

FAC - Afghanistan Key Elements (in advance of London Conference)

- The EU strongly supports the London Conference's aim of renewing international engagement with the Afghan Government and intends to reiterate its support for an enhanced role by the Afghan authorities in making the country more secure, stepping up economic development and reinforcing governance at the national and provincial levels. Transition to an increasingly Afghan led process in the fields of governance and security is central.
- The EU has already re-committed itself to supporting Afghanistan through its recently adopted Action Plan. With the Action Plan, agreed in October, EU has a strategy for enhanced engagement and will continue to deploy its instruments alongside UN, NATO, the US and others.
- The EU Action Plan provides for better alignment between EU and its Member States in supporting key areas such as sub-national governance, policing, counter narcotics and promoting economic growth, especially in agriculture/rural development. Fighting corruption is fundamental to restoring the credibility of the Afghan Government. The EU is ready to make this part of a more coordinated international response focused on building effective and accountable institutions and Afghan capacity.
- It is also committed to working with all elements of Afghan society to strengthen democratic institutions and safeguard human rights.
- Reconciliation/reintegration with elements of the insurgency needs to be an Afghan-led process but it will need far reaching international support. Former combatants need a credible alternative (also economic) to the insurgency. The EU is ready to lend its support to this process.
- The regional aspect is very important. The EU will build upon existing initiatives in order to help improve relations between Afghanistan and its neighbours and so help to stabilise the region generally. Addressing the problem of refugees and illegal migration is an essential element, in this respect.
- The EU expects the Conference to reiterate strong support from the international community for a strengthened UNAMA as coordinator of civilian efforts and for a more streamlined Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board (JCMB). This body, which oversees the existing Compact, is a vital interface between with Afghan ministers and the international donors and needs to be made much more efficient. The EU will also act soon to establish a single representation in Kabul.
- Training the Afghan Security forces constitutes a key element in the process of handing over responsibility to the Afghan government. Complementarity of approaches between different actors engaged in police reform and training needs to be acknowledged. EUPOL with its focus on civilian policing is a valuable contribution to the long-term sustainability of police reforms.

- The London Conference is expected to be only the first of a series of events intended to reinforce the objectives of transferring more responsibility to Afghan institutions; clarifying the Afghan Government's relationship with the donor community; and reinforcing its undertakings on key values relating to governance, justice and accountability. The EU expects commitments from the Government of Afghanistan on improving standards of governance in time for the planned follow-up conference in Kabul, also with regard to the upcoming parliamentary elections.
