

PRESS RELEASE

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DECLARATION BY THE PRESIDENCY
ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION REGARDING THE SITUATION
IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA

The European Union has noted with concern the latest developments in the South China Sea, a maritime area of great importance to international traffic.

The Union welcomed the adoption in Manila in July 1992 of a declaration, endorsed by China, which committed the ASEAN countries to resolving their disputes in the South China Sea by peaceful means, encouraged the countries concerned to show restraint and invited them to adhere to the principles in the declaration. The Union reiterated its support for this declaration in September 1994 in the framework of the 11th EU-ASEAN ministerial meeting in Karlsruhe.

The Union reaffirms once again its support for the principles embodied in the Manila declaration. It calls upon all parties concerned to show restraint and to abstain from any measure which may make its implementation more difficult. It welcomes the announcement that consultations between the authorities of the Philippines and China will take place in Beijing from 13 to 15th March.

The Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Rumania and Slovakia associate themselves with this declaration.