

ASHGABAT AT ITS 140th ANNIVERSARY
AŞGABADY 140 ÝYLLYGY
АШХАБАДУ 140 ЛЕТ



Ashgabat, fragments of 140 years of history

Birthdays are special moments in our lives. A «stop and go» enough to have a good look to our past and make the best wishes for our future. This photo book tries to capture the spirit and style of the old city of Ashgabat, founded 140 years ago at the foot of the Kopetdag Mountains. Thanks to the effort of passionate citizens of Ashgabat, both about their town and about photography, we are able to present a very interesting selection of urban landscape that best represent the architectural past of the city.

Solid buildings, narrow streets under the shadow of trees and channels where water used to run alongside the pedestrian way can be found here. Official and academic institutions but also residential apartments and detached wooden houses are reflected in these pages as a memorial to the past but also as a humble step into the future. By reminding all citizens of Ashgabat that there are precious architectural treasures hidden in those streets, that we walk every day, we would like to make a contribution to the preservation of this heritage.

We all know too well, in the European Union, how much from our past we have already lost in this incessant march to the future. Fortunately enough, more and more Europeans are aware of the need to maintain contact with the past through ancient buildings care. Historical centres are restored and closed to traffic everywhere, in an effort to give them back to the ordinary people.

This book is meant to be a statement of intents, a clear commitment of the European Union Delegation to cooperate with the people of Ashgabat on the preservation and restauration of the architectural past of the city; so we can learn from it and show to future generations how it all started long ago.

*Sincerely yours,
Diego Ruiz Alonso
Ambassador
European Union
Delegation to Turkmenistan*









































