European Union’s Role in Post Conflict Democracy Building in Afghanistan: Engagement Fatigue or Renewed opportunities.

1Subh Kirti
Assistant Professor, Maitreyi College, University of Delhi.

Abstract: There are two intermingling factors or rationale for the EU to be engaged in Afghanistan. First, The Afghanistan conflict presented an opportunity for EU to be seen as an institution builder and norm setter and Second, and more importantly the geopolitics in the region which has immense significance for EU and all the stakeholders involved.

Introduction
Even the most dreaded realists have accepted the fact that peace is a process, it cannot be built just by bombing hostile territories. Even after decades of fighting and tensions, Afghanistan cannot achieve what the USA aspired. In times where US-Taliban peace process has hit the ice, this paper seeks to highlight how Europe can be the real game changer in Afghanistan. European Union has approached Afghanistan with a humanitarian approach. Alongside other stakeholders it has achieved success in strengthening afghan institutions as well as infrastructure. However, this is not to forget that a complex geo-political reality haunts the country since cold war era. This paper will explore EU’s Role in Democracy building in Afghanistan. The central argument is “a necessity to continue peace building through amalgamation of providing both HARD and Humanitarian security.”

Europe’s role in Afghanistan can be comprehended through two paradigms: Both as an actor in international politics (with reference to post conflict Afghanistan) and as an example of postmodern state which the world sees it to be. EU is not just an example of moving ahead of territorial claims but it can also be seen in pursuit of Kantian perpetual peace. An analysis of EU’s role in the conflict torn Afghanistan in rebuilding it in political, social and infrastructural aspects is pertinent in this regard.

The falling of the temples of modern economy brought war back to the American mainland, like never before. To say the least, it was the historical turning point for international politics of our times. In the recent times the European Union has been able to carve a distinct role for its foreign policy with regards to differentiating itself from the USA’s doctrines of war and peace, however, it is a matter of inquiry to what extent the EU has been successful in establishing itself as a distinct agency1 in the post 9/11 world. It is not just the changing dynamics of Trans-Atlantic relations but the EU as an actor has also metamorphosed to independently assert itself as a Normative hegemon and a major economic power. There are two intermingling factors or rationale for the EU to be engaged in Afghanistan. First, The Afghanistan conflict presented an opportunity for EU to be seen as an institution builder and value setter and Second, and more importantly the geopolitics in the region which has immense significance for EU and all the stakeholders involved.

A large section in the academia believes that the EU is looking to build a particular kind of world view, and for it to be built issues like Afghanistan and Iraq are cardinal. However, the ideological battle of a democratic world better being, in the writers opinion does not help in analysing the reality and henceforth is not a subject matter of this paper.

History has been very unkind to Afghanistan, it has been subjected to conflicts since one can remember, reasons for that obviously are both internal and external. Its strategic location on the globe, perhaps, is being the most important of all. Realist scholars argue that EU being the number two actor in Afghanistan has limited role to play, this argument however undermines the role of peace building in establishing sustainable peace, given that the US has not been very effective in its foreign policy as numerous wars fought by it have yield it little peace at an enormous cost and a trust deficit throughout the world as argued by Francis Fukuyama2. EU has been eyeing a prudent and effective role in a multi polar world which is compatible with its versions of liberal democratic values.

There is a gap in international politics left behind by the ideology of unilateralism and the yet to evolve multilateralism. Consensual decision making on serious world events is still a dream. This gap as seen in the case of Iraq resulted in creating the mammoth of ISIS. To bomb a nation is not the solution and that too, when the hegemon is not capable of guaranteeing peace in the long term. This gap needs to be filled by those who seek a multilateral world and share common interests and common values.

European Union as a Unique Player in Afghanistan
No other actor in the world can be compared with the EU, it possesses the actual capacity both in terms of expertise and economics and the motive or dividend coming out of this is an addition to EU’s world view and geopolitics.

The European security strategy 2003 gives a useful insight in the making of EU’s role in Afghanistan and it talks of the compulsions in pure pragmatic terms of the contemporary world, in doing so it inevitably carves out a role for itself as a distinct actor in world politics.

