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**Javier SOLANA,
EU High Representative for the CFSP,
welcomes the appointment of Jorge SAMPAIO
as UN Secretary-General's High Representative
for the Alliance of the Civilizations**

Javier Solana, EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), made the following remarks on the occasion Ban Ki-moon's appointment of Mr Jorge Sampaio, former President of Portugal, as High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations on 26 April 2007:

"I have followed the work of High-level Group on the Alliance of Civilizations since it was launched by the former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan in 2005 and which has been co-sponsored by the Prime Ministers of Spain and Turkey. I agree with the thrust of the group's report and look forward to further discussions on how to implement the recommendations.

It is both important and urgent to try to build bridges between societies, promote dialogue and forge the political will to peaceful co-existence between different cultures and religions. I do not believe that a "clash of civilizations" is imminent or inevitable, but rapid globalization certainly increases the need for intercultural dialogue and respect.

The gist of the Alliance of Civilizations project is in line with a number of EU initiatives in the field of promoting intercultural dialogue and understanding. And I look forward to engaging with my good friend Jorge Sampaio on how to take this and other, related initiatives forward."

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

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