



**D-AF\_PV(2013)0620**

**PROCÈS-VERBAL**

Réunion du 20 juin 2013, de 9 heures à 10 heures  
Bruxelles

La réunion est ouverte le jeudi 20 juin 2013 à 9 h 05, sous la présidence de Thijs Berman (président).

**1. Adoption du projet d'ordre du jour**

Le projet d'ordre du jour est adopté sans modification.

**2. Approbation du procès-verbal de la réunion du 29 mai 2013**

Le procès-verbal est adopté sans modification.

**3. Communications de la présidence**

Le président explique que, vu le niveau général de participation, aucune interprétation n'a été demandée pour cette réunion. Le fait qu'aucun autre député ne soit présent a motivé cette décision. Ceci est très regrettable, en particulier au vu des importants développements qui ont lieu actuellement en Afghanistan:

- le 18 juin, le président Karzai a annoncé la phase finale de la transition de la sécurité des troupes de l'OTAN aux forces afghanes. Lors de la cérémonie de passation de pouvoir à Kaboul, le secrétaire général de l'OTAN Rasmussen a qualifié cet événement d'étape essentielle.
- Le même jour, les Talibans ont ouvert un bureau politique au Qatar, dans l'intention déclarée de construire des relations avec le monde, de rencontrer d'autres Afghans et de

contacter les Nations unies, d'autres agences et les médias. Le président Karzai a alors exprimé sa farouche opposition.

L'ambassadeur afghan Humayoun Tandar exprime sa consternation devant l'ouverture à Doha d'un bureau battant pavillon de l'"Émirat islamique d'Afghanistan", selon le nom du régime taliban de 1996-2001. Baisser le drapeau de l'OTAN à Kaboul et hisser le drapeau taliban était une "coïncidence" désastreuse. Dans leur conversation téléphonique, le président Karzai a clairement fait savoir au secrétaire d'État américain Kerry que Kaboul ne participerait jamais à des pourparlers sur une telle base.

#### **4. Résolution du Parlement européen du 12 juin 2013 sur les négociations relatives à un accord de coopération entre l'Union européenne et l'Afghanistan sur le partenariat et le développement: analyse et suivi**

Le président présente les principaux éléments de la résolution du PE qu'il a co-parrainée.

S'agissant du paragraphe 9 sur la coopération interinstitutionnelle entre le Parlement et le SEAE<sup>1</sup>, il demande des explications au représentant de ce service. Ce dernier reconnaît le besoin d'une meilleure communication sur la négociation de l'accord de coopération sur le partenariat et le développement. Il y a eu des retards du côté afghan, qui n'a pas réagi à la proposition présentée en novembre 2012. Maintenant que les autorités afghanes ont désigné un nouveau chef négociateur, le SEAE espère que l'Afghanistan sera en mesure d'apporter une réponse et que le processus progressera très rapidement.

#### **5. Conférence intitulée "La paix pour tous les Afghans?", organisée les 3 et 4 juin 2013: échange de vues sur ses recommandations avec Peter Brune, Secrétaire général de l'ENNA, et Anna Nijsters, coordinatrice de la communication**

Après avoir remercié le président d'avoir organisé l'événement au Parlement, Anna Nijsters indique que la Conférence ENNA<sup>2</sup> a souligné que les Afghans aspiraient à la paix. Mais elle a aussi mis en lumière leurs craintes, notamment sur l'avenir des droits humains et des droits des femmes. Dans les parties du pays où la sécurité est retournée aux mains des forces intérieures, la sécurité et la situation générale des femmes ont déjà empiré, notamment en raison de la pression familiale.

