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

The European Union expresses its satisfaction at the holding of legislative elections on 5 June 1997, which enabled the Algerian electorate to vote in orderly and safe conditions.

The European Union takes note of the declaration made by the joint group of international observers, confirming that polling took place under generally satisfactory conditions, although some notable imperfections were recorded.

The holding of these elections marks a step forward in the process of political reform and bears witness to the Algerian people's wish to take charge of its future and to participate directly in the building of a democratic and non violent society.

The European Union hopes that the new Assembly will act as a driving force in the process of democratization and economic restructuring in Algeria.