

**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 postponement of legislative and local elections in Haiti**

The European Union notes the postponement of legislative and local elections in Haiti and the new dates (9 April – 21 May) proposed by the provisional electoral council.

It regrets that, fourteen months after the parliament was officially prorogued and one year after the provisional electoral council was appointed, the Haitian authorities have, despite large-scale international aid, still been unable to fulfil all the conditions necessary for the holding of fair, just and transparent elections even though the people have demonstrated their keen interest and their sense of responsibility in registering in large numbers and the political parties have stated their willingness to engage in consultations.

The integrity of the electoral process requires that this final postponement be kept as short as possible and that the definitive timetable allow the chamber of deputies to convene on the second Monday of June 2000, in accordance with the Constitution.

Only when all the constitutional organs of the State are able to function can European aid continue to be provided in full.

The European Union remains prepared to make its contribution to the continuation of the democratic process in Haiti.

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

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**Internet: <http://ue.eu.int/Newsroom>  
E-mail: [press.office@consilium.eu.int](mailto:press.office@consilium.eu.int)**