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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
on the normalisation of relations between the Republic of Croatia
and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia**

The European Union expresses its satisfaction at the agreement signed on 23 August by the authorities of the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia on the normalisation of their relations, which provides for mutual recognition and the exchange of diplomatic representatives at ambassadorial level.

This development represents a constructive contribution to peace and stability in the region, in particular in view of the intention of both parties to resolve outstanding issues through negotiations in the spirit of the United Nations charter and on the basis of the rules of international law.

The European Union further welcomes the intention of the parties to address and resolve matters involving the rights of their respective citizens who suffered bereavement or personal loss in the course of the recent conflict.

The European Union looks forward to the entry into force of this agreement and the full implementation of its provisions without delay.