

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 referendum held in Uganda on 29 June 2000**

The European Union has noted the results of the referendum held on 29 June 2000 on the restoration of a multi-party system or maintenance of the movement system, the latter option having received the votes of a majority of Ugandans.

The European Union welcomes the proper conduct of the voting operations recorded by the foreign observers. It nonetheless regrets that defenders of the multi-party system were disadvantaged during the campaign by the maintenance of constitutional provisions restricting the activities of parties and by the inadequacy of financial resources made available to the opposition.

The European Union calls upon the Ugandan authorities to take account of these observations to ensure that the presidential and legislative elections in 2001 are totally equitable.

It is, moreover, incumbent upon Uganda, by virtue of the international conventions to which it is signatory, to ensure observance of the fundamental rights of freedom of expression and association.