LE GOUVERNEMENT
DU GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG
Ministère des Affaires étrangères

Le Ministre de la Coopération
et de l'Action Humanitaire

Ref: D5-AH-2005-

Luxembourg, 29th March 2005

Subject : Earthquake that hit the coastal region of Indonesia on March 28th;

Your Excellency,

It was with great sadness that I learned about the massive earthquake that struck the coastal region of your country, only three months and two days after the major tsunami that killed so many people and caused incredible suffering. I would like to express my most heartfelt condolences to your Government, the people of Indonesia and the families of the victims.

Let me also assure you that Europe stands ready to help the populations affected, mainly in the islands of Nias and Simeuluë.

Notwithstanding my grief caused by this new tragedy, I would like to share with you the relative relief that I felt when I learned that this catastrophe had not triggered yet another tsunami. I was reassured when I saw that the authorities had sent an early warning to the populations living in the costal regions of Indonesia, Thailand, India, the Maldives, Sri Lanka and Mauritius. Your prompt response led many people to move to safe areas shortly after the quake. This rapid reaction, which was generated on an informal basis, strengthens my conviction of the necessity to establish and operate an efficient and formal early warning system in the region, as soon as possible. I will continue to work, together with my European colleagues, at helping to implement such a system as proposed at various occasions following the ASEAN Summit held in Jakarta. I can assure you that the European Governments remain highly committed to this vital common goal.

Sincerely yours,

Jean-Louis Schiltz

H.E. Dr N. Hassan Wirajuda,
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia,
Jakarta

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