

PRESS RELEASE

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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the report
of the United Nations Panel of Eminent Persons on the situation in Algeria**

The European Union takes note of and welcomes the detailed report of the United Nations Panel of Eminent Persons to gather information on the situation in Algeria in order to provide the international community with greater clarity of that situation.

The European Union sees the visit of the United Nations Panel as an important step in the dialogue between the international community and Algeria. It hopes the report will help the Algerian Government in its effort to develop the rule of law and to strengthen the democratic process and the reforms to which Algeria is committed.

The European Union will study the report carefully and take its findings into account with regard to the future cooperation between the European Union and Algeria. Furthermore the European Union hopes that Algeria will engage United Nations Human Rights mechanisms in its cooperation with the international community. The European Union believes it is indispensable to strengthen democratic pluralism and to reinforce the civilian element in government, which is now feasible.

In this context the European Union repeats its categorical condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and remains supportive to the Algerian Government's efforts to consolidate democracy and to protect its citizens from terrorism. The European Union repeats its commitment to a political dialogue with Algeria.