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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 Philippines

The EU supports the efforts of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and the Government of the Philippines to reach a sustainable, negotiated settlement to longstanding internal disputes in the country.

The EU welcomes the decision by the Philippine Government and the National Democratic Front to resume peace negotiations. A durable agreement will serve as an important contribution to all endeavours to carry out the reforms necessary for social and economic development in the Philippines.

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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