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Dear Readers,

As EUROBAK Chairman, I am very pleased to be able to welcome you to this latest edition of the EUROBAK Catalogue. I hope you find the articles and pieces in it interesting and useful and also as a catalyst for further discussion.

One of the events that many of us participated in and prepared for extensively was the recent VI Astana Economic Forum.

The theme of the Forum, “Engaging Change”, covered a great many topics, but discussions were broken down into five main economic areas very much at the forefront of Kazakhstan development:

- Commodity price setting and economic growth 2013
- Infrastructure, innovation and technology
- Global competitiveness
- Social development and
- Financial risks and police response

All of course are critical to the on-going growth of the Kazakhstan economy, but to tie in with two of EUROBAK’s priorities for 2013 - “ensuring involvement in preparations for Astana EXPO 2017” and “working with the interested parties and ministries to promote a green economy” – I would like to focus on the infrastructure, innovation and technology question, and the current trends in the use of alternative energy sources in Kazakhstan.

In recent years, as have many other countries, the Kazakhstan Government has begun to embrace the concept of sustainable energy, and the related socio-economic issues, so much so that the theme of the Astana-hosted EXPO-2017 is “Energy of the Future” to highlight wider energy conservation issues and promote alternative energy sources such as solar and wind power, marine resources, ocean and geothermal waters.

Kazakhstan, like many other countries, is only starting out on its journey of transitioning to alternative or renewable energy sources, and is currently having to overcome the overwhelming influence of traditional fossil fuels, on which the country’s economy relies so heavily for its sustained growth.

The framework for Kazakhstan’s promotion of renewable energy sources is the Concept for the Transition to Sustainable Growth for 2007-2024, which has as its central goal, the development of the country’s economy by supporting ecologically friendly forms of energy generation, such as renewable sources and secondary raw materials. As part of the Concept, the government has set and monitors production targets for electricity generation using renewable energy sources.

It goes without saying that the development and use of alternative energy sources is a costly exercise, hence the government’s offer of tax benefits and concessions to investors building and operating renewable energy sources. The Concept also guarantees that any energy produced using renewable sources will find a buyer.

Thus, by implementing these and other measures, Kazakhstan has joined the global initiative to protect the environment by reducing its own environmental emissions and working on actively supporting renewable energy sources.

At EUROBAK, we look forward to continuing our contribution to encouraging the theme of “Energy of the Future”, working with our members and the Kazakhstan Government to help reduce local and global environmental threats and promote alternative energy sources.