

Themenreihe Mai 2009

Afghanistan 2009

**Report and Progress Report of
the Task Force Afghanistan**

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Foreword

Chairman of the SPD parliamentary group in the Bundestag

For over seven years now, Germany's Bundeswehr has been deployed in Afghanistan. Along with the forces of 40 partner states, it is fulfilling the mandate of the United Nations and the German Bundestag, viz. to ensure a secure environment for the reconstruction of the country. The record so far shows both light and shade. Civil reconstruction is making discernible advances. Schools, hospitals and roads are emerging. Radio and television stations testify to progress in the freedom of opinion. The efforts to establish police, army and legal systems, though much is still amiss here, are moving ahead.

All the same, headlines about Afghanistan are dominated by the worsening security situation, by cowardly attacks with booby traps, by reports of killed or wounded soldiers and of civilian casualties in the Afghan population.

Were the international community to leave Afghanistan to its own devices now, civil war would return in little or no time and, with it, international terrorism, which threatens our security in Germany as well.

No doubt about it: The situation in Afghanistan is critical, and we will have to keep on re-examining our strategy there. I am still firmly convinced, however, that our commitment is right and necessary. This is because we cannot allow Afghanistan to revert to a role as safe haven for terrorists. Were the international community to leave Afghanistan to its own devices now, civil war would return in little or no time and, with it, international terrorism, which threatens our security in Germany as well.

Civil reconstruction is making discernible advances. All the same, headlines about Afghanistan are dominated by the worsening security situation.

The decision to send Bundeswehr soldiers on such a dangerous mission must cause much heart-searching for every member of the Bundestag. It was for this reason that our parliamentary group three years ago formed a group to monitor very closely what

is happening in Afghanistan. Are we getting any closer to our goals? Are we pursuing the right strategy? How can we do things differently – or better? These are the issues in the remit of our “Task Force Afghanistan“.

I am very grateful for the work being done by this Task Force. It furnishes the members of my parliamentary group with the information they need for responsible decisions. And it provides the Federal government with valuable pointers on how our involvement in Afghanistan can be further improved and better targeted.

This brochure contains two Task Force reports: first, an initial situation report from the year 2007 with essential demands for adapting our Afghanistan strategy, many of which found their way into the Federal government’s Afghanistan concept and, second, a progress report taking stock of what has occurred since that first report appeared.

The reports do nothing to sugarcoat the situation in Afghanistan. They present a robust analysis of the state of play. But they also show that the Federal government and the international community have proved their ability to modify their strategy, set new and different focuses, and learn from mistakes.

Detlef Dzembitzki and the members of the Task Force Afghanistan have done good and important work. For this they deserve the great respect and gratitude of the entire parliamentary group.

Dr. Peter Struck, May 2009

“The ink of the scholar is more holy than the blood of the martyr.”

Afghan proverb

Progress report on the demands of the Task Force Afghanistan

The objects were, and are, to assess Germany's commitment hitherto, to monitor current developments in Afghanistan, and to examine specific aspects in detail.

The Task Force Afghanistan was set up in October 2006 as a working group of the SPD parliamentary group in the Bundestag. It was formed by seconding members from the Foreign Affairs, Internal Affairs, Human Rights, Economic Cooperation and Development, and Defence committees. The objects were, and are, to assess Germany's involvement hitherto, to monitor current developments in Afghanistan, and to examine specific aspects in detail. In October 2007, the Task Force Afghanistan submitted a report to the members of the SPD parliamentary group in the Bundestag that was subsequently published and translated into several languages. The report contained demands that we examine in this progress report and which we will modify, if need be, to take account of current developments.

Reconstruction in Afghanistan has moved on, but the pace is painfully, agonizingly slow and inadequate when measured against the expectations of the country's people and the hopes that we, too, had at the start of our commitment. Altogether, the international community has failed to unfold its potentials. Although the Paris conference in June 2008 was an important step toward cooperation, many problems still await resolution: synergy effects are being insufficiently exploited and cooperation and coordination are only moderately successful. There is a lack of binding agreements, no realistic planning as regards resources or timetables and, very definitely, no discussion of the consequences, should one of the main players terminate their commitment ahead of time - like the Netherlands in the course of the year 2010 or Canada in 2011.

