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G8 Political Directors express grave concern at the situation in Mali and affirm support for the Malian Government

The G8 political directors met in London on 15 January to prepare the agenda for the meeting of G8 Foreign Ministers in April. The meeting was attended by senior foreign policy officials from G8 capitals and included a discussion of the situation in Mali. The EU was represented by DSG Helga Maria Schmid.

The G8 political directors expressed their grave concern over the situation in Mali and its regional consequences. They noted that it is essential to halt the offensive by terrorist groups towards southern Mali, to prevent the collapse of the Malian state, and to accelerate the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions in all their dimensions: political, security and humanitarian.

In this context, the G8 welcomes the French military action at the request of the Malian president, and the support provided by other states. G8 countries call for the rapid implementation of UN Security Council resolution 2085, especially the immediate deployment to Mali of AFISMA. The G8 affirms its support for the Malian government, which must continue its efforts to implement the political transition process. The G8 supports the efforts undertaken by ECOWAS, the African Union, European Union and United Nations to bring an end to this crisis.