

**P R E S S   R E L E A S E**

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**Declaration from the Presidency on behalf of the European Union  
on talks between the government of Nepal and the Maoist insurgents**

The European Union welcomes the cease-fire between the Government of Nepal and the CPN (Maoist), and the first round of negotiations between the two sides which took place on 30 August. The European Union encourages both sides to work seriously and constructively towards the second round of negotiations.

The EU urges the two sides to seek a peaceful resolution of the conflict within the framework of the rule of law, respect for human rights, and multi-party democracy.

The European Union notes with concern recent reports of widespread intimidation and extortion of various segments of Nepalese society, as well as demands addressed to various development projects and international agencies by the CPN (Maoist). The EU calls on those responsible to cease such coercive activities immediately, in order to create a conducive and constructive atmosphere for the dialogue process.

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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