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## EU WELCOMES EX-YUGOSLAVIA PEACE AGREEMENT

European Commission President Jacques Santer, and External Relations Commissioner for Eastern Europe Hans van den Broek, issued the following statement following the successful conclusion of the peace talks in Dayton:

"The Peace Agreement which has just been reached in Dayton, Ohio, is very good news indeed. It puts an end to incredible suffering of all the peoples involved in the conflict. Wisdom and humanity have finally prevailed - we must be grateful for that. We warmly congratulate the negotiators on all sides, and in particular Assistant Secretary Holbrooke, EU mediator Carl Bildt and the other members of the Contact Group. We also pay tribute to the initiative of President Clinton to organise the Dayton Conference and congratulate him on the outcome.

We must now turn to the future. The reconstruction of the countries of Ex-Yugoslavia requires a major international effort. The European Union and its Member States will contribute in a substantial way and in the same spirit as they have carried out their peace keeping and humanitarian operations up to now. The Commission and the World Bank are now in contact in order to organise a pledging conference for all potential donor countries which should take place as soon as possible. Moreover, the European Union is ready to play an important part in the civil implementation of the whole peace process."

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The European Commission today planned to release a further \$145 million in humanitarian aid for the victims of the conflict in the former Yugoslavia. This decision brings to \$330 million the total aid provided by ECHO, the EU's humanitarian aid office, in 1995.

The new aid will pave the way for rehabilitation and reconstruction and ensure continuation through the winter of vital programs, such as:

- **direct food aid** in Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro, WFP in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro and supplementary nutrition for children and other vulnerable groups;
- support for **medical centers and sanitation**, particularly in Bosnia-Herzegovina;
- extending **psychosocial programs** to cover education and social integration;
- **winter clothing and heating**;
- specific **shelter projects for new refugees**;
- **logistical support** for implementation.

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