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Comments by
Javier SOLANA,
EU High Representative for the CFSP,
on the importance of stability across the Taiwan Straits

Javier SOLANA, European Union High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), commented today on the importance of ensuring stability across the Taiwan Straits, following the remarks made on Sunday by Taiwanese leader Chen Shui-bian.

Mr Solana said that stability across the Taiwan Straits was integral to the stability and prosperity of East Asia and the wider international community. Stability would, he said, be undermined unless regional leaders acted sensitively and responsibly, especially at a time when elections were impending. Any comments which jeopardised this stability were unhelpful. Consistent with its "One China" policy, the EU had previously made clear that it welcomed Taiwan's public reiteration of its commitment not to change the status quo, and had continued to urge both sides to refrain from statements or actions which might provoke the other and raise tension. The way forward could only be through dialogue, practical co-operation and confidence building, building on recent positive experiences, including direct cross-Straits flights, reductions in barriers to trade, increased investment and people-to-people contacts. This progress should not be jeopardised.

This statement is attributable to Cristina Gallach, Spokesperson of HR Solana
