



EU-UZBEKISTAN RELATIONS

The European Union and Uzbekistan have been partners since the country's independence in 1991. In October 2025, the EU and Uzbekistan signed an **Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (EPCA)**. This will extend the relationship into new areas of cooperation and significantly upgrade the regulatory framework for trade and economic relations.

Areas of EU-Uzbekistan cooperation include:

political dialogue

cooperation on matters related to good governance

justice and home affairs

democracy and human rights

business and investment relations

economic and financial cooperation

trade

transport connectivity

digital development

energy, renewables and energy efficiency

environmental issues and climate change

critical raw materials

technical assistance

The EU's overall regional engagement with Central Asia is based on the 2019 **EU Strategy on Central Asia** and the 2023 **Joint Roadmap for Deepening Ties between the EU and Central Asia**. At the first EU-Central Asia Summit in April 2025 in Samarkand relations between the European Union and Central Asia were upgraded to a **strategic partnership**.

POLITICAL RELATIONS

Uzbekistan is currently pursuing an ambitious **reform programme**, launched in 2016. This aims at integrating the country into the global economy and improving the:

business climate

judicial system and security services

labour conditions

administrative accountability and efficiency

human rights and good governance in general

The EU supports Uzbekistan's reform agenda through technical and financial assistance, and regularly engages the Uzbek authorities on human rights, media freedom and issues of good governance. The EU emphasises the importance of public consultation in the reform process and on following international norms and best practices.

TRADE, ECONOMIC RELATIONS AND CONNECTIVITY

In 2024, the EU was Uzbekistan's **third-largest trade partner for imports (12,2%)** and **second-largest trade partner for exports (7,2%)**.

Uzbekistan's main imports from the EU (2024):



machinery and transport equipment (46.5%)



chemicals and related products (22.5%)

Total imports from the EU: **€3,959 million**.

Uzbekistan's main exports to the EU (2024):



chemicals and related products (29.8%)



textiles (14.9%)



mineral products (17.5%)



base metals (14.5%)

Total exports to the EU: € 845 million (8.2% increase compared to 2023).

In April 2021, Uzbekistan joined the **EU's Generalised Scheme of Preferences plus (GSP+)** which gives **tariff-free quota-free access to the EU market for the majority of tariff lines**. To benefit from GSP+, Uzbekistan has committed to the implementation of 27 core international conventions on:



human & labour rights



climate & environmental protection

The EU is also providing technical assistance for Uzbekistan's application to join the **World Trade Organisation (WTO)**.

One of the milestones in the EU-Uzbekistan economic partnership is the **Memorandum of Understanding on a Strategic Partnership on Sustainable Raw Materials Value Chains**, signed in April 2024.

This strategic partnership will focus on:

- **Integration of sustainable critical raw materials (CRM) value chains;**
- **Increasing the resilience of CRM supply chains;**
- **Mobilisation of funding for projects resulting from the Partnerships;**
- **Cooperation to achieve sustainable and responsible production and sourcing of CRM;**
- **Cooperation on research and innovation;**
- **Cooperation on building capacity to enforce relevant rules and on developing training and skills.**

Uzbekistan is a key participant in the discussions on the **Cross-Regional Connectivity Agenda**, which aims to link the EU with Central Asia and explore economic opportunities and foster long-term shared prosperity, cooperation and peace.

The focus is on sustainable and resilient connections, in four priority areas:



Transport:

strengthening the cross-regional Trans-Caspian Transport Corridor (TCTC) and the extension of our transport connections.



Digital:

developing high-speed internet access to drive innovation, digital trade, and secure critical infrastructure.



Energy:

improving energy links and accelerating renewable energy deployment to enhance energy security and diversification.



Trade:

harmonising and digitalising customs procedures to simplify cross-border trade and deepen market integration.

DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

As part of its **Multi-annual Indicative Programme for Uzbekistan (2021-2027)**, the EU has allocated **€76 million in 2021-2024** and will allocate **€43 million** for new bilateral programmes to be launched between 2025 and 2027. The EU's priority areas for development cooperation with Uzbekistan are:



support to democratic governance and digital transformation



inclusive, digital, and green growth



development of a smart and eco-friendly agro-food sector

Uzbekistan also benefits from a number of EU regional programmes and from investments under the **European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus (EFSD+)**, **Global Gateway's** main financial tool.