

There has been considerable Western interest in joint venture activity in the minerals sector, though no projects are as yet producing. The closest to production is a joint project between Goldbelt Resources, and Pegasus for the retreatment of mine tailings. A second promising project is that at Bakyrchik, involving Minproc and Chilewich, currently at the financing stage, involving a \$12-15 million investment in mining of refractory ores.

Government infrastructure for foreign investment is more efficiently organized than in Russia, with clearer lines of authority between organizations. Overall policy on foreign involvement in the Kazakh economy is set by the Department of Foreign Economic Ties in the presidential apparatus. The main executive organ within the government for economic ties with other countries is the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations. In 1992, President Nazarbaev supplemented these structures with a presidential decree forming an international investment agency with a specific mandate to encourage and facilitate foreign direct investment. Foreign involvement in the natural resource sector lies within the purview of the Ministries of Geology and Ecology and Bioresources.

The legal basis for foreign investment in Kazakhstan is composed of the following:

1. the Law on Foreign Investment in Kazakhstan (December 7, 1990);
2. the Law on the Basic Principles of Foreign Economic Activity (December 15, 1990);
3. the June 10, 1991, Law on Investment Activity in Kazakhstan, regulating all investment in the republic, including foreign;
4. the Law on Foreign Exchange Regulation (June 13, 1991);
5. the Law on Concessions (November 23, 1991); and
6. an earlier piece of legislation, the Law on Free Economic Zones (November 30, 1990).

It is supplemented by a number of presidential decrees, including the December 31, 1991, Order on the Preservation of Foreign Economic Activity, and the January 25, 1992, Order on the Organization of Foreign Economic Activity During the Period of Economic Stabilization and Transition to the Market. The second was of particular significance, since it established that all legal persons (independently of the form of