

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 Indonesia

The EU acknowledges that the decisions taken by the People's Consultative Assembly represent a step in the direction of political and economic reform, including the commitment to hold elections by June 1999. The EU reiterates the importance that these elections be held in an open, free and fair manner.

The EU encourages the Indonesian government to broaden its dialogue with the opposition with a view to further national reconciliation and reiterates its call upon the government to release all political prisoners.

The EU deeply deplores the violent incidents on Friday, 13 November 1998, which resulted in a number of deaths and expresses its profound concern about the excessive use of force by Security Forces against demonstrators. It calls on all sides to use utmost restraint to avoid further violence.