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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union  
on developments in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia**

The EU is gravely concerned at current developments in Serbia following the local elections. It reiterates the importance which it attached in its statement of 22 November to the full observance of international democratic norms. It recalls that these include the rights of peaceful assembly and free speech, which must be fully respected. It also calls on all parties to exercise restraint. It reaffirms that compliance with these norms is a key factor in the development of FRY's relationship with the EU.

The EU will continue to watch the situation with the closest attention.

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