



SECRETARY GENERAL
LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL
Jaap de Hoop Scheffer

SG(2007)0895

17 December 2007

Dear Minister, Besk Maxime,

With reference to your letter of 12 December 2007 and your intervention during the North Atlantic Council of 7 December 2007, I would like to thank the Dutch government for the decision to continue the mission in Uruzgan for an additional period of two years.

I have taken note of the fact that the Netherlands will cease its leading responsibility in Uruzgan on 31 July 2010 and that the redeployment of the Dutch contingent in the Uruzgan Task Force will be completed by 1 December 2010. I also take note of the fact that NATO (i.e. the 26 NATO Allies) will be responsible for meeting ISAF's requirements in Uruzgan after 31 July 2010.

I will forward your letter and my response to the Supreme Allied Commander Europe, so that he will take account of the Dutch position when the time comes to generate forces for Afghanistan for the period after 1 August 2010.

I would also like to inform you that last Monday I had an open and constructive exchange of views with a number of Dutch Parliamentarians, which hopefully will have given them useful information for the important debate you will have this week.

Met vriendelijke groet,

Jaap de Hoop Scheffer

His Excellency
Mr Maxime Verhagen
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
The Hague