Statement by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on the earthquake in China ahead of her visit to meet the new Chinese leadership

The High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the Commission issued the following statement today:

"On the eve of my visit to Beijing, the news of the earthquake in Sichuan Province has profoundly moved me. I send my condolences to the families of those affected.

The television images show considerable damage, mounting loss of life and many challenges faced by rescue workers. The resilience of the Chinese people in the face of disaster and the work done by volunteers on the scene is impressive."

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