

Brussels, 24 June 1998

9725/98 (Presse 222)
P 66/98

**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
on the Troika visit to East Timor**

The Heads of the Diplomatic Missions of the European Union Troika in Jakarta will visit East Timor from 27 June to 30 June 1998. Representatives from EU Missions have visited East Timor regularly in recent years in order to observe the situation in the territory at first hand. The fact that the present visit is being undertaken by Heads of Mission reflects the Union's continuing and increased concern with the situation in East Timor and its wish to improve its knowledge of the situation there and its commitment to support all those working for a peaceful solution. It does not represent any change in the position of the EU and its Member States on the status of East Timor.

The EU expresses its support for the mission of the personal representative of the United Nations Secretary General for East Timor, Ambassador Marker, and hopes that negotiations between Indonesia and Portugal, under the aegis of the Secretary General, will result in a just, comprehensive and internationally acceptable solution to the question of East Timor which fully respect the rights of the people of East Timor in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the UNGA and the principles of the UN Charter. The EU also supports action to improve the human rights situation in East Timor.

The mission will comprise: the British Ambassador, Robin Christopher, the Austrian Ambassador, Viktor Segalla, the Netherlands Ambassador, Paul Brouwer (representing Luxembourg), the EU Commission representative, Klaus Peter Schmallenbach and the EU Council Secretariat representative, Christer Persson.