Statement by the Spokesperson of the HRVP on the situation in the Central African Republic

The spokesperson of Catherine Ashton, the 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 has been following the latest events in the Central African Republic with great concern. The attacks by armed groups and their occupation of several towns in the north-east of the country threaten the civilian population and the stability of the CAR. She calls on the armed groups to immediately cease all hostilities and to respect the Libreville Comprehensive Peace Agreement. She urges all parties to engage in a structured dialogue to identify peaceful and lasting ways out of the current crisis. There is no alternative to a dialogue.

The High Representative calls on all parties, the armed groups and the government, to reiterate their commitment to the national reconciliation process which results from the Libreville agreement. It is essential that all its provisions are implemented, and she urges the authorities of the CAR to continue and accelerate this implementation.

The High Representative welcomes the initiative of President Idriss Déby Itno to convene an extraordinary summit of the ECCAS in N'Djamena today to address the situation in the CAR. She hopes that this initiative will help to prevent an increase in violence and to establish the conditions for a normalization and stabilization of the country."

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