

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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2009

Committee on Development

2007/2208(INI)

10.03.2008

OPINION

of the Committee on Development

for the Committee on Foreign Affairs

on Stabilisation of Afghanistan: challenges for the EU and the international
community
(2007/2208(INI))

Draftsman (*): Jürgen Schröder

(*) Procedure with associated committees - Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Development calls on the Committee on Foreign Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Stresses the need to restructure and coordinate the activities of the NGO community operating in the field; regrets that relations between the government of Afghanistan and NGOs are sometimes suboptimal, and calls on them to engage in dialogue so as to improve relations; suggests that a survey be carried out among NGOs working on the ground in order to assess the problems they are facing and to study possible solutions;
2. Stresses the need to reassess the use of military "Provincial Reconstruction Teams" (PRTs) to undertake reconstruction and/or development work in some of the provinces of Afghanistan; notes that such mechanisms tend to have low performance and poor cost-effectiveness and that they blur the distinction between civilian development workers and the military and may place neutral civilians at risk; points out that such a blurred distinction also runs contrary to the principles of neutrality, humanity, impartiality and independence that should lead any humanitarian intervention;
3. Stresses the need for support to the Afghan Parliament, particularly by means of technical assistance and institutional capacity-building, and points out that Parliament is the most appropriate EU institution to do so, particularly through closer cooperation between the Committee on Development, the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Delegation for Relations with Afghanistan; underlines the need for the Afghan Parliament and civil society to be fully involved in the programming of EC development cooperation and particularly in the drafting of Country Strategy Papers (CSPs) and Annual Action Plans (AAPs);
4. Stresses the importance of some crucial areas which are not considered in the CSP but should be addressed through European cooperation, such as energy, infrastructure and support to the Afghan Parliament, as well as the importance of allocating resources for the empowerment of women in Afghanistan;
5. Underlines the importance of enhancing services in health and education; calls for capacity-building programmes for the Afghan Ministry of Public Health to improve its ability to manage the health sector as well as increased resources for education; calls, further, for specific measures to address the problems facing Afghan women in the sectors of health and education;
6. Notes that insecurity poses a serious threat to aid implementation and effectiveness as well as to geographically homogeneous aid distribution; stresses the need to improve the security situation as well as the geographical distribution of aid as both factors reinforce each other.
7. Calls for a greater degree of monitoring and accountability of the EU's financial aid.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	27.2.2008
Result of final vote	+: 29 -: 1 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Alessandro Battilocchio, Thijs Berman, Josep Borrell Fontelles, Danutë Budreikaitë, Marie-Arlette Carlotti, Thierry Cornillet, Corina Crețu, Nirj Deva, Beniamino Donnici, Fernando Fernández Martín, Hélène Goudin, Alain Hutchinson, Filip Kaczmarek, Glenys Kinnock, Maria Martens, Luisa Morgantini, Horst Posdorf, Frithjof Schmidt, Jürgen Schröder, Felekna Uca, Johan Van Hecke, Ralf Walter, Luis Yañez-Barnuevo García, Anna Záborská, Mauro Zani
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Ana Maria Gomes, Fiona Hall, Manolis Mavrommatis, Linda McAvan, Gabriele Zimmer