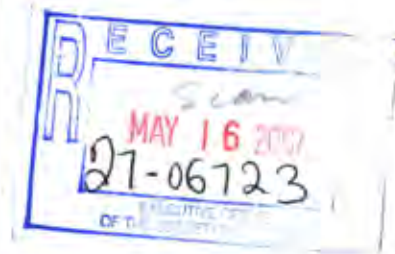


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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF

# BULGARIA

TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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No. 1817

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Bulgaria to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the United Nations, the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, and with reference to the high-level launch of the International Compact with Iraq on 3 May 2007 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, has the honour to forward a copy of the statement delivered by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria H.E. Mr. Ivailo Kalfin at the forum.

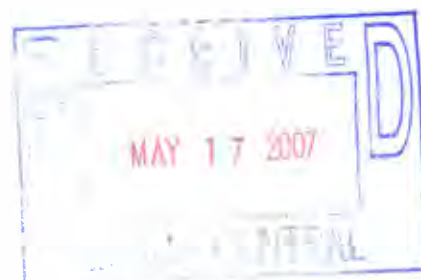
The Permanent Mission of Bulgaria wishes to draw attention to paragraphs 5 and 6 on page 2 of the statement of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria H.E. Mr. Ivailo Kalfin which reiterate the consistent position of the Republic of Bulgaria on the outstanding debt issue with Iraq.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Bulgaria to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the United Nations, the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, the assurances of its highest consideration.

New York, 17 May 2007



To  
Secretariat of the United Nations  
The Executive Office of the Secretary General  
New York, N.Y. 10017



***STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. IVAILO KALFIN, DEPUTY PRIME-MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA, ON THE OCCASION OF THE LAUNCH OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMPACT WITH IRAQ (SHARM EL-SHEIKH, 3 MAY 2007)***

Your Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary General of the United Nations,

Your Excellency Mr. Nuri al-Maliki, Prime-minister of the Republic of Iraq,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me first of all extend my high appreciation to the United Nations and the Government of Iraq for having convened this meeting.

I would also like to warmly thank President Mubarak, Minister Abulgeit and the Egyptian government for hosting today's and tomorrow's very important events. Having the official **Launch** of the International Compact with Iraq here in Sharm el-Sheikh is a clear sign of the strong commitment undertaken by the countries of the region. Such a commitment is indisputably of great importance for the success of the Compact.

Our forum is a very important step forward on the way to coordinating the implementation of the Iraqi government's priorities and the international assistance. We commend the resolve of the democratically elected government in Baghdad to strive for the implementation of its ambitious agenda. We believe that today we shall give a very strong signal for the international commitment and support for the efforts of the Iraqi institutions.

The International Compact is an initiative aimed at creating a stable, secure, democratic and prosperous Iraqi state, thus binding not only the international community but the Iraqis as well. In our understanding the objectives of the Compact cannot be accomplished without the ownership and the leading role of the people in Iraq. We, therefore, urge the Iraqi government to undertake the responsibility and clearly commit itself to a speedy resolution of all issues related to national reconciliation, improved security, militia disbandment, Constitution review, economic reform and adoption of important pieces of legislation, such as the Revenue Sharing Law and the Hydrocarbons Law.

I have the pleasure to reaffirm Bulgaria's strong commitment to supporting the Iraqi government and people in their efforts to develop a sovereign, unified, democratic and federal Iraq. The Republic of Bulgaria is participating in the stabilization and reconstruction of Iraq at both bilateral and multilateral levels. Bulgaria has permanently been contributing to the International Coalition in Iraq since its launch in 2003. Currently, about 150 Bulgarian soldiers are engaged in a humanitarian mission in the Eastern part of the country.

In implementation of the pledge made at the International Donor Conference in Madrid, Bulgaria has provided humanitarian assistance to Iraq exceeding USD 530 000, as well as free education for 20 Iraqi students in Bulgarian State Universities. At the time being the training of Iraqi police forces in Bulgaria is under consideration and will probably take place within the framework of the EUJUST LEX during the second half of the year.

With the firm conviction that training the Iraqi security forces is an important prerequisite for consolidating the new Iraqi Authorities, Bulgaria is participating in the NATO Training mission – Iraq and is contributing to the NATO Trust fund. Besides, in August 2006 Bulgaria and Greece organized a joint training for Iraqi military personnel in Bulgaria and we shall consider repeating this exercise.

Our future commitments will include as well providing technical assistance and expertise for the Iraqi official institutions in different fields.

Bulgaria is a country having an outstanding debt issue with Iraq. At this moment we are finalizing the technical talks. The next step is to consider the various options and to take the political decision in the respective institutions.

Our aim is to reach a balanced, positive and realistic solution and we shall make it in cooperation and coordination with the Government of Iraq.

In conclusion, I would like to reconfirm the commitment of Bulgaria not to spare its efforts within its possibilities, as a part of the international community, to support the government and the institutions in Iraq in their endeavor to bring peace, stability and prosperity to the Iraqi people.

Thank you.