Statement by the EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on the situation in Egypt

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

"I am monitoring the unfolding events in Egypt. Following my tasking by the European Council I have just returned from New York where I was speaking on the issue in the UN Security Council and I have earlier taken a call from Foreign Minister Aboul Gheit about the important role Europe has to play in the process. I reiterated that no matter what happens in the next hours and days, the European Union stands ready to help build the deep democracy that will underpin stability for the people of Egypt.

I told Aboul Gheit that the European Union will be ready with a package of measures to help and support the transition. I have also reiterated my wish to travel to Egypt as soon as possible as mandated by the leaders of the European Union."