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From: General Secretariat of the Council
On: 20 October 2025
To: Delegations

Subject: Relations with Iraq - European Union's position for the Cooperation
Council's 4th meeting (Luxembourg, 19 October 2025)

Delegations will find attached the European Union's position for the 4th EU-Iraq Cooperation
Council.

**4th MEETING OF THE EU-IRAQ COOPERATION COUNCIL
(Luxembourg, 19 October 2025)**

European Union Position

1. The EU welcomes the fourth meeting of the EU-Iraq Cooperation Council.
2. The EU-Iraq Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) constitutes the main framework for enhancing cooperation and strengthening EU-Iraq relations, based on both Parties' common will to consolidate, deepen and diversify their engagement in areas of mutual interest. Following the latest EU-Iraq Cooperation Council in 2023, meetings of the four PCA thematic Subcommittees were held throughout 2023, 2024 and 2025 notably on a) human rights and democracy, b) the first edition of the Development Cooperation Subcommittee, c) trade, d) energy and related issues, followed by the fourth Cooperation Committee. In addition, the regular high-level exchanges on migration continued, with the Iraqi Mission to the EU playing an instrumental role in convening the meetings and ensuring follow-up.
3. The EU expresses its unequivocal support to the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq, with full respect to its ethnic and religious diversity. A stable, democratic and prosperous Iraq is essential for the EU, and an anchor of stability, with direct effect on regional security, including on migration flows to Europe. The EU restates its firm commitment to further develop the strong partnership with Iraq and underlines its importance and significant potential especially under the current shifting regional geopolitical landscape, as well as the global consequences of Russia's continued war of aggression against Ukraine. To further develop this partnership, the EU's strategic policy frameworks, such as the European Green Deal, REPowerEU, the Clean Industrial Deal, the Global Gateway and the new Pact for the Mediterranean, offer additional opportunities for enhanced cooperation and investment in Iraq. The EU – Iraq engagement has progressed across the board with the successful completion of all bilateral subcommittees defined under the PCA, the 8th EU-Iraq Inter-Parliamentary Meeting, and numerous bilateral visits.
4. The EU welcomes efforts by the Iraqi Government to implement its announced priorities throughout its mandate focusing on economic development, while actively engaging on regional stability and enhanced cooperation in a particularly challenging regional context. The incoming parliamentary elections on 11 November 2025 will constitute a pivotal moment in Iraq' transition from post-conflict stabilisation to economic growth and prosperity. The EU calls on all political actors to ensure a peaceful electoral process conducive to credible, inclusive and transparent elections. The EU underscores the importance of ensuring that the elections are conducted free from external interference, including in the online space.
5. The EU welcomes the successful regional elections on 20 October 2024 in the Kurdistan Region in Iraq, encourages the long-overdue government formation, and underlines that effective cooperation between the Government of Iraq and the Kurdistan Regional Government remains imperative. Joint efforts to improve governance and security coordination in the disputed territories, including the full and effective implementation of the Sinjar Agreement, are essential. Furthermore, it is important to resolve disagreements pertaining to the management of oil and gas revenues, and to budgetary transfers between Baghdad and Erbil. In this regard the EU welcomes the agreement between the Kurdistan Regional Government and the Federal Government of Iraq to reopen the Iraq-Türkiye pipeline. This agreement marks an important step forward for stronger

investment, and greater prosperity for all the people of Iraq. We commend both Baghdad and Erbil for their commitment to dialogue in reaching this milestone.

6. The EU stands ready to support the Iraqi Government to address the legitimate demands of the Iraqi people. This will require intensified efforts for reforms notably on the fight against corruption at all levels, improving public services, imposing State monopoly in arms & security control, advancing human rights and women's empowerment, climate action and finding durable solutions for the internally displaced and the protection of persons belonging to minorities. It is urgent for the next Government to deliver concrete results and swiftly adopt the necessary measures and reforms to meet the aspirations of the population. The EU will continue to support Iraq in its reform efforts, national reconciliation, and its commendable role in fostering regional cooperation, including through the Baghdad Conference process.

COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY

7. Promoting peace and stability and achieving de-escalation in the broader Middle East are key priorities for the EU. The EU is committed to reinforcing cooperation with Iraq in foreign policy at bilateral, regional and multilateral level, notably in the UN framework, as well as with the League of Arab States.
8. The EU-Iraq partnership is important for the stability and prosperity of Iraq and the region. The EU commends efforts by the Government of Iraq to foster dialogue and promote de-escalation, including through the successful Baghdad II Conference on 20 December 2022. The EU and its Member States remain committed to support and contribute to the Baghdad II Conference follow-up as an inclusive regional process with the participation of the EU, and look forward to the organisation of the Baghdad III Conference. The EU stands ready to enhance, through the means of its cooperation, Iraq's resilience and to support any regional initiatives to improve regional connectivity and diversification of energy providers, particularly through electricity interconnections and transport networks. In this context, the EU acknowledges Iraq's efforts to enhance regional connectivity, including through the initiative of the Development Road.
9. Countering the Da'esh threat is essential in supporting regional peace and security. Amidst increasing Da'esh activity in Syria, preventing its resurgence remains a shared regional priority, as the fight against Da'esh is not over and the hard-won gains of the past years by Iraq must not be lost. The EU calls on the Government of Iraq to maintain its focus on the fight against terrorism, including against Da'esh. Ensuring accountability for Da'esh crimes in compliance with the principles of international humanitarian law is a key interest for both the EU and Iraq. The EU remains committed to continue supporting Iraq in the fight against terrorism and the stabilisation and reconstruction efforts in liberated areas, through both reinforced support to the Global Coalition against Da'esh, especially to the work of the Core Focus Group as well as through enhanced cooperation with longstanding other international partners, including NATO and its Mission in Iraq, and the United Nations.
10. The EU strongly commends ongoing efforts and the commitment of the Government of Iraq to accelerate the safe and dignified repatriation of Iraqi nationals from camps and detention facilities in North East Syria. The EU calls on the Government to develop and operationalise a plan towards durable solutions for the reintegration of repatriated Iraqis, and ensure their prosecution where warranted. The EU is supporting repatriation efforts by Iraq and other regional partners of their third country nationals, as well as providing stabilisation support together with its Member States in order to improve the dire living conditions in camps and detentions facilities and support a

minimum of dignity of the population concerned and address the threat these facilities could present to Iraq, the EU, the region and global security.

