



EU COUNCIL SECRETARIAT ~BACKGROUND~

EU MONITORING MISSION IN ACEH (Indonesia) (September 2005 - December 2006)

ACEH/07
15 December 2006

On 15 December 2006, the EU-led **Aceh Monitoring Mission** (AMM) successfully completed its mandate in monitoring and supporting the peace process in the Indonesian province of Aceh. The AMM was a civilian mission within the framework of the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP).

The AMM has monitored the implementation of various aspects of the peace agreement set out in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by the Government of Indonesia (GoI) and the Free Aceh Movement (GAM) on 15 August 2005 in Helsinki. The European Union, together with five contributing countries from ASEAN (Thailand, Malaysia, Brunei, Philippines and Singapore), as well as Norway and Switzerland, provided monitors for the peace process in Aceh. The AMM was headed since the beginning by Pieter Feith (EU).

Following a brief interim monitoring presence since the signing of the MoU, the AMM was officially launched on 15 September 2005, covering an initial period of 6 months. It has thereafter been extended until 15 December 2006.

The presence of AMM was based on an official invitation from the Government of Indonesia and with the full support of the leadership of the GAM. Without the political vision of the Indonesian Government and of GAM, who respected the undertakings given in Helsinki since the beginning, and the support of the people of Aceh, the AMM would not have been so successful.

The objective of the AMM was to contribute to a peaceful, comprehensive and sustainable solution to the conflict in Aceh. This had been made all the more important by the terrible tsunami disaster of 26 December 2004 and the suffering it inflicted on the Acehnese people. The EU and ASEAN have consistently underlined their full respect for the territorial integrity of Indonesia. AMM was completely impartial by nature and did not represent or favour any of the parties.

P R E S S

AMM tasks

As part of the AMM's tasks the decommissioning of GAM armaments and the relocation of non-organic military and police forces were fully completed on 5 January 2006. In accordance with the MoU the GAM handed over all of its 840 weapons to AMM and on 27 December 2005 it officially disbanded its military wing (TNA). Equally the GoI has fulfilled its commitments by relocating its non-organic military and police. The number of police and military (TNI) forces remaining in Aceh are within the maximum strength of 14.700 for the TNI and 9100 for the police, in accordance with the MoU.

The AMM has also monitored the human rights situation, the process of legislative change and the reintegration of GAM members. The Law on the Governing of Aceh was enacted by the National Parliament (DPR) on 11 July 2006 and signed by the President of Indonesia on 1 August 2006. Through discussions facilitated by AMM, the parties to the peace process have consensually agreed that there are no disputed amnesty cases under the MoU.

Perhaps the best proof of the significant progress made in restoring peace and stability in Aceh since the signing of the MoU is the fact that the first-ever direct, local elections were held in Aceh on 11 December 2006 and former GAM combatants were able to stand as independent candidates.

AMM staff and working methods

From 15 September 2006 the mission functioned in a configuration of 36 monitors (the AMM initially comprised approximately 80 international unarmed personnel).

The mission comprised personnel with expertise in the whole range of competencies needed to fulfil the tasks of the mission. AMM was a civilian and not a military mission. Its members did not carry weapons. Some monitors had a military background as this was necessary to perform certain technical tasks required by the mission. All monitors wore recognisable white shirts with AMM logo. Monitors conducted their monitoring tasks by patrolling and communicating with both parties, and by carrying out inspections and investigations as required.

The costs of the mission were financed from the EU budget (EUR 9.3 million) and by contributions of EU Member States and participating countries (EUR 6 million).

AMM: breaking new ground

The AMM was the first EU-led mission in Asia and the first co-operation with ASEAN member states of this kind, illustrating the EU's growing cooperation with this key region. By establishing the AMM, and fully assuming its role as a global actor, the EU underlined its commitment to the peace process in Aceh, as well as to peace and stability in the region as a whole. The EU showed its capability to reach out to regional partners, carving out the conditions for lasting peace, security and justice.

Continued EU commitment to Aceh/Indonesia

The EU will continue to support peace in Aceh including through longer term capacity building, reintegration and police training programmes, through both Community programmes and Member States bilateral efforts. European Community support to the Aceh peace process includes support to MoU implementation and to reintegration of ex-GAM combatants and prisoners as well as deploying an Election Observation Mission for the 11 December local elections. Together with the cost of AMM, these peace support measures amount to some EUR 40 million.

The EU intends to remain a leading partner in Indonesia's development. The EU - European Community and Member States - contributed EUR 200 million towards the humanitarian response to the tsunami in 2004-2005. The EU is by far the biggest donor to the Multi-Donor Trust Fund for long-term reconstruction in Indonesia, accounting for some 85% of the total fund of EUR 440 million. The new EU-Indonesia Partnership and Cooperation Agreement, due to be finalised soon, will further reinforce mutual ties. European Community funds for the development of Indonesia are due to increase for the period 2007-2013.
