

**EU-AFGHANISTAN CONFERENCE**

**Berlin, 13 June 2008**

**DECL 2008**

## **EU-AFGHANISTAN JOINT DECLARATION 2008**

### **Committing to a new EU-Afghan Partnership**

#### **Security**

The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the EU emphasize the commitment to strengthening their partnership, in the spirit of the former conference, the EU-Afghanistan Joint Declaration and the Afghanistan Compact. Both Parties

1. recognize the principle of Afghan ownership and welcome gradual transition of responsibility for the security sector to the Afghan government, its military (ANA) and police forces (ANP),
2. deem it necessary for European support to remain in Afghanistan until the Afghan National Army is ready to take full responsibility, stressing the commitment to fostering this transition and emphasize technical and financial support for the development of ANA and ANP,
3. agree to further European investment in training of Afghan military and police forces and in the modernization of their equipment to ensure better Afghan capability to maintain stability in Afghanistan,
4. undertake efforts to establish a coordinated command between ISAF, OEF and the Afghan National Army. This should be on both national and provincial levels. The EU and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan both regard this as a crucial prerequisite for effective and flexible use of military forces.
5. call for an increase in the European Union's police mission (EUPOL). The aim of EUPOL should be furthermore to improve international standards and human rights within the Afghan police.

The benchmarks agreed upon in the Afghan National Development Strategy and Afghanistan Compact should be pursued, so as to make it possible to evaluate the progress in the process of reconstructing Afghanistan.

Furthermore,

6. The European Union and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan would like to underline the importance of using the European diplomatic channels in relations with Afghanistan's neighbouring countries in order to provide security within Afghanistan and within the region. Efforts shall especially be undertaken in the field of border control, means shall be undertaken to improve the quality of the forces stationing at the borders.
7. The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the EU have identified the need to further strengthen its efforts in the issue area of Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR). These programmes have to be coordinated on a country-wide level. The Disarmament and Reintegration Commission (D&RC)'s programmes "Disarmament of Illegal Armed Groups" and "Afghanistan's New Beginning Programme (ANBP)" will be a central focus of cooperation.
8. National Reconciliation is a fundamental prerequisite for sustainable security and stability. Therefore, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the EU aims to increasing their support of current initiatives. The Parties would like to stress the importance of Afghan National Commission for Peace in the process of reconciliation.

9. The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the EU is aware of the pressing issue of wide-spread illegal drug production and trafficking. Poppy cultivation serves as the major source of financing of local conflicts and terrorism. Together we will intensify our counter-narcotics efforts in the framework of the National Drugs Control Strategy and in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

### **Justice Sector Reform**

Both the European Union and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan emphasise the NEED TO ESTABLISH AN EFFECTIVE RULE OF LAW IN THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN.

1. The EU and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan recognise the importance of the issue of transitional justice.
2. We recognise the need to improve the credibility, integrity and professionalism of the justice institutions as well as the ongoing training of the members of the judiciary.
3. The reform of the Afghan judicial system shall be undertaken. Better co-ordination of judicial organs is required by the Afghan government, as well as better provision for human resources. Efforts also need to be made to provide an adequate physical structure for the Afghan Courts. The European Union will work with the Afghan institutions to improve the standard of legal education and the materials available to members of the legal practice and students of law.
4. The Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board shall be responsible for evaluating how the financial means for the reform of judiciary are spent.
5. The cooperation between Independent Human Rights Commission and government of Afghanistan shall be strengthened. Moreover, the EU would like to strengthen their representation working on human rights and to coordinate efforts on fulfilling the conventions on Human Rights. The Human Rights provided for by the Afghan constitution will be integral to the administration of Afghan justice, particularly with regard to those of women.
6. Cooperation between the European Union and Afghan judiciary shall be encouraged and provided with financial support by Law and Order Trust Fund for Afghanistan.
7. Law and Order Trust Fund for Afghanistan will also provide financial aid to fighting corruption and nepotism. It will support the efforts to improve the transparency and independence of the judiciary as well as higher judicial salaries. The appointment of judges shall take place on the basis of merit.

CONSIDERING the present challenges to the stability of the legitimate Afghan government by insurgent and terrorist forces,

REGOCNIZING that sustainability may only be achieved by helping the Afghan people to build up strong and accountable institutions that will be able to promote the rule of law, democratic participation and economic development,

ACKNOWLEDING the principle of Afghan ownership and cooperation with the international community,

The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the European Union are willing to enforce the following measures in order to improve political and economic governance within Afghanistan:

### **Political Governance**

1. To fit the specific needs of the Afghanistan democratization, equality, efficiency and accountability should be strengthened on the provincial and central level.
2. To frame an inclusive approach to achieve lasting political stability in Afghanistan, civilian aid should be increased in comparison to military assistance. The inclusive approach of Provincial Reconstructing Teams, including military and non-military measures, should be applied in every field in order to combine security and reconstruction.

