



Council of the European Union

PRESS RELEASE

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EU police mission in Afghanistan preparing to handover tasks

The Council has extended the EU police mission in Afghanistan (EUPOL Afghanistan) until 31 December 2016. EUPOL Afghanistan assists in developing the Afghan civilian police service to operate within an improved rule of law framework and in respect of human rights. The mission will prepare for a gradual and sustainable transition of its tasks to local authorities and other EU instruments, while safeguarding its achievements.

The EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Federica Mogherini, commented: "The EU is committed to Afghanistan and its people in the long term. The EU and European nations will continue supporting the rule of law in Afghanistan and the legitimate desire of the Afghan people to build its own future."

During the extended mandate, EUPOL will handover its training activities to Afghan authorities and focus on delivering strategic advice in three areas: institutional reform within the Ministry of Interior, professionalisation of the Afghan National Police and development of justice-police linkages. The mission's support in the area of rule of law and justice will completely cease by the end of 2015.

The Council has allocated a budget of €58 million for the period until the end of 2015. The mission now counts around 250 international and 200 local staff; its headquarters is located in Kabul. Police Commissioner Karl Åke Roghe from Sweden has been Head of Mission since August 2012.

More information:

<http://www.eupol-afg.eu/>