Statement by the Spokesperson of EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on the destruction of historical heritage in Mali

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 is deeply shocked by the brutal destruction of mausoleums and holy shrines in Timbuktu. She calls for the urgent protection of this unique African cultural and religious heritage. Their destruction is a tragedy not only for the people of Mali, but for the whole world.

The recent UN Security Council Resolution urges that negotiations for the restoration of legitimate governance in the north of Mali be expedited. Such actions will not facilitate these negotiations, which remain essential for resolving the crisis in Mali. The High Representative reaffirms the EU's commitment to support the Malian people in establishing a legitimate government in control of the entire country.”