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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on
restoration of democracy in Niger**

The European Union is satisfied with the accomplishment, so far, of the transition programme in Niger and believes that the transition process has strengthened Niger's democracy and promoted political stability.

The European Union is ready to support Niger in its effort to promote economic and social development for the well-being of its people.

The European Union reiterates the importance of respect for human rights, democratic principles and the rule of law as essential elements in the relations between Niger and the European Union.

In its political dialogue with Niger, the European Union will continue to address the issue of the inquiry into the circumstances of the assassination of President Baré and will pay particular attention to the possible adoption of an amnesty law, as made possible by the recently adopted Constitution.

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.