



EUROPEAN UNION



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Declaration by High Representative Catherine Ashton on behalf of the European Union on the fifth Anniversary of the signature of the Aceh MoU and Aceh's peaceful evolution

Today marks the fifth anniversary of the signature on 15 August 2005 of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Government of Indonesia and the Free Aceh Movement (GAM) securing the peace agreement for Aceh following the disastrous tsunami in December 2004 and ending 30 years of conflict. The evolution since is very positive. Aceh has progressed considerably towards peace and stability and can look to a bright future. It serves as an example for the whole region of how through negotiations and strong will peace can be achieved even in the most dire of political circumstances.

The European Union is proud that it could contribute to this process through the Aceh Monitoring Mission, jointly with member countries of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) as well as Norway and Switzerland. The European Union, and its Member States, have significantly contributed to Aceh's reconstruction. We continue to be committed to Aceh's economic development, the consolidation of peace within democratic Indonesia and the implementation of the MoU and the Law on Governing of Aceh.

The European Union is committed to its relationship with Indonesia. We have lifted our relations to a new level with the signature last year of a comprehensive Partnership and Cooperation Agreement. We want to fill this strengthened partnership with life to build a mutually beneficial relationship and a prosperous future for all of Indonesia and the Indonesian people. Building on the positive experience gained in Aceh, together with ASEAN and its member countries, we are keen to further develop new partnerships aimed at contributing to peace and security in the region and beyond.

P R E S S
