

P R E S S R E L E A S E

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**Declaration by the European Union
on the introduction of democracy in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia
after the events of 5 October 2000**

The EU wishes to congratulate the people and the political leaders of the Federal republic of Yugoslavia for the remarkable progress made in the introduction of democracy. The year after October 5, 2000 has been marked by elections and the establishment of a democratic government, by economic reforms, and by the suspension of repressive laws. This year has also seen the adoption of an amnesty law, and important steps of co-operation with ICTY.

The EU looks back with satisfaction at the successful co-operation it has developed with the FRY. Right after October 5, 2000, the EU came forward with substantial emergency aid. It has strongly supported policies of reform and economic transition. Like other countries in the region the FRY has become a partner of the EU through the SA-process. The EU will support continued democratic, economic and legislative reforms, with particular emphasis on the rule of law and public sector reforms.

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The EU wishes to recall the importance of reaching an agreement on a new overall federal framework between the two republics Serbia and Montenegro. This would greatly facilitate both the consolidation of reforms and participation in the process of European integration.

Together with other international actors, the EU intends to remain a reliable partner of the FRY during the challenging period that lies ahead. It encourages those in positions of responsibility in the FRY to maintain the course of reform. It looks forward to seeing a renewed Federal Republic of Yugoslavia take its place as a beacon of stability in South Eastern Europe. In particular, the EU looks forward to seeing the transfer of all remaining ICTY indictees in the FRY to the ICTY as soon as possible. The EU also calls upon the FRY authorities to work actively for the full participation of all Kosovo Serbs in the November Assembly elections and thus to underline their support for a multi-ethnic future for Kosovo.

On this anniversary the EU extends its best wishes for a peaceful, stable and prosperous future to all the people of the FRY.
