

March 28, 2008

### Uzbekistan



#### Uzbekistan imposed a ban on all imports and transits via port of Poti

Starting from Feb 25, 2008 Uzbekistan's Vet officials imposed a ban on all imports of animal products originating from or transiting via Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Chechen Republic and Zambia due to outbreaks of African swine fever. Back on October, 2007 Kazakh Officials have also banned all imports of animal products transiting via the Georgian port of Poti. The same actions were recently undertaken by Turkmen Vet Authorities. Now the whole Central Asian region is inaccessible via the port of Poti.

*The following is an unofficial translation:*

#### The Head of State Veterinary Inspection of Republic of Uzbekistan

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*Decree # 03*

*From February 25, 2008 Tashkent city*

According to the official data from OIE (International Epizootic Bureau), African swine fever has been registered in the following countries: Zambia, Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Chechen Republic.

In view of the aforesaid and in order to protect the territory of Republic of Uzbekistan from the entrance and spread of high-contagious viruses like African swine fever the Head of Veterinary Inspection decreed:

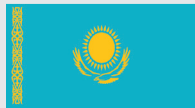
1. To impose a temporary ban on all goods that are under control of State Veterinary Inspection imported from or transiting Zambia, Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Chechen Republic.
2. All Chief State Veterinary Inspectors of Republic of Karakalpakstan, regions of Uzbekistan and Tashkent city, The Department of State Veterinary Border & Transport Inspection are to:
  - To impose a temporary ban on all goods that are under control of State Veterinary Inspection (except goods that are already allowed transit) imported from or transiting Zambia, Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Chechen Republic and carry out preventive measures against the entrance and spread of high-contagious viruses.
  - To observe strictly prohibitive measures concerning goods that are under control of State Veterinary Inspection imported from or transiting Zambia, Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Chechen Republic.
  - To strengthen control over border & transport veterinary stations.
  - In order to protect the territory of Republic of Uzbekistan from the entrance and spread of high-contagious viruses, strengthen preventive measures in frontier regions. Thereto create the group consisting of veterinary experts to monitor the current situation.
3. To bring this decree to the notice of all veterinary sub-units of State Veterinary Inspection, organizations and institutions and other interested parties.
4. The control over the implementation of current decree is my responsibility.

The Head of State  
Veterinary Inspection  
of Republic of Uzbekistan  
Sh.Mamatov

## **Uzbekistan imposed a temporary ban on imports and transits of poultry meat from South-Eastern Asia and some EU countries**

The Government of Uzbekistan took a decision to impose a temporary ban on imports and transits of poultry meat from South-Eastern Asia and some EU countries like Great Britain, Hungary, France, Czech Republic due to bird flu cases registered in this countries. - *Source: UzReport; Translated and edited by: usapeec.kz*

## **Kazakhstan**



### **Ukraine backs Kazakhstan's WTO accession**

Ukraine speaks in support of Kazakhstan's accession to the World Trade Organization, President Viktor Yushchenko told in Astana. We will back Kazakhstans striving to join the WTO in every possible way. Our bilateral ties will gain if Kazakhstan joins the WTO, President Yushchenko said. - *Source: Kazinform Agency*

### **The emerging middle class thinks money, not democracy**

Conventional political wisdom holds that a growing middle class in any given state is often a harbinger of an expansion of civil society, as those with property seek the means to defend it from arbitrary state action. This principle has yet to manifest itself in Kazakhstan, where the substantial middle class that has emerged since the Soviet collapse in 1991 remains almost exclusively interested in economic affairs, according to an observer of Central Asian affairs.

A middle class has emerged in Kazakhstan with startling speed, John C. K. Daly, an expert on Central Asian affairs and an international affairs analyst for the UPI news agency, said during a March 5 presentation Central Asia-Caucasus Institute of Johns Hopkins University in Washington, DC. The country's abundance of natural resources, of course, played a major role in the middle class' rapid emergence. But in overhauling the country's economy, Daly noted, the government succeeded in giving

"everybody from the oligarchs to the guy on the farm a stake in looking for political stability, rather than radical reforms."

"There has been a genuine trickle down throughout Kazakh society," Daly said, adding that President Nursultan Nazarbayev's administration "saw a stable middle class as a guarantor of social stability against everything from religious extremism to agrarian riots." The administration also believed a middle class would hasten the strengthening of a Kazakhstani state "with defined borders, running its own affairs."

At present, about one in four citizens in Kazakhstan can qualify as being in the middle class, Daly estimated. This roughly 25 percent share of the population is responsible for consuming between 50 percent and 80 percent of the goods and services sold in the country. Incomes, he added, have been growing at a double-digit rate since 2001. In 2007, per capita GDP in Kazakhstan was estimated at over \$11,000.

As the middle class has expanded, Kazakhstan has experienced a rapid decline in the number of citizens living in poverty. "According to UN figures, Kazakhstan halved its poverty rate in five years, from 1998 to 2003," Daly said. At present, about one in five citizens is estimated to live below the poverty line.

Middle class development continues to serve as the "cornerstone of [Nazarbayev's] economic and social policies," Daly said. This orientation is readily apparent in the government's education policy, which has sought to provide all citizens with a solid basic education, while implementing programs, such as Bolashak scholarships, that are designed to identify and develop the most talented students through study abroad.

One of the keys to Kazakhstan's economic transformation was the Nazarbayev administration's emphasis on the privatization of the agrarian sector. "Kazak people on the farm, to a certain extent, have been turned into good little capitalists," Daly said. Even so, a wide discrepancy continues to exist between urban and rural living standards, with incomes in cities far higher than those in rural areas.

The Government decision to privatize much

of the housing sector also played an important role in enabling middle-class development. At present, roughly 80 percent of the economy is in private hands, according to Daly.

Daly argued that the rapid rise in living standard in Kazakhstan is the main factor in rendering the middle class politically apathetic. Times have been so good in recent years that there has been little need for people to worry about politics. “You think about it, 1991 to 2008 -- 17 years: you own your own apartment; you have a Japanese car; one of the favorite tourist destinations is the United Arab Emirates—which, of course, makes sense if you ever spent a winter in northern Kazakhstan; your kid got a Bolarshak scholarship to Harvard. Why rock the boat?” Daly suggested.

Although Daly did not touch upon it, a not-so-subtle intimidation factor is also influencing middle class decisions concerning politics. Many undoubtedly can recall what happened to the leaders of Kazakhstan’s first opposition movement, Democratic Choice of Kazakhstan (DCK), which appeared in early 2002.  
- *Source: Kazakhstan Today*

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## Kyrgyzstan



### **GDP growth hit 7.2% in January-February 2008**

Kyrgyzstan outrode Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Ukraine in GDP growth rates, the CIS interstate statistics committee reported.

In January 2008 Kyrgyz GDP surplus reached 7.4% as compared to January 2007. Tajikistan ranked the lowest in CIS with 1.5% GDP, while Azerbaijan ranked the highest with 11.3%. Kyrgyzstan ranked among top three leaders in industrial products' surplus in January 2008 with 6.6%. Belarus ranked the highest with 12.1%, Tajikistan – the lowest (-12.1%).

GDP surplus grew by 7.2% to 18,136 billion soms in January-February 2008, the National Statistics Committee reported. GDP surplus would hit 6.3% and reached 17,130 million soms if Kumtor Gold Mining Company were excluded. Kyrgyz inflation rates reached 3.7% in January-February 2008, the National Statistics Committee reported.

The Minister for Economic Development and Trade - Akylbek Zhaparov said that prices experienced 3.3% growth over the past two months, which lies within government's admissible limits. Such inflation rates reportedly were prompted by costs' raise for gas by 31.8%, diesel fuel by 2%, petroleum – 1 percent and housing payments – 29.4%, the Minister stressed.

In January-February 2007 Kyrgyz inflation rates reached 5.1% -*Source: 24 News Agency*