

Brussels, 14 February 2001

5929/01 (Presse 48)

P. 30/01

**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union  
on the bus attack in Tel Aviv**

The European Union deplors the recent increase of violence in the region and condemns the bus attack carried out on 14 February 2001. The Union offers its condolences to the families of the victims and its sympathy to the injured persons.

Events of this sort will only aggravate the already very serious situation in the area during the last months.

The European Union calls on both parties to act with maximum restraint, restore calm and do their utmost to prevent actions resulting in new victims. Perpetrators of these crimes must be brought to justice.

It is also essential that concrete steps are taken by both sides to resume and intensify security cooperation between the parties.

The European Union calls on both parties to create the conditions which will allow the resumption of the Peace Process.

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