



2016/2226(INI)

29.9.2016

AMENDMENTS

1 - 30

Draft opinion

Ulrike Lunacek

(PE589.215v02-00)

on the draft Council decision on the conclusion of a Protocol to the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement establishing a partnership between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Uzbekistan, of the other part, amending the Agreement in order to extend the provisions of the Agreement to bilateral trade in textiles, taking account of the expiry of the bilateral textiles Agreement

(16384/1/2010 - C7-0097/2011 - 2010/0323(NLE) - 2016/2226(INI))

AM_Com_NonLegOpinion

Amendment 1
Eduard Kukan

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

1. Points out that the textile sector, in particular cotton production, is the main area of trade between the EU and Uzbekistan; stresses, in this regard, that the EU should make full use of the extension of the PCA in order *to step up pressure on* the Uzbek authorities *to ensure that* the transition process following the sudden death of the president leads to democratic reforms and a substantial improvement of the human rights situation;

Amendment

1. Points out that the textile sector, in particular cotton production, is the main area of trade between the EU and Uzbekistan; stresses, in this regard, that the EU should make full use of the extension of the PCA in order *to ensure that* the Uzbek authorities *are engaged in a* transition process following the sudden death of the president *that* leads to democratic reforms and a substantial improvement of the human rights situation;

Or. en

Amendment 2
Brando Benifei
on behalf of the S&D Group

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

1. Points out that the textile sector, in particular cotton production, is the main area of trade between the EU and Uzbekistan; stresses, in this regard, that the EU should make full use of the extension of the PCA in order to step up pressure on the Uzbek authorities to ensure that the transition process following the sudden death of the president leads to democratic reforms and a substantial improvement of the human rights situation;

Amendment

1. Points out that the textile sector, in particular cotton production, is the main area of trade between the EU and Uzbekistan; stresses, in this regard, that the EU should make full use of the extension of the PCA in order to step up pressure on the Uzbek authorities to ensure that the transition process following the sudden death of the president leads to *better governance, strengthening of the rule of law*, democratic reforms and a substantial improvement of the human rights situation;

Or. en

Amendment 3
Eduard Kukan

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

2. *Is convinced that* the substantial progress *made since 2013 on the question of child labour in Uzbekistan is mainly the result of the diplomatic efforts of the EU and, in particular, of Parliament's resolution of 2011 that put the agreement on hold and led to the* active involvement of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the World Bank (WB);

Amendment

2. *Welcomes* the substantial progress *achieved in the question of child labour in Uzbekistan since 2013, including the adoption of laws which prohibit the use of child labour; encourages the authorities to further engage in a country-wide campaign raising awareness in order to completely eradicate child labour; welcomes* the active involvement of the Uzbek authorities with the European Parliament, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the World Bank (WB);

Or. en

Amendment 4
Daniel Caspary

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

2. Is convinced that the substantial progress made since 2013 on the question of child labour in Uzbekistan is *mainly* the result of the diplomatic efforts of the EU *and, in particular, of Parliament's resolution of 2011 that put the agreement on hold and led to the active involvement of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the World Bank (WB);*

Amendment

2. Is convinced that the substantial progress made since 2013 on the question of child labour in Uzbekistan is *also a* result of the diplomatic efforts of the EU;

Or. en

Amendment 5
Brando Benifei
on behalf of the S&D Group

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

2. ***Is convinced that*** the substantial progress made since 2013 on the question of child labour in Uzbekistan ***is mainly the result of*** the diplomatic efforts of the EU and, in particular, of Parliament's resolution of 2011 that put the agreement on hold and led to the active involvement of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the World Bank (WB);

Amendment

2. ***Welcomes*** the substantial progress made since 2013 on the question of child labour in Uzbekistan ***and points to the role played in this process by*** the diplomatic efforts of the EU and, in particular, to the EP resolution of 2011 that put the agreement on hold and led to the active involvement of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the World Bank (WB);

Or. en

Amendment 6
Eduard Kukan

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. ***Takes*** the view that although progress has been made in terms of a reduction of forced labour in general, the trend has been irregular; underlines that more indirect and subtle ways of involuntary work seem to prevail;

