

Francesc Vendrell was appointed EU Special Representative for **Afghanistan** on 25 June 2002. His current mandate runs until 28 February 2009 and is to contribute to the implementation of the EU-Afghanistan Joint Declaration and the Afghanistan Compact, as well as relevant UN resolutions. He also supports the pivotal role of the UN in Afghanistan and the work of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr Tom Koenigs.

1. Francesc Vendrell, Former EU special representative for Afghanistan



Mr Francesc Vendrell

Mission statement of Francesc Vendrell

Having held the position of the European Union's Special Representative for Afghanistan since July 2002, I seek to foster the establishment of a democratic, accountable and sustainable Afghan State, while paying special attention to security and stabilisation, good governance, judicial and security-sector reform, human rights, democratisation and transitional justice.

Supported by four advisers, I monitor the main political, security, human rights and governance developments in Afghanistan, report on them regularly to High Representative Javier Solana and all the EU capitals, and provide advice and good offices where appropriate. To this end, I maintain close contacts with a wide range of Afghan interlocutors. Regular visits to the provinces, including the remote and/or insurgency-affected ones, contribute to the ever expanding network of contacts throughout the country of – amongst others – government and security officials, tribal elders, human rights and political party activists and community leaders.

I participate in several formal and informal policy-making bodies, notably the Policy Action Group (PAG), established by the President as a temporary crisis-management group to address urgent insurgency-related issues in the South-West of the country. Other coordinating and policy-making bodies relate to police reform, disarmament, counter-narcotics, reconstruction, human rights, gender and judicial reform.

I keep in close contact with the European Commission delegation, the EU Heads of Mission and heads of other diplomatic missions in Afghanistan, as well as the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan and NATO. I regularly travel to Brussels and other EU capitals to provide briefings to the various EU fora, as well as Members States' government ministers, senior government officials and parliamentarians.

Francesc Vendrell's appointment and mandate are set out in Joint Actions: [2008/481/CFSP](#), [2008/131/CFSP](#), [2006/124/CFSP](#), [2005/95/CFSP](#), [2004/533/CFSP](#), [2003/448/CFSP](#), [2002/496/CFSP](#)

[EUPOL Afghanistan](#)

▶ [EUSR Vendrell on suicide bombing in Kandahar, 18 February 2008](#)

2. Curriculum Vitae

Francesc Vendrell EU Special Representative for Afghanistan

DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH:Barcelona, 15 June 1940

NATIONALITY:Spanish

EDUCATION

M.A. (Cantab.), LL.B (London), Lic. Dr. (Barcelona)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

January – June 2002

Special Adviser to the Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs during Spain's EU Presidency

January 2000 – December 2001

Personal Representative of the Secretary General for Afghanistan and Head of the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan (UNSMA)

August 1993 – January 2000

Director, Asia and the Pacific Division, UN Department of Political Affairs

Concurrently undertook the following specific assignments:

1993 – October 1999



Senior Adviser to, and subsequently Deputy Personal Representative of the Secretary-General for East Timor (leading to self-determination referendum on 30 August 1999)

1997 – 1998

Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Cambodia (set up Special Mission to Monitor the Safe Return and Full Resumption of Political Activities of political leaders who had left Cambodia in the aftermath of the July 1997 events)

1994 – 1998

Secretary-general's Special Envoy for Papua New Guinea (established UN Political Office in Bougainville)

1993 – 1999

Adviser to the Secretary-General on his good offices in Myanmar (Burma) (responsible for starting S-G's good offices role)

December 1992 – July 1993

Senior Political Adviser to the UN Special Envoy for Haiti (instrumental in the establishment of the UN Human Rights Field Mission in Haiti (MIVIVIH))

May – November 1992

Director for Special Political Assignments

During this period, served as the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Armenia, Azerbaijan on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict

1987 – 1992

Director for Europe and the Americas, Office of the Secretary-General

1989 – 1992 (concurrently with above)

SG's Deputy Personal Representative for the Peace Process in Central America

Concurrently undertook the following assignments:

1990 – 1992

Secretary-General's Representative in the Guatemala peace negotiations (negotiated draft human rights agreement that led to the establishment of MINUGUA)

1988 – 1991



Secretary-General's Deputy Representative in the El Salvador peace process (including San Jose Agreement establishing first Human Rights field mission, ONUSAL and subsequent agreement on first ever UN Truth Commission)

1987 – 1990

Deputy Representative of the Secretary-General in the Nicaragua peace negotiations (establishment of first UN Electoral Observation mission in an independent country)

1989 – 1991 Envoy of the Secretary-General to Cuba on human rights related issues

1975 – 1986 Political and Senior Political Affairs Officer, UN Department of Political Affairs and Decolonization; Deputy Secretary of the UN Council for Namibia

1973 – 1975

Human Rights Officer, UN Division of Human Rights (Desk officer on the Human Rights situation in Chile)

1968 – 1972

Officer-in-Charge, UN/UNITAR Programme in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law

Academic Experience:

1979

Director of Studies, Hague Academy of International Law

1977 & 1979

Adjunct Professor of Human Rights, Yale Law School

1972-74

Adjunct Professor, Rutgers Law School

1967

Lecturer in Constitutional Law, University of Papua New Guinea