



**EU-AFGHANISTAN
CONFERENCE**

Berlin, 12 June 2009

DECL 2009

**EUROPEAN UNION-AFGHANISTAN
JOINT DECLARATION 2009**

Committing to a new EU-Afghan Partnership

Security

In view of the EU-Afghanistan Joint Declaration (2005), the Afghanistan Compact (2006) as well as the outcomes of the succeeding conferences,

Recognising that the European Union and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan have commonly agreed on a friendly partnership with mutual contributions and co-operation on a legal basis;

Aiming to strengthen the common objective of Afghan ownership in all fields especially in the field of security on a local, national and regional scale:

1. The European Union and Afghanistan recognise that the conflict has regional dimensions. The border areas of Afghanistan and Pakistan have provided a base and haven for Taliban militants.
2. The European Union and Afghanistan welcome Pakistan's renewed initiative to secure border areas. The European Union Member States and Afghanistan pledge to explore and implement all possible areas of co-operation with Afghanistan's neighbours in eliminating the threat posed to the region. The European Union and Afghanistan express gratitude at the sacrifice made by Pakistan in the Swat Valley region and call upon Pakistan to continue to take active responsibility for its bordering regions with Afghanistan with the goal of bringing peace and security to the region.
3. In view of the particular security concerns associated with the upcoming elections, the European Union and its Member States resolve to increase the number of EUPOL operating in Afghanistan and to improve the training to meet international standards of human rights. In particular, additional contributions should be directed at consolidating and expanding Quick Reaction Forces, to enable prompt responses to widely distributed security threats.
4. The European Union Member States and Afghanistan strive for enhanced strategic management and coordination in counter terrorist activities, and call upon fellow coalition members to join us in this goal.

5. The European Union Member States with international security forces in Afghanistan have a responsibility to have mandates which are expressed in clear terms. Mandates which are unclear or restrictive in nature should be avoided, especially where the lack of clarity or restrictions hamper co-operation between the different national forces. Where these mandates are due to expire, the state has a responsibility to plan for the expiry of the mandate. The European Union will encourage Member States to extend the mandates in Afghanistan and adapt them to be prepared for security issues arising outside the borders of Afghanistan.
6. The European Union will gradually transfer responsibility for security to the Afghan National Army and National Police Force as appropriate and possible, and maintain its presence for as long as necessary with the ultimate goal of transferring full control to the Afghan Government. This can be achieved by supporting the Operational Mentoring and Liaison Teams who currently train Afghan National Army personnel in Herat. In line with the policy of Afghan ownership and at the request of the Government of Afghanistan, police and military training shall be brought under the central control and leadership of the Government of Afghanistan.
7. Efforts should be taken to establish a co-ordinated command between ISAF, OEF and the Afghan National Army to prevent civilian casualties both on national and provincial level.
8. Acknowledging the impacts poppy-growth can have on local, regional and national stability, we are convinced that measures in the field of counter-narcotics need to be taken. Poppy-free provinces are a good example that Afghan growers do not need to depend on the production of poppies. Furthermore, the Afghan Government needs to be supported by the implementation process of their National Drug Control Strategy, which includes the development of strong and effective counter-narcotics institutions or the strengthening and encouragement of diverse legal rural livelihood opportunities.
9. Stress the importance of PRTs as supporting the leadership of provincial institutions in co-ordination with the central Government, which enable future actions to be sustainable and to be taken independently from outside aid by Afghan personnel.

Governance

Taking into account the needs of the citizens of Afghanistan following completion of the democratisation process, the European Union and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan seek to place greater emphasis on strengthening of the rule of law, and further developing a culture of accountability. The European Union and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan will build on past efforts in this area and continue to assist the Government of Afghanistan, particularly through their support of the Independent Commission of the Administrative Reform. The European Union and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan agree to the following:

1. The European Union will support the returnees with the Community Development programmes and employment schemes.
2. The European Union will reinforce the training for Members of Parliament in order to empower the Afghan Parliament and make it able to fully play its role in the institutional system.