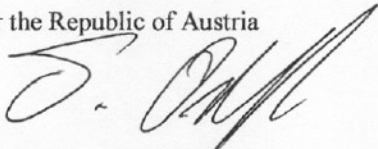
3. We deem it necessary to provide for a regular dialogue between Afghanistan and the European Union, preferably in a form of annual conference, in order to facilitate the communication between these Parties.
4. Infrastructure is a prerequisite for sustainable development, it is indispensable for an effective governing of the whole territory by the Afghan government. The focus should especially be put on building roads, schools, electricity facilities and creating efficient water supply systems.
5. We stress the urgent need to ensure free and secure elections as a crucial condition on the way to a democratic country and to enforce the present democratic structures.
6. Europe will further support the Afghan Government in their effort to strengthen the local Shuras on the district level.

### Economic Governance

7. The European Union expresses its support to the application of Afghanistan for the membership in the World Trade Organisation.
8. A regulatory framework should be established in order to secure a competitive private market.
9. Particular attention should be paid by the Afghan government to encourage the development of private-public-partnerships.
10. Europe and Afghanistan will deepen their trade ties under the "Everything But Arms Initiative", granting Afghanistan duty-free access for all goods, except for arms and ammunition.
11. Means should be undertaken to provide for reasonable alternatives to the illegal poppy cultivation. Also, we promise to support efforts to expand agricultural production and to undertake steps to increase access to the European Market. This means to motivate and enable farmers to stop the cultivation of poppy, furthermore, to create information in order to stop the production and the trafficking of illicit drugs.

Done at Berlin on the thirteenth day of June in the year two thousand and eight.

For the Republic of Austria



For the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan



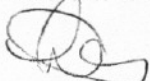
For the Kingdom of Belgium

*Cristina Talavera*

For the Republic of Bulgaria



For the Czech Republic



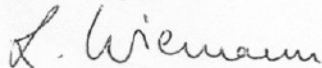
For the Kingdom of Denmark

*Sarah Struck*

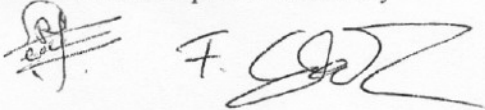
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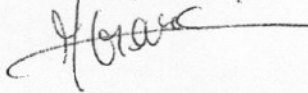
For the French Republic



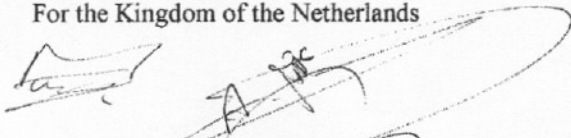
For the Federal Republic of Germany



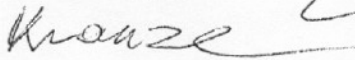
For the Republic of Italy



For the Kingdom of the Netherlands



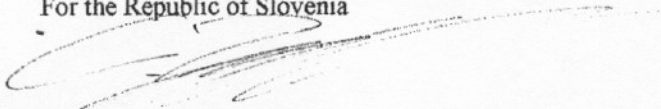
For the Republic of Poland




For the Portuguese Republic



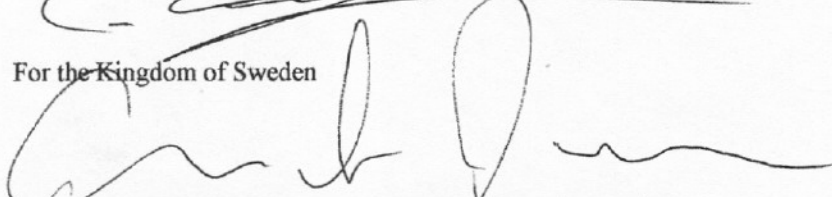
For the Republic of Slovenia



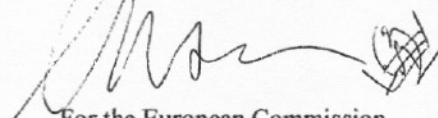
For the Kingdom of Spain



For the Kingdom of Sweden



For the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland



For the European Commission



The High Representative of the European Union for the Common Foreign and Security Policy

