

PRESS RELEASE

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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union concerning
the border agreement between the Republic of Lithuania and the Russian Federation**

The European Union welcomes the border agreement signed in Moscow on 24 October 1997 by the President of the Republic of Lithuania, A. Brazauskas, and the President of the Russian Federation, B. Yeltsin.

The European Union greatly appreciates the efforts made on both sides to bring about the signing of the agreement, which represents a significant contribution to the stability and security of the region. This is an act of historic importance, reflecting a spirit of good neighbourliness and marking a constructive step in the strengthening of relations between Lithuania and Russia.

The European Union hopes that the agreement between Russia and Lithuania will help prepare the ground for the signing of border agreements with the other two Baltic States.