STATEMENT

by the Spokesperson of EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on renewed fighting in eastern DRC

The spokesperson of Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the Commission, issued the following statement today:

"The High Representative is deeply concerned by the renewed fighting between the M23 and the Congolese armed forces in eastern DRC.

The fighting occurs days after intense regional and international efforts to find a political agreement at the Kampala talks. The High Representative calls on the M23 to commit urgently to a peaceful solution based on the provisions discussed in Kampala.

The High Representative commends the MONUSCO for its actions to protect civilians. She calls on all actors in the region to prevent further escalation and internationalisation of the conflict. The reported impact across the border in Rwanda of recent actions should also be jointly investigated.

The High Representative recalls the overall Peace, Security and Cooperation framework to which the region adheres. This framework, and the principles it espouses, sets out the context for ending support to armed groups and for curtailing their actions. It also opens the way to finding lasting solutions for the fundamental problems the region is facing. The High Representative calls on all actors to live up to their responsibilities to ensure peace."

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