

P R E S S R E L E A S E

Brussels, 9 November 1998

12738/98 (Presse 376)
P. 136/98

Declaration by the European Union on Iraq

The European Union condemns as totally unacceptable Iraq's decision of 31 October to cease all cooperation with UNSCOM. The European Union supports the Security Council's response to that decision, SCR 1205 of 5 November. The European Union urges Iraq to resume full cooperation with UNSCOM and the IAEA immediately, and expresses its continued support for both organisations. The European Union also welcomes the fact that the Security Council has again expressed its readiness to hold a comprehensive review of Iraq's obligations once Iraq had resumed cooperation. The European Union expresses its strong hope that Iraq will do so soon and confirms its full support for the Secretary General in his efforts to seek full implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding of 23 February 1998.

Meanwhile, the European Union will work together with all the neighbours of Iraq to seek the more effective enforcement of existing sanctions. Specifically, the Presidency (Troika) will make contact with these countries to that end. At the same time, the European Union will work to continue to ensure more effective implementation of the oil for food programme and full Iraqi cooperation in preventing any unnecessary suffering for the Iraqi people.