

Brussels, 18 Mai 1999

8281/99 (Presse 150)  
P 51/99

**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union  
concerning recent developments in Guinea-Bissau**

The European Union condemns the new outbreak of violence in Guinea-Bissau leading to the deposition of President Vieira in violation of the Abuja agreement as well as the attacks on diplomatic missions.

The European Union recalls that in relations with partner countries under the Lomé Convention high importance is being attached to the respect of human rights, the rule of law and the observation of democratic principles. The Union will therefore carefully monitor developments in Guinea-Bissau and – in consideration of the mechanisms laid down in the revised Fourth Lomé Convention - draw her own conclusions from the current situation.

The European Union appeals to the Military Junta, the government and the other authorities of Guinea-Bissau to renew their efforts to promote national reconciliation, reconstruction and development. The Union expects that Guinea-Bissau will return to the process of democratisation based on the Constitution of the country and, in that context, take the necessary measures leading to the holding of free and fair presidential and legislative elections in November.

The European Union commends the efforts undertaken by ECOWAS and ECOMOG to facilitate the reconciliation and peace process in Guinea-Bissau.

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.