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Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
concerning Albania

The European Union expresses grave concern at the breakdown of civil order in Albania. It calls upon the government, political forces and other groups throughout the country to refrain from violence and to work for the restoration of order and a return to a proper political and democratic process, which is the only way to overcome the present crisis.

The EU reiterates its support for the OSCE initiatives and in particular the efforts by the Special Representative of the Chairman-in-Office, former Chancellor Vranitzky. It hopes that the conditions will soon permit his return to Tirana.

The Union expects that the safety of foreign nationals will be safeguarded at all times and that any measures necessary to protect them will be facilitated.

The Union is coordinating closely with the OSCE and other organisations concerned, so that appropriate action can be taken urgently.
