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*Delegation for relations with Afghanistan*

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**D-AF\_PV(2013)1128**

**MINUTES**

of the meeting of 28 November 2013, from 11.00 to 12.30  
Brussels

The meeting opened at 11.10 on Thursday 28 November 2013, with Philippe Juvin (Vice Chair) in the chair.

**1. Adoption of the draft agenda**

Due to the absence of Delegation Chair Thijs Berman, the briefing on the joint D-AF & SEDE mission to Afghanistan (28-31 October 2013) was postponed to the next delegation meeting.

The agenda was therefore shortened and focused on exchange of views with Afghan Spokespeople.

**2. Adoption of the minutes of the meeting of 18 September 2013**

The minutes were adopted without any changes.

**3. Exchange of views with Afghan Spokespeople**

First Vice-President Philippe Juvin (EPP, France) welcomed the Afghan delegation. He recalled that the EP was determined to keep supporting Afghanistan.

The Chair gave floor to Ms. Adela Raz, First Deputy Spokesperson and Director of Communication to the President of Afghanistan. Ms. Raz explained that the main purpose of her delegation mission to Europe was to discuss the upcoming year and the April 2014 elections, which would take place on time, in a transparent manner, without any internal or

external interference. She stressed that the Afghan population was enthusiastic about participating to these elections which would be a historical moment for the country.

Mr. Sediq Seddiqi, Director General of Public Diplomacy and Spokesman, Ministry of Interior, thanked the EU and the European countries for their cooperation and help. He expressed his gratitude for their generous contribution over the past 12 years. He highlighted the democratic progresses: the Afghan people understood democratic values ; as an example, he noted that the integration and participation of women in the society had improved during the last 12 years. He also underlined that the continued commitment of the EU and the USA to Afghanistan would be based on shared human rights values and the common goals security, prosperity, peace and democracy. Mr. Seddiqi expressed his confidence over the capability of the Afghan National Police (ANP) to assume full responsibility as the transition process was now entering into its last stage.

As for the elections, voter registration had now started. Chair Juvin enquired whether if the security situation now allowed for elections on the whole territory, compared to the previous 2009 elections. Mr. Seddiqi answered that he was confident that nearly all polling stations would be secured for the elections which could therefore take place in a free, fair and more secure environment than the previous Presidential elections of 2009 ("9 districts still need to be cleared up before April").

Major General Mohammad Zahir Azimi, Spokesman of the Ministry of Defence expressed his condolences over the death of European soldiers and expressed his gratitude over the efforts and sacrifices that had been made during the last 12 years. He also thanked the EU for its training program. Major General Azimi informed about how the Afghan forces responded to current threats and challenges. In the course of 2013, the Afghan National Army (ANA) and the ANP had gradually taken over the overall leadership of operations from ISAF forces, as per the ongoing transition scenario. Despite the huge challenges, he was confident that the ANA would be able to fight the insurgency without direct help from the international community.

The Afghan Ambassador, H.E Hodayoun Tandar, noted that today 65% of the population was less than 25 years-old. The dynamism of the Afghan youth was a key component of the national political will. The international community had paved the way and now, the new generation had fully adopted the new aspirations of democracy, human rights, civil, political and social liberties. The international community should continue to support Afghanistan on the basis of this common ground.

MEP Francesco Speroni (EFD, Italy) enquired about press reports that stoning would be reintroduced in sharia-inspired Afghan law. These press allegations were categorically denied by Ms. Adela Raz.

Answering a question from Chair Juvin about the Afghan-US bilateral security agreement, Ms Raz, explained that the President still needed to ensure that the Americans would:

- a) take practical steps in favour of the peace talks, notably by urging Pakistan to adopt a more positive attitude;
- b) ban home raids which had a disastrous effects on Afghan public opinion.

This said, she was confident that the agreement would ultimately be concluded since there was a clear need to fight the common threats of terrorism and narcotics.

Chair Juvin further enquired whether it would be possible to have no military forces in Afghanistan. Major General Mohammad Zahir Azimi underlined that threats were not only regional nor national but also international (terrorism, organized crime, etc.) and insisted on the need for international cooperation, supported by Mr. Sediq Seddiqi in this regard.

**4. Any other business**

None.

**6. Date and place of the next meeting**

Members were informed that the next meeting of the Delegation for relations with Afghanistan would be announced electronically

The meeting closed at 12.10

ΠΡИСΥΣΤΒΕΗ ΛΙΣΤ/ΛΙΣΤΑ DE ASISTENCIA/PREZENČNÍ LISTINA/DELTAGERLISTE/  
 ANWESENHEITSLISTE/KOHALOLIJATE NIMEKIRI/ΚΑΤΑΣΤΑΣΗ ΠΑΡΟΝΤΩΝ/RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/  
 LISTE DE PRÉSENCE/ELENCO DI PRESENZA/APMEKLĚJUMU REĢISTR/DALYVIŲ SAŖAŠAS/JELENLÉTI ÍV/  
 REĢISTRU TA' ATTENDENZA/PRESENTIELIJST/LISTA OBECNOŠCI/LISTA DE PRESENÇAS/LISTĂ DE PREZENȚĂ/  
 PREZENČNÁ LISTINA/SEZNAM NAVZOČIH/LÄSNÄOLOLISTA/DELTAGARLISTA

