

**P R E S S   R E L E A S E**

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**Statement by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union  
on the extradition of Mladen Naletilic (Tuta) to the ICTY in the Hague**

The European Union acknowledges the decision by the Croatian Government to extradite to the Hague Mladen Naletilic (Tuta), in order that he be put on trial by the International Criminal Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia on charges of having committed crimes against humanity in Southern Bosnia.

The European Union welcomes the Croatian government's gesture, which is in line with new Croatian leadership's commitments to achieve significant progress in the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The European Union has stressed, in its 24 January Council Declaration and in recent high level contacts, that the respect by Croatia of international commitments, notably full cooperation with ICTY, together with meaningful reforms in the political and economic field, are prerequisites to drive Croatia closer to European structures.

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