

PAK-EU RELATIONS AFTER 9/11

By

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Note: It is creative article therefore references are not given

The aim of this paper is to elaborate the dynamics of relationship between Pakistan and European Union after September 11,2001, an event which changed the fabric of global politics and drove international actors to review their strategies while playing at political, economic, strategic and cultural chess board of the world. The emergence of Pakistan as vital player on this global chess board has arisen the need for strategic and economic cooperation with leading actors of the world like US , Russia ,France , Middle Eastern countries ,China, Afghanistan etc. But the importance of regional organizations specially European Union is quite unique in the age of transnationalism and interdependence as the era of Pax economica not only demands economic ties and but also the conducive environment , like democratic governance, eradication of extremism, strengthening of social well being of the vulnerable population, cultural remodification and above all consolidation of peace and security , are the key areas for concern for international and bilateral relations of Pakistan and European Union.

The paper will address the significant patterns of relationships to achieve the sustainable friendship between the two actors and how the most convergent interests can be attained.

Which areas are most vital in this regards and how a long lasting and sustainable prospects can be positively enhanced after the incident of 9/11.

First and the foremost, EU has transformed itself from an economic union to a multidimensional integrated platform of 27 countries that has set the norms and culture of friendship in all aspects of modern state structures and system.

These cohesive policies are symbol of learning for the third world countries for their development and prosperity.

Pakistan, a country with an increasing population over 160 million, is suffering from many multistrands issues of development and security after9/11.Apart from becoming the victim of US doctrine of pre emptio, Pakistan stood along the international community against US led war against terrorism and became the frontline state without which the phenomena of international terrorism could not be curbed. The coalition with international community brought drastic challenges to Pakistani nation and their future.

Let me enlighten the positive and cooperative role of European Union since 9/11 and the cordial response from Pakistan in this regard.

For democracy, EC stressed military government of Pervaiz Musharaf to bring the country on election process.EC sent their observers in 2002 .Pakistan saw many turns and

twists till 2008. EU supported lawyer's movement for judicial activism in Pakistan. It also facilitated the government in the rehabilitation process of earthquake destructive areas. There is obviously much to learn from the institution-building from EC for Pakistan. This can strengthened the democratic governance in Pakistan where democracy came in 2008 after ten years of military rule.

In this regard , EU is struggling hard to make the smooth running of democratic government and Pakistani nationals are looking towards EC to have this path for a long time. Civil society of Pakistan has better perception of EC than ever before and playing their active role in strengthening this relationship at all levels . EU appreciated the democratic government which came in 2008 through elections and also sent their observers in the elections. EU is part of the Friends of Pakistan forum, which was established to support the Government of Pakistan in its efforts to consolidate democracy. Pakistani government and people are joint together in eradication of religious extremism and fanaticism in their country which is spilling over the region and has large international implications. Although Pakistan is the ally with US and NATO in this war. But the dual US policies and anti-American sentiments across the Pakistan has given a good opportunity to EU to play its active role to be partner of Pakistan in security and development sector. The Pakistan will also respond to EC as compare to US.

The EU is looking for a foreign policy role and its engagement in Afghanistan is a test for that role. Pakistan has to be dealt with in this scenario and needs to be stabilized in order to achieve any success in Afghanistan. The arena of economic rivalry in the region as speed up the great game in Central Asia and stable Afghanistan is the key foundation for this game of market capturing from Central Asia to East Asia. And without stable Pakistan this cannot achieved. So EU is making every effort to build harmonious political structure in Pakistan and since 9/11 it is changing its policies toward South Asia specially Pakistan and they are getting equal response from Pakistan. The heart of the European strategy should thus be to save Pakistan, a country with functioning institutions and a largely moderate population, from going the way of Afghanistan.

As this is the period of complex interdependence, EU is a strong participant in war against terrorism and part of NATO and ISAF in Afghanistan. Thus EU can rule out the US dual policy and for Pakistan and makes its influence hard on US for global security. This can be only possible when good governance will be the fate of Pakistan for a long time.

The EU uses the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) to support

the activities of civil society organizations working for human rights and democracy in third countries. For the EU, promotion of the democratic process implies good governance, strengthening civil society and developing a democratic electoral process.

