

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
the elections in Fiji**

The European Union welcomes the generally free and fair elections held in Fiji, which reflect current opinion in that country.

However, the European Union notes the concerns expressed both in Fiji itself and by the international community regarding the formation of the new Government by the new Prime Minister designate, Laisenia Qarase.

The European Union calls upon all political parties in Fiji to resolve this question as rapidly as possible and to establish a Government which conforms to the provisions of the Constitution with a view to a return to national reconciliation and agreement in Fiji.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, as fellow associated countries, and those EFTA countries which are members of the European Economic Area endorse this declaration.

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