



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



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**EU-PAKISTAN SUMMIT
Brussels, 17 June 2009**

JOINT STATEMENT

The first EU-Pakistan Summit was held in Brussels on 17 June 2009. The EU was represented by President Vaclav Klaus of the Czech Republic; by Mr Jose Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission, by Dr Javier Solana, High Representative for the EU's Common and Security Policy. The Islamic Republic of Pakistan was represented by President Asif Ali Zardari.

The EU and Pakistan welcomed their first ever Summit today as an important and positive step in strengthening their relations. They agreed on further measures for comprehensive cooperation with the aim to engage in strategic dialogue as partners, including at the highest level, building inter alia on the EC-Pakistan Cooperation Agreement concluded in 2004 and the EU-Pakistan Joint Declaration of February 2007.

The Leaders of EU and Pakistan discussed the strengthening of EU-Pakistan partnership, the regional political situation, global issues and the world economy. They agreed on substantial measures to strengthen their mutual engagement by initiating strategic dialogue on their common commitment to development, education, science and technology, security, counter-terrorism, strengthening democracy, human rights and enhancing trade.

P R E S S

The leaders reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen cooperation within the framework of the United Nations and in multilateral fora to address global concerns, including in the areas of development, environment, energy, disarmament, arms control, including arms trade and non-proliferation of WMDs.

The EU and Pakistan are committed to cooperating in the “Friends of Democratic Pakistan” group to support Pakistan’s efforts for prosperity and stability.

Security

The EU and Pakistan recognised that terrorism, extremism and militancy represent serious threats to international peace and security and should be eliminated and terrorist organisations prevented from recruiting. The EU leaders recognised the resolve and the sacrifices which the Pakistani people and security forces are making in confronting these issues. They acknowledged Pakistan’s strong commitment to promoting stability and peace in the region. They expressed confidence that a successful outcome of the security and law enforcement operations would help assure prosperity to the people of Pakistan and greatly strengthen the democratically elected government in achieving its political and development objectives. Both sides stressed the critical importance of international support to Pakistan’s ongoing counter-terrorism efforts, including through the interdiction of supply of weapons and money to terrorists and armed groups, drug dealers and criminal gangs.

The EU and Pakistan re-affirmed their commitment to cooperate with each other in the fight against terrorism, both within the framework of the United Nations and bilaterally. The Leaders underlined the importance of an integrated long term strategy, which includes social economic development, civilian law enforcement structures and the rule of law, in order to secure the gains of the present security measures on a permanent basis. The Leaders welcomed in this regard the initiation of cooperation between Pakistan and the EU aimed at improving Pakistan’s counter-terrorism capabilities, notably in the field of law enforcement and criminal justice. They agreed that it was particularly important to support Pakistan’s police forces. In this regard, Pakistan and the EU agreed to start a regular Pakistan-EU Counter-Terrorism dialogue. In addition the parties also acknowledged the great significance of countering extremism, particularly through education, civil society and mass media communication.

EU and Pakistan have a shared interest in working towards achieving the goals and objectives of universal disarmament and non proliferation of nuclear materials, technology and WMDs. The EU noted Pakistan’s continued work with the International Atomic Energy Agency, inter alia on safeguards and physical protection. Both sides agreed that consultations between the EU and Pakistan on arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation issues should take place regularly.

Humanitarian

The EU Leaders agreed to assist Pakistan in mitigating the enormous suffering of the civilian population, especially those who have been affected in the North West Frontier Province of Pakistan. In this context, EU and Pakistan also discussed the need for a comprehensive rehabilitation and reconstruction plan and EU leaders assured their Pakistani partners that they stand ready to provide further assistance, in their relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts.

Regional issues

The EU and Pakistan are committed to strengthening security and stability in Afghanistan and the wider region. Together they seek to promote sustained, constructive and positive engagement with regional neighbours of Afghanistan including through enhanced cooperation on combating terrorism.

The EU and Pakistan also discussed the importance of intra-regional trade and agreed to explore measures to increase Pakistan's ability to benefit from this. In this regard, organisations like SAARC and ECO and the RECCA process can play a powerful role in boosting trade as well as in fostering regional cooperation.

