



Council of the
European Union

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**7857/1/19
REV 1**

**COASI 48
ASIE 17
CFSP/PESC 236
WTO 87
MIGR 40
DEVGEN 63
SUSTDEV 50
ENV 341
CLIMA 93
ENER 195
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RECH 189**

'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 2)/Council
Subject: EU-Pakistan Strategic Engagement Plan
- Approval

1. Since its adoption in 2012, the EU-Pakistan 5-year Engagement Plan has provided the overall political framework for the EU's engagement with Pakistan, building on the EU-Pakistan Cooperation Agreement¹, which has been defining the legal framework of the EU-Pakistani relations, since 2004. The EU-Pakistan 5-year Engagement Plan expired at the end of 2017.

¹ OJ L 378, 23.12.2004, p. 23.

2. In the Council conclusions on Pakistan of 18 July 2016², the Council invited the High Representative and the European Commission to initiate consultations with Pakistan on a framework for engagement beyond the current 5-year Engagement Plan, with particular priority given to human rights, the strengthening of democracy, rule of law and governance, as well as migration.
3. In the Council conclusions of 17 July 2017³, it is stipulated that in line with the Council conclusions of 18 July 2016, the EEAS and the Commission had initiated consultations with Pakistan on a political framework to replace the 5-year Engagement Plan through a new EU-Pakistan Strategic Engagement Plan.
4. On 14 September 2018, the EEAS transmitted to the Council a proposal for a EU- Pakistan Strategic Engagement Plan (WK 10651/2018) to be signed by the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy on behalf of the EU with the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

In the new Strategic Engagement Plan, several sectors of thematic cooperation have been reinforced or introduced, with special attention to peace and security, democracy, rule of law, good governance, and human rights, migration, as well as energy and climate change, education, culture, science and technology.

5. In the Council conclusions of 19 November 2018⁴, the EU looked forward to strengthening its framework for engagement with Pakistan, through the signature of the new EU-Pakistan Strategic Engagement Plan (SEP) at the earliest possible occasion. The Council requested the High Representative and the European Commission to regularly report on the implementation of the SEP.
6. Having examined the text of the EU-Pakistan Strategic Engagement Plan, the Asia-Oceania Working Party agreed on the text (WK 10651/2018 REV 5) on 22 February 2019. Pakistan communicated its agreement to the text of the EU-Pakistan Strategic Engagement Plan on 20 March 2019.

² 11246/16, para 13.

³ 11160/17, para 15.

⁴ 13824/18, para 11.

7. The Strategic Engagement Plan does not, nor is it intended to, create any legal obligations on either side under domestic or international law.
8. On 25 March 2019, on the occasion of the 4th Pakistan-EU Strategic Dialogue in Islamabad, the High Representative and the Pakistani Minister of Foreign Affairs announced that agreement was reached on the text of the Strategic Engagement Plan and that its signature would take place upon the completion of the authorisation process on the EU's side.
9. It is necessary that the Council authorises the signing of the EU-Pakistan Strategic Engagement Plan on behalf of the EU. The envisaged date for signature has not been agreed yet.
10. The Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to recommend that the Council authorises the signing of the EU-Pakistan Strategic Engagement Plan on behalf of the EU as set out in doc. WK 10651/2018 REV 5.
