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Statement by the spokesperson of EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on the visit of Sudanese President Al-Bashir to Chad

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 concerned by the visit of Sudanese President Omar Al-Bashir to Chad on 16 February in the context of the CEN-SAD Summit. This is the third time that the Government of Chad has failed to implement the warrant issued by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for the arrest of President al-Bashir for war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide, as it is obliged to do under international law.

While welcoming the normalisation of the relations between Chad and Sudan, the High Representative regrets that the Government of Chad has not met its obligations as a Party to the Rome Statute. She also recalls that all Member States of the United Nations are obliged to abide by and implement resolutions adopted by the UN Security Council under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, in this case, UNSCR 1593(2005).

The European Union is a staunch supporter of the ICC as a valuable instrument for combating impunity for the most serious crimes of concern to the international community."

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