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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
on Sierra Leone**

The EU recalls its statement of 28 May 1997 on the coup in Sierra Leone. The EU notes with concern that constitutional order has not yet been restored. The European Community and its Member States therefore consider that existing development assistance to Sierra Leone can not be continued under present circumstances.

The EU applauds the strenuous efforts by States in the region to provide a peaceful solution by diplomatic means to the problems of Sierra Leone. The EU supports these initiatives as well as continuing efforts within Sierra Leone to find a resolution to the conflict without further bloodshed.

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.
