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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
on Cameroon**

The European Union has taken note of the decision of the President of the Republic of Cameroon to organize general elections on 17 May 1997.

The European Union expresses the desire that these elections take place in a calm and transparent manner, and in particular that every citizen should be able to vote freely and without hindrance. It considers that it is essential that every citizen should be able to take part in the elections to choose a new parliament which corresponds to the aspirations of the people, while respecting the rules of democracy.

The European Union hopes that candidates of all political parties can participate in these elections in a fair and equal way.
