

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
on the cease-fire agreement of the Democratic Republic of Congo**

The European Union welcomes the acceptance of the cease-fire agreement on the conflict of the Democratic Republic of Congo at the ministerial level by the parties involved. The European Union supports the agreement and appeals to the Heads of State and other parties to sign and implement the agreement as soon as possible.

The European Union commends President Chiluba of Zambia and other mediators for their successful efforts to find a peaceful solution to the conflict.

The European Union appeals to all the parties for respecting the spirit of the cease-fire agreement and refraining from any military operations.

The European Union stands ready to give its support to the peace, reconciliation and democratization process in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

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.

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