

**P R E S S   R E L E A S E**

Brussels, 12 January 1996

4149/96 (Presse 3)  
P. 002/96

**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union**  
**Following the Second Round of Elections in Guatemala**

The European Union welcomes the free and fair holding of the presidential elections in Guatemala of 7 January, to which it contributed by sending forty-four observers. The European Union congratulates President-elect Mr Alvaro Arzu Irigoyen, trusting that during his mandate Guatemala will be able to continue on the path towards peace, consolidation of democratic institutions, reduction in social unbalances - with particular attention to the needs of the indigenous peoples - and progress in the area of human rights. The Union hopes that the peace process will continue uninterrupted and head for a rapid conclusion with the signing of the final peace agreements:

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union and the associated countries Cyprus and Malta align themselves with this declaration.