



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 28.6.2018  
C(2018) 3986 final

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Senat for its Opinion concerning the Joint Communication on elements for an EU strategy for Iraq {JOIN(2018) 1 final}.*

*The Commission greatly appreciates the Senat's support to the Communication on the European Union's Strategy for Iraq, as endorsed by the Foreign Affairs Council on 22 January 2018.*

*As regards the Senat views on the synergies between the international actors operating in Iraq and the region, we fully concur that coordination is essential to avoid overlap. In promoting such coordination, and in contributing to the collective efforts of the international community in Iraq, it is however essential to preserve and highlight the distinct added value of the European Union's and of its Member States' engagement in the country.*

*In relation to the upcoming national elections in Iraq, the European Union continues to insist on the need to ensure inclusivity of political processes whether in relation to the elections, government formation, or other areas of Iraqi political public life. We do not have a mandate to build a parliamentary cooperation platform, as this remains the prerogative of the Iraqi Council of Representatives and its Members. However, we stand ready, at the request of the Iraqi authorities, to support, as appropriate, a nationally driven Iraqi reform process that promotes and preserves unity, peace, stability and prosperity in the country.*

*Finally, regarding the implementation and evaluation of the European Union's strategy for Iraq, the Joint Communication endorsed by the Foreign Ministers of the Union stipulates that a review of the strategy will be carried out two years following its adoption. Notwithstanding this formal provision, we are regularly updating Member States on the progress in the implementation of the strategy through the appropriate working groups of the Council of Ministers and will continue to do so throughout the life of the strategy.*

*Mr Călin POPESCU-TĂRICEANU  
President of the Senat  
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*The Commission hopes that these clarifications address the issues raised by the Senat and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Frans Timmermans  
First Vice-President*

*Federica Mogherini  
Vice-President/High Representative*