



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



Brussels, 9 January 2006
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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
in response to the statement by Maoists to end the unilateral
ceasefire**

The EU deeply regrets the announcement by the CPN (M) to end their ceasefire. The EU has consistently called (most recently in the Presidency statement of 31 December 2005) for the Maoists to put a definitive end to violence and other human rights abuses, as well as disruption of development work, and had been encouraged by the ceasefire and the agreement reached with the seven party political alliance. The decision to end the ceasefire is a retrograde step.

The EU notes that the Maoist ceasefire had been welcomed by the people of Nepal, and is deeply disappointed by the failure of the Government of Nepal to respond to this strong desire for peace by announcing a truce.

P R E S S

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The critical need remains for all parties involved to take immediate steps for complete cessation of hostilities and to work towards an inclusive national dialogue in Nepal with a view to resolving the underlying causes of the conflict peacefully.

The EU reminds all parties to the conflict of the importance of human rights and the need to respect their obligations under international humanitarian law.

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

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