EUROPEAN UNION

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Statement by
EU High Representative Catherine Ashton
on the pardon of
Ethiopian opposition leader Birtukan Midekssa

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

"I welcome the completion of the traditional justice process facilitated by the Coalition of Elders which led to the pardon granted to Ms Birtukan Midekssa in accordance with Ethiopian law. The EU has been a constant advocate of her release.

I believe that with the nomination of a new cabinet, Ethiopia is entering in a new era. I look forward to working with the Ethiopian Government led by Prime Minister Meles Zenawi to continue to assist Ethiopians make progress in poverty eradication and democratic governance."

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