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**Declaration by the Presidency
on behalf of the European Union
concerning the elections in Equatorial Guinea**

"The European Union regrets that the presidential elections held in Equatorial Guinea on Sunday 25 February took place under circumstances providing no guarantee of the required freedom and transparency.

The European Union considers these elections to have been a lost opportunity in the process of democratization of Equatorial Guinea. The European Union invites the Government to respect human rights and, in particular, to guarantee the freedom of movement, assembly and speech of members of the opposition parties.

The European Union urges the Government and all political forces in Equatorial Guinea to resume their dialogue in order to advance along the path of democracy, the only route which will allow the full political, economic and social development of Equatorial Guinea and guarantee the positive development of inter-State relations in the region."
