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**Press Release**  
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### **Solana adds extra strength to peacemaking organisation**

[Javier Solana](#), who left the [European Union](#) after ten years as the High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) last year, joined the [Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue \(HD Centre\)](#) as Honorary President, announced the Swiss based private mediation organisation today.

Dr Solana will “not only represent the organisation to others, but will also contribute advice and participate in practical peacemaking activities whenever he can add value”, according to the HD Centre, recognised as one of the world’s leading conflict mediation organisations.

“It is the HD Centre’s uniquely practical and sensitive approach to dialogue at senior levels that made me want to collaborate with the organisation. They are already working to resolve more armed conflicts than any other private mediation organisation.” said Mr Solana.

Dr Solana, the former Foreign Minister of Spain, and Secretary General of [North Atlantic Treaty Organisation \(NATO\)](#), has an unparalleled experience of negotiation in international security and political environments.

“We are absolutely delighted that Javier Solana, Europe’s leading diplomat, has agreed to join us. A more eminent person, with a more relevant background we could not have hoped for.” said the HD Centre’s Director, [Martin Griffiths](#).

“This is not only a success for the organisation, but a demonstration of our commitment to continually improve our approach to peacemaking and mediating in armed conflict.” said [Karin Jestin](#), Chair of the Board of the HD Centre.

Francisco Javier Solana de Madariaga, born 14 July 1942, was a member of the Spanish Government (1982–1995), Secretary General of NATO (1995-1999) and Secretary-General of both the Council of the European Union (EU) and the Western European Union (WEU) (1999-2009).

Dr Solana, a professor of physics, is married with two children and lives in Brussels. He speaks fluent Spanish, English and French.

\*\*\*ENDS\*\*\*

If you would like to arrange for an interview, or to know more about the work of the HD Centre, please contact Andy Andrea on +41 79 257 9974 or write to [pr@hdcentre.org](mailto:pr@hdcentre.org)

*Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue*  
114 rue de Lausanne | Geneva 1202 | Switzerland  
[www.hdcentre.org](http://www.hdcentre.org)