

P R E S S R E L E A S E

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DECLARATION OF THE PRESIDENCY
ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION CONCERNING THE GAMBIA

The European Union has noted the report by the National Consultative Committee and the statement made on 3 February by the Chairman of the Armed Forces Provisional Ruling Council.

Whilst noting with satisfaction that the period for transition towards a civil government has been reduced, the European Union remains concerned that a military government will remain in place until July 1996. It greatly regrets that the opportunity has not been availed of to hand over to an interim civilian government and that effective control of the government consequently remains in the hands of the military.

The European Union would ask the AFPRC to take practical steps without delay to restore constitutional government, thereby enabling the Union to resume its cooperation with the Gambia gradually and in the light of developments.

Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Rumania and Slovakia associate themselves with this declaration.