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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union**  
**on Sierra Leone**

"The European Union welcomes the fact that presidential and parliamentary elections took place in Sierra Leone in a free and fair atmosphere and in fulfilment of the established timetable for the return to democracy.

The results reflect the will of the people of Sierra Leone to achieve a democratically elected civilian government despite attempts at intimidation by armed elements and the ongoing fighting in various parts of the country.

The European Union welcomes the peace talks between the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) and the Freetown Authorities as well as the intention expressed by President Kabbah to meet Mr Sankoh at the earliest opportunity. The European Union calls on all the parties to work for peace and national reconciliation."

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