

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
on the Ethiopian-Eritrean conflict**

Following the briefing by the current Chair of OAU, the European Union commends the efforts of the OAU High-Level Delegation to contribute to a peaceful settlement of the Ethiopian-Eritrean conflict at its meeting under the Chairmanship of H.E. Blaise Compaore, President of Burkina Faso and Current Chairman of the OAU, H.E. Hassan Gouled Aptidon, President of the Republic of Djibouti and H.E. Robert Gabriel Mugabe, President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, in Ouagadougou, on 7/8 November 1998.

The European Union strongly supports the OAU High-Level Delegation's proposals for a framework agreement and urges both parties to commit themselves to full and unequivocal acceptance of these proposals.

In this context the EU positively notes that one side has so far fully accepted the OAU proposals and hopes that the other side, which has not rejected them, will be able to agree with them in a very near future. The EU remains ready to contribute to the implementation of these proposals.

The European Union further endorses the appeal of the OAU High-Level Delegation to the two Parties to exercise maximum restraint.