

██
██
P R E S S R E L E A S E

Brussels, 30 March 2001

7368/01 (Presse 126)

P 68/01

**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
on the local elections in Côte d'Ivoire**

The European Union notes with satisfaction that the local elections in Côte d'Ivoire on 25 March 2001, were generally held in an orderly and transparent manner, with the exception of some isolated unfortunate incidents. The European Union welcomes that all political parties participated in the elections, thus signifying an important step in the democratic process in Côte d'Ivoire.

In light of the on-going consultations between the European Union and Côte d'Ivoire according to article 96 of the Cotonou agreement, the European Union hopes that the elections will contribute to the promotion of national reconciliation and to the consolidation of rule of law in Côte d'Ivoire.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, and the EFTA countries, members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this declaration.

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