

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 release of Rodolfo Montiel and Teodoro Cabrera**

The European Union welcomes the decision by President Fox of Mexico to pardon the two ecologists, Rodolfo Montiel and Teodoro Cabrera, who were jailed two and a half years ago. From the outset, their guilt of the crimes they were accused of having committed was questioned widely in Mexico and abroad.

The European Union recalls that shared values form an important basis for the Union's close relations with Mexico and considers the outcome of this case to be a new and positive illustration of this in the field of human rights.

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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