Statement by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on the situation in Egypt

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

“I am following with concern the unfolding of events in Egypt and the clashes taking place between demonstrators. I urge calm and restraint on all sides.

It is of utmost importance that Egypt continues the democratic transition it has embarked upon and that confidence and trust in the process be restored. I call on all relevant parties to engage urgently in an inclusive dialogue based on consensus and joint ownership.

Egypt is a close partner of the EU. The importance of our relationship was recently highlighted in the EU-Egypt Task Force organised in Cairo on 13-14 November, which established a new era in our relationship based the overarching values of ‘respect for social justice, socio-economic development, rule of law, human rights and good governance’. The EU stands by its support to Egypt's democratic transition and urges it to continue along this path.”