

**PARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION COMMITTEE
EUROPEAN UNION – REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN**

**NINTH MEETING
9-10 JULY 2012**

JOINT DECLARATION

The Parliamentary Cooperation Committee

- 1. welcomes the ninth meeting between the European Parliament and the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan; looks forward to the further development of relations between the two Parliaments and to a new impetus for the implementation of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the EU and Uzbekistan;*
- 2. underlines the importance of developing the relationship between the European Union and the Republic of Uzbekistan; stresses that this relationship must include, as one of the essential elements, a genuine and effective commitment to the values of respect for democracy and human rights, as foreseen in the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement;*
- 3. draws the attention also to the important common interests shared by both sides with regard to promoting regional stability, as well as developing joint and coordinated responses to global challenges such as fighting drug trafficking, terrorism, non-democratic political extremism and religious extremism. Points out Uzbekistan's potential and crucial role in promoting the stabilisation and development of the whole Central Asia region.*
- 4. discussed developments both in the European Union and in the Republic of Uzbekistan, especially in the light of the global economic and financial crisis. Stresses the importance for Uzbekistan to further integrate into the world economy, to develop a market-oriented economy and to improve the business and investment climate as to stimulate stronger investment by European companies. Calls for an improvement of EU Uzbekistan trade and investment relations as an impetus for a more sustainable and inclusive growth. Calls on European companies to explore investment opportunities and review available investment projects in Uzbekistan aimed at the upgrading of the leading branches of the Uzbek economy. Welcomes the possibility to leverage investment loans from European financial institutions as a new element of cooperation between the EU and Uzbekistan. Stresses the importance of the tourism sector for the future economic development of the country.*
- 5. stresses the importance of further sustainable social and economic development of Uzbekistan, including increasing the average income and welcomes the Uzbek strategic policy of promotion of the highest possible standards of educational achievement. Welcomes all steps to further cooperation in these areas.*
- 6. welcomes Uzbek efforts in conducting state reform, maintaining inter-ethnic cooperation, developing an inclusive society based on rule of law and good governance; stresses the importance of EU cooperation activities for achieving these objectives, in particular in the area of social welfare, living and working*

conditions, education and training, culture, multilingualism, justice and prison management, the equality between women and men, and further attention to the youth;

- 7. underlines the role of the EU Strategy for Central Asia as a platform for closer bilateral and multilateral cooperation. Encourages deeper cooperation among Central Asia countries as an effective tool for conflict prevention, socio-economic development and regional stabilization.*
- 8. In this respect, calls on all the interested parties to find mutually agreed solutions regarding water management on the basis of universal norms and principals of international law trans-boundary water co-operation activities, security and energy issues in the region, which would take into account interests of all CA countries and preserve stability in the region. Points to the role of Parliamentary bodies in contributing to these objectives;*
- 9. decides to hold its next meeting in Uzbekistan during the course of 2013.*