



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

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Delegations will find attached the Council conclusions on Iraq, as adopted by the Council on 23 June 2014.

COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS ON IRAQ**Foreign Affairs Council, 23 June 2014**

1. The EU expresses its deep concern about the rapidly deteriorating security situation in Iraq. It strongly condemns the attacks perpetrated by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and other armed groups against Iraqi citizens leading to the loss of many lives and which seek to derail the democratic process. The EU deplors attacks directed at civilian targets, including hospitals, schools and places of worship, and other reported atrocities. The EU utterly condemns the use of executions and sexual violence in the conflict. There can be no impunity for the perpetrators of any of these acts.
2. The EU is also seriously concerned about the unfolding humanitarian crisis and notably the massive displacement of civilians caused by the fighting. It calls on the Iraqi government to make every effort to protect all civilians, ensure a response to the needs of the affected populations, provide essential services and facilitate the safe and unhindered passage for civilians fleeing the violence and safe access for humanitarian actors to all affected populations. The EU acknowledges the burden placed on the Kurdistan region and the Kurdistan Regional Government, which are hosting a large number of IDPs, and trusts that it will continue to respond to IDP needs. The EU will continue to closely monitor the situation on the ground and respond appropriately, including, with humanitarian assistance. In this context, the EU has decided to increase its humanitarian assistance to Iraq by €5 million to provide basic assistance to displaced people, thus bringing the 2014 humanitarian funding for Iraq to €12 million so far.

3. The EU reiterates its firm commitment to Iraq's unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity which are essential for stability and economic development in the country and the region. It reiterates its support to the Iraqi authorities in the fight against terrorism and emphasises that the security response needs to be combined with a sustainable political solution by the Government of Iraq involving all Iraqi leaders and communities in a spirit of national unity, putting their differences aside to jointly combat this threat and to restore security and the rule of law. Failure to do so will exacerbate the conflict and deepen the sectarian divide. The EU stresses the importance, in the fight against terrorism, of respecting human rights and international humanitarian law, and avoiding the indiscriminate use of force. The EU reminds all states that UN resolutions 1267 and 1989, on the basis of which sanctions have been imposed on ISIL, should be applied and implemented.
4. The EU congratulates the Iraqi people for holding the third democratic elections to the Iraqi Council of Representatives within the constitutional deadline. It pays tribute to the courage of the many Iraqi citizens who went out to cast their votes, in spite of the security risks, and in so doing underlined their commitment to democracy in Iraq. The EU shares the assessment of the elections by the Election Expert Mission (EEM) deployed by the EU and encourages the Iraqi authorities to implement their recommendations.
5. The EU calls on all the elected representatives to honour the Iraqi citizens' commitment to democracy and treat the elections as an opportunity for national reconciliation and genuine dialogue. In view of the present circumstances, it urges all political leaders and the judiciary to make sure that the constitutional provisions and deadlines are met and an inclusive government, representative of the will of the Iraqi population, is formed as a matter of urgency, so that it can address the challenges which Iraq faces. The EU emphasises that the new government must take decisive measures to promote an inclusive approach, respect the rule of law and human rights and address the needs and legitimate aspirations of all components of Iraqi society, which are prerequisites for the stability and security of the country and the region. The EU also calls on the Government of Iraq and the Kurdistan Regional Government to work together in that aim. It encourages them to take this opportunity to find a swift and sustainable agreement on all pending subjects, including energy exports and oil revenue sharing, respecting Iraq's unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

6. The EU also calls on all regional actors to contribute to efforts to promote stability in Iraq and the region. It notes the close link between the situation in Iraq and the situation in Syria, in particular the flow of foreign fighters which contributes to exacerbating tensions in both countries, and reiterates the urgency to move towards a genuine political transition in Syria.

7. The EU reaffirms its commitment to strengthen its relationship with Iraq and looks forward to working with the new government to advance cooperation including through the implementation of the EU-Iraq Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA). The EU will also continue to assist Iraq in promoting democracy, human rights, good governance and the rule of law, including by building on the experiences of the EUJUST LEX Iraq mission.
