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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union  
on the situation in Indonesia**

The EU has noted the historic changes of the last few months in Indonesia. It supports the efforts of the new democratically-elected Indonesian Government and welcomes the steps taken by President Wahid to strengthen the country's democracy, to reform the military and judicial systems, to restore the vitality of its economy and to solve its internal conflicts through dialogue rather than force.

The EU therefore believes that the restrictive measures taken against the previous Indonesian Government in September 1999, and which expired today, need not be renewed but notes that the EU policy regarding arms exports will be governed by strict implementation of the EU Code of Conduct. In this context the EU will continue to follow closely events in Indonesia.

The European Union is deeply concerned at the appalling violence in the Moluccas, the tensions in Irian Jaya and the persisting conflict in Aceh. The EU underlines the need to ensure accountability for past human rights abuses, particularly in East Timor, and the need to meet international concern about the fate of the tens of thousands of refugees who remain in West Timor.

On the eve of President Wahid's visit to Europe, the European Union reaffirms its support for a strong, united and democratic Indonesia and offers its help to the new Indonesian government in overcoming these challenges in order to strengthen the ties which bind together the European Union and a democratic Indonesia.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries Cyprus and Malta and the EFTA countries, Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this declaration.