Statement by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton following the death of Democratic People's Republic of Korea leader Kim Jong Il

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:

"In its dealings with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the well-being of the people of that country has always been of paramount importance for the EU.

It is my hope that the new leadership will work to improve the situation of the country, in particular by taking early steps to reduce tensions, pursue dialogue, fulfil previous commitments and improve the economic situation.

The EU is ready to continue working with its international partners and with the DPRK in pursuit of these goals."

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