



EUROPEAN UNION

~FACTSHEET~

EU SUPPORT FOR IRAQ

The EU's contribution so far ...

The EU has been involved in almost all aspects of the effort to bring stability, democracy and prosperity to Iraq.

- **Military and police:** A number of EU Member States are participating in the Multi-National Force in Iraq. Some are conducting police and security personnel training operations outside Iraq.
- **Coordination and outreach:** The EU has worked with the US government in coordinating international efforts to support Iraq at the Core Group of donors for reconstruction in Iraq. The EU and the US have co-operated on outreach efforts to third countries for additional contributions to reconstruction. The EU hosted the first donors' conference in Madrid in October 2003 and promoted the establishment of the Iraqi Reconstruction Trust Fund Facility (IRFFI) which has been crucial in generating international contributions for reconstruction of the country.
- **Funds pledged and delivered:** At the Madrid Conference the EU collectively pledged €1.2 billion. The European Commission pledge amounted to €200 million for 2003-2004 for reconstruction and €100 million for humanitarian needs. The European Commission's assistance reaches €320 million of which the majority has already been disbursed, focusing on restoring key public services, boosting employment and reducing poverty as well as strengthening governance, civil society and human rights. In addition, EU Member States are also important donors in their national capacities.
- **Medium term strategy:** The EU adopted a medium term strategy put forward by the High Representative and the Commission for Iraq in June 2004 based on the European Commission's communication "The European Union and Iraq – a Framework for Engagement".
- **Building ties with the new Iraq:** The EU has developed good relations with the Iraqi authorities, demonstrated by the participation of interim Prime Minister Allawi at the European Council in November 2004. At this occasion Member States endorsed a package of support including measures ranging from the perspective of an EU-Iraq agreement to reconstruction assistance.
- **Trade and cooperation:** The EU supports Iraq's candidacy for WTO membership as part of the process of integrating Iraq into the region and the international community more generally.
- **Electoral support:** The European Commission provided a specific package of support for an amount of € 31.5 million for the January 2005 parliamentary elections, including:
 - Support via the **UN Trust Fund** specifically for the electoral process (€30 million);
 - Support to the **Independent Electoral Commission in Iraq** with **3 EU electoral experts in Baghdad** working with the Electoral Commission;
 - Implementation of a **domestic observer training programme in Jordan** for 170 Iraqi co-ordinators and trainers;

- **Process Monitoring** with a team of election experts in Amman who followed closely some key aspects of the electoral process.
- **Supporting the UN in Iraq:** As part of the EU's commitment to underline the UN's central role in the long-term reconstruction and stabilisation of Iraq, the EU is to provide funding for the UN Protection Force.

... and in the future

The European Commission has adopted a new **Assistance Programme for Iraq for 2005** with a budget of **€200 million**, which will support the following needs:

- **Provision of essential services and jobs (€130m):** The funds will be channelled to the International Reconstruction Fund Facility for Iraq (IRFFI), a multilateral trust fund managed by the World Bank and the UN. The focus will be to continue supporting activities to **restore and strengthen delivery of education and health services, increasing employment opportunities**, and developing administrative capacity in the Iraqi administration. This support will be important in helping the new government meet the needs and expectations of the Iraqi population.
- **Capacity building in Energy and Trade (€15m):** The EU will offer its genuine expertise and know-how to public and private actors in form of bilateral technical assistance in key sectors for growth such as energy, trade and investment with the aim to increase the capacity of Iraqi institutions.
- **Support for the Political Process (€10m):** Funds have been earmarked to continue supporting the **political process, the development of civil society and respect of human rights**.
- In addition a reserve has been set aside (€45 m) allowing for a **flexible response** to changing circumstances on the ground and responding to the needs identified by the new elected Iraqi government.

The EU also stands ready to give support and provide expertise, if required, in the following areas:

- Assist with the **drafting of the new Constitution**, in cooperation with the UN.
- Look at how best to support future **elections**, including a **possible EU observation mission** on the ground if security circumstances permit.
- engage in an integrated rule of law mission focusing on training of judges, prosecutors, police and penitentiary officers in senior management and criminal investigation

The EU will **continue promoting Iraq's integration in the region** and the establishment of closer ties with neighbouring countries.

For more information go to:

EU-Iraq relations website: http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/iraq/intro/index.htm

EU-Iraq humanitarian aid website: http://europa.eu.int/comm/echo/field/iraq/index_en.htm

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