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**Javier SOLANA,  
EU High Representative for the CFSP,  
welcomes the appointment of Alvaro de VASCONCELOS  
as the new director of the EU Institute for Security Studies in Paris**

Javier SOLANA, EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), welcomed the appointment by the board of the EU Institute for Security Studies (ISS) of Alvaro de VASCONCELOS as the new director of the Institute, with effect from 1 May 2007:

*"I am very pleased that the board of the EU Institute for Security Studies has appointed Dr Alvaro de Vasconcelos as its new director, as of 1 May 2007.*

*The Institute plays an important role in generating forward-looking analyses regarding the main foreign policy challenges facing the European Union, and in promoting a common strategic culture across Europe. As an independent source of ideas and a place where Europeans can come together to discuss the key strategic challenges they face, the Institute has become a real asset for the CFSP.*

*Dr de Vasconcelos brings considerable expertise to his role as incoming director. Until his new appointment, he was chairman of the Institute for Strategic and International Studies in Lisbon. I am sure he will be able to further develop the Institute with determination and creativity.*

*Dr de Vasconcelos will succeed Dr Nicole Gnesotto, who has headed the Institute since its creation in 2001 and who has performed an outstanding job in making the Institute a fundamental forum for discussing European security issues. Under the leadership of Nicole Gnesotto the Institute has consistently and positively reflected the crucial developments that Europe has gone through in the field of foreign and security policy in the last years. I want to thank her very much for her dedication and invaluable work."*

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*Enc: CV of Dr Alvaro de Vasconcelos*