

PRESSE RELEASE

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**Declaration by the Presidency, on behalf of the European Union,
on Mexico: the conflict in Chiapas**

The European Union welcomes the willingness shown by the new Mexican Government to work to create the right conditions for the peace dialogue to be resumed, so as to reach a negotiated final solution to the conflict in Chiapas. The European Union also welcomes the intention expressed by the new Government of the State of Chiapas to facilitate the renewal and establishment of such dialogue.

The European Union also welcomes the intention expressed by the Zapatista National Liberation Army to respond favourably to the Mexican Government's initiative, which it sees as an approach in the desired direction of appeasement.

The European Union expresses the hope that the opening up of the Mexican economy will contribute towards the economic and social development of Chiapas and declares its willingness to support this process, in particular by continuing and, if possible, intensifying its efforts in this region.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, and the EFTA countries Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this declaration.