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**Declaration by the Presidency of the European Union
on the expansion of membership of the Conference
on Disarmament**

The Presidency of the European Union expresses its satisfaction at the decision taken on 17 June by the Conference on Disarmament to admit new members, some of which are members of the European Union.

Although the Conference on Disarmament has now admitted 23 States, 13 further applications for membership are still to be considered, including those of 4 European Union Members, some of which were submitted over a decade ago.

It has always been the European Union's objective that all States which have applied for CD Membership to date should be admitted, including the EU Member States.

Recalling that decision CD/1356 explicitly states that this enlargement is "without prejudice to the consideration of the other candidatures to date" and that UN Resolution 50/72C urged the Conference to give further consideration, at its 1996 session, to these remaining candidatures following the presentation of a progress report by the President of the CD, the Presidency of the European Union believes that the CD Plenary should consider the remaining candidatures for CD Membership before the end of its 1996 session with a view to taking an early decision on their admission to full membership.