Statement by the Spokesperson of the EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on Mali

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

"High Representative Catherine Ashton calls on all parties to maintain restraint with a view to restoring the authority of the elected representatives and to cooperate to ensure the early holding of elections and a quick return to democracy. The High Representative calls on the rebels in the North to stop military activities and to engage in negotiations with the legitimate representatives of the State.

The High Representative commends the actions of ECOWAS, the African Union and the United Nations, as well as the neighbouring countries, to help Mali's quick return to constitutional order.

The High Representative hopes that the EU can quickly resume its full cooperation with Mali on the basis of a clear roadmap for return to the constitutional order agreed by all stakeholders."

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