

Countdown: London Conference on Afghanistan

Source: [United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan \(UNAMA\)](#)

Date: 11 Jan 2010

At the end of this month more than sixty countries and international organizations will gather for the London Conference on Afghanistan.

Four years ago this month another conference in London cemented the Afghanistan Compact as the way forward for Afghanistan and the international community.

The 2006 London Conference on Afghanistan had three co-chairs: Britain's then Prime Minister Tony Blair, Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai, and then United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

The Conference produced the Afghanistan Compact dated 1 February 2006 and aimed at guiding development efforts in Afghanistan for the next five years until 2011.

Also known as the London Agreement, the Afghanistan Compact had the Government of Afghanistan and the international community affirming "their shared commitment to continue, in the spirit of the Bonn, Tokyo and Berlin conferences, to work toward a stable and prosperous Afghanistan, with good governance and human rights protection for all under the rule of law, and to maintain and strengthen that commitment over the term of this Compact and beyond."

The Compact would govern the second phase of Afghanistan's rise from the ruins of war, with the first phase under the Bonn Agreement of 2001 having been implemented through the adoption of Afghanistan's new Constitution in January 2004, the holding of presidential elections in October 2004, and the holding of the National Assembly and Provincial Council elections in September 2005.

The Compact participants "resolved to overcome the legacy of conflict in Afghanistan by setting conditions for sustainable economic growth and development; strengthening state institutions and civil society; removing remaining terrorist threats; meeting the challenge of counter-narcotics; rebuilding capacity and infrastructure; reducing poverty; and meeting basic human needs."

During the two-day conference, the Afghan Government presented its "Afghanistan Millennium Development Goals Country Report 2005 – Vision 2020".

Consistent with those goals, the Compact identified three "critical and interdependent areas or pillars of activity for the five years from the adoption of this Compact."

The three areas or pillars that serve as a basis for the international community's development efforts in the country from 2006 to 2011 are: Security; Governance, Rule of Law and Human Rights; and Economic and Social Development.

And to coordinate and monitor the progress of joint development efforts, especially in the implementation of political commitments, the Compact provided for the establishment of the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board to be co-chaired by the Afghan Government and the United Nations.

The Compact said the JCMB "will ensure greater coherence of efforts by the Afghan Government and international community to implement the Compact and provide regular and timely public reports on its execution."

The next meeting of the JCMB is scheduled to take place in Kabul on 20 January 2010.

The London Compact laid out nine "principles of cooperation" for the Afghan Government and the international community as they embarked on the implementation of the Compact, "with a central and impartial coordinating role for the United Nations."

Also among the cooperation principles was ensuring the "balanced and fair allocation of domestic and international resources in order to offer all parts of the country tangible prospects of well-being."

Through the Compact, the Afghan Government committed itself to "realising this shared vision of the future" while the international community committed to "provide resources and support to realise that vision."

This year the one day London Conference at Lancaster House on 28 January will be focussing on three key agenda items: security, economic development and governance, and regional relations.

By Aurora V. Alambra, UNAMA



EU Statement – United Nations Security Council: Debate on the Situation in Afghanistan

Summary: 6 January 2010, New York – Statement on behalf of the European Union by Peter Schwäger, Acting Head of Delegation, Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, at the Security Council Debate on the Situation in Afghanistan



Mr. President,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union, in accordance with the new arrangements for external representation of the European Union under the Treaty of Lisbon.

The Candidate Country Croatia*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, as well as the Republic of Moldova and Georgia align themselves with this declaration.

Mr. President,

Let me begin by expressing our appreciation for the opportunity to participate in today's debate. As other speakers before me, I would like to thank Mr. Kai Eide, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, for his comprehensive briefing and for his excellent

ongoing work in leading the UNAMA Mission.

The European Union welcomes the conclusion of the presidential electoral process and congratulates President Hamid Karzai on assuming office for a second consecutive term.

The EU wishes to underline its readiness to support President Karzai and the future Afghan government in the implementation of the commitments made to the Afghan people in his inauguration speech, namely in the five key areas of peace and reconciliation, security, good governance, economic development and regional cooperation. This will require close and strategic coordination of the international efforts under the lead of UNAMA.

The EU takes note of the announcement by the Independent Election Commission (IEC) that the parliamentary elections will take place in May 2010. It also underlines the need for an urgent reform of the electoral system, including a review of the appointment mechanism of IEC Commissioners to ensure its impartiality, as recommended in the final reports and findings of the EU Election Observation Mission and other observations groups on the presidential and provincial council elections.

