

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION



Brussels, 4 June 2010 10692/10 PRESSE 163

Second EU-Pakistan Summit Brussels, 4 June 2010 Joint Statement

The second EU-Pakistan Summit was held in Brussels on 04 June 2010. The EU was represented by Mr. Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council and by Mr. Jose Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission. Commissioner for Trade Karel De Gucht also took part. The Islamic Republic of Pakistan was represented by Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani, with Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi and Commerce Minister Makhdoom Mohammad Amin Fahim also in attendance.

While last year's summit served to underline the EU's strong support for Pakistan's democratic government, today's second Summit has set the basis for a strategic dialogue aimed at forging a partnership for peace and development rooted in shared values, principles and commitments. In this context leaders reaffirmed their determination to jointly address regional and global security issues, to promote respect for human rights, economic and trade cooperation and provision of humanitarian assistance, and to cooperate to further strengthen Pakistan's democratic government and institutions.

PRESS

1

Strengthening the Strategic Dialogue

An understanding was reached between the EU and Pakistan at the First Summit last year to initiate the strategic dialogue and to strengthen cooperation in key areas of mutual interest. In addition to meetings at the highest level, both sides have agreed to reinforce this commitment by drawing up a 5-year Engagement Plan which will outline specific targets for joint actions. Leaders agreed that such a plan will be jointly drawn up after the Summit. There will be a framework for consultations at ministerial or senior official level. In this context, it has been agreed that regular meetings between the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the Foreign Minister of Pakistan will continue under the new Lisbon Treaty rules. The leaders decided to take this process further by taking concrete measures including the following:

- As part of this dialogue, Pakistan would welcome EU support in areas which are central to Pakistan's future development including regional security, stability and prosperity, human rights, democracy, economy and trade, science and technology, disarmament and non-proliferation, counter-terrorism, counter narcotics, energy, education and cultural cooperation.
- The EU and Pakistan will also focus their common agenda on implementation of the Malakand Development Strategy and implementing the EU's commitment to Pakistan's development through its Plan for Strengthening EU Action of October 2009.
- The EU and Pakistan agreed to raise the level of the existing Joint Commission so that this can act as the principal body charged with preparing the whole range of issues covered by the enhanced Strategic Dialogue.

Security

The EU expressed appreciation and support for Pakistan's determination to combat terrorism and extremism and acknowledged the great sacrifices being made by the people and security forces of Pakistan towards peace and stability in the region. The EU and Pakistan agreed last year that terrorism, violent extremism and militancy represent serious threats to international peace and security, as well as to the internal stability of individual countries. All states must ensure that these threats should be eliminated.

The leaders acknowledged that the threat of terrorism was global, regional and local which goes beyond boundaries. They stressed the imperative of closer cooperation by all countries to eliminate terrorism and to dismantle terrorist networks and prevent them from recruiting, funding terrorist organisations and sponsoring of terrorist acts.

The leaders recalled their commitment to further strengthen cooperation in the fight against terrorism, within the framework of the United Nations as well as in other relevant forums. In this context, they reaffirmed that counter-terrorism measures and the protection of human rights are complementary and mutually reinforcing, and should be implemented in full respect of international law. They decided to strengthen practical arrangements for a more regular counter-terrorism dialogue.

Pakistan welcomed the launch of an EU "Civilian Capacity Building for Law Enforcement" programme in March 2010 to support the government's counter-terrorism efforts. This programme aims at capacity building in the field of civil law enforcement by supporting the National Counter-Terrorism Authority (NACTA) in becoming a fully operational and effective agency. It further supports the Pakistani authorities in the development of provincial capabilities, by working on law enforcement and criminal justice.

The EU welcomed the Government of Pakistan's renewed efforts to work with the international community with a view to eliminating the menace of illicit drugs. The EU supported the new Counter-Narcotics Policy and the five-year master plan. Both sides will jointly explore how best to address the links between extremist and terrorist organisations and the international drug trade, including cooperation to build Pakistan's capacity in terms of training, equipment and forensics.

In the light of the recent Nuclear Security Summit in Washington, the EU and Pakistan stressed the importance of efforts aimed at strengthening nuclear security, undertaken nationally or through mutually agreed cooperation activities. In addition, the EU and Pakistan will develop their cooperation in the area of export controls. More generally, the EU and Pakistan will step up dialogue in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation in order to address all relevant issues.

Trade and Investment

The EU and Pakistan re-emphasised the importance of a strong trading relationship and the impetus it can give to restore and enhance economic stability and prosperity. This is particularly relevant for Pakistan whose economy faces immense challenges as a result of the fight against terrorism. In particular the cost of doing business in Pakistan has increased considerably thereby adversely affecting export performance and poverty levels. Pakistan reiterated its intention to pursue export diversification and build additional capacity to trade more effectively, however it stated that its ability to do this speedily was being hampered by the major diversion of resources to security related expenditure.

