Letter of Intent

1. The High Representative of the United Nations for the Alliance of Civilizations and the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, meeting on the occasion of the First Annual Forum of the Alliance of Civilizations held on 15-16 January 2008 in Madrid, have agreed to strengthen the co-operation between the two partners in order to further intercultural dialogue.

2. This Letter of Intent confirms the intention of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe and the High Representative of the United Nations for the Alliance of Civilizations to prepare a bilateral "Memorandum of Understanding" which will specify the subject areas and the working mechanisms of future co-operation between the Alliance of Civilizations and the Council of Europe. This draft Memorandum of Understanding will take into account the tasks, responsibilities and decision-making structures of both sides.
3. The drafting of the Memorandum of Understanding will proceed as a matter of priority in order to allow the Secretary General of the Council of Europe to submit the text to the Council of Europe's decision-making bodies with a view to a decision by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe by May 2008.

Signed in Madrid, Spain this 16th day of January 2008:

For the United Nations

Jorge Sampaio
High Representative of the United Nations for the Alliance of Civilizations

For the Council of Europe

Terry Davis
Secretary General of the Council of Europe