In Afghanistan we are faced with challenges that are unprecedented in our experience and call for special solutions and instruments. Development cooperation cannot cope with such challenges on its own. It must be integrated into an in-depth process, in which ministries and departments as well as international partners, acting together, will have to closely review events. Viewed against such a background, it is still up to the Federal government to shape its commitment even more effectively. Restoration of the entire material and intellectual infrastructure is essential if Afghanistan is to be put back on an independent track.

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The security situation deteriorated in some parts of the country during 2007 and 2008. In the south in particular, the international community, along with its Afghan partners, is confronted with grave security problems that are seriously impeding reconstruction work in places. What is more, the threat emanates not only from various Taliban groupings, but also from criminal and militant opposition groups and criminal gangs. Massive (future) problems of internal security have their causes in the demographic structure, the still-desolate economic and supply situation, and the catastrophic consequences of destruction. Fifty percent of the Afghan population is under age 18. What happens when millions of young people have no work? Who is creating jobs? The country has been 90 percent deforested and is menaced by soil erosion, drought and local climate change. And the problems are not confined to rural regions: in Kabul, too, the basic supply situation (energy, water, waste disposal) is still only emerging – and that in a city that has grown within just a few years from 600,000 to some 4 million inhabitants, with a disastrous impact on the environment.

In view of these immense challenges, the actual key to a peaceful future lies in civil reconstruction. For all the problems involved, we must not forget: Afghanistan certainly has potentials. A case in point is the energy supply: as experts see it, Afghanistan, with its geographic situation, could, by constructing hydro-electric power stations, generate enough electricity to supply itself and even export energy.

The fact that the concept of networked security now appears to be prevailing under the new American administration, too, is an encouraging sign. Given the complexity of the tasks at hand, Afghanistan will be dependent on help and support for a long time to come. We affirm our interest in a stabilization of Afghanistan; Afghanistan must never again become a haven for international terrorism, as it was in the period before 2001.

Many of our positions have been supported and further pursued by the Federal government. They include the setting of focuses in the civil area, stepping up the efforts to establish police forces, and reinvigoration of the ISAF mandate. But we are not turning a blind eye either to those problems which, in our view, still have room for improvement.

By setting up of a cross-party German-Afghan Friendship Circle we - on the part of the parliamentarians - have been helping extend and deepen the contacts with our opposite numbers in Afghanistan. We have noted the gratifying response that we as Task Force Afghanistan have elicited from many quarters in the last two years, and are interpreting this as a brief to continue providing critical support for our joint commitment on behalf of Afghanistan and, in the process, to help that country find its own road into a peaceful future.

Detlef Dzembritzki, April 2009

Nation building and development

Our core demand:

Focuses must be set in the civil and political sections of the mandates

In 2007, the Task Force Afghanistan of the SPD parliamentary group in the Bundestag called on the Federal government to clearly focus its commitment on the building of civil structures. Restoration of peace to the fiercely contested parts of Afghanistan in particular should be promoted with a comprehensive political initiative mounted by the international donor community. The announced change of strategy of the donor states at the NATO summit in Riga, 2006, was to be driven forward by Germany.

The record so far:

Germany left the military Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) in Afghanistan for the sake of the ISAF mission.

- Germany left the military Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) in Afghanistan for the sake of the ISAF mission. In return, the share of German soldiers in the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) can be increased to as many as 4500 men and women. These additional soldiers are to ensure flexibility and greater presence across the area and contribute to more training for the Afghan army.
- The German Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) concept has been extended in the German sphere of responsibility. Provincial Advisory Teams (PATs) have been set up to create ports of call for local Afghan politicians, enlarging the framework within which stabilization and development can take place.

The resources for establishing civil structures have been increased from an annual €80 million to a total €140 million.

