



# EU-GUATEMALA RELATIONS



The European Union (EU) and Guatemala have maintained **close relations for decades**. Our regional political dialogue with Central America, growing trade relations and extensive cooperation illustrate this **comprehensive and multifaceted partnership**.



The **Delegation of the European Union in Guatemala** began its activities in 1997 as a Delegation of the European Commission after the signing of the Peace Agreements that led to the intensification of cooperation activities between Guatemala and the EU. In 2009, it officially became the Delegation of the European Union in Guatemala, a diplomatic mission representing the 27 EU Member States.

After almost 25 years, the EU continues to **support inclusive and sustainable development** in Guatemala based on our core democratic values and principles. As part of its **support to democracy** in the country, the EU deployed an **EU Election Observation Mission (EOM)** of more than 100 people to observe the 2023 general elections. The EU EOM to Guatemala was one of the laureates of the Wilson Award for Public Service 2023 for its important role in the defense of democracy.

EU-Guatemala relations are developed within the legal frameworks of the **EU-Central America Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement** and the **EU-Central America Association Agreement** of which the trade pillar is provisionally applied.

## TRADE

EU trade relations with Guatemala are governed by the EU's Association Agreement with Central America since 2013. **Bilateral trade between the EU and Guatemala has more than doubled in the past 10 years.**

 <p><b>TOTAL EXPORTS EU-GUATEMALA: €1,586 M (2022)</b> Mechanical equipment and pharmaceutical products also increased by 40% and 29% respectively from 2021 to 2022.</p> <p><b>TOTAL EXPORTS GUATEMALA-EU: €1,752 M (2022)</b> Agricultural products such as palm oil and coffee to the EU have increased significantly from 2021 to 2022.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><small>According to Eurostat</small></p>	 <p><b>THE EU IS GUATEMALA'S 4<sup>TH</sup> EXPORT DESTINATION AND ITS 4<sup>TH</sup> SUPPLIER (2022)</b></p> <p><b>EU FDI STOCKS HAVE ALMOST TRIPLED OVER THE PAST TEN YEARS.</b> IN 2021, FDI ORIGINATING FROM THE EU REPRESENTED 8.6% OF GUATEMALA'S GDP.</p>
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## HUMANITARIAN AID

The EU also delivers emergency support and humanitarian assistance in case of for instance natural disasters. Since 1994, Guatemala is the country in the Central America that received the highest amount of humanitarian funds with over EUR 96 million between 1994 and 2023.

- In 2022, the EU mobilised EUR 5 million from the Solidarity Emergency Aid Reserve to respond to the food insecurity crisis in the Central American Dry Corridor.
- In 2020, after the devastating impact of hurricanes ETA and IOTA, EUR EU 7.3 million were allocated to respond to food security, nutrition water, sanitation and hygiene needs in the most affected areas.



Global Gateway

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## COOPERATION

The EU is **one of Guatemala's most important cooperation partners**. Through its multiannual cooperation programme with an allocation of **EUR 141 for 2021-2024** and the envisaged **Global Gateway Investment Agenda**, the EU seeks to support Guatemala's sustainable and inclusive development agenda in three priority areas:



## GREEN TRANSITION

With a specific focus on climate change and energy. The EU supports the development of inclusive, **sustainable and resilient small-scale agriculture**, better linked to value-chains, fostering growth, improving healthy food environments, and **reducing malnutrition rates**, specifically in rural areas. The EU also supports strengthening climate change governance and the capacities of the public institutions.

*The envisaged **Global Gateway** action "**Fostering Ecological Transition in Petén**", stands as a priority. It will focus on the ecological transition of Petén (forestry, sustainable agriculture, water and sanitation). With a total EU budget contribution of **EUR 40 million**, this comprehensive initiative receives co-financing from Spain, Sweden, Germany, Ireland and various other international organisations. In this regard, feasibility studies will be launched for the construction of a sanitary landfill, four sewage networks and wastewater treatment plants in the Petén department.*



## SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH

The EU promotes decent employment, the transition from an informal to a formal economy, digitalisation and digital skills, and a sound investment climate.

*The envisaged **Global Gateway** action "Supporting Inclusive Economic Development in Guatemala" will focus on bolstering the competitiveness of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises, as well as cooperatives, with a total EU contribution amounting to EUR 34.41 million.*



## GOOD GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING HEALTH

The EU promotes strong, accountable, and transparent national, regional, and local administrations that can efficiently design and implement sustainability-oriented national policies. The EU also promotes actions related to health such as to fight contamination and improve water supply.

As part of this key priority area for engagement, the EU also supports **civil society and human rights** in Guatemala. It supports as well civil society and human right defenders.

In addition to our bilateral cooperation, Guatemala also benefits from the EU's wider **cooperation with Central America at regional level**.

*The "**Cinco Bosques**" initiative to preserve the **Five Great Forests of Mesoamerica** seeks to form multi-stakeholder partnerships to protect 10 million hectares of forests, restore 500,000 hectares of forest, prevent species extinction and eradicate illegal cattle farming by 2030, ensuring that forests are used sustainably.*