Amendment

3. ***Recognises that further engagement with the Government of Uzbekistan is needed in order to contribute to continuous reduction in forced labour; reserves the right to call on the Commission and the Council to activate Articles 2 and 95 of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement so as to take all necessary general and specific measures if the commitment to the abolition of forced labour is not lived up to; takes*** the view that although progress has been made in terms of a reduction of forced labour in general, the trend has been irregular; underlines that more indirect and subtle ways of involuntary work seem to prevail;

Or. en

Amendment 7
Ulrike Lunacek
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. Takes the view that although progress has been made in terms of a reduction of forced labour in general, the trend has been irregular; underlines that more indirect and subtle ways of involuntary work seem to prevail;

Amendment

3. Takes the view that, although progress has been made in terms of reduction of forced labour in general the trend has been irregular; underlines that, ***despite the fact that the number of people directly coerced to pick cotton has certainly decreased over the years since ILO monitoring*** started, more indirect and subtle ways of involuntary work seem to prevail, ***including those who feel obliged or under social pressure***;

Or. en

Amendment 8
Daniel Caspary

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. Takes the view that ***although*** progress has been made in terms of a reduction of forced labour in general, ***the trend has been irregular; underlines that more indirect and subtle ways of involuntary work seem to prevail***;

Amendment

3. Takes the view that progress has been made in terms of a reduction of forced labour in general;

Or. en

Amendment 9
Brando Benifei
on behalf of the S&D Group

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. Takes the view that although progress has been made in terms of a reduction of forced labour in general, the trend has been irregular; underlines that more indirect and subtle ways of involuntary work seem to prevail;

Amendment

3. Takes the view that, although progress has been made in terms of reduction of forced labour in general, the trend has been irregular; underlines that more indirect and subtle ways of involuntary work *still* seem to prevail;

Or. en

Amendment 10
Ana Gomes

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3 a. Calls for the consent to be granted only after the ILO-certified conclusion on substantial progress towards full elimination of child labour and all other forms of forced labour;

Or. en

Amendment 11
Eduard Kukan

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

Amendment

4. Stresses that reports by independent monitors (not allowed by the Uzbek regime) and by media on pre-harvest work in 2016 indicate a massive state-led mobilisation of citizens involving as well the forced labour of public employees and students;

4. Is concerned about the reported state-led mobilisation of citizens, involving as well the forced labour of public employees and students, ***in the 2016 pre-harvest work;***

Or. en

Amendment 12
Brando Benifei
on behalf of the S&D Group

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. Stresses that reports by independent monitors (not allowed by the Uzbek **regime**) and **by** media on pre-harvest work **in 2016** indicate a massive state-led mobilisation of citizens **involving as well the** forced labour of public employees and students;

Amendment

4. Stresses that the reports of the independent monitors (not allowed by the Uzbek **government**) and media on **this year's** pre-harvest work indicate massive state-led mobilization of citizens, forced labour of public employees and students;

Or. en

Amendment 13
Daniel Caspary

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. Stresses that reports by independent monitors (**not allowed by the Uzbek regime**) and by media on pre-harvest work in 2016 indicate a massive state-led mobilisation of citizens involving as well the forced labour of public employees and students;

Amendment

4. Stresses that reports by independent monitors and by media on pre-harvest work in 2016 indicate a massive state-led mobilisation of citizens involving as well the forced labour of public employees and students;

Or. en

Amendment 14
Eduard Kukan

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5

Draft opinion

5. Looks forward to the ILO reporting on the 2016 cotton harvest in Uzbekistan; ***considers, furthermore, that observing this changeover period would also give Parliament an overall picture of the transition process in Uzbekistan;***

Amendment

5. Welcomes the authorisation of the Uzbek government to grant the ILO access to monitoring of the cotton harvest and to engage in broad cooperation with ILO through a Decent Work Country Programme; looks forward to the ILO reporting on the 2016 cotton harvest in Uzbekistan;

