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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
on Guinea-Bissau**

The European Union welcomes the signing by the Government of Guinea-Bissau and the self-proclaimed Junta Militar of a "Memorandum of Understanding" under the auspices of the "Contact Group" (Angola, Brasil, Cabo Verde, Moçambique, Portugal and São Tomé e Príncipe) of the "community of Portuguese speaking countries" providing, inter alia, for an immediate cessation of hostilities, the opening of humanitarian corridors and the beginning of negotiations.

The European Union calls upon all parties in Guinea-Bissau to abide scrupulously by this "Memorandum of Understanding" and to commit themselves constructively to the negotiation process towards reconciliation and a lasting peace in the country.

The European Union recalls its readiness to provide humanitarian aid to the displaced persons and refugees of war as well as its willingness to participate in the efforts required for the social and economic rehabilitation of Guinea-Bissau.

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