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### **Kazakhstan Reports the BIE on Preparations for EXPO-2017**

In Paris on Wednesday the 159th annual session of the General Assembly of the Bureau International des Expositions (BIE) took place, where the delegation from Kazakhstan gave a summary of the preparations to the upcoming International Specialised Exposition EXPO-2017 in Astana. Another special moment in this gathering was an official announcement that countries can apply to host the following specialised exposition in 2022/23.

According to the report of the Kazakhstan delegation, the exposition expects more than 5 million visits. To ensure this objective the country simplified the visa procedures for numerous countries of the world, they scheduled about 3 thousand special and recreational events. EXPO-2017 will become a new colourful destination for tourists from all over the world.

Another important task for the organisers of the exhibition is to ensure the participation of 100 countries. As of today, 90 countries and 16 international organisations have confirmed their participation. According to the chairman of the board of the NC Astana EXPO-2017 Mr. Yessimov, there is no doubt that during this year they will manage to attract the necessary number of the countries. The participation of the Kazakhstan delegation in this assembly contributes to it.

#### **Mr. Yessimov:**

Here on the fields of the General Assembly we also hold many meetings to carry out various discussions. The country representatives are interested in the way the exhibition will be held, what the conditions are, including questions of taxes and customs. So, our government made a decision to grant large tax benefits and preferences to countries participating in the exhibition.

The summarising presentation also explained that the preparations for the exhibition EXPO-2017 are being done according to plan and without delays. The end of construction works is scheduled in November.

#### **Mr. Zhoshybayev:**

By November we will have invited the participants to the third meeting in Astana and starting from January, countries will be able to start working in their pavilions and begin their projects. There will be enough time to prepare our exhibition for June. We start on June, 10 and close on September 10.

The General Secretary of the BIE Vincente G. Loscertales agreed that Kazakhstan meets the expectations of the International Bureau : the construction of all the facilities are going according to plan, but starting from November 2016 the timeliness of the start of the exhibition will not depend only on Kazakhstan.