Or. en

Amendment 15
Daniel Caspary

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5

Draft opinion

5. Looks forward to the ILO reporting on the 2016 cotton harvest in Uzbekistan; ***considers, furthermore, that observing this changeover period would also give Parliament an overall picture of the transition process in Uzbekistan;***

Amendment

5. Looks forward to the ILO reporting on the 2016 cotton harvest in Uzbekistan;

Or. en

Amendment 16
Javier Nart

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 a (new)

Draft opinion

5 a. Calls upon the upcoming new Uzbek President to raise a new human rights paradigm by terminating immediately the still ongoing forced labour and child labour during the cotton harvesting season;

Amendment

Or. en

Amendment 17

Brando Benifei

on behalf of the S&D Group

Draft opinion

Paragraph 6

Draft opinion

6. Is of the opinion that ***giving consent without concrete and verified data would be misleading and premature, undermining the pressure that has helped bring about the progress that Uzbekistan has achieved so far, and weakening the*** EU's common commercial policy objectives, which must respect EU values;

Amendment

6. Is of the opinion that ***concrete evidence of substantial, measurable progress towards full eradication of the child labour and some evidence of progress towards eradication of all other forms of forced labour, as verified by the ILO, enables Parliament to give its consent, in line with the EU's common trade policy objectives, which have to respect EU values; is of the opinion that such consent will constitute a positive sign of encouragement to the Uzbek government to further pursue its efforts on the full eradication of child labour and all other forms of forced labour, as well as to further strengthen cooperation with the EU;***

Or. en

Amendment 18

Daniel Caspary

Draft opinion

Paragraph 6

Draft opinion

6. Is of the opinion that ***giving consent without concrete and verified data would be misleading and premature, undermining the pressure that has helped bring about the progress that Uzbekistan has achieved so far, and weakening the*** EU's common commercial policy objectives, which must respect EU values;

Amendment

6. Is of the opinion that ***although a lot still has to be done in order to ensure a substantial improvement of the human rights situation, Uzbekistan shows significant efforts to enhance the situation which should be recognised by the European Parliament by giving its consent; like this, the European***

Parliament can send a signal that further improvements will be recognised;

Or. en

Amendment 19
Eduard Kukan

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6

Draft opinion

6. Is of the opinion that giving consent *without concrete and verified data would be misleading and premature, undermining the pressure that has helped bring* about the progress that Uzbekistan has achieved so far, *and weakening the EU's common commercial policy objectives, which must respect EU values;*

Amendment

6. Is of the opinion that giving consent *should go hand in hand with concrete and verified data bringing* about the progress that Uzbekistan has achieved so far *and should contribute to deepening bilateral relations between Uzbekistan and the European Union, including in trade;*

Or. en

Amendment 20
Brando Benifei
on behalf of the S&D Group

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 a (new)

Draft opinion

6 a. Emphasises that the EU will keep monitoring the steps taken by the Uzbek authorities towards full eradication of child labour and any other forms of forced labour and reserves the right to suspend the implementation of the Protocol should the problem of child labour re-emerge and other forms of the forced labour not be eradicated;

Amendment

Or. en

Amendment 21
Ulrike Lunacek
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6 a. Reminds that obligations to respect for democracy, principles of international law and human rights and the principles of market economy, as defined in Article 2 of the PCA, remain largely unfulfilled by Uzbekistan;

Or. en

Amendment 22
Ulrike Lunacek
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6 b. Regrets that the assistance provided by the EU over the last years, focusing on the rule of law and the judiciary and aiming at triggering reforms and streamlining the work of the Uzbek parliament, has borne no fruit;

Or. en

Amendment 23
Brando Benifei
on behalf of the S&D Group

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6 b. Encourages Uzbek authorities to step up their efforts towards further modernisation and diversification of agriculture, with the continued support of the EU, as well as the World Bank and other international donors;