11. The consolidation of rule of law, respect and protection of human rights, and the need for the Government of Iraq to ensure state monopoly on coercive power are equally essential to limit the risk of future cycles of violence. The EU remains concerned about the potential destabilising effects of the continued presence of armed factions in Iraq and encourages the Government of Iraq in its efforts to bring them all under the full control of the state.
12. The EU remains committed to contribute to the implementation of civilian aspects of Iraqi security sector reform (SSR) through the EU Advisory Mission in Iraq (EUAM Iraq). The Mission has been launched in 2017 upon request of the Government of Iraq and its mandate has been extended by the EU Council until 30 April 2026. The Mission has established a strong partnership with its Iraqi counterparts, mainly the Ministry of Interior and the Office of the National Security Advisor. EUAM Iraq continues to provide strategic advice and assistance in support of institutional reform, fighting organised crime, anti-corruption, the protection of cultural heritage, Integrated Border Management, counter-terrorism and countering violent extremism. In view of the reduction of the international presence in the country (UNAMI, Operation Inherent Resolve), the Mission's role in support of Iraqi civilian SSR remains critical, including its facilitation of other EU efforts in Iraq (EU-funded counterterrorism facilities) and its coordination with international partners, such as the NATO Mission Iraq (NMI), which remains a key partner in supporting SSR efforts by the Government. A key area of EUAM-NMI coordination remains the support of the Iraqi process to transfer security files from the military to the Ministry of Interior and the Federal Police ("green-to-blue transition"). The Mission also has a presence in Erbil, with the aim to act as a bridge between the federal and regional level on civilian aspects of SSR. The EU expects progress on a Status of Mission Agreement (SOMA) for the EUAM to be concluded in the near term.
13. The EU highly values the active engagement and commitment of Iraq to strengthen its capacities and all-hazards security governance to mitigate CBRN related risks in the frame of the European Union (EU) Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence (CoE).
14. The EU commends Iraqi efforts to preserve its security and calls for Iraq-Iran relations based on dialogue in full respect of Iraq's sovereignty. The EU will continue to contribute to all diplomatic efforts to reduce tensions in the region and to bring about a lasting solution to the Iranian nuclear issue, which can only be achieved through negotiations. On 28 August, the E3 notified the UNSC of Iran's significant non-performance of its JCPoA commitments and triggered the snapback mechanism, thus fully reinstating six previously lifted UNSC Resolutions on Iran on 27 September 2025. The reimposition of previously lifted nuclear-related sanctions and restrictions must not be the end of diplomacy with Iran. Iran must never be allowed to acquire a nuclear weapon and must comply with its legally binding nuclear safeguard obligations under the Non-Proliferation Treaty, its Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and resume full cooperation with the latter.
15. The EU pays close attention to the maritime dispute and border demarcation between Iraq and Kuwait. The EU acknowledges Iraqi efforts to resolve the maritime dispute including the July 2025 decision by the Iraqi President, Prime Minister and Parliament Speaker tasking the Parliament to re-enact the ratification of the 2012 Khor Abdallah bilateral Agreement. The EU stresses the importance of solving the remaining outstanding issues between the two neighbouring

countries according to International Law, which will contribute positively to regional stability and cooperation.

16. The EU welcomes the numerous calls for regional de-escalation issued by the Iraqi government following Hamas's terrorist attack on Israel on 7 October 2023 and the subsequent war in Gaza. The EU welcomes the Comprehensive Plan to end the Gaza Conflict put forward by President Trump and the ongoing implementation of the first phase of the Plan, including the recent release of hostages. We call on all parties to fully implement the agreement, allowing to maintain a lasting ceasefire and the unimpeded access and sustained distribution of humanitarian assistance at scale into and throughout Gaza to end the human suffering with a central role for the UN and its agencies. The EU stands ready to cooperate closer with Iraq on initiatives addressing the catastrophic humanitarian situation in Gaza, de-escalating, and pursuing sustainable peace, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council aiming at a lasting and sustainable peace based on the two-state solution. The EU recognizes Iraqi government's balanced foreign policy and efforts prioritising diplomacy and stability that managed to keep Iraq out of the broader regional conflict.
17. Syria represents a high priority for both the EU and Iraq. The post-Assad transition in Syria brings opportunities for meaningful regional cooperation, and the EU and Iraq should continue to work jointly with other partners to support peaceful and inclusive, Syrian-led and Syrian-owned transition, based on human rights and fundamental freedoms for all Syrians from all ethnic and religious backgrounds without distinction and to promote regional stability, security, and economic prosperity. In particular, the EU and Iraq should enhance engagement in the fight against common threats posed by terrorist and extremist groups like Da'esh, as well as illicit trafficking (e.g. captagon). Iraq has a lot to offer Syria in terms of sharing its experience in repatriating and reintegrating Iraqi nationals from Al-Hol and Al-Roj camps.
18. The EU supports the efforts by Iraq and Türkiye to further strengthen their relations, and encourages enhanced political dialogue and closer cooperation between the two Governments on areas such as economy, trade, cultural exchanges, managing shared water resources and fighting terrorism and violent extremism. The EU welcomes the announcement of PKK – listed as a terrorist organisation by the EU – to lay down arms and dissolve, and considers that a credible peace process would contribute to stability in the entire region. At the same time the EU calls for a cessation of unilateral military actions that undermine Iraq's sovereignty and have a destabilising effect on Iraq and the wider region. The EU calls on all actors to act in a proportional manner with due regard to international law.
19. The EU commends the tripartite engagement of Iraq with Jordan and Egypt, including on Foreign Ministers' level, as all three countries would benefit from enhanced economic cooperation, improved connectivity and security, with a view to strengthen regional cooperation in the Eastern Mediterranean.
20. The EU condemns Russia's unprovoked and illegal war of aggression against Ukraine, grossly violating international law and the principles of the UN Charter and undermining global security and stability. The EU appreciates Iraq's support at the United Nations General Assembly in condemning Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and attempted illegal annexations, and emphasises the strong joint interest in further condemning Russia's clear violation of international law. The EU relies on Iraq's assistance to prevent the circumvention of EU restrictive measures adopted in response to the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine. The EU condemns the series of intentional, aggressive violations of the airspace of EU Member States by Russian drones and military aircraft including the most recent airspace incursions into Poland, Romania and

