

**P R E S S   R E L E A S E**

Brussels, 15 January 1999

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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union  
on the conflict between Eritrea and Ethiopia**

The European Union reiterates her full support for the OAU's High Level Delegation's proposals for a framework agreement, which was endorsed at the OAU's Central Organ Summit Meeting on December 17, and to the OAU's ongoing commitment to mediate in the conflict between Eritrea and Ethiopia. The European Union is ready to further assist the OAU in that endeavour.

The European Union urges both parties to the conflict to fully cooperate with the OAU mediation and to renew their efforts in order to achieve a peaceful negotiated settlement of their conflict in all its aspects. It is of primary importance that the OAU proposals for a framework agreement are accepted and put into practice without further delay.

While remaining seriously concerned at the continuing flow of arms into the region, the European Union once again calls upon both parties to continue to refrain from any military action and to work for a de-escalation of the conflict by adopting policies geared to the restoration of confidence between the governments and the peoples of Eritrea and Ethiopia including measures to improve the humanitarian situation.

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

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