COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, 30 July 1997

10259/97 (Presse 254)
P 82/97

Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the EU on the elections in Liberia

The EU congratulates the people of Liberia on the free and fair elections held on 19 July. It appeals to all those who took part in them to accept and honour the results of the elections.

The large-scale participation in the election demonstrates the desire of the people of Liberia to return to a democratic and peaceful society. The EU notes with satisfaction that despite very short deadlines and difficult material conditions the Independent Electoral Commission was able to organize the election in such a way as to allow all voters to exercise their right to vote.

The EU thanks the ECOWAS and ECOMOG, which helped to ensure a stable and safe environment for the holding of these elections.

The EU is aware that the newly elected government has a weighty task before it. The EU assures the Liberian people and government of its willingness to continue assisting them in the difficult phase of reconstruction. It hopes that the new government, in the interests of the entire country, will be able to succeed in reconciling all those who opposed each other in the past.