



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



Brussels, 24 September 2009
13627/09 (Presse 276)

Council prolongs appropriate measures for Fiji Islands by six months

Today the Council extended by six months appropriate measures for the Fiji Islands in order to assist the country's return to democracy, the respect for human rights and the rule of law ([13087/09](#)). This decision follows the violation by the authorities of key commitments Fiji made to the EU, as well as further regressive developments, such as the abrogation of the Constitution, human rights violations and a further substantial delay in holding elections.

The European Union regards the extension of the measures as a window of opportunity for a possible new political dialogue. Should these consultations result in new credible commitments from Fiji, the EU is ready to review its measures positively.

The package of measures for the Fiji Islands had initially been adopted on 1 October 2007 for a period of two years. This marked the conclusion of consultations under Article 96 of the Cotonou Agreement, which were held in 2007. They came in the wake of the military takeover in Fiji on 5 December 2006, which the EU considered a violation of democracy and the rule of law, both essential elements of the Cotonou Agreement.

P R E S S

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The appropriate measures currently in place are designed to assist the Fiji Islands in the transition: the development cooperation would gradually be resumed if Fiji were to fulfil its commitments concerning human rights, democratic principles and the rule of law. As Fiji's authorities have decided to break a number of the commitments, this has led to losses for Fiji in terms of development funds. Humanitarian aid as well as direct support to civil society are not affected by the appropriate measures.

The measures taken today will expire on 31 March 2010.
