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- January, 14, 2008 (Strasbourg)

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- January, 21, 22, 2008

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AFRICA

Sudan

- ▶ **Declaration of the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the third anniversary of the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement for Sudan on 9 January 2005 (08/01/2007)**

On the occasion of the third anniversary of the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) the European Union wishes to express its recognition of this important instrument.

The CPA stands out as a historic achievement of the people of Sudan. It brought more than two decades of civil war to an end. With its provisions for a peaceful and democratic transformation it marks the way forward for the whole of Sudan.

The European Union is convinced that the partners in the Government of National Unity are capable of demonstrating leadership by peacefully turning challenges and obstacles into opportunities and of reinforcing the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in a spirit of mutual trust, respect and commitment.

The European Union encourages the National Congress Party and the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement to work together to achieve the objectives of the CPA keeping in mind that the achievement of a peaceful, democratic, prosperous and united Sudan - in which all people can live together in freedom, without discrimination and with full respect for their rights - goes beyond the relations between the North and the South of Sudan.

The European Union attaches great importance to the Assessment and Evaluation Commission (AEC), as the main vehicle for monitoring and promoting CPA implementation. The AEC is an important mechanism for dialogue between the parties and some of the key international partners to the CPA. The European Union would like to underline its commitment to further strengthen the role of the AEC in ensuring full implementation of the CPA.

Progress in the implementation of the Eastern Peace Agreement remains important and efforts to find a peaceful settlement to the conflict in Darfur must be reinforced.

Indeed, with regard to Darfur, all responsible parties must commit themselves to respect an immediate cessation of hostilities and to engage in a renewed serious engagement in political negotiations. The role of UNAMID is essential and all efforts are needed to fully deploy this mission. Full and secure humanitarian access has to be respected in order to meet the needs of the people of Darfur.

The Comprehensive Peace Agreement embodies the perspective of a peaceful, stable and prosperous Sudan, fundamental for the country as a whole - and for the wider region. The European Union expects the parties to live up to their mutual obligations as expressed in the CPA.

The European Union will remain a committed partner in support of the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement as well in all efforts to bring peace and development to the people of Sudan.

http://www.eu2008.si/en/News_and_Documents/CFSP_Statements/January/0108MZZ_Sudan.html

Kenya

- ▶ Declaration of the Presidency on behalf of the European Union concerning the AU mediation efforts in Kenya (11/01/2007)

Recalling its declaration of 8 January 2008, the EU commends President Kufuor, President of the African Union (AU), for his efforts to resolve the serious crisis arising from the recent Presidential elections in the country.

The EU urges all parties to build on these efforts and to jointly work towards a lasting political solution to the crisis, under the auspices of the AU.

The EU is following the situation in Kenya very closely and with great concern.

The EU expresses its full support for the Panel of Eminent African Personalities, headed by Mr Kofi Annan, which will work with the Kenyan parties to resolve their differences and all other outstanding issues, including constitutional and electoral reforms.

The EU calls on all parties to engage fully and constructively with this process and stresses their responsibility to ensure an immediate cessation of violence, to resort to dialogue and to secure a solution according to democratic standards and to the benefit of the Kenyan people. All political parties in Kenya should recognise that it cannot be business as usual in Kenya until there is political compromise which leads to a lasting solution that reflects the will of the Kenyan people, wins their confidence, and helps return Kenya to stability.

The EU recalls that the findings of the EU Election Observer Mission and other independent observers cast serious doubts on the official results of the presidential elections and calls for all allegations of election irregularity to be pursued through the proper democratic and legal channels.

The EU will continue to respond to the humanitarian needs of Kenyans displaced from their homes by recent acts of violence and stands ready to provide further assistance as required.

In order to ensure the restoration of peace, stability, democracy and the rule of law in Kenya, the EU stands ready to support a process of dialogue and reconciliation in Kenya and to complement the efforts of the AU.

http://www.eu2008.si/en/News_and_Documents/CFSP_Statements/January/0111MZZ_Kenya.html

AMERICAS

Colombia

- ▶ Javier SOLANA, Alto Representante de la UE para la Política Exterior y de Seguridad Común (PESC), se felicita de la liberación de Clara Rojas y Consuelo González de Perdomo (SP) (10/01/2007)

Javier SOLANA, Alto Representante de la Unión Europea para la Política Exterior y de Seguridad Común (PESC) hizo la siguiente declaración con motivo de la liberación de Clara Rojas y de Consuelo González de Perdomo: "Al tener noticia de la liberación de Clara Rojas, ex candidata a la vicepresidencia de Colombia, y de Consuelo González de Perdomo, ex congresista, secuestradas por las FARC, quisiera hacerles llegar mi

más emocionada bienvenida a la libertad así como compartir la alegría con sus familiares. Se pone así punto final a un largo y cruel cautiverio, que violó durante demasiado tiempo los derechos humanos más básicos de las secuestradas. Confío en que esta puesta en libertad sea un prolegómeno a la liberación de todos los rehenes retenidos por las FARC y otros grupos violentos colombianos en el plazo más breve posible"

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/declarations/98020.pdf

ASIA

Azerbaijan

- ▶ **Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the release of 119 prisoners in Azerbaijan** (08/01/2008)

The European Union welcomes the long-awaited release of five journalists on the occasion of Solidarity Day of World Azerbaijanis.

The presidential pardon is a positive step towards Azerbaijan's fulfilment of international and European obligations with regard to freedom of the press.

The European Union would like to see the three journalists still imprisoned (Mirza Sakit Zahidov, Ganimat Zahid and Eynullah Fatullayev) released or pardoned at the earliest opportunity and would like a moratorium to be declared on proceedings for defamation.

