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PRESS RELEASE

**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
on the Korean Peninsula**

The European Union welcomes the proposals made by President Kim Dae-jung in Berlin on 9 March for peace and re-unification on the Korean Peninsula. His Berlin declaration offers clear ways to move forward, and the EU calls on the DPRK to respond positively and constructively, and without pre-conditions. Meaningful direct dialogue between North and South Korea is vital to this process.

The EU also calls on the DPRK to seize the opportunities offered by the planned High-level Meeting with the US, to reduce tension and enhance regional stability.

A constructive approach by the DPRK on these two issues is crucial also to the development of its relations with EU countries and with the EU as a whole.

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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6809/00 (Presse 72 - G)

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