

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

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**DECLARATION BY THE PRESIDENCY ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION ON
THE RELEASE OF MEMBERS OF THE OMONIA MOVEMENT**

With reference to its statement of 28 November 1994 expressing the European Union's belief that clemency by Albania towards the five members of the OMONIA movement would help improve relations between Greece and Albania, the European Union notes with satisfaction the decision by the Albanian Court of Appeal ordering the conditional release of the four members of the movement still in prison. It welcomes their actual release.

The European Union notes that this measure comes at a time when Albania has just adopted a new penal code; the European Union hopes that speedy implementation of this code will mark a further step in Albania's efforts to bring itself fully into line with the standards of democracy obtaining in Europe.