Statement by the spokesperson of EU High Representative
Catherine Ashton on the kidnapping of Bishop Boulos Yazigi and
Bishop Yohanna Ibrahim

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 very concerned about the uncertainty surrounding the fate of Bishop
Boulos Yazigi and Bishop Yohanna Ibrahim. They were kidnapped on 22 April by gunmen and their
driver was killed, while on their way to Aleppo where they are leaders of their respective
churches.

The High Representative is dismayed that religious leaders whose role is to tend to the spiritual
needs of their communities are becoming targets in the Syrian conflict. There can be no justification
for such attacks.

She condemns all acts of violence and kidnappings in Syria. Innocent civilians, religious leaders
and humanitarian workers must not fall victim to this terrible conflict.

The High Representative calls for the immediate release of the detained bishops and their safe
return to their communities.”