

Brussels, 30 May 1997

8323/97 (Presse 171)
P. 52/97

Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
on the Slovak referendum

The European Union wishes to express its concern regarding the events accompanying the holding of a referendum on both NATO membership and direct presidential elections in Slovakia on 23 and 24 May 1997.

The European Union has noted the ruling of the Constitutional Court on the compatibility of the referendum on direct presidential elections with the Slovak Constitution and regrets the lack of proper follow-up by the responsible Slovak authorities. The European Union has also noted the conclusions of the Central Referendum Committee declaring that the referendum has not been carried out according to the law and has taken note of the resignation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Hamzik.

The European Union continues to take a close interest in events in Slovakia as a country which has a Europe Agreement, including a perspective of accession, and calls upon the Government of Slovakia to respect the rule of law and the principles necessary for strengthening a democratic society.