



## **EU-AFGHANISTAN CONFERENCE**

**Berlin, 10 June 2011**

**DECL 2011**

### **EUROPEAN UNION-AFGHANISTAN JOINT DECLARATION 2011**

#### **Committing to a New Partnership**

The European Union and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan decide to adopt the following Joint Declaration:

#### **Security**

The European Union and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan are bearing in mind the outcomes of the EU-Afghanistan Joint Declaration – Committing to a new EU-Afghan Partnership on 16 November 2005 as well as the Afghanistan Compact and welcoming all existing efforts by EU Member States already taking place in Afghanistan. We believe that in the long run only a sufficiently stable state of Afghanistan can ensure that no new threats for peace and security can arise within the country. Furthermore, we are acknowledging that improving the security situation all over the country in a comprehensive approach is a challenging project that needs the Member States' full commitment.

The European Union and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan are also concerned by the fact that social, political and economic factors such as corruption and poverty enable the penetration of governmental institutions, which makes the insurgent and terrorist activities more effective and likely to affect the lives of vulnerable people. Another great obstacle is the extreme vulnerability of societal weaker groups, such as women and children that were the victims of the Taliban regime. The increasing number of terrorists' attacks and suicidal attacks are alarming and we are aware of the need for a continuous co-operation with the Afghan government.

We affirm that the transition of security responsibilities to the Afghan government will be the main goal in the next few years and are aware of the urgent need to ensure a smooth and gradual transition.

In order to improve the security situation in Afghanistan, there should be a focus laid on strengthening the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) to achieve the goal of sovereign Afghan command by 2014 by the following means:

1. The development of a joint strategy to accelerate and co-ordinate a gradual transition of responsibility from international forces to the ANSF at both national and local level.
2. Provision of appropriate training and capacity to Afghan forces and providing them with modern required equipments by the end of 2014 to ensure that they are capable to secure the country.
3. Put a focus on the training of the ANSF trainers.
4. Continuation of the EUPOL mission given the unique operating conditions the border police forces face, especially concerning drug trafficking.
5. For the purpose of an increased exchange of collaboration and co-ordination between different levels of police forces and army between Afghanistan and its international community and the creation of a database to store information for that purpose.

6. Raising the total amount of ANSF a recommended number of 600,000 (300,000 ANA, 250,000 ANP and 50,000 NSD) compensating the withdrawn international troops in line with the ISAF Strategy by the currently set deadline of 2014.
7. Recommendation of continuation of the NATO Training Mission to Afghanistan (NTMA) by the end of 2020 to achieve the previously mentioned objectives.
8. Bearing in mind that terrorism is an international threat, the European Union and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan commit to strengthen their efforts and co-operation with other regional and international partners to combat terrorism, extremism, particularly al-Qaida, in the region. Thus the regional co-operation should be strengthened in order to engage the region in economic development project.
9. The protection of civilians is and must remain the main priority of all security efforts.
10. Political dialogue and reconciliation are crucial in order to ensure the majority of the population to participate in the political process. The European Union and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan fully support a transparent Reintegration Process (Peace Dialogues) endorsed by Afghans through High Peace Council (HPC), with, for instance, those Taliban who now respect the constitution of the Islamic Republic Afghanistan and renounce to violence.

## Education

The European Union and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, reaffirming the outcomes of the 2005 Joint Declaration and the 2010 Kabul Conference, wish to emphasise the unique and important role that education plays in the long-term development of a nation. There have been significant achievements in Afghanistan with respect to education. Currently, 7 million students attend school, of which 39% are female.

The European Union supports in principle the 2020 Education programme, as developed by the Afghan Government.

The European Union supports the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to achieve the following goals to improve the education system:

1. Focus on increased participation amongst school-aged students with a special focus on the education of females and promoting equal access to the education system. This includes raising awareness throughout the population of the importance of female education;
2. Security of schools and surrounding environment;
3. Creation of economic incentives to encourage school attendance, such as scholarships, provision of school materials and free school lunches;
4. Minimisation of regional disparity in school access. There must be equal opportunity of obtaining an education regardless of whether a child lives in city or provincial areas;
5. Support of Islamic education institutions;
6. Construction of the necessary school infrastructure and provision of school materials;
7. Improvement of teacher training and their living conditions to ensure high standards and a focus on appropriate remuneration;
8. Vocational and practical training such as agricultural training;
9. Continuation of strong partnerships between Afghan and European universities and other higher education institutions, such as through scholarships and student exchanges;
10. Promotion of literacy programs for the general population.



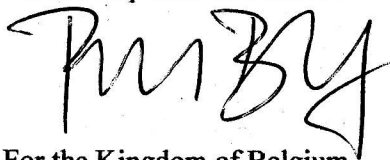
## Reconstruction

Security is the basis for economic development, reconstruction and education, but there is no stable security without reconstruction, development and education. The 30 years of war and strife in Afghanistan seriously damaged basic infrastructure and local communities. Afghanistan's achievements in the last ten years have been impressive regarding reconstruction and infrastructure development, however there have been some shortcomings. The coming years will be crucial to build basic infrastructures and strengthening the Afghan institutions. We reaffirm the goals set forth in 2005 EU-Afghanistan Joint Declaration, Afghanistan Compact in 2006 and the London and Kabul Conferences. Support of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS 2010) which includes: security, good governance, role of law and human rights, economic growth, poverty reduction and counter corruption will be helpful in order to reach these aims.