“European countries are committed to dealing peacefully with disputes and to co-operating through common institutions. Over this period, the progressive spread of the rule of law and democracy has seen authoritarian regimes change into secure, stable and

1 Agency in terms of a value setting agent in the world
2 Francis Fukuyama talks of the world becoming increasingly suspicious of the US.
dynamic democracies. Successive enlargements are making a reality of the vision of a united and peaceful continent. The United States has played a critical role in European integration and European security, in particular through NATO. The end of the Cold War has left the United States in a dominant position as a military actor. However, no single country is able to tackle today’s complex problems on its own." From European security strategy 2003.

The report also acknowledges its responsibility as a Union of 400 million people and 25 states (now 28) and wishes to play an important role in the security affairs of the world. The report also questions the effectiveness of war as a foreign policy tool and outlines the human challenges such as epidemics and threat of criminality as a product of war, this document very well outlines that distinctiveness of EU as an actor than the US, though EU acknowledges role of US in the world but has pragdently pitched its own version of how to deal with the problems. At the institutional level the lack of convergence and consensus within the EU cannot be undermined, more so in the times when EU itself was facing crisis at many levels.

“Since 1990, almost 4 million people have died in wars, 90% of them civilians. Over 18 million people world-wide have left their homes as a result of conflict. In much of the developing world, poverty and disease cause untold suffering and give rise to pressing security concerns. Almost 3 billion people, half the world’s population, live on less than 2 Euros a day. 45 million die every year of hunger and malnutrition. AIDS is now one of the most devastating pandemics in human history and contributes to the breakdown of societies. New diseases can spread rapidly and become global threats. Sub-Saharan Africa is poorer now than it was 10 years ago. In many cases, economic failure is linked to political problems and violent conflict. Security is a precondition of development. Conflict not only destroys infrastructure, including social infrastructure; it also encourages criminality, deters investment and makes normal economic activity impossible. A number of countries and regions are caught in a cycle of conflict, insecurity and poverty.”

The European Union is not untouched to the threats of terrorism, more precisely the relative peace it enjoyed in the last 25 years has constantly been threatened by terrorism and other non-traditional threats. This threats, the document outlines is related to issues of state failure and poverty hunger and other infra state level issues. Hence, for the European Union to be secure in a safe world it has to play an active role in addressing these issues.Terrorism is the most fatal threat to the world at all levels, for the European continent it becomes more so because of a mixture of question of multiculturalism and identity and more importantly being at the target of terrorist organisation.

“Terrorism: Terrorism puts lives at risk; it imposes large costs; it seeks to undermine the openness and tolerance of our societies and it poses a growing strategic threat to the whole of Europe. Increasingly, terrorist movements are well-resourced, connected by electronic networks, and are willing to use unlimited violence to cause massive casualties. Europe is both a target and a base for such terrorism: European countries are targets and have been attacked. Logistical bases for Al Qaeda cells have been uncovered in the UK, Italy, Germany, Spain and Belgium. Concerted European action is indispensable.”

State Failure: Bad governance – corruption, abuse of power, weak institutions and lack of accountability - and civil conflict corrode States from within. In some cases, this has brought about the collapse of State institutions. Somalia, Liberia and Afghanistan under the Taliban are the best known recent examples. Collapse of the State can be associated with obvious threats, such as organised crime or terrorism. State failure is an alarming phenomenon that undermines global governance and adds to regional instability. Organised Crime: Europe is a prime target for organised crime.

Organised Crime: Europe is a prime target for organised crime. This internal threat to our security has an important external dimension: cross-border trafficking in drugs, women, illegal migrants and weapons accounts for a large part of the activities of criminal gangs. It can have links with terrorism……. 90% of the heroin in Europe comes from poppies grown in Afghanistan – where the drugs trade pays for private armies. Most of it is distributed through Balkan criminal networks which are also responsible for some 200,000 of the 700,000 women victims of the sex trade worldwide. A new dimension to organised crime which will merit further attention is the growth in maritime piracy”.


