

Afghanistan

The European Liberal Democrat and Reform Party, convening in Barcelona, Catalonia on 19th and 20th November 2009:

The war in Afghanistan is today one of the main concerns of the international community. It is also in the centre of the European political debate. Several European Member States are present in Afghanistan by delivering logistic, humanitarian, military and financial support to the war. Not only in Europe, but in the whole world, there is a growing consciousness that the war is not only about tactics and strategy. It is mainly about the construction of a stable democracy that can offer opportunities to all its citizens.

However, the conflict has evolved from a simple act(ion) against terrorism in a long-term conflict. The status quo of the situation results in increased military presence and political and diplomatic immobility and the situation is worsened by the permeability of the borders between Afghanistan and Pakistan and by the killing of many civilians in South Waziristan during recent military operations. Indeed, after six years of conflict, we are confronted with deadlock.

Therefore, asks:

- The European Council to reflect in the short-term about policy objectives with the aim resolving the actual impasse in Afghanistan avoiding civilians' casualties, of stimulating the process of stabilisation and democratisation of this country through the promotion of dialogue in Afghanistan between the incumbent Government led by Hamid Karzai and the main political counterpart led by Abdullah and through a better specification of the role played by Pakistan in the conflict. This period of reflection would signify a strong signal of the level of the foreign policy of the EU strengthen their unity and must initiate a discussion about the European political and humanitarian engagement in the conflict. We call on the European Council to play a more prominent role in resolving the conflict, in close cooperation with the US and our partners in NATO.

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Afghanistan

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