EC/Turkmenistan Partnership and Cooperation Agreement

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OBJECTIVE: conclusion of a partnership and cooperation agreement between the European Communities and their Member States and Turkmenistan. SUBSTANCE: this is a mixed agreement covering sectors of Community and national competence. It is concluded for an initial period of ten years and covers the following elements: . establishment of political dialogue; . provisions on trading goods, labour conditions, establishment and operation of companies, cross-border supply of services, payments and capital, competition, intellectual, industrial and commercial property protection, legislative cooperation, economic cooperation, cooperation on human rights and democracy, cooperation in combating illegal activities and illegal immigration, cultural cooperation and financial cooperation.; . a 'human rights conditionality clause 'allowing the agreement to be suspended, even unilaterally, in the event of violation of the essential elements underlying the agreement such as respect for democracy, human rights and the principles of the market economy; . institutional framework: the agreement envisages setting up a Cooperation council, a Cooperation Committee and a Parliamentary Cooperation Committee; . provisions on customs cooperation are covered by a separate protocol. With regard to trade relations between the Community and Turkmenistan, this agreement replaces the 1989 agreement on trade and economic and commercial cooperation between the Community and the former USSR.