

PRESS RELEASE

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EUROPEAN UNION STATEMENT ON TURKEY

The European Union recalls that in its statement of 5 April 1995 it took note of the assurances given by the Turkish authorities as to the limited duration of the military intervention in Northern Iraq and the protection of the civilian population.

The European Union is aware of the seriousness of the terrorist threat facing Turkey. It nevertheless reiterates its concern at the military intervention in Northern Iraq.

The European Union takes note of the Turkish authorities' announcement of the withdrawal of a brigade of three thousand men from Northern Iraq. The European Union sees this as a positive but inadequate move and reaffirms its hope that the withdrawal of all Turkish troops operating in Northern Iraq will be completed without delay.