



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



Brussels, 18 March 2005
7297/2/05 REV2 (Presse 62)
P 26/05

**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
concerning the adoption of the "anti-secession law" by the
National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China**

The European Union has taken note of the adoption of an "anti-secession law" by the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China.

In this context, the European Union wishes to recall the constant principles guiding its policy, i.e. its attachment to "One China" and to the peaceful resolution of disputes, which is the only means of maintaining stability in the Taiwan Straits, and its opposition to any use of force.

The European Union asks all parties to avoid any unilateral action which might rekindle tensions. It would be concerned if this adoption of legislation referring to the use of non-peaceful means were to invalidate the recent signs of reconciliation between the two shores. The European Union encourages them to develop initiatives which contribute to dialogue and to mutual understanding in the spirit of the agreement on the direct air links established at the time of the Chinese New Year.

P R E S S

The European Union considers that relations between the two shores must be based on constructive dialogue and the pursuit of concrete progress, and reiterates its conviction that this is the only approach likely to benefit both parties and to lead to a peaceful resolution of the Taiwan question.

The Acceding Countries Bulgaria and Romania, the Candidate Country Croatia*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this declaration.

* Croatia continues to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process
