

RELEASE IN FULL

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**From:** Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 22, 2009 12:01 PM  
**To:** H  
**Subject:** Fw: (Reuters) Germany's Steinmeier proposes Afghan pull-out talks

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**From:** Brooks, Robin S  
**To:** NEWS-Mahogany  
**Sent:** Sat Aug 22 11:58:01 2009  
**Subject:** (Reuters) Germany's Steinmeier proposes Afghan pull-out talks

Germany's Steinmeier proposes Afghan pull-out talks

BERLIN (Reuters) - German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier, who is bidding to oust Angela Merkel as chancellor of Germany in September's election, said he wanted a timetable for a military pull-out from Afghanistan. Steinmeier said once it became clear who would lead Afghanistan after the election there, talks should begin over how long foreign troops should stay. "We need to agree with the new Afghan president...how long international troops should remain in Afghanistan," he said at the sidelines of an election event in Dortmund on Saturday.