

Brussels, 5 July 1996

8525/96 (Presse 195)  
P 55/96

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

The European Union expresses its satisfaction at the successful conclusion of the second round of the Presidential elections in the Russian Federation. This marks a historic milestone in the consolidation of democracy in Russia and a considerable achievement for the Russian people. It will help to strengthen peace and stability in Europe and contribute to Russia's integration into the community of free, democratic nations.

The successful holding of these elections reinforces the European Union's determination to press on with the establishment of close relations within a substantive and constructive partnership with the Russian Federation on the basis of democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

The European Union is ready to continue and intensify cooperation with the Russian authorities so as to build further on the democratic and economic reforms Russia has successfully initiated in recent years. While recognizing the challenge that the implementation of these reforms presents, the Union is convinced that they are essential for the future wellbeing of the Russian people.

---