The security situation in Afghanistan remains extremely challenging. As highlighted in the Secretary-General's report, the security situation has worsened over the reporting period, with a 65 percent increase in the number of incidents from 2008, including the tragic attack of 28 October 2009 that has highlighted the increased level of risk exposure for UN personnel. In this context the European Union wishes to reiterate its condolences to the families of the victims.

The EU concurs with the Secretary-General that to reverse this downward trend, the new Government will have to show resolve in implementing a political reform that addresses the root causes of the insurgency, including through efforts aimed at improving governance and an Afghan-led political process to re-establish peace. Also, everything possible must be done to avoid civilian casualties.

The EU actively supports the improvement of good governance, the rule of law, the fight against corruption and impunity as well as respect for human rights in Afghanistan. Building Afghan capacity and ownership in the police and civil sectors remains at the core of the EU's engagement in Afghanistan as reaffirmed in our recent Plan of Action. The EU police mission EUPOL in Afghanistan is clear proof of such an active and continued engagement. Equally, the EU urges the new Afghan Government to give the utmost priority to the achievement of significant progress in those areas, especially at the sub-national level.

Stability, security and development in Afghanistan are closely linked to the overall situation in the region. The EU strongly supports the development of a coordinated approach at the regional level and enhanced cooperation between Afghanistan and its neighbours, especially Pakistan. The EU has initiated decisive steps to strengthen and achieve a more coherent and concerted approach to EU action in Afghanistan and Pakistan, through its Plan of Action for the region.

Mr. President,

The EU strongly supports UNAMA in its important role as the coordinator of international efforts, while recognising Member States' responsibility to provide UNAMA with the necessary resources to perform this task.

The EU concurs with the Secretary-General that a more focused and better coordinated international civilian effort, under a UN umbrella and within the framework of a strategy of transition, is urgently required. In this regard, the EU is ready to further explore initiatives such as the establishment of a reinforced and dedicated civilian coordination structure, ensuring strong Afghan ownership and involvement of all major stakeholders, and the appointment of a senior civilian official within ISAF. These and other initiatives, including the improvement of existing coordination mechanisms, need careful analysis.

The EU also looks forward to the upcoming London Conference on 28 January and a subsequent Kabul Conference that will offer an opportunity for the new Afghan government to lay out its

priorities, plans and commitments. The UN will have a prominent role in both conferences. For the international community, it will be an occasion to review and reaffirm its engagement in Afghanistan. We should agree on new goals, benchmarks and timelines in order to renew a common framework for our work towards the shared goal of a peaceful and secure Afghanistan. These conferences also represent an important step toward the formulation and subsequent implementation of a transition strategy, with the emphasis on building up the Afghan National Security Forces and the gradual handover of responsibility for security to Afghanistan's own authorities.

Mr. President,

The EU reiterates its full recognition that the primary responsibility for the development of the country lies with the Afghan government and people themselves. I would like to assure you that the EU will continue to play an active role in assisting Afghanistan on its road to security, stability and prosperity, in close cooperation and coordination with UNAMA and other international actors.

Thank you, Mr. President.

* Croatia continues to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

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European Union Police Mission in Afghanistan



On 1st January 2010 Spain took over the EU Presidency from Sweden for the next six months. The former Belgian Prime Minister Herman Van Rompuy, the EU's first permanent President, will be chairing the Brussels summit meetings. During the EU Presidency, Spain wants to achieve a closer cooperation between EU members in the fight against terrorism. In EUPOL's Kabul HQ, the flag changing ceremony took place in the presence of senior members of the Swedish and Spanish Embassies. In the photo: Mats Bahman from SWEDEN (left) and Jesus Arias from SPAIN (right)

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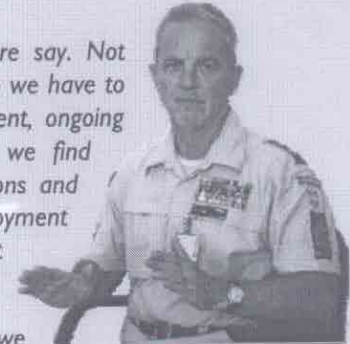
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A Complicated Mission

EUPOL is a complicated mission. More complicated than other missions, I dare say. Not because we make it complicated, but because of complicating factors. Not only do we have to deal with a lack of infrastructure, security concerns, a mentally-taxing environment, ongoing asymmetric warfare and a multitude of stakeholders, but as staff members we find ourselves under enormous strains due to a lack of accommodation in the regions and provinces and severe restraints on mobility and a consequential lack of deployment flexibility. These factors, coupled with our broad mandate, make the mission not just complicated but also inspiring and challenging.



