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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union  
on the Arusha Summit**

The European Union congratulates President Mandela, the mediation team and the Burundian negotiators on their efforts which made it possible to hold the Arusha Summit on Burundi on 28 August 2000.

It welcomes the signing on that occasion of a protocol which represents a new and important step on the way to national reconciliation. It urges the parties which signed the protocol to commit themselves jointly to the implementation of the provisions agreed, and calls on those which refused to sign to review their positions and make the vital compromises.

It strongly encourages the negotiators to redouble their efforts to arrive, rapidly but calmly, at a compromise on those matters which remain unresolved, in order to add to the achievements of 28 August.

It states its deep concern at the continued fighting in the country, the main victims of which are innocent civilians. It calls upon Burundians to eschew violence, and in particular calls upon the armed groups to suspend hostilities and join in the negotiations.

The European Union reiterates its willingness to support the peace process, in particular through its aid for the rehabilitation and development of Burundi.

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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