KABUL - Direct talks between the Taliban and an Afghan negotiating team that will include top government officials will take place after the United States concludes its own "agreements" with the Taliban within the next fortnight in Europe, without elaborating.

"We are preparing for direct talks. We are working with all sides and hope that in the next two weeks the first meeting will take place in a European country," Rahimi said in a video message published on Saturday.

Khalid, who is currently visiting Afghanistan's capital, Kabul, said later on that the "Internet-Afghan" talks would include the Taliban and "an inclusive and effective national negotiating team consisting of senior government..."