

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

Brussels, 29 May 1998

9032/98 (Presse 176)
P 48/98

**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
on municipal elections in Mozambique**

The EU believe that the building of democracy in Mozambique is a process in which all Mozambicans should be involved. The EU regrets that the Government and opposition were not able to reach agreement on the issues blocking wider participation in these important municipal elections, but acknowledges the right of RENAMO and other political parties, which was exercised freely and democratically, not to participate in the municipal elections.

The EU, inter alia as the major donor for the election process, is particularly concerned at the potentially adverse effect on Mozambique's international image that any interruption in the reconciliation process might bring about, and urges all parties to continue dialogue with a view to consolidating democracy as a prerequisite for economic and social development.
