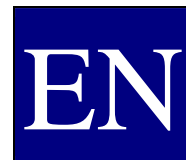




**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



Council Conclusions on Indonesia/Aceh

2770th GENERAL AFFAIRS Council meeting

Brussels, 11 December 2006

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

"The Council welcomes the significant progress made in restoring peace and stability in the Indonesian province of Aceh since the signing of the Helsinki Memorandum of Understanding in August 2005. A visible manifestation of this progress to date is the local elections held in Aceh on 11 December 2006. Given the importance attached to the peace process the EU has deployed an EU election observation mission. The Council expresses its hope that the elections contribute to the further consolidation of the peace process to the benefit of the people of Aceh and the whole Indonesia.

The Council commends the parties for their political vision and for respecting the commitments undertaken in Helsinki. The Council encourages the parties to further work closely together on the continued implementation of the MOU to ensure the sustainability of the peace process.

P R E S S

The Council expresses its satisfaction at the important role played by the Aceh Monitoring Mission (AMM), which will conclude its mandate on 15 December, in monitoring and supporting the peace process. The Council underlines the need to draw comprehensive lessons from this experience for future EU civilian crisis management missions. The Council also expresses its appreciation for the very close cooperation between the EU countries and the five ASEAN Contributing Countries in this mission. In this context, the Council looks forward to building on this experience at the upcoming EU-ASEAN Foreign Ministerial meeting in Germany in 2007.

The Council underlines the European Union's determination to develop a lasting and comprehensive partnership with Indonesia, including its readiness to stay engaged in post-conflict reconstruction and peace-building in Aceh. The EU will remain committed to this process through Community programmes and Member States' bilateral efforts."

P R E S S
