

PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, 9 December 1998

13923/98 (Presse 442)  
P 150/98

**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the EU  
on the killing of four hostages in Chechnya**

The European Union expresses its abhorrence and repugnance at the savage killing of four engineers held hostage in Chechnya. It conveys its deep condolences to the families and friends of the four men, and urges the relevant authorities to bring swiftly to justice those responsible for the killings.

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

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