



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



Council Conclusions on Afghanistan

*2858th GENERAL AFFAIRS Council meeting
Brussels, 10 March 2008*

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

"1. In line with its previous conclusions, the Council reaffirms the EU's commitment to long-term support for the people and government of Afghanistan and the core principles of promoting Afghan leadership, good governance, responsibility and ownership, and fostering the development of a democratic, secure and sustainable Afghan State with respect for human rights and the rule of law.

2. The Council supports the approach launched at the Joint Co-ordination and Monitoring Board in Tokyo on 5-6 February to prepare an international conference to be held in Paris in June to review progress in implementation of the Afghanistan Compact, reaffirm the commitment of the international community to Afghanistan and discuss the way forward. The Council calls on the Government of Afghanistan to make further progress on human rights and good governance, including through establishment of an independent Senior Appointment mechanism and the implementation of the national anti-corruption strategy and the approval of a media law consistent with freedom of expression. The EU remains committed to working with the Government of Afghanistan to strengthen its human rights institutions and mechanisms. The Council recalls its urgent appeal to halt any future executions and to re-establish a de facto moratorium on the use of the death penalty and to enhance its implementation of transitional justice action plan.

3. The Council underlines the continued engagement of the EU in Afghanistan, including through the bilateral cooperation programmes of EU Member States, as well as through EC's assistance strategy, which contains substantial multi-year commitment until 2013, and focuses on governance and rule of law, particularly on the judiciary and police, and on rural development and health. The Council looks forward to the finalisation, launch and implementation of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy and welcomes the participatory process this has involved to date.

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4. The Council welcomes the progress of the EU police mission in Afghanistan towards full deployment at central, regional and provincial level by the end of March. The mission is supporting the development of the Afghan police force under local ownership, respecting human rights and operating within the framework of the rule of law. The EU remains committed to addressing the multiple challenges lying ahead in close cooperation with the Afghan authorities and international partners. The Council expresses its readiness to consider further enhancement of EU engagement, particularly in the field of police and wider rule of law.
5. The EU, underlining its overall coherence in objectives with UN and NATO on the basis of Afghanistan Compact, reaffirms its readiness to closely work with UNAMA and ISAF, *inter alia* through EUPOL Afghanistan, in order to strengthen overall coordination of the international community in Afghanistan. The Council will continue to follow developments with regards to Afghanistan closely, including at the forthcoming NATO summit in Bucharest.
6. The Council will keep the EU's policy towards Afghanistan under review in the coming months, in advance of the Paris conference.
7. The Council welcomes the appointment of Mr Kai Eide as Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Afghanistan."

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