

To EU Commission

We are writing as members of Afghan and international civil society working on issues of corruption and conflict, to express our concern at plans to eliminate the post of EU Special Representative to Afghanistan.

The EUSR's office has provided critical support to our efforts in Afghanistan. The prestige and status of the Special Representative gave the EU to engage at a high level on issues which are deeply and unavoidably political, even as they have a direct link to development and the economy.

There is no better illustration of this than the EUSR's work on the extractive sector, where the current office holder has done much to raise the profile of abuses which are costing Afghanistan hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue every year, and which provide hundreds of millions to supposedly pro-government militias, the Taliban, and Da'esh. The EU has done more than any other single embassy to highlight the need for reform at a political level, and in the process has helped establish a reputation for the office as a champion for the interest of ordinary Afghans.

We do not at all seek to interfere in the Commission's decision on this issue. We would merely like to make clear that from our perspective the presence of the EUSR, and his ability to approach corruption and conflict issues as political concerns and not just as matters of development, has provided a very positive and tangible support for our efforts – one we fear would be lost if the position was eliminated.

Sincerely,

L.Y.S.A	FETWO
Frogh e Mili Jawanan	L.C.S.O
Mis-e-Aynak Council	Aynak Council
Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit	Abdul Hai Gardezi Council
Logar Civil Society	Ghazni Zarkashan Shura
HMC	AMAL Foundation
Hajigak People's Shura	Quba
Pajhwok Afghan News	Hold
Afghanistan Civil Society Forum	TEO
Rangeen Kaman Network	NMA
Kilid Group	WADAN
Afghan Anti-Corruption Network	Afghan NGOs Coordination Bureau
PEWO	AABRAR
Hajigak Council	CEN
Global Witness	Integrity Watch Afghanistan
CSHRN	EPD