



# Press Release

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**For immediate use**

## **New constitution must keep Iraq together - Twigg**

STEPHEN TWIGG, Director of the Foreign Policy Centre today said:

"I welcome today's approval by the Iraqi people of the constitution. However, this is only the beginning of a testing time for politics in Iraq.

"There is a massive challenge in Iraq, but also a great opportunity. The new constitution must not simply be a club of regions based on goodwill, but a genuine framework for integration. The central government must have a genuine budget, and not simply be reliant on the regions, and have to go cap in hand to oil producing areas.

"The new constitution must keep Iraq together. I want to challenge the idea that Iraq cannot become a nation. I believe that Iraq can unite, and it is not an artificial construct. Despite tensions in the past and present, I do not believe, as Condoleeza Rice has said that Iraq is suffering from 'ancient hatreds'.

"I believe the Iraqi people are up to the test. The fact that millions of people went to vote in the face of the terror waged by Al-Zarqawi shows the strength of the popular will for a peaceful, democratic future for all Iraqi communities."

**ENDS**

**For more information, please call Alex Bigham on 020 7388 6662 or 07830 195 812**