The security document recognises that in the globalised times, the first line of defence can be abroad. The terrorist networks cannot be left as it is, to grow and harm the peaceful population all over the world. The failed states have to be assisted and there has to be a reliable support system for generating a peaceful environment where there is human security and political stability. The EU documents also state that the solutions to the rogue or unstable states can be both political as well as military and it looks to play a credible role in both of them. A major input is that EU looks at policy making as an important tool to secure harmony within the state and peace in the region on the whole, it is a cardinal point to start from when a state is coming out of authoritarian rule. Economic instruments can be used in reconstruction, and civilian crisis management helps in restoring civil government. The European Union is very well equipped to respond to such multi-faceted situations.

Significant Mistakes in Afghanistan

As mentioned by Antonio Donini, The modalities of the Bonn agreement, the failure to address Warlord -ism, and poor accountability mechanisms for human rights are the three big mistakes which has restricted international efforts in Afghanistan. Here a mention of three hopes is very important which are, an expanding young population who has not lived under the Taliban regime and represents potential future leaders for their country; significant levels of urbanization; and the prospect of legitimate the elections.

EU views its role in Afghanistan as a comprehensive one, but it also acknowledges that the changes in Afghanistan and fragile and transitory in nature and they will only bear fruit after a long-term engagement, for which EU promises to be prepared. This promise

5 Europe has been facing terrorism since 1960’s.
has been molded in a binding agreement as the Cooperation Agreement for Partnership and Development (CAPD) that the EU is in the final stages of negotiating. This will serve as a framework for its relations with the Afghan government for the next 10 years.

The Afghanistan of Yesterday and Today: Extending Engagement

It is widely agreed that ensuring synergies between the political, security and development efforts, with the priority areas in rural development and agriculture, health care provision, governance support and regional engagement through border control, trade facilitation and narcotics activities. In Afghanistan 65% of the population now having access to basic health care in comparison to only 9% in 2002. In education, where in 2002 less than one million children were enrolled in schools, while the number now surpasses 6 million, out of which 2.7 million are girls.

The EU is driven by three key aims:

During the last 12 years, positive changes have occurred. Advancements are particularly visible in Kabul where one can see improved infrastructure and economic activity. Significant steps have been made to tackle widespread illiteracy and access to education to Afghanistan. Major investments are taking place, especially in the mining sector with international consortiums as well as Afghan entrepreneurs taking the lead. Nearly 8,000 kilometres of national highways, regional highways and provincial roads have been built. Access to electricity has increased by 250%. Transition gains are evident, but fragile

The Taliban Takeover and EU Strategy

For a country in armed conflict since last 15 years engagement is challenging and uncertain given lack of coherence between international community and within the complex policy making structures of EU itself.

To comprehend the state of affairs in the period of 2001 to 2014 a look at pre-war economy will be helpful.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>GDP (billion dollars)</th>
<th>GDP (per capita)</th>
<th>Share in world economy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>0.051</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>0.011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>21.6</td>
<td>708</td>
<td>0.029</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GDP of Afghanistan in 1970 was 1.7 billion US dollars, ranked 78th in the world and was on par with GDP of Guatemala (1.7 billion US dollars). Share of GDP of Afghanistan in the world was 0.051%. GDP per capita in Afghanistan in 1970 was 159 US
dollars. Ranked 151st in the world. GDP per capita in Afghanistan was less, than GDP per capita in the World (921 US dollars) by 762 US dollars.  

GDP of Afghanistan, billion dollars, 1970-2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Commitments</th>
<th>Disbursed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>247.59</td>
<td>151.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>285.55</td>
<td>213.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>247.55</td>
<td>171.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>224.48</td>
<td>206.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>200.53</td>
<td>175.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>195.90</td>
<td>224.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>214.49</td>
<td>213.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>269.83</td>
<td>285.65</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2010 254.61 215.20
2011 347.00 261.41
Total 2487.53 2118.34

ENGAGEMENT IN AFGHANISTAN

The challenge for EU and other entities was to grow democracy in place of opium, economic aid and political assistance cannot help until the bedrock of the society is strengthened and for this to happen a fortitude laden with perseverance is needed. Through various institutional mechanisms it has invested a billion euros in Afghanistan and been actively engaged in the process of capacity building.

