

**Question for written answer E-005590/2020
to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs
and Security Policy**

Rule 138

Clare Daly (GUE/NGL)

Subject: EU policy toward Afghanistan

The security situation in Afghanistan is grave: the Global Peace Index¹ has ranked it the least peaceful country in the world. Afghanistan faces persistent insecurity, increasing Taliban influence and targeted killings, and has a large number of internally displaced people.

The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA)² documented 3 458 civilian casualties (killed or seriously wounded) between January and June 2020.

In its 2020 annual overview³, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) estimated that 9.4 million of the country's 38 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance. The Long War Journal points out that 66 % of Afghanistan's districts⁴ are contested, while in June 2016 this figure was 21 %.

In the light of the deteriorating situation:

1. Has the Commission achieved its foreign policy goals of a humanitarian, multilateral and programme-level approach to reconstruction and democratisation in Afghanistan to reinforce the Afghanistan Peace Support Mechanism⁵?
2. How has, and how will, EU foreign policy in Afghanistan protect human rights, children's rights and women's rights in the country?
3. How can the Commission justify the annual budget of around EUR 200 million in development aid for Afghanistan when 66 % of the country is in the Taliban's hands?

¹ http://visionofhumanity.org/app/uploads/2020/06/GPI_2020_web.pdf

² https://unama.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/unama_poc_midyear_report_2020_-_27_july-revised_10_august.pdf

³ <https://reliefweb.int/report/afghanistan/afghanistan-humanitarian-needs-overview-2020-december-2019>

⁴ <https://www.longwarjournal.org/mapping-taliban-control-in-afghanistan>

⁵

https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/afghanistan_en/67977/EU%20Afghanistan%20Peace%20Support%20Mechanism