Basic information

2022/0252M(NLE) NLE - Non-legislative enactments	Procedure completed
EU-Thailand Partnership and Cooperation Agreement Accompanying procedure 2022/0252(NLE) **Subject** 6.40.08 Relations with Asian countries **Geographical area** Thailand	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs	KOVATCHEV Andrey (EPP)	08/09/2022
	Shadow rapporteur PICULA Tonino (S&D) PAET Urmas (Renew) SOLÉ Jordi (Greens/EFA) FOTYGA Anna (ECR)	

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
DEVE Development	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
INTA International Trade	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
EMPL Employment and Social Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
ENVI Environment, Public Health and Food Safety	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

ITRE	Industry, Research and Energy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
TRAN	Transport and Tourism	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
AGRI	Agriculture and Rural Development	Chair on behalf of committee LINS Norbert (EPP)	03/02/2023
PECH	Fisheries	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
CULT	Culture and Education	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
JURI	Legal Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
LIBE	Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
FEMM	Women's Rights and Gender Equality	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Council of the European Union

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
European External Action Service	BORRELL FONTELLES Josep

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
19/01/2023	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
24/05/2023	Vote in committee		
25/05/2023	Committee report tabled for plenary	A9-0193/2023	Summary
14/06/2023	Decision by Parliament	T9-0231/2023 T9-0232/2023	
14/06/2023	Results of vote in Parliament		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2022/0252M(NLE)
Procedure type	NLE - Non-legislative enactments
Procedure subtype	Motion for a resolution under consent procedure
Amendments and repeals	Accompanying procedure 2022/0252(NLE)
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AFET/9/10928

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE742.304	02/02/2023	
Specific opinion	AGRI	PE742.393	09/02/2023	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE745.258	08/03/2023	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A9-0193/2023	25/05/2023	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T9-0232/2023	14/06/2023	Summary

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Meetings with interest representatives published in line with the Rules of Procedure

Rapporteurs, Shadow Rapporteurs and Committee Chairs

Transparency

Name	Role	Committee	Date	Interest representatives
KOVATCHEV Andrey	Rapporteur	AFET	07/03/2023	Embassy of Thailand

EU-Thailand Partnership and Cooperation Agreement

2022/0252M(NLE) - 25/05/2023 - Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading

The Committee on Foreign Affairs adopted the report by Andrey KOVATCHEV (EPP, BG) containing a motion for a non-legislative resolution on the draft Council decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the Union, of the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Partnership and Cooperation (PCA) between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and the Kingdom of Thailand, of the other part.

EU engagement in the Indo-Pacific region

The Indo-Pacific region is home to increasingly important political, trade and security partners for the EU, including Thailand. A free, connected and stable Indo-Pacific region based on rules and respect for international law, in line with European principles and standards, is highly desirable for the EU' s security and interests.

The renewed negotiations on the PCA concluded on 11 June 2022 with the aim of establishing a modern, broad and mutually beneficial partnership, based on shared interests and principles.

Negotiations between the EU and Thailand on a bilateral free trade agreement (FTA) commenced in 2013, but the EU put the negotiations on hold in 2014. The EU and Thailand relaunched the negotiations on 15 March 2023.

The report reiterated the political significance of strong bilateral relations, based on shared values and principles, between ASEAN and the EU in general, and between Thailand and the EU in particular. It recalled its call for the swift implementation of the EU Global Gateway strategy in coordination with the Indo-Pacific strategy and welcomed the announcement of a EUR 10 billion financial package to accelerate infrastructure investments in ASEAN countries with the aim of building a new, economically sustainable partnership, in particular with regard to the green transition and sustainable connectivity.

EU-Thailand PCA

Members welcomed the conclusion of the PCA, which will provide a legal framework for enhancing longstanding, bilateral political and economic relations and collaboration on issues of global concern and represents an important step towards strengthening the EU's role in the Indo-Pacific region. They expressed hope that the conclusion of the PCA will provide a strong impetus for greater cooperation between the EU and Thailand for the benefit of all EU and Thai citizens, residents, businesses and other stakeholders. The report called for **visa-free travel** to Thailand for all EU citizens and supported working towards a visa-free regime for travel to the EU for Thai citizens.

Members stressed the parties' common objective of strengthening the global response to **climate change** and its impact and enhancing cooperation on policies to help mitigate climate change in accordance with the Paris Agreement.