- The resources for establishing civil structures have been increased from an annual €80 million to a total €140 million. The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) pledged €70 million for the years 2007 and 2008. The remaining €70 million is mainly managed by the Federal Foreign Office (AA). In 2008, the German contribution, on the basis of a special pledge, rose to a total €170.7 million. The total bilateral commitment of the Federal Republic of Germany, incl funds provided by the Federal Foreign Office, for the years 2002 to 2010, amounts to over €1.1 billion.
- Involvement in Germany's focus sectors - infrastructure, basic education and the promotion of economic development - has been stepped up. Especially in encouraging business startups, revitalizing economic flows and strengthening smaller and midsized firms, fresh efforts have been made. The expansion of local self-government structures and promotion of the rule of law are further important projects supported by Germany's Federal government.
- The Federal government has again and again made an issue of implementing the change of strategy in the NATO. A willingness to embrace a "comprehensive approach" does exist within the NATO, but no binding definition has been adopted. Nor was the June 2008 conference in Paris (follow-up conference after the Afghanistan Compact in London, 2006) able to trigger the hoped-for process of clarification in this question. There is still considerable need for action here.

Our demand:

Extending the PRT concept

In 2007, the Task Force Afghanistan of the SPD parliamentary group in the Bundestag called on the Federal government to further fan out the civil-military commitment in the ISAF Region North. Provinces without PRT base were to be given Provincial Advisory Teams (PATs) to provide at least a small visible presence. Altogether, there was to be a step-by-step expansion of the PRTs to cover all Afghan provinces – starting in the German sphere of responsibility. Longer and, if necessary,

more flexible tours of duty for military personnel would help create better human relations and confidence building in the population and assist closer cooperation with informal leaders as well.

The record so far:

- The Federal government took up our demand and is planning to set up supplementary Provincial Advisory Teams (PATs) for the provinces in the North region that do not have a PRT. A start has been made creating this presence across the area since early 2008 with the PAT at Taloqan in Takhar province.
- The number of PRT bases in the German sphere of responsibility has not been increased. We still have five PRTs in a total of nine provinces, including two German-led. This situation is unsatisfactory.
- In the question of longer and more flexible tours of duty for military leaders to ensure better human relations with the population and with decision-makers, no progress has been made. All the same, the problem is being taken seriously by those in charge, and solutions are still being sought.
- According to the information at our disposal, the number of PRTs as a whole has not been increased either. At present, there are 26 PRTs (2 USA, 2 D, 1 each New Zealand, Turkey, Canada, GB, NL, Italy, Spain, Lithuania, Hungary, Sweden, Czech Republic).
- As the Task Force Afghanistan sees it, it is necessary to regularly assess both the work of the PRTs and that of the PATs.

Our demand:

Afghans' own responsibility must be strengthened

The Task Force Afghanistan of the SPD parliamentary group in the Bundestag called on the Federal government in 2007 to demand that the Afghan government take

more robust action against corruption, nepotism and drug trafficking. In the coordination of aid for Afghanistan, the Afghan government was to be reminded more insistently of its responsibilities. The Federal government was to counteract developments that jeopardize the protection of human rights and the creation of democratic structures.

The record so far:

Corruption and nepotism as well as weak state institutions are still among the greatest obstacles to development in Afghanistan.

- Corruption and nepotism as well as weak state institutions are still among the greatest obstacles to development in Afghanistan. Most of all in the struggle against corruption, the Afghan government is failing to come up to the expectations of the international community. The German foreign minister, Frank-Walter Steinmeier, wasted no words in addressing the Afghan government in this respect at the donor conference in Paris, 2008. In its updated Afghanistan concept of September 2008, the Federal government formulated concrete expectations in its relations with the Afghan government.
- The human rights situation in Afghanistan is still unsatisfactory; there is a yawning gap between constitution and reality, especially as far as women are concerned, and neither freedom of the press nor the constitutional rights of citizens are enforceable via the courts as yet (serious cases in point: journalist Sayed Pervez Kambaksh or the murder of the German-Afghan citizen Dadshani).

Both closer coordination of aid and assistance with the Afghan government and an improved strategic review among donors and organizations continue to be important preconditions for achieving further progress in developing the country.

- On the Afghan side there has been a growing awareness of Afghans' own responsibility for developing the country. At the donor conference in Paris, Afghanistan submitted a National Development Strategy (ANDS). Along with the Afghan Compact of 2006, this strategy constitutes the central document to which

further development efforts in Afghanistan refer. Both closer coordination of aid and assistance with the Afghan government and an improved strategic review among donors and organizations continue to be important preconditions for achieving further progress in developing the country.

