Brussels, 18 June 2013
A 330/13

Statement by the Spokesperson of High Representative Catherine Ashton on the deadly attack on a UNISFA peacekeeper in Southern Kordofan

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

"The High Representative deplores the death of a peacekeeper of the UN Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) and civilian casualties resulting from an exchange of shelling between the Sudanese Army and rebel armed groups in Kadugli. She sends her condolences to the families of the victims, the UN and the Government of Ethiopia. Any attacks on peacekeepers and unarmed civilians are unacceptable to the EU. The High Representative expresses her full support for UNISFA and urges all parties to respect its mandate.

The High Representative reiterates that the Government of Sudan and the armed movement SPLM/North should undertake an immediate cease-fire and resume the negotiations that they had recently started in Addis Abeba. There can be no solution to the internal problems of Sudan through military means."

________________________________