

Brussels, 16 May 1997

8133/97 (Presse 155)
P 46/97

**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
on the Chechnya Peace Accord**

On May 12, President Yeltsin and President Mashkadov signed the "Treaty of peace and principles of relations between the Russian Federation and the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria".

The EU welcomes this treaty and the other agreements signed on the same occasion as further significant steps towards reconciliation, political and economic cooperation and lasting peace in Chechnya.

The EU hopes that post war reconstruction and rehabilitation can now start as soon as possible and reiterates its strong support for the work carried out by the OSCE Assistance Group in facilitating this.

The EU has just made available considerable humanitarian assistance and now expects the much needed aid deliveries to reach Chechnya more easily.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated country Cyprus and the EFTA countries members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this declaration.
