

9395/98 PRESSE 198

Brussels, 11 June 1998

9395/98 (Presse 198)
P 59/98

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

The adoption on 4 June by the National Assembly of Burundi of a Constitutional Act and a political platform for transition is an important step towards peace and national reconciliation in Burundi. It is a significant gesture which offers hope that the Burundians will pursue the efforts which they have begun. This important step towards national reconciliation must be complemented by negotiations between all the Burundi parties without exception, from both inside and outside the country. At this crucial juncture for the future of Burundi, the European Union calls upon all the Burundi parties due to be in Arusha on 15 June in the framework of the regional peace initiative led by the former Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere, to assume the important responsibilities they have to the people of Burundi, who have already endured so much suffering and are hoping for peace.

The Central and Eastern European countries and Cyprus associated with the European Union and the EFTA countries, members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this declaration.
