

## **Germany is a Reliable and Strategic Partner of Uzbekistan**

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**Abstract:** This article reflects on the establishment of relations between Uzbekistan and Germany during the years of independence, and qualitative changes in the cooperation between them in the socio-economic and cultural spheres.

**Keywords:** cooperation, Europe, T. Padoa-Schioppa, K. Adenauer, "Zinger", First President, cultural cooperation, Bonn, Stuttgart, "Deutsche Bank".

As we know, the European countries, which have become the hotbed of wars and the main participants in world wars for centuries, have been living without war for more than 75 years thanks to regional cooperation. T. Padoa-Schioppa, the former vice-president of the European Central Bank, in his book "Europe-collective power" said about European cooperation, "After the war, Europe, like the rest of the world, faced the difficulties of that time. But his cooperative action made him overcome these difficulties faster and easier than others. The experience of the European Union can serve as an example for the further development of the world[1:173]," he wrote.

Today, precisely as a result of cooperation, these countries are among the leading countries of the world [2]. Based on their historical experience, countries located in other regions of the world are also trying to form regional cooperation processes. In particular, this process is taking place in a unique way in our independent republic of Uzbekistan.

The concept of "cooperation" is interpreted differently in socio-philosophical dictionaries. Cooperation is a positive interaction between two or more parties when the goals and interests coincide [3].

Although the official relations between Germany and the Republic of Uzbekistan began in 1992, the relations between the two countries go back a long time. Many people probably know well that the German "Zinger" sewing machine was extremely popular among Uzbek farmers at the beginning of the 20th century. After Uzbekistan gained independence, equal relations were established between the two countries. The first embassy of Uzbekistan in Western Europe was opened in Bonn in 1993. Since then, mutual relations and visits of delegations have been established.

The official visit of the German Federal Minister of Economic Cooperation in August 1992 opened the door to the development of bilateral relations. The visit of the First President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov to Germany in April 1993 was a turning point that gave an important factor to mutual trade and economic relations. At the end of this visit, the agreement "On assistance in the implementation of capital investments and their mutual protection", "Establishment of scientific research and specialist fund" and "Cultural cooperation" agreements defined the legal basis of relations between the two countries [4].

In order to coordinate and speed up implementation of cooperation programs, an interdepartmental commission was established in August 1993, and an Uzbekistan-Germany permanent working group was formed in May 1995. This commission and group regularly hold meetings and resolve important issues such as guaranteeing and insuring investments, financing projects, facilitating privatization, and creating a stock market. In 1993, a representative office of the German Technical Cooperation Society was opened in Tashkent. Thanks to the activities of the society, training of specialists by holding seminars and training courses on market economy, economic legislation, privatization, development of small and medium entrepreneurship, environmental protection, development of laws and regulations on urban passenger transport, "Protection of motherhood and childhood" the program of providing advice on events has started to be implemented.

In 1994, the Association of German Chambers of Commerce and Industry opened a representative office of the German economy in Tashkent. Its main task is to provide Uzbek and German businessmen with information. In June of the same year, a representative office of the K. Adenauer Foundation was opened in Tashkent. The "Days of the Economy of Uzbekistan" held during the period of operation of the Hannover International Fair (April 1994) attracted the interest of the public and businessmen of the GFR. During the visit of the President of the GFR to Tashkent on April 11-13, 1995, a joint business seminar was held with the participation of businessmen of both countries [4].

In the following years, practical trainings, conferences and useful meetings were held for the employees of Uzbekistan's banks, the Academy of Sciences and various ministries and institutions. In 1995, "Uzbekistan. The exhibition opened under the theme "Heritage of the Great Silk Road" was a significant event in the development of Uzbekistan-Germany cooperation. On June 18-19, 1996, the international conference "Days of the Economy of Uzbekistan in Germany" was held in Frankfurt on the initiative of the "Germany-Central Asia" society, "Deutsche Bank", the city of Frankfurt-Main and the Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the GFR.

The National Bank of Foreign Economic Activity of the Republic of Uzbekistan has concluded basic agreements with German banks such as "AKA", "KfV", "Berliner Bank" and "Deutsche Bank". Based on these transactions, at least 778.7 mln. financing of various projects in the amount of German marks has begun.

The visit of the first President Islam Karimov to Germany on April 2-5, 2001 marked the beginning of a qualitatively new era in the relations between the two countries. During the visit, fourteen documents were signed, providing for further expansion of mutual cooperation in such areas as finance, tourism, science and technology, fight against drug smuggling. According to the data of the Ministry of Macroeconomics and Statistics of the Republic of Uzbekistan, in 1997 Germany took the 4th place (after Russia, the Republic of Korea, Switzerland) and the 2nd place (after Switzerland) among European countries. In 2000, the volume of mutual trade was 291.9 mln. amounted to US dollars.

