

Programme

Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung • Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik

South Asia Forum I

Stabilization of Afghanistan – After the ‘London Conference’

European Strategies and the Role of Regional Powers

16 - 17 March 2010

Venues

16 March:

Representation of the Free State of Bavaria
to the European Union
Rue Wiertz 77
1000 Brussels

17 March:

Hotel Silken Berlaymont
Boulevard Charlemagne 11- 19
1000 Brussels

The stabilization of Afghanistan remains a major international challenge even eight years after launching the operation “Enduring Freedom” in November 2001. Following repeated policy and strategy changes after the take-over of the new US administration in January 2009, the Western community has now shifted its focus to strengthen government capabilities within Afghanistan so that Afghan institutions themselves can achieve ‘responsible sovereignty’ and take over increased responsibility in a mid-term perspective.

With the London conference the international community entered into a new phase of partnership with the Afghan community in the joint struggle against terrorism and in building a stable, democratic and economically viable state. This includes continued political and economic support to promote development and strengthen democratic institutions in the country, as well as promoting a political dialogue with those insurgent elements that agree to non-violent conflict resolution.

Apart from quelling the ongoing Taliban insurgency and pacifying the country, the success of stabilization efforts largely depends on regional cooperation. Within South Asia the vision for Afghanistan is that India and Pakistan will cooperate to foster reconstruction. However, there are indications that Afghanistan may turn into another area of conflict between India and Pakistan as interests seem to collide rather than converge.

The conference ‘Stabilization of Afghanistan: European Strategies and the Role of Regional Powers’ aims at addressing the present situation in Afghanistan on four key aspects — the security situation, ‘Afghan ownership’, the reconciliation process and the regional perspective. It provides EU- and civil society representatives with an opportunity to review the results of the London conference and assess future developments in Afghanistan in a regional perspective. In dialogue with prominent representatives and stakeholders from the region as well as representatives of EU institutions, and NATO, aims and objectives of Western engagement along with the genuine interest of Afghanistan and its neighbouring countries will be discussed.

Conference language: English

Tuesday, 16 March 2010

VENUE:

Representation of the Free State of Bavaria to the European Union
Rue Wiertz 77
1000 Brussels

09.45 h Registration for first conference day

10.30 h *Welcome Address*

H.E. Ambassador Dr. Hans-Dieter Lucas, Permanent Representative to the Political and Security Committee at the Permanent Representation of the Federal Republic of Germany to the European Union, Brussels, Belgium

Prof. Dr. Volker Perthes, Director, German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP), Berlin, Germany

Christian Forstner, Director, Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung, Brussels, Belgium

Keynote Address

H.E. Ambassador Ettore Francesco Sequi, EU special representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, Kabul, Afghanistan

11.15 h *Panel I: "Changing Political Parameters in Europe and Afghanistan"*

"Afghanistan between Presidential and Parliamentary Elections"

Senator Sayed Hamed Gailani, First Deputy Speaker, Senate of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Kabul, Afghanistan

"EU Policies after ,The London Conference"

Michael Gahler, MEP, Committee on Foreign Affairs, European Parliament, Brussels, Belgium

Moderator: Richard Asbeck, Head, South/South East Asia Department, Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung, Munich, Germany

12.00 h Open discussion with participants

12.30 h Lunch

13.30 h *Panel II: “Regional Perspectives on Afghanistan”*

“Pakistan-Afghanistan Relations and Stabilization of the Region”

Dr. Ishtiaq Ahmed, Department International Relations, Quaid-i Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan

“India’s Role in a New Regional Strategy on Afghanistan”

Dr. Gulshan Sachdeva, Regional Cooperation Adviser
Ministry of Foreign Affairs Afghanistan & Associate Professor,
School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi,
India

“Iran and the International Missions in Afghanistan”

Prof. Dr. Volker Perthes, Director, German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP), Berlin, Germany

Moderator: Dr. Martin Axmann, Resident Representative, Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung, Islamabad, Pakistan

14.15 h Open discussion with participants

15.00 h End of first conference day

Wednesday, 17 March 2010

VENUE: Hotel Silken Berlaymont Brussels , Boulevard Charlemagne 11-19, 1000 Brussels

09.15 h ***Panel III: “Afghanistan’s Security Issues – and the Reconciliation Process”***

“Military Surge and Regional Cooperation”

Mihai Carp, Deputy Head of the Crisis Management Policy Section, Operations Division, NATO HQ, Brussels, Belgium

“Implications of Military Surge for Pakistan”

Major-General Ashfaq Nadeem, Operation Commander, military operation in Malakand division, Pakistan Army, Islamabad, Pakistan

“Regional Support and Reconciliation with Taliban”

H. E. Dr. Zia Nezam, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to the European Union, Brussels, Belgium

Moderator: Dr. Christian Wagner, Head, Research Division Asia, German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP), Berlin, Germany

10.00 h Open discussion with participants

10.45 h Coffee break

11.00 h ***Panel IV: “Afghanistan’s Development Cooperation – how to built up Afghan Ownership?”***

“Dependence of Afghanistan’s development upon security in the Pakistan border region”

H.E. Jalil Abbas Jilani, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the European Union

“European Aid for Afghanistan”

Bettina Muscheidt, Afghanistan Desk, European Commission, Brussels, Belgium

“Reinvigorating Pakistan-Afghanistan Trade and Commercial Ties”

Mohammad Qurban Haqjo, CEO, Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce & Industrie (TBC), Kabul, Afghanistan

Moderator: Dr. Citha Maass, Researcher, German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP), Berlin, Germany

11.45 h Open discussion with participants

12.30 h ***Summary of the conference, conclusions and recommendations***

12.45 h End of conference