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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
on the conflict between Eritrea and Ethiopia**

It is with dismay and utmost disappointment that the European Union has registered the recent outbreak of open war between Ethiopia and Eritrea. Tireless efforts of the international community, and in particular of the Organization of African Unity, have thus been frustrated.

The European Union vehemently condemns the use of force by the two countries and urges them to respect the airstrike moratorium to which both sides have committed themselves.

The European Union expresses its strong support for UN Security Council Resolution 1227 and in particular the call for all States to end immediately all sales of arms and munitions to Ethiopia and Eritrea. It calls upon both parties to the conflict to immediately halt the conflagration. It is imperative that further loss of human life and material destruction be prevented, in particular that the safety of the civilian population be assured, and the way to a negotiated settlement of the conflict be reopened.

As a first step, the two sides are called upon to agree unilaterally to a cessation of hostilities.

The European Union commends the work of the OAU and encourages the OAU Heads of State and Secretary General to make all efforts in order to bring about an immediate and unconditional cease-fire and to resume their mediation process, and continues to support these efforts.

The European Union stands ready to assist and to dispatch for this purpose a special Troika mission in order to favour a rapid solution to the conflict on the basis of the OAU framework agreement proposals.