

Joint Declaration

We met today to discuss the shared common interests of the EU and Iraq in ensuring safe, secure and affordable energy for our citizens and in promoting the sustainable development of our respective energy sectors.

We recalled the signature on 18 January 2010 in Bagdad of the Memorandum of Understanding establishing a Strategic Partnership in Energy between the European Union and the Government of Iraq, by which both sides committed to contribute, *inter alia*, to the development of a comprehensive, integrated and sustainable energy policy for Iraq, to cooperate closely in enhancing the security of electricity supplies in Iraq and to endeavour to identify the scale of exports of natural gas from Iraq to the EU taking into account Iraq's domestic market needs.

We welcomed the first meeting of the Joint Energy Working Group co-chaired by Director General for Energy of the European Commission, Philip Lowe and Deputy Oil Minister of Iraq, Ahmed Al-Shamma on 4 May in Brussels, and the agreed priorities for joint activities on electricity, sustainable energy and natural gas under the Memorandum of Understanding.

We noted, in particular, the significant need for rapid improvement in the supply and distribution of electricity in Iraq which is affecting all parts of the society. Recent studies have revealed an urgent need for significant investments in generation, transmission and distribution, including generation from low and zero-carbon emission sources.

We further decided to collaborate in view of defining a sound plan for sustainable energy expansion in Iraq, including through the provision of technical assistance for the promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency, enhanced technology cooperation and vocational training.

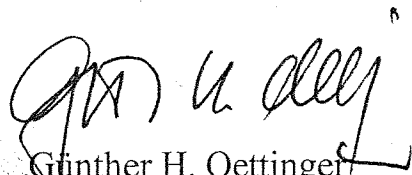
We noted the significant natural gas reserves in Iraq. We recognised the importance of these reserves for the planned expansion of Iraq's electricity generating capacity and that also through the recovery of associated gas, as well as other gas resources, Iraq would have the potential to commence natural gas exports to the EU.

We recalled in this context the importance of the Southern Corridor for diversification of EU import and Iraqi export of natural gas and the need for both parties to collaborate closely for the identification of volumes and routes for this purpose. We acknowledge that all entities party to the Southern Corridor project must observe Iraqi laws pertaining to gas production and export from Iraq. This includes abiding by relevant legislation on any contract for export from, or development of, oil and gas fields in Iraq as approved by the Federal Iraqi Government. We also recognised that the export of natural gas is a potentially significant source of national revenues for the producer countries concerned. The European Commission welcomes the commitment of the Government of Iraq to supply gas to the EU through the Southern Corridor.


We hereby confirm our commitment to:

1. Work together to improve the security of electricity supply and sustainable energy in Iraq, including through the introduction of electricity generation from renewable energy sources and energy demand side measures;
2. Jointly identify the export gas volumes to the world market, including through the Southern Corridor to the EU, that could be used to underwrite Iraqi domestic energy infrastructure investments by taking into account Iraq's domestic market needs.
3. Explore possibilities to increase oil exports from Iraq to the EU, as well as to international markets;
4. Initiate preparations for a regional Centre of Excellence for research and training on energy in Iraq.
5. Initiate an academic fellowship exchange program with relevant EU institutes.

Signed in Brussels, on the 26th of May 2011.



Günther H. Oettinger
Commissioner for Energy



Hussain al-Shahristani
Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq