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PRESS RELEASE

The EU in support of Afghan women in leadership positions

The High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission, Federica Mogherini, announced on 8 March, International Women Day, a number of new initiatives to promote Afghan women in leadership positions and gender equality in Afghanistan.

HR/VP Mogherini said: "The last thirteen years have been a time of change for Afghanistan. Positive change. Girls go to school. Women go to vote and are elected. We cannot afford losing all this. We have to continue improving Afghan lives and in particular Afghani women lives. We have to make sure that those girls at school today become the leaders of tomorrow. Afghanistan needs women leaders - judges, politicians, economists, opinion leaders; women to look up to. Women leaders are needed to address the legacy of discrimination against Afghan women; to ensure that their constitutional rights are respected; that their value in society is recognised; that horrific violence for outdated notions of honour is brought to an end. These new programmes will help prepare a new generation of Afghan women to take up leadership positions in the Afghanistan of tomorrow."

The EU will offer several training programmes to young Afghan women. This offer will include internships in various EU institutions, training on public administration at the dedicated European institutes and longer term intakes, as part of a new exchange programme. In the next five years, in response to specific requests, dozens of Afghan women will be able to benefit from these programmes.

The EU has also announced a new programme (€2.3 million) for civil society to enhance the role of Afghan women in peacebuilding and conflict prevention activities linked to the envisaged Afghan National Action Plan for the implementation of the UNSC resolution 1325.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

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