

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 Cambodia**

The EU has followed with great attention the political developments in Cambodia, especially the national elections on 26 July 1998. Recalling its declaration of 31 July 1998, it has taken note of the official election results announced by the National Election Commission on 1 September 1998.

The EU was deeply involved in the electoral process both in voter registration and polling observation. The very high percentage of voters who registered and cast their ballot proved that the Cambodian people have a strong desire for democracy and wish to decide their own political future.

The EU feels that with the announcement of the official results the time has come that all parties take a constructive approach. They should now come together in a peaceful way in order to ensure the timely convening of the new parliament and the formation of a new government which can work effectively for the reconstruction of the country thus bringing back well-being and prosperity to the people of Cambodia. The EU recalls that the Cambodian constitution accords King Sihanouk the role of supreme arbitrator in order to ensure the proper functioning of the government.

The EU also calls upon all parties to refrain from any kind of activity which could lead to new tensions or violence and to facilitate the process of national reconciliation.