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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union  
on the constitutional referendum in Cote d'Ivoire**

The European Union welcomes the fact that the citizens of Cote d'Ivoire were able to express their views on the future Constitution on 23 and 24 July 2000 in accordance with the timetable announced by the interim authorities. It regards it as extremely important that polling should be free and transparent and in particular that all political parties should be treated equally.

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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Internet: <http://ue.eu.int/Newsroom>  
E-mail: [press.office@consilium.eu.int](mailto:press.office@consilium.eu.int)