

*Delegation for relations with Iraq*

## **Statement by [Sara Skyttedal](#), Chair of the EP's Delegation for relations with Iraq, on the recent election of the new Speaker of the Council of Representatives of Iraq, H.E. Dr Mohammed al-Halbousi**

**18 January 2022**

On behalf of the European Parliament's Delegation for Relations with Iraq, I would like to congratulate H.E. Dr Mohammed al-Halbousi on his recent election to the position of Speaker of the Council of Representatives of Iraq.

The election of Dr al-Halbousi comes at a key time for the Republic of Iraq and marks a first step towards establishing a new federal government after the national elections held in October 2021.

I am convinced that the main objective of all the Iraqi political actors is to regain the trust and interest of the citizens in the construction of a stronger country with a viable economic system and a lively democracy. The Council of Representatives, as the democratically elected body of Iraq, can play a major role in securing these goals in the full respect of the basic human and civil rights and of the rule of law. The European Parliament reiterates its will to be a strong partner of Iraq in its democratic transition phase.

The Delegation for Relations with Iraq looks forward to continuing together the excellent cooperation between the European Parliament and the Council of Representatives of Iraq and plans to pay an official visit to Iraq, the first since 2013, in 2022.

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