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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union  
on the presidential elections in Cameroon**

The European Union has noted the proclamation by the Cameroon Supreme Court, acting in its capacity as Constitutional Council, of the official results of the presidential elections of 12 October 1997.

The European Union hopes that open talks can now begin between all the country's political forces so as to arrive at a political situation which can guarantee lasting economic, political and social development in keeping with the aspirations of the people.

The European Union considers that these talks should also cover the arrangements for the forthcoming elections so as to ensure that they can be held in conditions of transparency such as the people of Cameroon and the international community expect.

The European Union renews its call for the application of principles of sound governance. It is willing to engage in a thorough dialogue on this subject, as on the subject of Cameroon's socio-economic future, with the Government of Cameroon.

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