Estonia in September, marking a dangerous escalation. This threatens the security of EU citizens, regional stability and international peace. In view of the fact that pro-Kremlin false narratives are being spread intensively in the media and social networks in Arabic language across the MENA region, including Iraq, the EU stands ready to share with Iraq its practices and expertise in countering Russian disinformation.

THEMATIC COOPERATION

Economic reforms and development cooperation

21. The EU welcomes the establishment of a new PCA subcommittee on development cooperation.
22. Iraq is on the cusp of entering into a renewed phase of state building, economic development, redrawing political and social dynamics, which the EU will continue to accompany and support. The EU will deploy its full toolbox to contribute to an improved business climate and enhance investments allowing diversification of the economy, jobs creation and more broadly a transition toward a more resilient, inclusive and sustainable economy, and to continue to support the Government of Iraq in delivering on its comprehensive reform commitments as called for by its citizens in areas such as in improved and inclusive governance and human capital, combatting corruption, promoting economic diversification as well as the green transition and developing the private sector. EU support through EFSD+ represents a major opportunity for Iraq to attract sustainable investments, helping to diversify the economy and accelerate Iraq's integration into global markets. In addition, the EU, together with further international partners, also supports Iraq by remaining an active member of the Iraq Economic Contact Group (IECG), which assists Iraq with international expertise on the planning and sequencing of such reforms.
23. The EU supports Iraq in fighting corruption at all levels and encourages the Government of Iraq to do more. The EU stands ready to further support Iraq, while underlining that Iraq needs to do its part through substantial support and reforms. This includes the need for Iraq to work more on all aspects of governance, including public finance management, decentralisation, migration governance, housing land property rights, civic documentation and civil registry. Iraq also needs to improve its human capital, including by education and vocational training, job creation and social protection, also considering that the Iraqi population is young and yearning for jobs and change. While the EU will continue its targeted interventions in these key areas to improve public services and basic services, Iraqi authorities need to take ownership, enact the accompanying reforms and provide financial as well as political support in order to make these endeavours a sustainable success throughout the whole country and avoid the resurgence of widespread protests and withstand demographic pressures. The re-establishment by Iraq of the social contract between State institutions and citizens, including through strengthening cooperation between populations and local authorities, thus rebuilding accountability and trust, is of primary importance.
24. Substantial bilateral, regional and thematic development funds have been made available to Iraq in the past years. The EU has shifted its support from post conflict recovery to long-term development aimed at consolidating the country's fragile political and economic stability, also targeting the (re-)integration of displaced persons into national systems. The Multiannual Indicative Programme focuses on green job creation and economic diversification, human development including on education and social protection, and digital and participatory governance and democracy. In defining and implementing its development policy, the EU aims to consolidate a structured dialogue with Iraq, fostering exchange of information, the alignment of priorities and the coordination of development programmes. This approach will ensure

coherence and complementarity of actions, inter alia the effectiveness of interventions and support inclusive and sustainable growth through a Team Europe approach.

