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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
on Peru/Ecuador relations**

The EU welcomes the significant progress made over recent months towards the negotiation of a long term settlement of the dispute between Peru and Ecuador and, in particular, to the agreements of Quito and Santiago of February and November 1996, respectively. The EU underlines the importance of confidence building measures in Latin America. In this context it refers to the discussion at the EU/Rio Group sponsored IRELA seminar at the end of November in Quito. It attaches great importance to the commitment of the Peruvian and Ecuadorean governments to embark on substantive discussions in Brasilia on 20 December, prior to the meeting between President Fujimori and President Bucaram in Lima in January.

In expressing its conviction that the governments of Peru and Ecuador will approach the meeting in a spirit of compromise and flexibility, the EU encourages them at the Brasilia Talks to lay solid foundations upon which President Fujimori and President Bucaram will be able to carry forward negotiations in Lima early next year towards a definitive settlement.

Iceland, Norway, the Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union and the associated country Cyprus align themselves with this declaration.