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

The European Union welcomes the fact that the Government of National Unity has taken office. This constitutes an important step towards the implementation of the peace process in Guinea-Bissau, and commends the mediation efforts by ECOWAS under its current chairman.

The European Union hopes that the new Government will fully commit itself to the tasks of national reconciliation and consolidation of the peace process in order to promote the reconstruction and development of the country. In this context the European Union attaches great importance to the preparation of the electoral process leading to general and presidential elections, in conformity with the Abuja Agreement.

The European Union calls upon the parties to fulfil their obligations and cooperate closely with ECOMOG forces in order to accomplish their mandate and to restore confidence in the country. In this regard the European Union underlines the importance of the withdrawal of foreign troops simultaneously with the deployment of ECOMOG contingents (in accordance with point 2 of the Abuja Agreement) and the necessity of international support for the ECOMOG-mission.

The European Union welcomes the commitment of the parties to reopen the airport and the port of Bissau, essential for the more effective supply of humanitarian aid which the European Union is willing to continue to provide.

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.