

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
on Angola**

The European Union deeply deplores the resumption of civil war in Angola, for which the responsibility lies primarily with UNITA under the leadership of Dr. Jonas Savimbi. The European Union intends to intensify its efforts to prevent UNITA from continuing the civil war in Angola in persistent defiance of UN Security Council Resolutions and to encourage UNITA to return to the peace process.

In this regard, the European Union once more stresses its commitment to maintaining strong international pressure on UNITA and its leadership through the full implementation, by all UN Member States, of UN sanctions against UNITA. It welcomes the decisions contained in UN Security Council Resolution 1237 (1999) aimed at improving the implementation of the sanctions regime against UNITA and supports the recommendations thereafter suggested in a report to the UN Security Council dated 4 June by the Chairman of the UN Security Council Committee established pursuant to Resolution 864 (1993).

The European Union remains convinced that lasting peace in Angola can only be achieved through political means. It therefore strongly urges UNITA and its leadership to cease its military activities and to demonstrate, unequivocally, its will to resume dialogue in good faith with the Government of Angola on the basis of the UN Security Council Resolutions, with a perspective of demilitarization of UNITA and extension of state administration throughout the country. Provided that UNITA takes such action, the European Union calls on the Government to respond favourably to the cease-fire and to enter into a dialogue. The European Union also calls on the Government to accept a significant UN presence in Angola compatible with the enormous tasks facing the country. The European Union considers that a UN presence, including a Human Rights component, can contribute positively to a peaceful settlement of the Angolan conflict.

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The European Union regards peace in the Democratic Republic of Congo as essential for the stability of the region and for restoring peace in Angola and welcomes the recent cease-fire agreement in the DRC. In this context the European Union is ready to assist all states in Africa to fully implement the UN sanctions against UNITA effectively. The European Union welcomes the contacts between the Governments of Angola and Zambia and encourages them to pursue these contacts, in order to foster stability in Southern Africa.

The European Union is deeply concerned that as a consequence of the latest outbreak of hostilities the number of refugees and displaced persons has risen dramatically, putting at risk the lives and well being of a large part of the population. The European Union is particularly alarmed by the number of internally displaced persons, now estimated at 1,7 million. The European Union reiterates its appeal to the Government of Angola and UNITA to respect human rights and to cooperate with the humanitarian organisations in the delivery of emergency relief assistance, to guarantee the safety and freedom of movement of their personnel, as well as access to affected populations. The European Union will continue to make all efforts to provide humanitarian aid to the victims of the conflict and to support demining.

The European Union calls again on the Government, as a signatory of the Ottawa Convention, but in particular on UNITA, to cease mine laying activities immediately.

The European Union welcomes the recent efforts made by the Government to implement reforms aimed at stabilising the economic and financial situation of the country. It encourages the Angolan Government to continue with these efforts and the fight against corruption and poverty, which are essential for a meaningful and fruitful international cooperation.

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