- Implementation of the ANDS calls for the setting up of new structures and capacities at inter-ministerial and subnational level. Donors' strategies must be brought into line with the goals of the ANDS. This process must be monitored with great vigour by Germany's Federal government.

Our demand:

Civil structures

In 2007, the Task Force Afghanistan of the SPD parliamentary group in the Bundestag called on the Federal government to give a more balanced shape to relations between military and development-policy contributions in Afghanistan. The funds for the creation of civil structures ought to be re-examined and, if necessary, adapted to meet changing requirements. In the interest of efficiency, the funds provided should be more rigorously ring-fenced and awarded at regional level. Wherever possible, Germany should contribute to the creation of civil structures in Afghanistan in the south and southeast of the country as well. Beacon projects were to be used to build confidence in the population and make the peace dividend visible. On the spot in Kabul, the coordination of Germany's bilateral and multilateral contributions ought to be improved by increasing the personnel resources. Afghans living in Germany should be encouraged, backed by a right of return to Germany, to play a greater role in reconstruction measures in Afghanistan.

The record so far:

The appointment of a special Foreign Office envoy to Afghanistan is a welcome step, and we hope for impetus to driving forward cross-departmental and, above all, multilateral cooperation.

- The funds for the creation of civil structures have been raised from an annual €80 million to a total €140 million and administered in their focuses by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Foreign Office, and by other ministries as well. In 2008, the German contribution was stepped up owing to a special pledge by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) to a total €170.7 million. The total bilateral commitment of the Federal Republic of Germany for the years 2002 to 2010 amounts to over €1.1 billion. The appointment of a special Foreign Office envoy to Afghanistan is a welcome step, and we hope for impetus in driving forward cross-departmental and, above all, multilateral cooperation.
- In view of the supply bottlenecks in winter 08/09, the Federal government set up an Afghanistan Winter Aid Task Force in mid-November 2008. This Task Force is under the leadership of the German ambassador in Kabul, and its remit is to coordinate German aid and assistance in order to avoid a humanitarian crisis.
- In the north of Afghanistan, the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) mounted over 300 minor measures between September 2007 and September 2008 designed to strengthen local self-government structures and improve the basic infrastructure. These measures were implemented via provincial and district development funds. Specifically, they concerned projects to obtain increases in agricultural productivity, improvements in the water supply, rehabilitation of the general infrastructure and schools, extensions to the citizens' service offered by local government, and the promotion of employment. According to the BMZ, these measures are benefitting over one million people in the provinces of Kunduz, Takhar and Badakhshan.
- In the southeast of Afghanistan, the BMZ is supporting a total of 80 schemes in the provinces of Paktia and Khost that are helping improve the basic infrastructure, qualify small businesses, and strengthen civil society and local government structures. In the northwest of the country, a further 60 measures are planned.

- As a general rule, the Afghan side tends to ask for fewer advisors in favour of more engineers and practitioners to be sent out to Afghanistan. This request appears to be understandable and is backed by the Afghanistan Task Force.
- In the period under review 2007-2008, the Federal government initiated no beacon projects in Afghanistan; instead, it opted to concentrate on the execution of small-scale schemes. The task Force Afghanistan is unaware of any comments in principle by the BMZ on this decision. Facilities like the Technical High School in Kandahar, the hospital in Mazar-e-Sharif, or the reconstruction of the theatre in Kabul could certainly become beacon projects.
- Coordination of German aid and assistance on the spot is still unsatisfactory. The personnel situation of the German staff in Kabul is unchanged. The Federal government failed to follow the recommendations of the Task Force Afghanistan to increase the staff size. At this point, a comparison with procedure in other countries might be worth while, e.g. in Great Britain, which has adopted a different approach to organizing responsibilities on the spot. At the donor conference in Paris, the international community advocated greater coherence in order to enhance the efficacy of setting up civil structures. This avowal has not been adequately translated into concrete measures, however. The Federal government should vigorously embrace this aim: it may be one conceivable field of activity for the special envoy.
- The Federal government has made no efforts to do more to incorporate Afghans living in Germany in the reconstruction process in Afghanistan. Uncertainties as to Afghans' right to return to Germany have not been removed. As the Afghanistan Task Force sees it, therefore, there is still need for action in this question.

