EU as a valuable partner that offers trade, technology, and development assistance without threatening their sovereignty.

In contrast, the United States initially focused on securing energy resources, preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and combating terrorism, particularly following 9/11. The establishment of US military bases in Central Asia underscored the region's strategic importance as a logistical base for operations in Afghanistan. However, US strategy has since shifted toward fostering regional cooperation through multilateral initiatives like the C5+1, aimed at counterbalancing the growing influence of Russia and China.

The EU's involvement in Central Asia is best understood through Liberalist theory, which emphasizes international institutions, economic interdependence, and the promotion of democracy and human rights. The EU's strategy is multifaceted, focusing on security, energy, economic development, and regional cooperation. In contrast, the US approach is grounded in Realism, prioritizing national security, power politics, and military strength. Historically, the US has viewed Central Asia through the lens of geopolitical competition, especially in relation to Russia and China. These theories offer different perspectives to examine the EU and US strategies, highlighting their respective objectives and methods.

Liberalism, used to understand the EU's engagement in Central Asia, emphasizes the importance of fostering global peace through economic cooperation, institutional development, and political reforms aligned with democratic values. The EU's strategy reflects these principles by promoting economic ties and democratic governance, rooted in the belief that interdependence fosters stability.

Conversely, Realism is employed to analyze the US's strategy, which focuses on countering the influence of rival powers like Russia and China while securing national interests such as energy resources and regional stability. Realism explains the US's military presence and counterterrorism efforts, as well as its strategic, security-driven partnerships with Central Asian states.

### **Description of materials and methods**

This study employs a mixed-methods approach to provide a comprehensive comparative analysis of the European Union and United States' economic engagement in Central Asia. It combines qualitative and quantitative methods to explore the diplomatic, economic, and security dimensions of international engagement. The data, sourced from open materials, is systematically organized to ensure objectivity and reliability, incorporating primary articles, statistical facts, and scientific data relevant to US and EU policy in Central Asia.

To compare the economic interests of the EU and US, content analysis was conducted on policy documents to identify convergent and divergent aims within official statements and strategies. This comparative analysis highlighted both similarities and differences in their strategic approaches.

For assessing the impact and scope of EU and US economic engagements in Central Asia covering trade, investments, and development projects econometric analysis elements were applied. This involved statistical examination of trade volumes, investment figures, and economic growth indicators to quantitatively measure the economic contributions of the EU and US in the region.

### **Results**

#### **Economic cooperation & energy security**

In recent years, there has been a notable trend towards revitalizing mutually beneficial trade and economic cooperation between Central Asia and the European Union. Business contacts have intensified, leading to a growth in the number of joint ventures. Major regional projects not only yield tangible mutual benefits but also reshape the entire configuration of the Central Asian economy.

The assistance provided by the EU, combined with aid from individual member states, positions the European Union as the primary donor in the region. The EU's comprehensive aid package for Central Asia reached €1.1 billion for the period 2014-2020. To tailor development programs to each country's specific needs, the EU adopts a differentiated approach to its assistance [1]. The EU extends its support to Central Asian countries in multilateral forums, such as their accession to the WTO, playing a pivotal role in trade, investment, and financial aid.

Given that the five countries primarily depend on raw material exports, the EU endeavors to assist them in diversifying their exports through initiatives like the Standard GSP and the special mechanism for promoting sustainable development and good governance (GSP+). These schemes offer reduced or zero tariffs on exports from Central Asia to EU markets [2].

The cornerstone document governing EU-Central Asia relations is the Strategy for Central Asia, adopted in 2019. The strategy prioritizes three areas of bilateral

cooperation: sustainability, prosperity, and supporting regional cooperation in Central Asia. Under the sustainability pillar, the EU champions human rights, democracy, security, and environmental issues. The prosperity agenda focuses on economic diversification, private sector development, and increased intraregional trade. Additionally, the EU emphasizes supporting integration processes in Central Asia. The document underscores the EU's role as a leading donor and partner, committed to reforms, economic transformations, investment, modern technologies, and fostering regional cooperation and integration [3].

