



Draft

Title: **A common position on Afghanistan**

Tabled by: Miljöpartiet de gröna

Draft text

1 During the Taliban takeover of Kabul between 14 August and 1 September 2021,
2 more than 123,000 Afghan civilians were evacuated by US forces and its coalition
3 partners, along with diplomatic personnel and foreigner citizens living in the
4 country. (There are no clear numbers of how many people have been evacuated
5 since then. The crisis comes on top of the 2.2 million Afghan refugees already
6 living in neighbouring countries and over 3.5 internally displaced Afghans
7 forced to flee their homes inside Afghanistan's borders.

8 Since the US military withdrawal from Afghanistan on 1 May 2021, the Taliban
9 have taken control of the country. This move comes with fears of stricter
10 controls, brutal rule and, in particular, a much worse situation for women and
11 girls in the country.

12 Without going into detail, since Afghan's history of conflicts is extensive and
13 complicated, it is clear that the Americans' 20-year war on terror, with the
14 support of many other states, has been a failure. It is also clear that, since
15 the end of the former Taliban rule in Afghanistan, a whole generation of young
16 girls and women have had the possibility to study, to work and to be part of
17 Afghan society, thanks to development cooperation.

18 This resolution wants to clearly acknowledge that the current situation, with
19 thousands of people desperately trying to leave the country, and with women

20 locked up again in their homes, is, to a large extent, the result of our own
21 foreign policy and neocolonial behaviour, and that there is need for big changes
22 in Western foreign policy, including in the military and aid policy fields.
23 However, first and foremost, this specific resolution aims to set a baseline for
24 how the EU needs to act in the current situation in order to provide the best
25 immediate support for the people of Afghanistan. Thus, there are no direct
26 proposals on how a more long-term foreign policy approach to Afghanistan might
27 look.

28 The European approach to the situation must be built on two pillars: 1) grant
29 protection to those who seek it; and 2) increase and improve the support for and
30 protection of the people who remain in the country. The first point includes
31 maximum efforts to welcome Afghan refugees to Europe and give them full
32 protection and security in the countries of destination. The second point
33 includes a balanced and realistic approach to continued humanitarian and
34 development support in Afghanistan and its neighbouring countries. While we
35 should not give any state support to the Taliban government, we will need to
36 support those organisations (e.g. humanitarian organisations working with
37 access) which negotiate with the Taliban in order to facilitate the provision of
38 humanitarian assistance to the people who remain in the country. Continued and
39 strengthened support must be ensured for development actors working with the
40 Afghan civil society as well as support for women and girls both within
41 Afghanistan and in its neighbouring countries.

42 While the EU's Member State leaders have already made, and are continuing to
43 make efforts to meet the second pillar mentioned above, the border policies at
44 both national and EU level remain restrictive and the call for Frontex to
45 continue with strict border controls to stop what they call "illegal migrants"
46 is emphasised in a Council statement on 31 August. While we Greens always want
47 to promote open borders, we see this as a particularly extreme situation, and we
48 want Afghans wishing to come to the EU to settle down to be able to do so.

49 **The European Greens are advocating for:**

- 50 1. The issuing of permanent residence permits for Afghan citizens who need
51 refuge in any EU Member State.

- 52 2. Continued evacuation efforts for people who have worked for foreign
53 governments and therefore now risk persecution by the Taliban.
- 54 3. Greater support to humanitarian/development actors who work with
55 humanitarian access in Afghanistan.
- 56 4. Increased support for development actors who work with civil society in
57 Afghanistan as well as women and girls in Afghanistan and in the
58 neighbouring countries.
- 59 5. Continued support for the EU Afghanistan Peace Support Mechanism (APSM)
60 II.

Supporters

Federation of Young European Greens