



# Afghanistan Crisis: Estonia

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## 1 General Information

The Republic of Estonia has been among the first Soviet Republics to declare independence from the dissolving Soviet Union. Estonia neighbours its fellow Baltic country Latvia to the south, while on the Eastern border it is separated from the largest former Soviet Republic, Russia. Estonia's capital and largest city Tallinn is located on the shore of the Gulf of Finland, opposite to the Helsinki, the capital of Finland, as disclosed in the figure to the right. According to the most recent census, slightly over two thirds of the people residing in Estonia consider themselves ethnic Estonians, while Russians, the largest ethnic minority, constitute around 25 % of the population. Counting barely over 1 million inhabitants, Estonia belongs to the least populous member states of the European Union, the Eurozone as well as NATO and OSCE.

In recent years, Estonia has seen a massive increase in the prevalence of technology companies. For instance, Skype has been founded in Estonia. Moreover, the country ranks among the countries with the best education system worldwide and has seen an extensive digitisation of public services.

## 2 Role in the UNSC

Estonia won a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for the term 2020-2021. Following Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Estonia is the member with the lowest population in the UNSC. Being a first-time candidate, Estonia advocates for greater accountability, coherence, and transparency of the SC's working and underscores the need that every country should have a possibility of actively participating in the UNSC, with the goal of fostering security and stability. Furthermore, Estonia highlights that conflict prevention requires more resources and attention within the UN. Last but not least, the Baltic Republic strives to keep the coronavirus pandemic in focus, as the crisis poses an additional threat to global security.

For the purposes of joining the Security Council, the Republic of Estonia increased the budget of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs by more than 5%, in total to almost 100 million euro.

## 3 Position to the Afghanistan Conflict

Estonia is calling for an immediate end to violence as well as the restoration of security, civil and constitutional order. Together with the Security Council, Estonia is expressing deep concern about the serious violations of humanitarian law and human rights abuses in Afghanistan. Humanitarian aid should be allowed immediate safe and unhindered access.

## 4 References

- 1 Permanent Mission of Estonia to the UN  
<https://un.mfa.ee/un-security-council/campaign/>
- 2 Map of Estonia  
<https://www.worldatlas.com/maps/estonia>



Fig. 1: Map of Estonia

- 3 Republic of Estonia: Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
<https://vm.ee/en/news/foreign-ministrys-budget-prioritises-security-policy-estonians-abroad-and-business-diplomacy-0>
- 4 Afghanistan Crisis: Key Information  
<https://www.sem.admin.ch/sem/en/home/asyl/afghanistan.html>
- 5 Estonia's Presidency in the UNSC  
<https://vm.ee/en/activities-objectives/estonia-united-nations/estonias-presidency-un-security-council>
- 6 Estonia on Afghanistan - Security Council Media Stakeout  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J-dyKVuzARO>  
<https://www.sem.admin.ch/sem/en/home/asyl/afghanistan.html>

