

EN

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Answer given by Mr Šefčovič
on behalf of the European Commission
(28.7.2026)

The Commission and the High Representative/Vice-President (HR/VP) are committed to continue engaging with the Filipino authorities on human rights.

The engagement of the EU with the Philippines on human rights is underpinned by the Framework Agreement on Partnership and Cooperation (PCA)¹. A Subcommittee Meeting on Good Governance, Rule of Law, and Human Rights was held on 6 October 2025, the next is planned in the last quarter of 2026. The EU and the Philippines reaffirmed a strong commitment to advancing good governance, the rule of law and human rights, and agreed on concrete follow-up in key areas² and to intensify cooperation.

The Commission, jointly with the HR/VP engages with Filipino authorities on human rights in the context of the EU's Special Incentive Arrangement for Sustainable Development and Good Governance of the Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP+). The most recent GSP+ monitoring mission took place in March 2025 and the next GSP monitoring report is forthcoming this July 2026.

The PCA will constitute the political framework for a future Free Trade Agreement (FTA), which is currently under negotiation, and for which the Commission is pursuing strong sustainability provisions. The Sustainability Impact Assessment in support of FTA negotiations concluded that an FTA could have overall positive impacts on the human rights situation³.

The Commission provides targeted support to human rights under the thematic programme for Human Rights and Democracy and has also supported the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines to carry out its mandate to protect civil and political rights and enhance human rights promotion.

¹ OJ L 343 22.12.2017, p. 3 ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_internation/2017/2414/2018-05-01.

² Including: implementation of the Philippines' National Plan on Human Rights, judicial reform, accountability for extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances, protection of civic space and media freedom, and stronger safeguards against torture.

³ https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/analysis-and-assessment/sustainability-impact-assessments_en.