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**Declaration by the Presidency, on behalf of the European Union  
on the death of Mr Deng Xiaoping**

The Member States of the European Union regret the death of China's paramount leader Deng Xiaoping. Mr Deng's contributions to China's development were numerous: he stimulated economic development, raised the standard of living and prosperity of the Chinese population and played a large role in the opening up of China to the international community. He will be regarded by future generations as an historic figure. Although Mr Deng did not hold any political office during the last few years of his life, his demise will undoubtedly be a great loss to China and its people.

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