Cotton fiber, copper and its products, other non-ferrous metals are delivered to Germany from Uzbekistan, and various services are provided. Equipment, fish products, sugar and confectionery products, wheat flour, chemical products, ferrous metal and articles made from it, vehicles, butter and vegetable oil, optical instruments and apparatus, dairy products, paper and cardboard are sent from Germany to the Republic of Uzbekistan. , plastic and products made from it, aircraft, etc. are delivered and various services are provided. Several joint ventures operate in light industry, processing of cotton and its waste, production of medical and pharmaceutical preparations, processing of agricultural products, cargo and passenger transportation, car service, scientific developments, trade and other fields.

We know that 40 German firms and companies have registered offices at the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Among them are such world-famous companies as "Daimler Benz", "Siemens", "Alcatel", "Thyssen", "Luftganza", "BASF",

"Salamander" [4]. "Landtechnik-Tashkent", "Chirkom", "UzWinkler", "Grasso", "TashVirt", "Intermed Ekosan", "Nambum" and other joint ventures manufacture agricultural equipment, agricultural machinery and road equipment, service of telephone networks, is engaged in the import and assembly of bakery equipment, the supply of medical drugs, the production of meat and fat products and paper.

Cooperation between the cities of Tashkent and Berlin is important in Uzbek-German relations. The cooperation between the capitals of the two countries covers not only the economic sphere, but also the social and cultural spheres. After the German capital was moved from Bonn to Berlin, on April 3, 2001, a new building of the Embassy of Uzbekistan was opened in Berlin. First President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov took part in it.

In bilateral relations, cooperation in the fields of culture, art, science, public education, mass media, healthcare and sports is also of great importance. A vivid example of this is the fact that the music, visual and theater arts of Uzbekistan were widely demonstrated in the cities of Berlin, Potsdam, Dortmund, Bonn, Stuttgart, Hamburg, Munich, Hanover, Wiesbaden within the framework of the Days of Uzbekistan Culture in Germany. Theater and film masters of our country actively participate in the festivals held in Tübing, Berlin, Cottbus, Mannheim, Mülheim.

It should be noted that the days of German culture are successfully held in our republic. K. Adenauer, F. Ebert Foundations, Goethe Institute, Conference of Rectors of German Higher Education Institutions, Universities, Deutsche Welle TV Company, Germany-Uzbekistan Friendship Society, Berlin public cultural association "EPOG" make a great contribution to the development of bilateral cooperation. Today, the scientific cooperation of the National University of Uzbekistan and Samarkand State University with Humboldt Universities of Germany, as well as the cities of Bamberg and Göttingen continues effectively.

With the support of the Adenauer Foundation, a scientific conference on "Amir Temur and his place in world history" and symposiums "National and international aspects of the ecological tragedy of the island" were held in Sant Augustin. On the initiative of a group of journalists and representatives of the German creative intelligentsia, a documentary film about the island was started. A fundraiser was organized for medicines and medical equipment for children's hospitals in Karakalpakstan, and funds were collected for the construction of water treatment facilities in the area.

It is known that since the second half of 2016, new trends have emerged in the relations of the Republic of Uzbekistan with the UN, and a new stage in mutual relations has begun. Over the past period, Uzbekistan has continued its open, consistent and pragmatic foreign policy in the international arena, and is actively developing cooperative relations with the countries of Central Asia and the world community [5:114].

In particular, on the basis of the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh.M. Mirziyoyev "On the Strategy of Actions for the Further Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan" adopted on February 7, 2017, the foreign policy of the country, developed countries of the world and international "Road map" of raising cooperation with organizations to a new level was determined. "Strategy of Actions" created a basis for further development of new factors, resources and mutual cooperation in the foreign political activity of Uzbekistan, deepening of political and economic diplomatic relations. International experts say that the measures defined in the "Strategy of Actions" are consistent with the global program of the UN Sustainable Development Goals [5:115].

Let's take a look at the high-level visits between the two countries: a total of 7 high-level visits to Germany in 1993, 1995, 2001 and 2019, and to Uzbekistan in 1995, 2002 and 2019. Also, on March 12, 2021, the President of Uzbekistan held talks with German Chancellor Angela Merkel via video conference.

The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev called the German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier on August 17 and 30, 2021 and March 14, 2022, and August 29, 2022, as well as Chancellor Angela Merkel on August 18, 2021. - a total of 5 phone calls were made. As a result of mutually beneficial relations, cooperation between the governments, parliaments and businessmen of the two countries has become more active year by year [6]. For information, a total of 145 agreements have been signed between Uzbekistan and Germany, of which 92 are interstate and intergovernmental, 20 are interdepartmental, and 33 are of a different nature.

When it comes to mutual trade and investment, in 2021 alone, the volume of investments from Germany amounted to 1.1 billion dollars (+37.5 percent), which are in the oil and gas and pharmaceutical industries, construction materials production directed to the implementation of projects. By the end of 2022, this figure was 769.1 million dollars [6].

In conclusion, as the modernizing Uzbekistan takes a bold step towards its development, it is important that it consistently establishes reliable and strategic cooperation with developed countries. Of course, the establishment of mutual partnership relations with Germany, which is considered one of the leaders in many fields not only in Europe, but also in the world, in social, economic, trade, logistics and many other fields, serves the interests of both countries.

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