

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
on the Montenegrin initiative on relations with Serbia

The European Union notes that the Government of the Republic of Montenegro has on 5 August 1999 decided on a platform on "New relations between Montenegro and Serbia in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia".

In the light of recent events the EU understands the willingness of Montenegro to undertake serious efforts to restructure the relationship between Serbia and Montenegro, and urges the authorities of Serbia and Montenegro to commence a genuine dialogue on the future constitutional arrangements of the FRY in a peaceful manner.

The EU will follow the discussion closely, and hopes that it will lead to a successful conclusion. The EU recalls its strong commitment to the establishment of a democratic government in all parts of the FRY, within its present boundaries, and welcomes the democratic reforms which have taken place in Montenegro.

The EU wishes to point out that a successful conclusion of the negotiations could have positive consequences for the development of relations of the EU with both Montenegro and Serbia.

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