

**Declaration tabled by the Romanian delegation on the state of journalists
kidnapped in Iraq**

The Conference of Speakers of EU Parliaments expresses its concern for ensuring the rights of journalists so that they can safely perform their job to inform the public opinion in a correct and objective manner.

The Conference of Speakers of EU Parliaments is deeply concerned with the fact that in certain areas of the world these fundamental rights are directly breached by acts of violence that threaten the life, physical integrity and liberty of journalists.

Recalling the numerous cases of kidnappings of journalists – the most recent being the case of the three Romanian journalists, namely, Marie-Jeanne Ion, Sorin Miscoci and Eduard Ovidiu Ohanesian, kidnapped in Baghdad and held hostages for over 30 days - *the Conference of Speakers of EU Parliaments* strongly condemns such practices and calls upon the immediate release of all journalists that are being held hostages.

Budapest, 7 May 2005