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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
concerning the situation in Côte d'Ivoire**

The European Union deeply regrets the many acts of violence committed, in particular against the civilian population and businesses, during the serious disturbances in Côte d'Ivoire on 4 and 5 July 2000; it welcomes the return to calm and takes note of the agreement reached on 5 July 2000.

It hopes that there will be no delay in the electoral process and that the referendum due to be held on 23 July 2000 will take place on schedule.

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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