Pakistan has paid a huge human, social and economic cost in the fight against terrorism. There have been around 10000 acts of terrorism in the past three years, resulting in the deaths of thousands of people. It is estimated that Pakistan's economy suffers to the tune of USD \$6 billion a year. Budgetary allocations for anti-terrorist activities and security measures negatively affect development initiatives.

Pakistan economy is badly hit by war against terrorism, the issues like drug trafficking, smuggling of weapons, human smuggling, child labour, conflict covered evils like in security, religious intolerance, unemployed youth, and issues are common in Pakistan. When Pakistan is trying hard for global peace and security then global community should not granted the economic aid but it is the right of Pakistan to have such economic aids without interests and commissions. Pakistan has suffered frequent sectarian violence in recent years. This is spearheaded by groups with support concentrated in NWFP and Baluchistan, including the tribal agencies on the Pakistan-Afghanistan border, and also in some larger cities like Karachi. The Government has shown strong commitment to fighting terrorism by banning militant groups and arresting large numbers of Pakistanis and foreigners suspected of militant activities.

EU policy towards Pakistan is governed by a Third Generation Agreement (TGA), which was ratified in September 2004. The TGA is a non-preferential agreement and has no financing protocol. EU policy towards Pakistan is typical of EU policy towards third countries. Its main focus is on development aid rather than trade and political issues. Military rule restrained the growth of bilateral relations because the EU insists on dealing with democratic governments and on respect for human rights. Although there was some flexibility on these issues, a lot of time has been lost. Today, the EU is Pakistan's largest trading partner and leading investor.

Since the start of its cooperation with Pakistan in 1976, the Commission has committed

more than €500 million to projects and programmes. During the 1980s the Commission launched a mix of infrastructure and social development projects which focused on development of roads, bridges, a fishing harbour facility, rural electricity infrastructure, livestock, education, vocational training and integrated rural development.

In the 1990s the Commission streamlined and consolidated its portfolio and reoriented its activities towards policy-based social sector investment programmes, placing greater emphasis on human development and environmental management in line with shifts in government policy. In addition, the Commission provided support to smaller-scale operations with NGOs in areas such as population welfare, child labour, income generation, drug demand reduction and rural health. Under the previous CSP, the EC cooperation in Pakistan focused on human development, in particular basic education programmes at provincial level. In order to enhance Pakistan's capacity on WTO related issues, a trade-related technical assistance programme was launched in 2004 with a view to streamlining procedures and processes for trade facilitation in compliance with EU norms and standards.

For the period 2002-2006 €75 million were originally allocated for development and economic cooperation. Additional EC support to Pakistan was provided following the events of 2001 in recognition of Pakistan's role as a partner in the fight against terrorism. On the economic side, Pakistan received budgetary support of € 50 million to support development of micro-finance SMEs. This was later supplemented with a special allocation of €20 million for education in the North West Frontier Province under the NIP for 2006. Following the October 2005 earthquake the Commission committed €98 million for relief and reconstruction. Substantial assistance was also provided under other thematic budget lines, including for Afghan refugees in Pakistan.

Under its environment cooperation policy, over the last decade the EC contributed a total of € 32 million to rehabilitation, management and conservation of natural resources, safeguarding and conservation of biodiversity, education and capacity-building through sustainable resource management with the involvement of local communities. Major target areas included upland areas of Punjab and North-West Frontier Province (NWFP/Khyber Pakhtoon kha), benefiting more than 2 million people.

The EU recognizes the sacrifices made by Pakistan in the fight against terrorism, and the urgency of the security and economic dilemma facing Pakistan (European Council,

2008b). The first EC-Pakistan Joint commission held under the TGA in Islamabad in May 2007 established a foundation for advancing EU-Pakistan relations through a structured dialogue process. Sub-groups were formed to discuss trade, development cooperation, science and technology, alternative energy, good governance, human rights and migration issues.

