Statement by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on the situation in Egypt

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

"With dismay and great concern I have followed the events in Egypt in the last few days. The toll of death and injury is shocking, and my heartfelt condolences go out to the numerous families who have been affected. Responsibility for this tragedy weighs heavily on the interim government, as well as on the wider political leadership in the country.

I have been in constant touch with European Union Foreign Ministers, and I have asked Member State representatives to debate and coordinate appropriate measures to be taken by the European Union in response to the situation in Egypt.

I again call on all sides to end violence, the security forces to exercise restraint, political forces to express their views peacefully, and keep the possibility open for a political process that will lead Egypt back on the path to democracy and heal the wounds inflicted on the Egyptian society."

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FOR FURTHER DETAILS:
Michael Mann +32 498 999 780 - +32 2 584 9780 - Michael.Mann@eeas.europa.eu
Maja Kocijancic +32 498 984 425 - +32 2 298 65 70 - Maja.Kocijancic@ec.europa.eu
Sebastien Brabant +32 460 75 09 98 - Sebastien.Brabant@ec.europa.eu
Nabila Massrali +32 460 754 175 - +32 2 29 69218 - Nabila.Massrali@ec.europa.eu
Eamonn Prendergast +32 460 753 293 - +32 2 299 88 51 - Eamonn.Prendergast@ec.europa.eu
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