

**Question for written answer E-8166/2010  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Katarína Neveďalová (S&D)**

Subject: Taliban in Afghanistan

Taliban rule in Afghanistan was marked by a systematic oppression of women and minorities. This has been well documented in *Models and realities of Afghan womanhood: a retrospective and prospects*, Carol Mann, UNESCO, 2006

As can be seen in articles and analytical pieces such as 'Support grows for pursuit of peace deals with the Taliban', *The Wall Street Journal*, 30 October 2009; 'Taliban talks are vital but high risk', *Oxford Analytica*, 18 March 2009; 'Negotiating with the Taliban: Reconciliation in Afghanistan and Pakistan?' *United States Institute of Peace*, 10 July 2009; and 'Plan to Split Taliban Lures Obama Deeper into War', *Gareth Porter, IPS*, 16 March 2009, the USA is planning to re-strengthen certain elements of the Taliban movement in Afghanistan.

How does the European Commission view the above documented American plans to again bring elements of the Taliban back to power in Afghanistan? How would this impact on the rights of women and minorities and the security situation in the region according to your analysis?