

**P R E S S   R E L E A S E**

Brussels, 28 October 2000

12777/00 (Presse 403)

P 166/00

**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union  
concerning Côte d'Ivoire**

The European Union notes that the Supreme Court has proclaimed Mr Laurent Gbagbo duly elected President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, in accordance with the results published by the National Electoral Commission.

The European Union calls on the newly sworn-in President, in accordance with the commitment he gave in his investiture speech, and on all Ivorian political leaders to implement the appropriate measures to restore, in a climate of civil peace, the national cohesion and spirit of solidarity which have characterised Côte d'Ivoire.

The European Union, which had regretted the severe restrictions imposed on citizens' freedom of choice, also calls on the newly sworn-in President to bring about the opening up to democracy for which the citizens of Côte d'Ivoire are clamouring. In this connection it notes Mr Laurent Gbagbo's confirmation that parliamentary elections will be held on 10 December 2000.

It is essential that the process of a return to constitutional and democratic order be conducted in a manner that unquestionably is and can be seen to be open and fair and that it afford all of the country's political forces an opportunity to help achieve the above objectives.

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.

---

Internet: <http://ue.eu.int/Newsroom>  
E-mail: [press.office@consilium.eu.int](mailto:press.office@consilium.eu.int)