

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 visit of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General in Kosovo
Hans Haekkerup to Belgrade**

The European Union welcomes the visit of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General in Kosovo Hans Haekkerup to Belgrade on 5 April 2001. His meeting with FRY President Vojislav Kostunica marks an important step forward in the development of a constructive relationship between the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and the FRY government.

The EU warmly welcomes the support expressed by President Kostunica for UNMIK's efforts to establish a legal framework for Kosovo and his confirmation of Kosovo Serb participation in this process.

The EU recalls earlier commitments by FRY/Serbian authorities regarding the release of remaining Kosovo Albanian political prisoners. The EU supports the idea of setting up a joint mechanism (FRY/UNMIK) to clarify the fate of all missing persons, with a view also to involving affected Serb, Kosovo Albanian and other representatives from civil society.

Internet: <http://ue.eu.int/Newsroom>
E-mail: press.office@consilium.eu.int

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The EU once again urges the Kosovo Albanian leaders to use their leverage to stop the violence and harassment against minorities. It encourages KFOR and UNMIK to continue to do their utmost to provide security for minority communities and to create conditions for the safe and dignified return of all refugees and displaced persons from Kosovo.

The EU looks forward to the formal establishment of an UNMIK office in Belgrade.