Our demand:

Strengthening of the rule of law

In 2007, the Task Force Afghanistan of the SPD parliamentary group in the Bundestag called on the Federal government to strengthen the legitimacy of formal legal institutions in Afghanistan. State structures in the provinces were to be consolidated and given closer links with the central government in Kabul. Germany ought to champion the introduction of a ground-covering legal advice system in Afghanistan and additions to the police stations in the country.

The record so far:

The introduction of a fully functioning court system remains a key precondition for peace and development in Afghanistan.

- The introduction of a fully functioning court system remains a key precondition for peace and development in Afghanistan. As set forth in the Afghan Compact, Italy as “Lead Donor“ assumed the lead-management for the development of the court system. However, the progress obtained so far, as in the setting up of the police force, are far from meeting expectations. As the Task Force sees it, it is urgently necessary for a dialogue to be entered into at EU level and at the level of the international community to find a joint approach to a solution.
- Germany has made a contribution of €20 million in all to the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF) which, in the period under review 2007-2008, also financed country-wide measures to fund the salaries of female judges and the further training of 92 female ministerial staff members.
- The Federal government has supported Afghanistan in completing and implementing the National Plan for judicial reform. Coordination of the law enforcement/prosecuting bodies has been improved by setting up a joint commission including police and public prosecutors. In the training of some 460 police personnel, funding has been provided for the production of a manual dealing with the bases of the rule of law. With the support of a female Islamic police conference with some 100 attendees, it has been possible to improve the

situation of women in the police profession. Also, mediation and legal counselling have been provided for women in some 240 cases.

Our demand:

Participation and promotion of women

In 2007, the Task Force Afghanistan called on the Federal government to provide more funds for the participation and advancement of women in Afghanistan. In various schemes, more account should be taken of underlying social and cultural conditions. Special emphasis was to be placed on expanding standard services (advisory facilities, women's shelters). Protective measures for women in public positions and better protection against domestic violence were further important demands.

The advancement and participation of women in Afghanistan is a cross-sectional task. The rights of women are human rights. Their implementation is closely bound up with developments in the rule of law and democracy.

- The advancement and participation of women in Afghanistan is a cross-sectional task. The rights of women are human rights. Their implementation is closely bound up with developments in the rule of law and democracy. The German commitment is based on gender-oriented strategies that take account of all funding sectors. In the period under review 2007-2008, the Federal government provided no concrete particulars of any increase in the funds available for the advancement and participation of women in Afghanistan.
- With investment in basic education and vocational training, the Federal government has helped improve the situation of women and girls. The same is true of support for the completion and implementation of the National Plan for judicial reform and also of better coordination between Afghan law enforcement agencies. In the period under review, 2007-2008, Germany's Federal government provided no concrete particulars of the extent of any improvement in standard services for women.

- Within the framework of the ANDS, the Afghan government has drawn up a comprehensive National Action Plan for the Women of Afghanistan (NAPWA), execution of which will, it is hoped, generate concrete improvements in the focus areas of security, protection of human rights, political participation, economy, health and education. Germany's Federal government is supporting the Afghan government in implementing this Plan.
- In the period under review, 2007-2008, the Federal government took numerous measures to help create income and jobs and to vitalize economic flows in Afghanistan. These measures also benefit women. In Kabul, for example, German support helped open a first Business Center for some 30 business women, and more are to be created on the same pattern.

Our demand:

Drug enforcement

In 2007, the Task Force Afghanistan called on the Federal government to support a comprehensive, strategically effective concept for combatting the drug economy in Afghanistan. The main focus of attention in this respect was to be on prosecution of the main players in drug-trafficking, above all within the political structures. The use of chemicals to stop poppy growing, as is being considered by the US, was to be avoided at all costs. Germany was to adopt a comprehensive approach (infrastructure, education, health, promotion of employment, good governance) to encourage the creation of legal sources of income.

