STATEMENT

by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on the latest developments in Ukraine

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

"I am deeply concerned by the situation in Ukraine.

The violence needs to stop and both sides need to reduce the tensions. I am alarmed by reports that the government is planning to declare a state of emergency. This would trigger a further downward spiral for Ukraine which would benefit no-one. I also urge the leaders of the opposition to dissociate themselves from those who resort to violence.

The only solution to the crisis is a political one. What is urgently needed is a genuine dialogue to build a new consensus on the way forward. I hope that the Ukrainian parliament will set a clear path during tomorrow’s session towards a political solution. This must include revoking the package of laws passed on 16 January.

I and the EU will remain fully engaged in seeking a way out of the crisis. Following today's visit by my colleague Štefan Füle I will travel to Kyiv tomorrow evening."

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