EU started many development projects in this concern. A number of measures were taken as part of a concerted Community response to the crisis, including signature of the third generation Co-operation Agreement, additional measures in development co-operation and a preferential trade package. A € 50 M programme in support of financial sector reforms to start. The objectives of the EC-Pakistan co-operation are governed by Article 177 of the EU Treaty which sets out the three broad overarching Treaty objectives for Community co-operation with developing countries, which are: fostering of sustainable economic and social development, the smooth and gradual integration of developing countries into the world economy and the campaign against poverty.

More specific guidance is derived from the terms of Council Regulation 443/92 of 25 February 1992 on financial and technical assistance and economic co-operation with the developing countries of Asia and Latin America, which identifies human development, targeted primarily towards the poorest sections of the populations, developing the rural sector, protection of the environment and natural resources, sustainable development, measures to increase participation of women, child protection, population growth, good governance and human rights as well as measures to combat drugs as priorities. Activities in the field of development co-operation have traditionally occupied a central place in the EC-Pakistan relationship. 2001

On the development cooperation side, the EU has spent some EUR 500 million on aid to Pakistan since 1976, according to the European Commission, and has quadrupled its funding for the 2007–2010 period, with EUR 50 million earmarked so far. The money is directed at boosting EU programmes in the fields of education, trade and farming in Pakistan's north-west, a tribal area that borders Afghanistan. (EU Business, 2008) Now I would like to highlight some future areas of cooperation from EU to towards Pakistan.

Aid should be given to Pakistan as acknowledgement of her contribution in the interdependent world as a phenomena of Core-Periphery relations and EU must recognize the

right of Pakistani nationals in this regard.

Exchange programmes for Pakistani students, researchers, technicians and media personnel will help to educate the youth in these fields and to direct the youth of Pakistan towards a democratic way of life. Providing a special Pakistan window in the EU's Erasmus mundus scholarship programme, especially in the social sciences and humanities, would be a good start. Exchange programmes for lawyers and parliamentarians could also be effective mechanisms. The EU should cooperate in the development sector like textile engineering, electricity conservation, science and technology, agriculture, bio sciences, information and communication technologies

The EU can strengthen the democratic process in Pakistan by capacity building programs for political party workers training workshops ,bilateral exchange programmes, facilitation election commission, awareness campaigns and human resources development of electoral process

The EU should make flexible immigration policies for Pakistani nationals to live and work in Europe for better living and to return to home country after mutual beneficial activities in European region.

The EU should make new business opportunities for Pakistan by soft policies and should open their markets to Pakistani products and also low duties for their products to Pakistan this would help a lot in foreign exchange for both countries.

The EU should start educational and vocational programmes in poverty ridden areas of Pakistan like Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtoonkha tribal areas and other border areas of Pakistan .This will increase people's sympathy towards them and they would be in better position to understand them. In addition to this development projects of infrastructure building, construction work should be funded for long term to have a positive collaboration with the religious intolerant population in these areas.

The EU should work hands together with Pakistani government to reduce the environmental disasters like flood, earthquake and support Pakistan to equip with such technology which can be helpful in countering these natural disasters. They should also train Pakistani civil society for safety and risk management by broad base social projects

Special inter faith and inter cultural centers to reduce extremism. Special courses should be designed to teach in both EU and Pakistan from initial classes and teachers programmes would be very helpful in this direction as inter faith studies must be taught by the renowned scholars.

Media can play a very vital role in peace and harmony, cultural programmes, special channels, and such programme should be broad cast which could be perpetuated in long term understanding and friendship between EU and Pakistan. In this regard special media technologies and related equipment should be given to Pakistan.

The EU cooperation in textile industry, telecommunication, automobiles, consumer electronic goods, science and technology, risk management equipments, medical technologies, engineering materials must be extends.

A special commission for educational development would be a very better step to enhance curriculum designing , childhood grooming, and teachers training for this purpose through special early child hood learning programmes should be started for better cultural harmony and peace and security in the world

The EU understand and cooperate regarding refugees as Pakistan is first in the world for high numbers of refugees that are 1.9million.the social and economic burden should be covered by EC as this is the most hot area in the direction of peace and security of the country,region and the world

Multicultural activities should be encouraged like fine arts,painting exhibitions,music programs exchange delegation activity should be encouraged.It can be also helpful if tourism and sports among different EU countries and Pakistan are planned in future heavily