

Brussels, 14 August 1997

10363/97 (Presse 264)
P 88/97

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

The European Union continues to be concerned at the situation in Cambodia. Recalling its Declaration of 7 July 1997, it hereby renews its support for the mediation efforts made by ASEAN and confirmed at the meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs on 11 August in Singapore. The EU notes with interest the fact that ASEAN does not rule out the possibility of organizing an informal meeting of all the involved parties with a view to the restoration of political stability in Cambodia.

The EU applauds the constructive role played by HM King Sihanouk in the search for a solution to this crisis.

The EU appeals for the immediate cessation of all violence in Cambodia, particularly in the north-west regions. It is continuing to monitor the development of the situation closely as it is one of the major donors of aid to the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Lastly, the EU points out that the Paris Agreements must be fully observed and reiterates the importance it attaches to the holding of free multi-party elections in May 1998 to which all the democratic political parties should be admitted. With that in mind, the EU stresses the importance of putting in place the legal and institutional setup, the Constitutional Council and the Council of Magistrates, and the necessary legislative framework, such as a law on political parties and an electoral code.