



YOUNG EUROPEAN SOCIALISTS

**ECOSY Bureau Meeting
The Netherlands
19th - 21st November 2004**

For the reconstruction of Iraq by the Iraqi people under UN auspices

For the application of international law in Iraq

ECOSY - Young European Socialists can only be happy of the downfall of a dictatorial regime. However, it must not hide the fact that the end of the regime of Saddam Hussein was the result of a breach of international law and that the worse predictions as to the effects it would have come true. The concept of preventive war confirms to be both wrong and ineffective.

The military invasion of Iraq by the United States and its allies under the false pretences of connivances with Al Qaida and of presence of weapons of massive destruction in the country without any mandate of the United Nations has not led to the promotion of democracy in the Middle East. No lasting peace has been installed. On the contrary, arguments are being fed against Western countries in general and the United States in particular and in favour of fundamentalism.

The United States and their leader George W. Bush have proven to be incapable in managing the crisis they have created in Iraq. The country has never had as many criminal organisations on its territories like the ones we hear too often about when they kidnap hostages that are foreign to the conflict and whom we strongly condemn.

Seeing the mounting problems in Iraq, we urge the governments from our political family to demand that the handling of the crisis is taken over by the United Nations, with due support and resources provided by its members.

For the economic and democratic reconstruction of the country

The Iraqi population is the first to be hit by the current situation of the country. Iraqi people must face massive unemployment and the increasing poverty of the country. No real infrastructure was rebuilt, though it was promised it would be done in a short period of time, concerning water, electricity, schools, etc. The lack of security including for the civilians makes the situation even more difficult. Moreover, scandals have hit the American administration like the one in the Abu Graib prison, or civilians are bombarded during attempts at supposedly eliminating "terrorists nests".

Misery can only lead to anger. It is just another way to help the recruitment of fundamentalists.

There is no political perspective nor any coherent rebuilding plan being defined. The so-called transfer of sovereignty last 30th June and the handling of the situation by the temporary Iraqi government are not convincing. The United States are still behind every thing and only give the impression of being a new type of colonialists there to lead a unilateral policy, to take advantage of the petrol.

- The only way out of this crisis is the taking over of the situation by the United Nations to ensure and secure a political, practical and humanitarian solution to the current conflict. For the UN is the only legal framework for the resolution of conflicts.

- American and allied troops must withdraw and let the space for UN blue helmets to help ensuring the internal security of the country, who would have been given the legitimacy to do so by a UN mandate.
- The reconstruction of the country and the setting up of a political process to establish democracy in the country must be the priorities. The United States and their allies must take part in their financing.
- The United Nations will have to assist the Interim Government of Iraq fulfilling the right of the Iraqi people to determine freely their own political future and control their own natural resources within a clear transitional period time table.
- The creation of a real police force and an accountable administration should also be fostered by the United Nations.
- The development of an Iraqi civil society through associations, trade unions, etc, must also be promoted.
- The privatisation of the services of general interest in Iraq, that is happening in the name of “reconstruction”, has to stop.
- The European Union should take its responsibilities in the region, both politically and economically, above all in conflict solution.

ECOSY - Young European Socialists call on the European Union and its member States to be the actors of a common European foreign policy at the service of peace and democracy in the whole Middle East.