

P R E S S R E L E A S E

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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
concerning the violent incidents in Casamance (Senegal)**

The European Union has noted with deep concern the recent renewed outbreak of violence in Casamance (southern region of Senegal). It deplores these incidents which have led to the loss of human lives and expresses the hope that they will not jeopardize the continuation of the reconciliation process in the region. It advocates that the Casamance question be settled by peaceful means.

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.