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The European Union will conditionally support the transition process in Madagascar and a progressive relaunch of its development cooperation with the country

The Council today adopted a decision amending the European Union's current position on Madagascar in response to the latest political developments there (16946/11).

The European Union, which has actively supported the mediation efforts made possible in particular by the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the African Union, welcomed the signing on 16 September 2011 of the roadmap to end the crisis in Madagascar.

Ms Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, said: "I am pleased that the political situation in Madagascar has developed positively allowing the European Union to give its conditional backing to the transition process in the country. I can only confirm our support, provided that this process is consensual and that the conditions for implementing the roadmap result in the holding of credible, free and transparent elections permitting a speedy return to constitutional order".

Mr Andris Piebalgs, European Commissioner for Development, also welcomed the progress achieved and said: "The way is now open for a progressive resumption of development cooperation programmes, conditional on positive progress in the implementation of the roadmap. Various programmes of direct support to the population are already being prepared.".