Tous les participants afghans ont délivré un message clair à l'UE: "les missions militaires internationales touchent à leur fin, ne nous abandonnez pas, pas encore. Restez impliqués en Afghanistan, pour de nombreuses années encore, non pas pour nous dominer, pas seulement en tant que formateurs, mais plutôt comme mentors du peuple afghan". Ils ont tous demandé un

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<sup>1</sup> "regrette que le SEAE n'ait pas dûment informé le Parlement durant l'ensemble des phases des négociations, malgré ses obligations dans ce domaine; rappelle les nouvelles prérogatives que lui confère le traité de Lisbonne en matière de politique extérieure et demande au SEAE et au Conseil de coopérer pleinement sur un dossier d'une telle importance"; <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=MOTION&reference=P7-RC-2013-0274&language=FR>

<sup>2</sup> Réseau européen des ONG en Afghanistan

soutien continu de l'UE pour la difficile tâche qu'ils veulent accomplir, pour réaliser la paix et la sécurité dans un État stable qui fonctionne et représentant leurs intérêts. Les ONG afghanes ont demandé une formation à long terme de l'Union européenne et un "parrainage" des forces de police locales.

Le réseau de la société civile a formulé 5 recommandations clés à l'Union européenne:

- mettre le financement du processus de paix à la disposition des organisations de la société civile en vue de constituer une plateforme de dialogue;
- soutenir le renforcement des capacités des organisations de la société civile afghane, comme instances de surveillance essentielles de la gouvernance afghane;
- soutenir en particulier les organisations féminines, car elles jouent un rôle crucial pour une paix durable, mettre en œuvre des programmes relatifs à l'émancipation des femmes, à la sécurité et à la sensibilisation à leurs droits;
- surveiller les prochaines élections et le processus pré-électoral, proposer des lignes directrices et des outils pour un État qui fonctionne;
- ne pas oublier l'économie, travailler avec le gouvernement afghan à la création d'emplois.

Mme Nijsters dit que l'ENNA a été très satisfaite de la participation du commissaire au développement Piebalgs. Il a formulé plusieurs remarques importantes sur l'engagement futur en Afghanistan, déclarant notamment : "Nous trouverons un moyen d'aider les Afghans, l'Afghanistan demeure en tête des priorités". Mme Nijsters conclut en formulant l'espoir que cet engagement sera pleinement soutenu par le Parlement.

Le président se félicite également de la participation du commissaire Piebalgs à la Conférence. Il a pris bonne note de son engagement en faveur d'un soutien continu. Le président partage aussi le point de vue du commissaire Piebalgs des "six piliers pour une paix durable":

- un processus de paix crédible;
- le succès des élections présidentielles de l'année prochaine;
- la création urgente d'emplois;
- des efforts accrus pour protéger les droits de l'homme, en particulier les droits des femmes;
- la mise en place d'un système judiciaire formel efficace pour restaurer la croyance de tous les Afghans dans l'égalité devant la loi, dont l'absence était l'un des pires écueils du projet de mise en place de l'appareil d'État en Afghanistan.

Le président Berman estime qu'au lieu d'un "soutien résolu", une dénomination plus adéquate pour la force qui succédera à l'ISAF pourrait être "Retrait résolu" et souligne qu'il est crucial que l'Union européenne reste présente et engagée auprès des Afghans, en Afghanistan. L'Union européenne devrait accorder une attention et un soutien particuliers aux ONG.

En ce qui concerne l'encadrement des forces de police, le président se demande si le format actuel d'EUPOL sera suffisamment fort. Pour sa part, l'ambassadeur Tandar espère qu'EUPOL sera prolongé jusqu'en 2014. Le SEAE explique que les discussions sur ce sujet ont débuté: le 14 juin, le général Mujtaba Patang, ministre de l'intérieur afghan, s'est rendu à Bruxelles pour discuter de la coopération future en matière de capacités de maintien de l'ordre avec la commission politique et de sécurité. Une décision concernant l'avenir d'EUPOL au-delà du mandat actuel nécessitera un consensus de la part des États membres de l'Union européenne.

Les représentants du SEAE et de DEVCO<sup>1</sup> confirment que l'assistance de l'Union européenne se poursuivra au-delà de 2014, et soulignent le travail des ONG dans les domaines des droits humains et des droits des femmes, la défense et la surveillance, les médias et l'information, l'état de droit et la gouvernance locale. Ils ont écouté très attentivement les demandes formulées lors de la Conférence et essaieront d'en tenir compte le plus possible dans la future programmation de l'aide de l'Union. Ils distribuent également le discours du commissaire Piebalgs, annexé au présent rapport.

