



**GLOBAL
SECURITY ISSUES**
BEZPEČNOSTNÁ
SEKCIA

Forum for 21st century on International Assistance in Afghanistan

Position of European Union for the purpose of the conference held by the Forum for 21st Century

The European Union appreciates the effort of The Forum for the 21st Century in searching for the solutions in sustainable development of Afghanistan in safety, political, economic and social sphere. The EU underlines that concrete actions are needed to implement to help ordinary Afghan people.

Education:

The European Union is ready to sign the “Memorandum on promoting an Afghan Education Network” and help Afghanistan to improve the education of the Afghans. The European Union presents its dedication to improving the education level in Afghanistan. Because this Memorandum does not provide any exact steps or instructions how to perceive the help which is supposed to be given to Afghanistan, the European Union upholds its decision to launch „Scholarship Program“ for Afghan students. As it was mentioned before, this program includes condition to bring the know-how back to the country as well as new forms of education of the students. Scholarship program is in its preparation phase and will be ready in the beginning of September 2013. This program includes cooperation between the European and Afghan universities, as well as support to local NGOs which are dedicated to education. This support is mainly in form of financial support. By signing this memorandum, all of the countries present its desire to help Afghanistan improve its education level, and the European Union fully supports the cooperation between the contractual parties.

Economic development:



The European Union supports Afghanistan in making of the economic reforms, which could represent a breakthrough to the WTO accession. However, the European Union will not sign any document which would mean economic cooperation between these two countries. The European Union insists on waiting until some progress has been made in tackling security issues in Afghanistan such as corruption, drug trafficking and terrorism before opening its market to Afghanistan. The European Union considers these issues as essential before launching any economic cooperation with Afghanistan. This is due to the insecurity and risk, which trade actions or transactions may bring to the European companies or corporations. The European Union is not in the stand to handle with such problems. The issues of drug trafficking and governance are the ones the EU is willing to actively help with.

On the other side, the European Union is ready to sign “Declaration on Supporting the Development of “the New Silk Road”. „The New Silk Road“ project represents International Trade within the region. Afghanistan must start trading with its regional neighbors. This regional economic cooperation would also stabilize the region and will be a strong factor in preventing future conflicts. This does not require the European Union to any specific duty such as financing a project or supporting a specific investment. It is declaration of the open support to economic development. The participants would also be free to take any further step that they wish to take in order to help this project further such as investing in it themselves.

Internal security:

The European Union has decided to leave the responsibility for internal security to NATO. However, it has declared to further continue its EUPOL mission, which would strengthen security in some aspects and would combat corruption, criminality and drug trafficking, while also helping and training the Afghan police. This would directly contribute to civilian stability and effective governance as the Afghan police is a direct part of Afghanistan’s civilian government. Furthermore, this would lead to economic cooperation between these two countries in the future. The European Union does not support the idea of deepening the relations with Shanghai Cooperation Organization. The EU believes, that Afghanistan should turn its direction towards

west countries, it means that it should become member of the OSCE. Afghanistan's cooperation following with its further membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization would stop the whole effort which the EU has put in the building of cooperation between Afghanistan and EU. Therefore, the EU is ready to sign "Memorandum on Afghanistan's path to full accession to the OSCE" and accelerate the process of becoming a full member of the OSCE.

Civilian stability:

The European Union declared to further continue its EUPOL mission that will focus on battling corruption, drug trafficking and training the Afghan police. This is a crucial step in civilian stability. The plan to create international aid and donor's database was well accepted by other members of the Forum. The European Union encourages other members to sign "Treaty on Creating a Common International Donors' Database." This database would enhance transparency and would make it difficult or waste resources and have a double repeat of efforts, which is very ineffective.