

FOURTH ASEM FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING DECLARATION
ON THE INDIA-PAKISTAN SITUATION

Madrid, 6-7 June 2002

ASEM Foreign Ministers expressed their deep concern over the deterioration of India-Pakistan relations during the past month. The increasing tensions between the two countries, accelerated by the recent military build-up along the borders and lines of control, have implications for the whole region and beyond.

Ministers condemned terrorism as an enemy of peace and expressed their sympathy for its victims. Ministers called for an immediate end to all terrorist activities in the region as a first step to de-escalate the situation between India and Pakistan. While welcoming its commitment to counter terrorism, Ministers earnestly looked to Pakistan to take urgent further steps to implement it.

Ministers urged India and Pakistan to take all necessary steps to defuse tension, and to reverse the present spiral of confrontation with unpredictable consequences. In this context, Ministers called on both sides to resume immediate dialogue and to strengthen their cooperation to overcome the current crisis together, and resolve the dispute through peaceful negotiation and they called upon the international community to strengthen efforts in easing tension in the region.