Voir l'annexe I pour le discours du commissaire Piebalgs et l'annexe II pour la présentation d'Ana Nijsters (ENNA).

## **6. Questions diverses**

Dans sa réponse à une question de Mme Sabine Meyer<sup>2</sup>, la représentante de DEVCO assure que les fonds de la CE n'ont pas été affectés par le scandale de la Banque de Kaboul.

## **6. Date et lieu de la prochaine réunion**

Les membres sont informés que la prochaine réunion de la délégation pour les relations avec l'Afghanistan sera annoncée par voie électronique.

La séance est levée à 10 heures.

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<sup>1</sup> SEAE: Paul Godfrey, responsable géographique de l'Afghanistan; DEVCO: Ambra Longatti, responsable géographique de l'Afghanistan

<sup>2</sup> Conseiller politique, Verts/ALE

**ПРИСЪСТВЕН ЛИСТ/LISTA DE ASISTENCIA/PREZENČNÍ LISTINA/DELTAGERLISTE/  
ANWESENHEITSLISTE/KOHALOLIJATE NIMEKIRI/KATAΣΤΑΣΗ ΠΑΡΟΝΤΩΝ/RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/  
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| Carlo Fidanza  |
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| Ambassador Tandar, Abeda Osman; Anna Nijsters  |

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| Ambra Longhati   |  |
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| Paul Geoffrey;   |  |
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| Laura Ballarin, Malgorzata, Weber, Laliulina, Marco Dugnam, Monia Hidalgo, Beatrice Wanton, Michelle Craeng   |  |

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| 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 sekretoriat/Képviseletcsoportok titkársága/Sekretariat gruppi polițici/Fractiesecretariat/Sekretariat Grup Politycznych/Secr. dos grupos políticos/Secretariate grupuri politice/Sekretariát politických skupin/Sekretariat političnih skupin/Poliittisten ryhmien sihteeristöt/Gruppernas sekretariat |                |
| PPE   | Rino Trombetta |
| S&D   |                |
| ALDE  |                |
| ECR   |                |
| Verts/ALE   | Sabine Meyer   |
| GUE/NGL   |                |
| EFD   |                |
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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 generálneho tajomníka/Urząd generalnego sekretarza/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

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

Sandro D'Angelo; Marc Bentinck

Правна служба/Servicio Jurídico/Právní služba/Juridisk Tjeneste/Juristischer Dienst/Öigusteenistus/Νομική Υπηρεσία/Legal Service/Service juridique/Servizio giuridico/Juridiskais dienests/Teisės tarnyba/Jogi szolgálat/Servizz legali/Juridische Dienst/Wydział prawny/Serviço Jurídico/Serviciu Juridic/Právny servis/Pravna služba/Oikeudellinen yksikkö/Rättstjänsten

Секретариат на комисията/Secretaría de la comisión/Sekretariát výboru/Udvalgssekretariatet/Ausschussekreteriat/Komisjoni sekretariaat/Γραμματεία επιτροπής/Committee secretariat/Secrétariat de la commission/Segreteria della commissione/Komitejas sekretariāts/Komitetu sekretoriatas/A bizottság titkársága/Sekretarjat tal-kumitat/Commissiesecretariaat/Sekretariat komisji/Sekretariado 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

- \* (P) = Председател/Presidente/Předseda/Formand/Vorsitzender/Esimees/Πρόεδρος/Chair(wo)man/Président/Priekšsēdētājs/Pirmininkas/Elnök/President/Voorzitter/Przewodniczący/Preşedinte/Predseda/Predsednik/Puheenjohtaja/Ordförande  
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**DISCOURS**  
**BY COMMISSIONER ANDRIS PIEBALGS**  
**at**  
**the ENNA conference on “Peace for all Afghans?”**  
*European Parliament, 3 June 2013*

**Introduction**

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to start by thanking the co-organisers of this conference – ENNA, Crisis Management Initiative (CMI) and ACBAR – for this opportunity. Your organisations have been tireless in raising many of the key issues on Afghanistan. You have also been vital in partnering many Afghan organisations to develop their awareness and capacity. That is a strong and important link between EU and Afghanistan civil society. And together, you have engaged and influenced policymakers both in the EU, and more importantly, in Afghanistan.

