



EUROPEAN UNION

DELEGATION TO IRAQ

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Local EU Statement on the First Anniversary of the adoption of the Iraqi National Action Plan for the implementation of the UN Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security

Issued by

The Delegation of the European Union to Iraq

and by

the Embassies of the EU Member States in Iraq

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The European Union wishes to congratulate the Republic of Iraq on the occasion of the first anniversary - tomorrow - of the adoption of the Iraqi National Action Plan for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security which, 15 years after its adoption, remains as relevant as ever. The Action Plan constitutes an important tool for strengthening the role of women in Iraqi society, their participation in national and local decision making, their contribution to the resolution of conflicts and for making sure that their rights are not violated.

The EU emphasises that the issues addressed in Security Council Resolution 1325 and in the National Action Plan continue to be of the utmost importance for achieving a stable and lasting peace in Iraq. The developments in Iraq during the past year have led to increased violence against women, sexual abuse and trafficking in women throughout the country. Women are also more likely to be affected by the harsh conditions prevailing in camps for internally displaced people.

The EU recognises that positive steps have been made by the Government of Iraq and by the Independent High Commission for Human Rights. At the same time, there are still challenges ahead, such as a proper allocation of resources to the relevant institutions, the revision of key pieces of legislation and fair representation of women.

The EU therefore calls on all Iraqi stakeholders to continue taking active steps to ensure that the objectives of the plan are achieved and reiterates the EU and EU Member States' strong support for the promotion and adherence to women's rights in Iraq.

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