Statement by the spokesperson of EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on Bolivia's accession to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Convention on Civil and political rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty

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 warmly welcomes the official accession of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, on 12 July, to the 1989 Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights on the abolition of the death penalty.

The High Representative congratulates the Plurinational State of Bolivia on reinforcing the global trend towards the abolition of the capital punishment, by becoming the 77th state party to this important treaty.

The European Union reaffirms its objective of working towards universal abolition of the death penalty. It hopes that the accession to the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR by the Plurinational State of Bolivia will encourage other countries to follow this example."