

PR 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 Sudanese Peace Process**

The European Union is increasingly concerned by the renewed military activity by the SPLA, particularly in Bahr al-Ghazal in Southern Sudan, and by the Government of Sudan's resumption of aerial bombings in response to this offensive.

The European Union calls on both parties to halt their military activity and urges the Government of Sudan fully honour its commitment to cease aerial bombings. The European Union urges both the Government of Sudan and the SPLA to immediately stop hostilities in order to create an environment conducive to negotiations and the safe delivery of humanitarian assistance to the affected civilian population.

The European Union reiterates its call on all sides to engage in a continuous and sustained negotiation towards a just and lasting political settlement of the conflict in Sudan, and considers essential that a comprehensive ceasefire, effectively monitored by observers accepted by both sides, be prompted 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.

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