



S174/07

**Remarks by
Javier SOLANA,
EU High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy,
at the EU military exercise MILEX 07**

Brussels, 13 June 2007

Javier SOLANA, EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), visited today the EU military exercise MILEX 07 which is conducted from 7 June to 15 June 2007 and during which the EU Operations Centre (EU OpsCentre) was activated for the first time. On this occasion he made the following remarks:

"We have just successfully activated the EU Operations Centre for the first time.

As you know, the exercise scenario depicts a UN humanitarian crisis response mission. The UN has asked the EU to plan for a bridging operation, to give them the time they need to re-organise their existing mission and to call for a new mandate.

As you will also know, this complex and demanding situation is one that we have already done for real. Here we are developing our capacity to act quickly and coherently, through the use of the Ops Centre.

We have been focusing on the key issue of military strategic planning, and practising the interaction between the EU OpsCentre and an EU Force Headquarters in Sweden. In particular, we have tested the deployable communications systems Brussels and the FHQ in Enköping.

We will continue to test and learn each year. Of course, we will also continue to strengthen our capacity by learning from the actual operations we are running.

Finally, let me just say that we also regularly conduct exercises which also practice direct co-ordination and co-operation between the EU's military and civilian components. This is a real added value to our overall crisis management activities."

In his meeting with the press during the exercise, High Representative Solana also addressed current issues, notably the situation in Sudan/Darfur and in the Middle East (Gaza). His remarks can be heard on the audio file attached.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

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