The record so far:

- Developments in the drug economy continued to be a major problem in 2008. This being so, drugs are a serious threat both to civil reconstruction and to the security situation in Afghanistan. Following success in containing opium-poppy growing in 2004 and 2005, the cultivated area grew substantially again in 2006

and 2007. Since 2008, it has been on the decline again for the first time, but is on the whole still at a very high level (according to UNDOC for 2008: 7,700 t). In the north, however, the area under crops contracted significantly in 2008, as in the previous year.

The lack of success in the fight against drug trafficking is closely associated with the involvement of Afghan office-holders and functionaries in the opium trade.

- The lack of success in the fight against drug trafficking is closely associated with the involvement of Afghan office-holders and functionaries in the opium trade. The Federal government advocates removal of such functionaries from their posts at all social levels. One gleam of hope was the replacement of the judged-as-corrupt interior minister Moqpal with the previous education minister Atmar. This commitment must be accompanied by the urgently necessary continuation of the fight against corruption by the Afghan government and the strengthening of the judicial sector.
- The Federal government considers the drug strategy adopted in 2006 at the London donor conference to be comprehensive and adequate. It refers to the approaches to action jointly developed by Great Britain and the Afghan government and underscores its will to continue supporting them.
- Within the scope of its reconstruction activities and in its efforts to create legal earning options, the Federal government, by its own account, is attempting to set definite priorities in the regions especially prone to opium-poppy growing.
- Under German responsibility, a start was made on setting up an anti-drug police under EUPOL.
- In 2009, too, Germany is planning to support cooperation between Afghanistan and its Central Asian neighbours. This is being done within the scope of the EU Central Asian strategy. The focus here is on the struggle against drug-trafficking

and the arms trade (60 percent of the opium produced in Afghanistan leaves the country via Iran).

Our demand:

Germany's contribution to training the Afghan National Police

In 2007, the Task Force Afghanistan called on the Federal government to significantly increase the resources and capacities already provided for helping establish the Afghan police force.

In 2007, the Task Force Afghanistan called on the Federal government to significantly increase the resources and capacities already provided for helping establish the Afghan police. An improvement in the deployment conditions for German training staff ought to help avoid personnel bottlenecks. The concepts employed in American and European police training schemes were to be better dovetailed. Appropriate equipment and payment for Afghan security forces were to ensure the success of the training mission. The conditions for the training and employment of women were to be boosted.

The record so far:

- Since 2002, the efforts to get police forces established in Afghanistan have been one of the focuses of Germany's commitment. Some 22,000 police officers in the middle and high ranks received basic and advanced training between 2002 and 2007 under German leadership. In 2008, a further 2,600 Afghan police officers received their qualifications from German instructors. In spite of these advances, factors like corruption, faulty equipment, poor payment and lack of training staff contribute to what is still a very unsatisfactory situation. Serious difficulties are still caused by the high illiteracy levels among the trainees.
- A comparison with previous years shows that the funds available for building up police forces in Afghanistan have nearly trebled. For bilateral support €35.7 million

in all was made available in the year 2008, specifically for mounting major infrastructural projects.

- The focus of the German contribution in 2008 was on qualifying ordinary police officers in basic policing skills, and on the advanced training of members of the robust units in the Afghan National Civil Order Police (ANCOP) and the Quick Reaction Force (QRF) of the Afghan Border Police (ABP).
- Since April 2007, the Bundeswehr has been assisting in training the Afghan police in the northern region with a military police training command having a total personnel level of 45 soldiers. The training support concentrates on the topics “personal security“ and “basic police tasks“ and is offered in the form of short courses, with account being taken of the individual needs of those in charge in the Afghan police.

Germany has championed the idea of intensifying the training activities at European level. In May 2008, a doubling of the previous personnel levels was resolved for 2009.

- Since June 2007, the European Police Mission Afghanistan (EUPOL AFG) has had a mandate to press ahead with the reform of the Afghan police. EUPOL has no project funds of its own, but is engaged in working out strategic goals and coordinating any resulting action and steps to be taken. The practical implementation of the measures is by the nation states. Germany has championed the idea of intensifying the training activities at European level. In May 2008, a doubling of the previous personnel levels was resolved for 2009. An increase in the mission strength to some 400 is to be aimed at. In mid-December 2008, 234 international colleagues in all were at work for the civil EU police mission EUPOL, including 42 Germans.
- In addition to the training measures, Germany has supported the Afghan police with equipment aid in an amount of some €5.6 million. In particular, it was possible to make available, e.g., protective equipment, forensic kits, teaching aids and

materials, as well as anoraks for the winter or space heating appliances for various police stations.