The report highlighted that Thailand faces increasing environmental degradation in many regions, including the loss of biodiversity and declining wildlife populations, deforestation, desertification, water scarcity, and air and water pollution. Cooperation is needed to address these challenges.

Moreover, Members considered that the EU should maintain its commitment to **sustainable fishing** in the Indo-Pacific and strengthen its cooperation with Thailand on combating overfishing, overcapacity and IUU fishing in the Indo-Pacific. The Commission is urged to include canned fish and seafood as 'sensitive products' for the purposes of possible trade negotiations with Thailand.

The Thai authorities are urged to:

- respect the role of civil society organisations, **human rights defenders**, democracy defenders, civil society activists, journalists and others, to ensure freedom of expression and assembly;

- immediately put a halt to the deportations of ethnic **Rohingya and Uyghurs** and other asylum seekers, which are in blatant violation of fundamental international obligations that are binding on Thailand, particularly the principle of non-refoulement;

- take concrete steps towards the abolition of the **death penalty**.

EU-Thailand Partnership and Cooperation Agreement

2022/0252M(NLE) - 14/06/2023 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 552 votes to 36, with 24 abstentions, a non-legislative resolution on the draft Council decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the 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.

EU engagement in the Indo-Pacific region

Members highlighted the fact that Thailand is an important partner in the Indo-Pacific region, which has become one of the EU's geopolitical priorities. The EU's new Indo-Pacific strategy needs to be implemented swiftly to give the EU's partners in the region the opportunity to address common challenges together, to defend the rules-based international order and to stand up for shared EU-ASEAN values and principles.

Parliament reiterated the political significance of strong bilateral relations, based on shared values and principles, between ASEAN and the EU in general, and between Thailand and the EU in particular. It recalled its call for the swift implementation of the EU Global Gateway strategy in coordination with the Indo-Pacific strategy and welcomed the announcement of a EUR 10 billion financial package to accelerate infrastructure investments in ASEAN countries with the aim of building a new, economically sustainable partnership, in particular with regard to the green transition and sustainable connectivity.

EU-Thailand PCA

Parliament welcomed the conclusion of the PCA, a **comprehensive and modern agreement** which will make it possible to move towards new models of sustainable growth and development and better respond to current challenges in a wide number of policy areas, including the environment, energy, climate change, transport, science and technology, trade, employment and social affairs, human rights, education, agriculture, migration, culture, nuclear non-proliferation, counterterrorism, and the fight against corruption and organised crime.

Members called for **visa-free travel** to Thailand for all EU citizens and supported working towards a visa-free regime for travel to the EU for Thai citizens.

Given that Thailand is the ninth country in the world most affected by climate change, Parliament stressed the parties' common objective of strengthening the global response to climate change and its impact and enhancing cooperation on policies to help mitigate climate change in accordance with the Paris Agreement.

The resolution highlighted that Thailand faces **increasing environmental degradation** in many regions, including the loss of biodiversity and declining wildlife populations, deforestation, desertification, water scarcity, and air and water pollution. Cooperation is needed to address these challenges.

Moreover, Parliament considered that the EU should maintain its commitment to **sustainable fishing** in the Indo-Pacific and strengthen its cooperation with Thailand on combating overfishing, overcapacity and IUU fishing in the Indo-Pacific. The Commission is urged to include canned fish and seafood as 'sensitive products' for the purposes of possible trade negotiations with Thailand.

The Thai authorities are urged to:

- step up their implementation efforts, as well as efforts to combat gender-based violence and empower women and girls, particularly migrant women, women from rural areas and women belonging to minorities;

- respect the role of civil society organisations, human rights defenders, democracy defenders, civil society activists, journalists and others, to ensure freedom of expression and assembly;

- abide by its international obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and swiftly ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance;

- immediately put a halt to the deportations of ethnic **Rohingya and Uyghurs** and other asylum seekers, which are in blatant violation of fundamental international obligations that are binding on Thailand, particularly the principle of non-refoulement;

- ratify ILO Conventions Nos 87, 98 and 155, to effectively guarantee workers' rights to organise and strike and to recognise the same rights for all workers, regardless of their country of origin;

- take concrete steps towards the abolition of the death penalty.