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

The European Union notes that the parliamentary elections held in Bangladesh on 1 October 2001 passed off smoothly.

The European Union sent an observer mission to those elections. It is pleased to see that, according to that mission's findings, the electoral process was conducted satisfactorily, freely and impartially. However, it deplors the acts of violence which marred the election campaign.

The European Union appeals to the new Prime Minister to work for the consolidation of the democratic process and for economic development in a spirit of constructive cooperation with the opposition. It would also encourage the opposition to play its part in a peaceful change of power.

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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