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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the elections  
in Zambia**

The European Union regrets that the elections of 18 November could not be held on a basis acceptable to all parties. The European Union notes that the elections were held in a peaceful and orderly manner.

Over the past five years, the European Union and Member States have taken a major stake in supporting the Zambian Government's economic and political reform programme. They are concerned that the absence of political consensus might result in a further decline in the previous standards of governance in Zambia.

The European Union calls upon the Zambian Government and all political parties to avoid confrontation. The Union urges all parties to engage in dialogue to overcome their differences peacefully.

The European Union looks to the Zambian Government to reinvigorate the political and economic reform programme.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union and the associated countries Cyprus and Malta align themselves with this declaration.