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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
on elections in Liberia**

The European Union congratulates the people of Liberia on the recent substantial progress made in the peace process. It expresses its appreciation for the important role played by ECOWAS and ECOMOG and the UN .

The European Union supports the electoral process as defined by Liberia and ECOWAS, in particular in the decisions of the ECOWAS Committee of Nine meeting of 13 - 14 February, which were further endorsed by the ministerial meeting in New York on 20 February.

The EU, however, is concerned that the Electoral Commission has still not been definitively established and calls on all parties in Liberia and on ECOWAS to do all within their power to ensure that the Electoral Commission is inducted speedily, and that agreed timetables are then respected by all parties so that preparations for the elections can proceed without further delay. Provided that this is done, it confirms its willingness to provide financial and technical assistance to the electoral process.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated country Cyprus and the EFTA countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this declaration.