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Statement by the Spokesperson of the High Representative, Catherine Ashton, on the case of two Italian marines involved in an incident off the coast of Kerala in India

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 welcomes the decision of the Kerala High Court allowing the two Italian marines involved in an incident off the coast of Kerala to return home for two weeks over Christmas pending settlement on their case.

The High Representative has been closely involved in this case in high level contacts with Indian authorities. In this regard, she has also expressed her condolences to the families of the two fishermen that were killed in this unfortunate incident.

The EU remains engaged in the case, in full support to the Italian authorities, awaiting the judgement of the Supreme Court regarding the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, which is an important pillar of international law. The EU is strongly committed to the fight against piracy globally in full respect for international law and will continue to advocate international measures that are coherent and mutually reinforcing."

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P R E S S

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