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Statement by the Spokesperson of High Representative Catherine Ashton on the passing away of Pope Shenouda III

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

"The High Representative pays tribute to Pope Shenouda III, the Patriarch of the Coptic Orthodox Church who passed away yesterday. She expresses her deepest condolences to the Egyptian people and to the Coptic community in particular. Pope Shenouda III was a respected and visionary leader of the region's largest Christian community, who advocated tolerance, religious dialogue and harmony. He will be greatly missed both at home and in the wider world. The High Representative joins the calls by the main political and religious leaders in Egypt and elsewhere to follow the Pope’s commitment to national unity, reconciliation and freedom of belief.”

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