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**DECLARATION BY THE PRESIDENCY**  
**ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**  
**ON CHINA'S MILITARY EXERCISES OFF THE TAIWAN COASTS**

The EU deeply regrets the firing by the RPC of missiles, beginning in the morning of March the 8th, into test zones in the Taiwan straits. The planned week-long exercises could lead to further tension in the region and increase the possibility of any miscalculation eventually leading to confrontation.

The EU, recalling the pledge always made by the RPC to stick to its fundamental policy on the Taiwan issue, which is to seek a peaceful solution, calls on the RPC to refrain from activities which could have negative effects on the security of the entire region and urges an early resumption of the cross-strait talks.

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