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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union  
on the bombing of civilian targets in Sudan**

The European Union is deeply concerned at the recent bombings, carried out by Sudanese aircraft, which hit civilian installations, in particular the bombings close to a large UN base at Mapel on 7 and 8 August.

The European Union welcomes the new Sudanese security guarantees that have allowed flights for Operation Lifeline Sudan (OLS) to resume. It hopes that the Government of Sudan will scrupulously honour its undertakings to the UN. It appeals to the warring parties to comply with the principles of international humanitarian law, particularly those relating to the safety of UN personnel, as laid down in the Convention of 9 December 1994, and to free access for NGOs to civilian populations in distress.

The European Union deplores the failure to renew the humanitarian cease-fire which ended on 15 July, and the offensive launched by the SPLM two months ago. It appeals to the parties to negotiate a new cease-fire quickly and to resume, without any hidden agenda, the peace talks begun under the auspices of the IGAD.

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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