


Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2000/2329(INI)	Procedure completed
The situation in Iraq ten years after the Gulf War		
Subject 6.10.04 Third-country political situation, local and regional conflicts		
Geographical area Iraq		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	AFET Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security, Defense	ELDR NICHOLSON OF WINTERBOURNE <small>Baroness</small>	05/12/2000

Key events			
18/01/2001	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
23/04/2002	Vote in committee		Summary
23/04/2002	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0157/2002	
15/05/2002	Debate in Parliament		
16/05/2002	Decision by Parliament	T5-0248/2002	Summary
16/05/2002	End of procedure in Parliament		
31/07/2003	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2000/2329(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 54
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AFET/5/14256

Documentation gateway

Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0157/2002	23/04/2002	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0248/2002 OJ C 180 31.07.2003, p. 0405-0499 E	16/05/2002	EP	Summary

The situation in Iraq ten years after the Gulf War

The committee adopted the own-initiative report by Emma NICHOLSON (ELDR, UK) on the situation in Iraq eleven years after the Gulf War. It declared its support for the resolution adopted by the UN Commission for Human Rights on 16 April 2002, which said that the situation in Iraq had scarcely improved. MEPs strongly condemned the serious, repeated violations of human rights and international humanitarian law by the Iraqi Government, the widespread use of the death penalty, summary and arbitrary executions, torture and rape, the disappearances and the forced relocations of the population. They also called on the Iraqi Government to cease immediately its encouragement for the murderous policy of suicide bombings by Palestinians in the Middle East. The committee also said it was urgent, on humanitarian grounds, to lift general economic and trade sanctions while keeping the arms embargo in place. It reemphasised the importance of a multilateral political solution in the region under UN auspices, while at the same time rejecting any military action not covered by UN resolutions. The UN was urged to allocate part of the funds of the 'oil for food' programme, which was felt to have had little impact, to provide humanitarian aid for the 3.5 million Iraqi refugees, displaced persons and victims of terrorist, biological and chemical attacks. In view of the appalling situation in Iraq, MEPs reaffirmed the need to take swift action by deploying special human rights observers throughout the country and they also called for the creation of an international commission to investigate disappearances. The Council and Commission were urged to set up an 'office of inquiry' on human rights and put in place an active strategy which would include increased monitoring and public condemnation of human rights violations, a refusal to allow leading members of the Iraqi régime into EU states and a freeze on their illegal financial assets. The report stressed the need to bring those guilty of human rights abuses in Iraq before an ad hoc international tribunal for Iraq and, if possible, the International Criminal Court. It also demanded support for the democratic experience of the Kurdish administration in northern Iraq and for projects for the development of civil society. Concerned at the Iraqi authorities' failure to protect the environment, the committee called for measures to rehabilitate the worst affected areas, including the badly damaged South Iraqi marshlands. Lastly MEPs called on the Council to adopt a common position on the situation in Iraq, as a first step towards the adoption of a joint strategy towards the whole region.?

The situation in Iraq ten years after the Gulf War

By adopting by 354 votes to 29, with 31 abstentions, the report by Baroness Emma Nicholson of Winterbourne (ELDR, UK) on the situation in Iraq eleven years after the Gulf War, the European Parliament has overwhelmingly endorsed the position adopted by the lead committee, on whose own initiative the report was drafted (see previous summary). The House, however, has adopted a number of amendments designed to reaffirm the position of its rapporteur, who states that there has been no improvement in the human-rights situation and therefore calls on the Council and the Commission to set up in the shortest time possible an active strategy comprising closer monitoring and public denunciation of human-rights violations, explicit denial of access to the EU for Iraqi leaders, coupled with the detection and freezing of their illegal financial assets, keeping up the pressure on the Baghdad regime to put an end to repression and supporting the democratic experience of the Kurdish administration in Northern Iraq and projects for the development of civil society. Parliament particularly stresses the need to bring those responsible of human rights abuses in Iraq before an ad hoc International Tribunal for Iraq, which would have to be set up because the International Criminal Court is only empowered to prosecute for crimes committed after the entry into force of its Statute, i.e. after 1 July 2002. While noting with satisfaction the commitment made by Iraq at the Beirut summit at the end of March 2002 to respect the internationally recognised borders of Kuwait, the House emphatically urges the Baghdad authorities to fulfil their international obligations, to cease unlawful practices, to respect ethnic and religious minorities and to cooperate with the United Nations in security matters and allow verification inspections by the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM). Finally, there is also a suggestion that Iraq should eventually be brought into the Convention on Chemical Weapons. ?