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## Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the Middle East Peace Process

The EU welcomes the US effort in the London talks, and supports the proposals they have put forward. It also welcomes President Arafat's acceptance of these proposals. It regrets that it was not possible to reach final agreement on the proposals in London, and encourages the Government of Israel to respond positively to them in order to restore momentum in the Peace Process and facilitate the resumption of Final Status talks.

The EU offered its assistance to the parties in facilitating the discussions in London, and will continue to do all it can to help carry the process forward, in support of US efforts.