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PROPOSAL FOR A RECOMMENDATION TO THE COUNCIL

pursuant to Rule 114(1) of the Rules of Procedure

by Ana Maria Gomes

on behalf of the PSE Group

on the role of the European Union in Iraq

European Parliament recommendation to the Council on the role of the European Union in Iraq

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 114(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the role of Iraq is vital to the stability of the whole region and of the Middle East at large;
- B. whereas there has been violence within and between its communities;
- C. whereas no military solution is possible, and even less so one imposed by foreign forces;
- D. whereas it is necessary to create a national force for maintaining order that brings together all the communities and is viewed as trustworthy by them;
- E. whereas all the political players from every community need to be included in the quest for a lasting solution;
- F. whereas it is necessary to continue to relieve the misfortunes of the Iraqi civilian population, and especially those who are displaced or refugees in neighbouring countries;
- G. whereas commitments were made at the 'Donors' Conference';
- I. whereas the European Parliament has joint responsibility for the European budget;
- J. whereas between 2003 and 2006 the European Union granted Iraq EUR 718,5 million in aid;
- K. whereas European Union funding has been channelled, without any real European oversight, essentially via the UN and the World Bank, into the 'International Reconstruction Fund Facility for Iraq';
- 1. Addresses the following recommendations to the Council:
 - a) maintain the European Union's contribution to the creation of a unified, stable, democratic, secular state respectful of religious freedoms;
 - b) step up efforts to bring the different communities closer together, particularly in the fields of constitutional reform and power sharing;
 - c) develop, in close partnership with the UN, the other international players and the Iraqi authorities, a cohesive long-term plan for reform of the security sector based on the principle of democratic responsibility of the armed forces and placing the emphasis on demobilisation of the militias;

- d) help Iraq to take advantage of its mineral resources;
 - e) carry out an independent 'audit' of the utilisation of European funding channelled via the UN and the World Bank.
2. Instructs its President to forward this recommendation to the Council and, for information, to the Commission, and to the Iraqi Government, the Iraqi Council of Representatives, the UN and the World Bank.