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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 (CFSP), today welcomed the Council decision to extend the Aceh Monitoring Mission (AMM) by three months until 15 September 2006:

*"I welcome today's Council decision to extend the Aceh Monitoring Mission. I am certain that this extension, which was requested by the Indonesian Government with the full support of the Free Aceh Movement (GAM), will contribute to further strengthening confidence and trust between the parties.*

*Remarkable progress has been achieved in a very short time, but there are still some steps to be taken. With this extension of the Mission, the international community can support the two parties in meeting these challenges. The most important step is the adoption of the Law on the Governing of Aceh by the Indonesian Parliament. This law will pave the way for local elections, a crucial step in the peace process.*

*The Mission, comprising both EU and ASEAN members, has proven its worth in supporting the parties in implementing the peace agreement signed last August in Helsinki. The time has come for the AMM to be phased out and for the parties and the people of Aceh to assume full ownership of the process of further reconciliation in Aceh. The parties are aware that this extension is the last one.*

*However, this does not mean that the EU's involvement will end. It will remain firmly engaged in Aceh through post-tsunami reconstruction assistance and flanking measures to support the peace process.*

*When I visited Indonesia recently, I was delighted to see that the European Union has made a crucial contribution to peace process through the AMM. I saw that both the Government of Indonesia and GAM remain wholly committed to implementing the peace agreement. We now owe it to the people of Aceh, to our international partners and to ourselves to go the last mile in helping to cement the peace."*

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FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

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