

**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 recent Summit of the IGAD Committee on the Sudan, held in Nairobi on 2 June 2001**

The European Union has consistently supported the IGAD peace initiative but has also expressed concern at the lack of progress made so far in the peace process.

The European Union welcomes the holding of the Summit of the IGAD Committee on the Sudan on 2 June 2001 and expects that it will yield early progress towards peace.

The European Union notes the expressed intention to convene a new Summit within two months, and to make the negotiating teams permanent. It encourages Kenya, in its capacity as chairman of the IGAD Committee on the Sudan, as well as the other IGAD countries to press on to reinvigorate the peace process in the Sudan.

The European Union welcomes the commitment by the Government of Sudan to halt aerial bombings, expects that it will be strictly observed and urges the Government of Sudan and the SPLM/A to immediately stop hostilities in order to create a conducive environment for negotiations.

A continued active involvement at high political level of the IGAD is crucial in order to achieve substantial progress towards an end to the war. However, even more important is a firm political determination of both the Government of Sudan and the SPLM/A to find a peaceful solution to the conflict. The European Union therefore calls on the parties to engage themselves in a continuous and sustained negotiation towards a just and lasting political settlement of the conflict in the Sudan and considers essential that a comprehensive cease-fire effectively monitored by observers accepted by both sides be promoted as a matter of urgency within the context of the ongoing IGAD negotiating process.

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.