

**PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY IN COOPERATION BETWEEN UZBEKISTAN
AND THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Ismatullayev Farxodjon Odiljonovich,

Doctor of Historical Sciences (DSc), Associate Professor.

E-mail: ismatullayevfarxodjon@gmail.com

Orcid 0009-0004-3159-4371

Abstract

This article provides a comprehensive and systematic analysis of the formation, institutional development, and principal directions of interparliamentary cooperation between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the European Union. The study examines the evolution of parliamentary diplomacy within the broader framework of Uzbekistan–EU relations, identifying its legal foundations, organizational mechanisms, and functional dimensions. Particular attention is given to the role of parliamentary diplomacy in promoting democratic reforms, enhancing legislative processes, ensuring parliamentary oversight, and strengthening sustainable bilateral dialogue. The article also assesses the impact of interparliamentary interaction on political modernization, harmonization of national legislation with European standards, and the consolidation of mutually beneficial strategic partnership.

Keywords

parliamentary diplomacy, Uzbekistan–Germany relations, Bundestag, Oliy Majlis, legislative process, international cooperation.

Annotasiya

Mazkur maqolada O‘zbekiston Respublikasi va Yevropa Ittifoqi o‘rtasidagi parlamentlararo hamkorlikning shakllanishi, institutsional rivojlanishi hamda ustuvor yo‘nalishlari kompleks va tizimli ravishda tahlil qilingan. Tadqiqotda parlament diplomatiyasining huquqiy asoslari, tashkiliy mexanizmlari va funksional jihatlari yoritilib, uning O‘zbekiston–Yevropa Ittifoqi munosabatlari tizimidagi o‘rni ochib berilgan. Shuningdek, parlament diplomatiyasining demokratik islohotlarni chuqurlashtirish, qonun ijodkorligi sifatini oshirish, parlament nazoratini kuchaytirish hamda barqaror siyosiy muloqotni rivojlantirishdagi ahamiyati ilmiy asosda baholangan. Maqolada parlamentlararo hamkorlikning milliy qonunchilikni Yevropa standartlariga yaqinlashtirish, siyosiy modernizatsiya jarayonlarini qo‘llab-quvvatlash va o‘zaro manfaatli strategik sheriklikni mustahkamlashga qo‘shayotgan hissasi tahlil etilgan.

Kalit so‘zlar

parlament diplomatiyasi, O‘zbekiston–Germaniya munosabatlari, Bundestag, Oliy Majlis, qonun ijodkorligi, xalqaro hamkorlik.

Аннотация

В статье проведён комплексный и системный анализ становления, институционального развития и приоритетных направлений межпарламентского сотрудничества между Республикой Узбекистан и Европейским союзом. Рассматриваются

правовые основы, организационные механизмы и функциональные аспекты парламентской дипломатии, а также её место в системе отношений Узбекистана и Европейского союза. Особое внимание уделено роли парламентской дипломатии в углублении демократических реформ, совершенствовании законотворческой деятельности, усилении парламентского контроля и развитии устойчивого политического диалога. В работе также дана научная оценка вклада межпарламентского взаимодействия в сближение национального законодательства с европейскими стандартами, поддержку процессов политической модернизации и укрепление взаимовыгодного стратегического партнёрства..

Ключевые слова

парламентская дипломатия, узбекско-германские отношения, Бундестаг, Олий Мажлис, законодательная деятельность, международное сотрудничество.

In recent years, profound transformations have been carried out in the spheres of state-building and social development in the Republic of Uzbekistan. In particular, the conduct of elections in a transparent manner and on the basis of democratic principles, which is a key factor of democratic development, represents a major step toward advancing these areas. The practical manifestation of this can be seen in the elections held in November 2024, the conditions created for political parties, and the broad powers granted to the parliament.

The role of Parliament in the country's development is extremely significant. Without the adoption of vital and practically important laws that ensure citizens' freedom of activity, sustainable development cannot be achieved. This process, in many cases, depends on political parties and their activities. It should be emphasized that for rapid national development, there is also a strong need for foreign investment. Investors, in turn, invest capital only in countries that are legally guaranteed and meet international standards. Therefore, further development in this direction and the creation of laws that comply with international norms cannot be achieved without studying the experience and achievements of major states and international organizations in this field.

Over the past period, the Parliament of the Republic of Uzbekistan has paid particular attention to international cooperation. In this regard, cooperation with the European Union, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, and the parliaments of developed countries deserves special attention.

On 30 October 2018, a meeting was held at the Senate and the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis with Manfred Grund, Chairman of the Bundestag parliamentary group "Federal Republic of Germany – Central Asia" [1]. During the meeting, stability in Uzbekistan and the ongoing political and economic reforms were highly appreciated by the German side. Taking this into account, the "International Parliamentary Scholarship" program organized by the German Bundestag aims to familiarize promising professionals with the activities of the German Parliament and further strengthen inter-parliamentary relations.

Each year, nearly 120 candidates are given the opportunity to undertake professional training through internships at the Bundestag [2]. In October 2018, the Bundestag adopted a decision to include Uzbekistan in the list of participating countries of this program. This, in turn, is of great importance for enabling specialists to study international experience and for establishing bilateral inter-parliamentary cooperation.

