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**POST-BREXIT STRATEGY MEETS CENTRAL ASIA: UZBEKISTAN AS BRITAIN'S ENTRY POINT**

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*The United Kingdom's growing interest in Central Asia is increasingly evident, with its engagement gradually taking the shape of a long-term strategic approach. In the wake of its departure from the European Union, the UK has found itself in a position where forging independent economic pathways outside Europe has become essential. In this context, Central Asia emerges as a region of considerable importance, marked by a burgeoning market, valuable resources, and its strategic role as a crucial transit hub connecting East and West.*

In this broader framework, Uzbekistan plays a pivotal role. In recent years, the country has solidified its position as one of the fastest-growing economies in Central Asia, alongside becoming a significant node in the regional logistics network. As a result, Tashkent has become an indispensable partner for London.

Economic indicators further underscore the increasing interest in bilateral relations. Over the past five years, trade between the two nations has witnessed a remarkable doubling. As of February 1, 2026, 251 enterprises with British capital are now operating within Uzbekistan, while Uzbek sovereign and corporate bonds amounting to over \$15 billion are listed on the London Stock Exchange, emphasizing the importance of the UK financial market for Tashkent. Furthermore, the Joint Economic Committee, which began its work last year, will convene for its next meeting in the spring of 2026.

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