

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

Brussels, 29 February 2000

6452/00 (Presse 51)

P 24/00

**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
concerning the position of Archbishop Emmanuel Kataliko**

The European Union has learned that on 12 February 2000, upon returning from Kinshasa, Archbishop Emmanuel Kataliko was prevented from going back to the see of his archdiocese at Bukavu and banished to Butembo.

It voices its strongest concern at this infringement of Archbishop Kataliko's liberty and at the obstacles still being put in the way of his return to Bukavu.

It appeals to the RCD [Goma] rebel leaders, in accordance with their verbal undertaking, and to the Rwandan government to do their utmost to ensure that Archbishop Emmanuel Kataliko can return to the see of his archdiocese in Bukavu in complete safety without delay, so that he can resume his pastoral work as both he and the population wish.

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

**Internet: <http://ue.eu.int/Newsroom>
E-mail: press.office@consilium.eu.int**