Trade and investments

25. The EU is actively supporting Iraq's integration into key international institutions, fostering economic, financial and trade cooperation. Over the past year, the EU has provided substantial support through the Iraqi Ministry of Trade for the preparation of all documents needed for Iraq to advance in its WTO accession. This enabled the Iraqi authorities to submit the full suite of documentation to WTO. This is not only an important step towards WTO accession, but first and foremost, a process that provides momentum for the Iraqi authorities to review, revise and reform key economic legislation and procedures and to align further with the international trade rules. The EU strongly encourages Iraq to continue on this reform path. The EU recalls the favourable trade conditions between the EU and Iraq in the framework of the PCA and encourages efforts to strengthen the implementation of relevant regulations towards a transparent legal framework which will increase attractiveness for trade and investment. The EU encourages Iraq to ensure that all institutions of state are aware of their obligations in international commercial dispute resolution mechanisms including the International Court of Arbitration. This will support Iraq's efforts on economic diversification.
26. The EU welcomes the decision by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) to expand its operations to Iraq and supports ongoing discussions aiming at the European Investment Bank (EIB) to follow suit. The EU trusts that the necessary Framework Agreement with the EIB will be concluded swiftly. EU strategic policy frameworks such as REPowerEU, the European Green Deal, the new Pact for the Mediterranean, and the Global Gateway can facilitate enhanced cooperation and investments.
27. The EU remains committed to support Iraq's efforts to improve its Anti-Money laundering and Counter Terrorist Financing regime, inter alia through strengthening the capacities of the Central Bank (CBI) of Iraq to regulate and supervise inclusive financial services, with the aim to comply with FATF standards. The EU will continue to monitor the correct application by the CBI of Anti Money Laundering legislation.
28. It is crucial that Iraq remains committed and engages on a realistic and sustainable economic strategy as well as a socio-economic reform agenda to foster good economic governance and human capital, proper economic diversification as well as the green transition and consistent private and financial sector development including its legal framework. Iraq also needs to further address employment promotion, labour standards as well as social and environmental safeguards. These structural reforms also call for substantial Iraqi budget allocations, clear Iraqi mandates and explicit medium- to long-term commitment to ensure successful and sustainable implementation. To meet its Sustainable Development Goals, it also needs to invest in its infrastructure, particularly with respect to improving public service, address climate change mitigation and adaptation, and enhance national and regional connectivity in the fields of energy, water, transport, and digital.

Human rights, rule of law, democracy and people-to-people contacts

29. Promoting human rights, including civil and political rights, remains a core principle for the EU also in its partnership with Iraq. The EU expects Iraq to respect its citizens' fundamental right to freedom of expression, association and assembly in line with the Iraqi Constitution and international standards. Reinforcing the rule of law is pivotal to the promotion of human rights especially in the judicial and penitentiary sectors in general and in relation of counterterrorism

operations. The EU supports civil society organisations as important components of the Iraqi society and democracy. In this regard, the EU follows with concern reports of shrinking civic space, notably as regards difficulties encountered by NGOs, Human Rights Defenders and journalists to work freely. The EU encourages Iraq to strengthen independent institutions, including re-establishing the High Commission for Human Rights, dissolved in July 2021 and not yet reappointed. The EU stresses the importance of the Iraqi Court system in vindicating the rights of citizens and residents in accordance with the Iraqi Constitution.

