



For Peace and Reconstruction in Afghanistan

Page 1 of 2

The European Left calls on all member parties and organisations to take part in the actions of the international peace movement to end the war in Afghanistan. We call on the member parties of the EL to demand the withdrawal of troops, in their national parliaments. We appeal to the GUE/NGL to continue to propose alternatives to the NATO war in Afghanistan, in the European Parliament!

The European Left agrees with the peace movement's view that, in the interests of the Afghan people, peace and reconstruction cannot wait years. The course has to be set now: after more than 30 years of war and internal conflict, the Afghan people need peace at last.

This first and foremost requires: the withdrawal of NATO troops from Afghanistan. Only when the guns fall silent can the country be rebuilt.

Secondly, a solution to the problems of the Afghan people can and must not come from outside. The participation of the population is the most important prerequisite of a peaceful road to development. As well as the immediate end of the military intervention, action against hunger, poverty, violence and underdevelopment is also necessary. In order to do this, self-determination and an end to paternalism are needed.

Thirdly, the conclusion of a ceasefire agreement could be a prelude to a national peace and reconciliation process. We see this as a fundamental condition for the peaceful development of the country. An Afghanistan of peace rather than war.

Fourthly, the peace process should be internationally secured with Afghanistan's neighbours, through the establishment of regional security structures. Besides the commitment to non-intervention and regional confidence-building measures, closer cooperation with the Organisation of the Islamic Conference is needed.

Fifthly, the Afghan people will develop means and methods to initiate a comprehensive peace and reconciliation process themselves. We are confident that Afghan culture and traditions have created the tools necessary to enabling a peace and reconciliation process.

Sixthly, to financially support the reconstruction, the funds from the war must be redirected to the promotion of peace. Civilian-military cooperation must be ceased. Civil



For Peace and Reconstruction in Afghanistan

Page 2 of 2

reconstruction, rather than war, is the challenge for the international community. The lessons learned from civil conflict management could also help in Afghanistan.

Seventhly, the role of the United Nations in Afghanistan should change. In Afghanistan, the UN has not done justice to its responsibility for world peace. They must support the peace, oversee the withdrawal of foreign troops, and coordinate the international support for the peace process and the rebuilding of the country.