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**Presidency declaration on behalf of the European Union  
on the health of the Serb journalist, Mr Miroslav Filipovic**

The European Union wishes to express its grave concern regarding the fate of Mr Miroslav Filipovic, the Serb journalist sentenced to 7 years' imprisonment by a military court on 26 July 2000. At the time, the European Union strongly condemned his imprisonment, his trial and the conditions in which it was held as well as the sentence handed down. Mr Filipovic's state of health is now giving rise to great concern in the EU. According to our information, Mr Filipovic, who suffers from serious heart trouble, is not receiving appropriate care. The EU calls upon the Yugoslav authorities to take the necessary measures to ensure that the journalist receives the care his condition requires until such time as he has completely recovered. The EU recalls its strong condemnation of the conditions in which the trial was held and of the verdict, and calls for Mr Filipovic's release. It would point out that freedom of expression, the right and the duty to impart information freely and the right to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal are basic human rights laid down in a great many international texts, of which the foremost is the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

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