

P R E S S R E L E A S E

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P 112

**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
on the presidential election in Iran**

The European Union expresses its deep satisfaction at the commitment to democracy demonstrated by the Iranian people at the presidential elections on 8 June 2001 and congratulates President Khatami on his re-election.

The Iranian people have once again endorsed with an overwhelming majority the policy of reform represented by President Khatami. This is a clear signal of Iranian voters for the strengthening of democracy, the establishment of the state of law and stronger guarantees for fundamental freedoms in their country. The EU encourages the Government of Iran to continue its work towards reform and respect for human rights.

The European Union hopes that the convincing results of the election will provide a good basis to extend the scope for enhancing its relations with Iran and stands ready to co-operate with President Khatami towards the achievement of these goals.

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