EUROPEAN UNION

Brussels, 4 April 2013
A 186/13

Statement by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton, on the recent executions in Kuwait

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:

"I deeply regret the execution of three death row inmates in Kuwait on Monday, 1 April, following a period of six years during which no execution had taken place in the country.

I recognise the serious nature of the crime involved and express my sincere sympathy to the families of the victims. However, the EU is opposed to capital punishment in all cases and without exception, and has consistently called for its universal abolition.

I urge Kuwait to return to its previous policy by establishing a moratorium on the death penalty as a first step towards joining the wide community of states that have abolished it.