



United Nations



ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS

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Lisbon, October, 21st, 2008

Dear Commissioner and High Representative

It is with great pleasure that I have received your letter and the attached Action Plan (2008-2010) on Cooperation between the European Union and the Alliance of Civilizations.

Good governance of cultural diversity is a major challenge faced by every society in the world today. Unfortunately, a comprehensive and appropriate paradigm to implement it is still missing, though the European Union has already made a lot in order to bridge the divides and make our societies more inclusive.

The Alliance of Civilizations shares the ideals that are at the core of the European project and which will form the basis for our partnership.

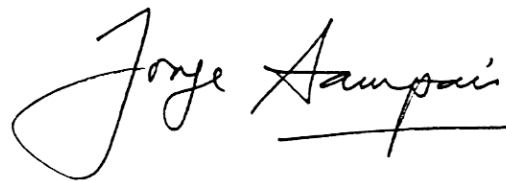
This collaboration is significant in many regards. First, it will help provide impetus to concrete initiatives in a range of areas, including the protection of human rights, media, the promotion of cultural diversity, migration and the role of civil society in strengthening mutual understanding among diverse communities. Second, it will allow us to work together on the creation of intercultural initiatives across the

Euro-Mediterranean region at a time when the task of building trust and supporting cooperative endeavors in this region is gaining urgency. In this respect, the second Forum of the Alliance of Civilizations, which will be held on 2-3 April 2009 in Istanbul, could provide an opportunity to showcase some of the outcomes of our collaboration.

The path set out in the Action Plan will provide solid ground for the pursuit of concrete objectives and the implementation of practical projects. I am pleased to learn that Focal Points have been appointed both for the European Commission and for the General Secretariat of the Council. It is also my pleasure to inform you that on the Alliance side, the contact person for the European Union will be Jean-Christophe Bas, Strategic Partnerships Manager.

I look forward with great anticipation to this new partnership and hope that our joint efforts at building mutual understanding among cultures will bear fruit.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jorge Ampa". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Dr Benita Ferreo-Waldner
Commissioner for External Relations
European Commission

Dr Javier Solana
High Representative/Secretary General
Council of Ministers, European Union