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**Statement by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union  
on the Latvian state law on language**

The European Union welcomes the State Law on Language adopted by the Latvian Saeima on 9 December 1999. The Union considers this as an encouraging development for enhancing the process of integration of minorities in Latvian society.

The European Union fully supports the Statement on the Language Law by the High Commissioner on National Minorities, Mr. Max van der Stoep, in which he concludes that the Law is now essentially in conformity with Latvia's international obligations and commitments. The Union trusts that the proper implementation of the Law will be ensured.

At the same time the European Union acknowledges the Latvian Government's recent decision to adopt the Framework Document for Integration of Society and is looking forward to continuing development in this field. The Union will continue to work in close cooperation with Latvia to support this objective.