The EU utilizes the Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement with Central Asian countries to facilitate alignment with international and European technical standards, and to eliminate technical trade barriers. While the agreement is in force with Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan are in the process of signing it. These efforts aim to enhance mutual market access and create opportunities for Central Asian economic operators on a global scale, as EU rules and standards are recognized worldwide. The economic component of the Agreement facilitates more efficient regulation in areas such as services trade, company establishment, capital flows, raw materials and energy, public procurement, and intellectual property rights.

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union in the early 1990s, Central Asia has remained peripheral to American foreign policy and outside of its active influence. However, with the increasing military and economic power of Russia and China, this region, rich in energy and natural resources, has begun to acquire strategic importance for the United States of America. This significance became particularly apparent after the Russian-Ukrainian conflict, when trade relations and the high energy potential of Central Asia came into focus. This is evidenced by the visits of high-ranking US and European Union officials to the region.

In order to strengthen cooperation in trade, economics, and investment with Central Asian countries, the United States, alongside bilateral engagements, is actively utilizing the "C5+1" project initiated by the Obama Administration, which involves Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and the US.

US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Donald Lu also embarked on visits to Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan in November, 2022. His primary objectives included addressing bilateral and regional issues, as well as proposing two distinct economic support programs for the region. For instance, a \$25 million program aimed at enhancing the economic sustainability of Central Asian countries was outlined. The economic initiative program under consideration holds significant importance in bolstering trade routes, harnessing the region's potential, and attracting international investments. This support program was announced by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken during a C5+1 format meeting in New York on 26 September, 2022. The second support program, costing \$16.5 million, is designed to enhance food security in the region. These initiatives underscore the United States' efforts to increase its influence in Central Asia through financial assistance and economic initiatives [4].

It is worth noting that all meetings organized by Washington within the C5+1 format have been highly productive. In addition to addressing regional issues, these meetings identify tasks crucial for the closer integration of Central Asia into the global community. In 2023, the United States allocated \$41.5 million to Central Asian countries to support food security, explore new export routes, retrain the workforce, reduce unemployment, and stimulate the private sector [5].

## Discussion

### Trade relations and investments

International trade plays a vital role in forging close economic ties between countries and regions, yielding broad and positive impacts. Foreign trade stimulates economic growth through market openness and contributes to infrastructure development and political stability.

These effects are particularly significant as Central Asian countries aspire to diversify their exports by bolstering trade with global partners such as the US and the EU. The figures below illustrate the mutual trade dynamics between Central Asian countries, the United States, and the European Union for the period from 2020 to 2022 (See Figure 1 and Figure 2).



Figure 1 - Exports from CA to the US & the EU    Figure 2 - Imports from the US & the EU to CA

Source: The authors' compilation data using the International Trade Centre (ITC 2023)

Traditionally, Central Asian nations specialize in the extraction and export of raw materials like oil, natural gas, cotton, and metals. Agriculture also serves as a significant income source, although these countries remain reliant on food imports.

The data from Figure 1 and Figure 2 illustrate a growth trend in exports from Central Asian countries to the EU and the USA, as well as in imports, spanning the period from 2020 to 2022. Analysis of the export volumes reveals that the EU is a strategic partner for the region, accounting for 30% of all foreign trade conducted

by Central Asia with the world, whereas the United States makes up only 2.5%. Regarding imports into the Central Asian region, the EU holds a 12.5% share of total imports, whereas the US share amounts to 1.65% [6].

