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Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
on the first EU/FYROM Political Dialogue meeting

The Presidency, on behalf of the EU, welcomes the holding of the first Political Dialogue meeting, within the framework of the Joint Declaration, between the European Community and its Member States and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) which took place in Ohrid, FYROM, on 3 February 1998. The EU was represented by Mr. Tony Lloyd, UK Minister of State, and by Mr. Fabrizio Barbaso of the European Commission.

This meeting, together with the entry into force of the Cooperation Agreement on 1 January 1998, represents a significant step forward in FYROM's relations with the European Union and a recognition of its place in the European family. The EU looks forward to developing relations with FYROM, in the framework of the Agreement and of the accompanying Joint Declaration, and in this respect stresses the importance of the forthcoming session of the Cooperation Council planned for the 21/22 March 1998.