



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Plenary sitting

21.11.2012

B7-0000/0000

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on statements by the Council and the Commission
pursuant to Rule 110(2) of the Rules of Procedure
on the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the EU and Iraq
(2012/2850(RSP))

Mario Mauro
on behalf of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RE\919874EN.doc

PE498.023v03-00

EN

United in diversity

EN

European Parliament resolution on Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the EU and Iraq (2012/2850(RSP))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 110(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas since 2005 the Republic of Iraq has held three multi-party elections, has adopted a constitution by referendum, has created the basis for a federal state and has resolutely embarked on a process of building democratic institutions, reconstruction and normalisation,
- B. whereas on 21 December 2010 all the political forces in Iraq reached an agreement on the formation of a national unity government in keeping with the will of the Iraqi people as expressed in the elections held on 7 March 2010,
- C. whereas local elections are foreseen to take place in 2013 and whereas Parliamentary elections are foreseen to take place in 2014,
- D. whereas 800 000 Christian Iraqi citizens (Chaldeans, Syriacs and members of other Christian minorities) were living in Iraq in 2003, and whereas they constitute an ancient, native population group which is now facing serious danger of persecution and exile; whereas hundreds of thousands of Christians have fled the violence of which they continue to be the target, either leaving their country completely or being displaced within its borders,
- E. whereas the crisis in Syria has created new substantial flows of refugees and returnees towards Iraq, who are now faced with strong personal and economic uncertainty and a condition of high vulnerability in Iraq,
- F. whereas it is important to secure the necessary funds for the EU Delegation in Baghdad to be fully operational and be able to play a significant role in assisting the Iraqi authorities with the process of reconstruction, stabilisation and normalisation,
- G. whereas Iraq has been able to restore its oil productivity almost to full capacity, but the Iraqi State has difficulties in providing basic services, including regular electricity in the summer, clean water and decent health care; whereas for the exploitation of Iraq's oil resources, technical assistance, the rule of law and the full implementation of international standards for contracts and procurement will be essential to promote a process of social inclusion and welfare; whereas the fight against corruption should remain a key objective of Iraqi authorities,
- 1. Welcomes the conclusion of the negotiations on the partnership and cooperation agreement between the EU and the Republic of Iraq, which establishes contractual relations between the two parties for the first time; welcomes the establishment by the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement of a Cooperation Council, a Cooperation Committee and a Parliamentary Cooperation Committee and expects such fora to provide fresh impetus for the Union's political involvement in Iraq at the highest level, in the form

of regular talks with the Iraqi authorities at the most senior level;

2. Welcomes the clause in the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement concerning cooperation between the EU and Iraq on the accession of Iraq to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC); stresses the importance of a maximum support by the EU for the accession of Iraq to the ICC and for the implementation of international human rights standards and instruments; welcomes , in this respect, the clause in the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement on cooperation in the promotion and effective protection of human rights in Iraq with the caveat that failure by Iraq to protect, enhance and respect human rights would negatively affect cooperation and economic development programmes; stresses that a stricter conditionality on the basis of the principle of "more for more" would have put greater emphasis on the importance of substantial progress in human rights in Iraq;
3. Emphasises that the political dialogue between the EU and the Iraqi authorities must primarily focus on matters relating to respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, whether civic or individual, and on the strengthening of democratic institutions, the rule of law and good governance;
4. Stresses the importance of creating the conditions for a strong technical dialogue and cooperation with Iraq, and continuous support to its administration, so that adequate international standards for contracts and procurement can be introduced and fully implemented and investment opportunities can be enhanced;
5. Applauds the opening of a Delegation of the EU to Iraq in Baghdad and the appointment of a EU Head of Delegation; recalls, however, the need to secure the necessary human and material resources commensurate with the EU's stated ambition of playing a significant role in Iraq's transition to democracy and with a view to securing the full operativity of the Delegation; stresses that it is essential to put the Head of Delegation in the condition to travel in full security to all parts of the country to monitor the proper implementation of programmes financed by the European Union;
6. Welcomes the political agreement which Iraqi leaders have reached on the establishment of a national unity government which properly represents the political, religious and ethnic diversity of Iraqi society and reflects the will of the Iraqi people as expressed in the general election held on 7 March 2010; calls for the full implementation, without delay, of such agreement and asks the political forces in Iraq to remain committed in a spirit of unity of intents to the process of building strong and sustainable democratic institutions and ensure the conditions for free and fair elections both at local and international level, which are essential for the process of democratic transition;
7. Applauds the progress made by the Iraqi security forces in reducing violence and threats to security to their lowest levels since 2003; remains deeply concerned, however, at the continuing acts of violence perpetrated against the civilian population, vulnerable groups and religious communities, including Christian minorities; calls on the Iraqi authorities to continue to invest efforts in improving security and public order and in combating terrorism and sectarian violence throughout the country; takes the view that priority should equally be given to establishing a new legal framework which clearly defines the responsibilities and remit of the security forces; considers that the Council of Representatives must play an appropriate role in the drafting of new legislation and in exercising democratic scrutiny; calls on the Iraqi authorities to step up their efforts to

protect Christian minorities and other vulnerable minorities, to guarantee every Iraqi citizen the right to practise his or her faith in freedom and safety, to take more determined measures to combat inter-ethnic violence and to do everything in their power to bring the perpetrators to justice, in keeping with the rule of law and international standards; believes that the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement provides the opportunity to further promote reconciliation programmes and interreligious dialogue aimed at restoring a sense of cohesion and partnership in Iraqi society;

8. Draws attention to the urgent need to resolve the humanitarian problems facing the Iraqi people; emphasises the need to ensure that action coordinated between the Iraqi authorities and the international aid organisations working on the ground is taken with a view to assisting vulnerable groups, including refugees and displaced persons and the substantial flows of refugees and returnees coming from Syria;
9. Applauds the continuous commitment by the Iraqi authorities to secure adequate living conditions to the residents of Camp Ashraf and Camp Hurriya; asks EU Member States to do everything possible to facilitate the resettlement or repatriation of the residents of Camp Hurriya, so that the issue of their presence on Iraqi territory can be finally settled;
10. Calls for particular attention to be paid to women's participation in the post-conflict reconstruction process and at the highest levels of political and economic life; urges the Iraqi authorities to take the measures required to develop an inclusive civil society which can play a full part in the political process and to encourage an independent, pluralist and professional media sector;
11. Expresses great concern at the many cases of women's suicides or honour killings in connection with forced marriages; stresses the importance of introducing an adequate and effective body of laws protecting women's rights and social, cultural and physical integrity, and promoting full access to socio-economic integration in society;
12. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the President of the European Council, the President of the Commission, the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the presidents of the parliaments of the Member States, the Government and the Council of Representatives of the Republic of Iraq.