



EU COUNCIL SECRETARIAT
~BACKGROUND~

EU RULE OF LAW MISSION FOR IRAQ

October 2007

- Following consultations with the Iraqi interim authorities and on the basis of a report by a team of experts, the EU started planning an operation as part of the implementation of the EU programme of action for Iraq presented in November 2004. Following the 21 February 2005 decision by the Council to launch the mission, and after the subsequent planning phase, the operational phase of the EU Integrated Rule of Law mission for Iraq - "EUJUST LEX" - started in July 2005. The mission falls under the scope of the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP).
- The mission consists of integrated training in the fields of management and criminal investigation for senior officials from the judiciary, the police and the penitentiary in order to promote an integrated criminal justice system in Iraq.
- The mission is meeting its training objectives beyond expectations: nearly 1300 judges, investigating magistrates, judicial investigators, senior police and penitentiary officers involved in senior management and criminal investigation have already participated in integrated and single disciplinary training courses in 13 Member States. Nearly all Member States are currently to some degree involved in offering training for Iraqis. Training is carried out on the basis of common curricula.

P R E S S

- Training activities take place in the EU and the mission has a liaison office in Baghdad. The arrangements for this mission are determined in close partnership with the Iraqi authorities. The Mission complements the international efforts under way and coordinates with international efforts planned for the future. A coordination office is active in Brussels.

- On 12 June 2006, welcoming the progress of the mission, the Council agreed to extend EUJUST LEX for a further period of 18 months until 31 December 2007, in response to Iraqi needs and requests and adopted a joint action covering this extension. The second phase of the mission focused on providing additional single disciplinary (specialist) training activities and also work-experience secondments (for police and penitentiary) in the EU Member States. These are:
 - Senior Police Leadership
 - Managing Murder Investigations
 - Public Order Management and Human Rights
 - Fair Trial and Human Rights
 - Financial Crime
 - Forensic Science
 - Senior Penitentiary Leadership
 - Developing Prison Standards in a Human Rights Framework
 - Strategies for Managing Vulnerable Prisoners; Females, Juveniles and Ethnic Minorities

- Mr Stephen White was appointed Head of the EUJUST LEX mission on 8 March 2005 and on 13 June 2006 his mandate was extended.

- An amount of 11.3 million euro from the EU budget is allocated to cover the common costs of the mission for the second phase. In addition, Member States will continue to contribute training courses, trainers and staff.

- On 25 September 2007, welcoming the achievements made by the mission, the Council agreed to extend EUJUST LEX for a second time, for a further 18 month-period taking operations up to June 2009. The Mission will continue to offer both integrated and single

disciplinary courses and work-experience secondments to meet the specific needs of the Iraqi criminal justice sector, while maintaining a focus on human rights. While evaluating its past training interventions, the Mission will continue to facilitate highly practical courses and work-experience secondments while aiming to enhance gender balance and geographical representation in its training interventions.
