Statement by the spokesperson of High Representative Catherine Ashton on the death of Floribert Chebeya Bahizire, Executive Director of the organisation "La Voix des Sans Voix"

The spokesperson of Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the Commission, issued the following statement today:

"The High Representative is dismayed at the announcement of the death in unexplained circumstances of Mr Floribert Chebeya Bahizire, Executive Director of the organisation "La Voix des Sans Voix" (Voice of the Voiceless) and wishes to offer her sincere condolences to his family.

Mr Chebeya was a leading defender of human rights and for years has been helping to promote human rights and develop democracy in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The High Representative urges the DRC authorities to launch an impartial and transparent enquiry into the circumstances of Mr Chebeya's death.

The High Representative would also express her deep concern at the worsening of the general situation of human rights defenders in DRC and take this opportunity of stressing her solidarity with all Congolese organisations active in the sphere of human rights."