

Translation

The Chancellor of the
Federal Republic of Germany

The President of the
French Republic

Berlin and Paris, 13 October 1999

Mr Paavo Lipponen
President of the European Council and
Prime Minister of the Republic of Finland
Helsinki

Dear Mr President,

At the last meeting of the European Council, held on 3 and 4 June 1999 in Cologne, Mr Javier Solana Madariaga was nominated for the new post of Secretary General of the Council and High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy pursuant to the Amsterdam Treaty which came into force on 1 May 1999. In Cologne, we underlined our determination to give the European Union the resources and capabilities it requires to do justice to its responsibilities in the foreign and security policy field.

We share the belief that it is vitally important for the Common Foreign and Security Policy to become an instrument that genuinely represents European interests in world politics. Only by giving the European Union high-profile public representation in future by someone who is widely respected and firmly anchored within the Union, can we ensure that our values and interests are sufficiently brought to bear around the world. We therefore consider it to be especially important also in the context of our efforts to develop a European Security and Defence Policy for Javier Solana to be able to bank on the full support and backing of European Union Heads of State and Government for the exercise of the powers and duties of his post when he takes up office on 18 October 1999.

Mr President,

Against the background of these considerations and in view of the European Council's responsibility, enshrined in the Treaty, for laying down the principles and general guidelines of the Common Foreign and Security Policy, we propose that the European Council, which is scheduled to meet under your Presidency for a special session in Tampere on 15 and 16 October 1999, i.e. two days before Javier Solana takes up office, should issue a declaration reiterating its understanding of the tasks and powers of the High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy and assuring him of its full support in his efforts to enhance the role of the European Union in the field of foreign and security policy. That would also send a signal to our partners around the world that the European Union is determined to pursue its foreign and security policy interests jointly and to strengthen its ability to act in this field, in line with the provisions of the Amsterdam Treaty.

In addition the Heads of State and Government could express their expectation that the High Representative will make a key contribution to strengthening the visibility, efficiency, cohesion and continuity of the Common Foreign and Security Policy.

We believe that in order to improve the cohesion and continuity of the Common Foreign and Security Policy, the High Representative should routinely introduce the European Council's foreign and security consultations, thus also ensuring that these consultations are carried out consistently and, above all, oriented towards the Union's common interests.

In order to ensure constant contact with the representatives of the Member States as well as their full support, we suggest that the High Representative chair the future permanent Political and Security Committee envisaged in the conclusions of the Cologne meeting, which should consist of high-level representatives. This would underline the great significance we attach to deepening the Common Foreign and Security Policy as well as to the European defence project.

The European Council should also call upon the High Representative to seek a close and trusting working relationship with the European Parliament, in particular with its Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Germany and France are both firmly convinced that the High Representative should take on a high-profile role in representing the European Union externally. The European Council should

therefore ask the Council to take the necessary steps so that the High Representative can fulfil relevant tasks in the political dialogue of the European Union with third countries and within international organizations, especially when it is a matter of implementing common strategies and joint actions. At the European Council in Helsinki we should identify the main priority areas to which the High Representative should devote his attention in the first months of the year 2000. In our view, we should also use the Helsinki meeting to take the institutional decisions necessary to further develop and strengthen the European Security and Defence Policy.

In the years ahead, a focal point of our work will be to deepen and strengthen the European Union's Common Foreign and Security Policy, with particular emphasis on developing a European Security and Defence Policy, as was decided at the European Council in Cologne. We should therefore call upon the High Representative to give particular attention to these tasks.

Mr President,

We all agree that the European Union must do more to bring its weight and its interests to bear worldwide. It is now essential to give the future High Representative the support and the European Council mandate he needs so he can do full justice to his tasks and to what is expected of him. That is of key importance for Europe's future position and for us to be able to successfully assert our common interests and values in international politics.

Mr President,

We take the liberty of also forwarding this message to the other members of the European Council.

We avail ourselves of the opportunity, Mr President, to renew to you the assurance of our highest consideration.

Gerhard Schröder

Jacques Chirac