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NEWS

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EC TO STRENGTHEN TIES WITH DEMOCRATIC SOUTH AFRICA

The Council of EC Foreign Affairs Ministers in Luxembourg today confirmed its September 28 decision in New York to end a ban on exchanges of military attaches and a freeze on official contacts and agreements in the security area.

The Council also welcomed an EC Commission proposal calling for gradual normalisation of European Community relations with South Africa as that country makes the transition to full democracy.

The Commission proposal, which was issued September 29 in response to the South African Parliament's September 7 vote to establish a Transitional Executive Council (TEC) comprising all parties, suggests developing EC relations with post-Apartheid South Africa in three stages based on:

- **enactment of the legislation establishing the TEC** in accordance with the decision of the South African Parliament on September 23, 1993. The TEC will provide for the first time a broadly representative interlocutor through which the EC can consult on a variety of issues. Its establishment should be accompanied by efforts to lift remaining restrictions on South Africa's participation in World Bank and IMF programs.
- **implementation of the legislation.** When the TEC is firmly established and functional, the EC should review remaining sanctions by the EC and its member states, establish an EC delegation in South Africa and open new lines of communication in the political field.
- **establishment of democratic government** in South Africa after its first democratic elections in South Africa scheduled for April 27, 1994.

The Commission is calling for all remaining international sanctions against South Africa to be scrapped and has asked the Council to consider new measures to intensify economic cooperation with that country, and to support the democratic process by helping to monitor elections.

Background

Over the years, the European Community and its member states have remained committed to the total abolition by peaceful means of the Apartheid system, and to its replacement by a democratic, united and non-racial system of government in which all South Africans can participate in peace and harmony.

The EC has pursued this objective by mounting pressure on the South African Government through sanctions and other political means, while at the same time providing positive support (over 250 million ECU since 1985) through non-governmental organizations to the victims of Apartheid. The EC has already provided 5.2 million ECU for education voters in the electoral process. (1 ECU = \$1.18 at today's exchange rates)

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