

# European Community

## News Release

### USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS

Common Statement of 25 May 1987,  
of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs  
of the Twelve Member States of the European Community

Foreign Ministers of the Twelve have again been informed that chemical weapons have been used in the conflict between Iraq and Iran. The Twelve are deeply concerned by the unanimous conclusions reached by the experts sent to the region by the Secretary-General of the United Nations which were contained in the President of the Security Council's declaration on 14 May 1987. It emerges from their report to the Secretary-General of 8 May 1987 that Iraqi forces have once again used chemical weapons against Iranian troops. Furthermore, the experts have also established both that Iraqi troops have suffered losses caused by this type of weapon, and that the civilian population in Iran has been subjected to attacks with chemical weapons.

This makes clear that the dispositions of the 1925 Geneva Protocol have been repeatedly violated, despite pressing appeals from the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Security Council. The Twelve strongly condemn these flagrant breaches, and reiterate that they will continue to develop their internal arrangements in order to ensure that the Geneva Protocol is respected.

It is the responsibility of the world community as a whole to ensure that the Protocol is respected. The Twelve urgently appeal for an immediate end to the use of chemical weapons in the conflict involving these two countries.

In addition, the Twelve express their profound concern about recent developments in the Gulf. They appeal to all parties concerned to exercise maximum restraint and, recalling their declaration of 8 April 1986, call on the belligerents to use all peaceful means in order to end the Gulf conflict without delay, on the basis of Security Council resolution 582.

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