



Brussels, 13 November 2006  
S306/06

**Summary of Remarks by**  
**Javier SOLANA,**  
**EU High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy**  
**at the meetings of EU Foreign and Defence Ministers**

**Military Capabilities**

We are making good progress with military capabilities, in particular with the Battle Groups, for which we will reach full operational capability in January 2007; we will be able to undertake two battle-group sized rapid-response operations; it will be possible to launch two such operations almost simultaneously; Member States have recently confirmed their commitments up to the second half of 2008; this is very positive;

**ESDP operations**

**EUFOR (Althea) in Bosnia and Herzegovina:** the EU remains committed to Bosnia and Herzegovina; we will retain a military force in BiH next year;

- A decision to reduce troop strength is under consideration; it would be based on the fact that the security situation in BiH allows this and that the capacity of the BiH authorities to deal with threats to security has increased;
- I recommend that the decision in principle to start the transition towards a reduction of the level of forces is taken in December but that the actual implementation of the transition starts in February, subject to confirmation by the Council at that time;
- We will need to keep the capacity to reverse to a more robust military presence if needed;

**EUFOR RD Congo** is a success; we must ensure that it ends successfully; it must be able to act up until the end of its deployment, within the limits of available capacity;

- The operation will end as scheduled;
- As regards the overall political situation, the election process was in general calm and orderly and this was encouraging but the situation remains volatile, as the events last weekend showed; we have to remain vigilant and engaged;
- The two main contenders, Kabila and Bemba, met and undertook to respect the election result;
- In the short term, we must ensure that the process of transition to democracy results in the establishment of the new Congolese authorities;
- We must continue to urge the protagonists to respect the process and support the idea that an open and inclusive government will promote stability;
- We must then prepare to support the new authorities;
- The EU will continue to remain strongly engaged in the DRC with EUSEC and EUPOL;

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

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**EUSEC**, the EU's security sector reform mission in DRC, has shown that with a relatively small investment we can exert real influence and contribute to a lasting improvement; we must continue and expand this effort in order to help the new authorities to ensure the security of the whole of their territory;

**EUPOL Kinshasa**, the police mission, is also highly appreciated and has played a key role in protecting the institutions of the transition and in keeping order in the capital during the election period; EUPOL Kinshasa will be extended to June 2007 to help prepare for a stronger engagement in security-sector reform which could take the form of an integrated ESDP mission covering defence, police and justice;

I pay tribute to the EUFOR commander, General Damay, Superintendent Adilio Custudio, Head of EUPOL Kinshasa, and General Pierre Joana, Head of EUSEC DR Congo;

**Sudan / Darfur**: the EU continues to provide support for the African Union mission in Sudan. The current situation continues to cause concern; military clashes continue and the Government of Sudan has suffered major setbacks at the hands of the rebels; the humanitarian situation could deteriorate further;

Diplomatic pressure must be kept up; AMIS must be supported; efforts to persuade the main actors, especially the Sudanese government, to accept the idea of UN support to AMIS must be pursued;

### **Afghanistan**

We are deeply committed to Afghanistan and have already provided more than 3.7 billion euros in aid;

The EU stands ready to do even more to contribute to the collective effort and I think that an ESDP police operation could be of great value; if we want to explore this possibility further, we could send a fact-finding mission to study the conditions under which the operation could take place in the area of police and rule of law.

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## EU COUNCIL SECRETARIAT ~FACTSHEET~<sup>1</sup>

# EU ENGAGEMENT IN AFGHANISTAN

AFG/01  
November 2006

**The European Union has a longstanding commitment to Afghanistan and its government. It is a key donor (EUR 3.7 billion over 5 years) and, working with international partners, plays a major role in stabilisation and reconstruction efforts.**

### **A leading donor to Afghanistan with a concrete political and operational presence**

#### ➤ **EU assistance to Afghanistan**

The EU (European Community and member states) has disbursed collectively **EUR 3.7 billion** in aid to Afghanistan over five years (2002-2006), i.e. one third of the aid pledged by the international community. At the London Conference in spring 2006, the European Community and member states pledged a further USD 2.4 billion (about EUR 2 billion) for reconstruction assistance to Afghanistan over the coming years.

#### ➤ **A political partnership**

The EU's partnership with Afghanistan is highlighted in the joint political declaration signed on 16 November 2005 and is based on shared priorities such as the establishment of strong and accountable institutions, security and justice sector reform, counter-narcotics, development and reconstruction.

#### ➤ **A presence in Afghanistan**

The EU has had a Special Representative (EUSR) in Afghanistan since December 2001 (currently Francesc Vendrell since 2002). The EUSR is in close contact with key stakeholders in the Afghan political process and with international partners and advises the EU on its Afghanistan policy and on the implementation of its priorities for action

The European Commission has an office in Kabul since May 2002, notably to implement aid delivery. The European Commission Humanitarian Office ECHO is also present in Afghanistan. Its office in Kabul opened in January 2002.

