Statement by the Spokesperson of High Representative, Catherine Ashton, on the shooting of a young Human Rights Defender in Pakistan

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:

"The High Representative was appalled to learn that a 14-year-old Pakistani schoolgirl, Malala Yousafzai, was attacked yesterday by extremists for advocating girls’ rights to education in Swat, Pakistan. Malala’s bravery in one so young and the principled stand she has taken are a source of admiration for all of us. The High Representative wishes her a speedy recovery from her injuries. This vile aggression is an assault both on basic human values and against all Human Rights Defenders in Pakistan. It has also raised outrage across Pakistani society. The High Representative expects that every effort will be made to ensure the safety of Malala Yousafzai and her family.

The EU supports education for all in Pakistan and stands firmly by those who promote this essential cause."

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:
Michael Mann +32 498 999 780 - +32 2 299 97 80 - Michael.Mann@eeas.europa.eu
Maja Kocijancic +32 498 984 425 - +32 2 298 65 70 - Maja.Kocijancic@ec.europa.eu
Sebastien Brabant +32 460 75 09 98 - Sebastien.Brabant@ec.europa.eu
COMM-SPP-HRVP-ASHTON@ec.europa.eu
www.eeas.europa.eu