



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 14 October 2003

13575/03

**COMEM 41
PESC 591
IRAQ 14**

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

from : General Secretariat

to: Delegations

No. prev. doc.: 13473/03 PESC 578 COMEM 38 IRAQ 32

Subject : Iraq

On 13 October 2003, the Council adopted the attached conclusions.

COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS ON IRAQ

1. The Council reiterated the EU's commitment to play an important role, within the framework of all relevant UNSC resolutions, in the international effort to help the Iraqi people to rebuild their country.
2. Recalling its conclusions of 29 September 2003, the EU underlines the importance of the restoration of Iraqi sovereignty and the establishment of a fully representative Iraqi government through democratic elections. Acknowledging the necessity to reach agreement on a realistic schedule for handing over political responsibility to the Iraqi people, the Council reiterated the EU's support for the development of a prosperous, stable and sovereign Iraq.
3. The Council welcomed the Communication from the Commission proposing an EU approach to the Madrid Conference on the reconstruction of Iraq and its proposal of an indicative pledge of 200 million Euro for 2003-2004 from the EU budget, taking into account the EU budgetary procedures. Furthermore, the Council invited the Commission to assure the necessary co-ordination with a view to the announcement by the Presidency of a consolidated EU pledge (Community plus Member States) for the period to December 2004 at the Madrid conference and to report to it on the preparation and follow-up of the conference.
4. The Council noted that this EU pledge for reconstruction in Iraq is additional to the 730 million Euro already pledged for humanitarian relief in Iraq by Community and EU Member States. It endorsed the Commission's view that, in the light of developments during 2004, it will be necessary for the EU to develop a comprehensive medium-term strategy for its relations with Iraq.
5. The Council confirms that the following will be essential for the success for the reconstruction efforts:
 - An adequate security environment;
 - A strong and vital UN role;
 - A realistic schedule for the handing over of political responsibility to the Iraqi people;
 - The setting up of a transparent multilateral donor fund to channel support from the international community.