

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 situation of Afghan refugees on Tajik borders**

The European Union is concerned about reports that a large number of refugees from Afghanistan are stranded between the frontlines in the boarder area with Tajikistan under increasingly difficult and dire circumstances. While fully understanding the Tajik government's security concerns, we urge the Tajik authorities to do everything in their power to alleviate the humanitarian situation of the refugees in close cooperation with competent international bodies like UNHCR.

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

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