



PRESS RELEASE

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Civilian Security Sector Reform in Iraq:

Civilian EU Advisory Mission starts work in Baghdad

On 22 November, the civilian European Union Advisory Mission (EUAM) Iraq took up its work in Baghdad, only one month after EU Foreign Ministers decided to establish the mission to support the Iraqi Government in its Security Sector Reform.

The **EU has considerable expertise on civilian aspects of the security sector**. The Mission will work mainly with the Office of the National Security Advisor and the Ministry of Interior to support them in the implementation of the National Security Strategy and the civilian aspects of the Security Sector Reform, including the National Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The Mission will also assist in the coordination of EU and Member States support in the Civilian Security Sector.

The inauguration ceremony in Baghdad took place in the evening of Wednesday, 22 November and was attended by distinguished representatives of the Iraqi Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Office of the National Security Advisor, as well as the Head of the EU Delegation to Iraq, the EU Civilian Operations Commander, UN representatives and individual states' diplomats.

Background

The Iraqi government is working on the implementation of its National Security Strategy and the reform of its security sector. In August **Prime Minister Abadi requested on behalf of the Iraqi government the assistance of international partners and the EU** in particular, for advice and support in these efforts.

The focus of the Mission will be on three lines of operation:

1. Provide strategic advice on the implementation of civilian aspects of the Iraqi National Security Strategy, the Security Sector Reform Strategy and on the development of National Counter-Terrorism and Organised Crime Strategies;
2. Strategic coordination and cooperation, including contribution to the management and running of the Iraqi SSR Joint Secretariat;
3. Mapping and gap analysis to identify opportunities for potential future EU support in the implementation of the National Security Strategy and the Security Sector.

The Mission has a mandate of one year, until 17 October 2018.

Link [factsheet EUAM Iraq](#)

[Please see here more information on the EU and Iraq](#)

**EUROPEAN UNION ADVISORY MISSION IN SUPPORT OF SECURITY SECTOR REFORM IN IRAQ
(EUAM IRAQ)**



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