

**P R E S S   R E L E A S E**

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**Declaration by the Presidency  
of the European Union on Chechnya**

The Presidency of the European Union welcomes President Yeltsin's peace plan, his visit to Grozny and the talks held in Moscow and encourages wholeheartedly the process of ongoing negotiations.

The Presidency expresses the vivid hope that now an effective cease-fire and the full cessation of hostilities will be maintained and followed by negotiations leading to a political, just and lasting settlement of the conflict.

The Presidency pays particular tribute to the OSCE Assistance Group in Grozny, and especially to Ambassador Guldiman for their courageous work. It hopes that the OSCE would continue playing an important part towards a peaceful settlement of the issue.

During the meeting of Political Dialogue, the Associated Countries of Central and Eastern Europe, as well as Cyprus and Malta aligned themselves to the Presidency's declaration.

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