
BELGIAN ROYAL VISIT SIGNALS CENTRAL ASIA'S GROWING IMPORTANCE TO EUROPE, EXPERT SAYS

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The first state visit of King Philippe and Queen Mathilde to Kazakhstan reflects growing European interest in Central Asia, where expanding transport links, critical minerals and new economic opportunities are drawing greater diplomatic attention.

Fabienne Bossuyt, an associate professor at Ghent University specializing in EU relations with Central Asia, said the visit carries significance beyond bilateral diplomacy.

This visit should be seen as an endorsement of Central Asia's growing importance for European countries. As the region's most advanced economy, Kazakhstan stands out as the country with the most opportunities for Belgium, she told The Astana Times in a written comment.

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