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**Declaration by the European Union on Algeria**

The European Union is following the situation in Algeria with much attention and concern. It reaffirms that it is for the Algerian people to find a solution to the crisis which is afflicting their country. It hopes that this solution will be peaceful and based on reconciliation among Algerians. It supports all initiatives aimed at encouraging dialogue between those who reject terrorism and violence.

It is in this spirit that the European Union has followed with interest recent developments which have allowed a certain number of individuals to come together to reflect on the future of their country. It encourages all participants in Algerian political life to agree on the ways and means of developing the spirit of this dialogue and pursuing the concrete ideas that may arise from it. The Union rejects any recourse to violence as an instrument of political confrontation and reaffirms that respect for human rights is an obligation for all political forces and individuals, irrespective of their political convictions or religious beliefs. The European Union reconfirms its willingness to support a policy of democratic development and economic restructuring in Algeria.