

P R E S S

Brussels, 15 December 1997

13369/97 (Presse 395)
P. 115/97

**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
on the draft law concerning stateless children in Estonia**

The European Union welcomes the Estonian Government's decision of 9 December to lay before Parliament an amendment to the law on citizenship to the effect that Estonian citizenship will be granted on request to children born to stateless parents in Estonia. The decision is a constructive step towards the integration of Estonia's non-citizens in the spirit of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and an important confidence-building measure. The European Union supports and appreciates the Estonian Government's decision.
