Statement by
the spokesperson of HR Catherine Ashton,
on the car bomb attacks in Iraq

The European Union strongly condemns the car bomb attacks in Baghdad that have left at least 30 dead and more than 200 injured. The EU HR Catherine Ashton sends her deepest condolences to the families of the victims and to the Iraqi authorities.

These attacks contradict our common goal of a peaceful, democratic and inclusive Iraq. The high turnout of the March 7 elections showed the Iraqi people's commitment to this democracy. The Iraqi people have courageously committed to building a better future for their country. Against the backdrop of violent extremism, it is extremely important that Iraqi political parties and leaders urge restraint and continue to strengthen Iraq's democratic institutions. The people of Iraq expect their leaders to support them in this way, ensure their safety and respect all of their freedoms. No terrorist attack should prevent Iraqi's from achieving their fundamental right of a peaceful and normal life.