

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

Brussels, 21 November 2000

13433/00 (Presse 438)

P 176/00

**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
concerning Mozambique**

The European Union condemns the use of violence as a means to achieve political ends and strongly deplores the excesses which accompanied the demonstrations in the centre and north of Mozambique on 9 November 2000. It is seriously concerned at the loss of life which occurred. It calls on all involved to respect the law and show restraint.

In recent years Mozambique has shown that it is capable of a sustained commitment to national reconciliation and multi-party democracy. We would exhort the leaders of all political parties, especially the two main ones, as well as the public authorities and civil society to engage in constructive dialogue, which is the only way of continuing, in an atmosphere of peace and stability, the laudable efforts which have been made towards sustainable development, with the support of the international community and in particular the European Union and its Member States.

The European Union is ready to support the process of political and socio-economic transition, which until now has been internationally hailed as a success and has enabled the country to play an important role in the quest for peace throughout the region. It nevertheless stresses that prime responsibility for consolidating what has been achieved and for the balanced development of the country as a whole lies with the government and with all the political forces in Mozambique.

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.

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