

Brussels, 1 May 1998

7941/98 (Presse 114)
P 33/98

**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
on Sudan**

The EU is increasingly concerned about the worsening humanitarian crisis in Bahr al-Ghazal in Southern Sudan and calls on the Government of Sudan to give every assistance to the United Nations and non-governmental organisations to facilitate the delivery of food and other essential supplies.

The EU considers that a sustainable political settlement is the only way forward to allow the Sudanese to re-build their lives. We fully support the efforts of the IGAD countries to broker a peace in Sudan. We urge all sides in the dispute to adopt a positive attitude and come to an agreement at the next session of the peace talks in Nairobi on 2-5 May. In order to enhance the chances of success of the talks and to end the suffering of the Sudanese people, we call on all parties to effect an immediate ceasefire.

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