Statement by High Representative Catherine Ashton on the convening and outcome of the urgent debate of the UN Human Rights Council on Syria

"I welcome the urgent debate on Syria and the resolution just adopted by the Human Rights Council. The international community sends yet another unequivocal call to the Syrian authorities to stop human rights violations against its population and to address urgent humanitarian needs. In this context I am extremely disappointed that the Syrian authorities refused to grant access to the UN Under-Secretary-General and Emergency Relief Coordinator Valerie Amos and urge the Syrian Government to give her immediate access to the country.

The EU appreciates the efforts of Turkey and the Arab countries in tabling this resolution, cosponsored by all EU member states, and which enjoyed strong cross-regional support.

The situation in Syria must remain at the centre of the world's attention and every possible lever must be pulled to stop the violence and the killing of civilians. The EU remains fully engaged in these collective efforts. It has just reinforced restrictive measures against the Syrian regime and is pursuing efforts in multilateral fora and with regional organizations to ensure both effective monitoring of the human rights situation and accountability. The message must be clear: there will be no impunity for perpetrators of these grave human rights violations, which, according to the Independent International Commission of Inquiry, may amount to crimes against humanity; the perpetrators will be held to account.

As the Human Rights Council has decided to follow closely the situation in Syria, the EU will continue to build the pressure on the Syrian regime to stop the ongoing bloodshed."

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

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