

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENCY  
ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION CONCERNING BURUNDI**

Three months after setting out its objectives and priorities with regard to Burundi (Carcassonne statement of 19 March and common position of 24 March 1995), the European Union commends the efforts being made by the leaders of the country – in particular the President of the Republic and the Prime Minister – to restore confidence, as well as the resolute action by the special representatives of the UN and OAU Secretaries-General.

- It is nevertheless increasingly concerned at the proliferation of acts of violence and the destabilizing activities of extremists on all sides. It vigorously condemns such acts and deplores the excessive number of victims. It condemns the behaviour of certain military units during disarmament operations in areas of Bujumbura and points, in this connection to the Burundi Government's responsibility for the proper conduct of such operations.
- It reaffirms that the situation can return to normal only if there is respect, and support from all sections of the population, for the government convention of 10 September 1994 establishing the conditions for power-sharing, as pointed out by the President of the Republic and the Prime Minister in their joint statement of 30 March 1995.

In this connection it takes note of the special measures announced by the President of the Republic on 18 June, which show the authorities' resolve to restore order, while hoping that they will be implemented in strict compliance with human rights.

- The unreserved commitment of all the Burundi people and of the international community is needed if this serious crisis is to be overcome.

The European Union remains determined to give its resolute support to the efforts of the Burundi authorities to restore peace and their action against all trouble-makers. It reaffirms its opposition to extremists.

- **The decisions taken by the European Union in support of the process of national reconciliation are being implemented:**
    - = **Support is being provided for increasing the staff of the OAU observer mission.**
    - = **Assistance for the dispatch of human rights experts by the United Nations High Commissioner is being prepared.**
    - = **The aid requirements for rebuilding the legal system have been identified.**
    - = **The action plan for assistance to refugees, displaced and repatriated persons, adopted in Bujumbura, can be implemented with the assistance of the European Union.**
    - = **The principle of a round table of providers of funds has been the subject of a protocol of agreement complete with time limits between the UNDP and the Burundi government. It is now for the government to draw up a clear programme of economic and social recovery to be placed before the fund providers.**
    - = **Measures banning travel by extremists to the Member States are being applied.**
  
  - **The European Union considers that the States in the region have a particular responsibility and it urges them, together with all States in the international community, to support the stabilization efforts being made by the Burundi authorities and to take the measures required to prevent the arming and movement of extremists.**
  
  - **The European Union reaffirms the need for a well-prepared regional conference, as soon as possible, under the aegis of the United Nations, on peace, security and stability in the Great Lakes region, since a conference of this kind is the only means of reducing the deep-seated causes of instability in the region.**
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