



DELEGATION FOR RELATIONS WITH AFGHANISTAN

- *The Chair* -

19-12-2022

STATEMENT

Afghanistan: Taking stock of Taliban regime in 2022

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

"On behalf of the EP Delegation for relations with Afghanistan, I would like to express my sincere hopes that 2023 will be the year of change for the narrative on Afghanistan: positive developments are needed and it is time they come for the sake of the Afghan people. Afghan citizens deserve a stable and safe country, a reality-recognizing leadership and a focussed international community.

D-AF will work for this agenda and will support initiatives aiming at improving education, especially re-opening schools for girls, supporting press freedom and backing a sound respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms, particularly those of the minorities.

The Delegation I have the honour to Chair is deeply concerned over the situation of Afghanistan under the current Taliban regime. Together with all devoted EP bodies, we have repeatedly denounced and condemned, through different parliamentary activities and resolutions, the deterioration of human rights all along 2022. Just to name few examples, let me deplore particularly the condition of women and girls, whose education and public life have been severely limited, of children, which are often forced to early marriages, of religious minorities like Shia and Hazaras, of persecution of LGBTQIA+ and of former government employees amongst which are judges, police, armed forces, and teachers. I am personally outraged by strict return to Sharia law and reintroduction of corporal punishments.

Taliban have not kept promises to guarantee the protection, basic needs and rights of the Afghan people. The country continues to face one of the world's worst humanitarian crises with the majority of population confronted with starvation. Reoccurring terrorist attacks also demonstrate the failure in delivering public safety and security.

Over the past year, the Taliban has proved not to be reliable and their regime cannot be recognised by democratic minded countries. The five EU conditions for any future engagement with the Taliban remain relevant and should be seriously considered by the regime.

As Chair of the D-AF, I call for the European Union and its Member States to continue supporting the Afghan people by increasing the scale and efficiency of humanitarian support, by continuously advocating for women's rights, their education and inclusion in the public life and workforce. Similar support is needed to minorities and persons at risk, including issuance of humanitarian visas.

In order to prevent a complete loss of the achievements over past 20 years in Afghanistan, I advocate for a regional approach and sound international cooperation to reach an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process and post-conflict reconstruction as the only credible path to inclusive, long-term peace, security and development.

I also welcome the resumption of the investigation by the International Criminal Court into crimes against humanity and war crimes in Afghanistan and call on the EU to support this process. The Taliban regime must be held accountable, including for gender-based genocide.

Whereas we strongly condemn the current Taliban regime, we keep standing by the Afghan people. We express our hope for reversing the Taliban's suppressive policies and pursuing much-needed reforms for a stable and prosperous Afghanistan, for which we remain committed to working together."

Further information

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

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

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