

PRESS RELEASE

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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
concerning the internal situation in Albania**

The European Union sees the increasing use of violence in the pursuit of political aims as a worrying development. It therefore makes a forceful appeal for the rule of law to be respected.

The desire of the Albanians to move towards a closer relationship with the European Union implies observance of shared fundamental values, chief among which are respect for institutions and legality, non-recourse to violence, and a spirit of tolerance and dialogue.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries Cyprus and Malta, and the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this declaration.

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