

P R E S S R E L E A S E

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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
concerning the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE)**

The European Union warmly welcomes the implementation of the decision of the UN Security Council (Resolutions 1312 of 31 July and 1320 of 15 September 2000) to establish the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE).

The European Union considers that the decision of a number of Member States to participate in the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) is an expression of the wish frequently expressed by the EU, notably in its Common Position of 29 June 2000, to facilitate any progress that can be made towards a peace settlement between Ethiopia and Eritrea.

The European Union calls on both Ethiopia and Eritrea to ensure the safety of all UN personnel and to cooperate fully with the UN Mission.

The European Union urges both parties to continue and intensify the peace process under the aegis of the OAU, supported by the EU and the US, in order to reach a comprehensive and sustainable peace settlement as soon as possible.

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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