- In collaboration with the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ), it was possible in 2008 to implement major construction projects, especially for the establishment of the police force. The construction of the new building for the German Police Training Center in Mazar-e-Sharif was to the fore in this respect. This training center was inaugurated in October 2008 and has the capacity needed for some 200 trainees. Further police training centers are being planned for 2009.
- In spite of the efforts made, experts still consider a drastic increase in the number of instructors and mentors to be imperative if a fully functioning Afghan police is to be operational in some five to ten years' time. It is also said to be essential that Afghan police salaries go on rising even after the already implemented salary reform. Otherwise, the expansion threatens to fail also because of the "drainage" of qualified police officers to private security firms. Another cause of concern is the level of the heavy losses among the Afghan security forces. Since January 2008, 700 members of the police force have been killed; in the year 2007, the total was 1,000.

In the better coordination between the various police training concepts, it is possible to report initial progress. Still, an integrated joint approach is still some way off.

- In the better coordination between the various police training concepts, it is possible to report initial progress. All the same, an integrated joint approach is still some way off. In this connection, the Task Force Afghanistan calls on the various European partner countries under EUPOL to disengage themselves more completely from their own national police concepts. The starting point should be a jointly produced police training concept that centres on local conditions in Afghanistan. The willingness in principle to find a solution was declared at a meeting of the JCMB in Tokyo in February 2008.

- The Task Force's call for harmonization of the American and the European training missions has been satisfied in some areas. The International Police Coordination Board in Kabul, for example, has placed its work on a sound basis in the meantime. Facing 14 EUPOL staff members, however, is only one representative from the US side so far. For 2009, Germany's Federal government is planning to take part in the American training programme "Focused District Development" (FDD). The FDD programme extends the police reform to district level and is divided into three phases (assessment/ training/ mentoring). Germany will be making a contribution of its own to this programme in the north of Afghanistan. This also lays the basis for a dovetailing of FDD with the EUPOL mission. Furthermore, EUPOL is proposing, along with the US, to work out a mentor concept for the Afghan interior ministry and to offer extended counselling for its executive staff.
- In the end-of-year report for 2008 on the German commitment in establishing the police force in Afghanistan, published by the Federal Ministry of the Interior (BMI) and the Federal Foreign Office (AA), no particulars are given of training and employment conditions for women in the police force. Hence, the Task Force Afghanistan of the SPD parliamentary group in the Bundestag calls upon the Federal government to make this missing information available.

The achievements of police officers, but also of Bundeswehr military police, are highly appreciated.

- The achievements of police officers, but also of the Bundeswehr military police, are highly appreciated. What is less understandable is the evident lack of willingness on the part of Federal and state ministers to provide for optimal personnel levels. Some of Germany's states (*Länder*) have not participated at all hitherto, whereas we are receiving signals from other state interior ministers who have recognized the challenge and have held out a prospect of support. Obviously, however, there is a lack of continuity in the cooperation and incentives within the police service's development programmes for officers who are tackling this task in Afghanistan.

International mandates

Our demand:

Extension of the ISAF mandate on the basis of the Afghan Compact

In 2007, the Task Force Afghanistan of the SPD parliamentary group in the Bundestag called on the Federal government to extend and expand the ISAF mandate on the basis of the Afghan Compact. With the KSK component in the OEF mandate in mind, a critical examination is required. The Tornado missions should be evaluated, and more attention paid to a culturally sensitive procedure in military operations. The supreme directive should be the avoidance of civilian casualties.

- Germany left the military Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) in Afghanistan for the sake of the ISAF mission. In return, the share of German soldiers in the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) can be increased to as many as 4,500 men and women. These additional soldiers are to ensure flexibility and greater presence across the area and help improve the training for the Afghan army.

The ISAF mandate is robustly shaped and is designed to ensure stability and security until the army and the Afghan police are in a position to assume this task themselves.