Or. en

Amendment 24

Ulrike Lunacek

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion

Paragraph 6 c (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6 c. Highlights that in 2009 and 2010 the Council lifted the EU sanctions ‘with a view to encourage the Uzbek authorities to take further substantive steps to improve the rule of law and the human rights situation on the ground’ stating, furthermore that ‘the Council will closely and continuously observe the human rights situation in Uzbekistan’ and that ‘the depth and quality of the dialogue and cooperation will depend on Uzbek reforms’;

Or. en

Amendment 25

Brando Benifei

on behalf of the S&D Group

Draft opinion

Paragraph 6 c (new)

6 c. Welcomes the joining of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), as an associate member, by the Federation of Trade Unions of Uzbekistan in October 2015; stresses the role Uzbek trade unions are playing to ensure decent working conditions and protection of labour rights; calls on the Uzbek government to fully cooperate with trade unions in this direction; encourages Uzbek trade unions to step up their role towards full eradication of forced labour;

Or. en

Amendment 26

Brando Benifei

on behalf of the S&D Group

Draft opinion

Paragraph 7

7. Deplores the fact that, despite the commitments made relating to the protection of human rights, *Uzbekistan has faced virtually no consequences for its persistent refusal to acknowledge the existence* of any individuals imprisoned on politically motivated charges, *release them from prison, improve* their treatment in custody or end the cycle of crackdowns, arrests and convictions, *nor has the government paid any real cost for its systematic failure to cooperate* with international institutions, *including in eleven special procedures of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)*;

7. Urges the Uzbek authorities to fully *respect their international* commitments made relating to the protection of human rights, *including the release from prisons* of any individuals imprisoned on politically motivated charges, *the improvement of* their treatment in custody, or *the end of* the cycle of crackdowns, arrests, and convictions; *calls for full cooperation by the Uzbek authorities* with international institutions *in this regard*;

Or. en

Amendment 27

Eduard Kukan

Draft opinion

Paragraph 7

Draft opinion

7. ***Deplores the fact*** that, despite the commitments made relating to the protection of human rights, ***Uzbekistan has faced virtually no consequences for its persistent refusal to acknowledge the existence of any*** individuals imprisoned on politically motivated charges, release them from prison, improve their treatment in custody or end the cycle of crackdowns, arrests and convictions, ***nor has the government paid any real cost for its systematic failure to cooperate*** with international institutions, including in eleven special procedures of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC).

Amendment

7. ***Notes*** that, despite the commitments made relating to the protection of human rights, ***further progress must be achieved in regards to*** individuals imprisoned on politically motivated charges, release them from prison, improve their treatment in custody or end the cycle of crackdowns, arrests and convictions; ***encourages the Uzbek government to step up its involvement*** with international institutions, including in eleven special procedures of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC).

Or. en

Amendment 28

Ulrike Lunacek

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion

Paragraph 7 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

7 a. Calls on the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR), the EEAS and EU Member States to use the transition process as an opportunity to immediately put in motion a strategy with the aim of pressing Uzbekistan for concrete, measurable human rights improvements over the coming months; underlines that

concrete improvements should include the conditions laid out by EU Foreign Ministers in 2010, which are: 1) releasing all imprisoned human rights defenders and prisoners of conscience; 2) allowing unimpeded operation of non-governmental organisations in the country; 3) cooperating fully with all relevant UN Special Rapporteurs; 4) guaranteeing freedom of speech and the media; 5) ending the practice of forced labour; and 6) fully aligning its election processes with international standards;

Or. en

Amendment 29
Ulrike Lunacek
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion
Paragraph 7 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

7 b. Expects the EEAS to firmly address all the main cases of human rights violations at the 10th round of the EU-Uzbekistan Human Rights Dialogue scheduled for November 2016 and to make these meetings more result-oriented, overcoming the current deeply disappointing stalemate;

Or. en

Amendment 30
Ulrike Lunacek
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion
Paragraph 7 c (new)

7 c. Believes that EU aid to Uzbekistan should also be aimed at weaning off the country from the cotton monoculture and decreasing its dependence on its exports by diversifying the economy, which could gradually alleviate the disastrous environmental situation, with regard, in particular, to what is left of the Aral Sea and its tributaries;

Or. en