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**Summary of remarks by  
Javier SOLANA,  
EU High Representative for the CFSP,  
after the meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister,  
LI Zhaoxing**

Javier SOLANA, European Union High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), met today with LI Zhaoxing, Minister for Foreign Affairs of China. The meeting provided an opportunity to exchange views on EU- China relations and regional and international issues of mutual interest. The High Representative made the following remarks at a press conference after the meeting:

*"I want to start by underlining the importance for the EU of the strategic partnership with China. This meeting has been a further example of the depth and the regularity of our continuous dialogue. We have talked about the international situation, the views of the European Union on Iran - Mr Li expressed his support which is very important - about the Middle East process in which they continue to be very helpfully engaged. We have also talked about Burma/Myanmar. I said that I strongly supported the calls by the Secretary General of the UN for Mr Razali, his special envoy, to be allowed to visit Burma/Myanmar and to be received by the authorities there.*

*We also discussed Taiwan. You know what is the position of the European Union. I have repeated our well-known considerations on this issue. I have also expressed our concern about some elements of the anti-secession law. This law has positive elements, as you know, calling for cross-Straits dialogue and co-operation - which we strongly support - but also has references to potential resolution of the issue by non- peaceful means. The position of the EU is clear: first, full support to one-China policy; second, the resolution of this conflict has to be delivered through dialogue and peaceful means.*

*We have talked about the arms embargo, we discussed it at length, I have repeated in a clear manner the position of the European Union which was contained in the December 2004 European Council conclusions. We are working very hard to find a solution among ourselves, in particular on the "Code of Conduct" and the "Toolbox", which would apply not only to this case but whenever a lifting of an embargo happens. The political will to keep on working is there.*

**FOR FURTHER DETAILS:**

Spokesperson of the Secretary General, High Representative for CFSP

+32 (0)2 285 6467 / 8239 / 6217 / 5150 / 5151 +32 (0)2 285 5694

internet: <http://ue.eu.int/solana>

e-mail: [presse.cabinet@consilium.eu.int](mailto:presse.cabinet@consilium.eu.int)

*On the question of the arms embargo and our relations with the United States, I received this morning a report from Annalisa Giannella, my personal representative for non-proliferation. She is just back from a mission to the US. She has been explaining to the American administration and the Congress what the EU plans to do on the arms embargo. I would not say that all the problems and all the misunderstandings are resolved but I think we are making progress in understanding each other better.*

*I think it is very important that we dispel some perceptions in the US and elsewhere that we don't care about East Asia, that we are far away from the Pacific, and therefore not interested, that we take decisions out of the blue. This is not true. We have to tell them very clearly, not only orally, but also in practice, that we care and we will be active whenever it is needed to be constructive and engaged there or elsewhere in the world. If you read the Security Strategy of the EU it is very clear: we are not only concerned about our neighbourhood. An enlarged EU of 25 nations, having almost twice the population of the US and one third of the world's GNP, we just cannot be outside the big questions of the world. We will continue being interested and engaged in all the regions. There is no doubt that China is a very important actor - it is a rapidly emerging actor.*

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