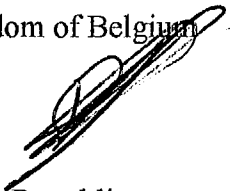
3. The European Commission and Afghanistan are willing to work together to intensify counter-narcotics efforts by providing coordinated practical assistance and other resources to support Government plans and efforts, especially alternative livelihoods programs.
4. **Judicial Reform.** The European Union commits to enhance the present Afghan legal system by increasing transparency, credibility of existing institutions, and the independence of the judiciary through training of judges and professional development assistance.
5. **Deployment of Civilian experts.** The European Union encourages Member States to deploy civilian experts to share their knowledge in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan with special focus on the following fields: Education with respect to the building of schools, training of teachers and supply of materials needed; rebuilding of the country with respect to construction of infrastructure; and EUPOL police training.
6. **Electoral assistance.** The European Union commits to provide for financial assistance for the preparation of the upcoming elections and the deployment of a European Electoral Observation Mission, on the condition that security conditions are met.
7. **Governance and human rights.** The European Union and Afghanistan emphasise Afghan women's human right to full participation in the civic and political affairs of the nation. In particular, we recognise a need to ensure women's free and safe participation in upcoming elections, and will continue to develop and implement policies towards this end. We are further committed to enhancing women's rights and gender equality in the private sphere. The European Union and Afghanistan are also committed to providing more targeted support for women's rights organizations, to ensure their participation in high-level policy discussion and decision-making. Recognising freedom of expression and of the press as basic human rights, which need to be ensured to every citizen.
8. **Improving the Public Service of Afghanistan.** Welcoming the existing structure of the public service, both parties commit to building the capacity of Afghan employees through comprehensive education and training with the goal of creating an efficient, successful and independent administrative arm of government that can deliver essential services to the citizens.
9. **Delivery of Aid through Afghan institutions.** Recognising the comprehensive nature of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS), in line with the principles of Afghan Ownership and with a strong emphasis on transparency and accountability from both partners the European Union Member States:
 - a) Will work towards fulfilment of their prior aid commitments;
 - b) Agree to gradually increase the proportion of aid distributed through Afghanistan's budget
 - c) Recognise the importance of long-term commitment which reflects absorption capacity and needIn taking greater responsibility for the distribution of foreign aid, Afghanistan will strengthen their financial accountability and anti-corruption mechanisms.

10. **Regional Integration.** The European Union is very aware of the link between regional economic integration and regional stability. The EU supports regional efforts by Afghanistan to integrate its economy with its neighbours and places its technical assistance at Afghanistan's disposal.

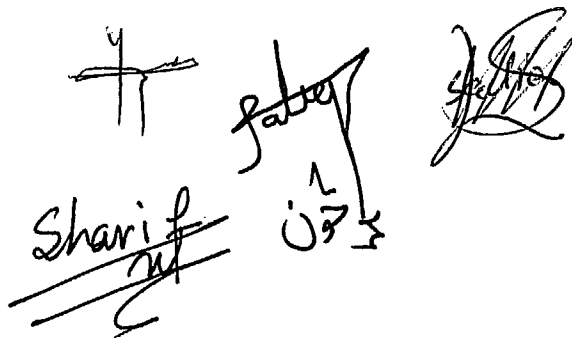
11. **Corruption.** The European Union and Afghanistan resolve to redouble efforts to eliminate corruption within Afghan institutions, especially through the provision of stronger technical and financial assistance to the Commission against Corruption.

Done at Berlin on the twelfth day of June in the year two thousand and nine.

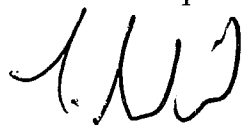
For the Kingdom of Belgium



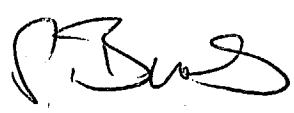
For the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan



For the Czech Republic



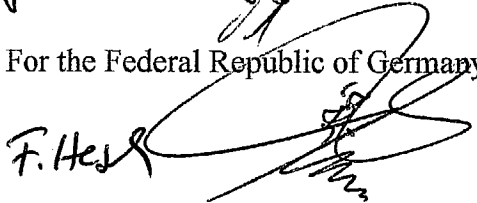
For the Kingdom of Denmark



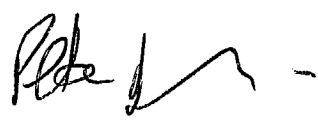
For the French Republic



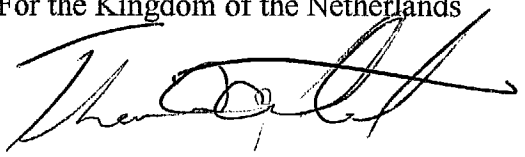
For the Federal Republic of Germany




For the Republic of Ireland



For the Kingdom of the Netherlands



For the Republic of Poland

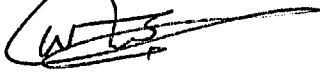


For the Kingdom of Spain

C. Talavera



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

