EU keeps Afghan Police on the streets for the next two years

Kabul, 20 August 2014

Today the European Union announced its latest contribution to the Afghan National Police. Today's contribution of EUR 71,000,000 (USD 95 million) will enable the Afghan Government to continue to pay its police officers and uniformed personnel of the Central Prison Department.

After the deduction of administrative costs, the remaining sum will be fully allocated for salaries, keeping at least 12,600 Afghan National Police Officers on the streets for the next two years.

"The Afghan National Security Forces are playing an increasingly important role in the Afghan society as it moves towards transition. Their presence and professionalism is crucial to the sustainability of the Afghan state and the security of its people," said Chargé d'affaires a.i. Milko van Gool, Head of Development Cooperation of the European Union Delegation to Afghanistan.

"The job of the Afghan Police Officer is a difficult and dangerous one. He or she has earned every single cent of their salary. I therefore take this opportunity to reiterate the obligation of the Government to find ways to ensure that the complete monthly salary goes directly into the pockets of each individual officer, and nowhere else," added the Head of Development Cooperation.

Along with the European Union Police Mission in Afghanistan (EUPOL), the European Union has contributed substantially to the Afghan Police force over the years, including the construction of the Afghan National Police Staff College and the Afghan National Police Crime Management College, both inaugurated this year.

With this latest payment, the EU has been contributing a total of over 440 million EUR (USD 591 million) to Afghanistan's Civilian Police through the Law and Order Trust Fund for Afghanistan (LOTFA) administered by UNDP.

Mr. Alvaro Rodriguez, Country Director of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Afghanistan added: "The European Union Delegation has been a long term supporter and key partner of LOTFA. The EU has played an important role in enhancing the efficiency of LOTFA in providing support to the Ministry of Interior Affairs".
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