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**DECLARATION BY THE PRESIDENCY**  
**ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**  
**ON THE SENTENCING OF WANG DAN**

The European Union registers its profound concern at the conviction and sentence of Wang Dan. Mr Wang was sentenced to a lengthy period of imprisonment at his trial in Beijing on Wednesday, 30 October, for activities which in a democratic society would be considered as the exercise by him of his intrinsic and inalienable right to freedom of expression.

The European Union had made clear to the Chinese authorities its concern about this case well in advance of Mr Wang's trial. It deplores this punitive and repressive sentence which raises justifiable concern about China's commitment to the rule of law, necessary for China's continuing growth and development.

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