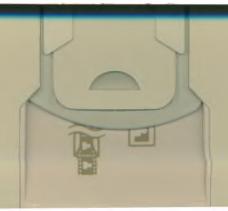
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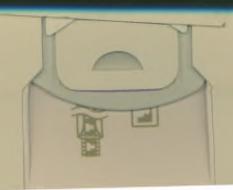
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Energy Security Approaches in the Foreign Policy of Central Asian Countries: The Case of Kazakhstan

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Introduction

The global nature of energy and increased energy interdependence led to the rise of political activity of government agencies of many countries, including their foreign political and economic agencies. Production and trade of energy resources; its transportation to consumer markets are constantly becoming the subject matter and tool of international diplomacy.

Heightened competitive dynamics of the struggle for regional energy markets and in general for the global energy market requires new efforts and effective methods of foreign policy activity, diversification of transportation routes and establishing strong partnerships with energy producers and consumers.

It is important for Central Asian states to find its place in contemporary international relations especially in connection with its considerable energy potential. Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, having significant hydrocarbon reserves, had a direct impact on situation in global energy market.

Nowadays Kazakhstan is one of the largest oil producers in Eurasia. The country's economy is growing at a rapid pace and the main trend of this development is, along with the fostering of the commodity sector, diversification of the economy in general. This tendency was