

PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, 19 November 1997

12402/97 (Presse 350)

P. 109/97

Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on Paraguay

The European Union is keeping a close watch on Paraguay's progress towards the consolidation of democracy. It reiterates its support for the democratic constitutional order and for the supremacy of the civilian authorities.

It is the European Union's hope that institutional legality and democratic legitimacy in Paraguay will emerge the stronger for proper conduct of the presidential elections due to be held in May 1998.

The European Union points out that respect for the principles of a constitutional democracy, political pluralism and human rights remains an essential requirement for the development of political and economic relations between the Union and non-member countries.