Бюро/Мesa/Předsednictvo/Formandskabet/Vorstand/Juhatus/Προεδρείο/Bureau/Ufficio di presidenza/Prezidijs/Biuras/Elnökség/ Prezydium/Birou/Predsednictvo/Predsedstvo/Puheenjohtajisto/Presidiet (*)
Philippe Juvin
Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Μέλη/Members/Députés/Deputati/Deputāti/Nariai/Képviselők/ Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Deputați/Jäsenet/Ledamöter
Francesco Sèroni
Заместници/Suplentes/Náhradníci/Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Asendusliikmed/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suppléants/Supplenti/ Aizstājēji/Pavaduojantys nariai/Póttagok/Sostituti/Plaatsvervangers/Zastępcy/Membros suplentes/Supleanți/Náhradníci/Namestniki/ Varajäsenet/Suppleanter

187 (2)
193 (3)
49 (6) (Точка от дневния ред/Punto del orden del día/Bod pořadu jednání (OJ)/Punkt på dagsordenen/Tagesordnungspunkt/Päevakorra punkt/Ημερήσια Διάταξη Σημείο/Agenda item/Point OJ/Punto all'ordine del giorno/Darba kārtības punkts/Darbotvarkēs punktas/ Napirendi pont/Punt fuq l-aġenda/Agendapunt/Punkt porządku dziennego/Ponto OD/Punct de pe ordinea de zi/Bod programu schôdze/ Točka UL/Esityslistan kohta/Föredragningslista punkt)

Наблюдатели/Observadores/Pozorovatelé/Observatører/Beobachter/Vaatlejad/Παρατηρητές/Observers/Observateurs/Osservatori/ Novērotāji/Stebētojai/Megfigyelők/Osservatori/Waarnemers/Observatorzy/Observadores/Observatori/Pozorovatelia/Opazovalci/ Tarkkailijat/Observatörer

По покана на председателя/Por invitación del presidente/Na pozvání předsedy/Efter indbydelse fra formanden/Auf Einladung des Vorsitzenden/Esimehe kutsel/Με πρόσκληση του Προέδρου/At the invitation of the Chair(wo)man/Sur l'invitation du président/ Su invito del presidente/Pēc priekšsēdētāja uzaicinājuma/Pirmininkui pakvietus/Az elnök meghívására/Fuq stedina tal-President/ Op uitnodiging van de voorzitter/Na zaproszenie Przewodniczącego/A convite do Presidente/La invitația președintelui/Na pozvanie predsedu/Na povabilo predsednika/Puheenjohtajan kutsusta/På ordförandens inbjudan
Anna Nijsters, Ms Raz Adela, Mr Safi Sefatullah, Mr Sediq Sediqqi, MajGen Mohammad Zahir Azimi, Mr S. Hazifullah Moududi, Dr. Mohammad Shafiq Mohammad Yusuf, Mr. Daniele Riggio, Mr. Abdul Salam Gulistani, Mr. Javed Stanekzai, Mr. Ahmad Hadi Wali, Mr. Azim Wardak, H.E Homayoun Tandar

Съвет/Consejo/Rada/Rådet/Rat/Nðukogu/Συμβούλιο/Council/Conseil/Consiglio/Padome/Taryba/Tanács/Kunsill/Raad/Conselho/Consiliu/Svet/Neuvosto/Rådet (*)	
Комисия/Comisión/Komise/Kommissionen/Kommission/Euroopa Komisjon/Επιτροπή/Commission/Commissione/Komisija/Bizottság/Kummissjoni/Commissie/Komisja/Comissão/Comisie/Komisja/Komissio/Kommissionen (*)	
Европейска служба за външна дейност/Енτροпска служба про внѣjší činnost/EU-Udenrigstjenesten/Europäischer Auswärtiger Dienst/Euroopa välissteenistus/Ευρωπαϊκή Υπηρεσία Εξωτερικής Δράσης/European External Action service/Servicio Europeo de Acción Exterior/Service européen pour l'action extérieure/Servizio europeo per l'azione esterna/Eiropas Ārējās darbības dienests/Europos išorės veiksmų tarnyba/Európai Kültügyi Szolgálat/Servizz Ewropew għall-Azzjoni Esterna/Europese dienst voor extern optreden/Europejska Służba Działań Zewnętrznych/Serviço Europeu para a Acção Externa/Serviciul european pentru acțiune externă/Európska služba pre vonkajšiu činnost/Енτροпска служба за zunanje delovanje/Euroopan ulkosuhdehallinto/Europeiska avdelningen för yttre åtgärd (*)	
Paul Godfrey	
Други институции/Otras instituciones/Ostatní orgány a instituce/Andre institutioner/Andere Organe/Muud institutsioonid/Άλλα θεσμικά όργανα/Other institutions/Autres institutions/Altre istituzioni/Citas iestādes/Kitos institucijos/Más intézmények/Istituzjonijiet oħra/Andere instellingen/Inne instytucje/Outras Instituições/Alte instituții/Iné inštitúcie/Druge institucije/Muut toimielimet/Andra institutioner/organ	

