EU-Thailand Partnership and Cooperation Agreement

2022/0252(NLE) - 16/12/2022 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to conclude, on behalf of the European Union, of the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Partnership and Cooperation between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and the Kingdom of Thailand, of the other part.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: Council may adopt the act only if Parliament has given its consent to the act.

BACKGROUND: the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Partnership and Cooperation between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and the Kingdom of Thailand, of the other part, was signed on behalf of the Union, subject to its conclusion at a later date. It is now necessary to approve the Agreement on behalf of the Union.

CONTENT: this draft Council Decision seeks to approve, on behalf of the Union, the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Partnership and Cooperation between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and the Kingdom of Thailand, of the other part.

The Agreement broadens considerably the scope for mutual engagement in several areas, including justice and home affairs as well as dialogue in the economic and trade domain. The Agreement strengthens the cooperation across a wide spectrum of policy fields, including human rights, non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, counter-terrorism, the fight against corruption and organised crime, trade, migration, the environment, energy, climate change, transport, science and technology, employment and social affairs, education, agriculture, culture, etc.

Respect for democratic principles and human rights, as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and other relevant international human rights instruments applicable to the Parties, on the one hand, and for the principle of the rule of law on the other, underpins the internal and international policies of the Parties and constitutes an essential element of the Agreement.

Under the Agreement, the Parties:

- confirm their commitment to promoting sustainable development in all its dimensions, to cooperating in addressing challenges of climate change and globalisation, and to contributing to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

- reaffirm their commitment to the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, adopted in 2005, and agree to strengthen cooperation with a view to further improving development performance;

- reaffirm their attachment to the principles of good governance and to the fight against corruption at all levels, notably taking into account their international obligations.

The Agreement establishes a Joint Committee that will monitor the development of the bilateral relationship between the Parties. The Agreement includes a non-execution clause that provides for the possibility of suspending the application of the Agreement in case of violation of essential elements.