

PRESS RELEASE

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**Declaration by the European Union
on Former Yugoslavia**

The European Union warmly welcomes the results of the compliance Conference on Bosnia and Herzegovina held on 17-18 February in Rome. It expresses its satisfaction at the renewed commitment of the parties to respect fully their obligations as regards both the military and the civilian aspects of the peace process. It welcomes the support given by the parties concerned to the Rome statement on Sarajevo, as well as the agreement reached on the speedy implementation of the Croat-Muslim Federation and the joint statement of President Tudjman and President Milosevic on the normalization of relations between the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

The Union expects all the parties to give full and prompt effect to the commitments they have undertaken. It recalls its often stated position, notably as regards the criteria of conditionality for the granting of reconstruction assistance and longer term measures, as well as for the definition of future agreements with the countries of the area. In the event of non-compliance by any of the parties with their commitments in the Peace Agreement or undertakings at the Rome Summit, the EU in consultation with the international community will consider taking specific measures in response.

The Union calls in particular on the Bosnian Serb side to continue full contacts and cooperation with IFOR and the High Representative and to ensure its participation in all joint commissions, as well as in the Vienna negotiations on sub-regional arms control.

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Concerning Sarajevo, the Union expresses its full support for the efforts of the High Representative aimed to promote reconciliation and to preserve the multiethnic character of the city. It deplores the exodus and the pressure that led to it and expects the Bosnian Government and the Bosnian Serb authorities to take all necessary steps to increase confidence so as to induce the Serb citizens of Sarajevo to remain in the Bosnian capital in order to participate in the process of reconciliation and reconstruction.

The European Union expresses particular satisfaction with the Rome agreement on Mostar of 18 February. This agreement opens the way to the full achievement of the objectives of the European Administration, to which the Union remains strongly dedicated. The Union welcomes the implementation of those provisions related to the initial deployment of the unified police force and the entering into force of the freedom of movement. The Union calls on the parties to abide also by all the other obligations arising from the Rome agreement and to fully respect all the decisions of the EU Administrator, to whom it confirms its strong support, and to fully guarantee his security. The European Union asks the EU Administrator to continue his activities aiming at achieving the objectives set out in the Washington and Rome agreements, in particular, the holding of democratic elections in May.

The Council has with regret taken note of Mr. Koschnick's resignation from his office as EU-Administrator and welcomes his agreement to stay on until a successor has been nominated.

Compliance with the Rome agreements will be considered an essential element in the definition of the Union's future relations with each of the parties concerned. The European Union takes note of the request of the parties to prolong for six months the mandate of the EU administration. It will consider such a request in due course, not least in the light of the behaviour of the parties towards the implementation of the Washington and Rome agreements and the achievement of the objectives of the EU administration.