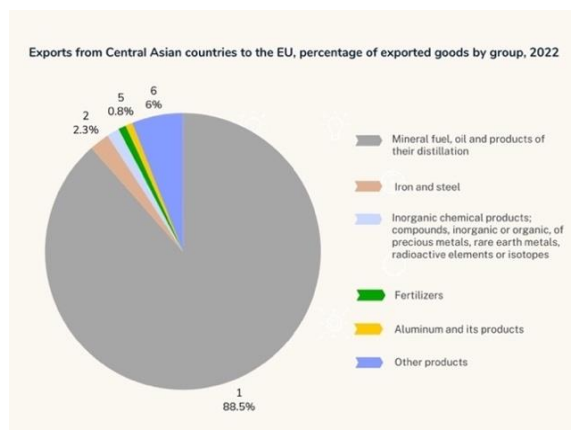


Figure 3 - Exports from CA to the EU

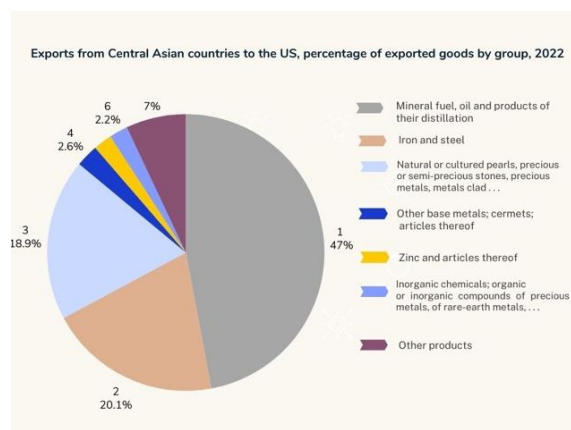


Figure 4 - Exports from CA to the US

Source: The authors' compilation data using the International Trade Centre (ITC 2023)

Figure 3 and Figure 4 show structure of exports from Central Asian countries to the United States and the EU by goods group. Central Asian countries predominantly export mineral fuels, metals, and inorganic chemicals to both the US and the EU [7].

Trade dynamics between the EU and Central Asian countries exhibit variation; Kazakhstan stands out as the EU's primary trading partner within Central Asia. With substantial reserves for natural resource exports, particularly in energy, Kazakhstan maintains its leadership position among Central Asian nations. Conversely, all other Central Asian countries displayed a negative foreign trade balance with the EU in 2022. The total trade volume of the remaining Central Asian countries (Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan) with the EU amounts to approximately 17% of Kazakhstan's trade volume. This discrepancy arises from the absence of export products from these countries that match the high demand in European markets for Kazakh oil.

Similarly, Kazakhstan emerges as a crucial trading partner for the United States among Central Asian countries. Kazakhstan's share in Central Asian countries' exports to the United States reached 95%, primarily attributed to the export of mineral fuels and metals .



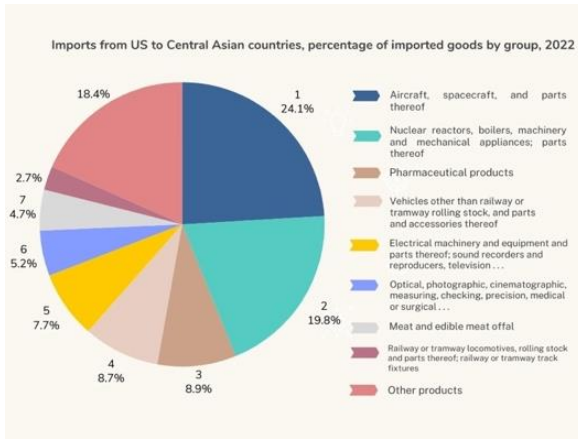


Figure 5 - Imports from US to CA

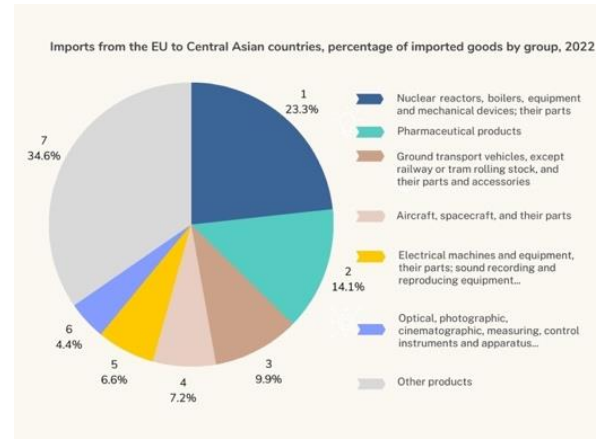


Figure 6 - Imports from the EU to CA

Source: The authors' compilation data using the International Trade Centre (ITC 2023)

Considering the structure of imports from the EU and the USA to Central Asian countries by goods group (refer to Figures 5 and 6), it is notable that certain product groups dominate [8]. These include aircraft and spacecraft, nuclear reactors, equipment, mechanical devices and their parts, pharmaceutical products, ground transportation, electrical machines and equipment, vehicles, as well as their parts and accessories, among others. The import structure reflects the demand of Central Asian countries for high-tech products.

