

DRAFT ELEMENTS ON IRAQ

[The EU welcomes the report to the UNSC on 27 January by Dr Blix and Dr El Baradei.]

The European Union reaffirms that its goal remains the disarmament of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction in accordance with UNSCR 1441 of 8 November 2002 and other relevant resolutions of the Security Council. Resolution 1441 sends an unambiguous message to the Iraqi government. The international community is united in its determination to eliminate Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. The resolution points the way for Iraq to resolve the crisis peacefully.

The Iraqi authorities must provide their full and active co-operation to allow the weapons inspectors to proceed with their important task without interference. The EU welcomes the intention of the weapons inspectors to continue and intensify their operations on this basis. It expresses its full confidence in Dr Blix and Dr El Baradei and their leadership of the inspection operations of UNMOVIC and the IAEA.

The EU underlines once more its full and unequivocal support for UNSCR 1441. It will continue to give its full support to the efforts of the UN to ensure full and immediate compliance by Iraq. The role of the Security Council in maintaining international peace and security must be respected.

The EU urges the Iraqi Government to grasp this final opportunity to comply with its disarmament obligations. This is the only way for Iraq to avoid further confrontation.