

Brussels, 4 December 1996

12436/96 (Presse 362)
P. 109/96

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

The EU has been following with very grave concern the deteriorating situation in Serbia following the annulment of a number of the 17 November local election results. It notes with dismay that the Serb authorities seem determined to ignore calls from the international community, including from the EU in its statements of 22 November and 2 December, for the full observance of international democratic principles. In this context the EU deplores the decision of the federal authorities on 3 December to declare Radio B-92 illegal and to prevent it and another independent radio station, Radio Index, from broadcasting. The EU considers it essential that independent democratic voices are allowed to be heard. It calls on the authorities to reverse their decision.

The EU will continue to monitor closely the situation in the FRY, and reiterates its call for all sides to exercise restraint at this time of heightened political tension.