Another key indicator of a countries and region's attractiveness for business is the volume of foreign direct investment (FDI) it attracts. Throughout the entire period, Central Asia has managed to attract \$211 billion in FDI, excluding outflows [9]. Among these figures, Kazakhstan stands out, accounting for 72% of the total FDI in the region (See Figure 7). Kazakhstan leads Central Asia in attracting foreign investment.

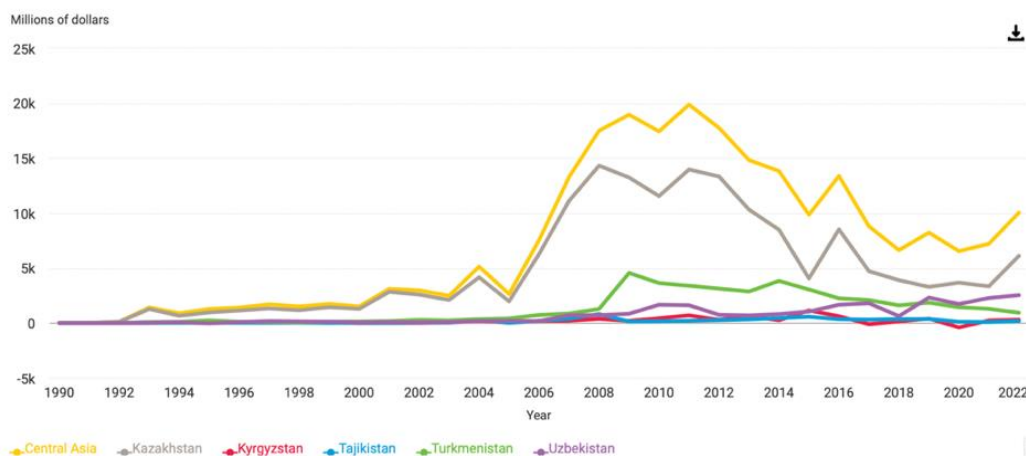


Figure 7 - Total FDI flow to CA countries, (1990 - 2022)

Source: World Investment Report 2023, UNCTAD

In the context of a global decline of 12% in 2022, net FDI in the Central Asia region, on the contrary, grew by 39%, to \$10 billion. But as Figure 7 shows, the main share of FDI inflows in 2022 fell to Kazakhstan, 61%. Donors were mainly the EU and the USA.

In recent years, the United States has significantly expanded its economic presence in Kazakhstan, with approximately 600 American companies currently operating within the country. Positive results have emerged from collaborations with prominent American entities such as Chevron Corporation, ExxonMobil, General Electric, Halliburton, NalcoChampion, Weatherford, and Flowserve. Notably, ongoing projects supported by the United States include the construction of a steel billets and catalysts production plant, as well as an assembly plant for regional aviation aircraft, with a combined investment totaling \$450 million [10].

Kazakhstan surpasses the other four Central Asian states collectively in terms of both trade with the US and EU, as well as foreign direct investment. However, this emphasis on Kazakhstan's economic ties should not overshadow the importance of the US and EU for Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. EU initiatives such as Central Asia Invest and the US USAID Central Asia Trade Program aim to stimulate small and medium-sized enterprises in the region.

Clearly, both the European Union and the United States are strategically oriented toward establishing a lasting economic presence in Central Asia. Their objectives span various domains, including entrepreneurship, support for small and medium-sized enterprises, water resource management, environmental protection, education, science, culture, and border control, with corresponding economic benefits anticipated for Central Asian nations.

However, achieving these geopolitical aims will require the EU to contend with formidable competitors such as Russia and China, which wield significant economic and political influence in the region. In light of this competition, both the EU and US must substantially increase investments in other Central Asian countries to foster economic diversification across the region.

### **Energy security and sustainable connections**

Given the shifting geopolitical landscape, the Trans-Caspian Corridor emerges as the sole viable option for establishing reliable connectivity between Central Asia and Europe via the South Caucasus. Offering greater cost-effectiveness and swifter trade transit compared to the Eurasian Northern Corridor, this route reduces shipping distances by 1,250 miles and slashes travel time by 15 days in contrast to sea routes [11]. In comparison, the Eurasian Northern route, which includes the Trans-Siberian Railway as part of its route, requires approximately 19 days to traverse between East Asia and Europe.

