

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

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Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
concerning the elections in Montenegro

The European Union has followed closely the conduct of the Presidential elections in Montenegro on 19 October 1997.

The European Union points out that the OSCE mission which monitored the elections reported that the preliminary results of the ballot reflected the electorate's wishes and that Mr Djukanovic's victory was officialized following the Central Electoral Commission's rejection of Mr Bulatovic's complaints.

The European Union therefore calls on all the parties to accept the result of the ballot on 19 October and to abstain from acts of violence.

The European Union regrets the fact that State television reported on the reactions to the elections in a one-side manner. That biased and unbalanced approach is even more disturbing because the broadcasts expressed hostile feelings towards ethnic minorities and questioned the integrity of the OSCE observers. Those events cast doubt on the willingness to implement the process of democratization of the media in the FRY.