

PR E S S E R E L A S E

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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
on the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) Council Summit**

The Presidency, on behalf of the European Union, sends its best wishes to the Presidency of the meeting of the Heads of State and Government of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation on the occasion of their summit in Yalta on 4-5 June 1998, and welcomes the signature of the BSEC Charter which will formally establish the BSEC as a regional economic organisation.

The European Union recognises and supports the work of the BSEC in promoting regional economic cooperation and thus enhancing stability, security and prosperity in the region. The BSEC has a positive contribution to make in the development of the region in several areas, including transport, power, telecommunications, and the environment. The European Union looks forward to building on its existing cooperation with the BSEC and stands ready, where appropriate, to provide practical support through the relevant Community programmes.
