

The EU

In 2001, the European Union created the post of Special Representative (EUSR) for Afghanistan. The EUSR is based in Kabul, with a broad focus on monitoring and reporting on human rights, political, constitutional and security developments. At first, coordination between the EUSR and the European Commission's office in Kabul (responsible for aid) was very low, although it gradually increased over time. The EUSR in 2009 was a former Italian Ambassador to Afghanistan, Ettore Francesco Sequi.

Sequi was replaced in April 2010 by Vygaudas Ušackas of Lithuania, who is double-hatted, functioning as the head of the Delegation of the European Union and as well as EUSR. Given that the European Commission is one of the largest donors providing official development and humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan, it is likely that the position of EUSR will become considerably more influential in the future than it has been hitherto.

In addition to its civilian presence, the EU also has a Police Mission in Afghanistan (EUPOL). Launched in 2007, the mission has suffered from poor staffing and has failed to play a serious role in the security sector reform process. The EUSR is only responsible for giving the mission political guidance, as it has its own reporting line to Brussels.