30. The EU notes with concern the increased number of executions placing Iraq within the top five countries worldwide using capital punishment. In view of this the EU calls on Iraq to suspend executions as a first step and to establish a formal moratorium with a view to its abolition. The EU welcomes the continued moratorium on executions in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region.
31. In the framework of EU's support to Iraq's democratic development, the EU will deploy an Election Expert Mission for the 11 November 2025 parliamentary elections. The European Union calls on the Iraqi authorities to ensure that the upcoming elections are conducted in a credible, transparent, and inclusive manner, in line with international standards and commitments. Any attempt by domestic or external actors to interfere in the electoral process, whether through disinformation, intimidation, or other means, is unacceptable and will be closely monitored by the EU. The 2021 EU Election Observation Mission produced a public report with recommendations aimed at improving future electoral processes. The EU is committed to work together with the Government of Iraq and other partners to continue supporting the implementation of democratic reforms.
32. The EU stands ready to support the Government of Iraq to ensure the full inclusion and representation of women in public life, including the electoral process and labour market. The EU is concerned about the amendments to the Personal Status Law that, while formally not modifying the existing minimum age for marriage, the codification of the amendments may lead to a modified minimum age in practice, and, in a broader sense, is likely to impact the rights of women and girls when it comes to issues like inheritance and custody. The EU encourages further progress on women's rights, notably on the work towards an Anti-Domestic Violence law for adoption by the Iraqi Parliament.
33. The EU supports the Government of Iraq in strengthening democratic and inclusive governance, with the full participation of all components of the Iraqi society as well as ethnic and religious communities. The EU welcomes the adoption of the Yazidi Female Survivors Law and will follow closely its implementation. The EU acknowledges the commitment of the Government of Iraq to protect and improve the situation of the Yazidi survivors and recognises the efforts, including by the Kurdistan Regional Government, to provide sustainable solutions for those displaced by violence and conflict. The European Union calls on the Government of Iraq and the Kurdistan Regional Government to proceed with the implementation of the Sinjar Agreement, as this would improve living conditions in Sinjar and facilitate the return of Internally Displaced People (IDP) from the Yazidi community.
34. Nearly eight years after the military defeat of Da'esh, the authorities have not been in a position to fully meet the basic needs of its population. Despite hope for a smoother and faster transition, humanitarian needs persist and are becoming increasingly complex for the existing caseload of humanitarian beneficiaries. Over 1 million Iraqis remain displaced, including more than 112 000 individuals still living in internally displaced persons (IDP) camps. The humanitarian infrastructure that once supported these populations is rapidly dissolving, leaving thousands without access to basic services, protection, or pathways to durable solutions. At the same time,

the barriers to return or reintegration remain immense. IDPs face insecurity, destroyed housing, lack of livelihoods and missing civil documentation, preventing them from finding durable solutions. Iraq is also hosting over 340 000 refugees and asylum seekers, mostly from Syria. It is also important to note the still existing needs of families of hundreds of thousands of persons who went missing during the various episodes of conflict the country witnessed over the past four decades. The EU encourages the Government of Iraq to continue its effort in support of those families in collaboration with international and national bodies who can support building its capacity in that regard.

35. Compounding the crisis is the growing impact of climate change. Since 2018, climate-induced displacement has surged, particularly among subsistence farming communities. As of early 2025, at least 170 000 people have been displaced due to water scarcity, land degradation, and failing rural livelihoods. The EU will continue to provide protection services for the most vulnerable displaced people living in camps and informal settlements, particularly people who lack key civil documentation. This will enable them to claim their rights and participate in society at an equal footing with any other Iraqi citizen. The needs of IDPs and refugees require a comprehensive response that makes the nexus approach crucial for addressing the challenges IDPs face, for including them in the Iraqi national social safety net system and for developing plans to facilitate the return of displaced persons or their sustainable integration into host communities, including job creation.
36. The EU supports the Government of Iraq in promoting people-to-people exchanges, including through instruments like Erasmus+, to foster peer-to-peer knowledge sharing and capacity building in higher education. To that end, the EU encourages the Government of Iraq to undertake measures to allow Iraqi universities throughout the country to receive grants in foreign currency directly. This will greatly enhance the ability of Iraqi higher education institutions to benefit from EU-funded opportunities for international mobility and cooperation in higher education.
37. The EU welcomes an increased awareness of the protection and safeguarding of cultural heritage by the Government of Iraq and underlines the importance of cooperation in this field. The EU is making a major contribution in reviving the spirit of Mosul and Basra through reconstruction, as well as in the revitalisation of the Erbil Citadel, and will continue to support actions in this regard. Moreover, the EU Advisory Mission in Iraq is advising national authorities in improving the capacity to address and fight organised crime against cultural heritage.

