PRESS INFORMATION
THE EUROPEAN UNION SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE IN AFGHANISTAN
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Corruption in the Afghan Security Forces stands in the way of achieving peace in Afghanistan

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Despite a focussed effort to fight corruption in the Afghan Security Forces, there is still a long way to go. Almost weekly there are new reports about fraud or nepotism in the ranks of the Army and the Police Forces – and very often it is driven from the top.

The consequences for the Afghan people are massive – corruption hampers the effectiveness of the security forces allowing Taliban to draw strength in many of the battlefields. It kills Afghans every week – because weapons, ammunition and other supplies have been sold off to Taliban. And worst of all – it stands in the way of achieving the peace that the Afghan people long for.

"Peace in Afghanistan is possible. But to get there we need to see several things happen. Very important is that the Afghan Security Forces continue to improve their abilities to deny the Taliban major progress in the battlefield. A continued professionalization of the security forces is needed, especially focusing on better leadership. Also, we need to see a reinforced fight against corruption in the security forces – both the army and the police. Corruption seriously hampers the effectiveness of the security forces," says European Union Special Representative if Afghanistan, Ambassador Franz-Michael Mellbin.

Today the EU in Afghanistan launches the fourth and final theme of its 2017 anti-corruption campaign focussing on corruption in the security sector.

"We want to highlights the huge problems in the security area, but we also want to showcase some of the good things that are actually happening. Because we do acknowledge that the Government, NATO's Resolute Support mission and other actors in the international community have helped Afghanistan make progress in this area. But we still need to see much more done and it needs to happen now," states Ambassador Mellbin.

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