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

The European Union welcomes the outcome of the parliamentary elections in Zimbabwe, with the official announcement of the results on 27 June 2000, and congratulates the people of Zimbabwe on the very high turnout and on the discipline and the determination they have thus shown. The EU considers that these elections have given a clear sign of the Zimbabwean people's determination to choose their own future peacefully and democratically.

The elections were observed by a European election observation mission, which in its report of 4 July 2000 noted that voting was calm and well organised, in spite of the high levels of violence, intimidation and coercion that marred the election campaign. The EU earnestly calls on Zimbabwe's Government to prevent any further acts of violence.

The EU strongly urges the Zimbabwean authorities to work with the opposition and civil society to engage in a constructive, open dialogue capable of allowing the country to move forward and, in particular, to tackle and overcome the serious economic difficulties facing Zimbabwe. In this context, the EU reiterates the fundamental importance of restoring respect for human rights, democratic principles and the rule of law. The European Union stands ready to work with all Zimbabweans accepting these principles.

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.