So how do we make the complicated simple? It is important to ensure that we ourselves, as well as those we are responsible to, understand what we are doing and – perhaps even more importantly - why we are doing it. In order to achieve this, we have to structure our efforts in implementation and action plans, to merge our efforts in a benchmarking plan, we have to assess what we are doing and to brief our colleagues every day. We have to report to the Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (CPCC) on a weekly, monthly and 6-monthly basis and to meet up in the Council’s Political and Security Committee (PSC) and brief European Ambassadors and the other contributing countries about what we are doing.

I know from reactions that reporting can appear to a lot of people unnecessary and a waste of time. Comments like “We know what we are doing”, “We are working so hard” and “Why do we have to justify ourselves all the time” are frequent. They are frequent because you find the mission challenging. But so do the CPCC and so do others. That’s why I want you to look at this issue from another angle.

Precisely because this is a complicated mission, we have to structure what we are doing and what outcome we want to see. It is in this way that we commit ourselves to delivering what we set out to achieve. Having an implementation plan and an action plan is important so we in this complicated mission know what we have to do and to see the impact of our efforts through the benchmarking plan.

Those we report to, those who are de facto in charge of our mission, the EU structure with CPCC and all Ambassadors representing the member states and the other contributing countries, are for good reasons not based in Afghanistan but in Brussels. And they have all the right in the world to be informed. The best way – if not the only way - to do this is through regular reports and meetings in Brussels, followed by occasional visits from Brussels to the mission.

So the next time you look at our action plan or fill out a report for Brussels: think about it. They are not meant to complicate the mission (this is something the mission takes care of all by itself!). Rather, they are meant to simplify, to give all of us – including our partners in Brussels - a chance to understand what is going on. And Brussels is just as interested in our work and our progress as we are.

Kai Vittrup

Extract from the opening remarks by Catherine ASHTON, the European High Representative and Vice President of the EU Commission, at the European Parliament hearing on 11 January 2010.



“We need to be active and operational both on the global issues, where Europe is expected to play its full role. And in our immediate neighbourhood, where we are expected to take the lead... The same applies to our crisis-management operations under what is now called the Common Security and Defence Policy. I know many of you have a clear interest in these missions and agree with me just how important they are. They save lives. They create the space in troubled areas for politics to work. They are a crucial part of what Europe is doing on the ground. We need to build on the progress made in recent years, making sure that our missions are well-staffed, well-equipped and well-led. So that we are ready to take action whenever our engagement is needed.”



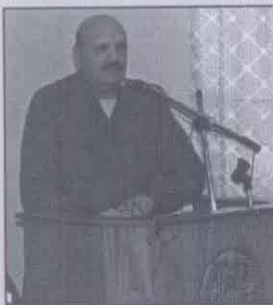
Aviation Security and Airport Affairs Directorate Established



A staff member of the course receives her certificate

EUPOL, in cooperation with the German Police Project Team (GPPT), supported the establishment of the new directorate of Aviation Security and Airport Affairs at the Afghan Border Police HQ (ABP). The initiative was taken on by Daniela Hopfinger (EUPOL Border Police Mentor) and later on implemented together with the GPPT and CSTC-A. EUPOL Deputy Head of Mission Nigel Thomas encouraged the staff of the new directorate to perform their duties well and assured them of EUPOL's continuous support.

At a festive ceremony, Deputy Interior Minister Gen. Munir Mangal appreciated the efforts of EUPOL and the other international players and thanked EUPOL for initiating the establishment of such a directorate.



Deputy Interior Minister Gen. Munir Mangal (Left)



Participants of the ceremony (Right)

The new directorate will be dealing with the following tasks:

- Drafting and presenting of national aviation security guidelines
- Preparing for, and eventual assumption of, taking over of aviation security responsibilities in national airports (country-wide security program)
- Handling of inter-regional and general aviation security affairs (concerning all five zones)
- Support and technical advice to the MOI in the preparation of laws, regulations and directives in the area of aviation security
- Development and updating of technical content of aviation-related regulations, procedure directives and guidelines
- Participation in the elaboration of agreements and arrangements in the aviation security field, as well as reviewing of implementation of such agreements at national airports
- Representation of the ABP in national and international authorities, organizations, private companies, professional bodies and working groups in the field of aviation security
- Cooperation with inter-ministerial and cross-resort points of contacts at a technical level
- Imposition and collection of aviation security fees in cooperation with Ministry of Trade and Commercial Affairs (MoTCA)
- Conducting a nationwide survey of training needs in collaboration with the human resources and training and education departments as well as with the MoTCA
- Conducting audits and inspections in accordance with ICAO standards



