

Brussels, 11 March 1997

6495/97 (Presse 72)

P. 25/97

**DECLARATION BY THE PRESIDENCY ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION ON
THE ELECTORAL PROCESS IN EL SALVADOR**

The European Union's attention has been drawn to the recent events surrounding the electoral process in El Salvador, which have given rise to concern.

The European Union reiterates the need for transparency in the general and local elections and hopes the Supreme Court will be in a position to perform its role as an impartial arbitrator to the full.

The European Union hopes that the whole electoral campaign will take place in the same spirit of mutual respect. It recalls that it has provided El Salvador with financial and technical assistance in order to carry out the necessary electoral reforms, and encourages the political forces to work towards El Salvador's rapid reconstruction and its prosperity.