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**Javier SOLANA,  
EU High Representative for the CFSP,  
praises the courage, tenacity and leadership of  
Morgan TSVANGIRAI,  
Prime Minister of Zimbabwe**

**Brussels, 18 June 2009**

Javier SOLANA, EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) had a meeting today with Morgan TSVANGIRAI, Prime Minister of Zimbabwe. The meeting was followed by an EU Troika meeting with Zimbabwe at which the European Union and Zimbabwe agreed to engage in political dialogue in accordance with Article 8 of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement.

During the meeting, Mr SOLANA and Mr TSVANGIRAI discussed the latest developments in Zimbabwe, its future and its relations with the EU. After the meeting, Mr SOLANA made the following remarks to reporters:

*"We were very pleased to receive Prime Minister Tsvangirai in Brussels today. His courage, his tenacity and his leadership are a great asset to his country. The opening of the political dialogue today is an important step. This dialogue will be conducted in accordance with the principles of the equality of sovereign states.*

*The EU wants to be a helpful partner to Zimbabwe. We have never abandoned the country during its difficult years. It will take some time before Zimbabwe recovers but I am confident that we will see signs of improvement. We trust the leadership of Prime Minister Tsvangirai who will be our partner in this dialogue."*

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