

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

Brussels, 22 December 2000

14837/00 (Presse 496)

P 197/00

**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
on Laos**

On 7 December 2000 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, Laos signed the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, together with the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The European Union welcomes the decision of Laos to sign these Covenants and strongly encourages it to ratify and implement them rapidly.

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

=====

Internet: <http://ue.eu.int/Newsroom>
E-mail: press.office@consilium.eu.int