First CID Mentors Conference in Kabul

The focus of EUPOL's first CID conference for international mentors and advisors was on main achievements, efforts, challenges and lessons learned. Representatives from EUPOL's Criminal Investigation Department, Regional Coordination and Policing Development Department, Training Department, Rule of Law, SPAR, Police Mentors, Regional CID advisors, from the GPPT and CSTC-A reviewed ongoing tasks and achievements as well as the communication deficits between CID Advisers at central and regional level. EUPOL's Head of CID, Ken Isaac, highlighted the importance of becoming aware of the problems in the regions and strengthening the cooperation between the different structures of EUPOL. This would contribute to Afghan National Police capacity building and improve their capabilities and as such would have to be in the focus of the two-day-conference as well as in the future activities of EUPOL.



Participants of the CID Mentors Conference



EUPOL Head of CID Ken Isaac

This is not a task for EUPOL alone, stated Kai Vittrup, EUPOL's Head of Mission. He underlined the fruitful partnership and collaboration with the NATO Training Mission (NTM-A) whose role will be essential when it comes to manpower and resources to support the ANP. During the conference, more than 20 presentations gave an overview of the different aspects of specialised police projects, surveillance teams, the ANP policing model, biometrics and others. The participants agreed that a follow up of the conference is needed. The next conference in six month time will identify and develop more common areas of interest.



The Danish Minister for Development, Ms. Ulla Toernaes, during her visit to Afghanistan met EUPOL's HoM Kai Vittrup and other Danish officers who briefed the Minister on the achievements and upcoming challenges for the mission.



Flag-raising in Kandahar: EUPOL's Cor Kranenburg (left) and Martin Bos (right) raised the mission flag in Kandahar. The ceremony in December was also attended by Brigadier-General Van Der Meer from the Dutch Defence Forces.



Basic Criminal Investigation Course

The EUPOL Criminal Investigation Department (CID) concluded its first course for MoI CID officers. For two weeks in December, 78 participants learnt about Initial Action and Crime Scene Investigation, Forensic Awareness, Planning and Decision Making, Criminal Code Procedures in Afghanistan, Intelligence Gathering, Report Writing and Witness Statements as well as interview techniques.



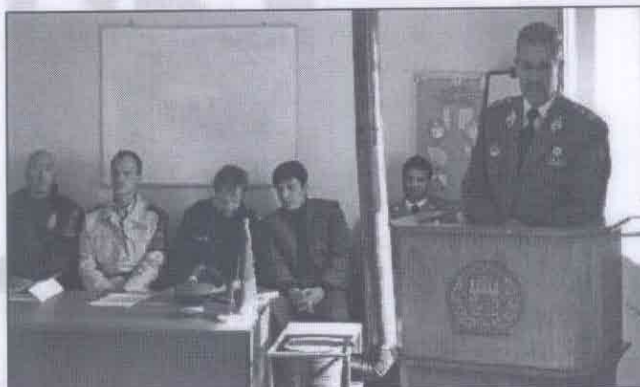
A participant receives his certificate

At the closing ceremony, Gen. Abdul Manan Farahi, Chief of the Counter Terrorism Department, thanked EUPOL for its support and assistance to the ANP while the participants received certificates of appreciation for their successful attendance.

“One of the key objectives of the EUPOL Mission in Afghanistan is to enhance the ANP investigative capabilities and advice the Criminal Investigation Department. These are the strategic aims of the mission,” says Robby Zocher, EUPOL CID Mentor.

Field Training and Education Officer Course

EUPOL's Training Section conducted the 7th Field Training and Education Officer Course (FTEOC) for ANP officers from the Ministry of Interior and the Afghan Border Police. 17 participants took part in the training organised by EUPOL trainers Juergen Graf, Mats Bohman and Henrik Andersen who taught the participants management skills as well as different pedagogical techniques. After one month of training they received certificates of appreciation handed over by Gen. Gul Nabi Ahmadzai, General Head of Training and Education Department at the MoI.



Gen. Gul Nabi Ahmadzai thanked EUPOL for its continuous support to the ANP in terms of training and education

Management Course for Police Districts Staff

EUPOL mentors for the Kabul City Police provided a management course for Deputy Commanders and senior officers of four Kabul police districts including Eastern Soroubi district. EUPOL mentors Fernando Trallero and Uwe Feweier taught management skills to the participants. After one week of training the successful participants received certificates.



