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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union  
concerning the parliamentary elections in Togo**

The European Union notes with regret that its initiatives, like those of some Member States and the international organisation for the French-speaking world, for the opening of an inter-Togolese dialogue did not prove successful before the parliamentary elections on 21 March 1999. It is clear to the European Union from the non-participation of all the main opposition parties in the electoral process and from the turnout that the National Assembly thus elected cannot possibly properly reflect the political will of the Togolese people. The European Union fears that the National Assembly, which during its previous term gave voice to and fostered political pluralism, will not henceforth be able to fulfil that democratic role in the same way. It also sees further difficulties with launching the inter-Togolese dialogue promised following the 1998 presidential elections.

The European Union calls upon the Government of Togo, after the results of the poll on 21 March 1999, to maintain a policy of openness and restraint, re-engaging in dialogue with all the political forces, and looks to those forces to continue the efforts embarked upon. The European Union will be watching for such an approach, with which it reiterates its willingness to assist.

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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