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Javier SOLANA,
EU High Representative for the CFSP,
welcomes the extension of the Aceh Monitoring Mission

Javier Solana, EU High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy, today welcomed the Council decision to extend the EU-led Aceh Monitoring Mission (AMM) for a period of up to three months:

"I very much welcome today's Council decision to extend the Aceh Monitoring Mission. The peace process in Aceh is going well and I firmly believe that this extension will contribute to the further strengthening of confidence and trust between the parties.



Over the last six months a safe and peaceful environment has emerged in Aceh and the peace process has become irreversible. But recovery is long process and there are still challenges ahead. I hope the extension of the EU-led monitoring mission can help overcome these challenges, thus paving the way for a permanent, peaceful and effective recovery from the tsunami disaster that struck Aceh on 26 December 2005.

The joint EU-ASEAN mission has proven its worth, as a transparent and even-handed facilitator, in supporting the parties in their efforts to implement the Memorandum of Understanding, signed in Helsinki on 15 August 2005. Thus far the mission has been very effective in its undertakings.

This decision is a clear signal that the EU wants to continue to support Indonesia, including the people of Aceh, on the path to peace, security and prosperity."

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

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