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**Javier SOLANA,
EU High Representative for the CFSP,
congratulates Aleksadr Milinkevich for winning the
2006 Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought**

Javier SOLANA, EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), congratulated today Mr. Aleksadr Milinkevich for winning the 2006 Sakharov Prize:

"I warmly congratulate Mr Aleksadr Milinkevich, Belarusian opposition leader and former united opposition presidential candidate, for winning the 2006 Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought, granted by the European Parliament.

Mr Milinkevich has played an important role in consolidating the Belarusian democratic opposition. He provided a genuine choice to electorate, under the difficult circumstances of the fundamentally flawed 19 March 2006 presidential elections in Belarus. I have met Mr Milinkevich several times, and have first had knowledge of his deep commitment to political pluralism in his country and furthering the inalienable democratic rights of the Belarusian people."

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

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