Javier SOLANA,
EU High Representative for the CFSP,
congratulates the Government of Indonesia Mr. Irwandi YUSUF on assuming office as Governor of Aceh

Javier Solana, EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), today congratulated the Government of Indonesia on the occasion of Mr. Irwandi Yusuf taking office as the Governor of Aceh.

"I am pleased to congratulate the Government of Indonesia on the official investiture of Mr. Irwandi Yusuf as the new Governor of Aceh.

I commend the Indonesian Government, the Free Aceh Movement (GAM) and the people of Aceh for fully endorsing the outcome of the first ever direct and democratic local elections and their will to work peacefully and in partnership for a common future.

I am confident that the choice of a former GAM representative, Irwandi Yusuf, as Governor of Aceh will be beneficial for the continued peace process as well as for the further reconstruction of Aceh following the tsunami disaster."

The EU has supported the efforts to find a sustainable solution to the conflict in Aceh, primarily through the Aceh Monitoring Mission (AMM) and the EU Election Observation Mission, and the EU will continue to stand by Aceh in its on-going peace and reconciliation process.

Peace in Aceh has also to a great extent allowed for post-tsunami reconstruction to continue unhindered. It is now essential to further accelerate the rehabilitation after the tsunami disaster and focus on long-term economic recovery.

The EU is keen to develop a lasting and comprehensive partnership with Indonesia.