

Brussels, 7 May 1999

8007/99 (Presse 137)
P 47/9

**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
on the military coup in the Comoros**

The European Union deeply regrets the deterioration of the political and social situation in the Comoros. In particular it regrets the failure so far of all efforts to settle the secessionist crisis by democratic means. It considers a military intervention not an adequate means to fight separatism in the Comoros. The European Union therefore clearly condemns the intervention of the Comoros Army which has overthrown the legal Government and has announced the dissolution of the constitution and of democratic institutions.

The European Union urgently calls on the Comoros National Development Army to release President Massoude and Prime Minister Djoussouf so that the legal Government can resume its official duties.

The European Union believes that a political solution to the crisis in the Comoros can only be reached through the combined efforts of all its citizens. It appeals to the leaders on Anjouan immediately to sign the Agreement of Antananarivo of 23 April 1999 and to cooperate in a constructive fashion with the constitutional Government on its implementation.

As a result of the coup of 30 April, the European Union will reexamine its development cooperation with the Islamic Republic of the Comoros in compliance with the mechanisms laid down in the revised Fourth Lomé Convention. It is recalled that article 366a of the Lomé Convention allows for appropriate steps to be taken, including consultations and, if necessary, the full or partial suspension of application of the Convention.

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