**Rasa Juknevičienė,** *on behalf of the PPE Group***.** – Madam President, when I visited Lithuanian soldiers, the women of Afghanistan impressed me the most. You are right to give special mention to women. I am sure that the future of this country will depend on them. One of the most important indicators of where this country will move in the post-war period is the position of women in Afghan society. The number of girls attending schools has increased from zero in 2001 to 3 million in 2021. The total number of children attending schools has increased from 0.9 million to 8 million today.

The EU must continue to play an important role in the country’s reconstruction. The projects launched must be continued, and Afghanistan must be given a prominent place in the new European global instrument. Peace agreements are still very fragile. The surrounding states will try to strengthen their influence. But Afghan women, I know, look at us with hope. We should help them become fully fledged owners of their country.