An active Afghan civil society constitutes one of the fundamental ingredients to achieve inclusive economic development and peace. And the challenge of bringing lasting peace to Afghanistan is a daunting one. You have to go back 35 years, to the late 1970s, to find an Afghanistan free from violent conflict. That isn't even a distant memory for most Afghans. It is estimated that some 80% of Afghans were not even born then. The Afghan people deserve peace, so what can be done to make peace a reality?

Clearly, if achieving an inclusive peace was simple, we would not be sitting here today. But I wanted to highlight six pillars that I see as the basis for building lasting peace in Afghanistan.

**Six pillars for lasting peace**

First, there must be a credible peace process that establishes the common ground between the main protagonists and puts in place the right mechanisms for finding consensus in areas of difference. A number of worthy international and Afghan initiatives are underway that aim to reach out to the insurgents.

The European Union made its position very clear at the Bonn conference in 2011. We support an inclusive Afghan-led process with three important conditions:

ONE: that Afghanistan can never again become a haven for international terrorists;

TWO: that all participants in the process renounce violence;

And THREE: that any settlement recognises and respects the Afghan constitution, including – specifically – the rights and status of women.



With those three important conditions, we would welcome the insurgent groups sitting down with and with representatives of all Afghans to begin to shape an inclusive vision for the country. Civil society should have a very important role in defining that vision. The EU is currently facilitating the input of civil society into the High Peace Council. We are supporting the development of a Memorandum of Understanding on the input of civil society. And we intend to monitor that process.

From an EU perspective, we hope that that vision would be one that builds on the progress made in the last decade; one that finds consensus on the role of religion in the state; one that envisages robust institutions that can lead Afghanistan's development away from some of the worst development indicators seen - not just on the Asian continent, but anywhere in the world.

Any successful peace process in Afghanistan will depend on better regional ties, and especially in improved Afghanistan-Pakistan relations. At times, both Afghanistan and Pakistan have shown an increased appreciation of their interdependence and of the collective need to combat extremism. Unfortunately, there have also been times where the rhetoric has gone too far, with lasting damage to the relationship. The recent Pakistani elections offer a new opportunity to intensify constructive dialogue on how to bring peace to the region.

Second, next year's presidential elections will be critical for Afghanistan for many different reasons, not least the marking of a first democratic transfer of power in Afghanistan's history. But it will also be critical for the peace process. The election of a president widely accepted as embodying the political will of the Afghan people will be an important signal to all Afghans that democracy is founded on solid ground. It will be a message to the insurgents that they face increasing marginalisation if they fail to lay down their arms and pursue peaceful dialogue.

The European Union is one of those in the international community pushing hardest for the elections to be as fair as they can be. Unfortunately, they will probably not be as good as the recent Pakistani elections – where so many people refused to be intimidated by terrorist acts and demonstrated their belief in democracy. But they can and should be step forward from the elections in 2009 and 2010.

For that to happen, it is vital that the Structural and Electoral Laws are passed by parliament as a matter of urgency. Without these, the elections risk going ahead without the broad political support for those bodies responsible for ensuring electoral impartiality, including the Independent Electoral Commission and the Electoral Complaints Commission.

Political parties, parliament and civil society to work together ensure that the fraud prevention mechanisms are not only in place, but widely accepted as robust and effective. These steps will help build the confidence of the parties, the media and, most importantly, ordinary Afghans that these elections will really mark a step forward for the country.

