

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

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Declaration by the European Union concerning the FRY

1. The European Union, recognising the important role the FRY has to play in the region and in Europe, wishes to set out its policy clearly to the people of the FRY.
2. It is a policy based on a fair approach and equal opportunities to all the countries of the region.
3. The Union wishes to see a FRY that is peaceful, prosperous and democratic, one that has taken its rightful place in the European family. That requires the FRY to live up to the same standards as the rest of Europe.
4. Many of the countries in the Union have faced economic problems similar to those that now beset you. It is wrong to believe that there are easy and simple solutions to the problems the FRY faces. The lesson of the last forty years is that it is by working together with other Europeans that economic well-being is most speedily restored.

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5. The rhetoric of nationalism and ethnicity has no place in modern Europe. The policies that lie behind it have failed the FRY, and brought you, its people, to amongst the poorest in the region. Neither the EU nor the international community is to blame for this.
 6. The EU urges cooperation with the international community to build a fully democratic FRY, enjoying a genuinely free press, with equality of opportunity for all, an open and modern economy that brings benefits to all, and an impartial judicial system.
 7. The EU has the same expectations of all the countries in the region: full respect for democracy and human rights, a commitment to work for a just peace through implementation of the Dayton agreement, including by full cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia, and the other accords that ended the war; good neighbourliness, and a constructive approach to solving the ethnic and minority problems of the region, in particular in Kosovo. Real progress in these areas would enable the EU to develop further its relations with your country.
 8. You must together choose how best to bring the FRY to its rightful and prosperous place in the community of nations.
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