EU Ambassador pays tribute to Afghan National Police heroes

Today, the European Union Ambassador personally honoured Afghan police officers, who fought bravely in violent insurgent attacks leading up to the 2014 elections.

Kabul, 3 April 2014

Today, the European Union Special Representative and Head of the European Union Delegation to Afghanistan, Ambassador Franz-Michael Mellbin, hosted a ceremony to pay tribute to a group of Afghan National Police officers, who served in security forces operations during the election preparations for the 2014 elections.

The group of eight officers, including an officer who was recently wounded in the line of duty, represented all Afghan police officers, who have been contributing to the national security during the nationwide election preparations. The ceremony was attended by Senior Deputy Minister of the Interior, General M. Ayoub Salangi.

"We are not able to gather the total Afghan National Police force here; so today, at this ceremony, each of you represents through your example, through your leadership and through your bravery the spirit of the entire Afghan police forces", said the European Union Special Representative Franz-Michael Mellbin, addressing the eight ANP Officers.

Personally honouring the officers for their service, dedication and professionalism and thanking them for the sacrifices made by many of their colleagues, Ambassador Mellbin stated: "I am honoured to be able to pay tribute to you here today for the bravery you have shown, also in the line of fire".

"Let me finish by saluting each one of you and congratulate you with this Letter of Appreciation from the European Union, to thank you for your extraordinary services and the courage you have shown", concluded the European Union Ambassador.

The EU is a long standing partner of Afghanistan in the field of policing, rule of law and justice sector reforms. Through its Police Mission EUPOL the EU works closely with the Ministry of the Interior in the process of further professionalizing the Afghan Police Service, including development of civilian policing capabilities. Earlier this year the EU handed over two 13 mio. € state of the art training facilities to the Afghan National Police: The Police Staff College and the Crime Management College.

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