

**JOINT COMMUNIQUE OF THE  
2<sup>ND</sup> JOINT MINISTERIAL TRADE COUNCIL  
BETWEEN  
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF IRAQ  
AND  
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM  
OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND**

The Governments of the Republic of Iraq and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland ("the Participants") held a second meeting of the Joint Ministerial Trade Council on 25 November 2013 at Lancaster House in London.

Wishing to develop their trade relationship on the basis of mutual advantage the Participants:

1. **Recalled the agreement of 12 February 2013 and reiterated a commitment to strategic dialogue on how to increase trade between Iraq and the UK:**
  - (a) agreed to hold a third meeting in 2014 in Iraq;
  - (b) noted the particular importance of dialogue on financial services, energy and infrastructure, welcoming the role of UK investment in Iraq in these fields;
  - (c) encouraged UK firms in these sectors to enter the Iraqi market;
  - (d) agreed to work with the City of London to consider specific opportunities for the UK to assist development of financial services in Iraq;
  - (e) agreed to begin discussions on options to facilitate bilateral investment between Iraq and the UK
2. **Reiterated its support for business links between Iraq and the UK through trade missions and trade fairs.**
  - (a) welcomed cooperation to deliver the largest trade mission by UK companies to Baghdad from 17-19 November, which also visited Erbil from 19-21 November;
  - (b) agreed to cooperate on a further missions in 2014, including sector-specific missions;
  - (c) welcomed the first full UK delegation and pavilion that will attend the 2013 Oil & Gas International Fair in Basra from 5-8 December.
3. **Commended steps to improve visa provision for those travelling between Iraq and the UK and called for further progress.**
  - (a) welcomed the opening of a Visa Application Centre in Baghdad in 2013 and the establishment of a mobile Visa Application Centre in Erbil;
  - (b) commended plans to open a mobile Visa Application Centre in Basra in 2014;

- (c) welcomed the introduction of a quicker business service for Iraqi visas in the UK;
- (d) encouraged Iraq to remove requirements for an exit visa and blood test for visitors.

**4. Reiterated its commitment to improve transport links between the UK and Iraq.**

- (a) noted cooperation in 2013, including recent training of Iraq officials on aviation security at UK facilities;
- (b) welcomed visits by UK officials to airports in Baghdad and Erbil scheduled for late 2013 /early 2014;
- (c) urged both the UK and Iraq to cooperate fully on security and other issues relevant to consideration of re-establishing direct flights between Iraq and the UK in 2014

**5. Recognised the importance of improving customs systems for trade links between Iraq and the UK:**

- (a) welcomed the first phase of a UK project to identify procedural problems with customs in Iraq and welcomed its recommendations
- (b) confirmed a commitment to work together on these recommendations and called for their endorsement by the Government of Iraq;
- (c) recommended extension of the National Investment Commission's 10-day authorization process for customs;
- (d) agreed to consider future cooperation in the banking, customs, insurance and other financial services sectors ahead of the next meeting.

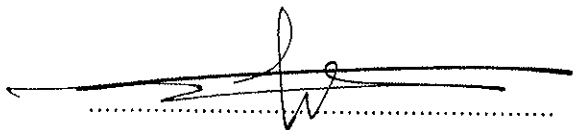
**6. Welcomed steps to improve procurement processes and committed to joint working on further progress:**

- (a) welcomed the Government of Iraq's Ministry of Planning's work on new procurement instructions to be applied to all Governorates and Ministries;
- (b) noted that this matter has been approved by the Iraqi Council of Ministers, and will be forwarded to the Ministry of Planning to take action.
- (c) welcomed an offer of UK technical support to assist implementation.

**7. Condemned acts of terrorism and other violence that damage the Iraqi people's security and prosperity**

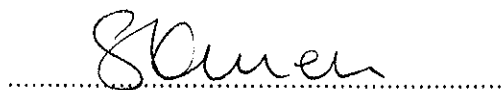
- (a) welcomed further progress on Iraq's development as a democracy, including free and fair provincial elections in 2013 and setting of a date for federal elections on 30 April 2014;
- (b) welcomed progress on Iraq fulfilling its obligations under UN Security Council Resolution 687 and transfer of responsibilities into Chapter VI;
- (c) notes the importance of security and regional integration for the Iraqi people's prosperity;
- (d) condemns in the strongest terms acts of terrorism that kill and injure the innocent, damage likelihoods and harm Iraq's economic development;

(e) calls on all in Iraq and the international community to work together in the interests of a stable, democratic and prosperous Iraq.

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HE Mr Hoshyar Zebari,  
Minister of Foreign Affairs

**THE GOVERNMENT OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF IRAQ**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Green', positioned above a dotted line.

Lord Green of Hurstpierpoint  
Minister of State for Trade and Investment

**THE GOVERNMENT OF  
UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT  
BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND**