Statement by High Representative Catherine Ashton on Israel-Lebanon border incident

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

"On behalf of the European Union, I wish to express serious concern over the recent exchange of fire across the Israeli-Lebanese border and I urge the parties involved to exercise the utmost restraint. I extend my condolences to the families and friends of those who died or were injured in this terrible incident.

Immediate steps should be taken on both sides of the border in order to prevent a further escalation of tension or any form of further violence.

The EU stresses the need for both Israel and Lebanon to ensure continuous and unimpeded implementation of UNSC Resolution 1701, and it extends its support to the role of UNIFIL in this. We also support a full and immediate enquiry into today's events."

____________________