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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
on elections in Nigeria**

The European Union notes that elections for the National Assembly and Senate are due to take place in Nigeria on 25 April 1998 as part of the transition to civilian rule. To be credible these elections must be free and fair and conducted in a way that allows all those who wish (as candidates or voters) to participate. In this context the European Union attaches particular importance to respect for the rule of law, freedom of political association and freedom of speech. It calls on the Nigerian authorities to respect these principles and to conduct these elections without recourse to violence.
