



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



Brussels, 2 September 2005
11917/05 (Presse 220)
P 096/05

**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
on the Death Penalty in Iraq**

The European Union was saddened to learn that three Iraqi nationals were executed on 1 September 2005 following a judicial process in Iraq.

The EU is of the view that the death penalty does not serve as an effective deterrent and any miscarriage of justice, which might arise in any legal system, would be irreversible. The EU therefore regrets that the Government of Iraq has elected to implement the death penalty in these cases.

The EU is strongly opposed to the death penalty and condemns its use. While recognising the sovereign right of the Government of Iraq to decide on judicial sentencing, we strongly urge that the death penalty should be abolished.

P R E S S

Rue de la Loi 175 B - 1048 BRUSSELS Tel.: +32 (0)2 285 / 6319 Fax: +32 (0)2 285 8026
press.office@consilium.eu.int <http://ue.eu.int/Newsroom>

11917/05 (Presse 220)

1
EN

The Acceding Country Romania, the Candidate Country Croatia^{*}, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia and Montenegro, EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as the Republic of Moldova align themselves with this declaration.

^{*} Croatia continues to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

