

Brussels, 10 January 1997

5125/97 (Presse 2)
P 2/97

**DECLARATION BY THE PRESIDENCY OF THE EUROPEAN UNION ON THE
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC**

The European Union is extremely concerned at the serious situation of instability currently reigning in the Central African Republic. It would like all parties in Bangui to reach a peaceful solution.

With this in view, the Union fully supports the mediation efforts initiated by the Presidents of Gabon, Burkina Faso, Chad and Mali and led on the spot by General Amadou Toumani Touré.

The Union calls upon all parties not to endanger the democratic process begun three years ago in the Central African Republic and to respect fully the principles of the rule of law and good governance, which are essential for the development of the country and its relationship with the European Union.