The European Union delegation to Afghanistan is the facilitation like between the two entities, it is responsible for coordinating the development assistance and other efforts by the EU. There are a variety of activities carried out by the European Union in Afghanistan some of which are mentioned here:

The Delegation's Political Affairs looks into the political analysis and reporting as well as cooperation with the Afghan Government on multilateral and bilateral issues. Some areas are diplomatic and political relations - with dialogues in the fields of development cooperation, human rights, security, inter-parliamentary relations and others. IST is worth mentioning that in such matters the Political Section works closely with the diplomatic missions of EU Member States.

Two Major Mechanisms are the Multiannual Indicative Program and the CSP:

“The current CSP covers the period between 2007 and 2013 and is implemented through MIP I (2007-2010) and the second MIP (2011-2013) With a total budget allocation of € 610 million, MIP I defined EU interventions in three focal areas - agriculture and rural development, governance and rule of law, and health, as well as three non-local areas - social protection, mine action, regional cooperation. A mid-term review of the CSP was carried out in 2010 and was followed by MIP II covering the period 2011-2013 with an indicative financial allocation of € 600 million over a three-year period. This means an increase of over 30% of the yearly allocation, as compared to the previous four-year period covered by MIP I.”


Afghanistan also receives EU funds through regional programs for Asia, the Aid for Uprooted People, and the thematic programs such as Food Security, Non-State Actors, the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights and the Instrument for Stability. The job to provide humanitarian assistance is with the Humanitarian assistance Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid (ECHO),

The channelling of aid and support is being done through assimilating it to the National Priority Programs. The EU has aligned its support from the national priorities and national programs with a motive to increase its on-budget support. Almost 40% of EU aid provided between 2002 and 2011 was channeled through multi-donor trust. The Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF) and the Law-and-Order Trust Fund for Afghanistan (LOTFA) are some of the examples of the same. EU is majorly contributing to the Government's budget.⁷

Starting from 2011, around 90% of the funds earmarked by the EU for Afghanistan over the next three years (2012-14) are expected to be provided on budget, through trust funds. The issues of corruption, lack of political coherence within Afghanistan and the challenges of sheer volume of work the EU has involved itself in the Government-donor dialogue and is trying to architecture a solid Public Finance Management system, aiming the way for budget support in specific sectors.

The Kabul Conference evolved the “principles of effective partnership, and a Public Finance Management (PFM) Road Map was prepared to improve budget execution, formulation, transparency and accountability.

The goal is to channellize at least 50% of development aid through the Afghan Government’s core budget within 2 years and align progressively development assistance behind the National Priority Programs with the goal of achieving 80% of alignment within the next 2 years.

Transformations in Afghanistan

Data collected from different sources show that the life of common Afghan people has been significantly improved but the larger issue of the US going back and leaving the situation in even more conflict amid the violence a Central Asia and Iran, Iraq raises serious questions on the motive of the whole project. There must be a serious coordination among all the stakeholders of the international community to guarantee a stable political democratic transition and in Afghanistan and a willingness to engage militarily if need be.

“Many Afghans too are disinclined to see anything but a bleak future. The vast change that the last decade has brought to Kabul, a city that has experienced a ten-year boom and which now enjoys almost round-the-clock electricity, will not last, says the manager of a high-end shop selling office computer supplies. He points out that when the torrent of money flowing through the Afghan capital in the wake of the foreigners stops, so too will the mad construction of grandiose concrete palaces that now encroach on almost every neighbourhood. Ditto the ludicrous rents and high prices for almost everything that has to be hauled up to this mountaintop plateau, making Kabul one of most expensive cities in the poor world. “The 9/11 kids,” he says, pointing to a gaggle

⁷The facts have been accessed through

of male teens sporting spiky gelled hair, the hippest of threads and flaunting mobile-phone technology that would have given the Taliban regime's vice and virtue police heart palpitations. “They will all go back to wearing salwar kameez” 8

How does the EU contribute to improving the life of ordinary Afghans?

