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(Information)

COUNCIL

STATEMENT BY THE KINGDOM OF BELGIUM

on the signing of treaties by the Kingdom of Belgium as a Member State of the European Union

(98/C 351/01)

At the Council meeting on 9 November 1998, the representatives of the governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, took note of the following statement by the Kingdom of Belgium and agreed that it should be published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*:

'The Kingdom of Belgium

Having regard to the minutes of the signing of the Treaty concerning the Accession of the Kingdom of Norway, the Republic of Austria, the Republic of Finland and the Kingdom of Sweden to the European Union ([1]),

Having regard to the minutes of the signing of the Treaty of Amsterdam amending the Treaty on European Union, the Treaties establishing the European Communities and certain related acts ([2]),

Recalling its statement at the Council meeting on 12 June 1995, on the signing of international agreements to be concluded jointly by the European Community and its Member States ([3]),

Confirming that it will in all cases be the Kingdom as such that is bound, in respect of its whole territory, by the provisions of the treaties which it has concluded,

Confirming that the Kingdom alone, as such, will bear full responsibility for compliance with the obligations entered into in the treaties concerned,

Intends in future, in principle, to proceed as follows on the occasion of the signing of treaties by the Kingdom of Belgium as a Member State of the European Union:

(a) only one signature will be appended to those agreements on behalf of the Kingdom of Belgium, whether that signature is appended by a Federal, Regional or Community Minister,

(b) a statement will appear below that signature referring to the Communities and Regions of the Kingdom of Belgium where such an indication is imposed by Belgian constitutional law.'

([1]) OJ C 241, 29.8.1994, p. 402.
([2]) OJ C 340, 10.11.1997, p. 307.
([3]) OJ C 157, 23.6.1995, p. 1.