

PRESS RELEASE

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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
on Guinea Bissau**

The EU welcomes the agreement reached by the Government of Guinea Bissau and the Junta Militar during the 21st Summit of Heads of State of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in Abuja, on 1 November. The signing of this agreement consolidates the cease-fire agreement signed in Praia under the joint mediation of the Community of Portuguese speaking Countries (CPLP) and ECOWAS, and constitutes an important step towards peace and national reconciliation in Guinea Bissau.

The EU calls upon both parties to fulfil their obligations under the Praia and Abuja agreements and to work together towards the prompt implementation of the commitments therein. The Union expresses its readiness to support the organisation of the presidential and parliamentary elections provided for in the Abuja agreement.

The EU reiterates its commitment to continue to provide humanitarian assistance to refugees and displaced persons. In this context it recalls that the European Community Humanitarian Office has moved speedily to tackle the humanitarian crisis and takes note of the readiness of several EU Member States to send high level delegations to Bissau to assess the requirements for assistance programmes. The EU welcomes the decision to open Bissau port and airport, which are fundamental for a regular flow of the humanitarian assistance, and urges all parties to take the necessary steps to allow the transit of humanitarian assistance and to facilitate its delivery to the populations in need.

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

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