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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
on the presidential elections in Indonesia**

The European Union congratulates Mr. KH Abdurrahman Wahid and Ms. Megawati Soekarnoputri on their election as President and Vice President of Indonesia. The election was carried out in a transparent and democratic manner, thus bringing Indonesia to the threshold of a new era. The elections represent new important milestones after the June election in Indonesia's road to democracy.

Formidable challenges still lie ahead for Indonesia. We believe that the new leadership can bring about the stability and confidence their country needs to move towards a better future. We wish President Wahid and Vice President Megawati perseverance and wisdom in carrying out their responsibilities.

The European Union also looks forward to the nomination of the new Government to continue on the path of economic and democratic reforms. The European Union declares its readiness to co-operate closely with the new Government of Indonesia.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries Cyprus and Malta and the EFTA countries, members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this declaration.