

**P R E S S   R E L E A S E**

Brussels, 7 July 1997

9639/97 (Presse 238)

P. 076/97

**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union  
concerning the situation in Cambodia**

The European Union unreservedly condemns the violence in Cambodia and appeals urgently to the parties to introduce an immediate and unconditional ceasefire. The EU calls on the country's authorities to re-establish the operation of constitutional institutions in Cambodia as quickly as possible.

The European Union supports the initiative of King Sihanouk to initiate consultations without delay with the two co-Prime Ministers in order to find a solution to the present violent situation.

The European Union reminds the Cambodian government that it gave a public undertaking to the international community when it announced that legislative elections would be held in May 1998. By making this statement, the European Union is expressing its concern with the present situation and asking for the undertakings given to be complied with. The European Union hopes that the political tension can be reduced quickly in the interests of the country and the Cambodian people.

The European Union calls on the ASEAN countries to use all their influence to persuade the Cambodian authorities to re-establish calm in their country.