

PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, 5 April 1995

6314/95 (Presse 109)

P. 033/95

**STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN UNION ON TURKISH INTERVENTION
IN NORTHERN IRAQ**

During its visit to Ankara on 23 March, the ministerial Troika expressed its concern at Turkey's intervention in northern Iraq and the risks incurred by civilians, particularly refugees. It asked for that operation to be brought swiftly to an end. It took note of the assurances given by the Turkish authorities as to the limited duration of the military intervention in northern Iraq and the protection of the civilian population.

In the light of recent statements and official contacts with certain members of the Turkish government concerning the extension and objectives of the operation, the European Union once more expresses its grave concern, reaffirms the need for strict respect for human rights and international humanitarian law, and calls for the early withdrawal of Turkish troops.

Iceland and Norway, as EFTA Member States, parties to the EEA, associate themselves with this statement.