

PRESS RELEASE

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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
concerning the Parliamentary elections in Cape Verde**

The European Union welcomes the free and fair Parliamentary elections held in Cape Verde on 14 January 2001.

The fact that democratic elections have now been held for the third time and that for the second time there is an orderly transfer of power from one political party to another confirms the commitment of the Cape Verdean people to democratic principles.

The European Union congratulates all parties concerned and expresses its willingness to continue its cooperation with the Cape Verdean authorities to the benefit of the Cape Verdean people.

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

**Internet: <http://ue.eu.int/Newsroom>
E-mail: press.office@consilium.eu.int**

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