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Statement by the Presidency on behalf of the EU on the result of the elections in FRY

The message of the Serbian people to Milosevic and to the international community is clear: the time has come for change in Belgrade.

The vain attempts of a doomed power to camouflage the facts and postpone the day of reckoning have only made more evident the extent of the confidence that the Serbian people has expressed in Mr Kostunica, who now represents a new Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the eyes of the world.

As it undertook to do, the European Union must take steps to lift the sanctions imposed on Milosevic's FRY as a matter of urgency.

The will of the Serbian people must be respected. The opposition's victory must not be pushed aside; in the first instance, this means that the opposition's demand to check the figures claimed by the federal electoral commission must be complied with.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia, the associated countries Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, and the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this declaration.

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