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

The European Union is gravely concerned at the further deterioration of the situation in Guinea-Bissau, following the recent attempted military coup.

The European Union is particularly concerned at reports of civilian casualties, both in Bissau and amongst those fleeing the fighting. It calls on the mutineers to lay down their arms, thus enabling the immediate re-establishment of constitutional order and an end to further bloodshed.

The European Union further states its readiness to provide humanitarian assistance as soon as the conditions on the ground make it possible to reach those who need it.

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