


Press conference held by Javier Solana and Jusuf Kalla at the Council of the European Union (Brussels, 19 January 2006)

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[Javier Solana] We had the privilege to receive today here in Brussels the Vice-President of Indonesia, which has come to talk about many issues. Without a doubt, the first one has been the cooperation that the European Union has had with Indonesia in Aceh. This has been a great success. It will continue to be a great success. And we have the commitment to continue working with the friendly country, Indonesia, in a direction to deepening as much as possible our bilateral relations. The experience of being together in Aceh, I think, has created a dynamic of a close relationship that we want to use it in order to deepening our relations in all directions: economic, trade, but also on the political dialogue. And I think, Mr Vice-President, I don't say anything wrong if I say that we have spent a long time talking about politics and trying to look at the world with the same eyes and trying to see how this political dialogue with the country — a very important country in Asia — together with the European Union can do things together to make this world a better place for everybody. We have talked about the Middle East peace process, we've talked about Iran, we've talked about ASEAN, we've talked about China, we've talked about many, many things, as an example of what we would like to have as a type of relationship with an important country like Indonesia.

As you know, we are already working on the cooperation partnership agreement, and we hope very much that it will be one of the solid agreements that we have with a very fundamental country of Asia, which is Indonesia. We have a lot of things to talk about, about dialogue of cultures, dialogue of religions, a lot of things that we would like to talk and to talk deeper with Indonesia. Also, the regional aspect of ASEAN where we have some experience to construct our own structure of the European Union will be valid also for the leading country of ASEAN.

[Jusuf Kalla] I came here to Brussels especially to meet the Secretary-General and also the European Union's Council to first say thank you that what the European Union's roles in supporting to us, to implementations of the peace process in Aceh and what we have done that all the people of Indonesia, especially in Aceh, that the peace process expected, and they reached the point faster than what they expected, and very successful than we expected altogether. This is why because the role of especially the European Union and ASEAN to monitoring, to make advice, to do directly are being involving in this process, too. Especially now on we have process for laws in the integrations, I hope that this role of the European Union and ASEAN itself have big influences and big support and cooperation to do that. This is again come here especially to thank and invite the Secretary-General to see Aceh, a new Aceh, after a conflict 30 years of problems there. As the Secretary-General explained that we are discussing, too, about the role of ASEAN, especially in Indonesia, to many political matter and economic matter in ASEAN, in relations between Asia and the European Union, and bilateral cooperation between us and ASEAN and the European Union. We hope that this matter of cooperation will be make a very good result for peace post-war and for advantage for all. Thank you.