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Plenary sitting

10.6.2013

B7-0274/2013

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statement by the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

pursuant to Rule 110(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on the negotiations on an EU-Afghanistan cooperation agreement on partnership and development
(2013/2665(RSP))

**Anneli Jäätteenmäki, Annemie Neyts-Uyttebroeck,
Alexander Graf Lambsdorff, Louis Michel, Niccolò Rinaldi,
Maretje Schaake, Marielle de Sarnez, Sarah Ludford, Robert Rochefort,
Hannu Takkula**
on behalf of the ALDE Group

B7-0274/2013

European Parliament resolution on the negotiations on an EU-Afghanistan cooperation agreement on partnership and development (2013/2665(RSP))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous reports and resolutions on Afghanistan, in particular its resolution of 16 December 2010 on a new strategy for Afghanistan¹, its resolution of 15 December 2011 on budgetary control of EU financial assistance to Afghanistan² and its resolution of 15 December 2011 on the situation of women in Afghanistan and Pakistan³,
 - having regard to the statement of May 2012 by the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Catherine Ashton,
 - having regard to the United Nations Security Council resolutions on Afghanistan, including Resolution 2096 of March 2013,
 - having regard to the conclusions of the International Afghanistan Conferences of 2011 and 2012, including those held in Bonn in December 2011, in Chicago in May 2012, in Kabul in June 2012 and in Tokyo in July 2012,
 - having regard to the statement issued by the EU Delegation to Afghanistan in agreement with the EU Heads of Mission in Afghanistan on 19 November 2012, concerning the execution of people sentenced to the death penalty,
 - having regard to Rule 110(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the EU has been supporting the reconstruction and development of Afghanistan since 2002 and continues to be committed to peaceful transition in Afghanistan, its inclusive and sustainable development and the stability and security of the whole region;
- B. whereas the provision of EU assistance from 2011 to 2013 has focused on key sectors of governance (including the police), agriculture, rural development, health and social protection;
- C. whereas the EU is about to conclude negotiations on a cooperation agreement on partnership and development which will place EU-Afghanistan cooperation on a new, comprehensive level;
- D. whereas the EU is supporting the training of police forces and capacity-building in Afghanistan, and whereas since 2007 the EUPOL mission has been supporting a

¹ OJ C 169 E, 15.6.2012, p. 108.

² Texts adopted, P7_TA(2011)0578.

³ Texts adopted, P7_TA(2011)0591.

sustainable and effective civil police force which will help in establishing a criminal justice system under Afghan ownership;

1. Reaffirms its continued support for the construction of an Afghan state with stronger democratic institutions capable of securing national sovereignty, state unity, territorial integrity and prosperity for the people of Afghanistan; reaffirms that the peaceful future of Afghanistan relies on the building of a stable, secure, economically sustainable state which is free of terrorism and narcotics and is based on the rule of law, strengthened democratic institutions, respect for the separation of powers, and the guarantee of fundamental rights;
2. Welcomes the efforts and progress made in the last decade; reiterates, however, its concern about the security situation and ongoing violence in Afghanistan, which is resulting in threats to the local population, including women, children, national security forces and international military and civilian personnel;
3. Urges the Afghan Government to prepare to take over full responsibility for its security following the withdrawal of international forces; calls on the EU and its Member States to step up their efforts to support the military and civilian capacity-building of the Afghan Government and its national security forces in order to establish stability and security as an essential basis for development and avoid creating a vacuum once the country assumes full responsibility for its own security after 2014;
4. Supports the negotiations on a cooperation agreement on partnership and development and stresses that it should lead to a more strategic approach and to support for the Afghan authorities during and after the withdrawal of international forces; calls on the EU to ensure that the new agreement implements the ‘more for more’ principle by establishing clear conditionality rules in order to move reforms forward;
5. Stresses the importance of this new agreement comprising a comprehensive approach to addressing the security, economic, governance and development challenges in Afghanistan, which are interconnected;
6. Highlights the problem of weak public administration and the lack of reliable governance; expresses its concern with regard to the high level of corruption and the non-functionality of formal judicial structures, questioning the legitimacy of the judiciary system; points to the need for greater accountability, especially where human rights – including the rights of women – are violated, and for a reform of the functioning of the High Council of the Supreme Court;
7. Calls on the Afghan authorities to commute all death sentences and to reintroduce a moratorium on executions with a view to the permanent abolition of the death penalty;
8. Calls on the EU, within the framework of the new agreement, to continue its efforts to support democratic values, the rule of law, a reliable governance system (including the fight against corruption), an independent judiciary, human rights and the creation of a genuine civil society;
9. Points to the need for further socio-economic development and economic diversification;

