

P R E S S R E L E A S E

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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
on Iraq**

1. The European Union welcomes the unanimous adoption of SCR 1154 on 2 March.
2. This Resolution commends the initiative by the UN Secretary-General to secure commitments from the Government of Iraq on compliance with its obligations under the relevant resolutions and endorses the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq and the UN Secretary-General on 23 February 1998.
3. The European Union calls on the Iraqi authorities to comply fully with the Memorandum of Understanding and with the relevant Security Council resolutions.
4. The European Union notes that under the terms of SCR 1154 any violation by Iraq of its obligations would have severest consequences. On the other hand, compliance by Iraq with its obligations, repeated in the Memorandum of Understanding, to accord immediate, unconditional and unrestricted access to the Special Commission and the IAEA would allow the Security Council to act in accordance with the relevant provisions of SCR 687 on the lifting of sanctions. The EU notes that, in accordance with its responsibility under the Charter, the Security Council will remain actively seized of the matter, in order to ensure the implementation of this resolution and to secure peace and security in the area.
5. The European Union meanwhile remains determined to ensure that the arrangements for bringing increased humanitarian assistance to the Iraqi people under SCR 1153 are fully and effectively implemented.