

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

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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
concerning the elections in Kosovo**

The European Union welcomes the good conditions, the lack of incidents and the remarkably high turnout observed in the local elections held in Kosovo on 28 October 2000.

The Union congratulates the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Representative in Kosovo and his team, whose commitment and action have made possible this further stage in the implementation of United Nations Resolution 1244.

It also commends the outstanding job done by the OSCE and the Council of Europe, which enabled polling to pass off smoothly, and KFOR, which ensured the requisite safe environment.

UNMIK now has representative, democratic local authorities and hence interlocutors at municipal level.

In this connection, the European Union welcomes the intention of the UN Secretary-General's special Representative to appoint Kosovar Serb representatives to certain municipal councils and to hold by-elections at a later date.

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The European Union would like other nationalities to become involved in this initiative as soon as possible.

At the same time, it will be for UNMIK to maintain the requisite dialogue with the authorities in Belgrade.

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