



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 7 January 2022
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5133/22

LIMITE

CORLX 6
CFSP/PESC 12
COASI 2
CSC 5

PROPOSAL

From: High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, signed by Mr. Stefano SANNINO, Secretary General

To: Mr Jeppe TRANHOLM-MIKKELSEN, Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union

Subject: Proposal of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy to the Council for a Council Decision on a European Union action to support the evacuation of certain particularly vulnerable persons from Afghanistan

Delegations will find attached document HR(2022) 5.

Encl.: HR(2022) 5

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EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE



**Proposal of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security
Policy to the Council**

of 07/01/2022

**for a Council Decision on a European Union action to support the evacuation
of certain particularly vulnerable persons from Afghanistan**

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COUNCIL DECISION (CFSP) 2022/...

of [dd/mm/2022]

on a European Union action to support the evacuation of certain particularly vulnerable persons from Afghanistan

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on European Union and in particular Article 28(1) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy,

Whereas:

- (1) On 10 December 2001, the Council adopted Joint Action 2001/875/CFSP¹ concerning the appointment of the Special Representative of the European Union in Afghanistan. The mandate of the EU Special Representative in Afghanistan was extended, as last by Council Decision (CFSP) 2017/289², until 31 August 2017.
- (2) On 30 May 2007, the Council adopted Joint Action 2007/369/CFSP³ on establishment of the European Union Police Mission in Afghanistan (EUPOL Afghanistan). The Mission was extended, as last by Council Decision (CFSP) 2016/2040⁴, until 15 September 2017.
- (3) On 1 May 2021, the Taliban launched an offensive and started to seize control of a gradually increasing number of districts in Afghanistan. On 15 August 2021, Taliban forces seized control of Kabul.
- (4) As noted by the Council in its statement on the situation in Afghanistan, of 31 August 2021, "*the evacuation of our citizens and to the extent possible of Afghan nationals who have cooperated with the European Union and its Member States and their families has been conducted as a matter of priority and will continue*".

¹ OJ L 326, 11.12.2001, p. 1.

² OJ L 42, 18.2.2017, p. 13.

³ OJ L 139, 31.5.2007, p. 33.

⁴ OJ L 314, 22.11.2016, p. 20.

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- (5) On 15 September 2021, in its conclusions on Afghanistan, the Council noted that "*since August 2021, the international community, including the European Union and its Member States, undertook a collective effort, under extreme circumstances, to evacuate thousands of European Union citizens and third country nationals, including Afghans who worked for diplomatic missions and other Afghans at risk, due to their principled engagement for our common values. This was a true demonstration of EU solidarity.*"
- (6) In these exceptional circumstances, the European External Action Service (EEAS) has organized since 1 June 2021 the evacuation notably of Afghans who had worked for the EU Special Representative in Afghanistan or for EUPOL Afghanistan, of other particularly vulnerable Afghans who collaborated with the Union and of their dependent close relatives. Such evacuations should continue during the year 2022.
- (7) An operational action under the Common Foreign and Security Policy should support such evacuations organized and managed by the EEAS.

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

Objectives and scope

1. The Union shall support the evacuation from Afghanistan, between 1 June 2021 and 31 December 2022, of:
 - a) former members of the staff of the EU Special Representative in Afghanistan;
 - b) former members of the staff of EUPOL Afghanistan;
 - c) other particularly vulnerable persons, consisting of:
 - officials or other professionals, active in the political or security sector in Afghanistan (such as judges, prosecutors, police officers, military personnel and journalists), who were trained under, or who have been involved in the implementation of Union policies;
 - members of the staff of former suppliers of EUPOL Afghanistan and of the EU Special Representative in Afghanistan;
 - members of the staff of suppliers of the Union delegation in Kabul, employed in that capacity in a period between 16 August 2019 and 15 August 2021.

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- d) the dependent spouses, daughters, sons, unmarried sisters, mothers and fathers of persons belonging to categories a), b) or c).
2. The evacuation referred to in paragraph 1 shall be organised and managed by the EEAS, under the authority of the High Representative.
3. A list of the persons eligible for this evacuation has been established by the EEAS as of 1 October 2021. It may be amended by the EEAS in accordance with paragraph 1.
4. The High Representative shall be responsible for the implementation of this Decision.

Article 2

Financial arrangements

1. The financial reference amount for the implementation of the present action shall be EUR XX.
2. All expenditure shall be managed in accordance with the rules and procedures applicable to the general budget of the Union.
3. The Commission shall supervise the proper management of the expenditure referred to in paragraph 2. For that purpose, it shall conclude the necessary agreement with the EEAS.

Article 3

Entry into force and duration

This Decision shall enter into force on the date of its adoption.

It shall apply from 1 June 2021.

Done at Brussels,

For the Council

The President