

## Spanish Presidency of the European Union

**OSCE Permanent Council No. 795**  
**Vienna, 25<sup>th</sup> February 2010**

### **EU statement on the results of the London Conference on Afghanistan**

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The European Union has endorsed the outcomes of the London Conference on 28 January and welcomes this opportunity to reflect on the implications for OSCE engagement with Afghanistan.

The London Conference has confirmed the long-term commitment of the international community to Afghanistan and the importance of Afghan leadership. The EU welcomes plans for increased Afghan responsibility, in particular in the security sector, in which the EU continues to support security sector reform through its civilian police mission EUPOL and through the Law and Order Trust Fund for Afghanistan (LOTFA).

Afghan leadership will also be important in improving Afghanistan's electoral process and the EU welcomes the clear commitments on electoral reform made at the London Conference. The EU looks forward to continuing its close and fruitful co-operation with the OSCE in this context. The EU has consistently supported ODIHR technical support for Afghanistan elections, in 2004, 2005 and 2009. The Parliamentary elections in 2010 will be a further crucial test for the integrity of the

electoral process. It is therefore important that ODIHR recommendations from past elections are taken fully into account, in particular those included in the Final Report on the Presidential and Provincial Council Elections of 2009.

The London Conference has also made a significant contribution towards taking forward reintegration and reconciliation under Afghan lead. The EU is committed –including by fostering further respect for the Constitution and its provisions on human rights and gender equality- to supporting this process. Border management and the wider issues of regional cooperation both in combating crime and drugs trafficking and trade facilitation will remain a priority for EU engagement with Afghanistan.

The EU looks forward to continued close engagement with the OSCE, whose efforts in policing and border security have been mentioned at the London Conference. In this regard, the EU continues to attach high importance to the implementation of MC decision 4/07 on OSCE engagement with Afghanistan. We appreciate OSCE efforts underway to take forward engagement with Afghanistan in the areas of border security and management as well as counter-narcotics and to foster cross-border cooperation between the Central Asian participating States and Afghanistan.

The EU welcomes Afghanistan's active engagement as a Partner for Co-operation and its firm commitment to the OSCE.

The London Conference has set out a forward-looking and ambitious agenda. The EU looks forward to working closely with the OSCE, also in the run-up to the Kabul Conference planned this Spring, which we expect

will reinforce many commitments relevant to engagement with Afghanistan and spell out further implementation modalities.

Los países candidatos CROACIA\* y la antigua REPÚBLICA YUGOSLAVA DE MACEDONIA\*, los países del Proceso de Estabilización y Asociación y los países candidatos potenciales, ALBANIA, BOSNIA Y HERZEGOVINA y SERBIA, los países de la Asociación Europea de Libre Comercio y los miembros del Espacio Económico Europeo, ISLANDIA y LIECHTENSTEIN, al igual que UCRANIA, la REPÚBLICA DE MOLDAVIA, ARMENIA, AZERBAIYÁN y GEORGIA se alinean con esta declaración.

\*Croacia y la Antigua República Yugoslava de Macedonia siguen perteneciendo al proceso de Estabilización y Asociación