



AMM extension

Press statement by AMM HoM – 12 May 2006

Banda Aceh, Indonesia. Yesterday 11 May in Brussels, favourable consideration was given by the EU to the Government of Indonesia's request for AMM to continue its mandate until the date of the local elections (*Pilkada*) in Aceh, but no later than 15 September, 2006.

The parties to the Helsinki MoU are aware that this extension must be the last one. When AMM leaves Aceh, it will have completed all its assigned tasks as agreed by the parties in Helsinki.

Consequently, it is now incumbent upon the Government and the Parliament of Indonesia to ensure that the Law on the Governing of Aceh is enacted as soon as possible. This should allow the local elections (*Pilkada*) in Aceh, originally foreseen for April, to be held shortly thereafter.

The peace process thus far has proceeded smoothly supported by the strong commitment of both parties to make it succeed. The people of Aceh rightly expect that further steps on the road towards self-sustaining peace are taken without further delay.

The peace process should not lose its momentum.

Note for editors:

1. The AMM, which is a civilian mission comprising of monitors from the EU and five ASEAN countries, has set up Headquarters in Banda Aceh and 11 District Offices throughout Aceh province: Banda Aceh, Sigli, Bireuen, Lhokseumawe, Langsa, Tapaktuan, Blang Pidie, Meulaboh, Calang, Kutacane and Takengon.

2. The EU and ASEAN fully respect the territorial integrity of Indonesia and see the future of Aceh as being within the unitary state of the Republic of Indonesia. The AMM is completely impartial by nature and does not represent or favour any of the parties.

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