



Brussels, 7 October 2016
(OR. en)

7383/08
DCL 1

CIVCOM 126
COPS 80
COSDP 216
PESC 305
RELEX 161
EUCOPPS 18
JAI 124
COMEM 38
EUPOL/AFG 16

DECLASSIFICATION

of document:	ST 7383/08 RESTREINT UE/EU RESTRICTED
dated:	6 March 2008
new status:	Public

Subject:	CIVCOM advice on the EUPOL AFGHANISTAN Six-Monthly Report
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Delegations will find attached the declassified version of the above document.

The text of this document is identical to the previous version.

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**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 6 March 2008

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NOTE

From : Committee for Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management (CIVCOM)
To : Political and Security Committee

Subject : CIVCOM advice on the EUPOL AFGHANISTAN Six-Monthly Report

In view of the meeting of the Political and Security Committee, delegations will find attached the CivCom Advice on the EUPOL AFGHANISTAN Six-Monthly Report (doc. 6675/08), as agreed by CIVCOM on 5 March 2008.

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CIVCOM Advice on the EUPOL AFGHANISTAN Six-monthly Report

1. On 26 February 2008 the PSC welcomed the EUPOL AFGHANISTAN Six Monthly Report (doc. 6675/08) and invited CIVCOM to provide an advice on the report.
2. CIVCOM in its meetings of 5 March 2008 agreed the following advice.

Considerations

3. CIVCOM acknowledged that the Mission is now turning a corner and expressed its satisfaction with the progress the Mission has made in addressing the challenges it has faced since its launch, while underlining important lessons drawn from the experience, CIVCOM also acknowledged the support provided by the EU Member States, CPCC, European Commission and Council Security Office.
4. CIVCOM noted the need to maintain the level of political and technical support for the Mission to ensure it gathers momentum in the implementation of its substantive mandate.
5. CIVCOM expressed support for the recommendations of the Head of Mission as identified in the 6-monthly Report, including the creation of a limited number of additional positions in the mission administration.
6. The need for a further increase of Mission numbers for police and justice reform experts will be taken into consideration after the Mission has achieved full operational capability. CIVCOM welcomed that the Head of Mission would give this issue consideration and develop recommendations in this regard, keeping in mind the difficulties the Mission has encountered and the challenges that lie ahead.
7. CIVCOM noted the Mission's progress towards full deployment within the timescale foreseen in the OPLAN. CIVCOM welcomed the intention of the Head of Mission and his two Deputies to begin an iterative visits programme to deployment locations across the country.

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- 8 CIVCOM noted that the Mission will now focus on reaching full operational capability at the central, regional and provincial level and on the implementation of the Mission's Action Plan, including through the full use of the mentors, in order to start delivering real results in the fulfilment of its mandate.
9. CIVCOM welcomed a more strategic approach to deployment by the Mission and stressed the continued need to have good quality personnel deployed in the Mission.
10. CIVCOM underlined the importance of strong coordination on police reform amongst international and Afghan actors, and therefore the importance of ensuring a strong International Police Coordination Board and Secretariat. In that context, CIVCOM stressed that efforts should continue to encourage full staffing and effective use of the International Police Coordination Board Secretariat in close collaboration with the USA.
11. CIVCOM noted the Head of Mission's evaluation on the deteriorating security situation in the country. It welcomed the continuing priority given by the Head of Mission to the security of the Mission and its personnel.
12. CIVCOM noted that there are several outstanding issues to be urgently addressed, including the establishment of an Operations Room; the finalisation of the HQ compound security upgrade; the finalisation of an exchange of letters for a Status of Mission Agreement; and the conclusion of the outstanding Technical Arrangements
13. CIVCOM underlined the importance of continuing to push for a Technical Arrangement with the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF).

Recommendations

14. CIVCOM recommends that the PSC:
 - take note of the 6-Monthly Mission Report;
 - endorse the recommendations of the HoM, including the creation of a limited number of additional positions in the mission administration;

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- invite the HoM to provide recommendations for consideration on increasing the number of Mission's police/justice experts, once full operational capability has been reached, keeping in mind the difficulties the Mission has encountered and the challenges that lie ahead;
- support the creation of an Operations room within the Mission;
- take note of the Head of Mission's evaluation on the deteriorating security situation in the country. .

16. CIVCOM invites the PSC to take note of this advice and to endorse its recommendations.

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