

PRESS RELEASE

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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
concerning the mediation efforts in the Congo (Brazzaville)**

The European Union remains seriously concerned at the situation in the Congo and would give a reminder of its declarations of 20 June and 11 July in which it expressed the hope that the mediation efforts undertaken would rapidly lead to a peaceful resolution of the conflict. It notes with dismay that the parties to the conflict have not so far been able to overcome their differences and accept any of the draft peace agreements proposed, and that on the contrary the conflict has started to spread beyond the Congolese capital.

The European Union once again calls on the parties to cease hostilities immediately and permanently and to work together for the restoration of civil peace and national reconciliation.

In this context the European Union reiterates its full support for the mediation undertaken by President Bongo of Gabon and by Mr Mohamed Sahnoun, the special representative of the UN and OAU Secretaries-General. It calls upon all the Congolese parties to conclude, without delay, a peace agreement on the basis of the proposals made by the mediators.