

**P R E S S   R E L E A S E**

Brussels, 8 June 2001

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**Declaration by the Presidency  
on behalf of the European Union on the events in Nepal**

The European Union, deeply shocked by the tragic deaths of Their Majesties and other members of the Royal Family of Nepal, extends its deepest condolences to the Royal Family and the people of Nepal.

The EU wishes to recognize the role played by the late King Birendra in introducing parliamentary democracy in Nepal.

At this juncture, it is of greatest importance that all parties respect the principles laid down in the country's constitution and supports its democratic institutions and its constitutional monarchy. The EU considers continued support for democracy and human rights to be of fundamental importance for the development of Nepal.

The EU believes that a rapid, full, and transparent investigation into last week's tragic events will contribute to re-establish trust in the national institutions. In this respect the EU welcomes the formation of a Commission of Enquiry.

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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