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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 the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), today welcomed the Council decision to extend the EU-led Aceh Monitoring Mission (AMM) in Indonesia for a final period of three months up to 15 December 2006:

"It is with satisfaction that I welcome today's Council decision to extend the Aceh Monitoring Mission. In view of the remarkable progress in the Aceh peace process, which we have helped to achieve, it seems clear that it is our obligation to respond positively to the request from the Government of Indonesia (GoI), with the full support of the Free Aceh Movement (GAM) leadership, to a final extension of the joint EU-ASEAN mission in Aceh until December.

It is of great importance to keep the momentum in the continued implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding signed in Helsinki on 15 August 2005 and build on the positive spirit prevailing in Aceh. This becomes even more important now when the people of Aceh are preparing to exercise their civil and political rights in the local elections to be held on 11 December 2006. Therefore we will accompany the people of Aceh, in the run up to these first ever direct and democratic local elections to be held in Aceh. The EU will further support these elections by sending an Election Observation Mission to conduct the monitoring of the elections, following an invitation from the GoI".