Statement by the spokesperson of EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on the second anniversary of South Sudan’s independence

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 congratulates the people of the Republic of South Sudan on the occasion of the second anniversary of their independence.

The EU recognises the enormous challenges which South Sudan has faced since its independence and commends the people of South Sudan for their resilience and determination in seeking to overcome them. The High Representative encourages the Government to demonstrate its commitment to national reconciliation, democratic and transparent governance and respect for human rights as the core of its vision for the future. Resolving internal conflicts, ensuring accountability for human rights violations and strengthening government institutions will be important first steps in this regard. This will also lay the foundations for sustainable development and economic growth so that the people of South Sudan can enjoy the peace and prosperity they deserve.

The High Representative trusts that the Government of the Republic of South Sudan will do its utmost to settle its outstanding differences with the Republic of Sudan in order to establish mutually beneficial relations for the benefit of both countries. The EU remains committed to working in partnership with the Government to help South Sudan become a democratic and prosperous nation."

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P R E S S

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