

Reception of Iraqi refugees in Member States of the European Union - Conclusions (JHA Council September 2008)

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

"The Council would refer to its conclusions of 24 July 2008 in which it considered it necessary to continue contacts in order to agree on the most appropriate forms of solidarity with all Iraqis, and agreed to return to the question at its next meeting.

In this context, the Council notes the Commission's intention to conduct a mission to Syria and Jordan in order to assess the situation of the most vulnerable Iraqi refugees in those countries, together with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and to examine the possibilities for resettlement in Member States willing to receive them.

The Council encourages the Commission to carry out this mission at the earliest opportunity and asks it to report back as soon as possible. It also invites interested Member States to take part.

The Council also notes that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has expressed the hope that, in the long term, most Iraqi refugees will be able to return to their country of origin in conditions of security, although, for some, resettlement will continue to be necessary."