Beyond its function as a trade conduit, the corridor serves as a catalyst for reshaping economic and regional dynamics, aiming to streamline transit and signify the EU's political and operational commitment to bolstering ties with Central Asia through the Global Gateway initiative. By clearly signaling commitment, the EU seeks to catalyze coordinated investments in the Trans-Caspian Transport Corridor, thereby attracting investors for specific projects with realistic timelines and financial



commitments.

The Middle Corridor connects Southeast Asia and China with Europe. It traverses Kazakhstan, the Caspian Sea, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Türkiye before reaching the European Union countries. In 2023, cargo transportation along the TITR exceeded 2.76 million tons, growing by 86% compared to 2022. To support the development of alternative efficient trade routes between Europe and Asia, the EU announced a 10 billion euros investment to bolster the Middle Corridor in early 2024. The EU will possibly add 18.5 billion euros in the second investment stage to ensure that roads, railways, and the seaports of Aktau and Kuryk can provide smart, safe, and fast transportation services from China to Europe [12].

Amid the current landscape, the United States holds a distinctive position to influence the development of the Trans-Caspian Corridor. To achieve this, Washington must meticulously coordinate its approach to the Caspian region to not only serve its own interests and those of its allies but also to bolster the security and prosperity of Central Asian and Caucasian states.

A crucial aspect of this endeavor involves the US focusing on niche areas where it can support the development of Caspian states and trade flows both within the region and beyond. This includes providing technological assistance to facilitate the digitalization of the transport corridor, such as furthering the development of the Silk Road Innovation Center in Silicon Valley. Additionally, the US aims to assist Caspian states in enhancing institutional resilience in areas such as governance and infrastructure development, particularly as countries like Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan pursue economic and political reforms that could benefit from closer cooperation with the United States [13].

Furthermore, the Trans-Caspian Transport Corridor, advances broader geopolitical objectives by fostering enhanced connectivity and economic ties between the United States, Europe, and Central Asia, thereby supporting endeavors to diversify transport routes and reduce dependence on routes controlled by geopolitical rivals.

The geographical distance between the United States and Central Asia makes direct involvement in the region's energy sector challenging. By focusing on developing new energy transport routes that avoid competitors such as Russia, the U.S. can protect its interests and reduce dependence on routes controlled by geopolitical rivals. This approach aligns with the broader goal of promoting U.S. companies' energy interests, ensuring stable access to essential resources.

A key area for potential cooperation between the U.S. and the EU is in the development of alternative energy routes, like the Trans-Caspian Corridor. Both share the common objective of diversifying energy supplies and reducing reliance on Russian-controlled pathways. By working together, the U.S. and the EU can pool their resources and expertise to create more secure and resilient energy networks, enhancing their influence in the region. This collaboration represents a significant point of convergence, allowing both powers to align their strategies for a stronger, more coordinated effort in ensuring energy security.

## **Conclusion**

In conclusion, the comparative analysis of EU and US economic engagement in Central Asia demonstrates both convergence and divergence in their strategies, driven by a mix of geopolitical, economic, and democratic objectives. While both actors share the broad goal of promoting regional stability, economic development, and countering the influence of rival powers like Russia and China, their methods and priorities differ significantly. The EU's approach, grounded in liberalism, focuses heavily on soft power - emphasizing economic cooperation, infrastructure development, and the promotion of democracy and human rights through institutional support. On the other hand, the US adopts a more realist strategy, emphasizing geopolitical competition, energy security, and military cooperation, particularly through initiatives like the C5+1 platform.

Although both actors acknowledge the importance of fostering regional connectivity, the EU's Global Gateway initiative and the US's focus on the Trans-Caspian Corridor underscore their distinct but complementary goals. Cooperation between the two actors, especially in energy security and transport infrastructure, presents a unique opportunity for a transatlantic partnership in the region.

