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

The European Union welcomes the signature of the Peace Agreement by the Government of Sierra Leone and the RUF representatives in Togo 7 July. The European Union commends the role of all those involved in bringing about this agreement, in particular the work of the Special representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations, the President of Togo as current chairman of ECOWAS, who hosted the talks, and the Presidents of Nigeria, Burkina Faso and Liberia.

The European Union calls upon all parties to adhere strictly to the terms of the peace agreement in order to achieve a lasting peaceful resolution of a conflict that has imposed immense suffering on the people of Sierra Leone. In this respect, the European Union emphasizes that the accountability of individual perpetrators of grave human rights violations is important in ensuring a fair and equitable justice system and ultimately, reconciliation and stability in Sierra Leone. The European Union, accordingly, welcomes the establishment of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission as provided for in the agreement and stresses the importance of its successful functioning.

The European Union stands ready to give its support in the implementation of the Peace Agreement and to further stability and lasting peace in Sierra Leone. The European Union also underlines its readiness to support the UN and ECOWAS which both have an important role in the implementation of the agreement.

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.