Caption: On 31 January 2000, the Portuguese Presidency of the European Union announces on behalf of the 14 Member States that sanctions will be imposed against Austria if a coalition government that includes the Freedom Party of Austria (FPÖ) is formed.


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Statement by the Portuguese Presidency of the EU on behalf of XIV Member States (31 January 2000)

Today, Monday 31 January, the Portuguese Prime Minister informed both the President and the Chancellor of Austria and the Portuguese Minister of Foreign Affairs notified his Austrian counterpart of the following joint reaction agreed by the Heads of State and Government of XIV Member States of the European Union in case it is formed in Austria a Government integrating the FPÖ:

- Governments of XIV Member States will not promote or accept any bilateral official at political level with an Austrian Government integrating the FPÖ;
- There will be no support in favour of Austrian candidates seeking positions in international organizations;
- Austrian Ambassadors in EU capitals will only be received at a technical level.

The Portuguese Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs had already informed the Austrian authorities that there would be no business as usual in the bilateral relations with a Government integrating the FPÖ.