



Public hearing on 23 January 2023

on the topic of “the stabilisation phase and the role of the alliance partners from 2002 to 2008: strategies, cooperation and coordination between the international and national level”

Key questions for the experts

Mr Lakhdar Brahimi:

- How did international cooperation in Afghanistan work in the early years? How did processes of coordination work? How were responsibilities divided?
- What role did the UN play in this framework?
- How do you view the early years of the international engagement in Afghanistan in light of the findings of the Brahimi Report?
- How do you view the balance between funds for civil reconstruction and military spending and how do you view the comprehensive cooperation between these two areas?

General Wolfgang Schneiderhan:

1. Responsibility of the German government departments and their perception of their own role

Cooperation between the different departments was, and remains, key for the concept of “comprehensive security”. The Study Commission must therefore examine these relationships and, where appropriate, use its findings to develop proposals for an improved structure in the future.

- Could you please state how you perceived the relationship between the different German state actors?
- Did you have the feeling that there was an understanding of a shared mission, as opposed to separate missions?
- In your view, is a central steering element needed for future engagements, which would bring together all relevant players flexibly in both physical and substantive terms in a kind of “command” structure?

2. Interdepartmental coordination in Berlin and coordination and cooperation in Afghanistan, including evaluation and adaptation/adjustments

In your functions you had direct insight into the cooperation between the various state actors and you are familiar with their strengths and weaknesses. General von Butler has already reported on this from his perspective as commander of the Germany Army Forces Command.

- Could you briefly describe the most important players in the phase from 2002 to 2008 and describe how they were functionally interlinked?
- What were the most important changes in coordination and in particular in the procedures for coordination over this period?
- With regard to NATO in particular, but also in the EU framework: was Germany able to implement the “one country, one voice“ concept successfully and in a joined-up fashion? If not, what were the greatest challenges faced?
- What processes ought, in your view, to be created or adapted in order to enhance coordination and cooperation in the future?

Dr Almut Wieland-Karimi:

- How would you describe the situation on the ground in Afghanistan when you set up the Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES) office? What obstacles, but also what offers of support, were there?
- What role did civil-society and development-policy initiatives play in the reconstruction of Afghanistan?
- How did cooperation work between the local and German/international level?
- What impression did you have in general of the establishment of international engagement in Afghanistan in the early years?