



Delegation for relations with Afghanistan

D-AF_PV(2013)1217

MINUTES

of the meeting of 17 December 2013, from 10.00 to 11.00
Brussels

The meeting opened at 10.10 on Tuesday 17 December 2013, with Thijs Berman in the Chair.

1. Adoption of the draft agenda

The agenda was adopted without any change.

2. Announcements by the Chair

The Chair informed about the 18 December 2013 *High Level Conference on Afghanistan and Central Asia: prospects and challenges after withdrawal Of NATO/ISAF* organised by the Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET) in association with the Delegation for relations with Afghanistan (D-AF) and the Delegation for relations with Central Asia (D-CA). Chair Berman welcomed this timely initiative, announced that, in the absence of AFET Chair Elmar Brok, he would chair the conference, and expressed hopes for a good attendance.

3. Briefing on the joint delegation mission D-AF & SEDE to Afghanistan on 28-31 October 2013

Chair Berman stated that since he was the only Member participating to this D-AF meeting, there was little point for a full debriefing. The mission report would soon be circulated

This said, Chair Berman shared his views that the quality of the 2014 elections would be even more important for the future of Afghanistan than the withdrawal of international forces. Compared with the 2009 elections, there was room for cautious optimism: the new generation of young Afghans was eager to consolidate the civil liberties acquired over the past twelve

years. Moreover, political parties and presidential candidates had developed a great sense of responsibility and expressed readiness to take full charge of the country after 2014.

Quoting UN Special Representative of the Secretary General for Afghanistan Jan Kubiš whom he had met at the European Parliament on 3 December 2013, Chair Berman called for "strategic patience" towards Afghanistan.

4. Any other business

Exchange of views about the 2014 elections and the possible deployment of an EU Election Observation Mission

Chair Berman referred to the discussion held within the Democracy Support and Election Coordination Group (DEG) about whether or not the European Parliament should send a delegation of short-term observers in case the EU would deploy an Election Observation Mission (EOM). Despite the security constraints, which would make it difficult for first-hand observation, it may be useful that Members assess themselves the situation and report to the European parliament and their constituencies in order to consolidate support for Europe's long-term commitment in Afghanistan.

The EEAS concurred with Chair Berman that there were more reasons to be optimistic than in 2009. The EEAS would send an exploratory mission in January 2014. On the basis of its report, expected in February 2014, HR/VP Ashton would decide about the deployment of an EU EOM. In this respect, Chair Berman recalled that, during his October 2013 mission, all Afghan stake-holders and EU Heads of Mission in Kabul had strongly favoured an EU EOM, notably because it would contribute to a better environment.

Ambassador Homyoun Tandar shared his views about the electoral environment. Turnout was the first challenge: "people may have the feeling that the issue of the election is decided out of Afghanistan, by Europe or by the USA". It was crucially important to dispel this misperception. So far, 4 million new voters had been registered peacefully (only 2 security incidents had been recorded). The weather was also a factor: cold and snow may reduce the turnout but increase security since there was a lull in insurgency activities at that time of the year.

Ambassador Tandar concurred with Chair Berman that an EU EOM would be highly welcomed, notably as a demonstration of support to the young Afghan democracy. Other observers would participate: the OSCE would send a team and 6000 domestic observers -civil society and candidates' representatives- were also expected. As far as security was concerned, even if up to 30% of the polling stations may not be completely safe, this did not mean that 30% of the population would be affected: most of the areas were sparsely populated and this would therefore not impact the legitimacy of the election.

The EEAS suggested that the signature of the Bilateral Security Agreement with the USA before the elections would have a stabilisation effect.

