

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 constitutional referendum in Zimbabwe**

The European Union notes that the referendum which took place on 12-13 February confirmed the commitment of the people of Zimbabwe to participate in the political life of the country, thus contributing to the strengthening of democracy in Zimbabwe. The European Union also welcomes the orderly and peaceful manner in which the vote was held.

The European Union hopes that the 2000 Parliamentary Elections will be conducted in a similar peaceful and orderly climate with respect to the rules and principles of democracy as the basis for the further development of the country.

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