The European Union is convinced that such political gestures could contribute to strengthening the partnership between Azerbaijan and the European Union and would be conducive to a more favourable political atmosphere in the run-up to the electoral campaign.

http://www.eu2008.si/en/News_and_Documents/CFSP_Statements/January/0108MZZ_Azerbaijan.html

Georgia

- ▶ **Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the Presidential Elections in Georgia on January 5, 2008** (07/01/2008)

The Presidential Elections on 5 January 2008 were an important test for democracy and stability in Georgia, particularly in the light of the recent political developments in the country.

The European Union congratulates the Georgian people for the peaceful conduct of the elections and notes the Statement of the Preliminary Findings and Conclusions of the International Elections Observation Mission which concludes that the elections were in essence consistent with most OSCE and Council of Europe commitments and standards for democratic elections. The EU also welcomes good cooperation of the Georgian authorities with OSCE/ODIHR election observation mission. However the European Union also notes that significant challenges were revealed which need to be addressed urgently.

The European Union urges Georgia to take all necessary steps to address the identified shortcomings in order to ensure successful Parliamentary elections later this year. In particular, Georgia needs to do more to reinforce the independence of state institutions in a political campaign environment and to strengthen the freedom and pluralism of the media, as well as the independence of the judiciary.

The European Union looks forward to the final results of the presidential elections and calls on the competent authorities to ensure that all complaints are adequately and urgently addressed. Moreover, the EU urges all political forces to respect the election results and to engage constructively and democratically in order to ensure that Georgia continues moving forward. Dialogue between political forces is an essential part of this process. The European Union also reiterates its full commitment to strengthen relations with Georgia in the context of the implementation of the European Neighbourhood Policy Action Plan.

http://www.eu2008.si/en/News_and_Documents/CFSP_Statements/January/0107MZZGruzija.html

Georgia

- ▶ **Javier SOLANA, EU High Representative for the CFSP, congratulates the Georgian people on the peaceful conduct of the presidential elections on 5 January** (07/01/2008)

Javier SOLANA, EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) made the following statement following the presidential elections which took place in Georgia on 5 January 2008:

“I should like to congratulate the Georgian people on the peaceful conduct of truly competitive presidential elections on 5 January. As a matter of priority, the vote count should be concluded as soon as possible, and all allegations of irregularities should be properly investigated. All political forces should maintain a dialogue in order to deal with the challenges ahead, including those identified by international observers, before the parliamentary elections in the spring.

The European Union is ready to assist Georgia in moving forward towards the next elections.”

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/declarations/97892.pdf

Sri Lanka

- ▶ **Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the EU on the Government of Sri Lanka's decision to withdraw from the ceasefire agreement** (07/01/2008)

The EU deeply regrets the Sri Lankan Government's decision to abrogate the ceasefire agreement concluded with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in 2002. This decision and the current military campaign further deteriorate the country's already difficult situation, including the humanitarian and human rights situation. Without the ceasefire agreement prospects of negotiating a lasting, peaceful solution to the conflict in Sri Lanka are narrowed further. The EU particularly regrets that the work of the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission will be terminated.

The EU has been similarly concerned by LTTE acts of terror in recent months and statements promising further violence from their side. The EU urges both parties to put an end to all hostilities and avoid further escalation.

The EU calls upon the Government of Sri Lanka to come forward with a substantive devolution offer around which negotiations can start, as soon as possible. For an arrangement to serve as a feasible basis for negotiations, it needs to go beyond past offers and the EU urges both parties to work towards a solution that would bring a peaceful and lasting resolution to the conflict.

http://www.eu2008.si/en/News_and_Documents/CFSP_Statements/January/0107MZZSriLanka.html

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MAGHREB AND MIDDLE EAST

Lebanon

- ▶ **Javier Solana, EU High Representative for the CFSP, welcomes the agreement concerning Lebanon reached by the Arab League** (07/01/2008)

Javier SOLANA, EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) made the following statement welcoming the agreement concerning Lebanon reached yesterday by the Arab League foreign ministers: "I welcome the agreement on Lebanon reached unanimously by the Arab League foreign ministers on 6 January.

I call upon all concerned parties to find the proper way to implement the Arab plan and I look forward to the speedy resumption of functioning democratic institutions in Lebanon."

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/declarations/97915.pdf

Lebanon

- ▶ **EU Presidency statement on the Arab League plan for Lebanon** (08/01/2008)

The EU Presidency welcomes the unanimous conclusions of the extraordinary session of the Foreign Ministers of the Arab League held on 6 January in Cairo. The EU Presidency supports the plan calling for the election of the president, the formation of a national unity government and the adoption of a new electoral law.

The EU Presidency reaffirms its strong support for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity, and political independence of Lebanon and urges all Lebanese parties to accept the proposals put forward by the Arab League in order to end the political crisis in the country.

http://www.eu2008.si/en/News_and_Documents/CFSP_Statements/January/0108MZZ_Libanon.html

Lebanon

- ▶ **EU Presidency statement on Lebanon** (12/01/2008)

The EU Presidency deeply regrets that the election of the new Lebanese president has been postponed yet another time, until 21 January 2008.

The Presidency calls upon the parties to use the timeframe until 21 January to work flexibly and responsibly in order to finalise an agreement that allows for the election of the new President in a spirit of consensus, in full respect of the Lebanese constitutional norms and democratic institutions, and free from outside interference. While calling for the full implementation of UN Security Council resolutions 1559, 1680 and 1701 and recalling previous statements, the EU Presidency pledges its strong support for the new president and the new government committed to Lebanon's sovereignty and independence.

http://www.eu2008.si/en/News_and_Documents/CFSP_Statements/January/0112_Libanon.html

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