

**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 forthcoming general elections in Nicaragua**

As stated in her declaration of 8 May 2001, the European Union follows with great interest the preparations for the forthcoming general elections in Nicaragua on November 4th.

At the government of the Republic of Nicaragua's request, the EU has made an important effort in order to deploy a large electoral observation mission to monitor every stage of the electoral process.

The EU is encouraged that the preparations for the elections seem to be progressing satisfactory, in spite of certain technical problems. The EU is hopeful that the general elections on November 4th will take place in accordance with the laws in force and in total transparency, liberty and safety. The future government must be the result of the people's will freely expressed in the polls.

After the elections, the EU advocates for a well-conducted transfer of power that, in accordance with the constitutional provisions, will end in January 2002 when the new President and Vice-president of the Republic will be sworn in.

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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