



Brussels, 25 July 2014
140725/02

S T A T E M E N T

by the Spokesperson on the adoption of a roadmap for achieving a comprehensive peace agreement for northern Mali

"The European Union welcomes the adoption of a roadmap for achieving a comprehensive peace agreement for northern Mali, as the first phase in the launch of inter-Malian negotiations.

We commend the role of facilitation undertaken by Algeria which, in close cooperation with the United Nations, the African Union and the European Union, and with the support of the countries in the region and ECOWAS, succeeded in bringing all the protagonists together in Algiers. Despite the complexity of the situation and the tensions which persist, the parties managed to reach agreement on the fundamental principles which must govern the future negotiations and on a timetable for a lasting settlement to the conflict.

The European Union will support this process at diplomatic level and in its substantive implementation in the longer term, for instance through the EU's support to Mali and the Sahel Strategy.

The situation on the ground remains fragile and the European Union calls on all parties to give priority to dialogue and to honour the ceasefire agreements. In this context, the European Union welcomes the statement on the end of hostilities between the warring parties that was negotiated in the margins of the meeting in Algiers."

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

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