Statement by the spokesperson of High Representative Catherine Ashton on the executions in Iraq on 27 August

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 deeply regrets the recent executions of 26 people in Iraq. This brings the number of people executed in Iraq since the start of this year up at least 96. The increase in executions in Iraq clearly goes against the worldwide trend towards the abolition of the death penalty, as exemplified by the increasing support to UN General Assembly Resolutions calling for a moratorium on the use of the death penalty.

Iraq is aware of the EU’s strong and principled position against the death penalty. We believe that capital punishment does not act as a deterrent to crime. The EU calls again on Iraq to cease carrying out executions and to introduce a moratorium on the use of the death penalty, with a view to its abolition. The EU intends to intensify cooperation on human rights issues with Iraq through the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement.”