



# EU-TURKMENISTAN RELATIONS

The framework for the European Union's bilateral relations with Turkmenistan is an **Interim Agreement on Trade and Trade-related Matters**, in place since 2010, pending the ratification of the EU-Turkmenistan **Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA)** by the European Parliament.

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**.

## POLITICAL RELATIONS

The EU aims to increase its dialogue and cooperation with Turkmenistan, and hopes to strengthen its institutional framework of cooperation with the ratification of the PCA. The **opening of a fully-fledged EU Delegation in Turkmenistan** in July **2019** and the number of business and official delegations visiting Turkmenistan, signal a mutual strategic interest to intensify relations.

Human rights are an essential aspect of our bilateral relations with Turkmenistan. The EU and Turkmenistan hold an **annual Human Rights Dialogue**, allowing for discussions on sensitive issues related to human rights and democratisation.

The EU is strongly committed to the **prevention of enforced disappearances** and has consistently advocated in favour of Turkmenistan's ratification of the **Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture**, and the **International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearances**.

The **UN Centre for Preventive Diplomacy in Central Asia (UNRCCA)** has been present in Ashgabat since 2007 in order to promote regional dialogue and conflict prevention. The EU supports this approach through the **High-Level Political and Security Dialogue**, the **Central Asia Border Security Initiative** and several related projects (such as Border Management Programme in Central Asia (BOMCA), Central Asia Drug Action Programme (CADAP), and LEICA (Law Enforcement in Central Asia) implemented at regional level.

## TRADE AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS

In 2024 total EU **exports** to Turkmenistan **amounted to €700 million** and **imports** from Turkmenistan amounted to **€400 million**. The main imports from Turkmenistan to the EU are **mineral products** (86 %) and the EU's main exports to Turkmenistan are **machinery and transport equipment** (50.1%) and **chemical products** (16%).

The **Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the field of energy**, signed between the EU and Turkmenistan in 2008, provides a framework for an information exchange on energy policies, discussions on the diversification of transit routes and the promotion of renewables and energy efficiency. The EU will continue to discuss all energy-related issues with Turkmenistan, including methane gas emissions and renewables whilst staying true to the **European Green Deal**. The joint working group on energy has regular meetings.

## DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Given its Upper Middle Income Country status, in the **2021-2027** period Turkmenistan benefits from a **cooperation facility**, focusing on the following areas:



**green aspects  
of the economy**



**improving the business climate with a focus on agriculture/ rural development and support to trade development and an emphasis placed on support to youth- and women-led micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises**