

**Declaration by the Presidency of the European Union on the UN Security
Council's unanimous decisions concerning
Bosnia-Herzegovina/International Criminal Court**

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"The European Union welcomes the compromise reached in the UN Security Council last night. A solution has been reached that does not harm the integrity of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, and which ensures the uninterrupted continuation of UN peacekeeping operations.

The EU is particularly pleased that the mandate of the UN Mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina (UNMIBH) is extended till the end of the year. A continued international presence is crucial to peace, stability and the further development of rule of law in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The extension of the mandate will ensure an orderly transition between the UN Mission and the EU Police Mission, which will take over on 1 January 2003.

The EU reiterates its strong support for the International Criminal Court. The recent entry into force of the Statute of the International Criminal Court is a major leap forward in the progressive development of international law. The EU supports the early establishment and effective functioning of the Court, and will continue to work for universal support for the Court."