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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union  
on the coup d'état in Niger**

The European Union roundly condemns the recent coup d'état which took place in Niger, during which President Bare Mainassara was assassinated.

The European Union deplors the suspension of the 1996 Constitution, and the dissolution of the elected Parliament and of the Government, and call upon the military leadership to set a timetable for a return to democracy as quickly as possible. It appeals to the military leadership and to the political class as a whole to show restraint.

In view of this act of violence, which represents a major setback for the country's democratic development, the European Union is forced to re-examine its cooperation with the Republic of Niger, in compliance with the mechanisms laid down in the revised Fourth Lomé Convention.

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.