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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union  
concerning Kashmir**

The European Union welcomes the recent decision by the Indian authorities to extend the ceasefire in Kashmir for one month.

The Union is likewise pleased to note Pakistan's statement that it intends to withdraw some of its troops stationed along the line of control.

Coming in the wake of the initiatives taken by the two countries on 19 November and 2 December, these further gestures will contribute to reducing tension on the ground.

The European Union urges India and Pakistan to pursue their efforts, in keeping with the Lahore spirit, with a view to an early resumption of dialogue and the search for a peaceful solution to their dispute.

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