



Lisbon, 9 December 2007  
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**Intervention by Javier SOLANA,  
EU High Representative for CFSP,  
at the EU-Africa Summit  
Saturday, 8 and Sunday, 9 December 2007  
Lisbon**

Javier SOLANA, EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), attended the EU-Africa Summit on Saturday, 8 and Sunday, 9 December 2007 in Lisbon. During the plenary session on Sunday morning, Mr Solana made the following statement on behalf of the European Union, in response to the intervention by Mr Robert Mugabe, President of Zimbabwe:

*"Prime Minister Socrates, President Kufuor, President Konaré, Your Excellencies,*

*This summit is about the way Africa and Europe are going to address, as equal partners, the challenges that we face together. Our plenary yesterday dealt with some of these most pressing issues.*

*This summit is about substance. We have worked very hard on a joint strategy. We are adopting a plan of action for the future. We expect nothing less than its implementation before our next summit.*

*Concerning Zimbabwe, with due respect to the summit, I would like, on behalf of the European Union, to make some comments:*

*The EU is concerned by the degradation of the economic, humanitarian and political situation in Zimbabwe.*

*The degradation is the result of a crisis of governance. The first to suffer are the people, the people of Zimbabwe. Many are leaving the country, with consequences for the whole region.*

*At a time when Southern Africa is doing well, Zimbabwe is going down. What a paradox when we consider the potential of Zimbabwe, and the memory of the great Zimbabwe and of the great Monomotapa civilization!*

*The EU and Zimbabwe have always enjoyed good relations. But things changed in 2002, when fundamental rights started to come under threat. The EU felt that Zimbabwe was in breach of the Cotonou Agreement. Some targeted measures were taken.*

**FOR FURTHER DETAILS:**

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*But let me be very clear here: there are no EU economic sanctions against Zimbabwe. The EU and its Member States are today, by far, the biggest contributors to Zimbabwe. And the EU and Zimbabwe never stopped trading.  
We must think about the future.*

*The EU stands ready to normalize its relations with Zimbabwe as soon as some benchmarks have been met.*

*At this point, I would like to pay tribute to the on-going Southern African Development Community (SADC) mediation. I know it is a collective effort by the region, with full support of the African Union.*

*Let me also thank President Mbeki for his personal involvement. We hope that the SADC efforts will lead to a political agreement.*

*The EU is a friend of Zimbabwe, and we will contribute to its stabilization and recovery as soon as benchmarks for progress have been met.*

*But, again, the summit of today is about how we, together, will work in the future.*

*This is how we must, and how we will, remember Lisbon.*

*Once again, I would like to thank Prime Minister Socrates for the wonderful organization of these two days."*

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