The EU and Pakistan recognised the importance of efforts by both Pakistan and India to normalise relations. The EU and Pakistan encouraged the introduction of measures to build confidence and create conditions conducive to resuming and sustaining the Composite Dialogue.

Democracy, governance and promotion of human rights

The EU welcomed Pakistan's major progress in transition to democratic civilian rule following the February 2008 parliamentary elections. The leaders appreciated Pakistan's efforts to realize the vision of a democratic, progressive, welfare state, committed to the consolidation of democratic institutions, the rule of law and achieving economic and social development. The Leaders assured Pakistan of assistance, where required, in support of its efforts at electoral reform. In this context they also recalled the importance of the recommendations of the EU Election Observation Mission.

The EU also recognised efforts being made by Pakistan for the integration of women and minorities in the social, economic and political structures, and encouraged continued efforts in this regard. Both sides stressed the importance of having an open and constructive dialogue, in the spirit of equality and mutual respect between the EU and Pakistan in human rights forums. Implementation of the relevant international conventions in the Human Rights field is very important.

Development

Both sides welcomed the outcome of the 17 April Tokyo meeting of the "Friends of Democratic Pakistan" forum and the Donors' Conference, which generated pledges in excess of US\$ 5 billion in development assistance. EU Member States and European Commission together pledged around US\$ 1.8 billion. Both sides stressed the importance of urgent realization of these pledges. The Summit highlighted the importance of economic stability in addressing the root causes of poverty and conflict.

The leaders agreed that EU-Pakistan cooperation under the current financial perspectives should be consistent with the Government's development strategy, as presented to the group of "Friends of Democratic Pakistan." They agreed that particular attention should be paid to health, education, including vocational training, and rural development sectors, as well as trade-related technical assistance and support for democratic institutions.

Energy

The Leaders 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 conservation; development of affordable clean energy technologies; identification of new, renewable, conventional and non-conventional energy sources; technology and expertise. They welcomed the commitment of the EU to support the development of renewable energy in Pakistan, and the cooperation with EIB as part of a multi-donor facility in the construction of hydro-electric plants.

Trade

The EU and Pakistan recognised the importance of a strong trading relationship and its links to economic prosperity and stability. Pakistan expressed its intention to pursue economic diversification and build additional capacity to trade more effectively.

The EU and Pakistan will jointly work towards further liberalisation of trade in goods and services with the aim to mutually enhance market access and convergence on regulatory matters. They agreed to step up a dedicated dialogue alongside existing working level contacts in order to enhance the bilateral trade relationship including through a possible free trade agreement.

In the short-term, the EU and Pakistan will continue to review trade obstacles, and the EU will continue to assist Pakistan to meet the EU's sanitary and phyto-sanitary requirements for fishery and other products.

The EU will explore 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. Pakistan renewed its assurances that it will ratify the remaining UN conventions.

The EU and Pakistan agreed to review their cooperation in the field of trade-related capacity building, with a view to increasing co-operation in this area. Specifically, the EU and Pakistan agreed to explore additional cooperation in areas such as quality standards and intellectual property so as to enhance further the bilateral trade relationship.

Global issues

The Parties discussed the global financial situation, including the outcome of the G20 Summits. They agreed on the need for Governments and International Financial Institutions to work together to address the impact of the downturn on the global economy. Both Parties also welcomed the significant strengthening of resources for the International Financial Institutions and underlined their common interest in a stable and well-functioning international monetary system.

The Leaders also reaffirmed their commitment to free trade and took note of the current state of play of the Doha Development Agenda negotiations. They committed to reach a rapid, ambitious, balanced and comprehensive conclusion of the Doha trade round building on progress made so far. Such an agreement would bring substantial gains to the world economy and, in particular, to developing countries.

The leaders reiterated the urgent need for continued cooperation in the field of climate change and to work towards a global agreement at the Copenhagen Conference in December 2009.

Other issues

The EU and Pakistan, which have rich cultural traditions, recognized culture as an important vehicle to foster closer cooperation among states and agreed to encourage this.

The Summit leaders welcomed the signature of the EU-Pakistan Horizontal Aviation Agreement that took place in Brussels on 24 February 2009 which will encourage air traffic between the EU and Pakistan and is an important step towards further strengthening EU-Pakistan aviation cooperation.