The two sides agreed that it is essential to create the administrative and security conditions which would allow investment to develop and reverse the declining trends rapidly. Accordingly both sides will continue their discussions in the context of the Dedicated Dialogue on Trade and the Group of Friends of Democratic Pakistan (FoDP). The two sides agreed to enhance economic and trade cooperation. This should feature in the 5 year engagement plan.

The EU and Pakistan have started to work jointly towards further liberalisation of trade in goods and services with the aim to mutually enhance market access, in accordance with WTO rules and obligations. A dedicated dialogue is already under way aimed at discussing ways to enhance the bilateral trade relationship, including, through a possible free trade agreement.

The EU has started exploring how aspects of the EU's preferential tariff regime (GSP+) might be looked at in the context of the preparation of the next GSP Regulation, thereby allowing new beneficiaries, including possibly Pakistan, to take advantage of this scheme.

The EU is assisting Pakistan to resume its exports of fishery products and will as a priority carry out the necessary inspection.

The EU and Pakistan are stepping up their cooperation in the field of trade-related capacity building. To this end, the EU will increase the funding for trade related technical assistance

Energy

Both sides recognized the need to work towards achieving safe, secure, affordable and sustainable energy supplies. Both sides agree to cooperate closely in the areas of: promoting energy efficiency and energy conservations; development of affordable clean energy technologies; identification of new, renewable, conventional and non-conventional energy sources; technology and expertise.

Development

The EU reiterated its commitment to support Pakistan's economic and social development consistent with Pakistan's development strategy. In this context funding under the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) for the period 2011-2013 is expected to rise by 50% to EURO 75 million per annum.

This enhanced engagement will be in line with the EU Action Plan for Pakistan, which sets out priorities such as capacity support to the rule of law sector, support of the Malakand Development Strategy and support to Pakistan's energy sector.

Pakistan is committed to drive forward macro-economic reform in order to enhance revenue-raising capacity and protect its social sector expenditure, including for education. The EU underlined its support for this work.

The EU assured Pakistan that it will continue to provide assistance to those affected by terrorism. Thus, the EU will support the Malakand Development Strategy, also through the Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa/FATA/Balochistan Multi-Donor Trust Fund, managed by the World Bank. The EU is participating as a major partner in a Post Crisis Needs Assessment (PCNA). Pakistan assured the EU that it will continue to support this and use the outcomes to inform the implementation of a comprehensive approach to stabilisation and development in the concerned areas.

Humanitarian Assistance

The EU assured Pakistan that it will continue to provide humanitarian assistance following international norms. In this context, the importance of respect for international humanitarian law was reiterated.

Regional issues

The EU and Pakistan underlined their commitment to strengthen cooperation for peace, security and stability in Afghanistan and the wider region.

The EU reiterated the importance of Pakistan and India normalising their relations and welcomed the resumption of a dialogue process. It expressed the hope that this would help to resolve outstanding issues and build trust and confidence between the two neighbours. The EU and Pakistan seek to promote durable, constructive and positive engagement with regional stakeholders.

The EU and Pakistan emphasized the importance of building intra and inter- regional economic linkages. They strongly support the development of trade and investment throughout the region and welcome all processes that contribute to this end. A more effective role by organisations like ECO, SAARC and the RECCA process will help foster regional cooperation. The EU and Pakistan welcomed the strong engagement of the G8 in this respect.

Democracy, Governance and Promotion of Human Rights

The EU appreciated Pakistan's efforts to realise the consolidation of democratic institutions, the rule of law and achieving economic and social development in the spirit of the Constitution. It welcomed constitutional amendments which reinforce the role of Pakistan's elected assemblies and plans for further electoral reforms. Both sides acknowledged the role played by the February 2008 Election Observation Mission.

The EU welcomed Pakistan's achievements towards institutional progress in the human rights field, in particular the establishment of a Ministry for Human Rights, a Ministry for Minorities and moves towards the establishment of an independent National Human Rights Commission. It viewed positively the signing by Pakistan of the instruments of ratification of the UN International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the Convention against Torture (CAT).

The EU appreciated the steps taken by the Government of Pakistan for empowerment of women as well as for protecting the rights of religious minorities as equal citizens. The EU and Pakistan will intensify their dialogue in a spirit of equality and mutual respect. Both sides stressed the importance of the implementation of the relevant International Conventions in the Human Rights field.

Climate Change

The EU and Pakistan agreed to initiate dialogue on climate change in the context of UNFCCC negotiation following the 15th Conference of Parties at Copenhagen in December 2009, including on building Pakistan's capacity to combat the effects of climate change.

Other issues

Pakistan welcomed the offer by the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy to host the next Ministerial meeting of the Friends of Democratic Pakistan in Brussels. Leaders recommended that the focus of this meeting should be on energy issues, implementation of the Malakand Development Strategy, developing a comprehensive plan on stabilisation and reconstruction in the affected areas, and promoting investment.

It was agreed to convene a Ministerial meeting in the second half of 2010 as part of the EU-Pakistan Strategic Dialogue process. Leaders will monitor the process with a view to assess progress at a future summit.