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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union  
on the elections in Mozambique**

The European Union welcomes the completion of the electoral process in Mozambique, with the official announcement of the results on 22 December 1999, and congratulates the people of Mozambique on the dignity and discipline they have shown.

The elections were observed by international and local observers including a Joint Observation Mission from the European Union which, in its preliminary statement on 12 December noted that polling was conducted in a free and fair manner allowing the Mozambican people to express their will.

The European Union considers that the elections have been broadly free and fair. Allegations of fraud and misconduct have been made by both leading parties, which, if resulting in formal claims, should be investigated and resolved in accordance with the law.

The European Union considers that the 1999 elections in Mozambique represent a further step in the consolidation of multiparty democracy as well as of peace and stability in the country and the region and a firm foundation for continued co-operation between the European Union and Mozambique.