

Council Conclusions on Afghanistan - 2839th GENERAL AFFAIRS

Council meeting, Brussels, 10 December 2007

"Strengthening the security sector, including the police, and promoting Afghan ownership in this regard are key for sustainable security in Afghanistan. The Council is determined to contribute significantly to police reform through the EU police mission. EUPOL is now deploying across the country and should reach full complement of 195 by Spring 2008. The Council welcomes all contributions to EUPOL Afghanistan made by third countries. The Council recognises the considerable challenges involved in ensuring that EUPOL reaches its full potential, and will give the mission all necessary backing to overcome them. The mission has been working with partners to improve coordination on police reform amongst the international community, and enhance Afghan ownership of those reforms. As a result the International Police Coordination Board (IPCB) is now meeting again and its Secretariat up and running. EUPOL efforts complement other efforts in these fields, notably within CSTC-A and ISAF.

The deployment of EUPOL represents an increase in EU efforts in Afghanistan. This underlines the need to place all EU efforts within an integrated and comprehensive approach. The EU reiterates its support to the central role of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) in coordinating donors' civilian efforts. In this context a properly-functioning Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board (JCMB) is essential. Moreover, promoting UN's outreach to all provinces is essential to support development and enhance coordination. The EU will promote greater donor coherence, including improved coordination between the military and civilian international engagement in Afghanistan. (...)."