STATEMENT

by the spokesperson of Catherine Ashton, EU High Representative, on the violence in the Central African Republic and the adoption by the Security Council of Resolution 2127 (2013)

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

‘The High Representative is following the situation in the Central African Republic with grave concern and strongly condemns the violence that is taking place there. She urges the Central African authorities to live up to their responsibility for bringing about an immediate cessation of hostilities and protecting the civilian populations. She calls on all the Central African communities to show the greatest restraint and not to engage in acts of reprisal.

The High Representative is also extremely concerned about the reports of serious human rights abuses carried out with complete impunity in the Central African Republic. She reiterates that the perpetrators of these acts must be brought to justice.

The High Representative welcomes the adoption by the United Nations Security Council of Resolution 2127 (2013) on the Central African Republic. This resolution emphasises the international community’s commitment to the Central African Republic, which is undergoing a crisis on an unprecedented scale. The resolution responds to the urgency and gravity of the situation by providing a mandate under Chapter VII not only to the MISCA African Union
force but also to the French forces authorised to support MISCA temporarily in the performance of its mandate. It is essential that security be re-established and the civilian populations protected. Only then will it be possible for development projects to continue and for the humanitarian organisations to be given wider access to those most at risk.

Through its resolution, the Security Council also emphasises the need to speed up the transition process in the Central African Republic. The High Representative calls on the Central African authorities to implement the transitional arrangements without delay in order to maintain the objectives of organising elections and re-establishing constitutional order between now and February 2015.

The European Union fully recognises its African partners’ commitment to stabilising the country and their tireless efforts in that direction – efforts to which it intends to contribute, in particular by providing support to MISCA from the African Peace Facility. It remains firmly committed to helping actively to resolve this crisis in close cooperation with the United Nations and the other partners.'