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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
on the situation in Zambia**

The EU is deeply concerned at the decision made by the National Assembly on 29 January to renew the state of emergency for a further 90 days, which means a continued suspension of basic human rights.

The EU had hoped that within the first period of 90 days the Government of Zambia would complete its enquiries into all those detained under the state of emergency.

The EU now strongly urges the Government of Zambia to complete their investigations with all possible speed, to charge or release all the detainees and to end the state of emergency at the earliest opportunity. The EU also strongly urges the Zambian authorities urgently to investigate allegations of torture made by some of the detainees.

The EU would consider this as a first step towards normalising a situation which would open dialogue inside and outside Zambia and facilitate the resumption of practical international involvement in the Zambian economic reform programme.

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