

Delegation for relations with Iraq

## **STATEMENT BY DOMÈNEC RUIZ DEVESA, ACTING CHAIR OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT'S DELEGATION FOR RELATIONS WITH IRAQ, ON THE RECENT TERRORIST ATTACK IN BAGHDAD**

On behalf of the European Parliament's Delegation for relations with Iraq, I express, together with my colleagues, our heartfelt, deep, sincere sympathy and condolences to the Government of Iraq and to the families of all those who have suffered losses and injury in the recent attack on a market place in the heart of Baghdad.

The Delegation for relations with Iraq, once again, condemns all incitement and acts of violence, in particular those triggered by religious, ethnic or social prejudice and hatred. It highlights the cruelty of this indiscriminate and unacceptable attack and expresses its confidence that the terrorist will not achieve their goals and that the people of Iraq will remain united in its resolute rejection of the attempts made by extremists of different groups and parties to destabilise their country by sparking sectarian tensions.

The Delegation reaffirms its full support to the on-going democratic process in Iraq aiming at building a stronger and more stable, developed country, treating all its citizens equally, with a strong sense of equity and social justice.

### **Background**

On 20 July 2021, a suicide attack killed at least 35 people at a busy marketplace in Baghdad, while more than 100 were injured. The device exploded in the al-Wuhailat market, in the northern Sadr City area, as families prepared for the Islamic festival of Eid al-Adha.

The suicide bombing, claimed by the so-called Islamic State, was the deadliest in Baghdad in six months.

The attack of Bagdad may well indicate that the Islamic State, after having been defeated on the ground by an international coalition, can still count on sleeper cells continue to wage a low-level insurgency in the country.

This outbreak of violence may also part of a wider strategy aiming to undermine the organisation of democratic elections in the Middle- East country, due to take place in October this year.