Statement by the spokesperson of EU High Representative
Catherine Ashton on the political situation in Guinea-Bissau

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:

"Already on Thursday before the coup, the High Representative called on all parties to respect the legitimate government. She deeply regrets to now have to strongly condemn the military coup d'état in Bissau, and calls for the immediate reestablishment of the legitimate government and the completion of the electoral process. The persons detained should be released at once.

She urges all parties to ensure the security of all citizens and respect for human life and to put an end to violence and looting. Human rights violations are not acceptable and perpetrators will be held responsible.

She reaffirms her firm support to the efforts of ECOWAS and the AU, the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP), the Angolan military mission and the views stated last night by the UN Security Council, in pursuit of peace, stability, democracy and respect for Human Rights in Guinea Bissau.

The EU has already suspended most of its aid to Guinea Bissau. We are reviewing the remaining aid that focuses on direct help to the people of Guinea Bissau. But the EU will not support an illegitimate government."

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