- **Improved health services:** 65% access to primary healthcare (up from 9% in 2002) and basic services provided to over five million Afghans in ten different provinces.
- **Agriculture and water:** (a) horticulture: support to 1,000 nursery growers in 58 districts of 21 provinces; (b) improved water management (legal framework, capacity building): protection of 40% of Afghan water resources (Panj-Amu river basin).
- **Public administration:** since 2002, contributing to financing salaries and training of 220,000 public sector workers including doctors, nurses, teachers and police officers.
- **Police reform:** Afghan police is paid reliably and transparently through an Electronic Payroll System operating in all 115 payroll stations in 34 provinces nationwide. Capacity for civilian policing is progressively strengthened.
- **Social Protection:** more than 90,000 vulnerable children benefited from non-formal education, vocational training, recreational activities, sports, and health and hygiene education.
- **Better disability services:** achieved through the creation of local expertise on prosthetics and orthotics devices.
- **Central Veterinary Diagnostic & Research Laboratory (CVDRL):** established and functioning.
- **Improved data and statistics for policy development and decision making:** Agricultural Economics, Market Information and Statistics Services (daily, weekly, monthly collection of agricultural price data) covering all major commodities; monthly price bulletins disseminated throughout the country.
- **Regional Cooperation:** Torkham Border Crossing Point with Pakistan established and operational since November 2007 and major revenue source of the Government; Heiratan (BCP with Uzbekistan) and Sher Khan Bandar (BCP with Tajikistan) now significant transport hubs in the North.

“As per the ESS Europe has security interests beyond its immediate neighbourhood. In this respect, Afghanistan is a particular concern. Europe has shown a long term and multi-level commitment to bring stability in Afghanistan. EU Member States make major contribution to the NATO mission, and the EU is engaged on governance and development at all levels.

The EU has expanded the police mission but, these efforts will not succeed without full Afghan ownership. The support from neighbouring countries: in specially Pakistan, and also India, Central Asia and Iran. Indeed, improved prospects for good relations between India and Pakistan in recent years have been a positive element in the strategic balance sheet.” European security strategy 2008 has detailed these provisions.9

**EU’S EFFORTS IN AFGHANISTAN**

Food Security in the Bamyan Region

Insecurity and drought have had a serious repercussion on, among other things, Afghanistan’s agricultural systems. In the Yakawlang district, where animal breeding remains a primary economic activity, a large part of livestock was lost, mainly due to the sale of animals to face the ongoing crisis. The irrigation network had not been maintained and around 20% of irrigable land was not in use. Moreover, the lack of input (seeds/fertiliser/pesticides) and knowledge had limited the level of crop production. The project was thus conceived with the aim of providing the minority Hazara group, found predominantly in the province of Bamyan, with the necessary means to increase their traditional source of income and also develop new sources of alternative income. Objectives of the project was to contribute to rural development through the rehabilitation of irrigation infrastructures, improvement of agricultural practices and development of the rural economy. Impact: The immediate and most tangible impact of this initiative was the increase of irrigated land by almost 10%. Almost 150 families benefitted from the increase of irrigated land and by the end of the project, agricultural production had increased by 15% thanks to training and small-scale trade.

**Developing the Almond Strategy**

Both EU and Afghanistan government has identified that perennial horticulture as a key component and where the almond was stated to be one of the top 5 horticultural export crops of Afghanistan. The EU’s Perennial Horticulture Development Project has thus been the primary, internationally funded program supporting the development of perennial horticulture in line with the priorities of the Government. The focus of the project has been on developing a system of nurseries to produce high quality saplings required for expansion in addition to replanting of commercial orchards to produce the almonds required for increase in exports. Objectives to contribute to the development of a demand-oriented and export-led horticulture industry. To assist almond merchants plan. To implement the development of an integrated private almond industry.

