

Brussels, 18 December 1996

12876/96 (Presse 389)  
P 115/96

**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union  
on the situation in the Japanese Embassy Lima, Peru**

The European Union unreservedly condemns the hostage taking of the Japanese Ambassador and his guests, among whom are several EU diplomats and citizens, in Lima, Peru. It exhorts those responsible to release unharmed and without delay all hostages still detained on property protected by international law. The EU feels sure that the Peruvian Government will do everything to protect the lives of the hostages.

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

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