Statement by the Spokesperson of the High Representative on the Central African Republic

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 signing of an agreement between all stakeholders, under the aegis of the Economic Community of Central African States, to put an end to this new episode of instability that the Central African Republic is currently going through. She calls on all signatories to comply fully and in good faith with the agreement they have signed and to implement it without further delay. It is essential that all signatories commit to ensure the safety of the populations concerned.

Such an agreement is a first step out of the crisis. To be sustainable, the normalization and stabilization of the country in the longer term requires the underlying causes of the outbreak of recurrent conflicts in the Central African Republic to be addressed in a consensual way by all stakeholders and that appropriate responses be made.

The High Representative welcomes in particular the rapid response of Heads of State of ECCAS and their efforts to work towards a resolution of the crisis through dialogue and negotiation.

She calls on ECCAS to monitor the implementation of this agreement. The European Union is ready to support, in coordination with other partners, ECCAS in these efforts."

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