

**P R E S S   R E L E A S E**

Brussels, 7 August 2001

11217/01 (Presse 302)

P. 139/01

**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union  
upon the resignation of Bolivia's President and the inauguration of his successor**

The European Union notes the early end to Mr Hugo Bánzer Suárez's presidential term of office.

It recognises that the rule of law in Bolivia was strengthened during that term and expresses its appreciation of the successes achieved in combating drug trafficking and eradicating illicit coca crops in the Chaparé region.

The European Union is pleased to see that the presidential succession has been settled in accordance with constitutional rules. It commends the Bolivian authorities and people for the democratic maturity shown under the circumstances.

It congratulates Mr Jorge Quiroga Ramírez on his inauguration as constitutional President of the Republic of Bolivia and conveys to him its warmest wishes for the successful leadership of his country.

The European Union will continue to support Bolivia and President Quiroga, in particular through political dialogue and cooperation programmes, in order for the progress made so far in consolidating democracy, reducing poverty and combating illegal drugs to be maintained and stepped up.

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

---

Internet: <http://uc.eu.int/Newsroom>  
E-mail: [press.office@consilium.eu.int](mailto:press.office@consilium.eu.int)