

P R E S S R E L E A S E

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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
on granting Kuwaiti women the right to vote and to stand as candidates**

The European Union has taken note with interest of the decision by the Emir of Kuwait to grant women the right to vote and to stand as candidates. It welcomes this major political development, which does justice to the role played by women in Kuwaiti society. The European Union hopes that it will be possible to put this decision into effect as soon as possible.

The European Union considers that the initiative taken by the Emir of Kuwait should promote human rights and strengthen democratic forces within that country.