Други учасници/Otros participantes/Ostatní účastníci/Endvidere deltog/Andere Teilnehmer/Muud osalejad/Επίσης Παρόντες/Other participants/Autres participants/Altri partecipanti/Citi klātesošie/Kiti dalyviai/Más résztvevők/Partecipanti oħra/Andere aanwezigen/Inni uczestnicy/Outros participantes/Alți participanți/Ini účastníci/Dруги udeleženci/Muut osallistajat/Övriga deltagare	

Секретариат на политическите групи/Secretaría de los Grupos políticos/Sekretariát politických skupin/Gruppernes sekretariat/Sekretariat der Fraktionen/Fraktsioonide sekretariaat/Γραμματεία των Πολιτικών Ομάδων/Secretariats of political groups/Secrétariat des groupes politiques/Segreteria gruppi politici/Politisko grupu sekretariāts/Frakciju sekretoriai/Képviselőcsoportok titkársága/Sekretarjat gruppi poliitici/Fractiesecretariaten/Sekretariat Grup Politycznych/Secr. dos grupos políticos/Secretariate grupuri politice/Sekretariát politických skupin/Sekretariat političnih skupin/Politiitisten ryhmien sihteeristöt/Gruppernas sekretariat	
PPE S&D ALDE ECR Verts/ALE GUE/NGL EFD NI	Rino Trombetta

Кабинет на председателя/Gabinete del Presidente/Kancelář předsedy/Formandens Kabinet/Kabinett des Präsidenten/Presidendi kantselei/Γραφείο Προέδρου/President's Office/Cabinet du Président/Gabinetto del Presidente/Priekšsēdētāja kabinets/Pirmininko kabinetas/Elnöki hivatal/Kabinett tal-President/Kabinet van de Voorzitter/Gabinet Przewodniczącego/Gabinete do Presidente/Cabinet Președinte/Kancelária predsedu/Urad predsednika/Puhemiehen kabinetti/Talmannens kansli	

Кабинет на генералния секретар/Gabinete del Secretario General/Kancelář generálního tajemníka/Generalsekretærens Kabinet/  
Kabinett des Generalsekretärs/Peasekretäri büroo/Γραφείο Γενικού Γραμματέα/Secretary-General's Office/Cabinet du Secrétaire  
général/Gabinetto del Segretario generale/Generalsekretära kabinets/Generalinio sekretoriaus kabinetas/Főtitkári hivatal/Kabinett tas-  
Segretarju Ġenerali/Kabinet van de secretaris-generaal/Gabinet Sekretarza Generalnego/Gabinete do Secretário-Geral/Cabinet Secretar  
General/Kancelária generalného tajomníka/Urad generalnega sekretarja/Pääsihteerin kabinetti/Generalsekreterarens kansli

Генерална дирекция/Dirección General/Generální ředitelství/Generaldirektorat/Generaldirektion/Peadirektoraat/Γενική Διεύθυνση/  
Directorate-General/Direction générale/Direzione generale/Generāldirektorāts/Generalinis direktoratas/Főigazgatóság/Direttorat  
Ġenerali/Direktoraten-generaal/Dyrekcja Generalna/Direcção-Geral/Direcții Generale/Generálne riaditeľstvo/Generalni direktorat/  
Pääosasto/Generaldirektorat

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Service juridique/Servizio giuridico/Juridiskais dienests/Teisės tarnyba/Jogi szolgálat/Servizz legali/Juridische Dienst/Wydział prawny/  
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sekretariaat/Γραμματεία επιτροπής/Committee secretariat/Secrétariat de la commission/Segreteria della commissione/Komitejas  
sekretariāts/Komiteo sekretoriatas/A bizottság titkársága/Sekretarjat tal-kumitat/Commissiesecretariaat/Sekretariat komisji/  
Secretariado da comissão/Secretariat comisie/Sekretariat odbora/Valiokunnan sihteeristö/Utskottssekretariatet

François Massoulie

Сътрудник/Asistente/Asistent/Assistent/Assistenz/Βοηθός/Assistant/Assistente/Palīgs/Padējējas/Asszisztens/Asystent/Pomočnik/  
Avustaja/Assistenten

Ainhoa Markuleta, Laure Vassel

- \* (P) = Председател/Presidente/Předseda/Formand/Vorsitzender/Esimees/Πρόεδρος/Chair(wo)man/Président/Priekšsēdētājs/Pirmininkas/  
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(M) = Член/Miembro/Člen/Medlem./Mitglied/Parlamendiliige/Μέλος/Member/Membre/Membro/Deputāts/Narys/Képviselő/  
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