EU-Afghanistan Cooperation Agreement on Partnership and Development (CAPD)

Chair Berman inquired about the status of the CAPD negotiations, meant to serve as the overall legal framework for EU-Afghan relations for the coming decade. The EEAS explained that the EU had been waiting for more than a year to receive official feedback to its draft text, and was still waiting. Ambassador Tandar stated that the wording of two articles may require some adjustments without however affecting the content. Chair Berman offered that, once the EU and the Afghan government would have initialled the agreement, he may enter into a dialogue with his Afghan counterparts in order to facilitate ratification by the Afghan and European Parliaments.

6. Date and place of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Delegation for relations with Afghanistan will be announced electronically

The meeting closed at 11.10.

ΠΡΗΣΥΤΒΕΗ ΛΙΣΤ/ΛΙΣΤΑ ΔΕ ΑΣΙΣΤΕΝΙΑ/ΠΡΕΖΕΝΧΝΙ ΛΙΣΤΙΝΑ/ΔΕΛΤΑΓΕΡΛΙΣΤΕ/
 ΑΝΨΕΝΗΕΙΤΣΛΙΣΤΕ/ΚΟΗΑΛΟΛΙΓΑΤΕ ΝΙΜΕΚΙΡΙ/ΚΑΤΑΣΤΑΞΗ ΠΑΡΟΝΤΩΝ/ΡΕΚΟΡΔ ΟΥ ΑΤΤΕΝΔΑΝΣΕ/
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 ΡΕΓΙΣΤΡΟ ΤΑ' ΑΤΤΕΝΔΕΝΖΑ/ΠΡΕΣΕΝΤΙΕΛΙΣΤ/ΛΙΣΤΑ ΟΒΕΚΝΟΣΙ/ΛΙΣΤΑ ΔΕ ΠΡΕΣΕΝΑΣ/ΛΙΣΤΑ ΔΕ ΠΡΕΖΕΝΤΑ/
 ΠΡΕΖΕΝΧΝΑ ΛΙΣΤΙΝΑ/ΣΕΖΝΑΜ ΝΑΨΟΧΙΗ/ΛΑΣΝΑΟΛΟΛΙΣΤΑ/ΔΕΛΤΑΓΑΡΛΙΣΤΑ

Бюро/Μεσα/Πρδседnictvo/Formandskabet/Vorstand/Juhatus/Προεδρείο/Bureau/Ufficio di presidenza/Prezidijs/Biuras/Elnökség/ Prezydium/Birou/Predsednictvo/Predsedstvo/Puheenjohtajisto/Presidiet (*)
Thijs Berman
Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Μέλη/Members/Députés/Deputati/Deputāti/Nariai/Képviselek/ Membri/Leden/Poslowie/Deputados/Deputați/Jäsenet/Ledamöter
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/Stebētājai/Megfigyelők/Osservatori/Waarnemers/Observatorzy/Observadores/Observatori/Pozorovatelja/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
H.E Homayoun Tandar

Съвет/Consejo/Rada/Rådet/Rat/Nōukogu/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/Европска служба pro vnější činnost/EU-Udenrigstjenesten/Europäischer Auswärtiger Dienst/Euroopa välisteenistus/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 Külügyi 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 činnosť/Evropska služba za 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 instituii/Iné inštitúcie/Druge institucije/Muut toimeilimet/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/Iní účastníci/Drugi udeleženci/Muut osallistujat/Övriga deltagare	
Minke Van Der Sar	

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PPE S&D ALDE ECR Verts/ALE GUE/NGL EFD NI	

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DG PRES
DG IPOL
DG EXPO
DG COMM
DG PERS
DG INLO
DG TRAD
DG INTE
DG FINS
DG ITEC

Samuel Cantell

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François Massoulie, Andreas Striegnitz

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

Emma Mollet, Laure Vassel

- * (P) = Председател/Presidente/Předseda/Formand/Vorsitzender/Esimees/Πρόεδρος/Chair(wo)man/Président/Priekšsēdētājs/Pirmininkas/Elnök/President/Voorzitter/Przewodniczący/Preşedinte/Predsed/Predsednik/Puheenjohtaja/Ordförande
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