However, these powers face with the following challenges:

- Geopolitical competition with Russia and China. Central Asia has become a focal point of competition between global powers, of which have established significant political and economic influence through initiatives like the Eurasian Economic Union and the Belt and Road Initiative. The challenge for the US and EU lies in countering this influence while avoiding direct confrontation, and fostering relations with the Central Asian states that preserve their sovereignty and independence.

- Lack of regional integration is also an important challenge. Central Asia remains one of the least integrated regions globally, with intra-regional trade and cooperation still limited due to various political, economic, and historical reasons. This presents a challenge for both the US and EU in terms of promoting collective actions in the field of security, economic growth, and infrastructure development within the region, as well as making it more challenging for coordinated external engagement.

In light of the shared challenges and opportunities in Central Asia, it is essential for both the US and the EU to refine their approaches and coordinate their efforts more effectively. These recommendations aim to foster deeper collaboration with the countries of the region:

- Strengthen cooperation on energy supply routes. Two powers should intensify efforts to collaborate on energy transport routes, particularly the Trans-Caspian Corridor, which bypasses Russian-controlled territories. By jointly investing in infrastructure that links Central Asia to Europe via the South Caucasus, they can secure alternative energy supply chains, enhancing energy security and reducing dependence on routes influenced by Russia and China.

- Elevate US cooperation through C5+1. The US should further enhance its engagement with Central Asia via the C5+1 format by expanding the areas of cooperation. Strengthening this platform with clear, long-term goals can help the US play a more central role in the region and deepen ties with Central Asian states.

- Develop a joint EU-US strategic framework. The US and EU should collaborate on a unified strategy in Central Asia, focusing on areas where their interests converge, such as promoting regional stability, economic growth, and countering the influence of Russia and China. A coordinated approach would allow for more effective engagement and prevent overlapping or contradictory efforts in the region.

- Leverage soft power for good governance and stability. Both the EU and US should continue promoting good governance and rule of law, while carefully balancing these efforts with the region's geopolitical realities. This could be achieved by integrating these values into infrastructure, education, and economic development programs, rather than pursuing them as standalone objectives, thereby enhancing the region's long-term stability.

## REFERENCES

- [1] Central Asia's growing importance globally and for the EU. European Union External Action, 2022. [https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/central-asia-s-growing-importance-globally-and-eu\\_en](https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/central-asia-s-growing-importance-globally-and-eu_en).
- [2] EU trade relations with Central Asia. Facts, figures and latest developments. European Commission, 2022. [https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/eu-trade-relationships-country-and-region/countries-and-regions/central-asia\\_en](https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/eu-trade-relationships-country-and-region/countries-and-regions/central-asia_en)
- [3] The EU's new Central Asia strategy. 2019. [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2019/633162/EPRS\\_BRI\(2019\)633162\\_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2019/633162/EPRS_BRI(2019)633162_EN.pdf)
- [4] Çalişkan, G. The US's Growing Interest in Central Asia and Its New Economic Initiative. ANKASAM Ankara Center For Crisis And Policy Studies, 2022. <https://www.ankasam.org/the-uss-growing-interest-in-central-asia-and-its-new-economic-initiative/?lang=en>
- [5] U.S. Strategy for Central Asia 2019-2025: Advancing Sovereignty and Economic Prosperity. US Embassy and Consulate in Kazakhstan, 2020. <https://kz.usembassy.gov/u-s-strategy-for-central-asia-2019-2025-advancing-sovereignty-and-economic-prosperity/>
- [6] Central Asian Republics's imports from United States of America, by product. ITC Trade map, 2023. [https://www.trademap.org/Bilateral\\_TS.aspx?nvpm=1%7c%7c23%7c842%7c%7cTOTAL%7c%7c%7c2%7c1%7c1%7c1%7c2%7c1%7c1%7c1%7c%7c1](https://www.trademap.org/Bilateral_TS.aspx?nvpm=1%7c%7c23%7c842%7c%7cTOTAL%7c%7c%7c2%7c1%7c1%7c1%7c2%7c1%7c1%7c1%7c%7c1)
- [7] Central Asian Republics's imports from EU by product. ITC Trade map, 2023. [https://www.trademap.org/Bilateral\\_TS.aspx?nvpm=1%7c%7c23%7c%7c42%7cTOTAL%7c%7c%7c2%7c1%7c1%7c1%7c2%7c1%7c1%7c1%7c%7c1](https://www.trademap.org/Bilateral_TS.aspx?nvpm=1%7c%7c23%7c%7c42%7cTOTAL%7c%7c%7c2%7c1%7c1%7c1%7c2%7c1%7c1%7c1%7c%7c1)
- [8] South & Central Asia. United States Trade Representative, 2023. <https://ustr.gov/countries-regions/south-central-asia>
- [9] World Investment Report 2023. UNCTAD, 2023. [https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/wir2023\\_en.pdf](https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/wir2023_en.pdf)
- [10] Exploring Investment Opportunities and Cooperation between Kazakhstan and the U.S. Kazakh invest, 2023. <https://invest.gov.kz/media-center/press-releases/exploring-investment-opportunities-and-cooperation-between-kazakhstan-and-the-u-s/#:~:text=Since%202013%2C%20the%20Republic%20of,of%20%242.8%20billion%20in%202021>
- [11] Global Gateway: EU and Central Asian countries agree on building blocks to develop the Trans-Caspian Transport Corridor. European Commission, 2024. [https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/news-and-events/news/global-gateway-eu-and-central-asian-countries-agree-building-blocks-develop-trans-caspian-transport-2024-01-30\\_en](https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/news-and-events/news/global-gateway-eu-and-central-asian-countries-agree-building-blocks-develop-trans-caspian-transport-2024-01-30_en)
- [12] Kazakhstan's Role in Shaping Trans-Caspian Transport Route. The Astana Times, 2024. <https://astanatimes.com/2024/05/kazakhstans-role-in-shaping-trans-caspian-transport-route/>

