

**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 troop redeployments in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) by Rwanda and Uganda**

The European Union welcomes the Rwandan and Ugandan authorities' actions on 28 February to respectively withdraw and reduce their troops in the DRC in accordance with the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1341. The European Union hopes that these actions will encourage all sides to take further steps in implementing the Lusaka agreement to bring about a peaceful solution to the conflict in the Great Lakes region. The EU will closely monitor developments and is expecting Rwandan and Ugandan actions to be certified by MONUC.

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.

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