Third, there is an urgent need to create jobs. We know from experience that one of main challenges in any peace process is to find employment for ex-combatants. Afghanistan currently risks a downward economic spiral that would undermine its aspirations for 'self-reliance'. Reducing the dependence on external funding will take many years. But it is a process that needs to start. Whatever way you measure it, Afghanistan is the largest aid

recipient in the world. As the international presence reduces, significant economic growth will be needed to create the jobs to replace those funded, essentially, by the international presence.

Most Afghans work in agriculture and – in the short term – growth and jobs must come from increased agricultural productivity. Increased productivity can have a number of additional positive effects: stimulating the private sector in rural areas; and offering a viable alternative to those Afghans who want to move away from growing poppy. Supporting growth and jobs is one of the reasons that the EU has prioritised funding for agriculture since 2007. I intend that we will continue to do so until at least 2020.

To achieve growth in the more medium term, there is a critical need to restore levels of economic confidence. That means improving the investment climate, so that both Afghan and foreign investors see the benefits of starting businesses in Afghanistan, of investing in businesses in Afghanistan, and reversing the dramatic capital outflow we have seen in the last couple of years.

In the long term, reaching the desired sustained high growth levels necessary to reduce reliance on foreign aid will depend on the responsible exploitation of Afghanistan's natural resources – oil, gas, iron and copper. A mining law to help ensure this has been under discussion, but not passed, for many months now. Passing the law will be an important signal to investors and help ensure that the jobs being created will be Afghan jobs. And that the revenues will go into the Afghan treasury's coffers – not to a warlord or corrupt politician. Because that is a story we have seen too many times before.

Which brings me to my fourth point. Transparent flows of public funding both at the centre and at the sub-provincial level are the backbone of any functioning state. Without it, there can be no democratic oversight of government. Waste and corruption flourish. Corruption is a cancer that eats away at belief in government and the ability to deliver for its people. Corruption will impact heavily on the willingness of ordinary people in Europe and in other donor countries to continue to provide the exceptional levels of assistance Afghanistan has benefitted from in the last decade.

Fifth, more needs to be done to safeguard human rights – in particular women's rights. Human rights are always a priority for the EU. In Afghanistan, the need for action is particularly acute. Much progress has been made – thanks in no small part to the efforts of people in this room and the efforts of the organisations they represent. But the recent discussion in the Afghan Parliament on the rights and wrongs of the law on Eliminating Violence Against Women showed how far we still have to go before women are able to enjoy their full rights.

The EU will continue to argue that the rights of women can never be the price paid for a peace agreement. The ten year EU-Afghanistan Cooperation Agreement on Partnership and Development, which is currently being negotiated, will make full reference to human rights obligations, including the implementation of national and international commitments to protect the rights of women and children. We would welcome the government reiterating its commitment by making the long overdue appointments to the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC), and, most importantly, the Chief Justice.

Which brings me to my last, but by no means least important, pillar. I want to focus on an area that has been neglected, and yet is critical to making progress in all the other areas I have

highlighted – justice and the rule of law. The failure to put in place an effective formal justice system and restore the belief of all Afghans in equality before the law is one of the worst failings of the state-building project in Afghanistan.

Of course, this was not a straightforward task. But the failure to take concerted action strengthens the pull of the insurgents and their use of summary justice; it reinforces concerns that the oversight of the elections will not be fair; it impacts on economic growth, as investors lose confidence in contract enforcement and fair dispute resolution; and it undermines the implementation of laws safeguarding the rights of women and reduces their access to justice. In short, it affects all our priorities. Which is why I plan to make support for the rule of law a key priority in our development engagement.

In this way we will be investing in civilian policing, investing in building judicial institutions, investing in the capacity of prosecutors, and investing in the ability of parliament and civil society to hold people to account.

### **Conclusions**

I will leave you with one final thought. Once a peace agreement is in place – whenever that might be – Afghanistan will need to begin a process of nationwide healing. To start to put the past behind it and look to a future not determined by terrorism, violence and conflict. But to do that Afghanistan will need to put in place a reconciliation process in which people have confidence that the impunity for war crimes and human rights abuses we have seen over more than three decades will not continue.

