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P R E S S R E L E A S E

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

The EU noted with deep concern the resumption of fighting between government forces and the self-proclaimed military junta in Guinea Bissau, again leading to the exodus of thousands of civilians from the capital.

The Union calls on both parties to the conflict to stop fighting immediately and to continue to respect the terms of the cease-fire concluded in August in Praia, Cape Verde.

The EU urges both parties to continue negotiations under the joint CPLP/ECOWAS mediation to find a peaceful solution to the conflict.

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.