



10 augustus 2021 – Het is moeilijk om de juiste woorden te vinden om te beschrijven hoe laag onze bewindvoerders gevallen zijn. De regeringen van België, Denemarken, Duitsland, Oostenrijk, Nederland en Griekenland sturen een brief naar de Europese Commissie waarin ze aandringen op het verderzetten van het deportatiebeleid – lees: gedwongen repatriëring – van Afghanen uit de betrokken landen en de EU in het algemeen. Hieronder is deze uitgelekte brief terug te vinden. Hij komt op het ogenblik dat de Taliban zich in snel tempo in de macht installeren in Afghanistan na het terugtrekken van de Westerse legers. Men kan redelijkerwijze verwachten dat een deel van de bevolking het land zal willen ontvluchten, in het bijzonder degenen die met de Westerse bezetters hebben samengewerkt. Niet alleen zeggen onze zes regeringen – in een leugenachtige interpretatie van de akkoorden van Genève – dat zulke

toekomstige vluchtelingen ‘in de regio’ moeten opgevangen worden (te verstaan: Turkije, maar ook Pakistan en Iran worden expliciet vermeld), maar dat Afghanen die momenteel in de EU wonen moeten kunnen ‘gerepatriëerd’ worden, willens, nillens (*“Moreover, we would like to highlight the urgent need to perform returns, both voluntary and non-voluntary, to Afghanistan.”* Verantwoording: *“stopping returns sends the wrong signal and is likely to motivate even more Afghan citizens to leave their home for the EU”*).

Op Griekenland na zijn de ondertekenende landen zowat de rijkste van de EU, en zelfs van de wereld in het algemeen. Ze hebben allen deelgenomen aan de militaire operaties in Afghanistan onder NATO-vlag, onder instigatie van Washington, dat eigengereid de terroristische aanslagen op de WTC-torens interpreteerde als een ‘oorlogsdaad’ door Afghanistan. Ze hebben er een militair bewind geïnstalleerd, en als ze *na twintig jaar* vaststelden dat hun militaire aanpak alleen voor nog meer ontwrichting zorgde, hebben ze zich teruggetrokken. Zelfs voor de Afghanen die ze in dienst hadden hebben ze geen consideratie meer. Zeggen dat [Sammy Mahdi](#), de Belgische christendemocratische staatssecretaris die de brief ondertekende, de zoon is van een Iraakse vluchteling...

“Not in our name” was de leuze in 2001 tegen de militaire wraakoefeningen van het Westen. Het blijft de leuze van iedereen die zich schaamt voor de walgelijke politiek van de leiders alhier. (hm)

**Brief (5 augustus 2021) van de regeringsverantwoordelijken voor migratie van België, Denemarken, Duitsland, Oostenrijk, Nederland en Griekenland:**



Margaritis SCHINAS  
 Vice-President of the European Commission  
 1049 Brussels  
 BELGIUM

Yiva JOHANSSON  
 European Commissioner for Home Affairs  
 1049 Brussels  
 BELGIUM

**Returns to Afghanistan** 5 August 2021

Dear Vice-President of the European Commission Schinas,  
 Dear Commissioner Johansson,

We, the Home Affairs / Migration Ministers / State Secretaries of Austria, Denmark, Belgium, the Netherlands, Greece and Germany would like to take the opportunity to express our concerns about the current developments regarding irregular migration from Afghanistan.

Afghanistan for years has been one of the most important countries of origin for the European Union. For example, since 2015 around 570,000 asylum applications were lodged by Afghan nationals in the EU. In 2020 Afghanistan was the second most important country of origin with around 44,000 first time applications. This trend continues in 2021. We also note with concern the high proportion of unaccompanied minors among irregular Afghan arrivals.

We fully recognise the sensitive situation in Afghanistan in light of the foreseen withdrawal of international troops. Already an estimated 4.6 million Afghan citizens are currently displaced, many of them in neighbouring countries. It should be our common goal to therefore also provide the best possible support for persons with protection needs in neighbouring countries, also in the light of the intention of the Geneva Convention to offer safety close to the regions of origin. Therefore, we should look into opportunities how to enlarge protection capacities in the region, which will reduce the migration pressure along the route.

