



Resolution on the war in Iraq

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The European Youth Forum and its member organisations

- Take into consideration the recent discussions, demonstrations and the different actions which young people in Europe and in the world have undertaken in the last months. We welcome the fact that young people got visible on the political scene and have taken their legitimate right through manifestations conveying messages of peace and respect for the international law.
- Believe in peace, in the respect for Human Rights and in a resolution of the conflicts in the frame of the United Nations. The United Nations and the democratic institutions should ensure peace in a diplomatic framework.
- Think the fall of Saddam Hussein and his despotic regime represents a release, both for Iraqi people and the entire world. But we are convinced that the foundations of a democratic society should not be imposed by war.

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- Urge the International Community and the UN - even if some democratic reforms are necessary - not to legitimize this pre-emptive war retrospectively ; so as not to worsen the consequences, which this precedent case could have on the world order and on the way to resolve conflicts from now onwards. To support this war would mean that the future conflicts would depend on occasional coalitions.

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- Are against the use of military force without mandate.
- Demand the forces on the ground to fulfil the duties as regards human rights and the protection of civilians. The ongoing humanitarian crisis in Iraq and people's basic needs must be handled and dealt with continuing, effective actions of the UN and the entire world community. While building democracy in Iraq, the people's humanitarian needs must be strongly addressed.

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- Condemn the acts of plundering and destructions which were perpetrated with complete impunity against health centres and humanitarian programmes.
- Condemn the acts of vandalism and plundering of Iraqi wealth and cultural heritage.
- Ask the occupying troops that hospitals and the monuments of cultural value benefit from an adequate protection.

It is the responsibility of the occupying troops to take up the challenge of controlling the immediate post-war chaos.

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- Encourage the international community to undertake rapid actions and to integrate all parts of Iraqi society in order to avoid civil unrest. Continuous instability in the region is a potential breeding ground for terrorism, which we condemn. For this reason also, we urge the international community to ensure a democratic order, where all Iraqi forces are represented, to be put into force under the guidance of the UN.

The strong role of the UN is also a key to international recognition of the coming new leadership in Iraq.

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- Representing the youth of Europe, urge for rapid, pragmatic and consensual co-operation of the UN Security Council members, as well as for a strong and supportive role of the EU countries for a sustainable peace to take place in Iraq. The EU must take a decisive role and unanimous actions to promote this aim. The EU must speak with one voice on these matters.
- Need a common European approach to international peace and security. It is vital that EU as soon as possible develops a more consistent Common Foreign and Security Policy and leaves the divisions of the past behind. A divided Europe will not benefit international peace and security.

If the people in Iraq are to determine their own future, the UN must play a key stabilising role in the country. The trust in the international legal framework has to be established and the economic and political reconstruction of the country has to fall within the responsibility and be put under the assistance of the UN. It is for that purpose and for the Iraqi people that the resources have to be used.