STATEMENT

on the formation of the new government in Iraq

"We congratulate Prime Minister Haider Al Abadi on the formation of the new government and the presentation of a demanding programme. We welcome the spirit of compromise and inclusiveness through which personal interests are put to one side for the sake of the future of the country and the preservation of its unity. We hope that agreement will be reached shortly on the completion of the government.

The European Union recognizes the huge challenges that the new government faces at a moment which is crucial for the stability of the country and the region. We sincerely hope that the whole government will work effectively together to give inclusive responses to the many urgent needs of all the Iraqi citizens. The EU pledges its full support in this endeavour."

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