**Impact:**

Increase in farmers’ income and substantial increase in yield (35%) through the use of improved techniques. The National Almond Organisation has published a plan for the industry development. Establishment of the Afghanistan Almond Industry Development Organisation for the promotion of the Afghan almond industry. Agriculture Developing the Afghan Almond industry – EU Partner Roots of Peace Facts and Figures EC Contribution: € 750 000 (87.6% of the total budget) Duration: 2007 - 2010 E).

**Children for Peace Committee**

Children account for half of the victims of conflicts across the world and are among the most vulnerable victim groups, often hardest hit by conflicts. When the EU received the Nobel Prize for Peace in 2012, it therefore decided to use the prize money to create a lasting legacy in the form of the EU Children of Peace initiative. Through the EU Children of Peace initiative, the EU aims to turn “children of war” into “children of peace”. The initiative funds humanitarian projects for children in conflict-affected regions.

---

8 The economist newspaper; http://www.economist.com/blogs/banyan/2011/10/afghanistan
9 Analysis based on the change in goals and dynamics of European security strategy 2004 and 2008.
providing them with access to schools where they can learn in a safe environment and receive psychological support to deal with their traumatic war experiences.

Future expansion of this initiative, the European Commission has extended its support to nine countries including Afghanistan this year, where 1,500 conflict-affected children are benefitting from community-based education services. Key components of the project are to deliver quality emergency education and to provide an accelerated learning package in a safe environment. The plan aims at training 200 teachers to achieve better quality teaching, especially for early grade literacy.

Civil Society Dialogue: Stakeholder engagement

The Delegation liaises closely with Afghan and international civil society actors. Regular consultations are held and cover various issues of mutual interest such as awareness raising, donor coordination, women's rights, capacity building and access to justice. Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) are essential partners in the implementation of EU assistance (e.g. in human rights, health, social protection, agriculture, refugees) and are key partners in dialogue on assistance strategies. The Delegation closely monitors the situation on the ground to take fact-based decisions that have an impact on the lives of Afghans. Regular contact with Civil Society includes topics of discussion such as:
- co-ordination, facilitation of dialogue and networking between CSOs themselves, but also vis-à-vis the international community and the Government;
- advocacy at the policy-making level;
- civic education;
- human rights, in particular children's and women's rights;
- rule of law/justice;
- administrative structures/distribution of resources to provinces;
- reconciliation and peace building; and
- Independent media.10

AID EFFECTIVENESS AGENDA

The aid effectiveness agenda assures that the aid delivered by the different agencies are being efficiently utilised but widespread corruption not only in the government but in the different NGO’s involved has kept the sorry state of affairs going on. It is vital that the elite of the country must be brought under the democratic processes of rule of law and fear of an effective state taunt those who are engaged in corruption. Democratic elections are also endangered by such acts of corruptions in a turbulent society.

“The European Union plays an active role in supporting the Ministry of Finance on a wide range of aid management issues, which are discussed and monitored by the High Level Committee on Aid Effectiveness. Core initiatives in this area, such as the Joint Evaluation of the Paris Declaration in Afghanistan and the Paris Declaration Monitoring Survey, prove the commitment of the Government and donors to making aid more effective.”

The EU is involved in the dialogue on strengthening Public Finance Management, also with a view to paving the way for budget support in specific sectors. Based on the “principles of effective partnership” discussed at the 2010 Kabul Conference, a Public Finance Management (PFM) Roadmap was prepared to improve budget execution, formulation, transparency and accountability. In 2013 the EU exceeded its alignment commitments due to a long-standing engagement with the Ministry of Public Health and close collaboration with other donors in the health sector. Strong government-led donor coordination in this sector allowed for a progressive move towards a sector wide approach and the subsequent approval of the System Enhancement for Health Action in Transition (SEHAT) programme implemented through the ARTF. As a result of the EU and the World Bank joining efforts with the Ministry of Public Health, SEHAT currently provides capacity building to the Ministry and operates in 22 provinces (out of 34) ensuring basic health service delivery and essential hospital services. The remaining provinces, until now supported directly by USAID, are expected to be integrated in SEHAT during 2015. This will ensure SEHAT's country wide coverage and a harmonised and coherent approach to health service delivery in Afghanistan.”

