

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 Framework Agreement for Reconciliation in the Comoros**

The European Union welcomes the signing at Fomboni on 17 February 2001, of a framework agreement for reconciliation in the Comoros. The approval, by all Comorian parties, of a process to overcome the longstanding constitutional and separatist crisis and setting out the steps towards peaceful transition to democracy, represents remarkable progress. The EU commends the OAU and the OIF for their active role in bringing about this agreement.

The European Union reaffirms its readiness to provide support to the democratisation process and, in the longer perspective, to the economic and social development of the country.

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.