



## **International Assistance to Afghanistan**

### **Statement of EU on the 1st DRAFT**

The European Union considers the situation in Afghanistan alarming. The long war makes stability in Afghanistan and the whole region vulnerable to changes in current situation. The EU looks NATO troops withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2014 with apprehension. Thus, the EU would like to thank *Forum for 21st Century* for initiating the discussion and organizing the conference on that issue. After an in-depth analysis of the draft proposed by the *Forum for 21st century* let us annotate it and include our suggestions as well. The EU invites all the global and regional partners to join the effort of reconstruction of Afghanistan keeping the safety and stability.

The main role of the EU in the international aid towards Afghanistan is clear. EU sees its role providing a legal basis for cooperation in all civilian fields and assistance to Afghanistan. EU will focus its assistance from the EU budget on those areas where the EU can add most value:

1. Internal security and stability (EUPOL, fighting drugs and their distribution),
2. Civilian stability (governance, human rights, corruption),
3. Economic development.

#### **Internal Security and Stability**

- EU clearly understand that after the ISAF troops withdrawal the fight for freedom and security for Afghan people will not end and it will support the peace and stability in the country with all the accessible measures.

- Professional and modern regular army under the control of legitimate government is among the measures of peacekeeping. EU thinks that international community should support its development through the drill and educating the officers and soldiers.

- Respecting the Afghan culture and traditions EU will support the building of Afghanistan as a state with democratic principles and rule of law.

- The EU considers the drugs making and their distribution a significant problem not only for Afghanistan. The EU offers a possibility of cooperation of EUPOL with institutions in Afghanistan.

#### **Education**

- EU understands the importance of quality in education for building and reconstruction of the country. Therefore, EU hopes that Afghan government will make the efforts to improve the educational situation in the country.

- Within the efforts of this EU suggests granting an opportunity for talented Afghan students to gain a scholarship at high-ranked foreign universities. In this respect EU invite all the partners for cooperation and maximal support.

### **Civilian Stability**

- EU supports democracy, rule of law and keeping the human rights. Also, EU bids initiation of measures leading towards free and fair elections, possibility of free speech and suppression of corruption and discrimination of women and minorities in Afghan society.
- A significant part of international aid is being lost due to inefficient allocation, abuses and corruption. EU has proposed the solution; it means that half of the aid should be passed through Afghanistan's national budget. In response to the lack of coordination and transparency among international donors, the EU should develop a centralized data base for all aid coming from the EU. The aim is directly more money to be disbursed for the realization of more projects with the cooperation of Afghan institutions.
- EU offers support in reconstruction of Afghan institutional base through the European experts.

### **Economic Development**

- EU believes that through the economic development Afghanistan can achieve political and safety stability.
- Afghanistan runs an open trade system, is an observer to the WTO and has applied for full membership of the WTO. EU supports the efforts in multilateral economic cooperation.
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- However, despite having extensive natural resources, including gas, oil and valuable minerals, Afghanistan's exports remain limited and economic institutions are fragile. The country exports mainly primary products, mostly of agricultural origin. The European Union should open its markets more towards Afghanistan.