Statement by the Spokesperson of EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on the World Bank's continued engagement in the Rogun Assessment Studies

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

"The High Representative supports the World Bank's efforts to ensure an independent, technical assessment of the proposed Rogun Hydropower Project in Tajikistan and is looking forward to its result. She also welcomes that the World Bank will soon complete additional studies about alternative ways of securing energy for the region.

These assessments should serve as an input to a wider constructive dialogue among all riparians about the project, and about cooperation regarding the use of energy and international water resources in Central Asia.

The High Representative encourages Tajikistan and the riparian nations to engage in such evidence-based dialogue and to strengthen regional mechanisms for water and energy management.

The High Representative believes that any major infrastructure project should only be undertaken if supported by credible, independent international feasibility studies and impact assessments. The interests of all parties involved should be duly taken into consideration and collaborative and sustainable solutions for all those concerned should be pursued.”.

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