STATEMENT

by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton

on the third anniversary of the Revolution in Libya

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 would like to congratulate all Libyans on the occasion of the third anniversary of the 17 February Revolution and hope that this joyful day of celebration will be peaceful.

The revolution was led by the Libyan people, who bravely stood up to liberate themselves from forty years of brutal tyranny. Through hard work and dedication they have achieved a great deal over the past three years but many challenges remain. I am however convinced that the Libyan people remain committed to democracy, freedom and justice.

On the eve of a historic milestone of the transition process, I call on the Libyan people to exercise the rights they fought for so passionately and to participate peacefully in the upcoming elections for the Constitutional Drafting Assembly.

I urge all Libyan citizens, authorities, political parties and revolutionaries to seize this moment of celebration to overcome divisions and to forge a national consensus on the way forward. Any such consensus should be based on the principles of the 17 February Revolution: namely equality and respect for human rights, rule of law, good governance, dialogue and reconciliation, freedom of speech and the right to peaceful protest, and it should aim at promoting national dialogue and reconciliation.
I reiterate the EU's commitment to the successful conclusion of the Libyan transition process, the consolidation of democracy and the establishment of a stable and prosperous state where all Libyans are treated equally."