Without that, I fear there can be no real peace for all Afghans – the peace which they have not had for so long, and which they deserve.

Je vous remercie".

Réunion  
Delegation for relations with Afghanistan – Thursday, 20 June 2013  
European Parliament – Brussels

**“Peace for all Afghans?”**

Report of conference 3-4 June 2013

by Anna Nijsters – ENNA (European Network of NGOs in Afghanistan)

Now that the official peace talks have started, today in Doha, provisionally only the United States and the Taliban are involved, the question is what the people of Afghanistan themselves are expecting from those negotiations, and if and how ordinary Afghans will be involved at all in the next peace process.

Indeed, after more than three decades of violent conflict, the Afghans are longing for peace, that much is clear. But in order to achieve a sustainable peace the process leading to it has to be inclusive, with full respect of human and women’s rights. It means that Afghans themselves, civil society, should be involved in all stages of the peace process.

ENNA organized the conference two weeks ago in this parliament, together with CMI (Crisis Management Initiative from Helsinki – Heinrich Boll Stiftung from Berlin – ACBAR (Coordinating Agency for Afghan relief) precisely to give a voice to those who want and should to be involved.

We invited women and human rights activists and politicians from Afghanistan, they came to Brussels with their courageous stories, also with the latest facts and figures about the lack of security, especially for women, though with an optimistic, yet realistic view about the current situation and future prospects.

They all came with a very clear message : with the international military missions coming to an end, **do not abandon us, not again.** Stay involved in Afghanistan, for many more years, not to take it over from us, not only as trainers, but rather as mentors of the Afghan people.

They all asked for a continuous support from the EU for the difficult task they want to accomplish, to achieve peace and security in a functioning and stable state that represents their interests.

They confirmed that very important achievements have been made with international help, especially in the education and health sectors, in building an infrastructure and in strengthening the rule of law and respect for human rights.

But those achievements would be in real danger if the international development resources were to decrease, as many member states of the EU are considering. Especially women fear for their rights and for the future of their daughters.

A new study presented by Hasina Safi, of the Afghan Women’s Network, made clear that women’s security is rapidly deteriorating in several parts of Afghanistan, freedom of movement has become increasingly restricted, family pressure is growing to remain home. This means that women and girls are deprived of opportunities to empower them, including education and access to services and justice. However, people support the transfer of leadership to the own Afghan security forces and police. But those forces need more training and proper technical equipment.

The Afghans at the conference agreed it is up to them, representatives of civil society, to play a central role in preserving the gains that have been made and in making further progress in the country’s reconstruction.

They convinced us that many of them are prepared for this task, truly want to take their future in their own hands, but they need a long term mentorship from the international community.

Therefore, ENNA emphasizes in the policy recommendations, presented at the conference, that Afghan civil society and the international community are still partners in fostering sustainable development for all in a stable Afghanistan.

Our 5 key recommendations to the European Union are :

- Funding for the peace process should be available to civil society organizations in order to provide a platform for dialogue.
- Support the capacity building of Afghan civil society organisations, as essential monitoring instances of Afghan governance
- Support especially women's organizations, since they are crucial for a sustainable peace, implement programmes on women's empowerment, security and rights awareness.
- Monitor the upcoming elections and the process leading to it, provide guidelines and tools for a functioning state.
- Do not forget the economy, work together with the Afghan government on job creation.

Meanwhile, the members of ENNA recommend to the Afghan government to engage in peace talks only with partners renouncing violence and respecting the Afghan Constitution. Human and women's rights are not negotiable at any stage of the peace process. Instead women should be encouraged to participate and take leading positions (High Peace Council)

Moreover, the Afghan government should recognize civil society as an important actor in the peace process and in Afghanistan's long-term development.

ENNA was very pleased with the participation of European Commissioner Piebalgs, who made several important remarks on his future engagement in Afghanistan. He concluded : "We will find a way to help the Afghans, Afghanistan stays on the top of the agenda".

I hope that this will be fully supported by this Parliament .