Statement by
the spokesperson of HR Catherine Ashton,
on the death of Mr Tamayo in Cuba

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

"The HR deeply regrets the death of political prisoner Orlando Zapata Tamayo and presents her condolences to his family. The EU has, on many occasions, called upon the Cuban Government to improve effectively the human rights situation in the country by, inter alia, releasing unconditionally all political prisoners, including those detained and sentenced in 2003. These questions are discussed at the highest level in the framework of the EU-Cuba political dialogue and remain a key priority for the EU. Furthermore, the Cuban Government, as all governments, has the responsibility to protect the prisoners under its jurisdiction. The EU reiterates its call to the Cuban authorities to make real the commitment to human rights it has taken through the signing of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. "

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:
Lutz Guellner - Spokesperson for the High Representative
+32 498/964 641 - +32 2 296 46 41  e-mail: COMM-SPP-HRVP-ASHTON@ec.europa.eu
www.eeas.europa.eu