

PRESS RELEASE

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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
on Burundi**

The European Union remains deeply concerned by the continuing violence in Burundi. In this context, it supports the declaration by the United Nations Security Council on 5 January 1996. It is particularly disturbed following recent statements by persons in senior positions. The European Union hopes that a spirit of reconciliation can be renewed in Burundi, as proposed by the President of Burundi in his New Year statement.

The Union welcomes the appointment of M. Marc Faguy as the United Nations Secretary-General's special representative for Burundi. It will continue to support the efforts undertaken by the United Nations to resolve the crisis in that country.

The European Union welcomes regional efforts and, in particular, the action undertaken by the Organisation of African Unity in Burundi and will continue to support them.

The European Union emphasizes that it is willing to assist in the recovery of Burundi, in particular by supporting the specific measures to promote peace and reconciliation between the various groups due to be implemented by the Burundi authorities, as provided for in the Government Convention. It would point out that only political solutions will enable a permanent end to be put to the conflict in that country.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the Union, and the associated countries Cyprus and Malta, align themselves with this declaration.