

**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  
concerning the local and parliamentary elections in Mauritania**

The European Union welcomes the smooth organisation, the manner and the results of the two rounds of local and parliamentary elections held in Mauritania on 19 and 26 October 2001. They allowed for proper participation of all electors in an atmosphere of normality and democratic openness.

The European Union also welcomes the fact that the results of those local and parliamentary elections reflect the political pluralism shown by the Mauritanian electorate.

The European Union calls on the authorities and on all Mauritanian parties to maintain a constructive political dialogue so as to strengthen confidence in democratic institutions and create an environment in which all shades of opinion can be freely expressed.

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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