

**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM ON THE FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT
ON PARTNERSHIP AND CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN
UNION AND ITS MEMBER STATES, OF THE ONE PART, AND THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES, OF THE OTHER PART**

Title of Treaty

Framework Agreement on Partnership and Co-operation between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of the Philippines, of the other part

Command Paper Number: 8720

Subject Matter

The document covered by this Explanatory Memorandum is a Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) between the European Union and its Member States and the Republic of the Philippines. The Agreement provides a legal framework for further engagement and co-operation between the EU and the Philippines across a broad range of areas, including political dialogue, trade, energy, transport, investment, human rights, education, science and technology, justice, asylum and migration.

The agreement was signed in Brussels on 11 July 2012, by the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Baroness Ashton and the Foreign Minister of the Republic of the Philippines, Albert del Rosario.

The Agreement is a mixed competence agreement and must therefore be ratified by all Member States as well as by the European Union itself. 6 member states have already ratified the Agreement.

Ministerial Responsibility

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs is the Minister with overall responsibility for UK policy on the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy. The Secretary of State for Business also has an interest.

Policy Implications

General

Closer EU engagement and partnership with the Philippines is in the UK's interests, as it will allow us to leverage EU resources and influence in our own efforts to deliver UK objectives in the Philippines. The PCA provides a solid basis on which to strengthen ties between the EU and the Philippines, including political dialogue, trade relations and development assistance.

The trade elements of the PCA based on WTO principles should encourage greater trade between EU Member States and the Philippines, by removing

barriers and contributing to a more transparent business environment for investors and exporters.

Closer EU engagement with the Philippines on natural resources is important for UK and EU long-term interests. The Philippines has considerable natural resource reserves which could be of value to European companies working with Filipino partners. This, alongside increased trade, will have a positive impact on our Prosperity agenda.

Financial

The Agreement does not commit the UK to any expenditure beyond its existing contributions to EU budgets.

Reservations and Declarations

None.

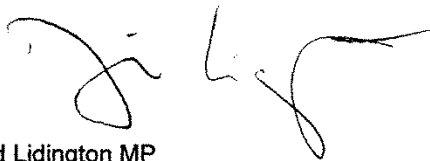
Implementation

The Agreement will enter into force on the first day of the month following the date on which the Parties notify each other of the completion of the procedures necessary for that purpose. No new legislation is required to enable the United Kingdom to implement the Agreement. The United Kingdom will, however, need to specify the Agreement as an EU Treaty under section 1(3) of the European Communities Act 1972, which will require an Order in Council. The OIOO rule has been considered as part of the process of concluding the Treaty, but is not applicable.

Application to Gibraltar: Yes

Consultation

The relevant Whitehall departments were consulted during negotiations on the text of the Agreement, and gave their approval to the final draft.



The Rt Hon David Lidington MP
Minister for Europe
Foreign and Commonwealth Office