While many projects and initiatives to support Afghanistan and its neighbouring states are currently implemented, further measures in the region to prepare for a potential influx of Afghan nationals will be necessary. To this end, cooperation with Afghanistan and neighbouring countries including Pakistan and Iran in the areas of migration control, border



protection and protection in general should be strengthened. Ideas like a Team Europe Initiative as well as a new "Regional Development and Protection Programme" for Afghanistan and the broader Silk Routes region specifically in the field of migration should be further elaborated. Against this background, Austria has already stated its intention to host a Workshop on Afghanistan for interested Member States and the Commission.

In order to continue the "Joint Way Forward", the Joint Declaration on Migration Cooperation/JDMC was signed on 28 April 2021 between Afghanistan and the EU. It reflects the continuation of a shared commitment between the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the European Union to step up cooperation on migration management. This Declaration entails the facilitation of dignified, safe and orderly returns of Afghan nationals to Afghanistan who do not fulfil the conditions to stay in the EU. Based on this commitment and as a key pillar of both, the Joint Way Forward (2016-2021) as well as the current JDMC, the EU has developed – in close cooperation with international partners – funding programs to foster voluntary return and support sustainable reintegration in Afghanistan. In parallel, an integral part of a holistic migration management in line with the JDMC is the implementation of enforceable return decisions and the readmission of Afghan nationals by the Government of Afghanistan on a non-voluntary basis.

The EU and its Member States are fully committed to continue the cooperation in the framework of the arrangement and to respect the principles of the Declaration.

However, on 8 July 2021 the EU Member States received a Note Verbal by the Afghan Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation informing them about the "decision" to stop forced returns to Afghanistan for a period of three months.

We would like to reiterate that the JDMC does not foresee any clause to stop or suspend returns to Afghanistan – any kind of dispute on the interpretation of the arrangement should be settled in the Joint Working Group. Furthermore, there is a general obligation in international law for any country to take back its own nationals.

Against this background we request the Commission to engage in an intensified dialogue with Afghan partners on all pressing migration issues including swift and effective return cooperation based on the JDMC.

Moreover, we would like to highlight the urgent need to perform returns, both voluntary and non-voluntary, to Afghanistan. In view of the expected likelihood that Afghanistan will continue to be a significant source of irregular migration to the EU, we would like to underline the importance of returning those without genuine protection needs. Furthermore, stopping returns sends the wrong signal and is likely to motivate even more Afghan citizens to leave their home for the EU. This is why we urge you and your teams at the Commission to intensify talks with the Afghan government on how returns to Afghanistan can and will continue in the coming months. Finding ways to secure returns to Afghanistan should be a priority for all of us. If concrete offers to the Afghan government are needed, we should not hesitate to come



up with proposals how to support Afghanistan in their fight against irregular migration and to stabilize the country.

Finally let us highlight that there is a certain group of Afghan nationals in our asylum and migrations systems that need particular attention when it comes to integration challenges. It should therefore be our common interest and utmost priority that especially Afghan nationals who committed serious crimes have to leave the EU. Based on bilateral discussions in recent weeks, we have reason to believe that the Afghan side is willing to compromise in such cases. It would therefore seem advisable to highlight the issue regarding this group of persons during talks with the Afghan authorities.

We would like to thank you for your efforts and hope that the Commission and the Member States together can solve this issue of highest priority.

Yours sincerely,

**Mr Karl Nehammer**

*Federal Minister of the Interior of Austria*

**Mr Mattias Tesfaye**

*Minister for Immigration and Integration of Denmark*

**Mr Panagiotis Mitarachi**

*Minister of Migration and Asylum of Greece*

**Mr Horst Seehofer**

*Federal Minister of the Interior, Building and Community of Germany*

**Mrs Ankie Broekers-Knol**

*Minister for Migration of the Netherlands*

**Mr Sammy Mahdi**

*State Secretary for Asylum and Migration of Belgium*



Hits: 55

Dit delen:

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)