

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

Brussels, 2 October 1995

10210/95 (Presse 277)

P. 90/95

STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN UNION ON NIGERIA

The European Union welcomes the Nigerian Head of State's decision to commute all death sentences in respect of those alleged to have been involved in coup plotting as a positive and constructive first step. The EU looks forward to further information on the fate of those involved and remains concerned about those whose sentences are still awaited.

The EU welcomes the Head of State's commitment to a process to return to civilian democratic rule. However, it believes that a transition should be achieved in less than 3 years.

The EU recalls the concerns it has previously expressed about the need to address the human rights situation in Nigeria generally.

Nigeria remains an area of priority engagement and concern for the EU. The EU will closely follow the implementation of the commitments made public by General Abacha and will adapt the future of its cooperation with Nigeria in the light of the evolution of this process.