

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

Brussels, 18 July 2000

10182/00 (Presse 259)

P 103/00

**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
concerning the Gambia**

The European Union wishes to express its concern following the recent confrontations in the Gambia between members of an opposition party and representatives of the ruling party and the abuses of rights recorded on that occasion.

The European Union calls on the Gambian authorities to respect fully the independence of the courts in the proceedings instituted against the leader of the opposition, Ousainou Darboe, and 24 members of his party, and to observe the principles of good governance.

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