

(English version)

Question for written answer E-003826/25
to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign
Affairs and Security Policy
Michael McNamara (Renew)
(1 October 2025)

Subject: EU-Uzbekistan Partnership and Cooperation Agreement

With regard to the forthcoming EU-Uzbekistan Partnership and Cooperation Agreement, what conditionalities will be contained therein regarding Karakalpakstan, such as its socioeconomic marginalisation, an independent investigation into the events of 1-2 July 2022 and the ongoing detention of Dauletmurat Tazhimuratov, which was found to be in breach of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights by the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention at its 101st session held from 11 to 15 November 2024?

Submitted: 1.10.2025

Question for written answer E-004075/25
to the Commission
Christine Singer (Renew), Krzysztof Śmiszek (S&D), Ondřej Krutílek (ECR)
(16 October 2025)

Subject: Conditionality of the Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement with Uzbekistan

The EU will sign the Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (EPCA) with Uzbekistan on 24 October 2025. However, recent developments raise human rights, security and geopolitical concerns.

— In July 2022, deadly force was used against peaceful protesters in Karakalpakstan. The Uzbek Government continues to refuse an independent investigation.

— Dauletmurat Tazhimuratov, a lawyer, was sentenced to 16 years in prison for exercising his right to freedom of opinion and expression. The UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention has declared this sentence unlawful.

— Uzbekistan plays a significant role as a transit point for goods evading sanctions, supporting the Russian war economy.

— Structural discrimination and economic marginalisation of Karakalpakstan exacerbate inequality, instability and migration pressure.

1 Regulation (EU) No 978/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 applying a scheme of generalised tariff preferences and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 732/2008, OJ L 303, 31 October 2012, 1-82, especially Recital 17, Article 9(1) and Annex VI, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:32012R0978>.

2 Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and

1.How will the Commission ensure that the signing of the EPCA is not perceived as approval of Uzbekistan's human rights abuses and how will the Commission prevent it from facilitating sanctions evasion in favour of Russia?

2.Will the Commission make the release of Dauletmurat Tazhimuratov and authorisation of an independent investigation into the 2022 violence prerequisites for signing the EPCA?

3.What measures will be taken to guarantee that the economic benefits of the EPCA reach not only the central government, but also the people of Karakalpakstan in a verifiable way?

Submitted: 16.10.2025

**Joint answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the
European Commission**
(8 December 2025)

Human rights, democratic principles and the rule of law remain key priorities in the EU cooperation with Uzbekistan. Their promotion is an integral part of the EU's Generalised Scheme of Preferences Plus (GSP+) ⁽¹⁾ and the Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (EPCA) ⁽²⁾ and thus at the core of EU bilateral relations.

With the signature of the EPCA, the EU and Uzbekistan reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen respect for democratic principles, the rule of law and good governance, human rights, fundamental freedoms and the principle of non-discrimination, and to increase cooperation in these areas.

Moreover, respect for democratic principles and human rights and fundamental freedoms constitutes an essential element of the newly signed EPCA. The EPCA also provides for strengthened civil society participation in economic, social and political development throughout the country.

The EU continues to raise these issues with the authorities at all levels. This includes close monitoring of the human rights situation and the effective implementation of international conventions on human and labour rights, environment and climate, and on good governance to which Uzbekistan has committed.

The EU systematically raises individual cases of human rights defenders in appropriate settings, including the Human Rights and Justice Subcommittee, where the case of Dauletmurat Tazhimuratov was raised on 24 June 2025.

The EU will ensure that implementation of the EPCA fully respects its sanctions policy. Cooperation with the Uzbek authorities will continue to limit the risk of circumvention of the EU sanctions policy to the benefit of Russia and its war of aggression against Ukraine.

the Republic of Uzbekistan, of the other part, annex to Proposal for a Council Decision on the signing and provisional application, COM(2024) 471 final, 18 October 2024, especially Preamble and Articles 2-5, https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:2dc86d35-8d4e-11ef-a130-01aa75ed71a1.0004.02/DOC_2&format=PDF.