

Brussels, 1 June 1999

8869/99 (Presse 178)  
P. 57/99

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

The EU welcomes the fact that the Presidential Elections in the Slovak Republic on May 15th and 29th, the first held with universal suffrage, have ended a period of nearly 15 months during which the Slovak Republic was without a Head of State. The EU is confident that the filling of this office will add to the institutional stability which the Slovak Republic needs to pursue a thorough policy of reform.

The EU notes that, with the casting of their votes in the Presidential Elections, the Slovak electorate confirmed their vote in the Parliamentary Elections in September 1998, when they gave a clear signal to lead the Slovak Republic onto a path of democratisation, fundamental reform and an unequivocal policy towards European integration.

The EU is confident that the stabilising effect of the Presidential Elections has improved the chances of the Slovak Republic commencing accession negotiations with the European Union.

The EU calls on the Slovak Government to continue, in the light of its support among the electorate, its efforts in the field of economic stabilisation and further reforms.