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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union**  
**on the Turkish incursion into Iraq**

The Presidency of the European Union notes with concern the fact that the Turkish armed forces have once again entered northern Iraq. Notwithstanding its understanding of the Turkish wish to end terrorist actions, the EU Presidency stresses that a solution to the Kurdish problem can only be achieved politically, not militarily. It calls on Turkey to exercise the utmost restraint, to respect human rights, not to endanger the lives of innocent civilians and to withdraw its military forces from Iraqi territory as soon as possible.