



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 8 December 2009

17280/09

**COMEM 242
PESC 1705**

NOTE

Subject : FAC of 8 December 2009
- Council Conclusions on Iraq

At its meeting on 8 December 2009, the Foreign Affairs Council adopted the Conclusions on Iraq annexed hereto.

COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS ON IRAQ
(FAC, 8 December 2009)

1. The Council reiterates its support for Iraq's democratic development and encourages rapid implementation of the Election Law approved by the relevant stakeholders so that elections can take place in early 2010. The Council stresses the importance of holding these elections according to this timetable and in a peaceful, democratically organised and orderly manner. These elections are an important opportunity for further consolidation of democratic institutions as well as enhancing security in the country. Recalling earlier Council conclusions, the EU remains committed to providing support to the elections, including by sending an enlarged team of electoral experts as well as through the engagement of EU diplomatic missions.
2. The Council welcomes the successful finalisation of negotiations on the text of a Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and Iraq on November 13. Once applied, the Agreement will lay a solid foundation for further developing relations between the EU and Iraq in a wide range of fields, including commitments designed to facilitate and promote trade and investment vital for sustainable growth and cooperation to improve living conditions for all Iraqis. The Council also welcomes that the Agreement will establish a formalised political dialogue. Equally, the EU reaffirms its commitment to sign the Memorandum of Understanding on energy in order to further enhance the relationship between the EU and Iraq.
3. Reiterating the GAERC Conclusions from June 2009, the Council continues to support the work of UNAMI in all its fields, especially on the challenges linked to disputed internal boundaries. The Council calls on all parties to engage in the necessary compromises.

4. The Council reiterates its continued concern for the human rights situation in Iraq and underlines that Iraq has an obligation to ensure that human rights are respected. In this context, the EU reiterates its call on the Government of Iraq to suspend the application of the death penalty as a step towards its abolition. The EU stands ready to support Iraqi efforts in the field of human rights.

5. The Council welcomes the Government of Iraq's forward-looking approach to sustainable development, including through the formulation of comprehensive development plans, and reiterates the EU's continued support to the reform process as well as to Iraq's efforts towards economic growth and social progress.
