



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



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EU police mission in Afghanistan starts

The EU police mission to Afghanistan - EUPOL AFGHANISTAN - starts today.¹

It will be launched at a ceremony in Kabul on Sunday, 17 June.

The mission, which is led by Brigadier General Friedrich Eichele, aims at contributing to the establishment of sustainable and effective civilian policing arrangements that will ensure appropriate interaction with the wider criminal justice system under Afghan ownership and in accordance with international standards.

It will work closely with Afghan police officers, helping them to make practical arrangements for security and law enforcement in their areas of responsibility, and achieving tangible benefits for the Afghan communities protected by these policing arrangements. To this end it will monitor, mentor, advise and train at the level of the Afghan Ministry of Interior, regions and provinces.

It will also work towards a joint overall strategy of the international community in police reform.

¹ See Council Joint Action 2007/369/CFSP of 30 May 2007, OJ L 139 of 31.5.2007, p.33.

P R E S S

The launching ceremony will be held in Kabul on 17 June at the invitation of the EU Presidency and of EU Special Representative Francesc Vendrell and will be followed by a press conference with the Afghan Minister of the Interior, Mr. Zarar Ahmed Moqbel, EUSR Vendrell and EUPOL Afghanistan Head of Mission Brig. Gen. Eichele.

Attached: factsheet



EUROPEAN UNION

COUNCIL SECRETARIAT

~FACTSHEET~



May 2007

EU Police Mission in Afghanistan (EUPOL AFGHANISTAN)

In the framework of its comprehensive approach towards Afghanistan, the EU has decided to launch an EU Police mission in Afghanistan (EUPOL AFGHANISTAN). On 14 May, the Council is noting the completion of planning for the mission, which is due to be launched in mid-June 2007.

The mission aims at contributing to the establishment of sustainable and effective civilian policing arrangements under Afghan ownership and in accordance with international standards. More particularly, the mission will monitor, mentor, advise and train at the level of the Afghan Ministry of Interior, regions and provinces.

EUPOL AFGHANISTAN will build on the efforts of the GPPO (German Police Project Office) and other international actions in the field of police and the rule of law. It will bring together individual national efforts under an EU hat, taking due account of the relevant Community activities. Its activities will aim at covering the whole of Afghanistan.

EUPOL AFGHANISTAN will consist of some 160 police, law enforcement and justice experts deployed at central (Kabul), regional (the 5 regional police commands) and provincial levels (deployment in provinces, through Provincial Reconstruction Teams - PRTs).

The mission will be established for a period of at least 3 years. Brigadier General Friedrich Eichele (Germany) has been appointed Head of the Mission (HoM) of EUPOL AFGHANISTAN.

The EU Political and Security Committee (PSC) will have the political control and the strategic direction of the mission.

EUPOL AFGHANISTAN will be part of the overall EU commitment to Afghanistan and of a coordinated EU approach that includes local political guidance provided by the EU Special Representative, Francesc Vendrell, and a reconstruction effort managed notably through the European Commission delegation in Kabul.

In the period 2002-2006, the EU, as the second largest donor, contributed collectively EUR 3.7 billion (EC budget and EU member states) in aid to Afghanistan, amounting to one third of the aid provided by the international community. Of this amount, over EUR 1.1 billion has been contributed through the EC budget. EU member states have played leading coordinating roles in particular sectors and have made large contributions to security, including through current provision of around half the NATO-led ISAF amounting to over 16,000 troops (25 EU member states are deploying troops to ISAF), and participation in Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs).

The EU - European Community and EU member states - is also a significant contributor to the Law and Order Trust Fund (LOTFA). The EU will continue support for the Afghan National Police through the LOTFA. To date, the EC has channelled some EUR 135 million into LOTFA since 2002. Furthermore, it will build on the current programme of assistance for rural development and the health sector. In order to strengthen the governance and reconstruction efforts in the provinces, the European Community has also allocated over EUR 10 million to the PRTs with the aim of supporting a range of European PRTs projects in different parts of the country.

EUPOL AFGHANISTAN will be set in the wider context of the international community's effort to support the Afghans in taking responsibility for law and order. The EU will continue to support the role of the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) in coordinating donors' civilian efforts and will, together with UNAMA, the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), the US and other key actors, including the international financial institutions, work towards effective cooperation and coordination within the international community and with the Government of Afghanistan.