### **A key partner in the reconstruction and stabilisation effort**

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<sup>1</sup> Contributions from the European Commission are gratefully acknowledged.

**P R E S S**

Working with international partners, the EU is making a major contribution to Afghanistan's reconstruction and stabilisation. The EU has spent about EUR 3.1 billion for reconstruction and development.

In agreement with the Afghan government and the donor community, EU member states and the European Commission have taken key co-ordination roles in crucial areas of assistance, including in security-related areas (the UK is key partner for counter-narcotics; Italy for judicial reform and training; Germany for police training). The European Commission is key partner for rural livelihoods (jointly with the World Bank) and health (jointly with the US). France has a co-ordination role with respect to the establishment of the Afghan parliament.

- Reconstruction aid:

The reconstruction program managed by the European Commission is on track to meet the EC's pledge of EUR 1 billion in reconstruction funding over the 2002-2006 period. It includes the key areas of **rural development, alternative livelihoods and food security** (EUR 236 million); **economic infrastructure** (EUR 106 million) – including reconstruction of the Kabul to Jalalabad road; **public sector reform**, including capacity building within government institutions and budget support via trust funds (EUR 393 million); the **health sector** – extending provision of a basic healthcare package (EUR 94 million); **de-mining** (EUR 66 million); **human rights and civil society**, including support for the media and social protection for the most vulnerable (EUR 21 million); promotion of **regional cooperation**, including on refugees and specific support to help smooth **refugee returns** (EUR 53 million).

- Security:

23 EU member states are deploying troops to ISAF. Following stage 4 of the geographic expansion phase to the South (October 2006), their **combined contribution to ISAF is approx. 15,800 troops**.

EU member-state deployments to ISAF started in December 2001 and have increased steadily over time, from about 3,000 in 2002 to about 5,000 in 2003, 6,000 in 2004 and 10,000 in the second half of 2005 (including additional temporary deployments in conjunction with the elections). Several Member States have been expanding personnel and assets in 2006 and/or are planning to do so in 2007.

Separately, several member states are also contributing to the US-led Operation Enduring Freedom coalition conducting counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism operations in Afghanistan.

ISAF is currently led by the United Kingdom. Regional Commands are led by the UK (Capital), Italy (West), Germany (North), with the two remaining Regional Commands led by Canada and the US.

- Rule of law:

Since 2002, the Community and a number of EU member states have been actively involved in the rule of law sector. Germany plays the role of key partner for the reconstruction of the Afghan Police. It has spent about EUR 70 million on police reform. So far it has trained 3,500 Afghan policemen. Italy is the key partner on justice sector reform on which it has spent some EUR 40 million.

Providing EUR 135 million in 2003-2006, the European Community is the largest contributor to the police trust fund LOTFA, which pays for salaries. The rule of law is critical for the success of counter-narcotics and other efforts.

- Counter-narcotics

The EU has from the outset of the reconstruction process taken an active role in supporting counter-narcotics efforts, not least because 90% of heroin in Western Europe originates in Afghanistan, but also because the growth in corruption and illegality associated with the burgeoning opium economy poses a grave threat to the success of the entire reconstruction and stabilisation process.

The UK is the designated key partner for counter-narcotics. It assisted the Afghan government in drawing up the National Drugs Control Strategy in 2005. A counter-narcotics police, mobile detection units and a central eradication planning cell have been established.

The UK, the EC and several EU member states are also actively involved in the field of rural development which is critical for the provision of sustainable alternative livelihoods for farmers involved in opium-poppy cultivation.

### **An important provider of humanitarian aid**

In addition to its leading role in the reconstruction effort, the EU is a major source of humanitarian assistance to the people affected by the Afghan crisis both in Afghanistan and in neighboring Pakistan and Iran.

EU member states and the European Community are also actively involved in the provision of emergency and relief assistance. Total EU contributions for 2002-2006 amounted to **EUR 627.5 million**.

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*For more information go to:*

EU High Representative website: <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/solana>

EUSR Vendrell: [http://www.consilium.europa.eu/special representatives/vendrell](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/special%20representatives/vendrell)

EU-Asia Relations: [http://www.consilium.europa.eu/third countries/asia](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/third%20countries/asia)

EU-Afghanistan website: [http://ec.europa.eu/comm/external\\_relations/afghanistan](http://ec.europa.eu/comm/external_relations/afghanistan)

EU-Afghanistan humanitarian aid website: <http://ec.europa.eu/echo/field/afghanistan>