

PRESS RELEASE

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**Joint Declaration issued by the Government of the Republic of Sudan and
the European Union**

The European Union and Sudan initiated a political dialogue for one year in November 1999, referred to as "renewed dialogue", the purpose of which is to discuss current developments in Sudan in the fields of democratisation, human rights and the rule of law, policies against terrorism and the peace process, as well as relations with neighbouring countries.

Fifteen meetings have been organised in this framework, bringing representatives of the EU Member States and of the Commission resident or accredited in Khartoum together with the Sudanese authorities. The state of discussions is laid down in a joint working document, which will remain open for further developments.

The Member States of the European Union and Sudan now assign a positive value to this year of dialogue, which has made it possible for better mutual understanding to develop in an atmosphere of trust.

The European Union and Sudan have therefore decided that the dialogue should go on, for another period of one year, while at the same time the future of Euro-Sudanese relations is considered more broadly with the aim of reaching complete normalisation of relations and the reestablishment of full development cooperation.

The European Union is willing to look into the financing of programmes relating directly to the themes of the dialogue (human rights, democratisation and rule of law, etc...).

In this context, the European Union proposes to implement, without delay, a rehabilitation programme described as "humanitarian plus", to a value of EUR 15 million, financed with funds from the 6th EDF. This programme, designed to go beyond a strictly humanitarian approach, should allow beneficiary populations to reduce their dependency on emergency aid.

The European Union and Sudan have also agreed that the dialogue will henceforth mainly concern questions relating to the peace process in southern Sudan, human rights and democratisation and

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civil liberties. The European Union is examining the possibility of conducting this dialogue within the framework of the Cotonou Agreement, especially its Article 8, without excluding the possibility of other forms of consultation within the framework of that Agreement.