A logical continuation of cooperation in this area took place on 17 June 2019, when a meeting was held at the lower house of Parliament between the Speaker of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Nuriddinjon Ismailov, and a delegation of the Bundestag of the Federal Republic of Germany headed by Peter Ramsauer, Chairman of the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Development [3].

Currently, a “Uzbekistan – Germany” parliamentary cooperation group operates within the Oliy Majlis, while the Bundestag has established the “Federal Republic of Germany – Central Asia” group. The activities of these groups are clearly reflected in strengthening and supporting cooperation between Uzbekistan and Germany at the legal level, facilitating inter-parliamentary exchange of experience, and enhancing legislative practice [4].

Cooperation with Germany in this field is currently at a stage of dynamic development. Both parliaments are developing practical measures aimed at further expanding cooperation in a number of pressing areas of the modern era. These include ensuring regional security, conducting economic and хозяйственная activity efficiently and rationally, protecting the environment, and improving legislative activities aimed at preserving natural, land, and water resources [5]. One of the key aspects of the discussions is the legal provision of measures to adapt economic sectors to climate change.

On 13 November 2018, a meeting was held at the Senate of the Oliy Majlis with a delegation of the Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection of the Federal Republic of Germany, headed by Parliamentary State Secretary and Deputy Minister of Justice Christian Lange [6]. During the meeting, views were exchanged on further expanding inter-parliamentary relations between the upper chamber of Parliament and the Bundestag of the Federal Republic of Germany, strengthening the role of legislative authority in building a democratic state governed by the rule of law and developing civil society [8]. Information was also provided on the measures being taken in Uzbekistan to strengthen parliamentary oversight over the activities of state authorities and administration, establish an effective judicial system, and reinforce and develop the legal foundations for combating corruption.

On 26 February 2021, an online briefing was held between members of the Oliy Majlis and the Bundestag within the framework of the “Germany – Central Asia” parliamentary group [7]. The event was attended by the First Deputy Chairman of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis, Sodiq Safaev, members of the Parliament of Uzbekistan, Chairman of the Bundestag “Germany – Central Asia” parliamentary group Manfred Grund and members of its presidium, as well as representatives of the Federal Government. During the briefing, issues related to attracting German investments and modern technologies to the economy of Uzbekistan, adopting laws with direct impact, and exchanging experience in exercising parliamentary oversight over budget policy were discussed.

On 24 October 2025, the Chairman of the Committee on International Relations, Foreign Economic Relations, Foreign Investments and Tourism of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis, Alisher Agzamkhodjaev, met with a delegation of the Bundestag of the Federal Republic of Germany headed by Stefan Mayer, a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee [7]. The meeting focused on expanding bilateral inter-parliamentary cooperation, organizing joint events with the “Germany – Central Asia” inter-parliamentary friendship group, as well as intensifying cooperation in trade and economic, investment, tourism, and cultural-humanitarian fields[8]. It was also emphasized that strategic partnership cooperation between Uzbekistan and Germany is developing actively in all directions. Stefan Mayer noted that Uzbekistan is Germany’s reliable



partner in Central Asia and highly assessed the large-scale reforms being implemented in the country in the fields of socio-economic development, legislation and law, civil society, and public welfare.

In conclusion, inter-parliamentary cooperation between Uzbekistan and Germany is being formed as an important institutional pillar of bilateral relations. This cooperation plays a significant role in supporting democratic reforms, improving the quality of law-making, developing national human resources, and creating legal mechanisms responsive to global challenges. The consistent development of parliamentary diplomacy serves to further deepen the strategic partnership between Uzbekistan and Germany. At the same time, parliamentary cooperation creates opportunities to become acquainted with the latest global achievements in this field and serves as an important factor in the development of civil society in the country.

References:

1. Information Service of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Meeting of the Speaker of the Legislative Chamber N. Ismailov with a delegation of the German Bundestag. — Tashkent, 17 June 2019.
2. Каримова М. Манфред Грунд: “Ўзбекистон “Халқаро парламент стипендияси” дастурига киритилди” // Халқ сўзи. – 2018. – 30 октябрь.
3. Раҳимов Ш. Ўзбекистон – Германия: ўзаро муносабатлар янада кучаяди // Халқ сўзи. – 2019. – 18 июнь.
4. Файзиева Д. Тинчлик ва барқарорлик йўлидаги ҳамкорлик // Ўзбекистон иқтисодий ахборотномаси. – Тошкент, 2021. – № 2. – Б. 30.
5. Азизова М. Ўзбекистон – Германия: манфаатли алоқалар ўрнатилди // Халқ сўзи. – 2018. – 28 ноябрь.
6. Каримова М. Онлайн Брифинг ҳамкорликнинг истиқболли йўналишларига бағишланди // Халқ сўзи. – 2021. – 27 февраль.
7. Safarovich, S. S., & Odiljonovich, I. F. (2020). Symbiosis of civilizations as an important factor in the formation and development of scientific thinking in Uzbekistan. *Mental Enlightenment Scientific-Methodological Journal*, 1-12.
8. Ўзбекистон ва Германия ўртасида парламентлараро ҳамкорлик истиқболлари муҳокама қилинди. <https://senat.uz/oz/international-cooperation/post-4297>.