1. Bearing in mind that ANDS is an important document for Afghanistan and the European Union, it should be extended beyond 2014 to allocate future funds.
2. We acknowledge that Afghanistan signed the United Nations Convention against Corruption in 2008, finalized a National Anti-Corruption strategy and established a High Office of Oversight and Anti-Corruption. The European Union and Afghanistan agree that the implementation of anti-corruption must be a priority for the Afghan Government. This is crucial, as corruption enables criminals to penetrate governmental institutions and is an obstacle to a successful reconstruction process.
3. We acknowledge the work of Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRT) and support that Afghan authorities assume more responsibility in longer-term reconstruction aids on the national as well as on the local level in order to ensure for a successful transition in terms of reconstruction process.
4. Focus on a number of national programmes and projects that deliver long term sustainable economic development. The projects include: agriculture, mining, energy, irrigation, dams, industry, telecommunication, basic infrastructure services and private sector.
5. Intensive attention on construction of national road networks, ring roads, bridges and high ways connecting the provinces or zones.
6. As it will be important for the European Union and the International Community to continue engaging in these communities to avoid eroding the trust between the Afghan government and its citizens, improving the livelihood of the neglected communities and groups in rural areas, through generating agricultural programs or construction projects, is crucial.
7. Support the Government of Afghanistan in promoting a private public partnership in the construction sector.
8. We recognize that reconstruction efforts cannot be successful without strengthening the rule of law, democracy and good governance in order to create a stable and democratic state of Afghanistan and ensure that the population supports the authorities. Investments into the legal system should support the judicial system to be independent and incorruptible.
9. The Afghan employment rate and the participation of Afghan companies in public tenders in reconstruction efforts must be raised in order to ensure that the majority of the Afghan population benefits from foreign reconstruction investments and a sustainable economic and social development can take place
10. An essential part of successful reconstruction efforts is a guaranteed access to water for everyone in the civil as well as in the agricultural area. The former stated goal to develop agriculture will not be achieved without a proper irrigation system or network. This will also be helpful for improving hygiene conditions leading to a decrease of the mortality rate, especially the infantile.

Done at Berlin on the tenth day of June in the year two thousand and eleven.

For the Republic of Austria



For the Kingdom of Belgium



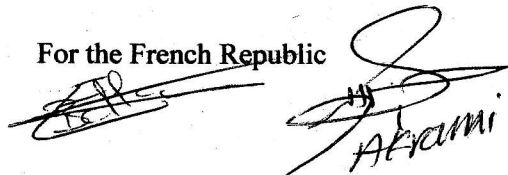
For the Republic of Cyprus



For the Kingdom of Denmark

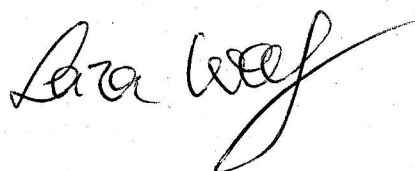


For the French Republic

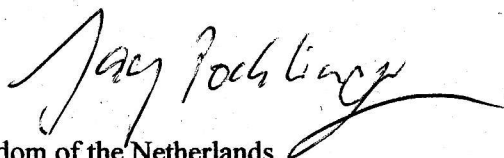


Akrami

For the Federal Republic of Germany



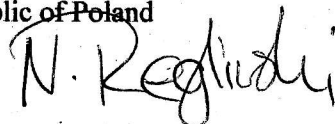
For the Republic of Hungary



For the Kingdom of the Netherlands



For the Republic of Poland

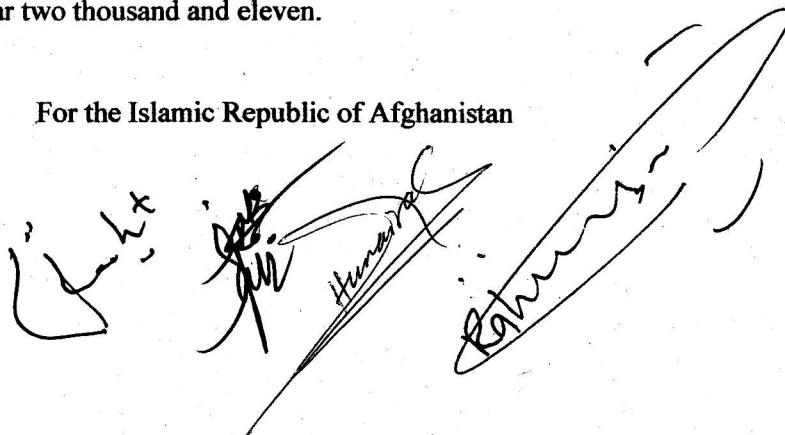


N. Regludzi

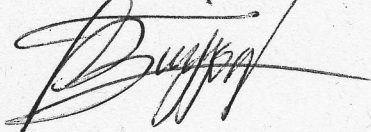
For the Kingdom of Spain



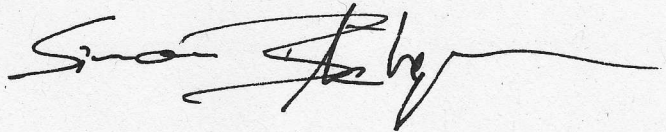
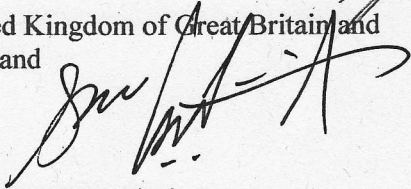
For the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan



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

