

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 Indonesia**

The European Union wants to see a strong, democratic, united and prosperous Indonesia. It supports the territorial integrity of Indonesia and has welcomed the efforts of the present Indonesian Government to solve the country's internal conflicts through dialogue rather than force of arms. The EU therefore welcomes the signature on 12 May 2000 in Geneva of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Indonesian Government and the Free Aceh Movement (GAM). It urges both sides to abide by its terms. The EU considers that the MOU represents a first step towards finding a just and lasting solution to the problems in Aceh. The EU also welcomes the start of the legal process to bring to justice the alleged perpetrators of human rights abuses in the province.

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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