

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 Ethiopian-Eritrean Conflict**

On 24 and 27 August 1998 the Troika of the European Union, at the level of Resident Heads of Missions, undertook demarches with the Governments in Asmara and in Addis Ababa with regard to the Ethio-Eritrean conflict. The Heads of Missions urged both parties to find a peaceful solution under the auspices of the OAU. In doing so, they pointed out the negative implications and consequences of a re-escalation of the conflict.

The Heads of Missions also raised the question of the overall humanitarian situation and urged both parties to adhere to international humanitarian law and to human rights standards. In this context they underlined that non-adherence to international humanitarian law would be detrimental to the peace process and to confidence-building.

The EU will continue to draw attention to the humanitarian situation of foreign nationals in both countries. The EU appreciates the willingness of both countries to cooperate with humanitarian agencies.

The EU also reiterates its appreciation for the military restraint of both countries and re-emphasises its urging of both parties to continue this military restraint. The EU would like to express its appreciation for the fact that no fighting has taken place since 15 June 1998.

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