

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 Presidential Elections in Senegal held on 19 March 2000**

The European Union commends the free, fair and transparent way the Senegalese Presidential Elections were held, confirming in full the vitality of the pluralistic democracy in Senegal.

The European Union congratulates the Senegalese people on the peaceful and orderly manner in which they participated in the elections and encourages them to continue to display the same spirit of dialogue, understanding and tolerance in the new phase of the political life of their country.

The European Union also congratulates the Senegalese authorities for their dedication to the strengthening of democracy and political pluralism in Senegal and continues ready to assist them in their efforts to further enhance the development and well being of the country, to the benefit of all the Senegalese people.

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.

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