

Council conclusions on Iraq

Foreign Affairs Council meeting

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

- "1. The EU reiterates its firm commitment to Iraq's unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity. It expresses its deep concern at the severe deterioration of the security and humanitarian situation in the country. Iraq is an important partner in need of strong support under the current challenging circumstances.
2. The EU is extremely concerned at the dire humanitarian situation and the massive displacements of civilians, mainly in the Northern regions as a result of the assaults by ISIL and other associated armed groups. The Ministers recalled the substantial efforts of solidarity that the EU and its Member States are making to provide humanitarian aid and welcomed the commitment of additional European funds as well as the mobilization of the European Emergency Response Coordination Centre and the activation of the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism at the request of the Iraqi government, to deliver assistance in kind including through the establishment of a humanitarian air bridge to northern Iraq adapted to the needs in the field. The EU underlines the need to take urgent action to facilitate, in accordance with international humanitarian law, access to populations in need and welcomes the efforts made by the US and other partners.
3. The EU remains seriously concerned about the deterioration of the security situation in Iraq and condemns in the strongest terms the attacks perpetrated by ISIL and other associated armed groups. The EU also condemns the atrocities and abuses of basic human rights, in particular when committed against targeted religious minorities and most vulnerable groups. Some of these acts, committed in Iraq and Syria, may constitute crimes against humanity and must be investigated swiftly so that the perpetrators are held accountable. The EU welcomes the US efforts to support the Iraqi national and local authorities in their fight against ISIL and recognises international and European responsibility to cooperate with Iraq in our common fight against terrorism.

The Council also welcomes the decision by individual Member States to respond positively to the call by the Kurdish regional authorities to provide urgently military material. Such responses will be done according to the capabilities and national laws of the Member States, and with the consent of the Iraqi national authorities. The EU will assess how to prevent ISIL benefitting from oil sales and condemns those funding the ISIL in contravention of UNSCR 1267 and subsequent resolutions. The Ministers invite the European External Action Service to ensure a stronger presence in Erbil.

4. The EU welcomes the nomination of Mr. Heider Al Abadi as Prime Minister-designate and expresses its continued support for the constitutional process. The EU is confident that the Prime Minister-designate will proceed with the formation of a new government as a matter of urgency and insists on the importance for it to be inclusive and able to address the needs and legitimate aspirations of all the Iraqi citizens. It calls on all political, religious and tribal leaders to contribute to this crucial effort to reinforce the credibility of the future government, giving, in particular to Sunni and Kurdish populations through a process of mutual engagement, new confidence in the democratic institutions and paving the way to a political solution of the current crisis.
 5. The EU expresses its strong support for the United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI) and calls on Iraq's neighbouring countries and other partners to enhance cooperation and develop concrete actions to facilitate the long-term solution of the current crisis and fight against the common terrorist threat and for the preservation of a united and democratic Iraq. "
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