

**FROM THE HISTORY OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN UZBEKISTAN  
AND THE GREAT BRITAIN**

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The last decade of the 20th century is considered a period of great change in the history of post-Soviet countries, when, with the collapse of the USSR, 15 countries gained the opportunity to independently develop their own state. This opportunity opened the way for Uzbekistan to pursue an independent foreign policy and take a worthy place in the global community. From the first days of independence, it was necessary to resolve the most important foreign policy issues and find the most optimal paths in the area of interstate political and economic relations.

The advantageous geopolitical position of our country, its comprehensive, well-thought-out, independent and consistent foreign policy, based primarily on national interests, have ensured the recognition of our state by the world community. "Independence and sovereignty have allowed us to enter the global community and establish equal and mutually beneficial relations with all countries."<sup>1</sup>

The establishment and deepening of mutually beneficial relations with the countries of the European Union play a special role in the integration of the Republic of Uzbekistan into the world community. The "Partnership and Cooperation Agreement" between Uzbekistan and the European Union, signed in Florence on June 21, 1996, and which entered into force on July 1, 1999, became the legal basis for our country's relations with the European Union countries<sup>2</sup>.

Uzbekistan's political, economic, scientific, technical, cultural, and humanitarian ties with European countries have been developing and deepening year after year. Diplomatic relations between Uzbekistan and the United Kingdom were established on February 18, 1992. The opening of the British Council office in Uzbekistan in early 1996 marked a new step towards strengthening and expanding cooperation<sup>3</sup>.

From October 4 to 12, 1997, the British Festival was held in Tashkent. The festival included an exhibition of products from approximately 30 British companies, an exhibition titled "The Heritage of the British Royal Family," and a seminar on textile machinery and equipment.

The parliaments of the two countries have cooperation groups, the legal basis for whose activities was created by a Memorandum of Understanding signed on September 22, 2010, between the Oliy Majlis group and the Britain-Uzbekistan All-Party Parliamentary Group<sup>4</sup>. The visit of the delegation led by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan A. Kamilov to the United Kingdom on November 19-22, 2013 was an important event in the intensification of interstate relations.

As a result, positive momentum has emerged in bilateral trade and economic cooperation between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the United Kingdom. Over 40 British delegations have

<sup>1</sup> Karimov I. The Most Important Tasks of Coordinating Democratic Reforms at the Current Stage. – T.: Uzbekiton, 1996. – 3 p.

<sup>2</sup> Narodnoe Slovo, May 6, 2014, No. 87 (6017).

<sup>3</sup> R. Shamsutdinov, H. Mominov "History of Uzbekistan" Tashkent---2013.661—p.

<sup>4</sup> Narodnoe Slovo, May 2013

visited Uzbekistan in recent years. The two sides are holding consultations between their foreign ministries and engaging in dialogue on Afghanistan. In 2015, the volume of mutual trade between Uzbekistan and the United Kingdom amounted to \$105.7 million, while at the end of 2016, the trade turnover between Uzbekistan and the United Kingdom amounted to \$151.3 million, with imports amounting to \$110.7 million<sup>5</sup>.

With the advent of a new foreign policy and reformist dynamic in Uzbekistan under the leadership of President Sh. Mirziyoyev since 2017, cooperation with the UK has reached a new level. In April 2019, the UK Minister for Europe visited Tashkent and stated that the UK was prepared to support Uzbekistan. In June 2023, trade and investment agreements were discussed. As of 31 December 2024, over 163 companies with 100% UK investment were registered in Uzbekistan. In August 2024, the parties agreed to further intensify interparliamentary cooperation.

Thus, the area of security and the rule of law became one of the pillars of the new level of relations. Uzbekistan and the United Kingdom signed a Partnership and Cooperation Agreement, which provides most-favored-nation treatment in trade and a legal basis for further cooperation.

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<sup>5</sup> <https://mineconomy.uz>