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Statement by the Spokesperson of High Representative Catherine Ashton following her meeting with Foreign Minister of Bangladesh

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:

High Representative Catherine Ashton met Foreign Minister of Bangladesh, Dr. Dipu Moni, today in Singapore to discuss issues of common interest. Foreign Minister Dipu Moni presented the actions taken by the Government of Bangladesh, employers and foreign companies sourcing from Bangladesh to improve labour conditions and factory safety following the recent accidents. The High Representative confirmed the EU is ready to assist the Government of Bangladesh to comply with international labour standards, including the relevant ILO conventions.

The current political situation in Bangladesh was also discussed. Catherine Ashton called on the Government of Bangladesh and Opposition to initiate a dialogue to allow for credible and transparent general elections to be held later this year or early next year.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

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