

P R E S S R E L E A S E

Brussels, 6 February 1995
4554/95 (Presse 35)
P.015/95

**DECLARATION BY THE EUROPEAN UNION
ON CHECHNYA**

The European Union continues to follow with concern the situation in Chechnya. It has noted with disquiet that fighting is still going on and that serious human rights violations are still taking place, as was established by the OSCE mission which went to Chechnya.

The European Union refers to its Declaration of 23 January 1995. It intends to maintain its vigilance and keep up its endeavours with the Russian authorities for them to:

- . conclude a humanitarian ceasefire immediately with the assistance of the ICRC;
- . keep to the letter of the provisions of the OSCE Code of Conduct and of Additional Protocol No 2 to the 1949 Geneva Convention;
- . take the required steps to guarantee free movement of aid to populations in need;
- . open a local office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

The European Union urges the parties to begin talks on declaring a lasting ceasefire and negotiations for a political solution.

The European Union expresses its appreciation of the mission to Chechnya by the representative of the OSCE Presidency and confirms its support for the efforts made in that connection, particularly with regard to the dispatch of further missions – which must be in a position to carry out their mandate in full – on questions involving human rights, restoration of constitutional order in accordance with international obligations concerning human rights and preparations for free and fair elections in Chechnya.