Migration and asylum

38. In the framework of Article 105 of the PCA and its other relevant obligations, the EU and Iraq will continue to closely cooperate on migration including on protection and forced displacement, migration governance and management, countering migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings, return and readmission, as well as sustainable reintegration.
39. The EU acknowledges the substantial and sustained improvements in Iraq's readmission cooperation. It is nevertheless crucial that efforts on return and readmission, including non-voluntary returns, continue and are further strengthened with all Member States with concrete steps to maintain and expand the improvements in the operational cooperation in all phases of the readmission process in accordance with international obligations and political commitments on readmission that are the foundation of our cooperation. The Commission is looking forward to a swift conclusion of a readmission instrument, to further contribute to ensuring more effective readmission cooperation with all Member States and swifter returns. The EU will continue

supporting Iraq through funding linked to migration governance as well as root causes of migration, fragility and displacement.

Energy, climate change and environment

40. The EU commends Iraq for its ratification of the Paris Agreement and encourages Iraq's commitment to follow up on the required steps to implement Iraq's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The EU and Iraq reiterate their commitment to undertake efforts to limit global warming to 1.5°C and given the outcomes of the first Global Stocktake and latest scientific findings, will put forward more ambitious NDCs to bridge the gap between current commitments and this goal. The EU reiterates the importance of coordination on climate action and encourages Iraq to take substantive steps to reduce carbon emissions, as well as to tackle the effects of global climate change on its people and strengthen resilience to the impacts of the climate crisis that are already underway.
41. The EU reiterates the importance of ongoing electricity and gas market reforms in Iraq, in view of international assistance offered. The EU understands that Iraq relies on the private sector for its gas market reform and to address, inter alia, gas flaring. Nevertheless, the EU encourages Iraq to reduce unnecessary gas flaring, to collect the gas instead to become less import-dependent and to use the saved gas for domestic electricity production. The EU welcomes that Iraq signed up to the Global Methane Pledge and sees the need for rapid action. In particular, it encourages the Iraqi Ministry of Oil and/or its subsidiary operating companies to consider joining the UNEP Oil and Gas Methane Partnership 2.0, the global standard for methane measurement and abatement.
42. The EU encourages Iraq to make full use and implement effectively the World Bank's technical assistance project on electricity. The EU encourages Iraq to further embrace renewables (notably solar power) and lauds Iraq on its path to improve the country's energy efficiency potential to green the energy sector.
43. Environmentally sustainable approaches are essential for Iraq, notably on water management and energy, also to address social challenges like demographic growth, refugees and internally displaced persons. Further support to water management, including support in its negotiations with neighbouring countries on the issue will be crucial both for Iraq as well as for regional stability.
44. The EU and Iraq have expressed a shared interest in urgently tackling the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution through the transition towards sustainable, fair and resilient economies. The EU is ready to share its policy experience and stands ready to help Iraq reap all the benefits that the green transition can offer. While underlining that Iraq needs to do its part, the EU inter alia provides support for energy sector governance, climate smart agriculture, and renewable energy. The EU will, moreover, explore options to provide technical assistance in areas hitherto not offered to build capacity of relevant Ministries (e.g. legislation, methane regulation and monitoring on air pollution).

Aviation Safety

45. In the framework of the EU Air Safety List and the structured dialogue between the European Commission and the Iraqi authorities, the situation in Iraq remains under close monitoring. In the course of the ongoing exchanges, it has been stressed that Iraq must still demonstrate essential progress in strengthening its aviation safety framework and oversight. The Commission, together with the EU Air Safety Committee, remains committed to a continued dialogue with the Iraq Civil

Aviation Authority, and stands ready to support Iraq in achieving tangible progress towards compliance with international aviation safety standards.

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