

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 Angola

The EU express their deep concern on the marked deterioration in the politico-military situation in Angola. There appears to be a real risk of a return to war and of a further widespread suffering of the Angolan people. The EU remains convinced that a lasting peace in Angola can only be obtained by full compliance with the Lusaka Protocol, which, together with the "Acordos de Paz" and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council, remain the fundamental basis of the peace process.

Clearly the blame for the current impasse in the peace process rests primarily with UNITA and, therefore, in accordance with the Security Council Resolution 1195/98 the EU calls upon the UNITA leadership to comply immediately and without conditions with its obligations under the Lusaka Protocol and relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council, in particular the complete demilitarisation of its forces and full co-operation in the immediate and unconditional extension of state administration throughout the national territory.

The EU welcomes the decision by the Angolan authorities to reinstate UNITA members in GURN, and encourages the Government to continue to exercise restraint. The EU expresses strong support for the efforts of the UN Secretary-General and his Special Representative, Mr. Issa Diallo, in favour of the peace process, and calls on both Government and UNITA to assist him in fulfilling his mandate.