



Brussels, 29 September 2008

**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**GENERAL SECRETARIAT**

Mr Robert Russo  
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Dear Mr Russo,

We thank you for your letter of 4 September 2008 which aims to spread the message of your Mauritanian partner AFE concerning the negative effects of the international community sanctions on the Mauritanian people after the recent coup d'état. We will forward it to the Presidency.

The Presidency of the Council of the European Union strongly condemns the military takeover led by General Mohamed Ould Abdelaziz in Mauritania and follows the developments in the country's political situation, in close collaboration with the African Union.

Furthermore, as stated in the Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the EU of 10 September 2008, "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."

Hereafter, we are quoting an extract of the communiqué on this subject, published in Brussels at the occasion of the Tenth Africa - EU Ministerial Troika meeting, on 16 September 2008:

"Mauritania

Ministers strongly condemned the coup d'état which took place in Mauritania on 6 August 2008 and the actions taken by the junta, including the creation of a « High State Council » and the establishment of a new government.

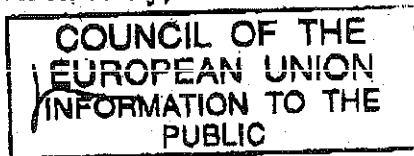
Ministers urged the return to constitutional order and the re-establishment of the institutions which the people of Mauritania chose democratically during the legislative and presidential elections of November 2006 and March 2007, respectively. The Ministers supported opening of consultations under Article 96 of the Cotonou Agreement.

The EU side expressed its firm support to the measures taken by the AU in response to the coup d'état, including the suspension of Mauritania's participation in the activities of the African Union and the timely efforts deployed in order to resolve the crisis rapidly. The African side expressed its sincere appreciation to the EU for the strong support rendered to the AU.

Ministers agreed that the AU and the EU would continue to closely coordinate their activities to mobilise the support of the international community in order to return Mauritania to legality and respect the will of the people of Mauritania.

Ministers reiterated the determination of the AU and the EU to make every effort to end the crisis rapidly through the release of the democratically elected president, M. Sidi Ould Cheikh Abdallahi, and his Prime Minister, M. Yahya Ould Ahmed Waghf, as well as the restoration of democratic institutions created after the elections of November 2006 and March 2007."

Yours sincerely,



Public Information Service

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