



# EUROPEAN UNION

## ~FACTSHEET~

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### THE EU AND AFGHANISTAN

#### **A significant donor to Afghanistan**

The EU disbursed around €800 million in 2002 and over €900 million in 2003 for reconstruction and humanitarian aid to Afghanistan. At the Berlin conference in spring 2004, the EU pledged a further \$ 2.2 billion in reconstruction aid for the period 2004-2006.

#### **A key partner in the reconstruction and stabilization effort**

Working with the United States and other international partners, the EU is making a major contribution to Afghanistan's reconstruction and stabilization.

#### *Elections:*

The EU is providing **vital support for Afghanistan's elections process**, with a total of **€80 million for the Presidential election** held on 9 October (including for voter registration). This accounts for around **one-half of international support for the Presidential election process**.

In the context of the Presidential election, the EU deployed a **Democracy and Election Support Mission (DESM)** which assessed key aspects of the process, provided technical assistance to domestic observers and to the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, and made recommendations for future elections and for the country's wider democratization process.

The EU will commit **financial support for parliamentary and local elections in 2005**, once dates are fixed and a final budget drawn up, and plans once again to deploy some form of election mission.

#### *Reconstruction aid:*

In agreement with the Afghan government and the donor community, EU member states and the European Commission have taken **key co-ordination roles in crucial areas of assistance**, including in security-related areas. The **UK** is designated lead donor for **counter-narcotics**; **Italy** for **judicial reform and training**; **Germany** for **police training**; and the **European Commission** for **rural livelihoods** (jointly with the World Bank) and **health** (jointly with the US). **France** has a co-ordination role with respect to the establishment of the Afghan **parliament**.

Over the past two years, the reconstruction program managed by the **European Commission's**, amounted to €440 million and included the following key areas:

- **Rural development, alternative livelihoods and food security** (€115 million);
- **Economic infrastructure** (€73 million) – including reconstruction of the Kabul to Jalalabad road;
- **Public sector reform**, including capacity building within Government institutions and support for the recurrent budget via trust funds (€140 million);

- **Health sector** – extending provision of a basic healthcare package (€30 million);
- **De-mining** (€25 million);
- **Human rights and civil society**, including support for the media and social protection for the most vulnerable (€26 million);
- Promotion of **regional cooperation**, including on refugees (€7 million); and
- Specific support to help smooth **refugee returns** (€10 million)

The EC is **on track to meet its pledge of €1 billion in reconstruction funding** over 2002-2006.

*Security:*

Troops from **EU countries constitute the bulk of the 8,000 strong NATO-commanded ISAF** (International Security Assistance Force for Afghanistan).

**Eurocorps**<sup>1</sup> provided the core of ISAF headquarters in Kabul from August 2004 to February 2005, including during the critical period of the Presidential election. **Italy** is planning to assume this key role from August 2005 to February 2006.

ISAF's area of operations is Kabul and 9 northern provinces. **EU member states are commanding 5 Provincial Reconstruction Teams** under the ISAF command **in north and north-eastern Afghanistan**. As part of ISAF's western expansion announced by NATO Defence Ministers on 10 February, Lithuania and Spain will take the lead in establishing two new PRTs respectively in Ghor province and Baghdis province. Spain and Italy will take lead in establishing an ISAF logistical hub in Herat. As part of its expansion, ISAF will also take over 2 existing US-led coalition PRTs in Herat and Farah..

**23 out of 25 EU member states** are involved in ISAF. Several EU member states also **provide troops for the Operation Enduring Freedom coalition in Afghanistan** and are involved in **training the Afghan National Army and the Afghan National Police**.

The European Commission is providing **specific support for the security sector** to the tune of **€75 million for the Law and Order Trust Fund** for Afghanistan (LOTFA).

*Counter-narcotics (CN):*

The EU has from the outset of the reconstruction process taken an **active role in supporting CN efforts**, not least because 90% of heroin in Western Europe originates in Afghanistan. But we know too that the growth in corruption and illegality associated with the burgeoning opium economy poses a grave threat to the success of the entire reconstruction and stabilization process.

The UK is the designated **lead donor for CN** and has assisted the Afghan government in drawing up a CN strategy (2003) and implementation plan (2005), and in building up specialized bodies, such as the CN Police, mobile detection units and the Central Eradication Planning Cell. The UK and the US are working closely together in support of the Afghan government's CN efforts.

The EC and several EU member states are actively involved in the field of **rural development which is critical for the provision of sustainable alternative livelihoods for farmers** involved in opium-poppo cultivation. EC support in this area amounted to €115m in 2003-2004.

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<sup>1</sup> Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Spain are the 'framework nations' of EUROCORPS.

The **rule of law is critical** for the success of CN efforts. **Italy's work on justice-sector reform** and **Germany's efforts on the police sector** – in collaboration with the US – is of crucial importance here. Providing €75m in 2003-4, the EC is the largest contributor to the trust fund which pays for salaries, training and procurement of non-lethal equipment

### **A major contributor of humanitarian assistance**

In addition to its leading role in the reconstruction effort, the EU is a **major source of humanitarian assistance** to the people of Afghanistan. EU contributions in this area from September 11, 2001 through 2002 total €650 million. For 2004, the EU committed €245 million and an additional €50 million for people affected by the Afghan crisis both in Afghanistan and in neighboring Pakistan and Iran.

Activities include:

- **Food aid** via the World Food Program and NGOs and “Food for Work” programs;
- **‘Aid to Uprooted People’**- targeting internally displaced persons (IDPs) and those returning from neighboring countries for the construction of shelters for returnees, on a self-help basis;
- **‘Cash for Work’ activities**- establish income-generating activities in return for work of benefit to the community, e.g. rehabilitation of water systems, waste disposal, and small-scale seed distribution;
- **Rehabilitation and emergency provision of health, water, and sanitation services** (i.e. through UN and NGOs) - Basic health care for groups and areas not yet reached by national health system, and access to drinking and agricultural water, and improved sanitation services;
- **Air transport and security information systems** to facilitate access and increase security of humanitarian flight operation.

### **EU-US co-operation**

The EU and the US share the goal of helping Afghanistan in its efforts to become a stable and prosperous country after a quarter-century of conflict. To this end, the EU and the US consult and co-operate closely on a broad range of issues which are vital to the pursuit of this goal, such as counter-narcotics, promoting the rule of law, good governance and democratization, reform of the police and of the justice sector; infrastructure, public administration, health, rural livelihoods, and refugee returns. There is close co-ordination in Kabul as well as intensive regular consultations between capitals at senior and working level.

*For more information go to:*

EU-Afghanistan website: [http://europa.eu.int/comm/external\\_relations/afghanistan/intro/index.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/afghanistan/intro/index.htm)

EU-Afghanistan humanitarian aid website:  
[http://europa.eu.int/comm/echo/field/afghanistan/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/echo/field/afghanistan/index_en.htm)

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