



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



Brussels, 21 September 2005
12547/05 (Presse 244)

EU - IRAQ JOINT DECLARATION ON POLITICAL DIALOGUE

This declaration was signed on 21 September 2005 in New York:

"The European Union and the Republic of Iraq share the same goal of a secure, stable, unified, prosperous and democratic Iraq, where the human and political rights of all its citizens are protected, in accordance with the principles laid down in UNSCR 1546. Strong EU-Iraq relations are in the interest of all of our citizens as Iraqis realise their aspiration of a constitutionally elected government, reflecting the views and interests of Iraqi society in its diversity.

We have made good progress in developing our relationship through a number of contacts on a range of issues, at both Ministerial and official level, including at the 22 June Iraq International Conference. Each of these meetings has represented an important step in the development of EU-Iraq relations. This progress has paralleled the development in Iraq of the political process endorsed by the Security Council in UNSCR 1546.

P R E S S

The European Union and the Republic of Iraq are committed to continuing to work closely together in a spirit of friendship and mutual respect. For this reason, and with a view to strengthening our existing contacts, we are resolved to hold a political dialogue in areas of mutual interest under this Declaration. Dialogue will be taken forward on a regular basis by Ministers and senior officials.

Our dialogue will include discussion of EU support to the transition process in Iraq, leading to a constitutionally elected government in accordance with UNSCR 1546 and the Transitional Administrative Law. The EU stands ready to work with Iraq in facilitating the widest possible participation in the political process. Our discussions will also include the promotion of good governance; the protection of human rights; rule of law and democracy; dialogue on non-proliferation and counter-terrorism; conflict prevention and resolution; and cultural issues. Through our dialogue, we will work towards our shared goal of Iraq assuming its full role in the international community, including in contributing to regional security and stability in co-operation with its neighbours and the international community, and in becoming a full-fledged participant in global activities of common interest.

This Declaration signals the deepening and strengthening of relations between the EU and Iraq. It represents an important step towards a closer partnership between the EU and Iraq. The EU and Iraq hope to broaden and enhance their partnership further as the political process goes forward through the establishment of contractual political dialogue and other appropriate contractual relations."

Done at New York

For the European Union

For the Iraqi Transitional Government