- ISAF's remit is to provide the military backup for the reconstruction efforts. Reconstruction is in a very difficult phase in some parts of the country owing to some deterioration in the security situation. The ISAF mandate is robustly shaped and is designed to ensure stability and security until the army and the Afghan police are in a position to assume this task themselves. With the Quick Reaction Force (QRF), the Bundeswehr has also assumed further responsibility in the north.
- Critical examination of the KSK component has progressed. It is no longer part of the OEF mandate.

To the knowledge of the SPD parliamentary group in the Bundestag, the Tornado missions have helped plan military measures more expediently and precisely and reduce the risk of civilian casualties.

- To the knowledge of the SPD parliamentary group in the Bundestag, the Tornado missions have helped plan military measures more expediently and precisely and reduce the risk of civilian casualties. This enables ISAF to apply the principle of proportionality better than in the past. The protection of soldiers and civilian helpers is improved by this reconnaissance effort, and attacks by militant opposition groups can be more readily avoided by having a more exact picture of a given situation. The photographic material is evaluated by the ISAF. Transmission to OEF is subject to restrictive rules.
- To our knowledge, much more account is now being taken of cultural sensitivities in military operations. Our positions have found their way into NATO discussions and were also a component in the Paris conference. A military realignment has taken place to the extent that NATO in summer 2007, with its tactical directive - also undertaken in response to German urging - ensured prudent and also - in case of doubt - defensive tactics. Hence, pursuits are broken off, for example, wherever there is a risk for the civilian population.

Regional integration

Our demand:

Iran and Pakistan to be included in a regional strategy

In 2007, the Task Force Afghanistan of the SPD parliamentary group in the Bundestag called on the Federal government to incorporate Iran and Pakistan more strongly in the efforts to stabilize Afghanistan. Afghanistan cannot be viewed in isolation from its neighbours. If peaceful developments and state-building are to be encouraged, it is essential that Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran build up sound diplomatic relations with one another.

- In 2007 already, at the G8 foreign ministers' meeting in Potsdam, Pakistan and Afghanistan, with the mediation of German foreign minister Steinmeier resolved closer cooperation. However, the fronts have hardened again. The setting up of a Tripartite Commission, in which Pakistan, Afghanistan and ISAF agreed on stronger cooperation, is nonetheless opening up a new perspective.

In spite of the stepping-up of efforts between the two countries at government level, Talibanization in Pakistan has made further advances in recent months.

- In spite of the stepping-up of efforts between the two countries at government level, Talibanization in Pakistan has made further advances in recent months. Many observers consider it likely that parts of the Pakistani Secret Service ISI and the military support the Afghan Taliban. These groups are hoping for a withdrawal of the international troops and see in the Taliban an ally for a possible conflict with India (Kashmir). The mood in Pakistan about the US is reserved at best, and often hostile as well. The situation in the border areas between Afghanistan and Pakistan is worrying. Some 200,000 Pakistanis have fled from these areas to the country's interior, alongside some 2.2 million Afghan refugees in Pakistan (700,000 in Karachi alone).

- The international community must go on demanding that Pakistan make robust efforts in the struggle against terrorism, but also take steps to help stabilize the country. Only a stable Pakistan can be a good neighbour for Afghanistan. To this same end, the regional players India and China must be included.

The Task Force's demand that Iran be included in a regional strategy remains intact. Without Iran there will be no conciliation in the region.

- The Task Force's demand that Iran be included in a regional strategy remains intact. Without Iran there will be no conciliation in the region. A positive assessment can be given to Iran's membership of the international Afghan Conference. With this step, Iran has given proof of its interest in collaborating on solution strategies. The signals received from the new US administration, too, point to more constructive pragmatism in US-Iran relations.

Our demand:

A German-Afghan parliamentary group

In 2007, the Task Force Afghanistan of the SPD parliamentary group in the Bundestag called for a German-Afghan parliamentary group to be set up in the German Bundestag.

- The Bundestag administration rejected this call with a reference to the existing German-South Asian Parliamentary Group. With a German-Afghan Friendship Circle set up within the existing German-South Asian Parliamentary Group, a course is now being taken that deepens the contacts between German and Afghan parliamentarians. Several successful meetings have already taken place.

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