[13] Usaid explores oportunities for increasing Transcaspian trade. US Embassy and Consulate in Kazakhstan, 2020. <https://kz.usembassy.gov/usaid-explores-opportunities-for-increasing-trans-caspian-trade/#:~:text=The%20U.S.%20Agency%20for%20International,May%2016%2D24%2C%202022>

## **БАСЫМДЫҚТАРДЫ БЕЛГІЛЕУ: ЕУРООДАҚ ПЕН АҚШ-ТЫҢ ОРТАЛЫҚ АЗИЯ АЙМАҒЫМЕН ЭКОНОМИКАЛЫҚ ҒЫНТЫМАҚТАСТЫҒЫНА САЛЫСТЫРМАЛЫ ТАЛДАУ**

\*Айкумбаева Л.А.<sup>1</sup>, Какенова З.А.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>\*1,2</sup> Л.Н.Гумилев атындағы Еуразия ұлттық университеті,  
Астана, Қазақстан

**Аңдатпа.** Соңғы кездері Орталық Азия аймағы Еуропалық Одақ пен АҚШ сияқты алпауыттардың назарында екені сөзсіз, сонымен бірге мында әр тараптың өзінің көздеген мақсаты бары анық. Мақалада Еуроодақ пен АҚШ-тың Орталық Азия аймағымен экономикалық қатынастары, оның ішінде сауда қатынастары, шетелдік инвестициялар және энергетикалық қауіпсіздікке баса назар аудара отырып салыстырмалы талдау ұсынылған. Транскаспий дәлізі сияқты негізгі даму жобаларын зерттеу - олардың экономикалық ынтымақтастығының тиімділігін, ауқымын және тұрақтылығын бағалауға мүмкіндік береді. Орталық Азияда тұрақтылық пен дамуды қамтамасыз ету — ортақ мақсат болғанымен, ЕО мен АҚШ-тың басымдықтары мен әдістері әртүрлі. Либералды интернационализм қағидаларына негізделген ЕО-ның тәсілі жұмсақ күшке, экономикалық ынтымақтастыққа, инфрақұрылымды дамытуға және демократияны институционалдық қолдау арқылы ілгерілетуге басымдық береді. Ал АҚШ геосаяси бәсекелестікке, энергетикалық жолдарды қамтамасыз етуге және әсіресе С5+1 сияқты платформалар аясында әскери ынтымақтастықты нығайтуға бағытталған реализм теориясына жақын тәсілді ұстанады. Бұл салыстырмалы зерттеу Батыстың Орталық Азия аймағымен қарым-қатынасы жайлы ақпарат көзін кеңейтіп, оның геосаяси және экономикалық мақсаттарына көз ашуға мүмкіндік береді.

