

**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  
following the presidential elections in Mexico**

1. The European Union congratulates Mr Vicente Fox Quesada on his election victory and wishes him every success in his future task as leader of the United Mexican States.
2. The European Union is pleased at the exemplary way in which the elections were conducted, confirming the consolidation and maturity of democracy in Mexico.
3. The European Union welcomes the fact that the free and open election procedure was carried out under the authority of independent federal electoral institutions, established in their present form by all political parties from the Mexican Congress at the instigation of President Zedillo, whose democratic conviction and commitment the EU applauds.
4. The European Union assures the President elect and the Mexican people of its desire to maintain and build upon its excellent relations with Mexico, as recently strengthened by the comprehensive Economic Partnership, Political Coordination and Cooperation Agreement.

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