

European Union Countries' Military and Development Aid Spending in Afghanistan

The costs of official development aid are accounted for by the Development Assistance Committee of the OECD (OECD/DAC) according to internationally agreed principles¹. The latest available data are for 2007. European Union development aid (from member states and the European Commission combined) in 2007 amounted to €872 million.

The number of soldiers sent by the various countries participating in the Afghanistan mission is accounted for by Nato/ISAF². The cost of military spending in Afghanistan, however, is accounted for nationally, and there is no overall agreed method for accounting. The Swedish state budget, for example, accounts for a 'total cost', but this does not include costs relating to salaries of military personnel in Afghanistan. Other countries make other types of exceptions. The most comprehensive statement of accounts for 2007 was made by the House of Commons in Great Britain³. This showed that the British military expenditure in Afghanistan during 2007 amounted to € 2,200 million, which translates to a cost of €270,000 per soldier. The same year, Sweden accounted for a cost of €85 million, or €238,000 per soldier⁴. In the Netherlands, military expenditure in 2007 was €247 million⁵ and in Germany €515 million⁶, which in both cases translates to over €150,000 per soldier. The estimated cost was similar in France.⁷

There are, then, significant variations between European Union countries' published expenditures in Afghanistan, which can partly be explained by different accounting methods, and partly by differences in military operations. It would be fair to assume that the British military operation in Helmand Province, where there is intensive fighting, demands more resources, than the more peaceful Northern provinces, where the Swedish military is operating.

Table 1 gives an estimate of military expenditure for European Union countries in 2007. For Sweden, Great Britain, Germany and the Netherlands, the accounted expenditure figures are given. For the remaining countries, a low calculation has been made, based on the Dutch estimate (€150,000/soldier).

The overview shows that the EU's contribution to civil reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan in 2007 was far below its military expenditure in the country. **For every Euro the EU spends on civil reconstruction in Afghanistan, five Euros are spent on military operations.**

¹ OECD.StatExtracts: ODA by Recipient by country 2007. Available from: http://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=ODA_RECIPIENT

² ISAF Key Fact and Figures Placemat 20071209 <http://www.nato.int/isaf/docu/epub/pdf/placemat.pdf>

³ The cost of military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, Sophie Gick, SN/SG/3139, September 24 2008, House of Commons Library. Available from: <http://www.parliament.uk/commons/lib/research/briefings/snsg-03139.pdf>

⁴ Budgetpropositionen för 2009, utgiftsområde 6 tabell 4.2.

⁵ Tussentijdse evaluatie ISAF, September 2 2009 (Mid-term review of the Dutch mission in Uruzgan)

⁶ Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung beim Einsatzführungsstab in Bundesministerium der Verteidigung (German Federal Ministry of Defence)

⁷ Les militaires français réévaluent leur mission en Afghanistan, Le Monde, September 22 2009. Available from: http://www.lemonde.fr/asia-pacifique/article/2009/09/22/les-militaires-francais-reevaluent-leur-mission-en-afghanistan_1243556_3216.html

Table 1

Country	ODA 2007 (million euro)	ISAF-soldiers 2007	Military cost (million euro)	ODA fraction of military cost (low)
Great Britain	196.4	7753	2,200	9%
Germany	158.7	3155	515	31%
Italy	45.3	2358	385	12%
The Netherlands	64.9	1512	247	26%
France	14.28	1292	211	7%
Poland	1.32	1141	186	1%
Spain	31.79	763	124.5	26%
Denmark	29.77	628	103	29%
Romania	0	537	87.66	0%
Bulgaria	0	401	65.46	0%
Belgium	7.78	369	60.24	13%
Sweden	41.04	350	84.86	48%
Czech Republic	7.76	240	39.18	20%
Hungary	5.5	219	35.75	15%
Lithuania	0	196	32	0%
Portugal	6.57	163	26.61	25%
Greece	12.61	143	23.34	54%
Estonia	0	125	20.41	0%
Latvia	0	96	15.67	0%
Finland	14	86	14	100%
Slovakia	0.972	70	11.427	9%
Slovenia	0	66	10.77	0%
Luxembourg	2.34	9	1.47	159%
Ireland	5.408	7	1.143	473%
Austria	0.48	3	0.49	98%
European Commission	224.7	n/a	n/a	
Total	872	21,682	4,520	19%

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