**Тірек сөздер:** Еуропалық Одақ, АҚШ, Орталық Азия, экономикалық ынтымақтастық, сауда қатынастары, шетелдік инвестициялар, энергетикалық қауіпсіздік, стратегиялық мүдделер

## **ОПРЕДЕЛЕНИЕ ПРИОРИТЕТОВ: СРАВНИТЕЛЬНЫЙ АНАЛИЗ ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКОГО ВЗАИМОДЕЙСТВИЯ ЕС И США В ЦЕНТРАЛЬНОЙ АЗИИ**

\*Айкумбаева Л.А.<sup>1</sup>, Какенова З.А.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>\*1,2</sup> Евразийский национальный университет имени Л.Н. Гумилева,  
Астана, Казахстан

**Аннотация.** Центральная Азия всё больше привлекает внимание как ЕС, так и США, каждая сторона преследует собственные, частично совпадающие цели. В статье представлен сравнительный анализ экономического взаимодействия ЕС и США в Центральной Азии с акцентом на торговые отношения, иностранные инвестиции и энергетическую безопасность. Исследование ключевых проектов развития, таких как Транскаспийский коридор, оценивает эффективность, масштаб и устойчивость их экономического сотрудничества в регионе. Анализ выявляет как сходства, так и различия в их стратегиях, демонстрируя влияние этих действий на стабильность региона, экономический рост и политические реформы. Несмотря на общую цель — обеспечение

стабильности и развития в Центральной Азии, приоритеты и методы ЕС и США различаются. Подход ЕС, основанный на принципах либерального интернационализма, делает акцент на мягкой силе, экономическом сотрудничестве, развитии инфраструктуры и продвижении демократии через институциональную поддержку. США придерживаются более реалистичного подхода, сосредотачивая внимание на геополитической конкуренции, обеспечении энергетических маршрутов и укреплении военного сотрудничества, особенно в рамках платформ, таких как C5+1. Это сравнительное исследование освещает более широкие геополитические последствия западного участия в Центральной Азии и его долгосрочное влияние на политический и экономический ландшафт региона.

**Ключевые слова:** Европейский Союз, США, Центральная Азия, экономическое сотрудничество, торговые отношения, иностранные инвестиции, энергетическая безопасность, стратегические интересы

***Information about authors:***

*Aikumbayeva L.A. - Doctoral student, L.N. Gumilyov Eurasian National University, Astana, Kazakhstan, e-mail: [lyazzat.aikumbayeva@gmail.com](mailto:lyazzat.aikumbayeva@gmail.com)*

*Kakenova Z.A. - PhD, Senior Lecturer of the Department of International Relations, L.N. Gumilyov Eurasian National University, Astana, Kazakhstan, e-mail: [z.kakenova@gmail.com](mailto:z.kakenova@gmail.com)*

***Авторлар туралы мәлімет:***

*Айқумбаева Л.А. - докторант, Л.Н.Гумилев атындағы Еуразия ұлттық университетінің Астана, Қазақстан, e-mail: [lyazzat.aikumbayeva@gmail.com](mailto:lyazzat.aikumbayeva@gmail.com)*

*Какенова З.А. - PhD, халықаралық қатынастар кафедрасының аға оқытушысы, Л.Н. Гумилев атындағы Еуразия ұлттық университеті, Астана, Қазақстан, e-mail: [z.kakenova@gmail.com](mailto:z.kakenova@gmail.com)*

***Сведения об авторах:***

*Айқумбаева Л.А.- Докторант, Евразийский национальный университет имени Л.Н. Гумилева, Астана, Казахстан, e-mail: [lyazzat.aikumbayeva@gmail.com](mailto:lyazzat.aikumbayeva@gmail.com)*

*Какенова З.А. - PhD, старший преподаватель кафедры международных отношений, Евразийский национальный университет имени Л.Н. Гумилева, Астана, Казахстан, e-mail: [z.kakenova@gmail.com](mailto:z.kakenova@gmail.com)*

*Received: October 16, 2024*