

Brussels, 29 September 1999

11279/99 (Presse 286) P 97/99

Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on Korean Peninsula

The European Union welcomes the recent statement by the DPRK to freeze missile test-launches while the talks between the United States and the DPRK continue. The EU expects that this move will be a start for concrete results in the field of non-proliferation.

Dialogue is the best way to reduce tensions and enhance regional stability. The recent constructive talks between the United States and the DPRK have had a positive effect towards normalisation of relations between the US and the DPRK.

The EU recalls that meaningful North-South-Korean dialogue is vital for any lasting peace on the Peninsula. The EU reconfirms its support for the policy of engagement and invites the two Koreas to resume their direct dialogue without preconditions. The EU for its part is prepared to continue to support international efforts to promote stability and peace in the area and is prepared to have another round of dialogue with the DPRK.

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