



PRESS INFORMATION

THE EUROPEAN UNION SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE IN AFGHANISTAN
THE EUROPEAN UNION DELEGATION TO AFGHANISTAN

The European Union invites President Ghani to »A new kind of Partnership«

*Under the motto »A new Government – a new kind of Partnership«,
EU Ambassador Franz-Michael Mellbin met with President Ashraf Ghani to kick off
the future cooperation between the European Union and Afghanistan.*

Kabul, 3 February 2015

President Ashraf Ghani welcomed the European Union Special Representative in Afghanistan and Head of the European Union Delegation, Ambassador Franz-Michael Mellbin, to discuss the European Union's future engagement in Afghanistan.

"The EU is a long lasting friend of the Afghan people and our support to Afghanistan will continue to be at an exceptional level. With the new Government in place, we look forward to working as partners to produce ambitious reforms. A new Government calls for a new kind of relationship. My meeting with President Ghani marked the beginning of a new relationship between the EU and Afghanistan", stated EU Ambassador Mellbin after the meeting.

"We welcome the Government's paper on »Realizing Self-Reliance«. It sets out an ambitious and robust reform package, and we look forward to its implementation.

We share the President's vision to increase aid effectiveness and look forward to working with him and his Government in realising this vision. We will move towards a new kind of partnership, working together to ensure the conditions are in place for an EU State Building Contract with Afghanistan", said the EU Special Representative.

A State Building contract will help Afghanistan strengthen its capacity to pursue its own policy objectives and gradually take full responsibility for its future development. If successful, the contract will allow Afghanistan to receive donor funds more efficiently. This will ensure that more aid money reaches ordinary Afghans.

"The EU will continue to focus on priority sectors such as agriculture, health, policing and rule of law, and democratisation. At the same time, the EU will continue to progressively increase the share of its support managed by the Afghan state. This requires a substantial increase in national capacity to manage public finances in a transparent and accountable way.

The EU will also continue to promote a joint, coordinated approach with other donors. We will shortly start laying out a road map to assess where Afghanistan meets the criteria and to identify the extra conditions required to channel more EU aid directly to the Afghan state.

There is a strong push from the international community to refresh the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework (TMAF). Here, by offering incentive funds, the EU will encourage the Afghan Government to deliver more results faster", concluded Ambassador Mellbin.



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For questions or further information please contact:
EUSR Media & Communication Advisor
Hasse Resebro
Mobile Phone: +93 (0) 794 701 449
E-mail: hasse.resebro@ext.eeas.europa.eu