

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

Brussels, 28 May 1997

8544/97 (Presse 172)
P 53/97

**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
on Sierra Leone**

The European Union deplores the current attempt to overthrow the democratically elected Government of Sierra Leone and strongly urges the restoration of democratic civilian government. The EU is deeply concerned at the level of violence against both local and foreign communities.

The EU expresses the hope that the peace process will be continued after constitutional order has been restored.

The Associated countries Bulgaria, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovak Republic and Slovenia and Iceland and Norway members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this declaration.