

P R E S S R E L E A S E

Brussels, 7 November 1997

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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
on the progress of the democratic process in Kenya**

The European Union welcomes the adoption today by Kenya's Parliament, of laws debated in a cooperative spirit and designed to strengthen the democratic process and enhance respect for Human Rights.

The European Union hopes that reforms will be put into effect speedily, registration of political parties will be carried out in a proper way and sufficient time and access will be allowed for all political parties wishing to participate in the elections to benefit from the reforms.

The European Union will follow carefully the implementation of the new laws. We expect the changes to be faithfully, thoroughly and promptly implemented nationwide. We attach great importance to full and unhindered participation in the coming elections.

We call on all actors to conduct themselves peacefully, in accordance with both the letter and the spirit of the new laws, especially at grass roots level. In particular we appeal to all political parties to observe fully the new code of conduct. We urge the Government to ensure that political meetings and rallies will no longer be interfered with and disrupted by police or local authorities and to make adequate provision for all contestants to have fair access to the electronic media.

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The European Union looks forward to further progress and welcomes the prospect of a debate that will pave the way for comprehensive constitutional reform. We hope that this debate will involve all sectors of Kenyan society in order to reach the broadest possible agreement.

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