

## **Dmitry Medvedev wishes Recep Tayyip Erdogan a happy 65th birthday**

During a telephone conversation, Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev wished President of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan a happy 65<sup>th</sup> birthday and every success for the future.

Their conversation also touched upon a number of matters connected with Russian-Turkish trade and economic cooperation.

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## **On 4-5 March, Dmitry Medvedev will pay an official visit to Bulgaria**

During his visit to the Republic of Bulgaria, Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev will meet with President of Bulgaria Rumen Radev, Prime Minister Boyko Borisov and other officials.

The talks will focus on current matters relating to Russia-Bulgaria trade, as well as economic, investment, scientific, technical and cultural interaction, the implementation of joint projects in the field of energy, industry, the agro-industrial sector, tourism plus other spheres.

Plans call for signing a series of documents on cooperation in various fields.

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## **Dmitry Medvedev congratulates Askar Mamin on his appointment as Prime Minister of Kazakhstan**

During a telephone conversation, Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev congratulated Askar Mamin on his appointment as Prime Minister of Kazakhstan and wished him every success.

The two officials also discussed certain matters regarding Russia-Kazakhstan relations, including the schedule of future contacts.

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## [On 5-6 March, Dmitry Medvedev will pay an official visit to the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg](#)

Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev and Prime Minister of Luxembourg Xavier Bettel will hold talks to discuss current matters relating to Russia-Luxembourg trade as well as economic and investment cooperation. A number of bilateral documents will be signed following the talks.

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## [Dmitry Medvedev answers questions from TV presenter Irada Zeynalova \(NTV\) at the Sochi 2019 forum](#)

Dmitry Medvedev answers questions from TV presenter Irada Zeynalova (NTV) at the Sochi 2019 forum

**Irada Zeynalova:** We know perfectly well that the Americans are now preparing a package of doomsday sanctions. They already know all the sensitive points of our economy. Our economy is growing even with the sanctions, but they still have surprises for us. What should we do in this situation? Do we even fear these sanctions?

**Dmitry Medvedev:** Of course, we are not afraid of sanctions. But we should not take the attitude of “it’s all nonsense” either. You know, this tough guy approach. I sometimes hear it, often from government officials.

**Irada Zeynalova:** It is dangerous not to take this into account.

**Dmitry Medvedev:** Yes. So we should not react like this. These sanctions affect our economy. They will not cause major damage, and we still continue to go our own way. But there is no doubt that it does not help us, and sometimes makes development difficult. As for the sanctions themselves, this most recent outburst was yet another schizoid story of how the consolidation of elites takes place in America. I mean getting tough on Russia. This current consolidation of elites in America, especially Democratic elites, is based on confronting President Trump. And confronting President Trump relies on the so-called “Russian story.” It is at the core of all social and political processes now, and it is obviously largely unrelated to our

relations with the US, but has to do rather with the internal problems in the United States. Look, they really have a lot of them. It is the largest economy in the world. But its debt is 22 trillion – not roubles but dollars. This is the amount they have to service. This is the root cause of their protectionist policies, confrontation with other economies and all sorts of sanctions. Sanctions against the EU, sanctions against Russia, sanctions against Iran, sanctions against China. This is how they see their future. Therefore, these sanctions should be treated carefully, and we should be ready for them. We regularly discuss how to counter such sanctions, but certainly we should not be afraid, because our economy will surely withstand any pressure, including this.

**Irada Zeynalova:** So, money is not going to be taken away from the national projects?

**Dmitry Medvedev:** No way. This money has been set aside. It is not going to be affected by any sanctions. But we just need to keep the economy robust. And all this really requires the attention of the Government and the Central Bank. We will deal with this.

*The full interview will be aired on February 17 on Itogi Nedeli (Weekly Roundup) hosted by Irada Zeynalova.*