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**Declaration by the Presidency, on behalf of the European Union, condemning the murder of
Ms Araujo Noguera, former Minister for Culture of Colombia**

The European Union was dismayed by and strongly condemns the murder of Ms Consuelo Araujo Noguera, formerly Minister for Culture of the Republic of Colombia and wife of the Attorney-General. This crime is one of many acts of violence committed in recent weeks by subversive armed groups, particularly against officials or representatives of the Nation.

The European Union expresses its most sincere condolences to Ms Noguera's family and to the Colombian people and Government and reiterates its support for the efforts being made by the democratic forces in Colombian society to achieve peace.

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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