There are other mechanisms in place to facilitate efforts by the European delegation to Afghanistan, the Joint Coordination and monitoring board performs the duty of keeping eye on the sector wise performance of different efforts and along with the UNAMA is playing an important monitoring role.

EUROPOL INITIATIVE

In line with its commitment to build a safe Afghanistan and to facilitate capacity building in law and order areas the EU has been helping Afghanistan build a professional, competent and world class police force. The EU commission fact sheet mentions:

“EUPOL Afghanistan: Building on National Efforts – Missed Opportunities”

With the launch of EUPOL Afghanistan on June 17, 2007 in Kabul, the EU has added a new element to its reconstruction efforts. Given weak law enforcement agencies and, more generally, a weak justice sector, building a professional police force is key to addressing the challenges facing Afghanistan. The mission builds on police reform efforts already deployed on the ground, notably the German Police Project Office (GPPO), and the ESDP operation will incorporate the German contingent already present in the country. EUPOL Afghanistan will cover the whole of Afghanistan and will consist of some 160 police, law enforcement, and justice experts that are to be deployed at central (Kabul), regional (the 5 regional police commands), and provincial (in provinces, through Provincial Reconstruction Teams) levels. The aims of EUPOL Afghanistan are to contribute “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, advice and train at the level of the Afghan Ministry of Interior, regions and provinces. The history of international efforts in post-conflict reconstruction, including police reform, coupled with the current political situation in Afghanistan makes this a challenging operation. A joint exploratory mission prior to the launch of EUPOL Afghanistan in September 2006 noted that future engagement should “provide added-value to the work currently ongoing, and aim to build greater coherence amongst actors rather than increasing the multiplicity of effort.”

The fact sheet has mentioned two necessities, namely, Increasing coordination and coherence induced value addition. The lack of coordination between international players in Afghanistan and the lack of coherence amid EU institution remains a challenge even now.

**AFGHAN WOMEN LEADERS PROGRAMME**

Recognising the core values of women as a principal actor in changing the society and women enlargement as a precondition to development of democratic and social up lifting of Afghanistan the EU has launched this initiative.

- specialised short management courses on public administration for up to 20 women officials at a European training institute;
- exchanges for Afghan women officials in EU institutions based on a Memorandum of Understanding between the Afghan and European services involved;
- a call for proposals for civil society (up to EUR 2.3 million) to enhance the role of Afghan women in conflict prevention and peace building in line with UN Security Council Resolution 1325 in Afghanistan, as soon as the Afghan National Action Plan (NAP) 1325 is published
- internship and traineeship programmes in EU institutions, notably through applications for the Blue Book Traineeship
- specific short-term visits of Afghan women officials to EU Member States (TAIEX/Partnership Instrument);
- Specific short-term visits of Afghan women officials to EU Institutions (EU Visitors Programme).

**CONCLUSION: SIGNIFICANT BUT FRAGILE**

The road which EU has chosen to start with is a challenging one. It will not only test its commitment but ability both in terms of financial capacity and diplomatic maneuverability. The changing dynamics of the region with Iran and Pakistan being the two cardinal actors will also shape the future of Afghanistan. The real challenge though lies in bringing the stakeholders of international community to resolve the problems of Afghanistan. Lack of institutional level coherence within the EU is only a fraction of the problem, the real problem according to the writer is to muster a multilateral consensus on how to stop the vicious cycle of “BOMB THEM FOR WORLD PEACE” mentality of the unilateral power. A true multilateral world can only be an ideal until ISIS and other mistakes are stopped. Corruption inside Afghanistan and the ability to keep a check on warlords is a person who has both military and civil control over a subnational area due to the presence of armed forces who are loyal to the warlord rather than to a central authority.

**REFERENCES:**

5. EVA GROSS; KENNETH WALTZ Man, the State and War: 1959


**14** A warlord is a person who has both military and civil control over a subnational area due to the presence of armed forces who are loyal to the warlord rather than to a central authority.