

**Ladies and Gentlemen,
Governors of the European Bank,
Honorable Attendees,**

Greetings,

We are pleased to attend the 34th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors and the Business Forum of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in London. We would also like to convey the greetings of the Prime Minister and his best wishes for the success of this meeting.

The Republic of Iraq attaches great importance to this meeting, as it is its first meeting to attend since signing the requesting instrument to obtain the status of recipient country as a Member State of the European Bank, becoming a recipient countries of financing and one of the beneficiaries of the EBRD. Therefore, we believe in the role the Bank will play in Iraq towards rehabilitating, developing, and rebuilding its infrastructure.

Iraq affirms the important role of the EBRD in deepening multilateral cooperation, enhancing communication between the Bank and other Member States, and stimulating investments in light of the global financial crises and the unprecedented pressures they impose on Member States' budgets to meet basic needs and increase the cost of financing, as well as the need for a more flexible and effective global financial system, and the capability of avoiding economic crises.

Finally, we reiterate our thanks and appreciation to the management of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development for their efficient organization and administration. We look forward to achieving tangible outcomes that enhance partnership and cooperation in support of our common goals.

Thank you for your attention.