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## DELEGATION FOR RELATIONS WITH AFGHANISTAN

*The Chair*

15-8-2022

# STATEMENT

## **One-year anniversary of the collapse of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the takeover by the Taliban**

The Chair of the EP Delegation for relations with Afghanistan (D-AF), [Petras Auštrevičius](#) (Renew, LT) issued the following statement today:

” Today marks the devastating one-year anniversary of the collapse of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the takeover by the Taliban. The regime, despite its attempts to convince about its positive evolution, has remained brutal and repressive, disregarding the fundamental freedoms and rights of the Afghan people. The Taliban’s oppressive policies are gradually undoing the achievements of the last 20 years, hampering the country’s further development and condemning the Afghan people to poverty and isolation.

Since the Taliban took power, we have witnessed the collapse of the country’s economy and banking system, the failure of the new regime to ensure the uninterrupted provision of basic public services and the refusal to open schools for girls aged 12 years and beyond. These and other factors have not only blatantly undermined the quality of life of the Afghan people, but have also brought them to the brink of extreme poverty and hunger. Afghan women who have made a significant contribution to their communities and their country over the past 20 years are no longer able to continue their careers. Former government and military officials, dissenting voices and vulnerable groups, including ethnic, religious and sexual minorities, are subjected to discrimination, exclusion, death threats, extrajudicial executions and terror attacks.

In its resolutions of 16 September 2021 and 7 April 2022 on the situation in Afghanistan, the European Parliament deplored the violent takeover of Afghanistan by the Taliban and refused to recognise their government. We reiterate our position and call on the Taliban to cease all violations and repression against the fundamental and human rights of the Afghan people and to keep their promise of an inclusive government.

We maintain the conditionalities set out in previous EP resolutions and support the five benchmarks indicated in the Council conclusions on Afghanistan as of 15 September 2021 for any future relations. Until there are clear signs of a change in Taliban policy, EU support will be limited to humanitarian aid

delivered directly to the Afghan people. Our utmost priority is to alleviate the severe hunger that affects nearly half of Afghanistan's population, and to support those affected by environmental disasters.

The EP Delegation for relations with Afghanistan will continue to engage with Afghan civil society representatives, human rights defenders, democratically elected parliamentarians, former government officials and the humanitarian community to address the needs of the Afghan people. The European Parliament will continue providing a venue for Afghan women and girls, and vulnerable groups in order their voices to be heard. We will continue to advocate the safe resettlement of Afghans at risk. Our unwavering support and solidarity is with the people of Afghanistan, in preserving the achievements of the last 20 years and building a prosperous, inclusive and secure future for them.”

#### **Further information**

[Profile of Petras Auštrevičius \(Renew, LT\)](#)

[European Parliament's Delegation for relations with Afghanistan \(D-AF\)](#)