



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



Brussels, 10 September 2008
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(OR. fr)

**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
concerning the situation in Mauritania**

The European Union recalls that all of the measures taken by the military leaders who have seized power in Mauritania, in particular the deposing of the President of the Republic, constitute a flagrant breach of the Mauritanian constitution.

As it has since the coup on 6 August 2008, the European Union calls for the immediate release of President Abdallahi and for a return to constitutional order. This means in particular abiding by the result of the 2007 presidential election, which was held in a transparent and democratic manner welcomed by the international community.

The European Union urges the junta and all Mauritanian political leaders to cooperate with the African Union, the European Union and the international community as soon as possible in order to find a swift solution to the crisis.

The European Union reiterates its readiness to play an active part in resolving the crisis by means of dialogue. It will draw the appropriate conclusions from any failure by the junta to show signs of its willingness to restore democracy at the earliest opportunity.

P R E S S

The Candidate Country Croatia* and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, and the EFTA countries Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia and Georgia align themselves with this declaration.

* Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.
