THE EUROPEAN UNION
THE PRESIDENCY

PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, 29 December 1997

13640/97 (Presse 407)
P. 120/97

Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on on the first anniversary of the signing of the peace agreement in Guatemala

On the occasion of the first anniversary of the signing of the Peace Agreements, the European Union congratulates the people of Guatemala, its authorities and the various components of civil society, on the efforts made hitherto in implementing the Peace Process.

Furthermore, it firmly supports the current action aimed at establishing a lasting peace and the well-being of the people of Guatemala. The Union hopes that the authorities and civil society will work together to achieve the objective of a reconciled society based on mutual respect.

In this connection, it notes with satisfaction the demobilization of the URNG and welcomes the creation of the national civil police and the setting up of the Commission for Historical Clarification. It appeals to all the parties concerned to allow the Commission for Clarification to complete its task under the best conditions.

The Union considers Guatemala to be on the right course and pays homage to the efforts made by all parties to implement the Peace Agreements. It trusts that the people of Guatemala as a whole will be able to meet the historic challenge presented by the process set in motion one year ago.