

**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 Ethiopia/Eritrea**

The EU, having been informed by the Presidency's Special Representative of the outcome of the recent proximity talks in Algiers for the solution of the conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea, calls on the governments of the two countries to enter immediately and without preconditions into further negotiations on the basis of the statement of the OAU Chair of May 5, 2000 in order to reach an agreement on the expedite implementation, which the Union stands ready to support, of the OAU peace settlement in accordance with the OAU "framework agreement" and the "modalities of implementation".

The EU fully supports the efforts deployed in this direction by the representative of the current Algerian Chair of the OAU, together with those of the United States and of her own Presidency, and calls on the two governments to cooperate constructively with them, to refrain from taking any military action, which would have disastrous consequences for both countries, and to exercise maximum restraint.

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.