

EU-Afghanistan Cooperation Agreement

The EU-Afghanistan Cooperation Agreement on Partnership and Development (CAPD) was signed by the EU and Afghanistan in February 2017. The CAPD is the first contractual relationship between the European Union and Afghanistan, and establishes the legal framework for EU-Afghanistan cooperation. The full entry into force of this mixed agreement is subject to the consent of the European Parliament as well as ratification by the national and certain regional parliaments of the EU Member States. The European Parliament is expected to vote on giving its consent to the draft Council decision to conclude the agreement during its March I plenary session.

Background

The EU considers a peaceful and prosperous Afghanistan to be vital to the stability and development of the region. Since 2001, the EU and its Member States have contributed to international efforts to combat extremism and terrorism in the country, including through NATO, while working towards peace and stability, and supporting development. In view of a deteriorating security situation, in October 2017, the EU adopted the [EU Strategy on Afghanistan](#), aimed at strengthening the country's institutions and economy. The EU Member States are, collectively, the leading donor in the country, committing €5 billion for 2016 to 2020, with €1.2 billion from the EU budget. In June 2017, the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (HR/VP) appointed Roland Kobia as [special envoy of the EU to Afghanistan](#). [Twenty-four EU Member States](#), including three non-NATO members, have sent troops to the NATO-led [non-combat mission](#) in Afghanistan ('Resolute Support mission'). The EU and Afghanistan have signed a political declaration containing arrangements on readmission and return facilitation, the '[Joint Way Forward](#)' on migration issues.

European Commission – HR/VP proposal

The [joint proposal](#) for the Council decision on the conclusion for the agreement was published on 17 December 2015. The HR/VP and the Minister of Finance of Afghanistan signed the [CAPD](#) on [18 February 2017](#), leading to its provisional application as from 1 December 2017. The CAPD provides the basis for regular political dialogue, including on human rights, in particular the rights of women and children, as well as cooperation in areas such as the rule of law, health, rural development, education, science and technology. It also sets out actions to combat corruption, money laundering, the financing of terrorism, organised crime and narcotics and to address non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, disarmament and nuclear security. As a mixed agreement, its entry into force is subject to the consent of the European Parliament and ratification by the national and relevant regional parliaments of the EU Member States. [Sixteen Member States](#) have so far completed the ratification procedure.

European Parliament position

In its [resolution](#) of 14 December 2017 on the situation in Afghanistan, Parliament welcomed the provisional entry into force of the CAPD. On 22 January 2019, Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET) [recommended](#) giving consent to the conclusion of the agreement. It also adopted a [motion for a non-legislative resolution](#) expressing support for the Afghan government and setting out recommendations on political and strategic aspects, the role and responsibility of regional actors, security and peace-building, state-building, civil society and human rights, development, and trade and sectoral cooperation. The recommendation and the motion for a resolution are now due to be considered in plenary in March.

Consent procedure: [2015/0302\(NLE\)](#); Committee responsible: AFET; Rapporteur: Anna Elżbieta Fotyga (EPP, Poland).



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Author: Beatrix Immenkamp, Members' Research Service
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epprs@ep.europa.eu (contact) <http://www.epprs.ep.parl.union.eu> (intranet) <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank> (internet) <http://epthinktank.eu> (blog)