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**Presidency Declaration on behalf of the European Union
on the peace process in Guatemala**

The European Union welcomes the progress made in the negotiations between the Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca to end the long conflict which the country has endured. The EU pays tribute to the spirit of responsibility and to the understanding reached by the two sides, which are a good example of the peace culture which should influence Guatemala in this new phase.

The European Union reiterates its political support for the peace process and encourages the two sides to pursue their negotiating efforts. The EU wishes to emphasise to Guatemalan society as a whole, and in particular the economic sector, the importance of the challenge which it will have to face when peace has been agreed with respect to a major national project for the country's development.

The European Union is prepared to give its support to the Guatemalan people after the final signing of a peace agreement to help it to implement the agreements reached.

Liechtenstein, Norway and the Associated Countries Cyprus, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia align themselves with this declaration.