A participant receives his certificate



The Portrait: Maleha Noori



Maleha Noori

Maleha Noori is one of the hard-working women in the EUPOL mission. Maleha was born in Kabul and had to face a lot of difficulties in her life. She was unable to finish her studies and had to leave school when she was only in the eighth grade. Maleha says "When the Mujahedeen came to power, I started sewing and selling washcloths to earn some money to survive. During the Taliban time I continued this but was often beaten by the Taliban for no reasons. That's why I went to Pakistan for a year together with my whole family." After the fall of the Taliban regime, Maleha was happy to work in a governmental organization. She applied for a job as a housekeeper in the Afghan Attorney General's Office.

"After working for few months in the AGO I had to quit my job because I was a young lady and could not continue my job in a place which was full of men," says Maleha.

She went out of the AGO's office in tears and was stopped by a UN vehicle. The UN employees (one of them a woman, too) asked why she was crying and so she told them the whole story. Happily, she received the offer to work in the laundry of UNAMA. After working there for one year, she was shifted to the UNICA guesthouse in Kabul. Maleha worked there for 5 years and then joined the EUPOL mission.

Like many others in the mission, Maleha is very happy with her job here and thinks it an honor to support her family by working within EUPOL. She has 5 children. Her eldest daughter is married while the other children are studying at school. Maleha says "I want to work hard to be able to send my children to school. I want them to be well-educated."

Maleha enjoys working with nationals and internationals. "I really like working with my Afghan and the international colleagues in EUPOL and I really like the team I work with," she added.



"My Weeks in Afghanistan" by Georg H. Harry

Coming back from leave my hand luggage contained once again a couple of latest newspapers which under normal circumstances I would normally read during the flight and then leave behind on board. But knowing that colleagues might like to read the latest news, I carried them with me to Kabul. The regional paper from the south for the colleagues from there and one from my home town for the Berliners. It has been hard not to underline a sentence in the media pages of the

latter in which an actor highlights that: "Our society and economic system needs a growing stupidity of the people, in order to function." Wow. In this context I like the experiment taking place now in Afghanistan where the parliament (Wolesi Jirga for those who like details) had a hard time with the hearing of the new cabinet. First, the members of parliament only agreed on seven ministers; for 17 candidates President Karzai had to look for substitutes. What might look like a very democratic procedure leaves a couple of questions. How long can some ministries only be headed by caretakers who are not allowed to take decisions on budget, staff and future activities. Maybe it works and turns out to be a role model for ministries. Let's see. In this context it's quite interesting how the editor of the Afghanistan Times, A.S. Katowazai, describes the situation: "A non performing regime that is trapped in its own problems of survival is a curse itself that instead of addressing issues of national interest and state interest rotates around its own problem of existence."

At the end of my column I used to give advice about suitable music for running in the HQ compound. Today I would like to give advice for survival: Do not run in the morning! The air is poor and any exercise in the open air would do more damage than good. By the way, my answer to the silly conflict between some smokers and non-smokers regarding the "Grumpy Inn" has been to start smoking cigarillos again. I have had to do this in order not to feel lonely in the smoking part of the bar which I frequent more willingly.

Best G2H



EUPOL TODAY

(January 12, 2010) EUPOL's mission strength is currently 265 internationals (162 police officers, 24 Rule of Law experts, 79 civilian experts) and 161 nationals.

The 265 internationals are deployed as follows: 179 at the EUPOL HQ in Kabul (including five assigned to the International Police Coordinating Board, IPCB

Secretariat); 86 in the regions; and 3 providing support within the Mission Support Element in Brussels.

EUPOL - Serving Afghanistan is the bi-weekly online magazine of the European Union Police Mission in Afghanistan. Our aim is to provide an overview of EUPOL activities throughout the Country. Text and photo contributions from the provinces are most welcome.

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Special thanks to Hamid Ghiasi, Florin Florea, Robby Zocher and Cornelia Schneider.

Mission Statement: EUPOL Afghanistan shall significantly contribute to the establishment under Afghan ownership of sustainable and effective civilian policing arrangements, which will ensure appropriate interaction with the wider criminal justice system, in keeping with the policy advice and institution-building work of the Community, Member States and other international actors. Further the Mission will support the reform process towards a trusted and efficient police service, which works in accordance with international standards, within the framework of the rule of law and respects human rights.

COUNCIL JOINT ACTION 2007/369/CFSP of 30 May 2007 on establishment of the European Union Police Mission in Afghanistan

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