

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 Democratic Republic of Congo**

The European Union acknowledges with contentment that the signing of the Lusaka agreement has been completed by the signatures of the RCD (Rassemblement Congolais pour la Démocratie). The EU wishes to commend Zambia, South Africa, Tanzania and other mediators for their successful diplomatic efforts that led to the signing of the cease-fire agreement by all the parties. The EU considers the Lusaka agreement crucial for the restoration of peace and stability in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the entire Central African region.

The EU urges all the parties to proceed immediately to the implementation of the agreement, to strictly abide by the agreement and to refrain from any action putting it at risk.

The EU pledges its support to the implementation of the Lusaka agreement provided that all the parties respect and implement the agreement in accordance with the terms set out therein. The European Union is ready to support national reconciliation, rehabilitation and democratisation in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the process of reintegration of displaced people in the Great Lakes region into their countries of origin.

The European Union underlines its readiness to support the UN and the OAU which both have an important role in the implementation of the peace agreement, especially in the peace-keeping operations.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries Cyprus and Malta, and the EFTA countries, members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this declaration.

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