



**EU-AFGHANISTAN  
CONFERENCE**

**Berlin, 5 October 2012**

**DECL 2012**

**EUROPEAN UNION-AFGHANISTAN  
COOPERATION AGREEMENT ON PARTNERSHIP AND  
DEVELOPMENT 2012**

**The EU and Afghanistan: Beyond 2014, 4-5 October 2012**

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 transition period, which will be concluded by the end of 2014.

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

**Security**

According to the *Bonn Agreement*, over the next two years the *International Security Assistance Force* (ISAF) shall withdraw their contingents, but Afghanistan will not stand alone.

The *European Union* and Afghanistan recognize that the withdrawal of ISAF combat forces is a significant challenge, but yet an excellent opportunity for a strong, independent and sovereign Afghanistan.

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 Security Forces (i.e. army and police forces). The end of the transition period will not mean the end of the *European Union's* support to Afghanistan.

As agreed at the *Chicago Summit*, it is of utmost importance to continue strengthening the effectiveness of the Afghan Security Forces. The *European Union* remains firm and will offer its support to training and equipping of the Afghan Security Forces, as well as Afghan National Police Forces, providing assistance and capability strengthening in order to uphold and ensure stability for the Afghan population and government.

The participants recognized the regional dimensions of Afghanistan's Security issues. In regard to that matter, the participants emphasized the need for sincere and result-oriented regional and international cooperation and welcomed the steps taken by the *Heart of Asia*

*Process.* The *European Union* reaffirmed its offer for help and expertise in the diplomatic processes.

Civilian employees working previously for the EU institutions must be treated with priority when new employment opportunities are offered by the Afghan government.

## **Reconstruction**

The *European Commission* as well as the EU Member States pledge to increase their contributions to the *Afghan Reconstruction Trust Fund* (ARTF) beyond 2014 in order to improve the situation in the following sectors of:

- Agriculture and Rural Development
- Infrastructure
- Human Development
- Public Sector Capacity and Governance

The EU ensures to provide technical assistance for Irrigation Restoration and the construction of dams, in accordance with environmental sustainability. The EU will support private sector development in Afghanistan, which includes granting micro-credits to boost small businesses. It has to be ensured that especially the rural areas must receive more attention, since the overwhelming part of the Afghan population still lives on the countryside.

The EU agrees to support Afghanistan in building up its infrastructure.

The participants of the Conference stress the importance of education for the fight against extremism and for a prosperous future of Afghanistan. As continuity is especially important in the realm of education, the EU and its Member States assure to continue financing and running existing programmes like “*Global Partnership for Education*” and “*Teacher Education Master Program*”.

In order to encourage the progress of economic development, the EU will direct more effort into contracting with Afghan companies, and it will do so in ways that improve national economic capacity and effectively limit corruption. In addition to that it will work towards contractual changes, such as requiring firms to report all funds paid to subcontractors.

Afghanistan owns considerable resources of mineral, oil and gas reserves. The EU will provide technical assistance in mining these resources.

## **Commitments and Conclusion**

The *European Union* wants to stress the importance of Afghan commitments in return of international help from the EU Member States. Afghanistan is committed to deliver an annual report regarding its achievements in the following areas:

- a) fairness of elections
- b) transparency and anti-corruption
- c) human rights, especially for women and children
- d) reform of the justice sector and promotion of the rule of law.

The *European Union* reaffirms its trust in a democratic, sovereign, secure and independent Afghanistan. The *European Union* firmly believes that Afghan ownership is one of the most important leading principles of the enduring EU-Afghanistan partnership beyond 2014.

Done at Berlin on the fifth day of October in the year two thousand and twelve.

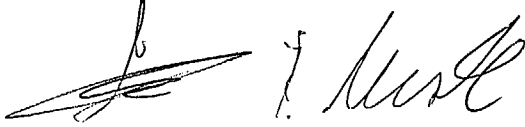
For the Kingdom of Belgium



For the Hellenic Republic



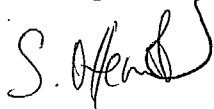
For the French Republic



For the Federal Republic of Germany



For the Republic of Hungary



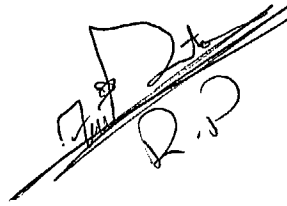
For the Italian Republic



For the Kingdom of the Netherlands



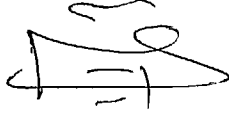
For the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan



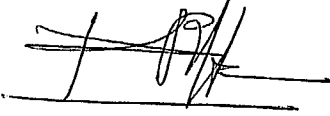
For the Kingdom of Spain



For the Kingdom of Sweden



For the European Commission



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

