

P R E S S R E L E A S E

Brussels, 12 April 2001

7896/01 (Presse 151)

P 77/01

**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
on the presidential and parliamentary elections in Peru**

The European Union welcomes the general presidential and parliamentary elections of 8 April in Peru, in which the Government, the electoral authorities and the civil society demonstrated a firm commitment to democracy.

The European Union would like to extend its gratitude to the transitional government for the invitation extended to observers in the general elections in 2001. In the view of the European Union the elections were held in an atmosphere of liberty, justice and transparency. The preliminary results appear to enjoy a high degree of acceptance on the part of the political groupings and the presidential candidates. This is a sign of a democratic spirit that bodes well for the future.

According to the preliminary results, a second round of elections will take place. The European Union hereby confirms that it will also fulfil its commitment of election observation for the second round of elections in Peru.

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