



**COUNCIL OF  
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**Javier SOLANA,  
EU High Representative for the CFSP,  
confirms EU's commitment to Afghanistan**

Javier SOLANA, European Union High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), visited Afghanistan on Monday 21 April 2008.

In Afghanistan, on Monday, Mr SOLANA met H.E. Mr. Hamid KARZAI, President of Afghanistan, H.E. Dr. Rangin Dadfar SPANTA, Foreign Minister of Afghanistan, H.E. Prof. Hazrat Sibghatullah MOJADEDDI, Speaker of the Upper House of the Parliament and H.E. Mr. Younous QANOONI, Speaker of the Lower House of the Parliament. Mr. SOLANA was accompanied by EU Special Representative for Afghanistan Mr. Francesc VENDRELL.

The High Representative and his interlocutors had a very fruitful exchange of views on the latest developments in Afghanistan. In a joint press conference with President Karzai, Mr Solana underlined the progress that had been made in the fields of health and education and confirmed that "the European Union will continue to help the people of Afghanistan in the long term".

Mr. Solana recalled the successful meeting on Afghanistan which took place in Bucharest and signalled the importance of the Paris Conference, 12 June, with regards to analysis of the Afghanistan Compact of February 2006. The High Representative said the international community is ready to work with local authorities towards Afghan ownership of the stabilisation process and commented that "with good governance comes responsibility and accountability".

In addition to the considerable progress achieved so far, Mr Karzai highlighted a proposal presented during the Burcharest Conference in which Afghan forces would take responsibility for security in Kabul city from this summer.

**FOR FURTHER DETAILS:**

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In Kabul, the High Representative also visited the headquarters of the European Union Police Mission to Afghanistan (EUPOL Afghanistan). The EUPOL Afghanistan mission, launched in 2007 as part of the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP), is designed to help the Afghan Ministry of Interior develop an effective police force throughout the country. The success of the mission can be seen in its deployment throughout Afghanistan. Mr. Solana was briefed by Head of EUPOL Mission Jürgen SCHOLZ and held further meetings with the EU Heads of Mission.

Mr SOLANA also met Kai EIDE, UN Secretary-General Special Representative for Afghanistan and COMISAF General Mc NEILL

Mr. Solana's visit to Afghanistan demonstrates the support of the EU for the people and the government of Afghanistan and shows EU's commitment to the stabilisation and further development of the country.

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