Statement by the High Representative, Catherine Ashton, on executions in Belarus

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

“I strongly condemn the execution, reported by the state media, in Belarus of Mr. Aleh Hyrshkawtsow and Mr. Andey Burdyka, who were sentenced to death in May 2010. I am aware of the terrible crimes that these two men committed, and my thoughts are with the victims and their families.

Nevertheless, the European Union opposes the use of capital punishment under all circumstances, and calls on Belarus to join a global moratorium as a first step towards its universal abolition.”