



**EU-AFGHANISTAN
CONFERENCE**

Berlin, 8 October 2013

DECL 2013

**EUROPEAN UNION-AFGHANISTAN
COOPERATION AGREEMENT ON
PARTNERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT**

The *European Union* (EU) and the Government of the *Islamic Republic of Afghanistan* met today in Berlin to renew their firm commitment to the people of Afghanistan and to a sovereign, secure, free and democratic Afghanistan beyond the end of the withdrawal period, which will be concluded by the end of 2014.

The EU reaffirms its full support to Afghanistan's sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, and the non-interference by others in its internal affairs, in accordance with international law.

Based on mutual commitments, both parties reconfirm their close partnership in order to prevent the threats of terrorism, extremism and in order to develop a solid, secure and democratic country and adopt the following agreement:

A. Security

1. The European Union is fully aware that the withdrawal process needs to be gradual, allowing the complete transfer of powers over matter of security from the ISAF to the *Afghan National Security Forces* (i.e. army and police forces). The end of the withdrawal period will not mean the end of the *European Union's* support to Afghanistan.
2. As agreed at the NATO Summit in May 2012, it is of vital importance to continue strengthening the efficiency of the Afghan National Security Forces. While the *European Union* reaffirms its commitment to the withdrawal of all ISAF military forces involved in active combat missions on the agreed timeframe, we would like to stress the need for further and increased support in the training and advising of the *Afghan National Security Forces*, as well as equipment supplies, in order to uphold and ensure stability for the Afghan population and government. In this context, the cooperation on information and technical assistance is of paramount importance.

Furthermore, we highlight the importance of gender equality, recognizing the inclusion of the female personnel in training and selection procedures within the Police and Army Security Forces. Moreover, since Afghanistan understands terrorism as an external issue, we are determined to prioritize the strengthening and further development of Afghan Border Security Forces and the fight against the safe havens of international terrorism.

3. Recognizing the continued success of EUPOL in the police sector, the member states are planning to extend its engagement and prolong its duration to the end of 2015, with the possibility of a renewed extension. The EUPOL structure may serve as a practical model in the military sector in the future if the member states agree. Regarding EUPOL, the EU reiterates the importance of female police personnel and encourages Afghanistan to take further steps towards the integration of women in the police force.
4. Additionally, whilst the member states of the EU acknowledge the necessity of offering alternative livelihoods to farmers of the affected narcotics industry regions, we also stress that the co-operation and coordination with the existing mechanisms tackling the opium production and trade should be further enhanced. All this with the aim of being able to more effectively reduce this menace.
5. In conclusion of the Security topic, the EU supports the *High Peace Council* regarding the peace negotiations to help reach out to the Taliban, address their grievances, encourage them to renounce violence, respect the Afghan Constitution and re-enter society.

B. Education

The EU and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan appreciate the importance of education as a contributing factor to the development of not only the country's but also to the world's economy. Both parties also acknowledge education as key factor for social integration and the upholding of democratic values and integrity. Therefore the EU and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan reaffirm their commitment to the promotion of education subject to key reforms.

The EU will support Afghanistan, including financial aid, in the achievement of the following goals:

1. Maintenance of the educational infrastructure
2. Reformation of the education system in relation of the training of teachers, especially female personnel;

3. Enhancement of the knowledge of the students and teachers by supporting them with the possibility of exchange programs;
4. Reformation of the educational curricular system at all levels as seen appropriate by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan;
5. Promotion of gender-equality in regards to the right to education; and
6. Reduction of the illiteracy rates especially in the rural areas.

The EU and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan will work together in cooperation to achieve these goals.

C. Good Governance:

The EU highlights the importance of Afghanistan's continued work regarding the rule of law, transparent and fair presidential elections in April 2014, human rights and women's rights, and the fight against corruption,

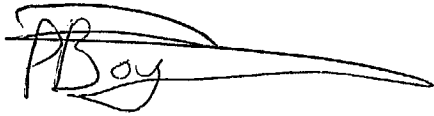
The EU and the government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan reaffirm the importance of the *Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework* (TMAF) and will continue to abide by it. Further support from the EU, both financial and technical, is dependent on the progress made on the remaining *Afghan National Priority Programs* (NPPs), which include good governance, rule of law, transparency, and justice for all, by 2014.

Additionally, the EU recognises the importance of the *Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board* (JCMB) in improving good governance in Afghanistan. The EU will rely upon the JMCB secretariat, their reports, and their monitoring mechanisms for reviewing Afghanistan's progress in terms of governance. These reports will play an essential role in determining the allocation of development funds and the prevention of the misuse of funds.

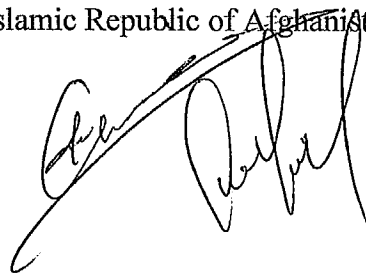
To complement the EU's support for good governance in Afghanistan, the EU will support education programs for the training of public officials, the judiciary, and lawyers, and increase awareness of democratic norms in the country.

Done at Berlin on the eighth day of October in the year two thousand and thirteen.

For the Kingdom of Belgium




For the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan



For the Republic of Cyprus




For the Kingdom of Denmark



For the French Republic



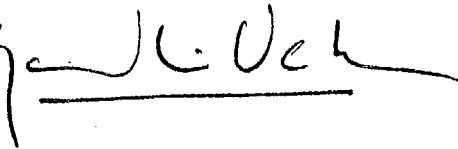
For the Federal Republic of Germany




For the Republic of Greece



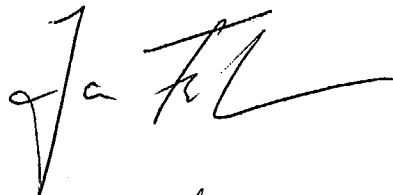
For the Republic of Italy



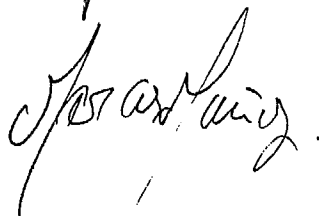
For the Kingdom of the Netherlands




For the Republic of the Poland



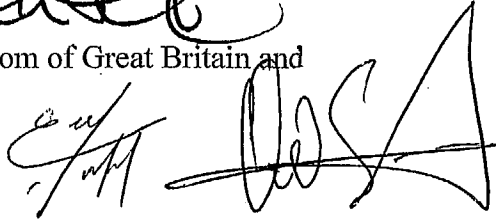
For the Kingdom of Spain



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's Common Foreign and Security Policy