stresses, in this connection, the potential to boost growth by exploiting energy resources and placing a stronger focus on the extractive industry; underlines, however, the need for the extractive industry to operate transparently and the need to apply the standards laid down by the International Extractive Transparency Initiative;

10. Stresses the need to support the development of infrastructure in many sectors, including schools, hospitals, transport and energy grids; calls on the EU to step up its efforts, especially as regards access to health care and education, and teacher training;
11. Notes that despite some progress in the field of gender equality and fundamental rights over the last decade, women in Afghanistan still represent the weakest segment of society and continue to be subjected to threats, intimidation and violence and to suffer from discriminatory laws; highlights the need – from both a legal and a practical perspective – to integrate women fully into society and ensure their full participation, and to achieve real empowerment of women;
12. Regrets the fact that the EU anti-narcotics initiative has not achieved satisfactory results so far; points out that drug production and trafficking sustain ‘insurgent’ groups and fuel corruption at various levels; recalls Parliament’s call for a plan to eliminate drug cultivation and stresses that the main focus of such action should be on supporting income alternatives for farmers; highlights, in this connection, the need for a broader strategy in relation to sustainable rural development and water management;
13. Stresses the importance of a comprehensive and inclusive Afghan-led and -owned approach to reconciliation in Afghanistan for all those who renounce violence, respect the constitution – including its human rights provisions, in particular those relating to the rights of women – and are willing to join in building a peaceful Afghanistan; stresses that the peace process should involve the political opposition, civil society in general and women in particular, and be as inclusive as possible; calls for the role of the High Peace Council in this area to be strengthened and focused more closely on the actual peace process;
14. Recalls the commitments made by the Government of Afghanistan at the International Afghanistan Conferences in Kabul and Tokyo to strengthen and improve Afghanistan’s electoral process, including long-term electoral reform, in order to ensure that future elections meet international standards; welcomes the announcement of the date for the 2014 presidential and provincial council elections, along with Afghanistan’s preparations for those elections; stresses the need to mobilise participation, which may depend on the security situation, especially in the southern and eastern provinces; reminds the Afghan authorities of the need for oversight by national and international observers of the national electoral roll and of the organisation and monitoring of the voting process in the forthcoming election; calls on the EU to provide support, at the request of the Afghan authorities, for the organisation of the forthcoming elections;
15. Emphasises that it is crucial to coordinate the provision of EU assistance as part of a joint approach involving international actors in a common strategy; welcomes the strategic consensus between the Government of Afghanistan and the international community on a renewed and enduring partnership for the next decade, as mentioned in the conclusions of the Tokyo Conference on Afghanistan and the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework;

16. Invites the Court of Auditors to draw up a special report on the effectiveness of EU assistance to Afghanistan over the last decade, similar to the one on the EULEX mission in Kosovo;
17. Stresses the need for regional cooperation which has the objective of considering Afghanistan in the context of a broader strategy for greater stability and security in the wider region; emphasises the need for enhanced cooperation with Russia, Pakistan, Central Asia, India and Iran as part of a regional framework, in order to address the challenges presented by security issues, cross-border trafficking in people and goods, and the fight against the illegal production and trafficking of drugs;
18. Calls on the European External Action Service to improve its cooperation with Parliament in relation to EU assistance to Afghanistan, including the progress of negotiations; expects full information on the terms of negotiations and regular reporting once the agreement has been adopted;
19. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the Government and Parliament of Afghanistan, the Council of Europe and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe.