Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy will visit Kenya, Tanzania and the Republic of Seychelles this week (from 18 to 21 May).

**Kenya - May 18/19**

Catherine Ashton will meet Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki, Prime Minister Raila, Foreign Affairs Minister Moses Wetangula, and the Attorney General Wako.

After this meeting, HR Ashton will hold a joint press conference with her Kenyan counterparts at the State House at approximately 12.00 local time on Tuesday 18 May.

While in Nairobi, she will also meet the President of the Somali Transitional Federal Government Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed.

**Tanzania - May 19/20**

In Tanzania on Wednesday, HR Ashton intends to meet with President Jakaya Kikwete and Foreign Minister Membe and other members of the government.

She will hold a press point on Thursday 20 May at approximately 11.15 local time at the EU delegation, Umoja House.
**Seychelles - May 20/21**

HR Ashton will meet President of the Republic of Seychelles, James Michel and the Minister for Environment, Natural Resources and Transport, Joel Morgan.

On Friday 21 May, HR Ashton will hold a joint press point with President Michel at the State House at approximately 10.30 local time.

On Friday, HR Ashton will visit the EUNAVFOR Somalia - Operation Atalanta mission, including maritime surveillance aircraft and the Swedish Vessel HMS Karlskrona.

There will be a brief press point on dockside at New Port (approximately 14.15 local time).

In Seychelles, she will also participate in a Regional Ministerial Conference on Piracy to discuss with the countries in the region common efforts for a more effective response to the challenge of piracy.

This will be followed by a final press conference at the Seychelles Trading Company conference centre.

**Background:**
The European Union is building up a comprehensive engagement in Somalia, with a view to responding to the priority needs of the Somali people and stabilizing Somalia.

The EU is committed to a regional approach, based on regional ownership and EU support for the countries in the region in their efforts to ensure the prosecution and detention of suspected pirates. The EU has concluded transfer agreements with Kenya and the Seychelles. Agreements with other countries in the region are under discussion.

EUNAVFOR Somalia - Operation Atalanta was launched in December 2008 to contribute to the protection of World Food Programme vessels delivering food aid to displaced persons in Somalia, to the protection of vulnerable vessels sailing in the Gulf of Aden and off the coast of Somalia and to the deterrence, prevention and repression of acts of piracy and armed robbery. As part of its efforts to support stability and security in Somalia, the EU just launched a training mission (EUTM) in Uganda to train Somali troops.

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