

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 situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo**

The European Union expressed its deep concern at the continuing tension in the DRC and once again urges all parties to the conflict to halt immediately all military activities and respect in full their commitments under the Lusaka Agreement.

The European Union reiterates its strong support for the Lusaka Agreement and stands ready to continue to assist African efforts and to back the United Nations in managing the crisis and in restoring peace and stability to the DRC through political, diplomatic and financial means. In this regard, the European Union recalls its earlier decision to support the JMC as well as the facilitating role of former President Katumile Masire.

The European Union stresses, however, that the ultimate responsibility for the implementation of the Lusaka agreement continues to rest with the Parties themselves, including by assuring that conditions are in place to enable the early deployment of the UN Observer Mission.

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