

PRESS RELEASE

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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
on Bosnia and Herzegovina**

The European Union expresses satisfaction about the peaceful and orderly course of the general elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina on 12 and 13 September 1998. The holding of these elections in a positive climate was an important step in the implementation process of the Dayton Accords and on the way towards enhanced stability, normality and reconciliation in that country.

The EU is particularly satisfied with the high voter turnout which gives proof of the growing democratic maturity of the Bosnian-Herzegovinian population, and with the positive and constructive role played by the police and by the media.

The EU would like to commend the OSCE for the professional preparation and organization of these elections, under very difficult circumstances. In these endeavours, the EU was also involved, through bilateral contributions of EU Member States, the participation of ECMM, and through EU financial support.

The EU hopes that the election results become available soon and that they substantiate the first indications pointing to broad electoral support for the moderate, pro-Dayton and tolerance-minded parties and candidates.

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