



### **Declaration of the Rio Group in solidarity with Italy**

The Rio Group National Coordinators, gathered on occasion of the preparatory meeting of the institutionalized ministerial dialogue of the Mechanism with the European Union, manifest their solidarity with the people and government of Italy for the consequences of the earthquake which early yesterday affected the region of Abruzzo, causing the loss of lives, injured and homeless people, and unaccountable material damage.

The Rio Group conveys its most sincere condolences to the relatives of the earthquake victims, and wishes for the prompt reestablishment of normality in the affected regions.

Brussels, Belgium, April 7, 2009.

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