

ADVANCING AFGHAN TRADE

EU TRADE-RELATED ASSISTANCE



EU Delegation and Afghan Government convenes the Steering Committee meeting on "Advancing Afghan Trade"

Joint Press Release of the EU Delegation in Afghanistan and the Ministry of Industry and Commerce

On 23 July the EU Delegation in Kabul and the Afghan government officials and private sector convened the Third Project Steering Committee of the Advancing Afghan Trade (AAT) project, which is facilitated by the International Trade Centre. AAT is an EU-funded initiative, launched in November 2016 which aims to strengthen the country's trade capacities so as to capitalize on the accession of the country to the World Trade Organization. The project supports Afghanistan to improve its business environment in order for Afghan products to integrate the regional and global value chains.

Participants reviewed the progress over the last 3 years of the project, and discussed plans for the activities to be further implemented until the end of this phase in six-month time.

'Working on trade in Afghanistan is working on peace. We are supporting the Afghan Government's trade agenda through the 'Advancing Afghan Trade'. EU prioritizes economic integration and connectivity as a key to achieving peace' said Pierre Mayaudon, Ambassador and Head of EU Delegation in Afghanistan. 'I announce the continuation of the EU's support for years 2020-24 through phase 2 of the project, funded by €12 million' Ambassador Mayaudon added.

The 'Advancing Afghan Trade' EU-funded project supports MoIC's objective to reach \$1.0bn of exports this year' said Ajmal Ahmady, Afghanistan's Minister of Industry & Commerce.

In the coming months, until the end of phase 1, the project will further support bilateral dialogues with trading partners from the region, coach SMEs on exports procedures, launch the Afghanistan trade portal, see the Afghanistan National Trade Policy officially endorsed by the Afghan government and finalize the preparations and design of the phase 2 due to start in the 1st quarter of 2020.



Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
Ministry of Industry & Commerce



This project is funded by
the European Union